



2007

## Demographic Survey Results from Nine-State IV-D Programs

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Enforcement

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## Demographic Survey Results

### *Presentation Overview*

- Objectives of the Study
- Prior Efforts to Analyze Demographic Characteristics of IV-D Population
- Survey Design
- Survey Questions
- Data Availability
- Key Findings
- Conclusions



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Objectives*

The primary goals of the 2007 Demographic Survey of nine state child support programs were to ascertain the types of demographic and socioeconomic data that states collect on IV-D clients and to summarize the information that states provided on these characteristics.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Prior Efforts to Analyze Demographic Characteristics of IV-D Clients*

- Direct questions on IV-D participation in individual household surveys yield underestimates of IV-D participation.
- DHHS/ASPE uses an indirect method to identify IV-D clients from the Current Population Survey - Child Support Supplement (CPS-CSS). The accuracy of this method is unknown.
- Analysts at DHHS/ASPE estimate IV-D participation nationally, rather than by state.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Survey Design*

Nine states with the largest IV-D programs were selected to participate in this survey.

- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Michigan
- New York
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Texas

\* All nine states completed the survey



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Survey Design*

The survey was designed to capture state-level demographic, social, and economic characteristics of IV-D clients. Sampling occurred at the following levels:

- Custodial parents
- Children
- Non-custodial parents



# Demographic Survey Results

## Survey Design

- States had the option of completing the survey electronically or in hardcopy form.
- All nine states elected to complete the survey electronically through the web-based interface.



# Demographic Survey Results

## Survey Design

The number of questions in each section of the survey are as follows:

- Custodial Parents - 12 questions
- Children – 5 questions
- Non-custodial Parents – 14 questions



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Survey Questions*

#### **Section A – Custodial Parents**

- Number with active cases;
- Distribution by race/ethnicity, age, gender, marital status and educational attainment;
- Participation in five public assistance programs;
- Poverty status & average family income;
- Number who are employed;
- Average monthly earnings among the employed; and
- Number who have private health insurance for their children.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Survey Questions*

#### **Section B – Children**

- Distribution of children by race/ethnicity, age, and household status;
- Participation in five public assistance programs; and
- Total number with have private health insurance.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Survey Questions*

#### **Section C – Non-custodial Parents**

- Number with active cases;
- Number who live out of state;
- Distribution by race/ethnicity, age, gender, marital status and educational attainment;
- Number who have an interstate, international, and/or tribal case;
- Average family income;
- Number who are employed;
- Average monthly earnings among those employed; and
- Number who have private health insurance for their children.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Data Availability*

**All of the surveyed states** provided the following information on custodial and non-custodial parents:

- The number with active IV-D cases and
- The number who are White, Black, Hispanic, Asian and/or American Indian. Although all states provided this information, in three states over 25% of the data were missing for non-custodial parents. In one state, over half of the data were missing for custodial parents.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Data Availability*

**All of the surveyed states** provided information on the following **except** California:

- Age distribution of custodial parents, children, and non-custodial parents
- Gender distribution of custodial and non-custodial parents
- The number of non-custodial parents who live out of state or have an interstate case
- The number of children who are White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, and/or American Indian (although these data were not always reliable)
- The number of children with private health insurance



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Data Availability*

**Most of the surveyed states** provided the following information:

- The living arrangements of children
- Employment status of custodial and non-custodial parents
- TANF and Medicaid receipt of custodial parents and children
- The number of non-custodial parents who have an international case
- The number of custodial and non-custodial parents who have private health insurance for their children



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Data Availability*

**Less than half of the surveyed states** provided information on the following:

- The educational attainment of custodial and non-custodial parents
- The average family income of custodial and non-custodial parents
- The average monthly earnings of custodial and non-custodial parents who are employed
- The number of custodial parents with incomes that fall below the national poverty threshold
- The number of non-custodial parents with tribal cases
- The number of children who receive foster care services



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Data Availability*

**None of the surveyed states** were able to provide the following information:

The number of custodial parents or children who receive:

- › food stamps benefits;
- › subsidized child care; or
- › public or subsidized housing benefits.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **Total number of clients with active cases**

The Surveyed States were serving:

6.6 million custodial parents; and

6.6 million non-custodial parents.

