



# EARLY INTERVENTION DEMONSTRATION EVALUATION



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REGION II & REGION III  
GOOD IDEAS AND PROMISING PRACTICES MEETING  
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# OUTLINE

- Evaluation Design
- Research Questions
- Summary of Findings
- Limitations
- Recommendations



## EVALUATION DESIGN

- Historical comparison for 4 counties (Calvert, Howard, Montgomery, & Washington)
  - Before EI 6/1/04 - 5/31/05 (n = 1,557)
  - After EI 6/1/05 - 6/31/06 (n = 1,396)
- For comparison, also include data from the balance of the state for the same time periods.
- Exclude privatized jurisdictions (Baltimore City & Queen Anne's County)
- Exclude from the post period counties which began their own EI projects (Charles; Dorchester; & Frederick)



## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Does EI reduce the time to 1<sup>st</sup> payment?
- Does EI improve child support payment rates over time?
- Does EI turn non-payers into payers?
- Does EI prevent the build-up of arrears?

# EI REDUCED THE TIME TO FIRST PAYMENT

|   | Early Intervention  |                    | Balance of the State |                    |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|   | Before<br>(n=1,557) | After<br>(n=1,396) | Before<br>(n=5,391)  | After<br>(n=4,728) |
| <b>Paid On or Before 1<sup>st</sup> Due Date</b>        | 28.5%               | 31.9%*             | 27.8%                | 32.7%***           |
| <b>Paid Within 1 Month of 1<sup>st</sup> Due Date</b>   | 65.0%               | 69.0%*             | 58.0%                | 58.8%              |
| <b>Paid Within 3 Months of 1<sup>st</sup> Due Date</b>  | 80.7%               | 83.2%*             | 76.6%                | 76.7%              |
| <b>Paid Within 6 Months of 1<sup>st</sup> Due Date</b>  | 87.5%               | 89.5%*             | 85.7%                | 84.8%              |
| <b>Paid Within 12 Months of 1<sup>st</sup> Due Date</b> | 92.0%               | 94.0%*             | 90.7%                | 91.1%              |
| <b>Paid Within 18 Months of 1<sup>st</sup> Due Date</b> | 94.0%               | 95.3%*             | 92.6%                | 93.8%              |

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**Note:** Balance of State excludes Baltimore City and Queen Anne's County. \*p<0.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001



## EI DID NOT IMPROVE PAYMENT RATES OVER TIME

|                                 | Early Intervention  |                    | Balance of the State |                    |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|                                 | Before<br>(n=1,557) | After<br>(n=1,396) | Before<br>(n=5,391)  | After<br>(n=4,728) |
| <b>Support Due</b>              | \$2,350.87          | \$2,475.52         | \$2,375.82           | \$2,450.20         |
| <b>Support Paid*</b>            | \$1,406.54          | \$1,501.08         | \$1,360.87           | \$1,386.57         |
| <b>Percent of Support Paid*</b> | 53.9%               | 54.4%              | 51.1%                | 49.9%              |

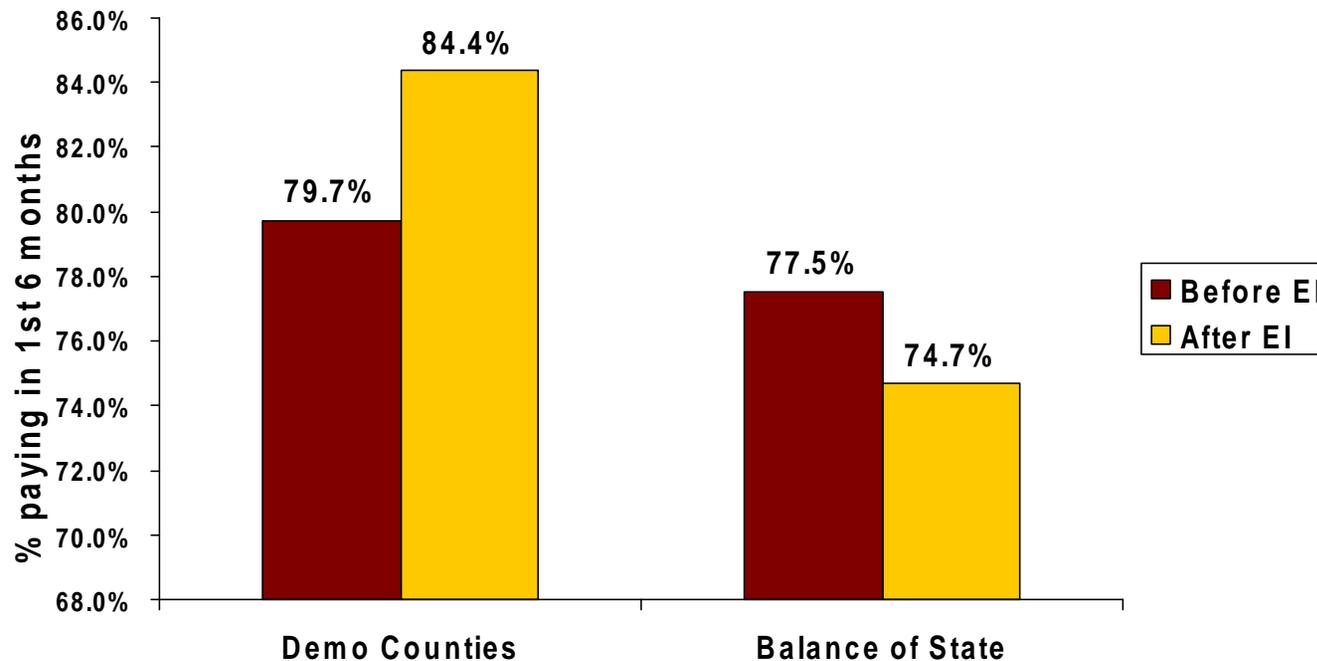
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**Note:** Differences b/w Test Counties & Balance of the State; No differences b/w before & after periods. \*p<.05



