

Custodial Parents and Their Child Support: 2022

Current Population Reports

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INTRODUCTION

In 2022, about one in four children under the age of 21 lived with only one parent, while the other parent lived outside the household (Figure 1). Noncustodial parents often have a legal obligation to provide financial child support to help with the costs associated with raising a child.¹ However, sometimes an agreement to provide financial support is informally agreed upon among the parents without a court order.

This report provides an overview of the social and economic characteristics of custodial parents and their children. Both child support received and the types of both formal and informal child support arrangements are analyzed. Support amounts and types of noncash support provided by the noncustodial parent are also described.

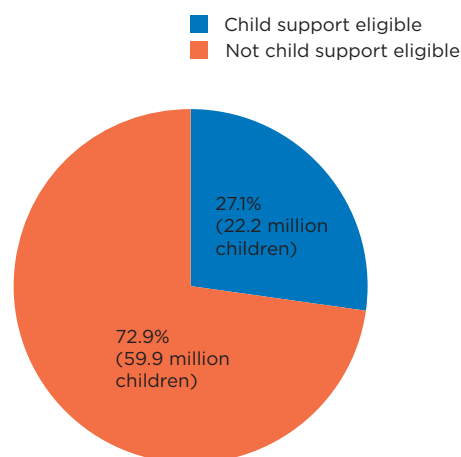
The most recent data in this report are from the Child Support Supplement to the April 2023 Current Population Survey (CPS-CSS). The 2023 CPS-CSS provides demographic information about custodial parents as of April 2023, as well as child support and other income and program data for the 2022 calendar year.^{2, 3}

¹ “Noncustodial parent” refers to the other parent who lived outside the child(ren)’s household.

² The population represented (the population universe) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population aged 15 or over living in the United States, who have their own children under the age of 21 living with them while the other parent lives outside the household. Also included in the population universe are the children of the custodial parents who have a parent living outside the household. Some analyses include these children.

³ The U.S. Census Bureau has reviewed this data product to ensure appropriate access, use, and disclosure avoidance protection of the confidential source data used to produce this product (Data Management System [DMS] number: P-7534398; Disclosure Review Board [DRB] approval number: CBDRB-FY25-0114).

Figure 1.
**Total Children Under the Age of 21 by
Living Arrangement: 2022**



Note: Excludes children when the child is the reference person, the reference person's spouse, or an unrelated individual. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2022, around 22.2 million children had one of their parents living outside of their household. This represents 27.1 percent of all children under the age of 21 living in families.
- The poverty rate of families including a custodial parent in 2022 was the lowest since 2003.⁴ However, this 2022 poverty rate was still higher than that of all families with children under the

⁴ There was no statistically significant difference in the poverty rate of families including a custodial parent between 2019 and 2022.

age of 21. Families including a custodial mother had a higher 2022 poverty rate than families including a custodial father.

- There was a decrease in the share of legal child support agreements, from a high of 55.1 percent in 2003 to a low of 37.3 percent in 2022.
- About three in four parents who were supposed to receive child support received at least one payment in 2022, representing about 3.5 million parents.⁵

CUSTODIAL PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN

In 2022, 13.9 million parents lived with 22.2 million children under the age of 21, while the child's other parent lived elsewhere (Figure 1 and Appendix Table 1). These parents are referred to as custodial parents in this report. The 22.2 million children who lived with their custodial parent represented over one-quarter (27.1 percent) of all children under the age of 21 living in families. These children are referred to here as child support eligible.

Approximately one-half of all Black children (46.4 percent; Table 1) were child support eligible, almost double the corresponding share

⁵ The estimates in this report (which may be shown in text, figures, and tables) are based on responses from a sample of the population and may differ from actual values because of sampling variability or other factors. As a result, apparent differences between the estimates for two or more groups may not be statistically significant. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The count and demographic characteristics of custodial parents and their children reflect information current as of April 2023. Financial characteristics about child support amounts, program participation, and poverty status refer to information for the 2022 calendar year.

WHO IS A CUSTODIAL PARENT?

The CPS-CSS does not measure legal custody. For the purposes of this report, a custodial parent is a parent who lived with their own biological or adopted child(ren) under the age of 21 at the time of the survey interview when the child(ren)'s other parent(s) lived outside the household.

HOW TO DETERMINE WHO IS CHILD SUPPORT ELIGIBLE

For the purposes of this report, we defined child support eligible children as those who were under the age of 21 and lived with one parent while the second parent lived outside of the household. This is a minimum threshold for potential eligibility, as custody arrangements and asset tests are also needed to determine actual child support arrangements. Children who lived with both parents, children whose other parent has died or had parental rights terminated or whose location was not known, and children adopted by a single parent were considered not eligible.

of White children (23.9 percent).⁶ Asian children (9.2 percent) were the least likely to live with a custodial parent. Less than one-third (30.8 percent) of Hispanic children, who may be any race, lived with a custodial parent in 2022. Among children of other races or race combinations, 31.0 percent were child support eligible.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CUSTODIAL MOTHERS AND FATHERS

In 2022, about four in five of the 13.9 million custodial parents were mothers (78.2 percent; Appendix Table 1). Around one in five custodial parents were fathers (21.8 percent).

