University of Maryland School of Social Work

PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Complex Parents in Maryland: Jurisdictional Snapshots

October 2022

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This document includes individual snapshots for each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions as well as for the state based on data from the recent report: *Characteristics of Complex Families in Maryland's Child Support Caseload*. The snapshots summarize data describing the characteristics, employment, public assistance receipt, and child support cases of complex parents—those with multiple child support orders for current support with different co-parents.

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Complex parent** – A parent who has children with more than one co-parent. For the statewide report and these snapshots, we consider parents participating in the child support program who had more than one order for current support involving different co-parents to be complex. We distinguish complex parents' roles in the child support program by three subtypes:
  - Those who were *obligors only*—parents paying support—on all their child support cases.
  - Those who were *custodians only*—parents receiving support—on all their cases.
  - Those who were *obligors and custodians* across all their cases.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (**SNAP**) – The largest food assistance program in the U.S. The SNAP program is means-tested, and it provides in-kind benefits to households, allowing them to purchase nutritious food.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** (**TANF**) – The largest means-tested cash assistance program in the U.S. The TANF program provides monthly monetary benefits but also delivers a variety of services to promote work and self-sufficiency among families. Maryland's iteration of the TANF program is called Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA).
- **Federal Poverty Level** (**FPL**) – The official measure of poverty that is used to determine eligibility for a variety of means-tested programs, including SNAP. Each year the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services designates an annual income amount as poverty-level (100% FPL) for household sizes of one and up; in 2019 an income of $12,490 for a household of one adult was considered 100% FPL (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2019). As household size increases, the annual income amount increases. The snapshots display complex parents' poverty statuses at the following levels:
  - *100% FPL or Less* – the percentage of complex parents with earnings above zero but less than or equal to poverty status of 100% FPL.
  - *101% to 200% FPL* – the percentage of complex parents with earnings above poverty-level but less than or equal to low-income status of 200% FPL, or double the poverty-level amount.
  - *Above 200% FPL* – the percentage of complex parents with earnings above the low-income threshold of 200% FPL.
- **Arrears** – Debts to current child support obligations. Any amount of current support that goes unpaid in a given month is assigned to arrears. Unpaid arrears can trigger enforcement actions.

Methods

Data Sources

Data for the snapshots come from several sources: the Child Support Enforcement System (CSES), the Client Automated Resources and Eligibility System (CARES), and the Maryland Automated Benefits System (MABS). CSES is the administrative data system for the public child support program, and it provides individual- and case-level data on demographics and program participation for individuals receiving public child support services. CARES was the administrative data system for TANF and SNAP participation in the state through November 2021.

The MABS system includes data from all employers covered by the state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) law and the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program. Together, these account for approximately 91% of all Maryland civilian employment. There are several limitations to MABS data. Data are reported on a quarterly basis, which means it is not possible to calculate weekly or monthly employment and earnings. In addition, MABS does not contain data on certain types of employment such as self-employment, informal employment, or independently contracted work such as *gig work*. Recent research shows that working obligors in the public child support program are more likely than the national workforce to perform gig work as their main form of employment (14% vs. 9%; Sorensen, 2022). Finally, MABS has no information on employment outside Maryland, and out-of-state employment was high in Maryland (17%) compared to the national average (4%) according to the U.S. Census Bureau.[1] As a result, we may be understating employment and some earnings.

Population

This report includes the population of parents in Maryland's IV-D program who had multiple child support cases in December 2018 (N=15,812). Specifically, the population includes parents with the following: (a) two or more active cases with current support orders, (b) different co-parents on each case, and (c) biological or legal parents on every case. The population excludes families in kinship or foster care arrangements because we focused on the specific experiences of families in which the child(ren) live(s) primarily with a legal parent. It also excludes complex parents with children who have aged out of the child support program.

Complex parents are included in each jurisdictional snapshot in which they have a current support order. For instance, a complex parent with a current support case in Baltimore County and a current support case in Anne Arundel County is included in both jurisdictions' snapshot. A complex parent with more than one case in a single jurisdiction, however, is only included once for that jurisdiction. The statewide percentage of complex parents in December 2018 includes the *unduplicated* count of complex parents (N=15,812) in the calculation's numerator and the *unduplicated* count of all parents in the child support program (N=202,268) in the denominator.

[1] Using the 2015 – 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for Commuting Characteristics by Sex (S0801) table.

Study Periods

This report examines data from either December 2018 or calendar year 2019. Findings on complex parents' earnings, public assistance receipt, poverty status, and current support obligations and payments are based on2019 data. All other information reported in the snapshot is based on data in December 2018, the month in which complex parents were sampled for this report.

Preparing Data for Analyses

Exclusions from Analyses

Analyses of earnings exclude complex parents with no captured earnings in 2019; likewise, findings on current support payments—the amounts paid or received and the percentages paid or received of the obligation—exclude complex parents without any current support payment in 2019. Analyses of earnings after child support was paid/received only include complex parents with earnings *and* child support payments/receipt. Further, complex parents with missing data relevant to a given analysis are excluded from that analysis. For example, complex parents who have missing age data are excluded from the average age analyses.

Because obligors can owe support to either the custodian or the state, custodian-owed and state-owed current support and arrears are included in analyses of complex obligors' child support data. Custodians, though, do not receive support owed to the state, so state-owed current support and arrears are excluded from analyses of complex custodians' child support data.

Parents who take on both parental roles have characteristics and outcomes unique to other complex parents. As such, we exclude these parents from all analyses except for analyses examining the percentage of parents who were complex. See page 16 of the main report on complex families in Maryland for more information about parents with *dual roles* in the child support program.

Adjusted Median Earnings

The snapshots reveal estimates of *employed* complex obligors' median earnings after paying current child support in 2019 and *employed* complex custodians' median earnings after receiving support in that year. Complex obligors' adjusted earnings were found by subtracting each employed obligor's total child support payment in 2019 from their total 2019 earnings. Alternately, complex custodians' adjusted earnings were calculated by adding each employed custodian's total amount of child support received in 2019 to their total 2019 earnings.

Poverty Status

Household size can substantially impact a family's poverty status. As complex parents tend to have more participating children than other parents in Maryland's program, poverty could be more prevalent among them than among families with similar earnings and fewer household members.

However, as our data source for household size (CSES) only includes child support participants, we cannot determine complex parents' household sizes accurately. There may be additional employed or unemployed adults in the household as well as other children for both complex obligors and custodians. Nonetheless, we include the household size information we have from CSES in the calculation of poverty status. For complex custodians, this includes the number of children they have with current support orders. For complex obligors, poverty is calculated for a single adult because the obligors do not have any children with child support orders in their residence. Both complex obligors and custodians are missing the same types of data for poverty calculation: additional household members of any type, income beyond earnings, and cash assistance benefits. Therefore, analyses of complex obligors' and complex custodians' poverty statuses remain comparable.

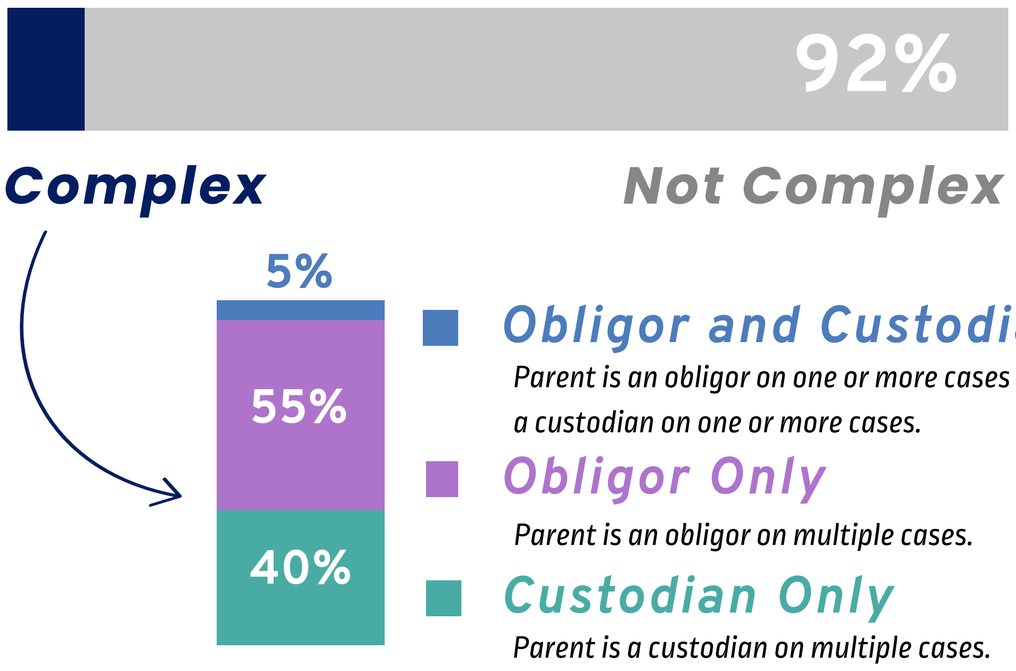
Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Somlak Suvanasorn and Mike Funk for their assistance in the collection and processing of data for these snapshots along with Lauren A. Hall, Haley Smith, and Jessica Gagliardi for their help with the design of the snapshots. This document was prepared by the University of Maryland School of Social Work with support from its long-time research partner, the Maryland Department of Human Services. For additional information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella (llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu or 410.706.2479) at the School of Social Work. Please visit our website https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/familywelfare/ for additional copies of these snapshots and other reports.

MARYLAND

Characteristics of Complex Parents

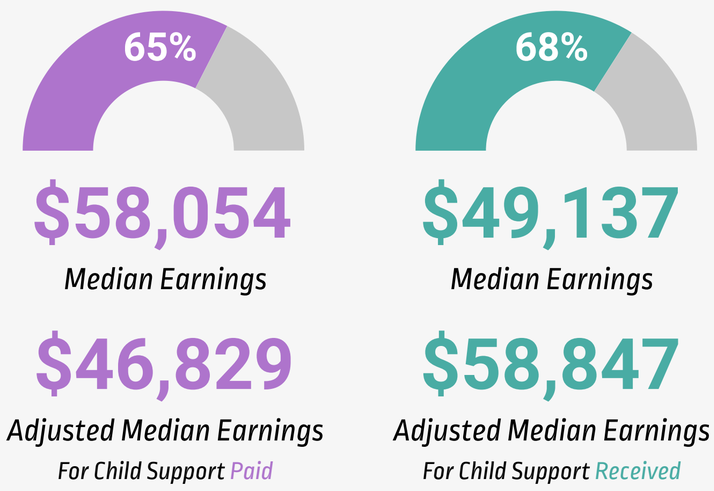
8% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



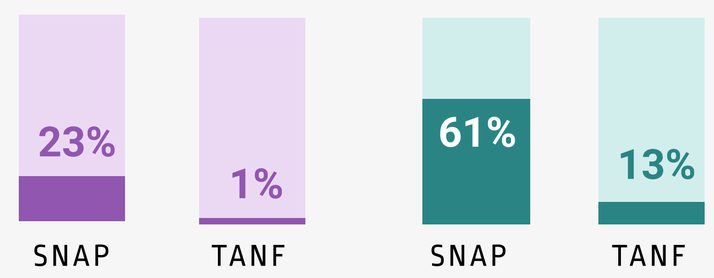
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

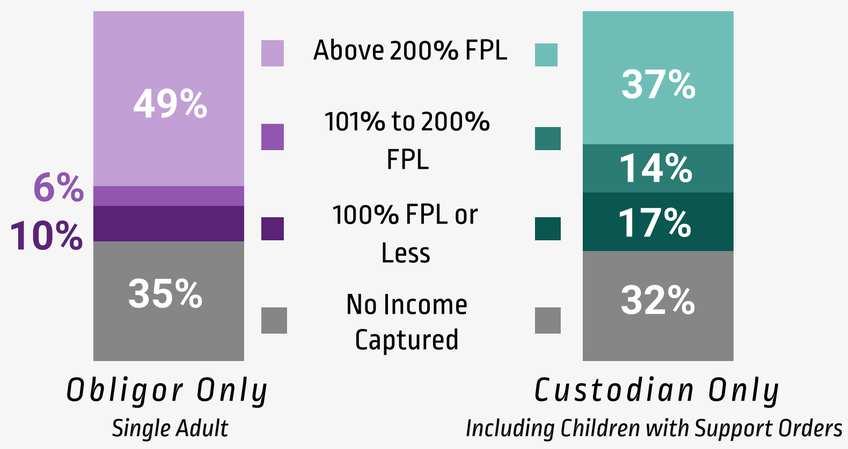


Safety Net Participation

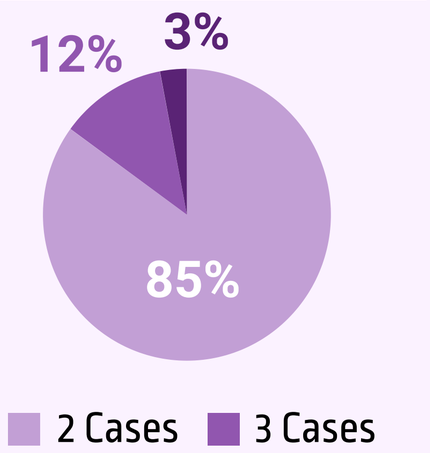


Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support

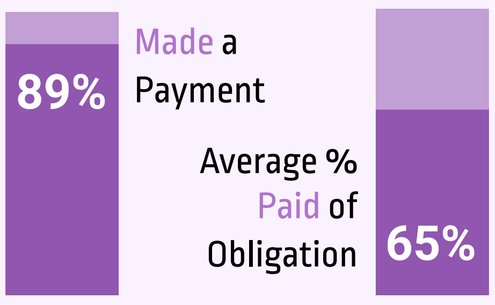


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$18,330
Average Current Support Due

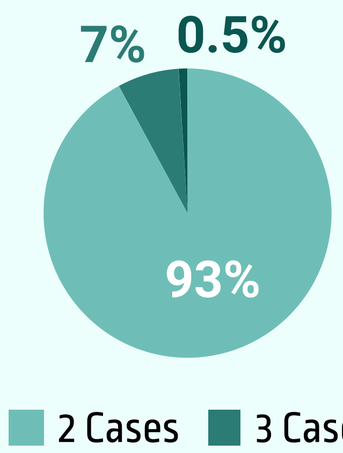


$13,007
Average Current Support Paid

91% owed arrears

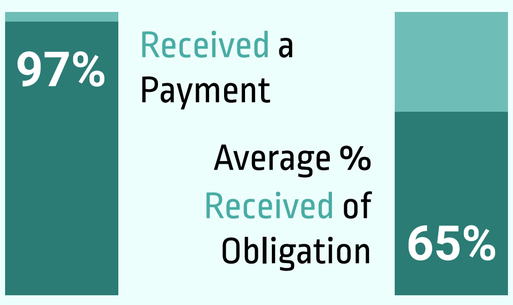
$16,854
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$17,116
Average Current Support Owed



