

Child Support Enforcement



Maureen Pirog

Co-Director, IU Institute for Family and Social Responsibility

Professor, IU School of Public & Environmental Affairs

The Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Program

- ◆ The nation's CSE Program is a federal/state/local partnership to help families by promoting family self-sufficiency and child well-being.
- ◆ Second largest child-focused program in the US with a caseload (FY 2002) of 16 million children: 2.8 million current assistance cases, 7.4 million former assistance cases, and 5.9 million never assistance cases.
- ◆ Services are rendered to children from birth through age 18 or completion of college.

US Program Activities-FY 2002

◆ Establish Paternities

- 1.5 million established or acknowledged

◆ Establish Child Support Orders

- 1.2 million new orders established

◆ Collect Child Support

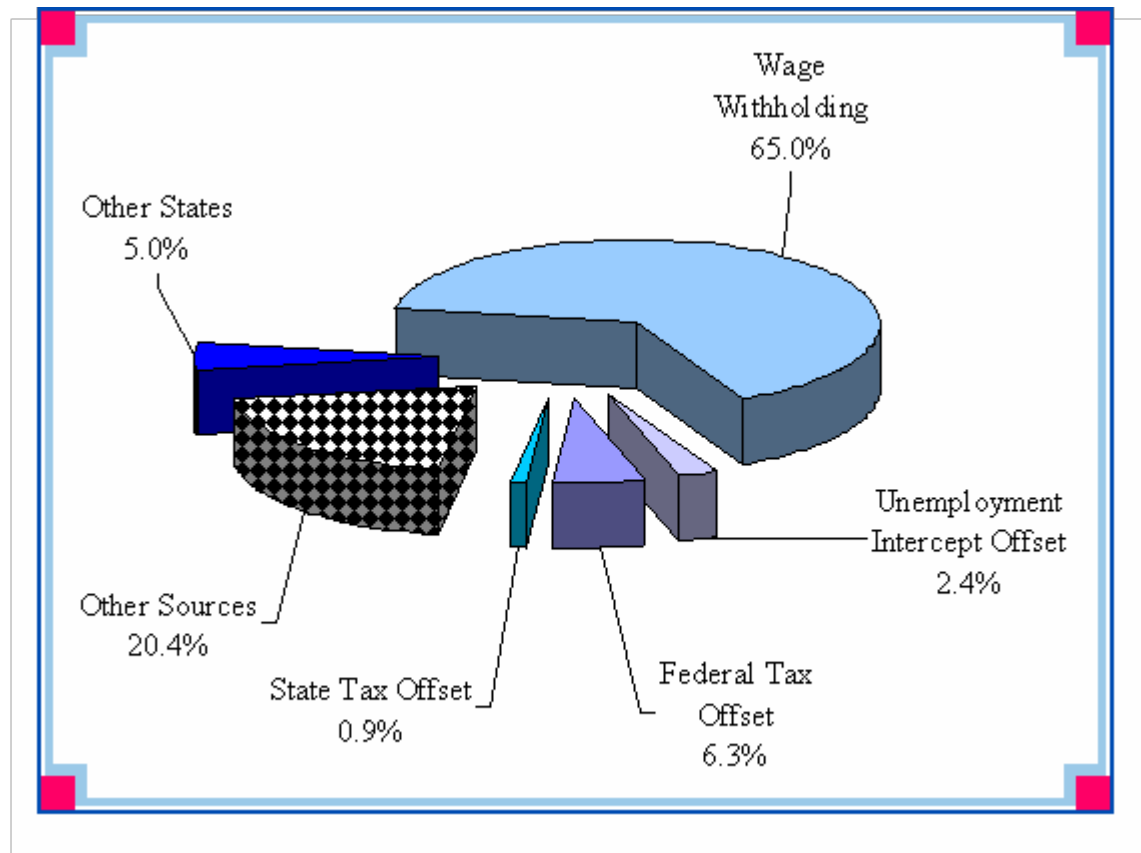
- \$20.1 billion total: current assistance (\$1.7 billion), former assistance (\$8.3 billion), and never assistance (\$10.2 billion)



Indiana Program Activities

- ◆ 9,330 Paternities Established and Acknowledged
- ◆ 81,134 New Child Support Orders
- ◆ 430,195,033 Total Collections:
 - Current Assistance \$13,917,819
 - Former Assistance \$70,500,055
 - Never Assistance \$345,777,159

Total Collections by Method, FY 2002

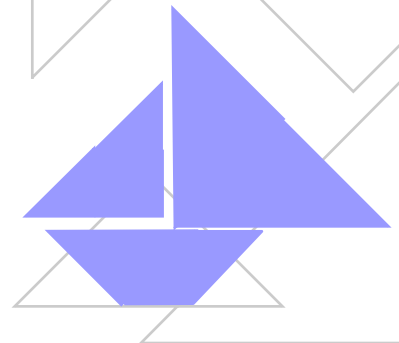
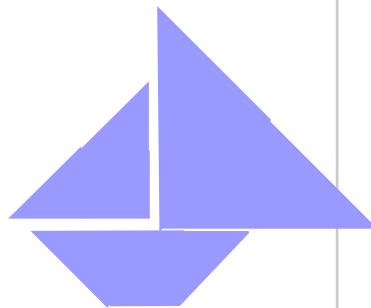
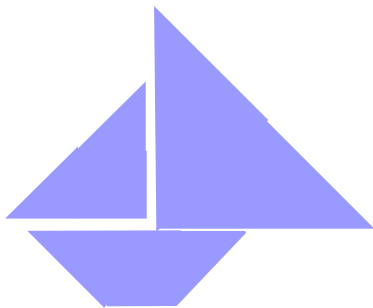


US Collections Facts

- ◆ On average, \$326,000 in child support is collected per FTE
- ◆ For every dollar expended on the program, about \$3.88 of child support is collected (In Indiana, this figure is \$7.49—the highest in the US.)

Benefits of Child Support for Children

- ◆ Reduction in child poverty
- ◆ Reduction in income inequality
- ◆ Improved cognitive development for children
 - Increases level of cognitive stimulation in the home
 - Child support is spent disproportionately on children
 - Child support may positively influence family relations
 - Better child care become affordable
- ◆ Better educational outcomes
 - The positive effect of child support on years of schooling is greater than that from other sources of income



State Benefits of Child Support

- ◆ States with more effective paternity establishment or child support collections have:
 - Lower rates of unwed births
 - Slightly lower divorce rates
 - Lower child poverty rates: 89 percent of collections go to families

Indiana Details-FY 2002

- ◆ Percent of cases with orders (75.6%).
 - Indiana ranks 23rd in the US
- ◆ Percent of cases with arrears & collections (52.9%)
 - Indiana ranks 43rd in the US
- ◆ Paternity establishment percentage (50.1%)
 - Indiana ranks 54th in the US