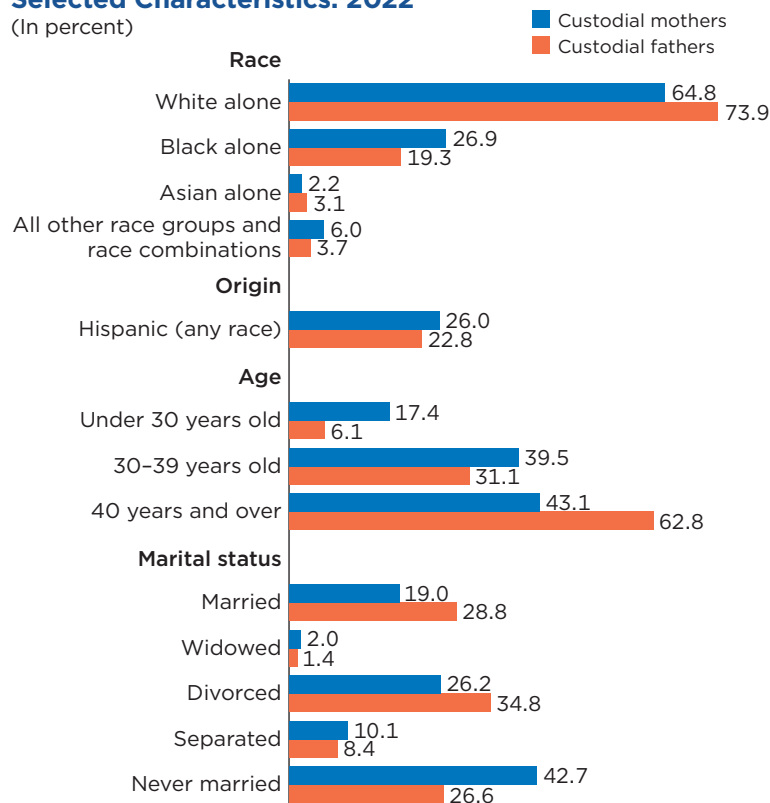
Custodial fathers tended to be older than custodial mothers (Figure 2). Over one-half (62.8 percent) of custodial fathers were age 40 or over, while the same was true of only 43.1 percent of custodial mothers. The distribution of custodial parents by marital status also differed between mothers and fathers. Custodial mothers were more likely to have never married (42.7 percent) than to have been divorced, be currently married, separated, or widowed (26.2 percent, 19.0 percent, 10.1 percent, and 2.0 percent respectively; Figure 2).

⁶ Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as White may be defined as those who reported White and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported White regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data using the first approach (race alone). Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

Figure 2.

Custodial Fathers and Custodial Mothers by Selected Characteristics: 2022

(In percent)



Note: The universe is 10.9 million custodial mothers and 3.0 million custodial fathers aged 15 and over living with own children under the age of 21 whose other parent was not living in the home as of April 2023. Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as White may be defined as those who reported White and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported White regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data using the first approach race alone. Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data; the Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 2023.

Custodial fathers were less likely than mothers to have never married (26.6 percent) and more likely to be divorced (34.8 percent). The proportions of custodial fathers who were separated and widowed (8.4 percent and 1.4 percent, respectively; Figure 2) were not statistically different from the corresponding proportions for custodial mothers.

CHILD SUPPORT AGREEMENTS

Less than one-half (41.0 percent) of the 13.9 million custodial parents had either a court order or some type of informal agreement to receive financial support from the noncustodial parent(s) in 2022. Custodial mothers were more likely to have a child support order or agreement in place (43.2 percent)

than were custodial fathers (33.4 percent; Appendix Table 1).

Of the 5.7 million custodial parents with child support agreements, 91.0 percent reported that these agreements were formal legal orders—established by a court or other government entity—while 9.0 percent reported informal agreements or understandings (Appendix Table 2).⁷

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CUSTODIAL PARENTS BY PAYMENTS RECEIVED

In 2022, about three in four custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support from noncustodial parents received either full or partial child support payments (Table 2 and Appendix Table 1).^{8,9} Custodial parents who received any payments were more likely to be White alone (76.0 percent), to be mothers (85.7 percent), and to have some college education (37.5 percent).

Approximately one-quarter (24.5 percent, 1.1 million) of all custodial parents who were supposed to receive payments did not receive any (Figure 3). When compared to those who received any payments, a higher proportion of those who did not receive payments was of Hispanic origin (30.5 percent; Table 2). Additionally, fathers were comparatively overrepresented among the group that was supposed to receive payments but did not; fathers made up 24.5 percent

⁷ These informal agreements could be verbal or written but were not established by the courts.

⁸ In this report, “child support supposed to be received” refers to the amount due as self-reported by the custodial parent. This amount includes both formal, court-ordered support as well as informal support agreed to between parents. All dollar values in this report are in constant 2022 dollars, unless otherwise noted.

⁹ In Appendix Table 1, partial or full payments are categorized as “any payment.”

of those who were owed but did not receive, but were only 14.3 percent of those who were both owed and did receive payments (Table 2).

Poverty rates and participation rates in public assistance programs were comparable between custodial parents who received any payments and those who did not (Table 2). The programs for which participation was measured included school lunch, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), public housing, rent subsidies, energy assistance, and Medicaid.

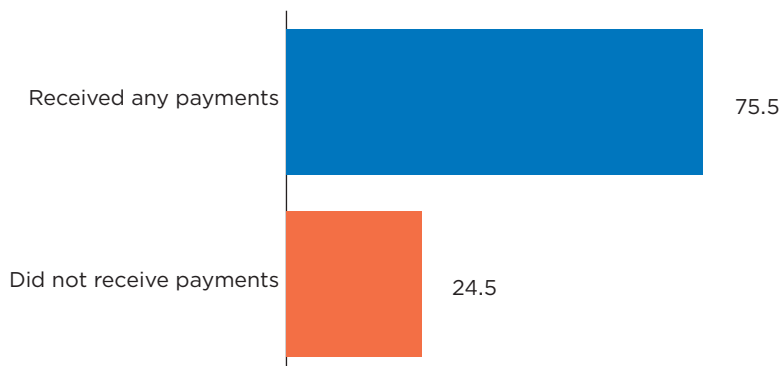
AMOUNTS OF CHILD SUPPORT

In 2022, about 4.7 million custodial parents who had legal or informal agreements for child support were supposed to receive, on average, \$6,390 annually (approximately \$533 per month). The annual median amount of child support supposed to be received in 2022 was \$4,816, meaning about one-half of custodial parents were supposed to receive less than that amount, and about one-half were supposed to receive more (Appendix Tables 1 and 3).