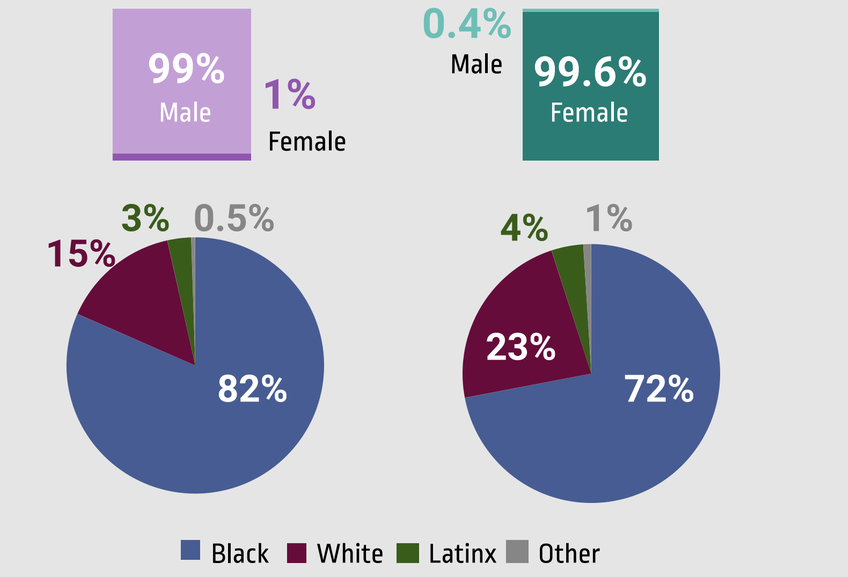
$11,975
Average Current Support Received

$10,197
Median Arrears Owed

95% were owed arrears

Demographics

December 2018



37 years
Average Age

34 years
Average Age

Note: The statewide population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 15,812 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=15,060). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

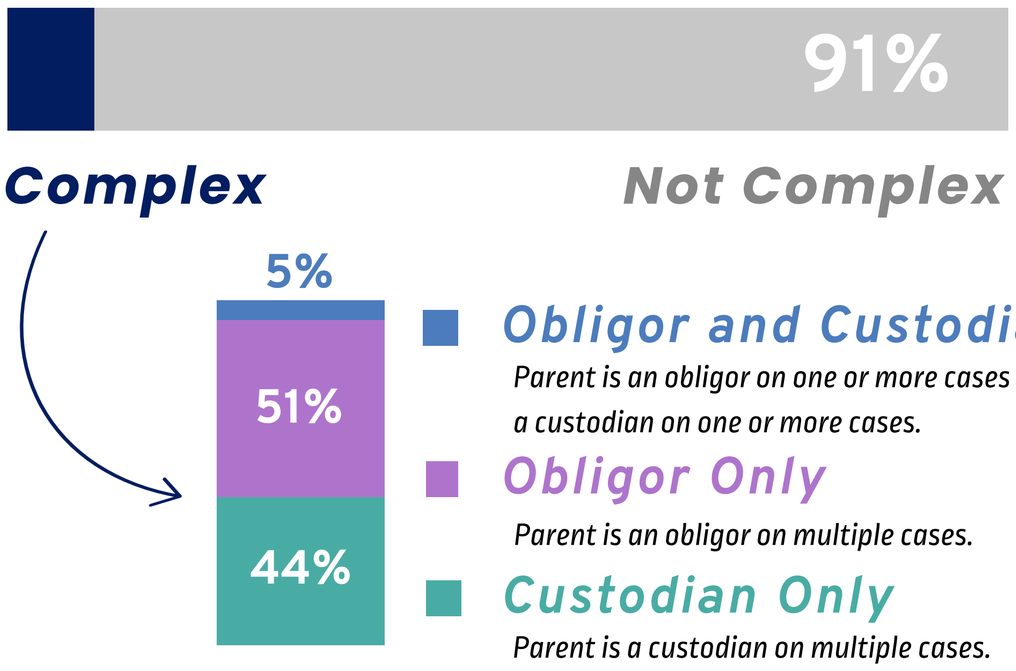
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

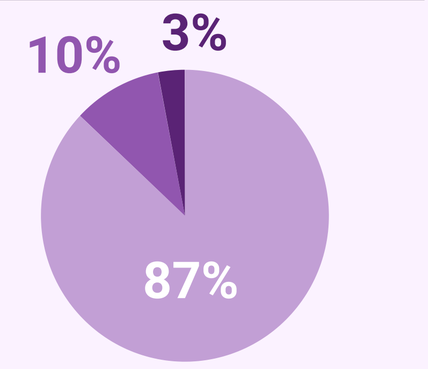
ALLEGANY COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

9% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

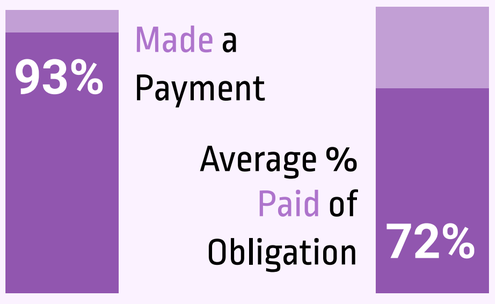


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$14,303
Average Current Support Due

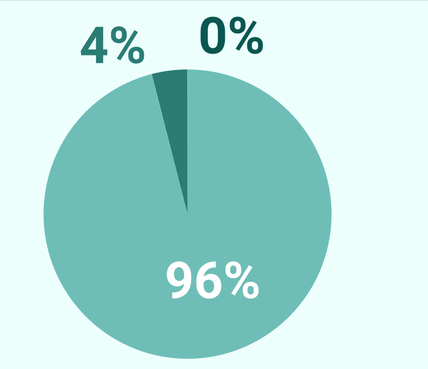


$11,542
Average Current Support Paid

89% owed arrears

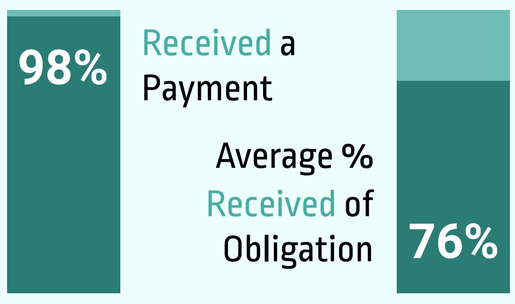
$4,402
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Children on Average

$14,800
Average Current Support Owed



$12,156
Average Current Support Received

$4,854
Median Arrears Owed

86% were owed arrears

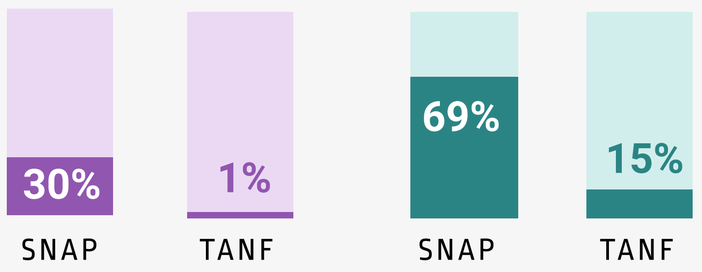
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

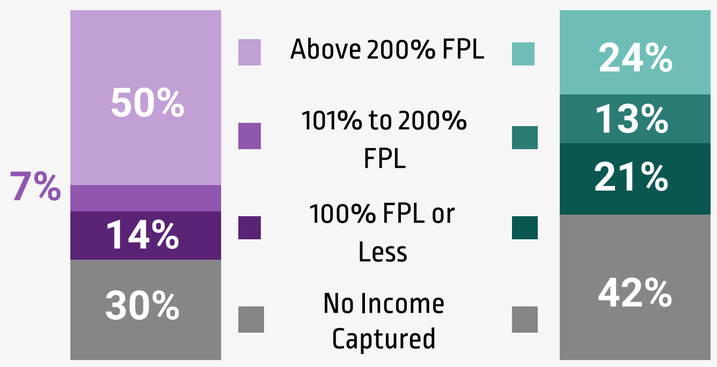
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
70%	58%
$47,398	**$33,872**
Median Earnings	*Median Earnings*
$35,069	**$42,262**
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support *Paid*	*Adjusted Median Earnings* For Child Support *Received*

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

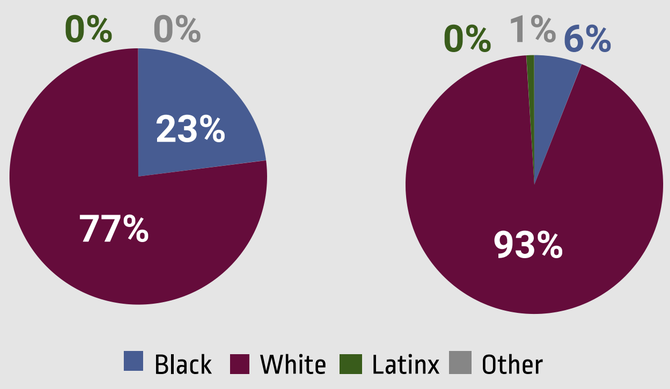
Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

December 2018

Obligor Only	Custodian Only
98% Male, 2% Female	0% Male, 100% Female



Obligor Only	Custodian Only
37 years	**34 years**
Average Age	*Average Age*

Note: Allegany County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 264 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=250). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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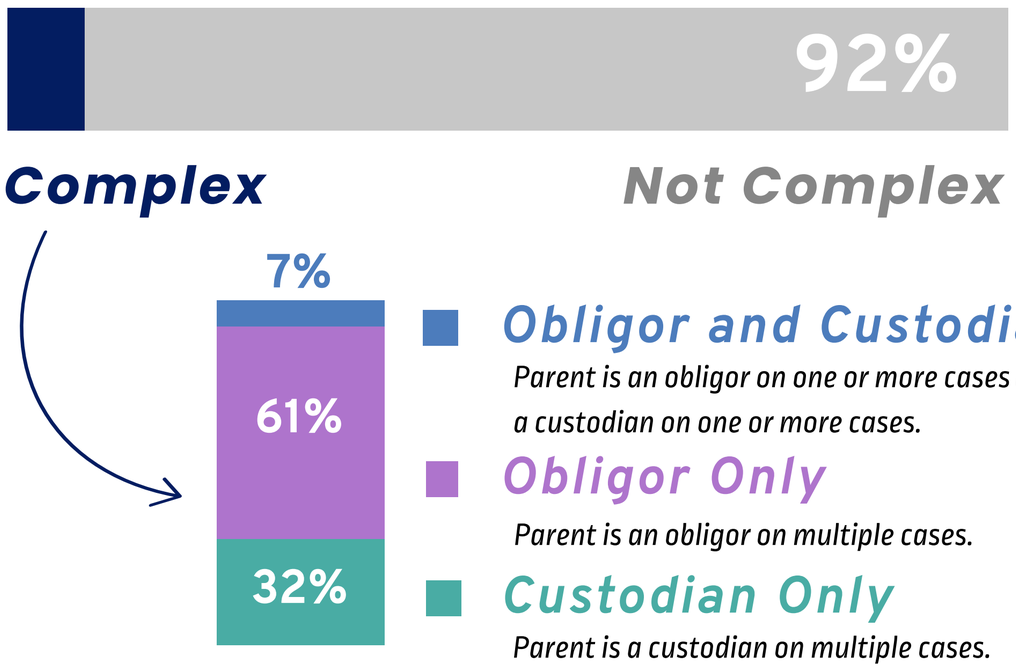
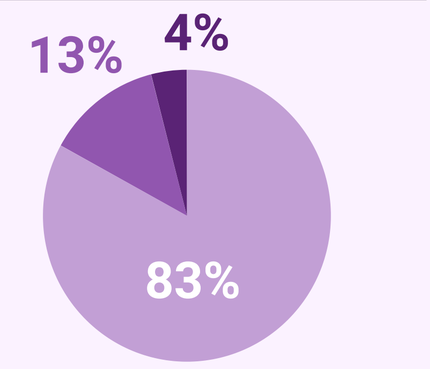
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

8% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

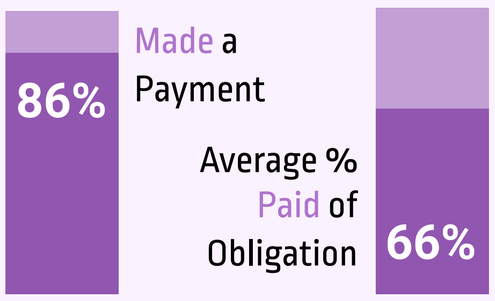


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$20,925
Average Current Support Due

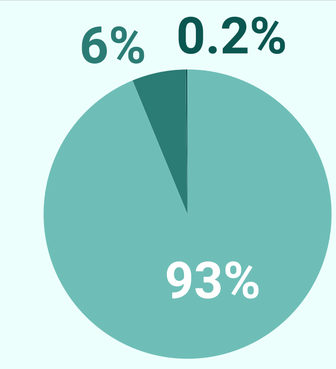


$15,009
Average Current Support Paid

90% owed arrears

$21,189
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$19,786
Average Current Support Owed

$14,025
Average Current Support Received

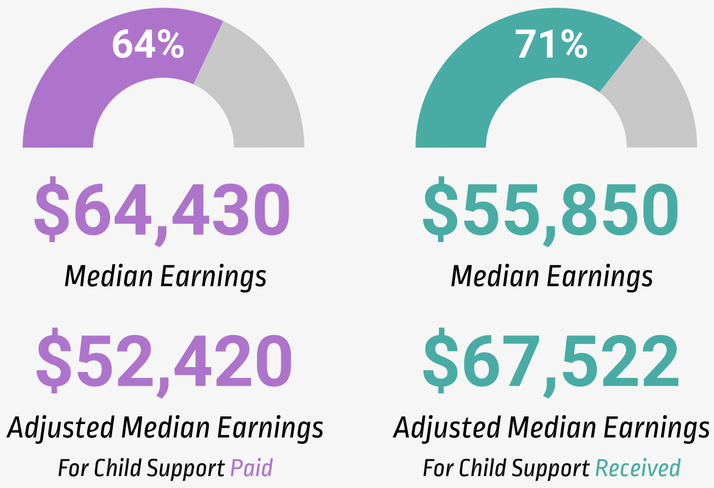
$12,753
Median Arrears Owed

93% were owed arrears

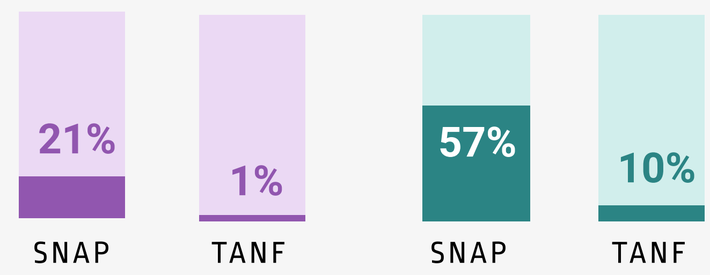
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

