

# 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.

## Counties

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

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that “in the spring of 2000, an estimated 13.5 million parents had custody of 21.7 children under 21 years of age whose other parent lived somewhere else.” Eighty-five percent of all custodial parents were mothers and 15 percent were fathers, and “about 26.2 percent of all children under 21 living in families had a parent not living in the home.”<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the Bureau found that, on average, custodial mothers who received partial child-support received \$3,800 in 1999, whereas mothers who received full payments averaged \$4,900.<sup>3</sup> The corresponding figures for custodial fathers were \$3,200 and \$4,200. The main reason custodial parents gave for not establishing a legal agreement for support was that they did not feel a need to make it legal.<sup>4</sup>

## Definition

*Child Support is financial support paid by parents 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> |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>1998</b>        | <b>\$91,076,767</b>                       |
| <b>1999</b>        | <b>101,101,396</b>                        |
| <b>2000</b>        | <b>106,516,115</b>                        |
| <b>2001</b>        | <b>110,863,315</b>                        |

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

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