Custodial parents were supposed to receive a total of \$29.9 billion in annual child support payments in 2022 (Figure 4). However, custodial parents only received \$19.2 billion. Custodial mothers received \$16.2 billion of the \$25.2 billion in support that they were supposed to receive, while custodial fathers received \$3.0 billion of the \$4.8 billion that they were supposed to receive. Overall, custodial parents did not receive a total of \$12.5 billion in 2022.

Figure 3.
Custodial Parents Who Were Supposed to Receive Child Support Payments: 2022

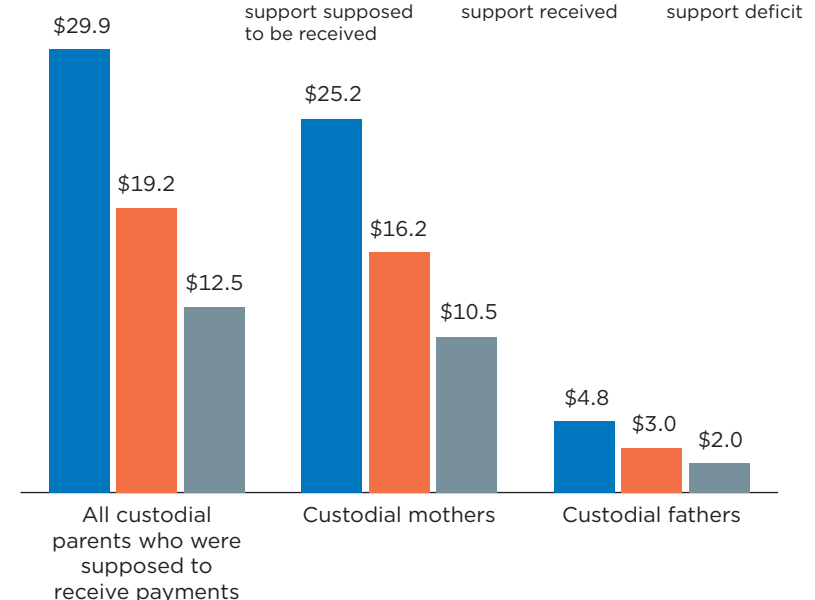
(In percent)



Note: The universe is 4.7 million custodial parents who were supposed to receive child support payments. Custodial parents who received any payments include those who received partial and full payments. For more information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions refer to <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use file, 2023.

Figure 4.
Child Support Amounts Due, Amounts Received, and Deficit¹

(In billions of dollars)

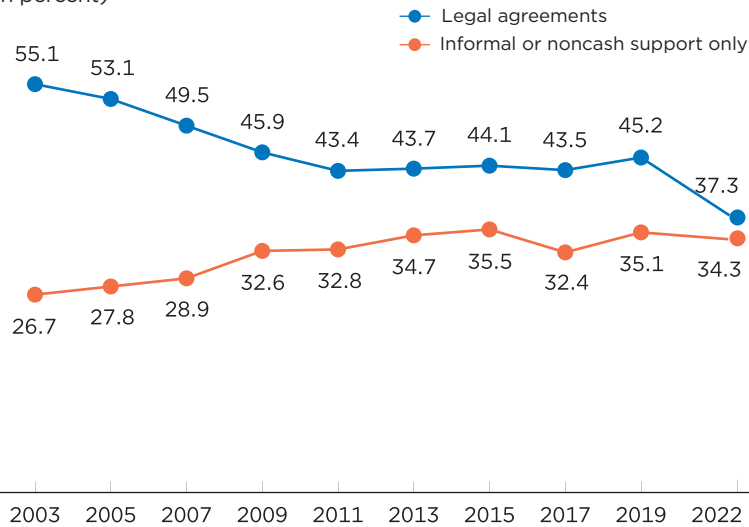


¹ The deficit is the difference between what custodial parents were supposed to receive and what they actually received. Parents who received more than their agreed upon amount are recorded as having a deficit value of zero. Therefore, adding the deficit to amount received will not sum to total amount supposed to be received. Note: Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 2023.

Figure 5.

Comparison of Legal Agreements and Informal Agreements or Noncash Support Only: 2003–2022¹

(In percent)



¹ These are mutually exclusive.

Note: The universe is all custodial parents aged 15 and over living with their own children who were under the age of 21 and whose other parent was not living in the home as of April 2023. Custodial parents can indicate whether they have a legal, legal pending, informal, or no agreement. The CPS-CSS is collected every 2 years. There was no collection in 2021. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement internal and public-use data, April 2004–2023. Project number P-7534398, approval number CDBDRB-FY25-0114.

NONCASH SUPPORT

Besides providing child support payments, some noncustodial parents also provide noncash support to their children (Figure 5). Over the years, there has been a decline in legal agreements and an increase in informal agreements or noncash support. For instance, 55.1 percent of all custodial parents had a legal agreement in 2003, while only 37.3 percent did in 2022. On the other hand, the share of parents who had only informal agreements or received noncash support increased by 7.6 percentage points from 2003 to 2022. While in 2003, over one-quarter of custodial parents (26.7 percent) had only an informal agreement or received noncash support, in 2022 that number went up to 34.3 percent.