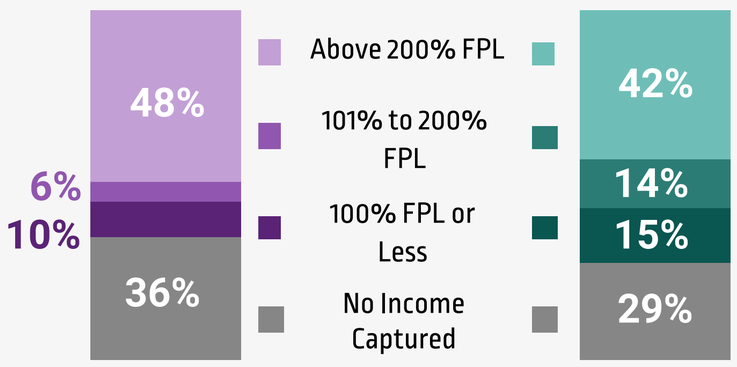


Safety Net Participation



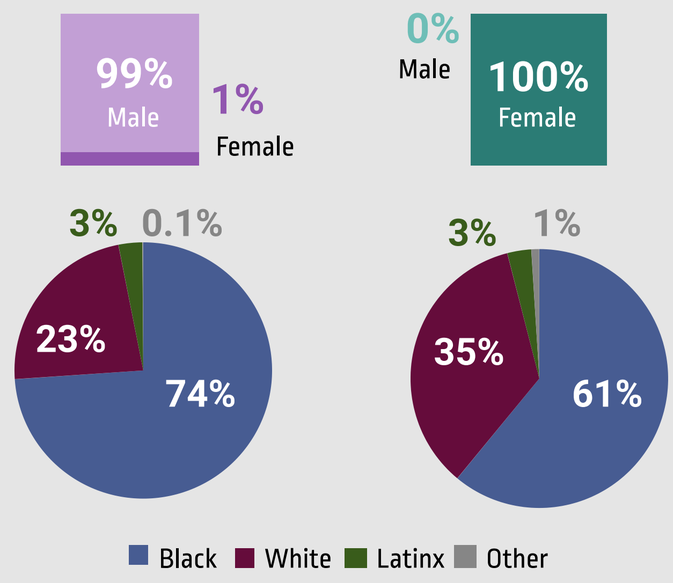
Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

December 2018



37 years
Average Age

35 years
Average Age

Note: Anne Arundel County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 1,377 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=1,281). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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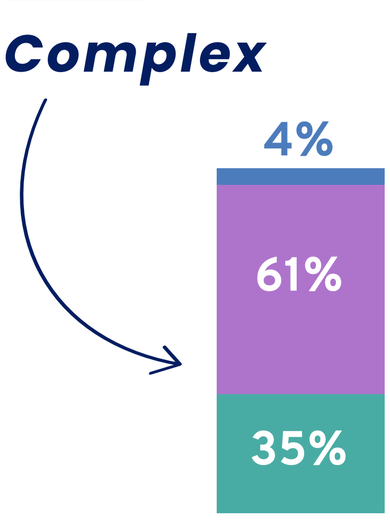
University of Maryland School of Social Work

BALTIMORE CITY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

14% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

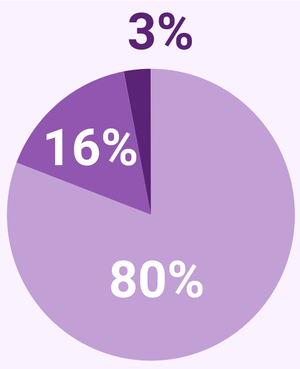


Obligor and Custodian
Parent is an obligor on one or more cases and a custodian on one or more cases.

Obligor Only
Parent is an obligor on multiple cases.

Custodian Only
Parent is a custodian on multiple cases.

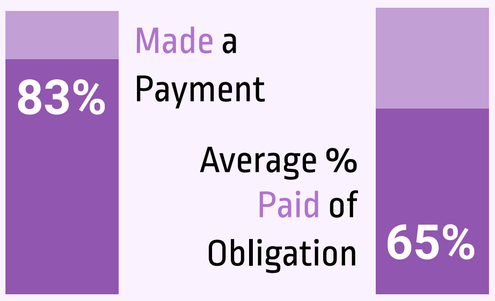
Obligor Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$16,324
Average Current Support Due

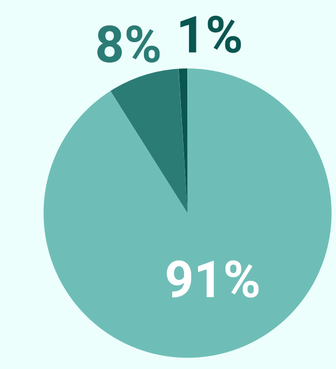


$11,494
Average Current Support Paid

91% owed arrears

$22,058
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$13,931
Average Current Support Owed

$9,071
Average Current Support Received

$14,543
Median Arrears Owed

96% were owed arrears

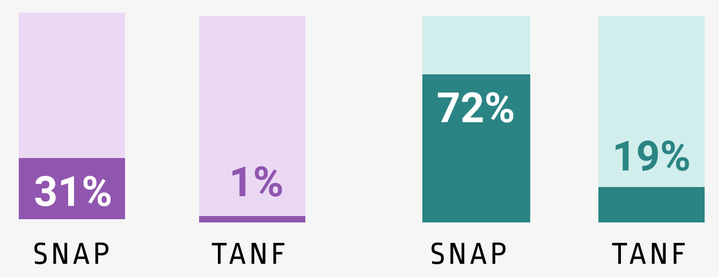
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

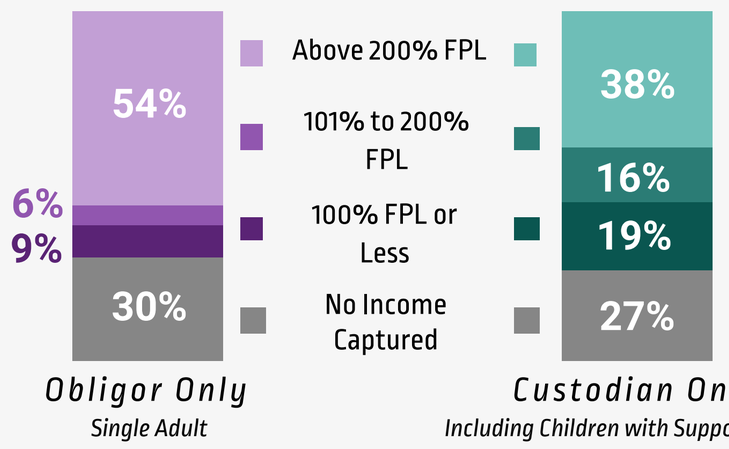
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
70%	73%
$59,538 Median Earnings	**$48,094** Median Earnings
$49,248 Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support *Paid*	**$55,687** Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support *Received*

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



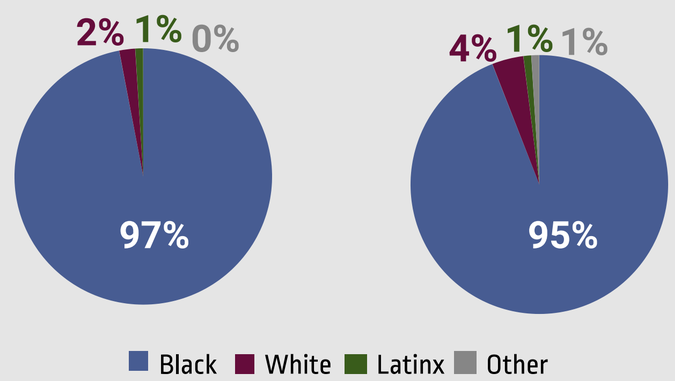
Obligor Only
Single Adult

Custodian Only
Including Children with Support Orders

Demographics

December 2018

Obligor Only	Custodian Only
99.5% Male, 0.5% Female	0.2% Male, 99.8% Female



Obligor Only	Custodian Only
37 years Average Age	**34 years** Average Age

Note: Baltimore City's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 5,167 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=4,959). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

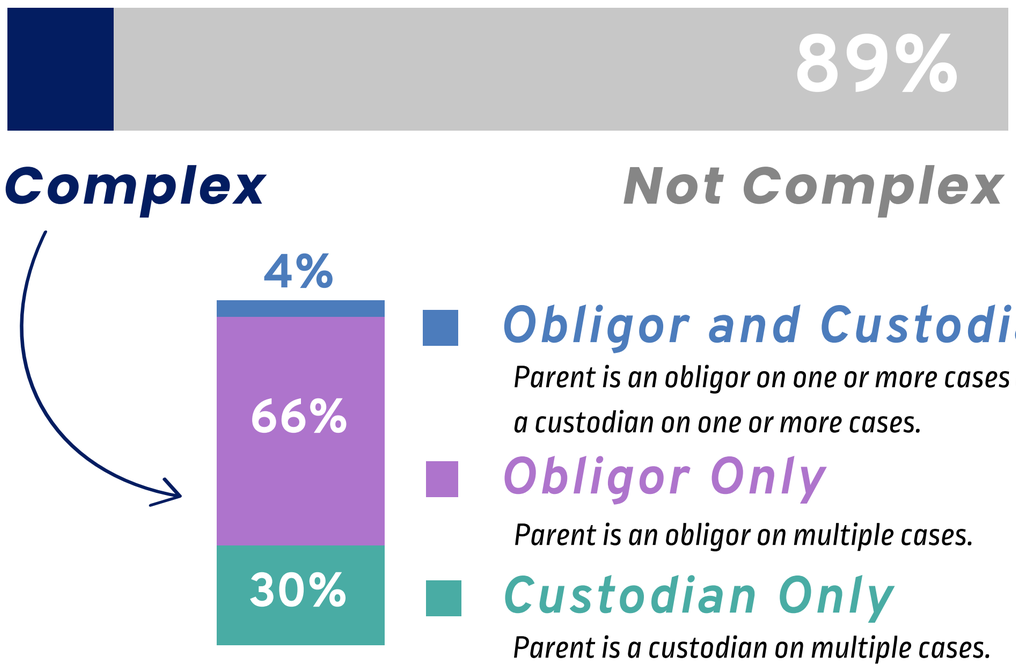
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

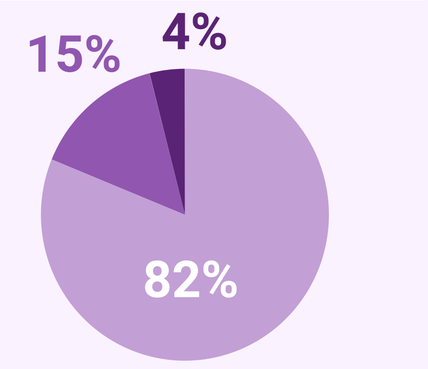
BALTIMORE COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

11% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

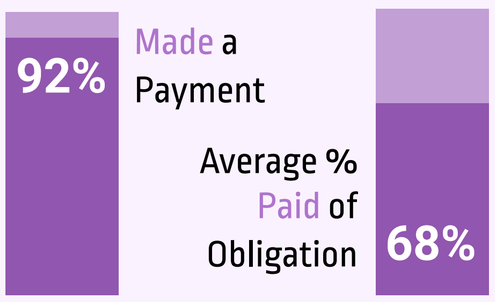


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$20,415
Average Current Support Due

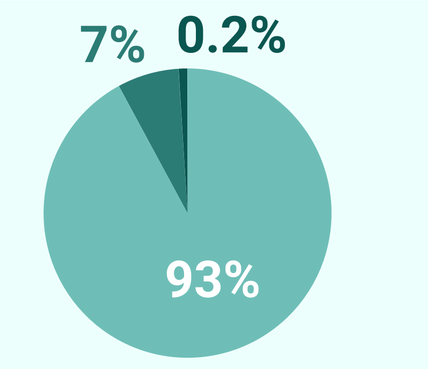


$14,692
Average Current Support Paid

89% owed arrears

$15,499
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$19,363
Average Current Support Owed

$13,714
Average Current Support Received

94% were owed arrears

$9,857
Median Arrears Owed

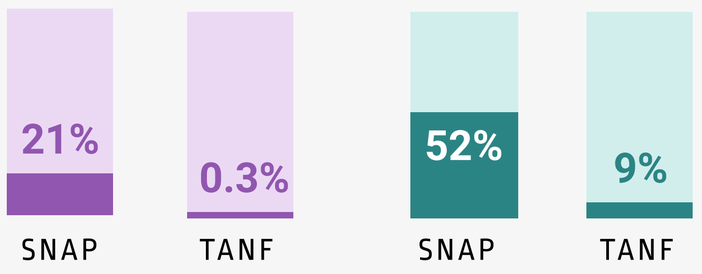
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

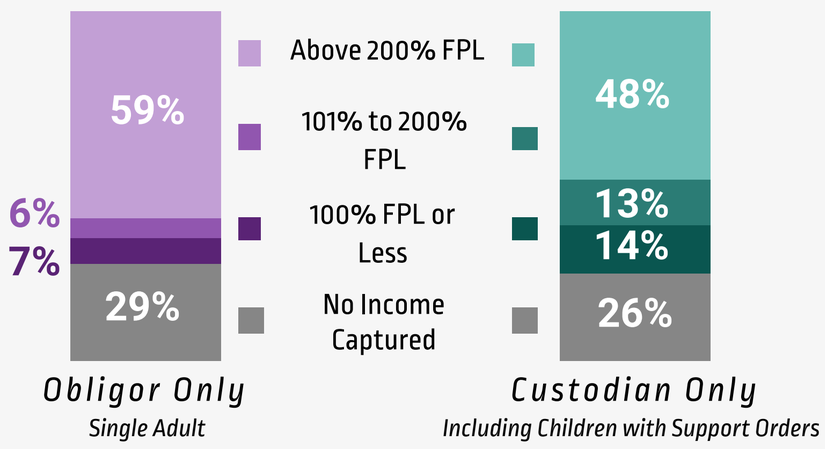
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
71%	74%
$74,096 *Median Earnings*	**$63,676** *Median Earnings*
$61,013 *Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid*	**$74,487** *Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received*

