

# Child Support

## Nevada

Nevada's total child-support collections (withholding, voluntary payment, unemployment compensation, and income tax withholding) have increased over the past four years as shown in the table.

Close to 46 percent of support amount due was distributed in 2001, a decrease from 49.7 percent in 2000. Three state child-support offices are located in Elko, Las Vegas, and Reno. Each of Nevada's counties, with the exception of Eureka and Storey, operates child-support agencies. The state office in Elko manages Eureka County child-support efforts and the state office in Reno manages Storey County child-support efforts.<sup>1</sup>

### Significant Factors

- ❖ Child support can be entered into voluntarily or ordered by a court or a designated administrative agency, depending on each state's laws. Parents must support their children financially until age 18. Children supported by just one parent usually do not have the same resources as children supported by both parents. With many of Nevada's children affected by divorce or born to a single unmarried parent, some may need child support. Child support may be crucial for the economic well-being of many children.
- ❖ Although considerable progress has been made in collections for certain subgroups of single mothers (divorced or separated), numbers of never-married mothers have been increasing and have a much lower rate of child-support receipt than divorced and separated mothers. Additionally, when the noncustodial parent has arrangements for joint child custody and visitation, payment of full or partial child support is most likely.<sup>2</sup>

## Definition

*Child Support is financial support paid by a parent to help support a child or children of whom they do not have custody.*

### Total Child-Support Collections in Nevada: 1998-2001

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Amount of Child-Support Collection</i>
1998	\$91,076,767
1999	101,101,396
2000	106,516,115
2001	110,863,315

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Welfare Division, Child Support Enforcement Program, 1998-2001.

### Nevada Child-Support Enforcement Data State Fiscal Year: 2001

<i>Category</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>
Total number of children and youth with open child-support cases at the end of the fiscal year	143,422	103,997
Total amount of current support due	\$128,494,209	\$159,370,979
Total amount of current support distributed	\$63,817,527	\$72,989,111
Annual percentage of current support amount due which was distributed	49.7%	45.8%
Total cumulative amount of unpaid prior support due for all fiscal years	\$641,849,988	\$661,150,884
Total amount of unpaid prior support distributed	\$27,901,546	\$34,100,380
Annual percentage of unpaid prior support due which was distributed	4.4%	5.2%

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Welfare Division, Child Support Enforcement Program, 2001.