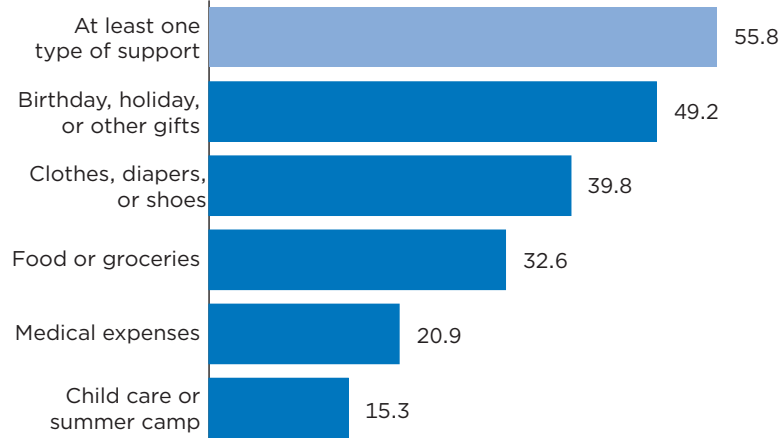
In 2022, more than one-half (55.8 percent) of all custodial parents reported receiving at least one type of noncash support for their children from the noncustodial parent(s), such as gifts or coverage of expenses. The most common type of noncash support received was gifts for birthdays, holidays, or other occasions (49.2 percent); followed by clothes, diapers, or shoes (39.8 percent); and food or groceries (32.6 percent; Figure 6).

Custodial parents with child support agreements were more likely to receive noncash support (61.5 percent) than those without agreements (51.8 percent). This was also true among custodial mothers. However, rates of noncash receipt among custodial fathers (with and without agreements) were comparable (66.2 percent compared to 66.3 percent, respectively; Appendix Table 2).

Figure 6.

Noncash Support Received by All Custodial Parents: 2022

(In percent)



Note: Total exceeds 100 percent because parents could report more than one type. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions refer to <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 2023.

POVERTY

The family poverty rate for all families including a custodial parent was 20.7 percent in 2022, 9.4 percentage points higher than the poverty rate of all families including children under the age of 21 (11.3 percent; Figure 7). Approximately 5.6 million children in families that include a custodial parent lived in poverty in 2022 (Table 1), accounting for one-quarter of these children (result not shown).^{10, 11}

Poverty rates vary among types of families. The poverty rate for families including a custodial mother in 2022 (22.6 percent) was statistically higher than the poverty rate for families including a custodial father (12.6 percent).

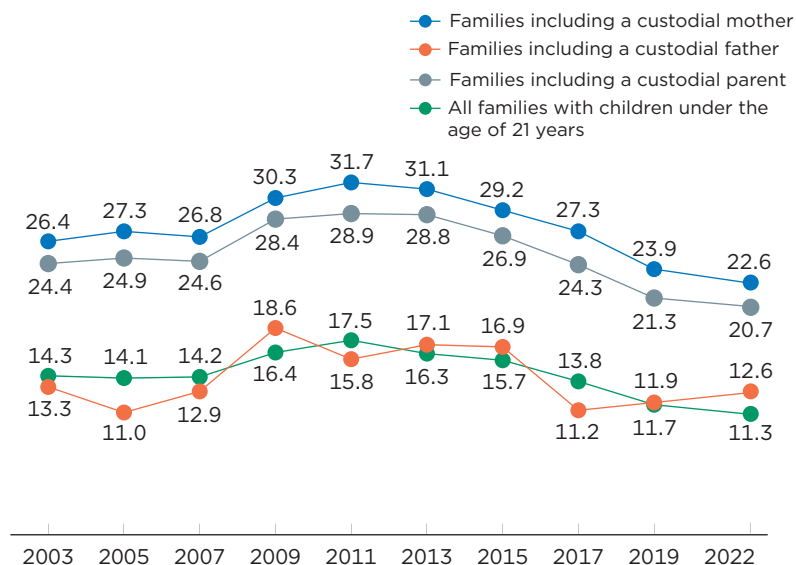
When analyzing poverty rates since the recent peak in 2011, poverty rates for families with custodial parents and for all families with children under the age of 21 have declined. For instance, the poverty rate for families including any custodial parent dropped from 28.9 percent in 2011 to 20.7 percent in 2022, an 8.2 percentage-point decline. However, in 2022, the poverty rate for families

¹⁰ A family is a group of two or more people (not necessarily including the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together. A primary family includes the householder and members related by the same categories. All such people (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. Unrelated individuals are people of any age who are not living with other family members. When calculating family poverty, these individuals are treated as single-person families.

¹¹ The official poverty thresholds are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses pretax money income or tax credits and excludes capital gains and noncash benefits (such as SNAP and housing assistance). The thresholds do not vary geographically. The poverty thresholds are updated every January. Current and historical poverty thresholds can be found at www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html.

Figure 7.

Poverty Status of Families by Custodial Status: 2003–2022^{1, 2, 3} (In percent)



¹ Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total money income is less than the applicable threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. For the purposes of calculating the income ratios that determine poverty, a family is a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, adoption, and residing together.

² In keeping with Statistical Policy Directive 14, we measure poverty for primary families (including related subfamilies) and for unrelated subfamilies. If parents are not identified as part of a family, they are excluded from this calculation. For more information about poverty calculation, refer to www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html.

³ Families are defined as units with at least one parent and one child under the age of 21 living in the same household. Some families may include more than one custodial parent.

Note: The CPS-CSS is collected every other year. There was no collection in 2021. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions refer to

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement internal and public-use data, April 2004–2023. Project number P-7534398, approval number CBDRB-FY25-0114.

including a custodial parent was still 9.4 percentage points higher than the rate for all families with children under the age of 21, whose poverty rate was only 11.3 percent.

