2017 Child Support: More Money for Families

Collections

75% of child support is collected by income withholding from a parent’s paycheck.

$32.4 billion in child support collected by state and tribal child support programs in FY2017.

96% went to families.

25% other sources.

4% reimbursed public assistance dollars.

Case Load

15.1 million children served by the child support program in 2017.

Child support accounts for about half the average income of low-income parents who receive it, lifting 3/4 million people out of poverty in 2016.

1 in 5 children in the U.S.

Cost-Effectiveness

One of the most cost-effective government programs.

$5.15 collected by the child support program for every $1.00 spent.


* Combined CHIP Enrollment Total Report and Form CMS-64.EC, 2018; Characteristics of SNAP Households, FY 2016; WIC Program Monthly Data-State Level Participation, FY 2017; Annual Statistical Supplement, 2017; TANF: Total Number of Child Recipients, FY 2017; CCDF Preliminary Data Table 1, 2016; SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2016.

† Bureau of Census: Current Population Reports P-60-261 (Appendix Table 5) and P-60-262 (Appendix Table A-7).