Since these nine states have nearly half of the national IV-D caseload, it may be that these states also serve nearly half of the country's custodial parents. If this is the case, then this suggests that the IV-D program is serving approximately 13.2 million custodial parents nationwide.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **Age and Gender Composition**

In IV-D programs across the surveyed states,

- **46%** of non-custodial parents and 39% of custodial parents were over 40 years old
- **22%** of children were 18 years of age or older
- **95%** of custodial parents were female and **91%** of non-custodial parents were male;



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **Race/Ethnicity of Custodial and non-Custodial Parents**

In the surveyed states,

- **45%** of custodial parents and 43% of non-custodial parents were White (non-Hispanic)
- **32%** of custodial parents and 34% of non-custodial parents were Black (non-Hispanic)
- **19%** of custodial parents and 20% of non-custodial parents were Hispanic
- **4%** of custodial parents and 3% of non-custodial parents were Other Race (non-Hispanic)



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **Living Arrangements of Children**

In the surveyed states,

- **84%** of children served by the IV-D programs lived with their biological (or adoptive) mother
- **5%** of children served by the IV-D programs lived with their biological (or adoptive) father
- **11%** of children served by the IV-D programs lived with a third party, ranging from 3% in Texas to 28% in Georgia



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **TANF, Medicaid, and Foster Care Services**

Surveyed states reported that:

- **10%** of custodial parents and 12% of children in the IV-D programs were receiving TANF at the time of the survey
- **26%** of custodial parents and 32% of children in the IV-D programs were receiving Medicaid at the time of the survey
- **2%** of children in the IV-D programs were receiving Foster Care Services



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **Private Health Insurance for Children**

- **11%** of custodial parents had private health insurance for their children;
- **18%** of non-custodial parents had private health insurance for their children.
- **22%** of children in the IV-D program had private health insurance (which could be provided by either parent or a third party). This ranged from 14% in New York to 35% in Pennsylvania.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **Employment and Earnings of Custodial and Non-custodial Parents**

Surveyed states reported that:

- **57%** of custodial parents and **64%** of non-custodial parents were employed at the time of the survey;
- Average monthly earnings among those employed were:
  - \$1,811** for custodial parents
  - \$1,834** for non-custodial parents



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **Case Characteristics of Non-custodial Parents**

Surveyed states reported that:

- **11%** of non-custodial parents had an interstate case, ranging from 5% in New York to 25% in Georgia;
- **1%** of non-custodial parents had an international case, ranging from 0% in Georgia to 6% in Michigan.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Findings*

#### **Results Differ Between the Demographic Study and ASPE Report**

In some instances, there are explanations for these differences, such as in the case of race/ethnicity and Medicaid use. However, other differences cannot be explained, such as differences in the number of custodial parents served by the IV-D program.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Conclusions*

Critical Information can be found through this type of survey, such as:

- The total number of custodial parents being served by the IV-D program,
- The age, race/ethnicity, and gender composition of custodial and non-custodial parents in the IV-D program,
- The number of children in the IV-D program who are receiving Medicaid and foster care services, and
- The number of children in the IV-D program who have private health insurance.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Conclusions*

However, it appears that equally critical information cannot be collected in this manner, such as:

- Poverty status of custodial families in the IV-D program,
- Use of other public assistance programs by custodial parents in the IV-D program, and
- Marital status and educational attainment of custodial and non-custodial parents in the IV-D program.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Conclusions*

If OCSE conducts a survey like this of all IV-D programs, we recommend:

- A web-based survey (similar to the survey and process used in this study);
- Allow states the option to report the amount of missing information as a valid answer for all variables; and
- Use OMB approved race/ethnicity categories.



## Demographic Survey Results

### *Key Project Team Members*

This study was conducted by *Courtland Consulting* and the *Urban Institute* on behalf of the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE)

The final report was written by Elaine Sorensen and Tess Tannehill of the Urban Institute.