SUMMARY

Millions of children in the United States live with one parent while the other parent lives elsewhere. During the last decade, poverty rates of families including a

custodial parent have declined. However, families including a custodial parent still have higher rates of poverty than all families who have children under the age of 21. While legal agreements still constitute the majority of child support arrangements, the percentage of parents with legal financial agreements has declined and the percentage of parents with only informal agreements or

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

Since child support can be ordered by a court in some states until a child is 21 years old or completes college, this report covers parents' own children under the age of 21. This data universe limits the comparability of these estimates with those of other U.S. Census Bureau reports about children, which define children as those under the age of 18. Additionally, some children living with neither biological parent, such as those living with grandparents or foster parents, may also be eligible to receive child support but are not part of the universe in the Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement (CPS-CSS) and are excluded from this analysis.

Processing changes were implemented beginning with the April 2020 CPS-CSS. While these adjustments were made to increase the internal consistency of the child support data, the changes may complicate comparisons with data prior to 2020. This report limits over-time comparisons due to these changes.

Additional information and detailed tables are available at the child support page on the Census Bureau's website at <https://census.gov/data/tables/2022/demo/families/2022-cps-childsupport.html>.

OTHER CHILD SUPPORT DATA COLLECTED BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) also includes information on child support payments; interested parties should refer to Table 15 in the SIPP Detailed Program Receipt Tables, available at www.census.gov/data/tables/2022/demo/public-assistance/sipp-receipts.html.

The SIPP has collected data on in-kind support (or noncash support) since 2021. Parents and guardians are also asked to provide a range of amounts for in-kind support.

noncash support has risen steadily over the last 2 decades. The cash and noncash contributions received from noncustodial parents are often an important resource to help pay for the costs of raising children, maintaining economic stability, and increasing overall child well-being. This report has shown many of the socioeconomic characteristics of custodial parents as well as the degree to which they receive support for their children.

SOURCE OF THE DATA

The population represented (the population universe) in the Child Support Supplement to the April 2023 Current Population Survey (CPS-CSS) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in correctional institutions and nursing homes (about 4.0 million in the 2010

Census). The estimates in this report are from the April 1994 through 2023 biennial supplements to the CPS.¹² The Census Bureau conducts the April supplement sponsored, in part, by the Office of Child Support Enforcement of the Department of Health and Human Services.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from sample surveys are subject to sampling error and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling error in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the Census Bureau employs quality control procedures in sample selection, the wording of questions, interviewing, coding, data processing, and data analysis. The CPS weighting procedure uses ratio estimation whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the

¹² There was a break in 2022 as there was no data collection for the child support supplement in 2021.

survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on the source of the data and accuracy of the estimates, including standard errors and confidence intervals, can be found at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/>

[cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf](#)> or by contacting the Demographic Statistical Methods Division via email at <dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov>.

Detailed tabulations, related information, and historical data are available at the child support page on the Census Bureau's website at <www.census.gov/topics/families/child-support.tables.html>.

For additional questions or comments, contact Liza C. Valle by email at <liza.c.valle@census.gov>.

SUGGESTED CITATION

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Table 1.

Children Under the Age of 21 by Living Arrangement, Poverty Status, Race, and Hispanic Origin of Child: 2022

(Numbers in thousands. People under the age of 21 living in families as of April 2023)

Characteristic	Children by living arrangement ¹						
	Number	Child support eligible			Not child support eligible ²		
		Number	Percent	Margin of error (±) ³	Number	Percent	Margin of error (±) ³
Total Children	82,174	22,248	27.1	1.0	59,925	72.9	1.0
Race of Child⁴							
White alone	58,103	13,902	23.9	1.0	44,201	76.1	1.0
White alone, non-Hispanic	40,098	8,443	21.1	1.2	31,655	78.9	1.2
Black alone.	12,711	5,896	46.4	3.1	6,814	53.6	3.1
Asian alone.	4,896	449	9.2	2.3	4,446	90.8	2.3
All other race groups and race combinations.	6,465	2,001	31.0	3.4	4,464	69.0	3.4
Origin of Child							
Hispanic (any race).	21,294	6,560	30.8	2.0	14,734	69.2	2.0
Poverty Status in 2022							
With family income below 2022 poverty level ⁵	10,849	5,568	51.3	3.6	5,281	48.7	3.6

¹ Excludes children when the child is the reference person, the reference person's spouse, or an unrelated individual.

² Reasons child would not be child support eligible: child lives with both parents, other parent has died, other parent's parental rights were terminated, location of other parent not known, or child was adopted by a single parent.

³ A margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

⁴ Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as White may be defined as those who reported White and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported White regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data using the first approach (race alone). Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

⁵ Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total money income is less than the applicable threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, are considered to be in poverty. For the purposes of calculating the income ratios that determine poverty, a family is a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together. In the context of child support, some complex or blended families may include more than one custodial parent and child who may be included independently in tables and figures.

Note: Details may not sum to totals because of rounding. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definition is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 2023.

Table 2.

Characteristics of Custodial Parents by Payments Received: 2022

(Numbers in thousands. Parents aged 15 and over living with own children under the age of 21 whose other parent was not living in the home as of April 2023)

