

# 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 upper right table.

## Counties

Nevada collected and distributed 47 percent of current child support due in fiscal year 2002, an increase from 45.8 percent reported in 2001.<sup>1</sup> Three state child-support offices are located in Elko, Las Vegas, and Reno. Each of Nevada's counties, with the exception of Esmeralda, Eureka, Lander, and Storey, provide child-support services. The state office in Elko manages child-support cases in Eureka County. Las Vegas state office now manages child-support cases from Esmeralda County. Reno state office continues to manage Storey County and a portion of Douglas County child-support cases. Elko's District Attorney's office and Elko's state office share in the management of Lander County's child-support cases.

## Significant Factors

The Urban Institute reported that there was a significant increase in the percentage of low-income children who received child support in the U.S. during 2001 compared to 1996 (36 versus 31).<sup>2</sup> Although gains were made in the percentage of children who received child support, significant gains were not made in the amount of the support received. Accounting for inflation, the average amount of support in 2001 was \$4,650, a slight increase over the \$4,390 in 1996.<sup>3</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: Four State Fiscal Years

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Amount of Child-Support Collection</i>
2000	\$106,516,115
2001	110,863,315
2002	115,087,601
2003	122,489,778

*Source:* Nevada Department of Human Resources, Welfare Division, Child Support Enforcement Program, 2000-2003.

### Nevada Child-Support Enforcement Data: Federal Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002

<i>Category</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>
Total number of children and youth with open child-support cases at the end of the fiscal year	103,997	125,681
Total amount of current support due	\$159,370,979	\$164,678,836
Total amount of current support distributed	\$72,989,111	\$77,389,230
Annual percentage of current support amount due which was distributed	45.8%	47.0%
Total cumulative amount of unpaid prior support due for all fiscal years	\$661,150,884	\$706,356,236
Total amount of unpaid prior support distributed	\$34,100,380	\$32,949,885
Annual percentage of unpaid prior support due which was distributed	5.2%	4.7%

*Source:* Nevada Department of Human Resources, Welfare Division, Child Support Enforcement Program, 2002.

# Child Support Continued

## Child Support Received from Noncustodial Fathers for Children Living with Their Mothers in the U.S. by Family Income: 1996 and 2001

Family Income (% of Poverty Thresholds)	Families Receiving Child Support (%)		Among Families Receiving Child Support			
			Average Annual Amount of Support (\$)		Average Share of Family Income (%)	
	1996	2001	1996*	2001	1996	2001
Less than 100%	30.8	35.5**	2,280	2,550	27.3	30.0
100-200%	44.6	50.1**	3,870	3,980	15.6	15.5
200-300%	53.9	56.3	5,140	5,240	12.7	13.0
300% or more	62.2	60.9	6,620	6,760	9.5	9.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>48.9**</b>	<b>4,390</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.8</b>

\*Adjusted for inflation in 2001 dollars.

\*\*Increase between 1996 and 2001 is significant at the 0.10 level.

Note: Data from 1997 and 2002 National Survey of America's Families.

Source: Urban Institute, October 2003, "Child Support Fains Some Ground," by Elaine Sorensen, *Snapshots of America's Families III*, No. 11, available online at: <[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310860\\_snapshots3\\_no.11.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/310860_snapshots3_no.11.pdf)> as of 12/1/03.