Safety Net Participation



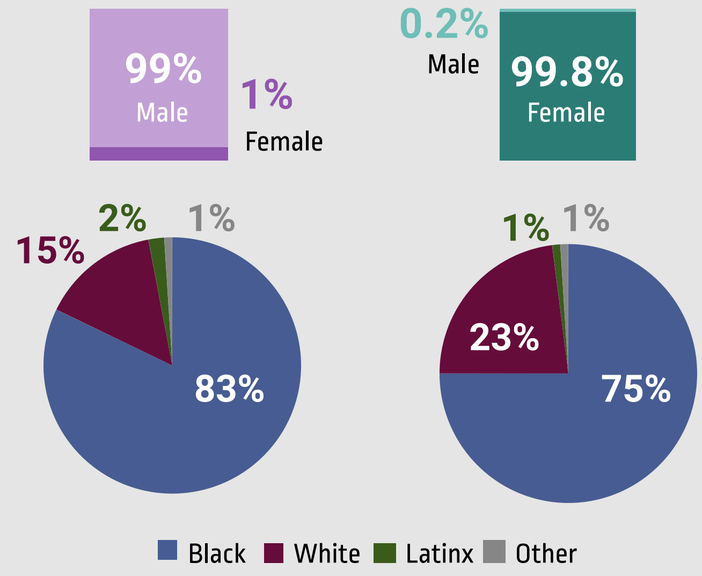
Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

December 2018



37 years *Average Age*

35 years *Average Age*

Note: Baltimore County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 2,666 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=2,572). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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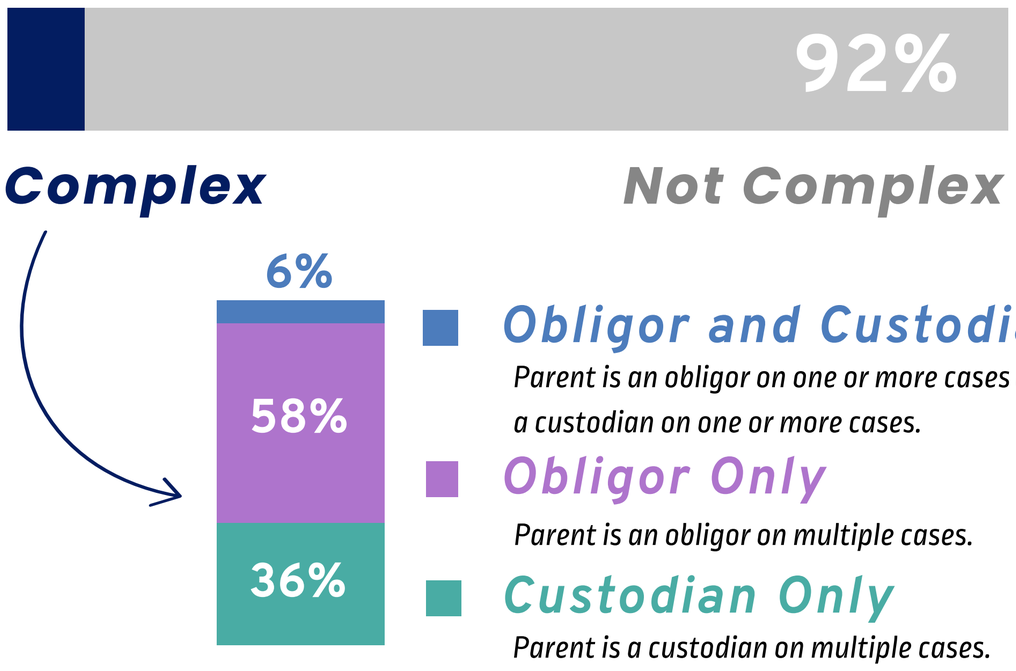
University of Maryland School of Social Work

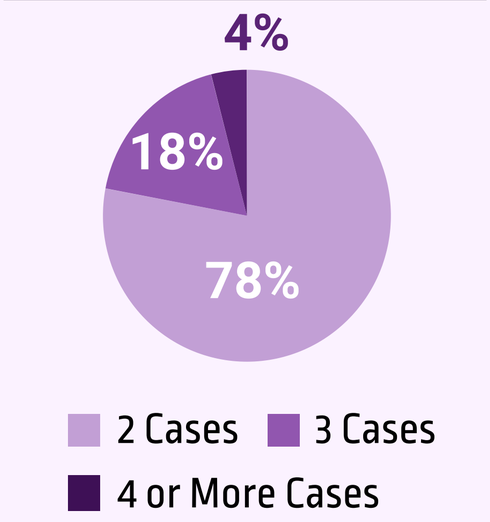
CALVERT COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

8% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

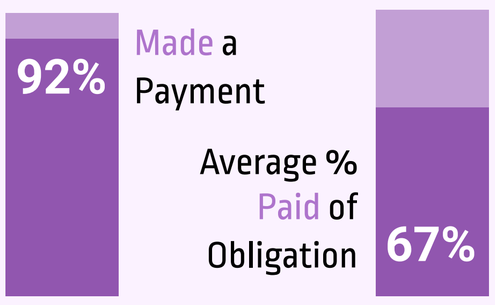


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$20,277
Average Current Support Due

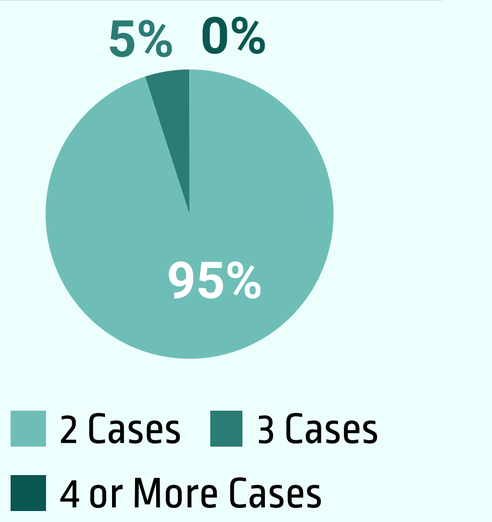


$14,528
Average Current Support Paid

91% owed arrears

$15,143
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Children on Average

$19,055
Average Current Support Owed

$13,922
Average Current Support Received

$6,403
Median Arrears Owed

98% were owed arrears

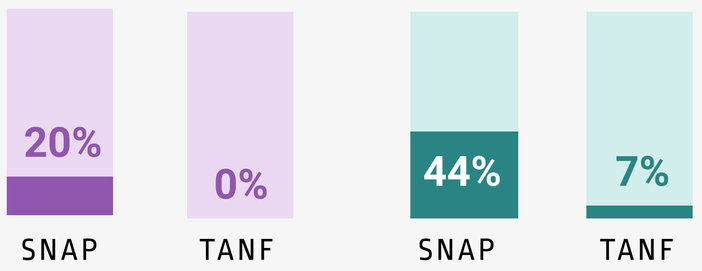
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

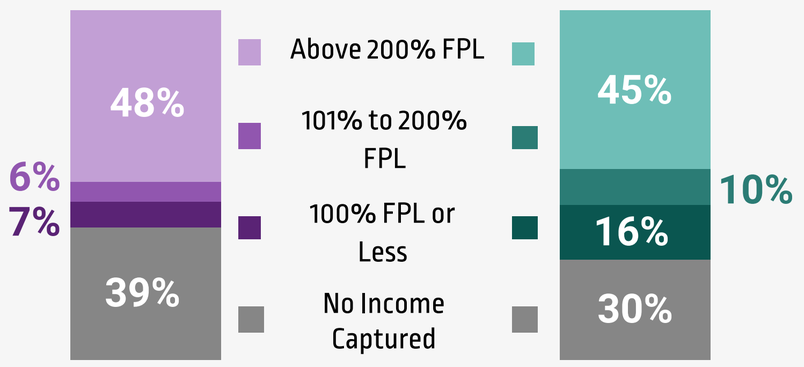
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
61%	70%
$64,076	**$53,198**
Median Earnings	*Median Earnings*
$51,635	**$67,678**
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid	*Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received*

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support

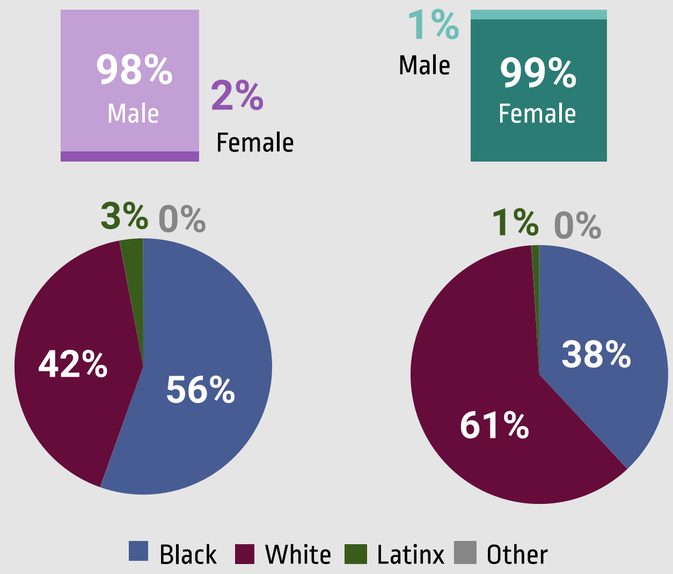


Obligor Only
Single Adult

Custodian Only
Including Children with Support Orders

Demographics

December 2018



36 years
Average Age

34 years
Average Age

Note: Calvert County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 277 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=261). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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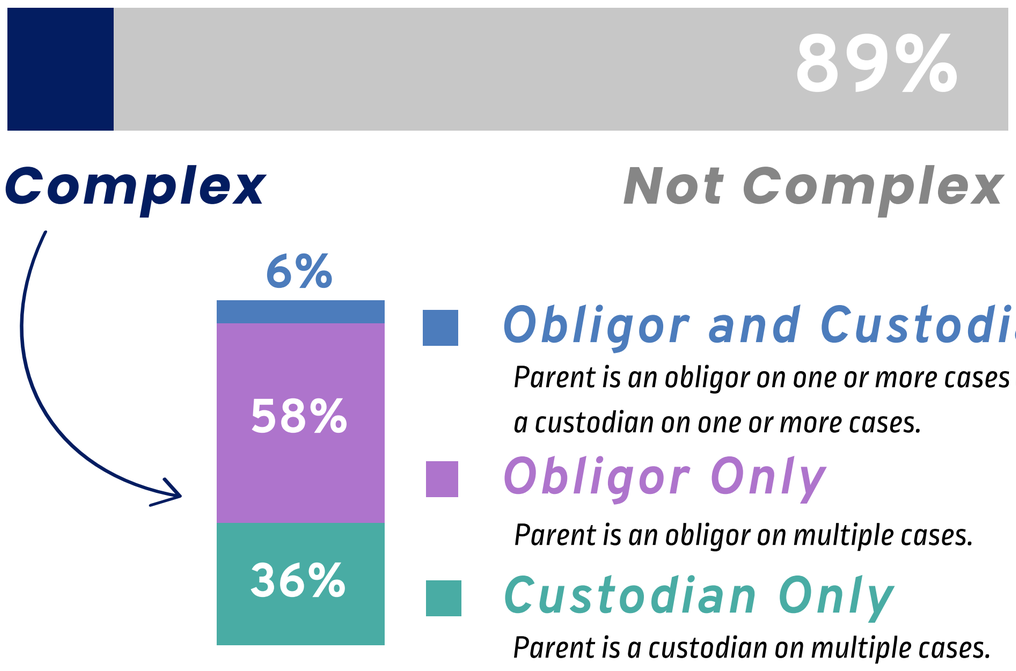
University of Maryland School of Social Work

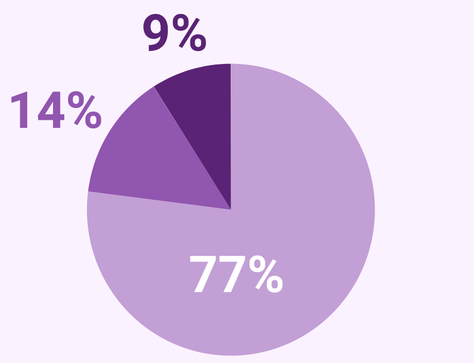
CAROLINE COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

11% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

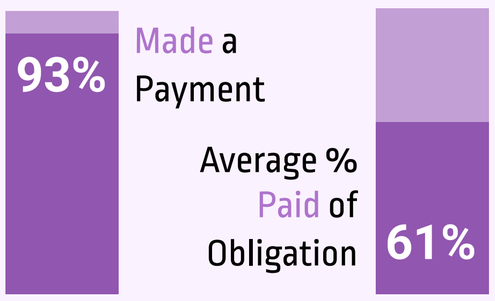


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$14,690
Average Current Support Due

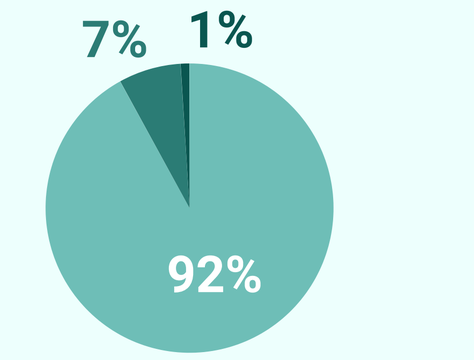


$9,776
Average Current Support Paid

88% owed arrears

$12,101
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$14,928
Average Current Support Owed