# EI TURNED NON-PAYERS INTO PAYERS

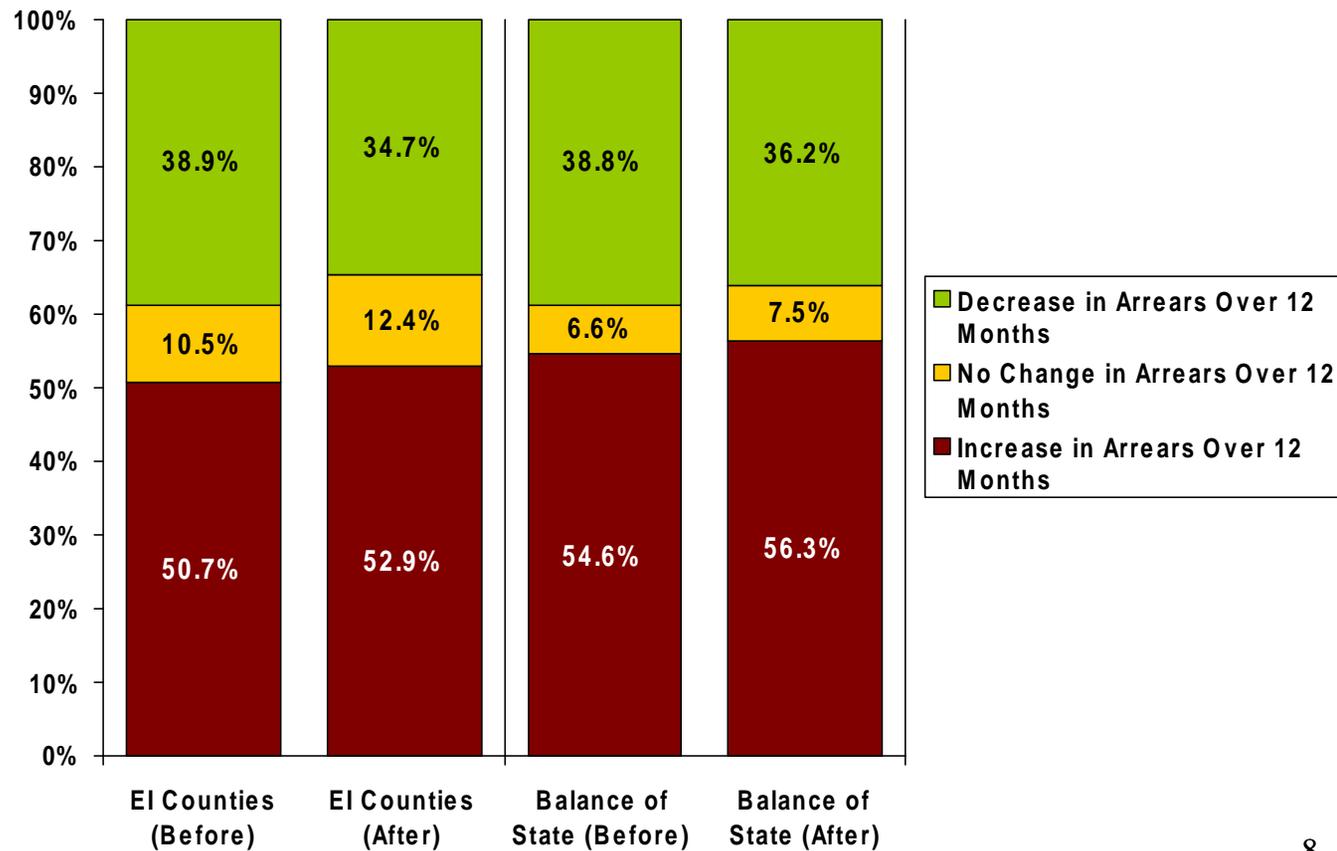
The percent of initial non-payers paying anything in the first 6 months increased in the EI counties & decreased in the balance of the state.



**Note:** Includes only obligors who did not pay in the first month. Balance of State excludes Baltimore City<sup>7</sup> and Queen Anne's County. Logistic regression reveals a significant cohort\*location interaction.



## EI DID NOT PREVENT THE BUILD-UP OF ARREARS



**Note:** Balance of State excludes Baltimore City and Queen Anne's County. \*p<0.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- EI obligors more likely to make a payment within the first 18 months.
- EI obligors make their 1<sup>st</sup> payment faster.
- EI worked better for some obligors:
  - Those with 2 or more cases
  - Those without Maryland UI-covered earnings
  - Those with an initial arrears order
- EI increased payments among initial non-payers.



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- No differences based on case type (TANF status)
- No overall difference in total payments or percent of obligation paid in 1<sup>st</sup> 6 months.
- No overall difference in arrears balances or distributions to arrears.
- Effects are generally small.



# LIMITATIONS

- Could not separate those without earnings from those with non-UI earnings
- Only consider effects related to payments
- Exclusion of privatized jurisdictions



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- EI holds promise, particularly for increasing payment among those least likely to pay. Continue to explore which practices work best for which customers.
- Consider costs of providing EI services relative to benefits.
- Explore possibility that different EI techniques have different benefits – e.g., information packets, follow up calls, summons.