Characteristic	All custodial parents	Supposed to receive child support	Received any payment ¹			Received all payments			Did not receive payments		
			Number	Percent	Margin of error (±) ²	Number	Percent	Margin of error (±) ²	Number	Percent	Margin of error (±) ²
ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS											
Total	13,872	4,683	3,534	100.0	0.0	2,320	100.0	0.0	1,149	100.0	0.0
Sex											
Male	3,022	786	504	14.3	2.5	412	17.8	3.3	282	24.5	5.1
Female	10,850	3,897	3,030	85.7	2.5	1,908	82.2	3.3	867	75.5	5.1
Age											
Under 30 years old	2,075	541	451	12.8	2.4	272	11.7	3.2	90	7.8	3.1
30–39 years old	5,226	2,052	1,532	43.4	3.5	1,006	43.4	4.3	520	45.2	6.0
40 years and over	6,572	2,090	1,550	43.9	3.5	1,042	44.9	4.6	540	47.0	6.1
Race ³											
White alone	9,270	3,559	2,687	76.0	3.2	1,753	75.6	3.6	872	75.9	5.7
White alone, non-Hispanic	6,269	2,649	2,071	58.6	3.5	1,360	58.6	4.1	578	50.3	6.4
Black alone	3,507	818	607	17.2	3.0	408	17.6	3.5	211	18.4	5.0
Asian alone	333	94	78	2.2	1.0	58	2.5	1.4	17	1.4	1.3
All other race groups and race combinations	763	211	162	4.6	1.5	101	4.3	1.9	49	4.3	2.7
Origin											
Hispanic (any race)	3,505	1,083	732	20.7	2.7	472	20.4	3.3	351	30.5	6.0
Current Marital Status ⁴											
Married	2,930	1,086	884	25.0	3.1	595	25.6	3.6	202	17.6	4.4
Divorced	3,893	1,610	1,186	33.6	2.9	773	33.3	3.7	424	36.9	5.6
Separated	1,352	411	331	9.4	2.0	212	9.1	2.3	79	6.9	3.2
Never married	5,436	1,477	1,068	30.2	3.1	702	30.2	3.8	409	35.6	5.4
Educational Attainment ⁵											
Less than high school degree	1,301	283	203	5.9	1.5	128	5.6	1.9	80	7.1	3.4
High school degree	4,083	1,319	924	26.9	3.1	577	25.3	3.6	394	35.0	5.6
Some college, less than a bachelor's degree	4,388	1,668	1,291	37.5	3.1	837	36.7	3.9	377	33.4	6.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,433	1,299	1,024	29.8	2.8	736	32.3	3.9	276	24.4	4.7
Poverty ⁶											
With family income below 2022 poverty level	2,803	772	602	17.0	2.7	362	15.6	2.9	170	14.8	3.9
Receipt of Other Federal or State Benefits ⁷											
Any public assistance program participation	9,351	3,037	2,238	63.3	3.4	1,491	64.2	4.1	800	69.6	5.4
Number of Eligible Coresident Children											
With one child	8,303	2,520	1,847	52.3	3.3	1,245	53.7	3.8	674	58.6	5.8
With two or more children	5,569	2,162	1,687	47.7	3.3	1,075	46.3	3.8	475	41.4	5.8

¹ Includes custodial parents who received partial and full payments.

² A margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

³ Federal surveys give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. Therefore, two basic ways of defining a race group are possible. A group such as White may be defined as those who reported White and no other race (the race-alone or single-race concept) or as those who reported White regardless of whether they also reported another race (the race-alone-or-in-combination concept). The body of this report (text, figures, and tables) shows data using the first approach (race alone). Use of the single-race population does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

⁴ This excludes 261,000 parents with a marital status of widowed.

⁵ Includes only individuals aged 25 and over. Data users should note that this is a change first implemented in 2023; there may be differences when comparing to older tabulations.

⁶ Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of dollar value thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total money income is less than the applicable threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, are considered to be in poverty. For the purposes of calculating the income ratios that determine poverty, a family is a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together. In the context of child support, some complex or blended families may include more than one custodial parent and child may be included independently in tables and figures.

⁷ Received any of the following: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), free or reduced-price school lunch, Medicaid, public housing or rent subsidy, or energy assistance.

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 2023.

Appendix Table 1.

Comparison of Custodial Parent Population and Those With Child Support Agreements, Supposed to Receive Child Support, and Received Child Support: 1993 to 2022

(Numbers in thousands except for dollar amounts. Parents aged 15 and over living with own children under the age of 21 whose other parent was not living in the home as of April of 2023. Amounts in 2022 dollars)