$11,119
Average Current Support Received

$5,478
Median Arrears Owed

94% were owed arrears

Economic Resources

2019

Employment

Obligor Only

74%

$40,035
Median Earnings

$32,814
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid

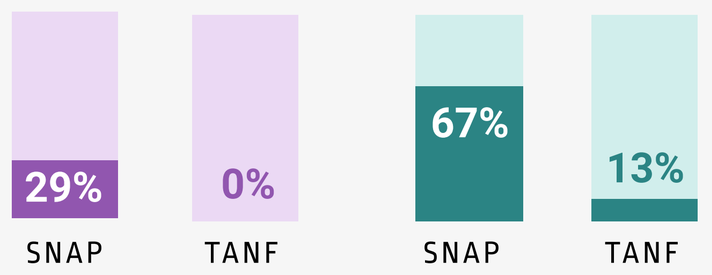
Custodian Only

63%

$40,134
Median Earnings

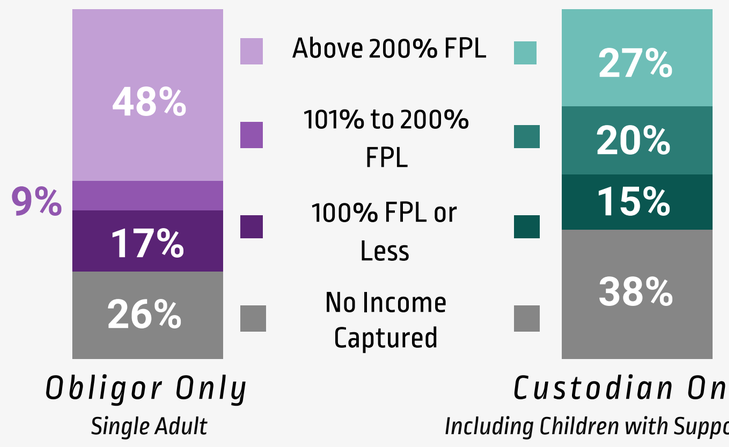
$48,770
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

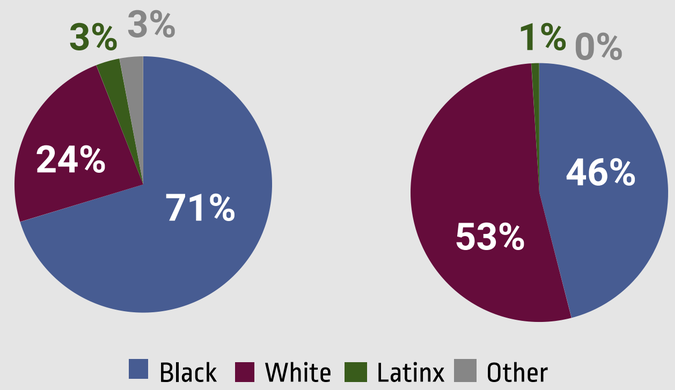
December 2018

Obligor Only

98% Male
2% Female

Custodian Only

0% Male
100% Female



36 years
Average Age

34 years
Average Age

Note: Caroline County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 199 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=188). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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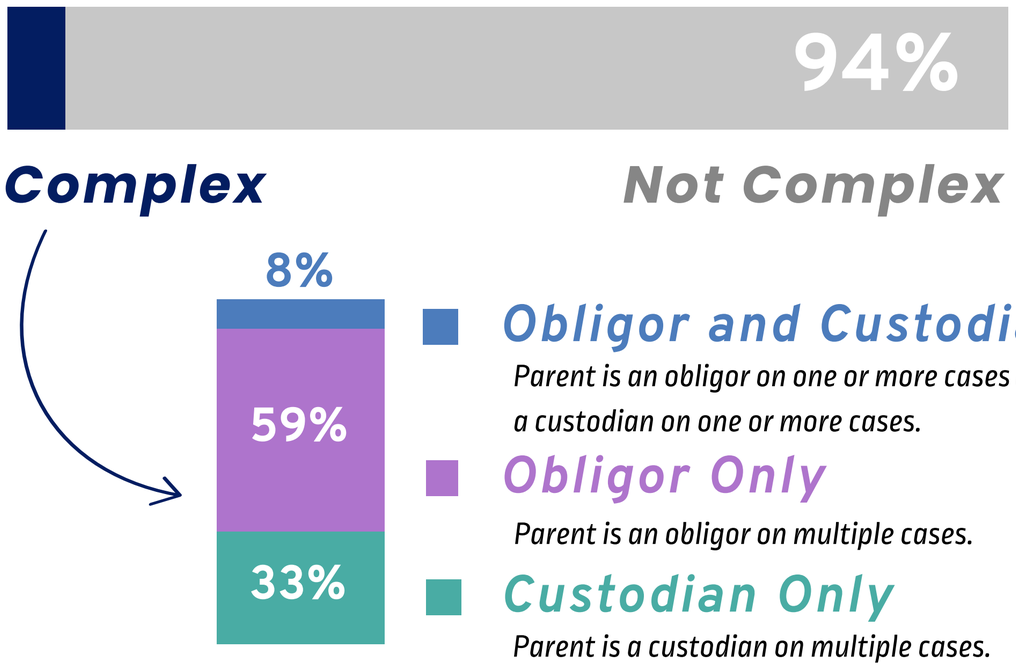
University of Maryland School of Social Work

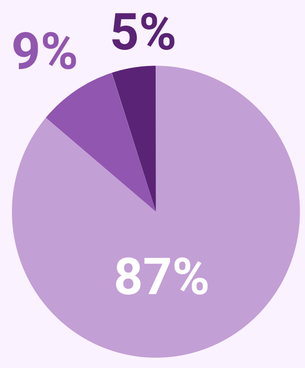
CARROLL COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

6% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



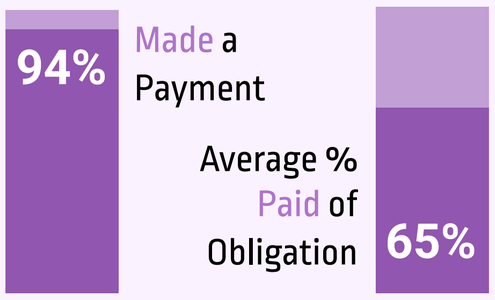
Obligor Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$18,588
Average Current Support Due

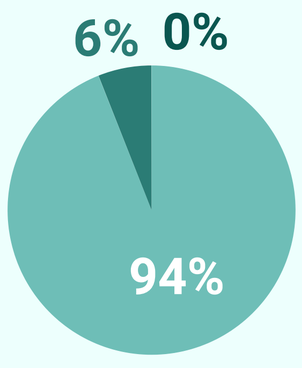


$12,212
Average Current Support Paid

92% owed arrears

$15,004
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

2 Children on Average

$17,240
Average Current Support Owed

$12,777
Average Current Support Received

$6,893
Median Arrears Owed

88% were owed arrears

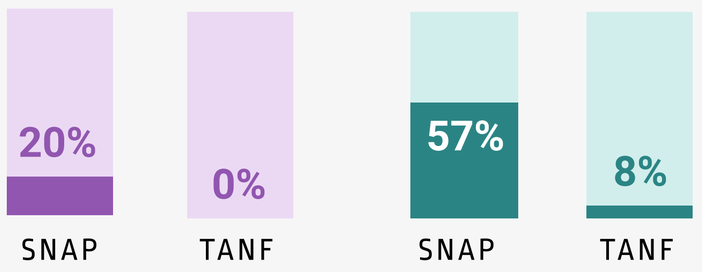
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

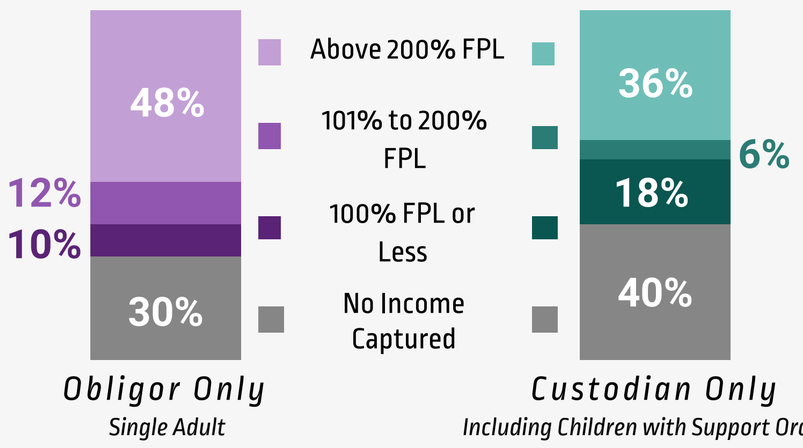
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
70%	60%
$44,344	**$50,706**
Median Earnings	*Median Earnings*
$33,867	**$57,367**
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid	*Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received*

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

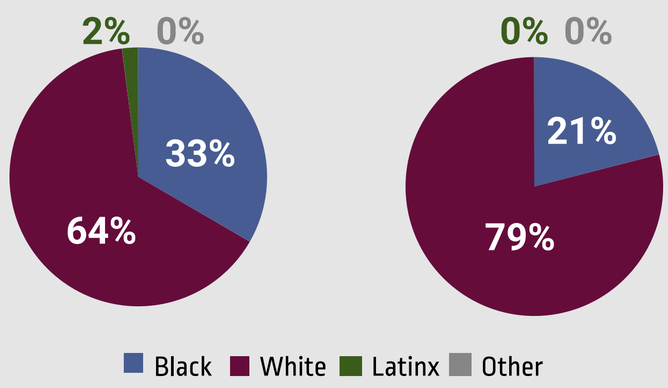
Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

December 2018

Obligor Only	Custodian Only
96% Male, 4% Female	0% Male, 100% Female



36 years	**34 years**
Average Age	*Average Age*

Note: Carroll County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 219 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=201). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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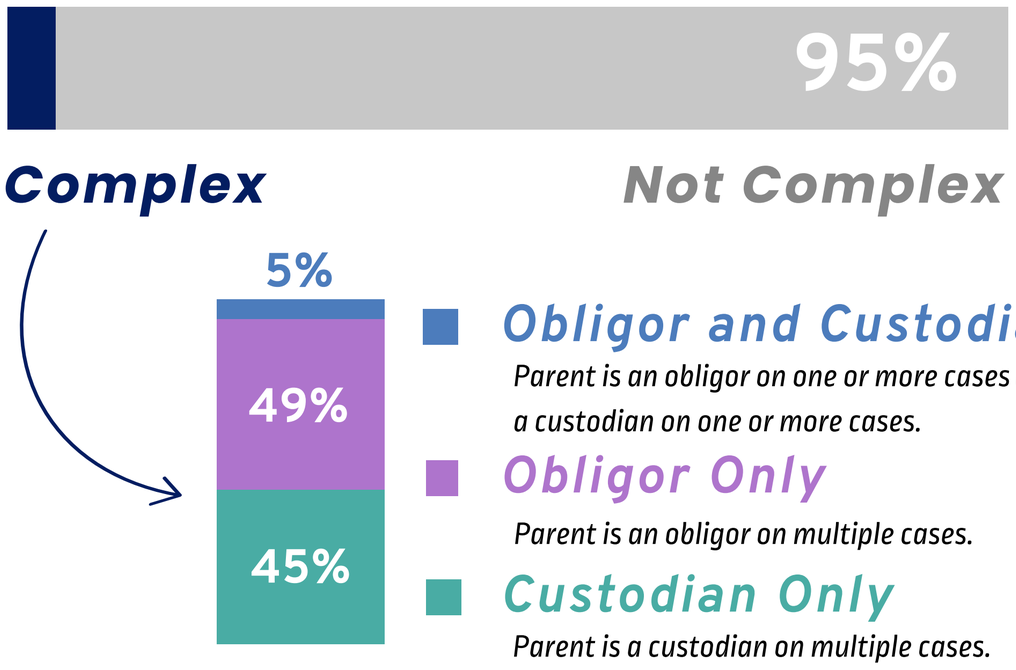
University of Maryland School of Social Work

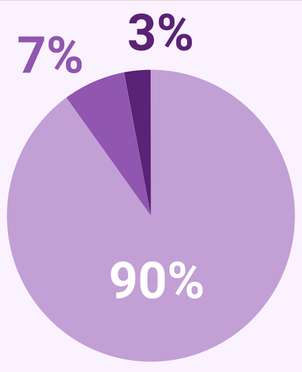
CECIL COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

5% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

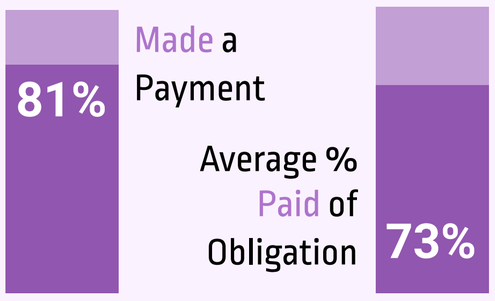


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$19,304
Average Current Support Due

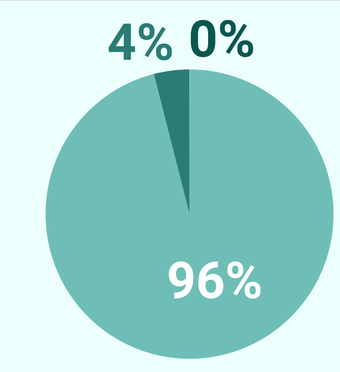


$15,888
Average Current Support Paid

93% owed arrears

$20,298
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$17,503
Average Current Support Owed

$11,996
Average Current Support Received

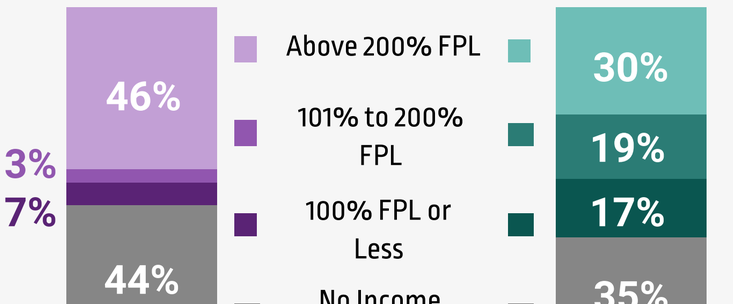
$10,622
Median Arrears Owed

95% were owed arrears

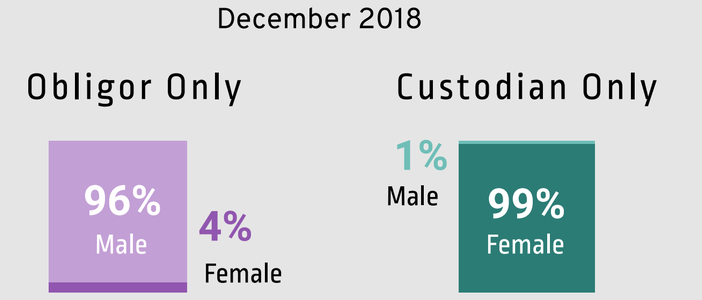
Economic Resources

2019

Employment



Safety Net Participation

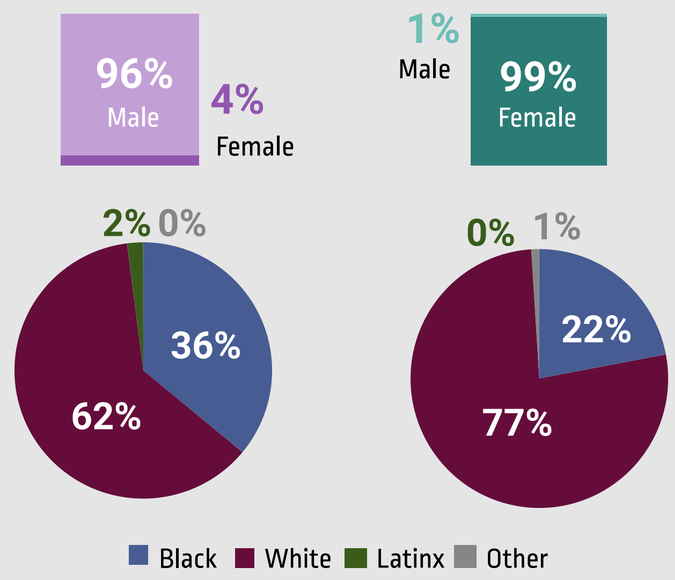


Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support

Demographics

December 2018



37 years
Average Age

34 years
Average Age

Note: Cecil County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 182 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=172). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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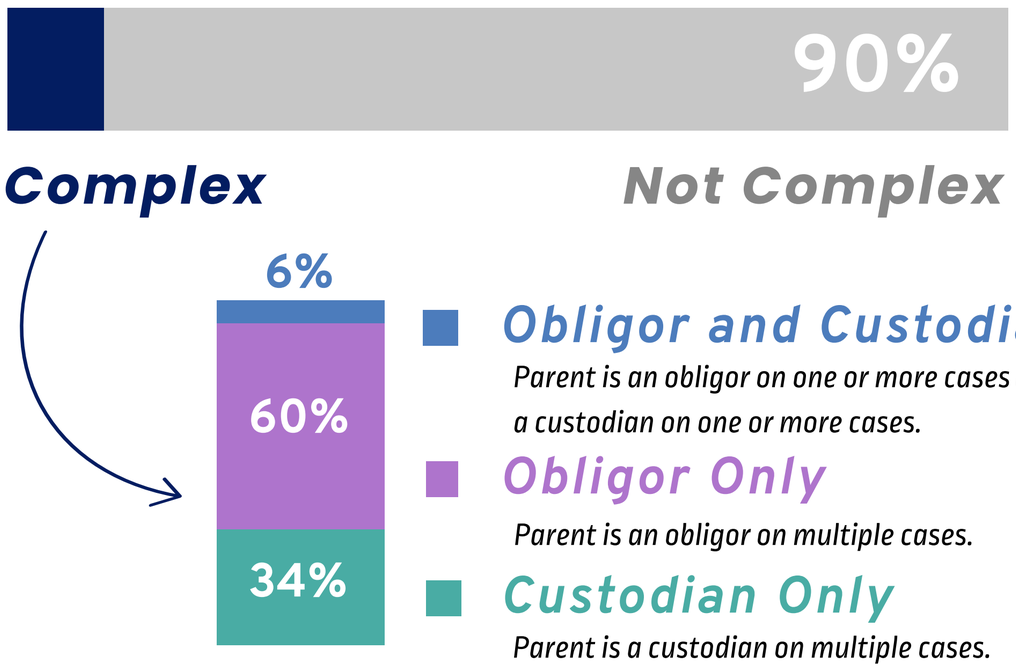
University of Maryland School of Social Work

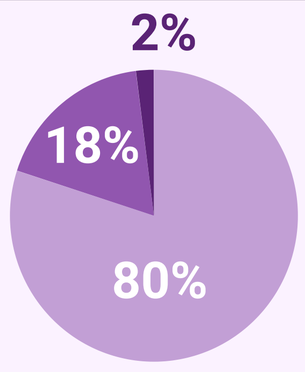
CHARLES COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

10% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



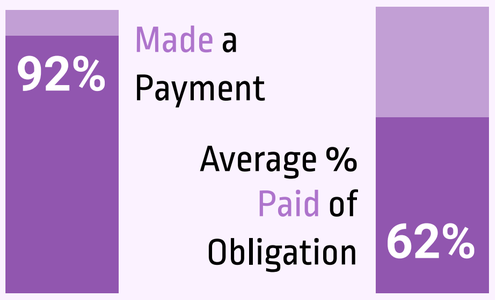
Obligor Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$23,344
Average Current Support Due

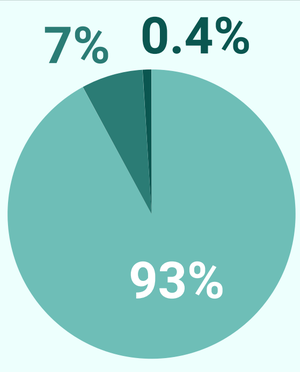


$15,518
Average Current Support Paid

92% owed arrears

$19,182
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$20,928
Average Current Support Owed

$14,717
Average Current Support Received

$12,132
Median Arrears Owed

95% were owed arrears

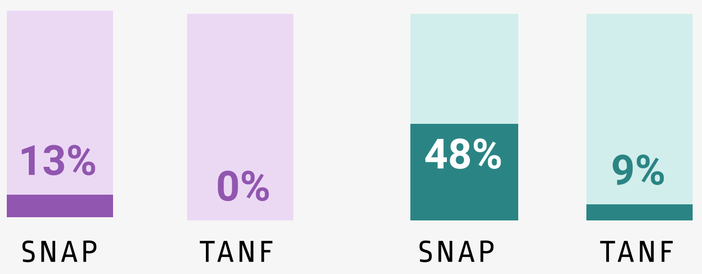
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

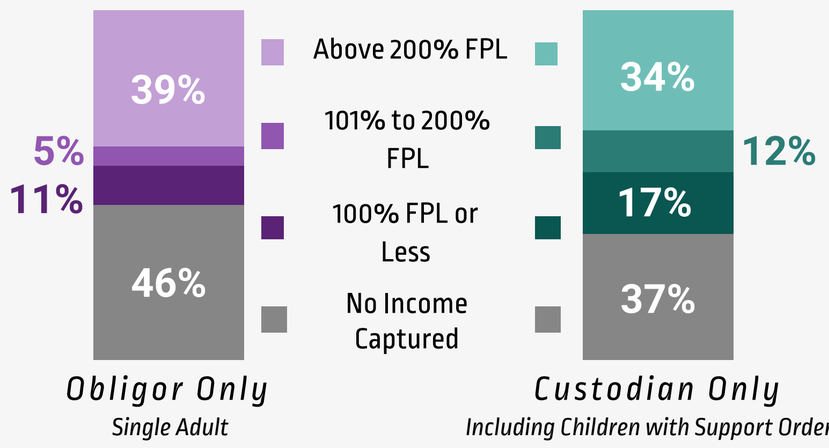
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
55%	63%
$51,296	**$47,342**
Median Earnings	*Median Earnings*
$40,389	**$59,884**
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid	*Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received*

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



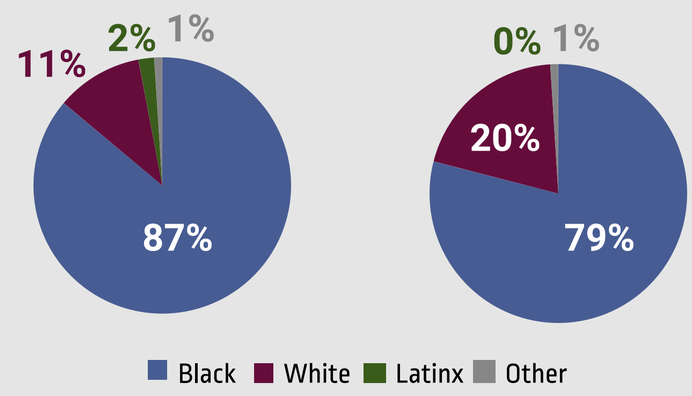
Obligor Only — *Single Adult*

Custodian Only — *Including Children with Support Orders*

Demographics

December 2018

Obligor Only	Custodian Only
99% Male, 1% Female	0.4% Male, 99.6% Female



Obligor Only	Custodian Only
37 years	**34 years**
Average Age	*Average Age*

Note: Charles County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 657 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=615). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

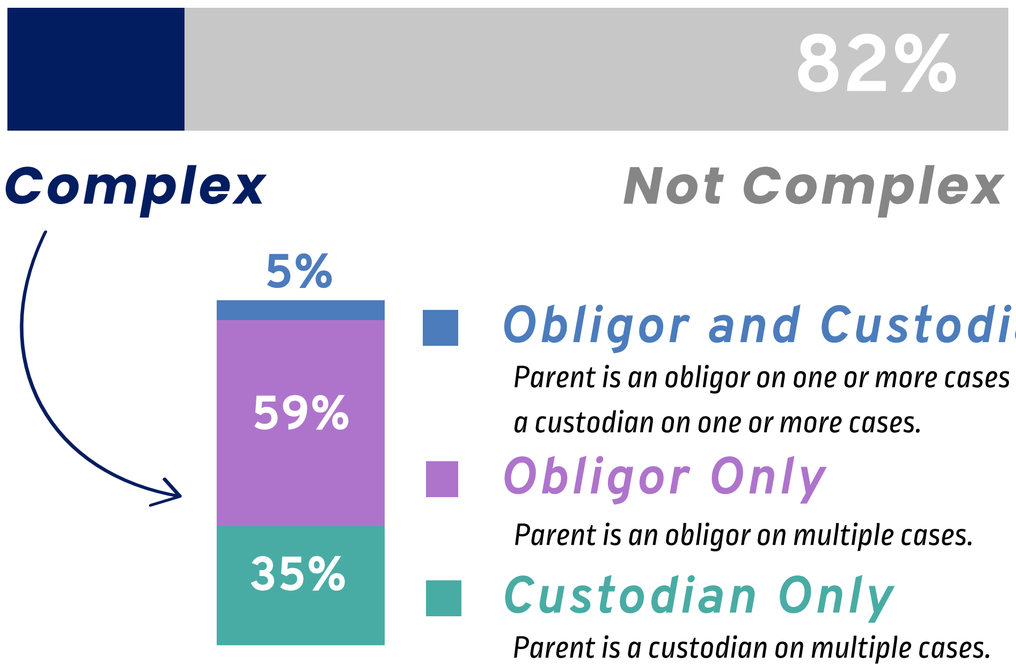
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

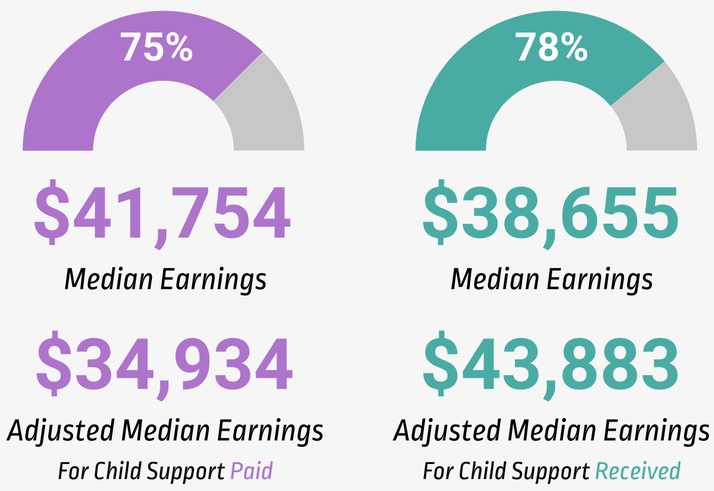
18% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



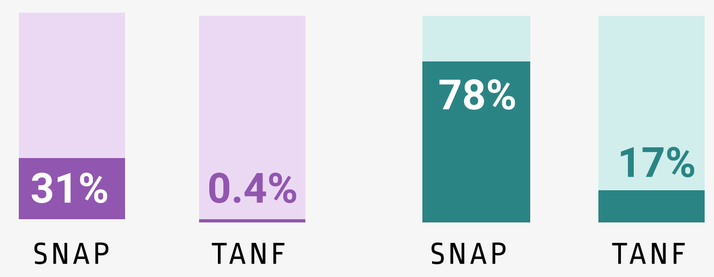
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

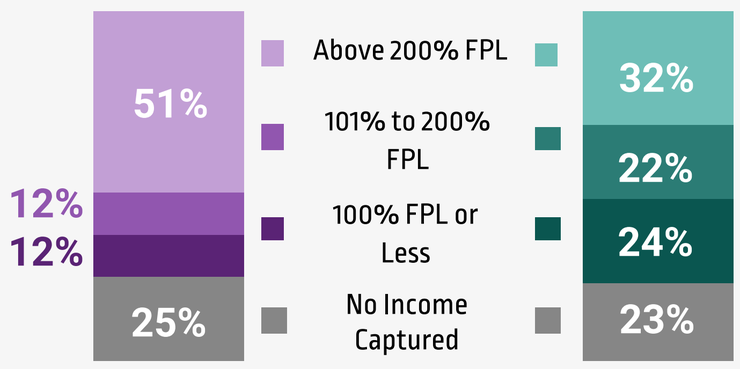


Safety Net Participation

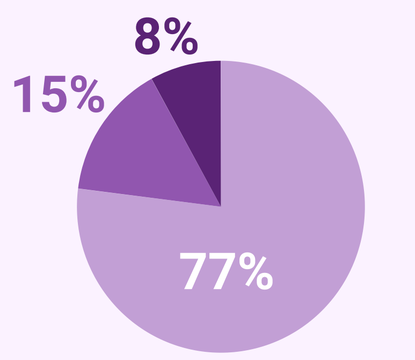


Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support

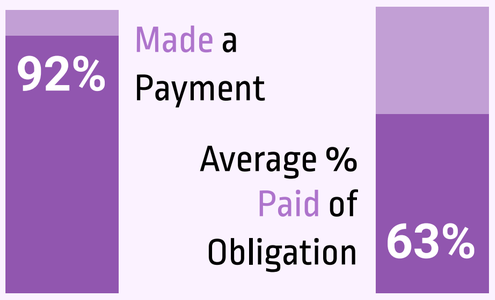


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$14,037
Average Current Support Due

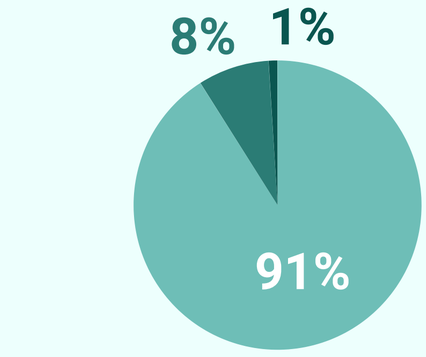


$9,326
Average Current Support Paid

92% owed arrears

$15,135
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$10,828
Average Current Support Owed