Characteristic	2022	2019	2017	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993
ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS															
Total	13,872	13,180	12,918	13,573	13,416	14,440	13,672	13,743	13,605	13,951	13,383	13,529	13,949	13,715	13,690
With child support agreements ¹	5,692	6,590	6,376	6,807	6,528	7,057	6,914	7,428	7,802	8,376	7,916	7,945	7,876	7,967	7,800
Percent with child support agreements.....	41.0	50.0	49.4	50.2	48.7	48.9	50.6	54.0	57.3	60.0	59.1	58.7	56.5	58.1	57.0
Number supposed to receive child support payments.....	4,683	5,534	5,429	5,845	5,697	6,262	5,897	6,375	6,809	7,256	6,924	6,791	7,018	6,958	6,688
Mean child support supposed to be received (in dollars).....	\$6,390	\$7,672	\$6,724	\$7,397	\$7,616	\$8,496	\$9,132	\$8,747	\$10,168	\$10,340	\$10,916	\$11,515	\$10,752	\$11,588	\$11,164
Mean child support actually received (in dollars) ²	\$4,106	\$4,621	\$4,181	\$4,427	\$5,214	\$5,294	\$5,573	\$5,483	\$6,634	\$7,089	\$6,839	\$6,758	\$7,165	\$7,635	\$7,290
Number received any child support payments.....	3,534	4,050	3,792	4,049	4,222	4,641	4,174	4,864	5,259	5,548	5,119	5,005	5,282	5,269	5,070
Percent received any child support payments.....	75.5	73.2	69.8	69.3	74.1	74.1	70.8	76.3	77.2	76.5	73.9	73.7	75.3	75.7	75.8
Number received all support supposed to be received.....	2,320	2,641	2,491	2,543	2,595	2,716	2,428	2,986	3,192	3,290	3,093	3,066	3,240	2,945	2,466
Percent received all support supposed to be received.....	49.5	47.7	45.9	43.5	45.6	43.4	41.2	46.8	46.9	45.3	44.7	45.1	46.2	42.3	36.9
No child support agreement ³	8,181	6,590	6,542	6,766	6,891	7,383	6,759	6,315	5,803	5,576	5,466	5,584	6,074	5,747	5,889
Number received child support payments ⁴	505	510	505	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Mean child support received (in dollars) ⁵	\$3,666	\$3,216	\$4,762	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
CUSTODIAL MOTHERS															
Total	10,850	10,170	10,319	10,918	11,069	11,797	11,237	11,356	11,406	11,587	11,291	11,499	11,872	11,607	11,505
With child support agreements ¹	4,683	5,349	5,301	5,756	5,879	6,297	6,174	6,463	7,002	7,436	7,110	7,150	7,080	7,123	6,878
Percent with child support agreements.....	43.2	52.6	51.4	52.7	53.1	53.4	54.9	56.9	61.4	64.2	63.0	62.2	59.6	61.4	59.8
Number supposed to receive child support payments.....	3,897	4,631	4,600	4,961	5,049	5,588	5,278	5,551	6,131	6,516	6,212	6,133	6,342	6,224	5,913
Mean child support supposed to be received (in dollars).....	\$6,458	\$7,648	\$6,799	\$7,434	\$7,504	\$8,584	\$9,196	\$8,773	\$10,307	\$10,485	\$12,530	\$11,628	\$10,801	\$11,784	\$11,311
Mean child support actually received (in dollars) ²	\$4,157	\$4,719	\$4,270	\$4,483	\$5,066	\$5,421	\$5,677	\$5,485	\$6,665	\$7,251	\$7,275	\$6,947	\$7,209	\$7,730	\$7,420
Number received any child support payments.....	3,030	3,539	3,282	3,530	3,743	4,182	3,723	4,253	4,754	5,018	4,639	4,578	4,802	4,742	4,501
Percent received any child support payments.....	77.8	76.4	71.3	71.2	74.1	74.8	70.5	76.6	77.5	77.0	74.7	74.6	75.7	76.2	76.1
Number received all support supposed to be received.....	1,908	2,252	2,133	2,229	2,331	2,438	2,217	2,615	2,900	2,948	2,815	2,818	2,945	2,674	2,178
Percent received all support supposed to be received.....	49.0	48.6	46.4	44.9	46.2	43.6	42.0	47.1	47.3	45.2	45.3	45.9	46.4	43.0	36.8
No child support agreement ³	6,167	4,821	5,018	5,162	5,280	5,499	5,063	4,893	4,404	4,151	4,181	4,349	4,792	4,484	4,627
Number received child support payments ⁴	489	440	425	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Mean child support received (in dollars) ⁵	\$3,684	\$3,365	\$4,984	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Footnotes available at end of table.

Appendix Table 1.

Comparison of Custodial Parent Population and Those With Child Support Agreements, Supposed to Receive Child Support, and Received Child Support: 1993 to 2022—Con.

(Numbers in thousands except for dollar amounts. Parents aged 15 and over living with own children under the age of 21 whose other parent was not living in the home as of April of 2023. Amounts in 2022 dollars)

Characteristic	2022	2019	2017	2015	2013	2011	2009	2007	2005	2003	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993
CUSTODIAL FATHERS															
Total	3,022	3,010	2,598	2,655	2,350	2,643	2,435	2,387	2,199	2,364	2,092	2,030	2,077	2,108	2,184
With child support agreements ¹	1,008	1,241	1,075	1,051	739	760	740	965	800	940	807	795	796	844	922
Percent with child support agreements	33.4	41.2	41.4	39.6	31.4	28.8	30.4	40.4	36.4	39.8	38.6	39.2	38.3	40.0	42.2
Number supposed to receive child support payments	786	903	828	884	648	674	619	825	678	740	712	658	676	733	775
Mean child support supposed to be received (in dollars)	\$6,050	\$7,796	\$6,308	\$7,191	\$8,488	\$7,759	\$8,590	\$8,565	\$8,914	\$9,057	\$9,134	\$10,448	\$10,275	\$9,906	\$10,053
Mean child support actually received (in dollars) ²	\$3,851	\$4,116	\$3,681	\$4,109	\$6,358	\$4,232	\$4,691	\$5,465	\$6,358	\$5,666	\$6,235	\$4,993	\$6,773	\$6,853	\$6,301
Number received any child support payments	504	511	510	519	479	459	451	611	505	530	480	427	479	527	569
Percent received any child support payments	64.1	56.6	61.6	58.7	73.9	68.1	72.9	74.1	74.5	71.6	67.4	64.9	70.9	71.9	73.4
Number received all support supposed to be received	412	389	357	314	264	279	211	371	292	342	278	248	295	270	288
Percent received all support supposed to be received	52.5	43.1	43.1	35.5	40.7	41.4	34.1	45.0	43.1	46.2	39.0	37.7	43.6	36.8	37.2
No child support agreement ³	2,014	1,770	1,524	1,604	1,610	1,883	1,695	1,422	1,399	1,424	1,285	1,235	1,281	1,263	1,262
Number received child support payments ⁴	16	70	80	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Mean child support received (in dollars) ⁵	\$3,114	\$2,273	\$3,588	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

N Not available.

¹ Includes parents with legal or informal agreements.

² Based on parents with legal or informal agreements who were supposed to receive child support payments.

³ Also includes parents whose child support agreements were legally pending.

⁴ Child support here refers to any financial support received in the absence of a child support agreement.

⁵ Based on parents who received child support payments.

Note: More information on confidentiality protection, methodology, sampling and nonsampling error, and definitions is available in the Technical Documentation found at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>>. Information about methods to calculate measures of statistical uncertainty (standard errors and margins of error) for 2023 Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement (CPS-CSS) estimates is included in the Source and Accuracy Statement, found in Attachment F of the Technical Documentation. All child support income amounts are adjusted to reflect 2022 dollars using the C-CPI-U (2000-2022) and R-CPI-U-RS (pre-2000). For more information on the CPI, refer to <www.bls.gov/cpi/research-series/>. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 1994-2023.

Appendix Table 2.

Custodial Parents Receiving Noncash Support Provided by Noncustodial Parents by Agreement and Sex: 2022

(Numbers in thousands. Parents aged 15 and over living with own children under the age of 21 whose other parent was not living in the home as of April 2023)

Characteristic	Total custodial parents			Custodial mothers			Custodial fathers		
	Number	Percent	Margin of error (±) ¹	Number	Percent	Margin of error (±) ¹	Number	Percent	Margin of error (±) ¹
Custodial parents	13,872	100.0	0.0	10,850	100.0	0.0	3,022	100.0	0.0
CUSTODIAL PARENTS WITH CHILD SUPPORT AGREEMENTS IN 2022									
Total	5,692	100.0	0.0	4,683	100.0	0.0	1,008	100.0	0.0
Type of Agreement									
Legal agreement	5,177	91.0	1.7	4,220	90.1	1.9	957	94.9	2.3
Informal agreement	515	9.0	1.7	464	9.9	1.9	51	5.1	2.3
Noncash Support									
Received at least one form of noncash support	3,502	61.5	2.7	2,835	60.5	3.0	667	66.2	5.6
Birthday, holiday, or other gifts	3,108	54.6	2.7	2,527	54.0	3.1	581	57.6	5.8
Clothes, diapers, shoes, etc.	2,323	40.8	2.7	1,833	39.1	2.9	490	48.6	6.3
Food or groceries	1,902	33.4	2.6	1,437	30.7	2.7	465	46.1	6.3
Paid for child care or summer camp.	927	16.3	2.2	765	16.3	2.4	163	16.1	4.4
Paid for medical expenses	1,279	22.5	2.4	997	21.3	2.6	282	28.0	6.3
CUSTODIAL PARENTS WITHOUT CHILD SUPPORT AGREEMENTS IN 2022									
Total	8,181	100.0	0.0	6,167	100.0	0.0	2,014	100.0	0.0
Noncash Support									
Received at least one form of noncash support	4,239	51.8	2.3	2,905	47.1	2.7	1,334	66.3	4.3
Birthday, holiday, or other gifts	3,713	45.4	2.2	2,483	40.3	2.6	1,230	61.1	4.0
Clothes, diapers, shoes, etc.	3,200	39.1	2.6	2,160	35.0	2.9	1,039	51.6	4.6
Food or groceries	2,624	32.1	2.2	1,681	27.3	2.6	943	46.8	4.7
Paid for child care or summer camp.	1,189	14.5	1.6	841	13.6	1.8	348	17.3	3.5
Paid for medical expenses	1,614	19.7	1.8	1,067	17.3	2.0	548	27.2	4.3

¹ A margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

Note: Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>>. Parents may have listed more than one form of noncash support. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 2023.

Appendix Table 3.

Annual Child Support Payments Supposed to Be Received and Actually Received and Income Amounts by Sex: 2022

(Numbers in thousands except for dollar amounts. Parents aged 15 and over living with own children under the age of 21 whose other parent was not living in the home as of April 2023 and who were supposed to receive child support payments. Amounts in 2022 dollars)

Characteristic	Total custodial parents		Custodial mothers		Custodial fathers	
	Number	Margin of error ($\pm$) ¹	Number	Margin of error ($\pm$) ¹	Number	Margin of error ($\pm$) ¹
Custodial parents supposed to receive child support payments in 2022	4,683	295	3,897	253	786	130
Mean Child Support Payments in 2022						
Mean amount supposed to be received.	\$6,390	\$275	\$6,458	\$304	\$6,050	\$703
Mean amount actually received.	\$4,106	\$282	\$4,157	\$304	\$3,851	\$752
Mean deficit amount, conditional on having a deficit.	\$5,302	\$395	\$5,303	\$437	\$5,295	\$981
Aggregate Child Support Payments in 2022 (in billions of dollars)						
Aggregate child support supposed to be received.	\$29.9	\$2.2	\$25.2	\$2.0	\$4.8	\$1.0
Aggregate child support actually received.	\$19.2	\$1.8	\$16.2	\$1.7	\$3.0	\$0.7
Aggregate child support deficit ²	\$12.5	\$1.3	\$10.5	\$1.2	\$2.0	\$0.6
Median Child Support Payments in 2022						
Median amount supposed to be received.	\$4,816	\$241	\$4,849	\$248	\$4,672	\$583
Median amount actually received.	\$2,768	\$314	\$2,902	\$325	\$2,290	\$320
Annual 2022 income³						
Mean total personal income.	\$56,250	\$4,628	\$53,780	\$4,869	\$68,155	\$8,469
Median total personal income.	\$42,346	\$3,384	\$40,119	\$2,536	\$55,247	\$5,978
Mean total family income.	\$78,578	\$5,649	\$76,699	\$6,270	\$87,845	\$9,820
Median total family income.	\$56,418	\$3,668	\$53,664	\$3,901	\$70,781	\$13,670
Mean total household income.	\$94,604	\$6,106	\$93,434	\$6,858	\$100,463	\$10,720
Median total household income.	\$70,574	\$4,910	\$68,502	\$5,650	\$79,056	\$6,453

¹ A margin of error (MOE) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the MOE in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, forms the 90 percent confidence interval. MOEs shown in this table are based on standard errors calculated using replicate weights.

² Parents who received more than their agreed upon amount are recorded as having a deficit value of zero.

³ Excludes negative and zero amounts.

Note: Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsapr23.pdf>>. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement public-use data, April 2023.