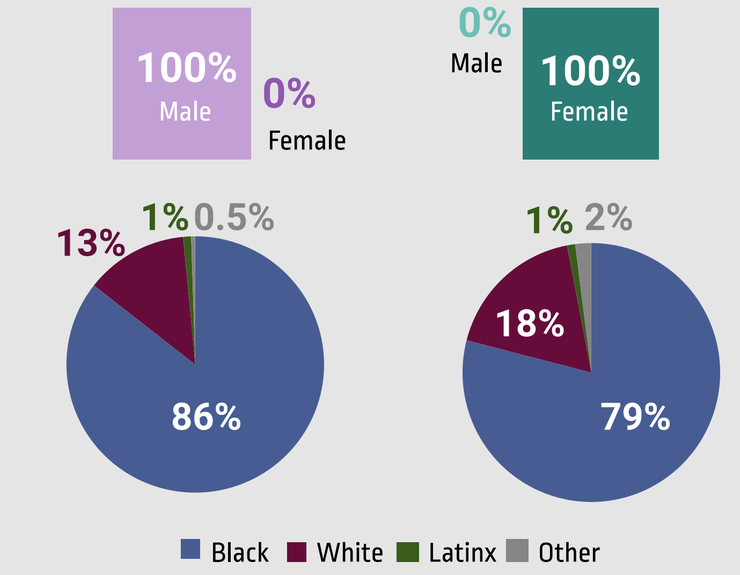
$7,020
Average Current Support Received

$6,529
Median Arrears Owed

97% were owed arrears

Demographics

December 2018



36 years
Average Age

32 years
Average Age

Note: Dorchester County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 380 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=360). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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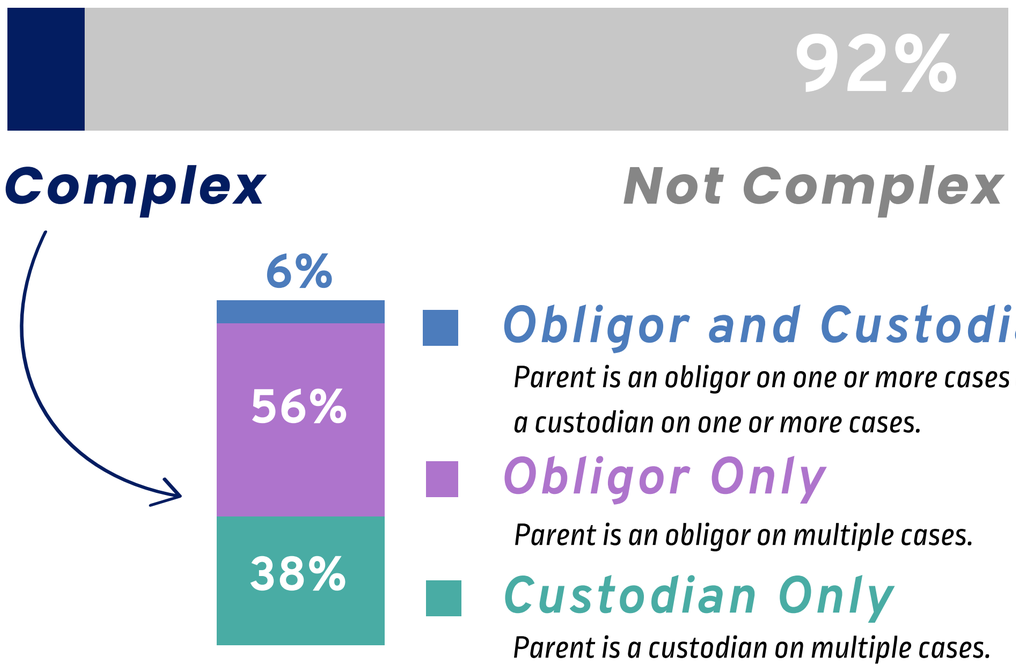
University of Maryland School of Social Work

FREDERICK COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

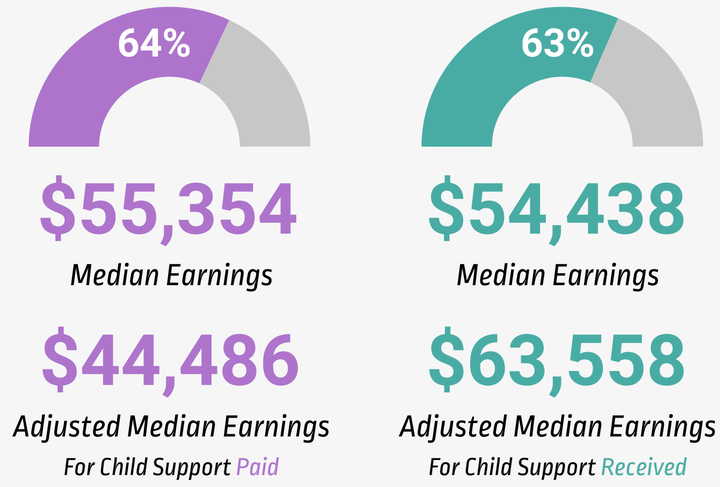
8% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



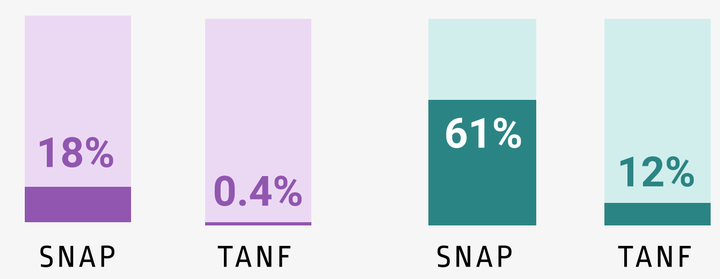
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

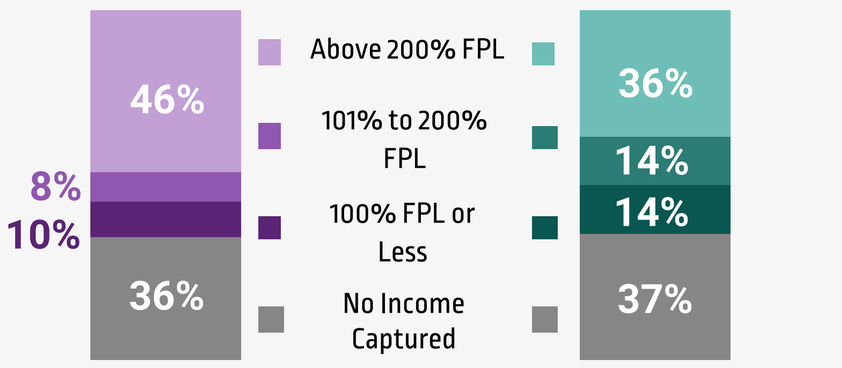


Safety Net Participation

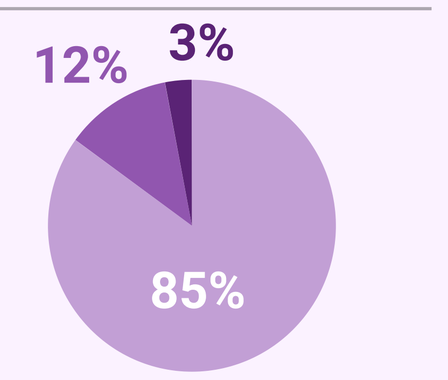


Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support

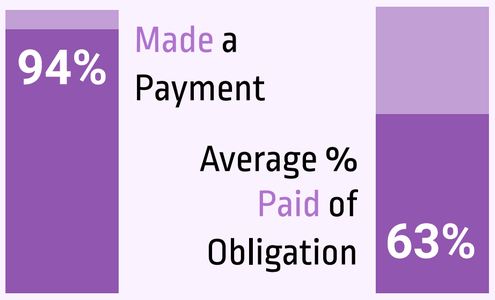


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$16,586
Average Current Support Due

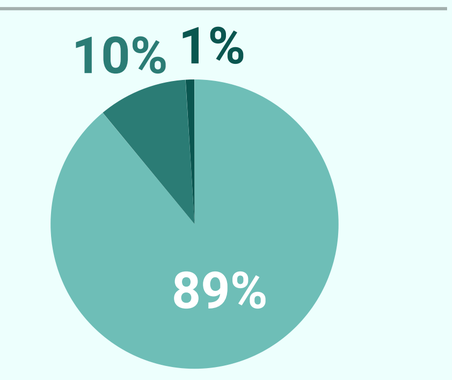


$11,085
Average Current Support Paid

90% owed arrears

$11,850
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$17,158
Average Current Support Owed

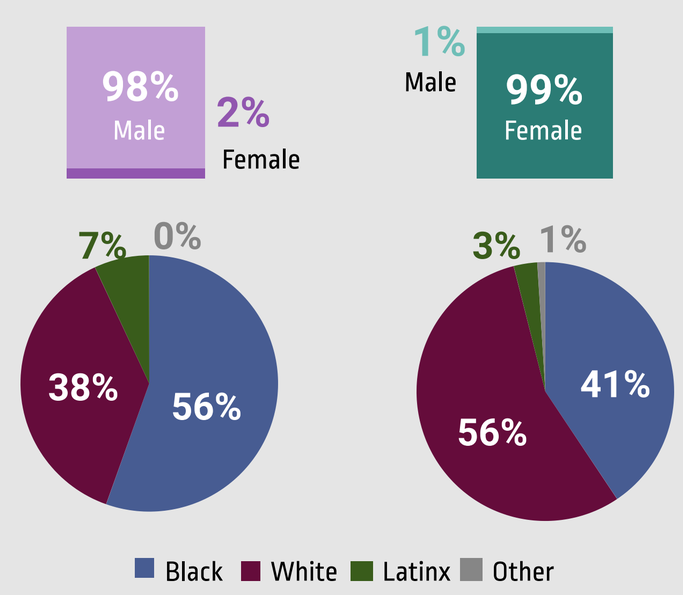
$12,942
Average Current Support Received

$5,433
Median Arrears Owed

94% were owed arrears

Demographics

December 2018



37 years
Average Age

35 years
Average Age

Note: Frederick County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 498 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=467). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

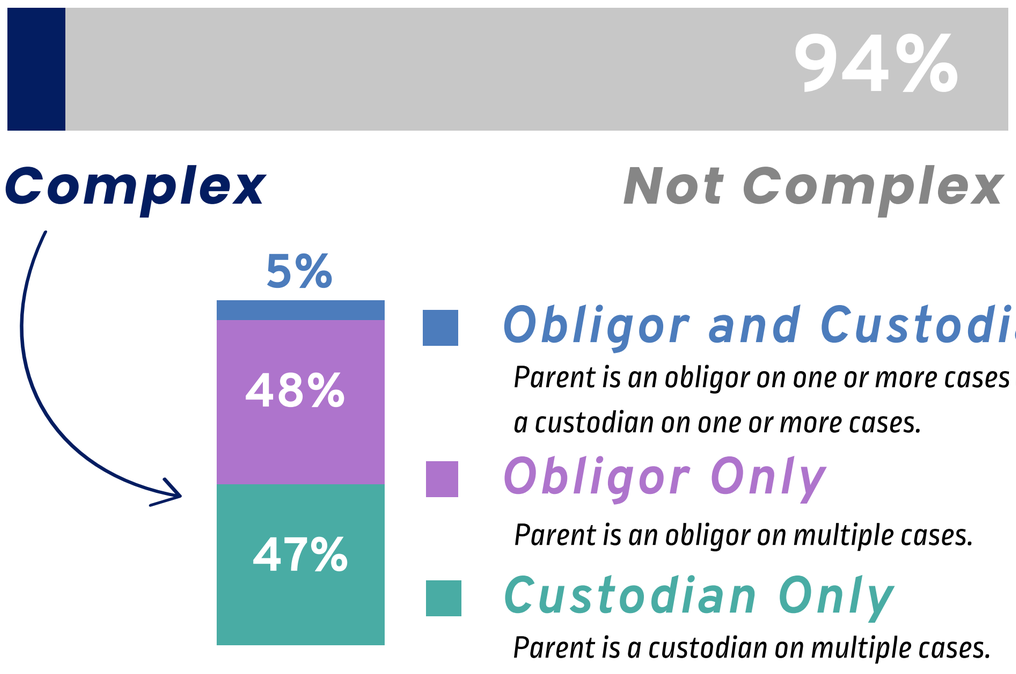
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

GARRETT COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

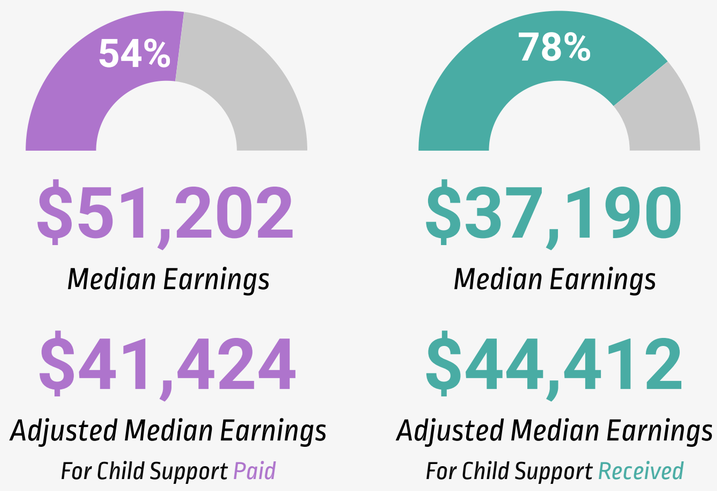
6% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



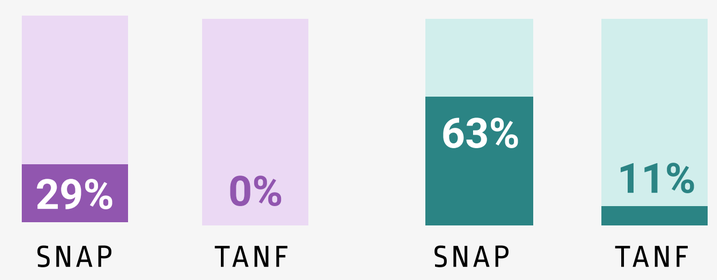
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

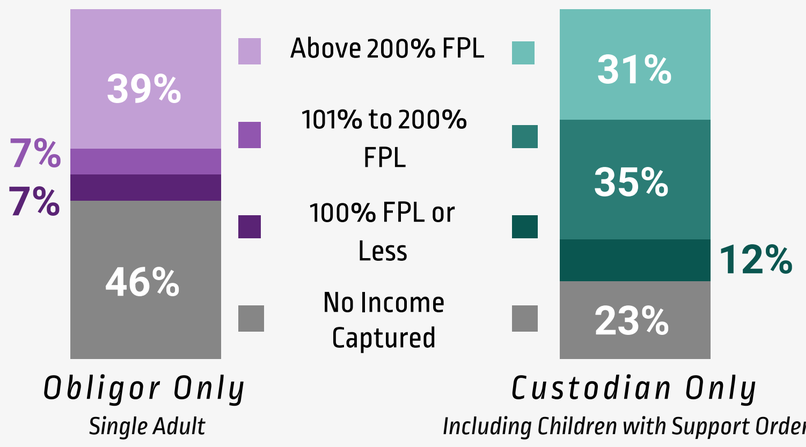


Safety Net Participation

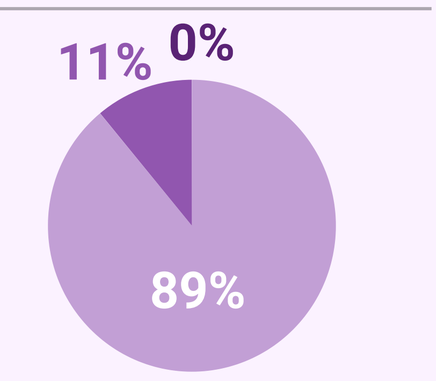


Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



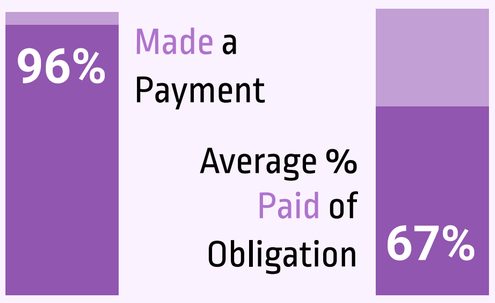
Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$16,434

Average Current Support Due



$11,273

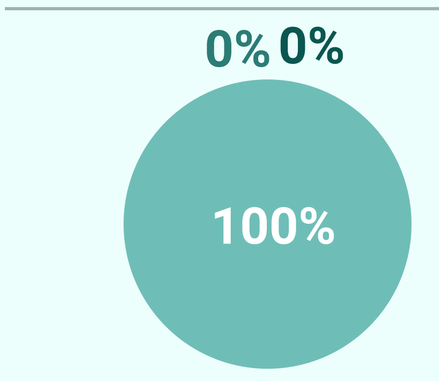
Average Current Support Paid

93% owed arrears

$12,946

Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Children on Average

$14,096

Average Current Support Owed

$9,631

Average Current Support Received

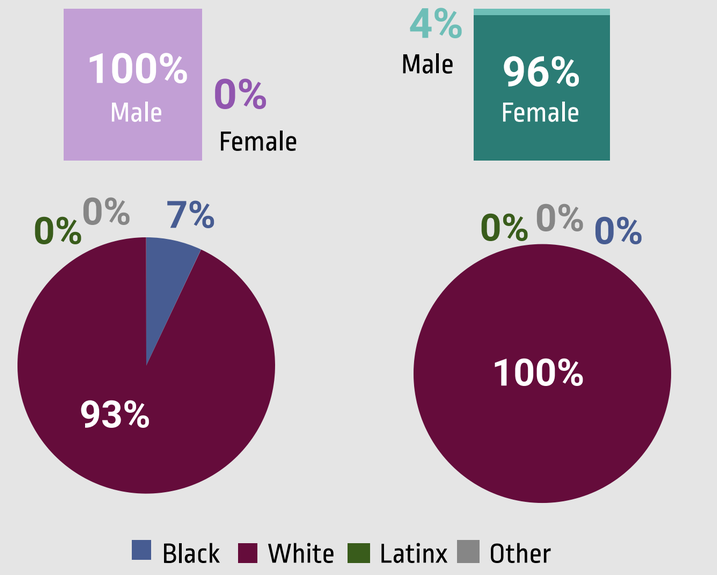
$7,149

Median Arrears Owed

89% were owed arrears

Demographics

December 2018



36 years

Average Age

31 years

Average Age

Note: Garrett County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 58 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=55). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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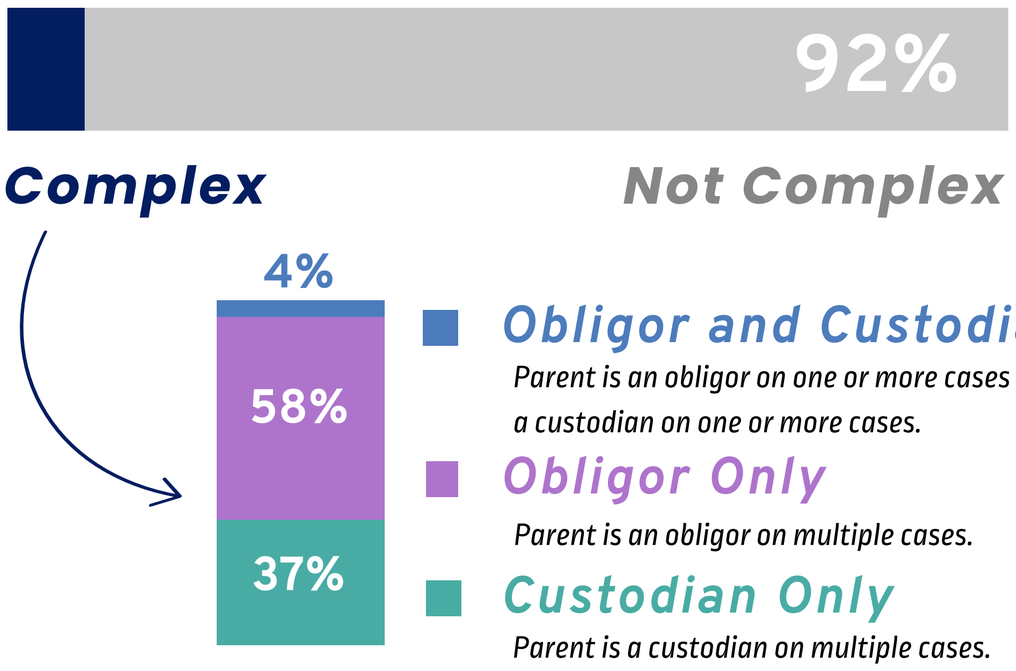
University of Maryland School of Social Work

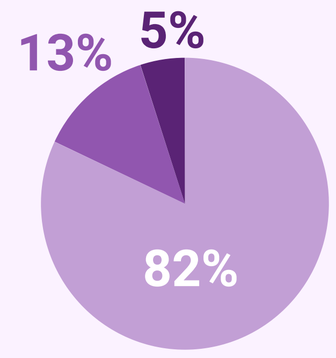
HARFORD COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

8% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

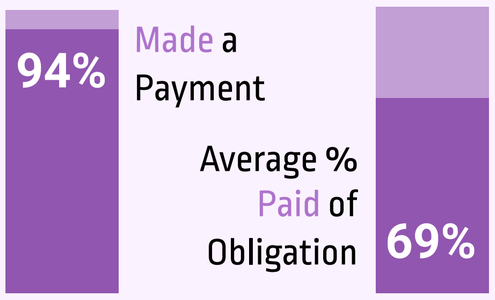


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$20,170
Average Current Support Due

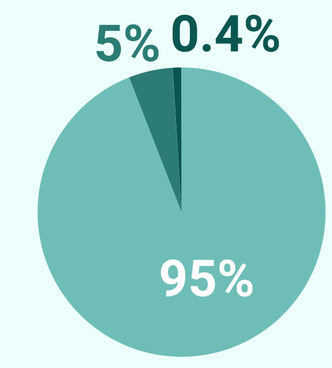


$14,824
Average Current Support Paid

87% owed arrears

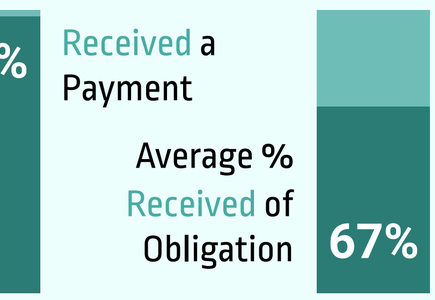
$10,732
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$17,595
Average Current Support Owed



$12,581
Average Current Support Received

$6,042
Median Arrears Owed

92% were owed arrears

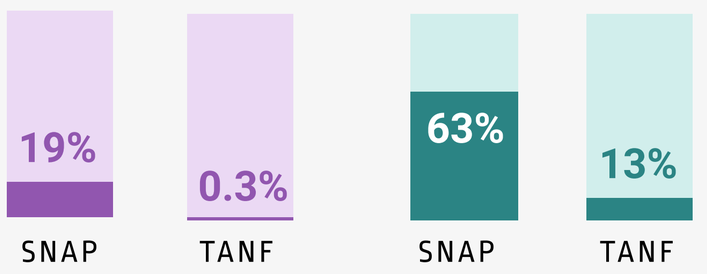
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

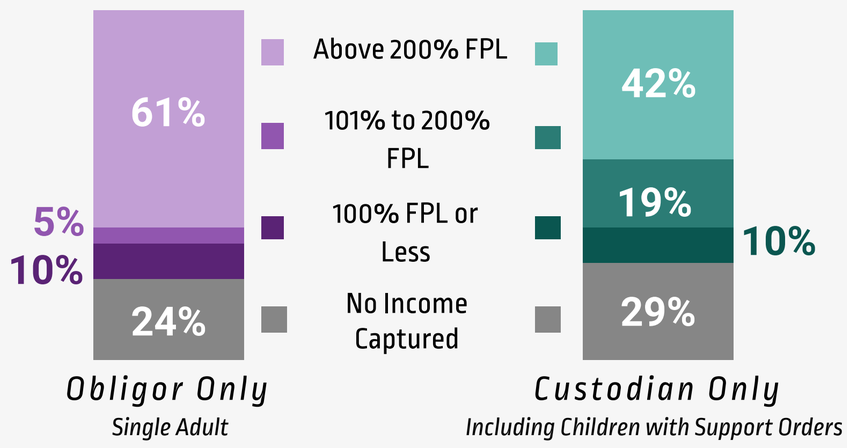
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
77%	71%
$69,312	**$50,994**
Median Earnings	*Median Earnings*
$55,308	**$62,616**
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid	*Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received*

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

December 2018

Obligor Only	Custodian Only
99% Male, 1% Female	1% Male, 99% Female
1% 0.3%	1% 0.5%
30%	44%
68%	54%
37 years	**34 years**
Average Age	*Average Age*

Black White Latinx Other

Note: Harford County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 623 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=596). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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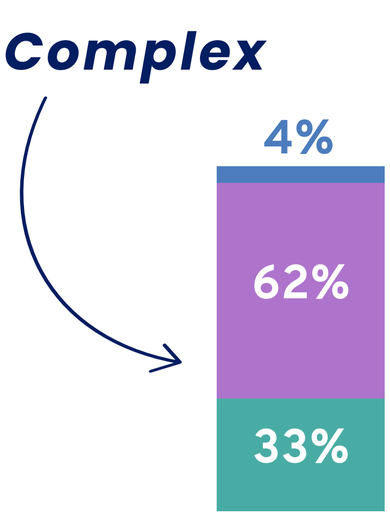
University of Maryland School of Social Work

HOWARD COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

9% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



Obligor and Custodian
Parent is an obligor on one or more cases and a custodian on one or more cases.

Obligor Only
Parent is an obligor on multiple cases.

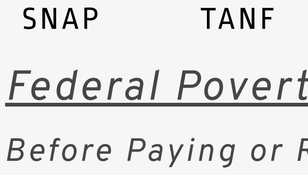
Custodian Only
Parent is a custodian on multiple cases.

Economic Resources

2019

Employment

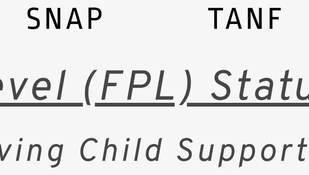
Obligor Only



$73,210
Median Earnings

$59,403
Adjusted Median Earnings
For Child Support Paid

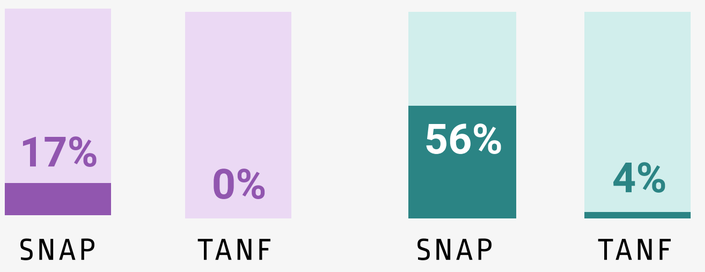
Custodian Only



$54,642
Median Earnings

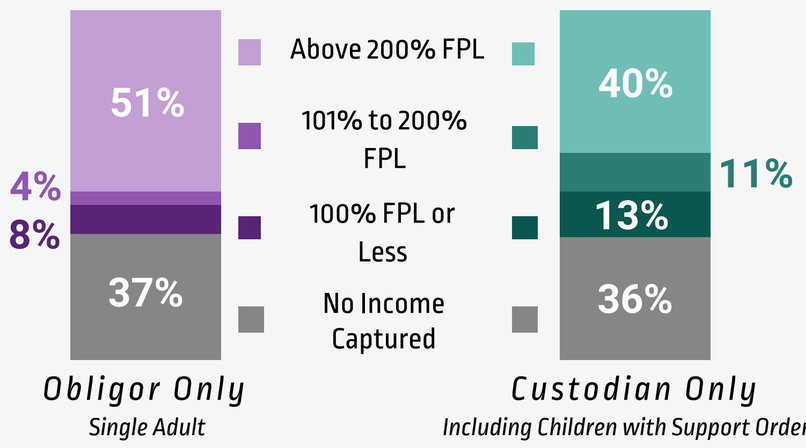
$71,047
Adjusted Median Earnings
For Child Support Received

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

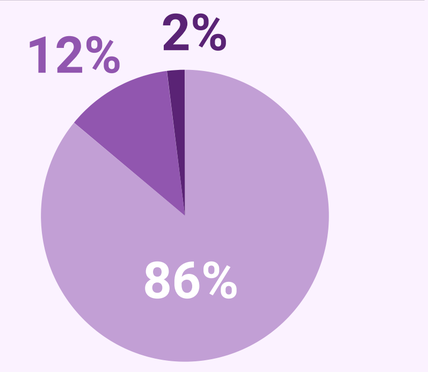
Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Obligor Only
Single Adult

Custodian Only
Including Children with Support Orders

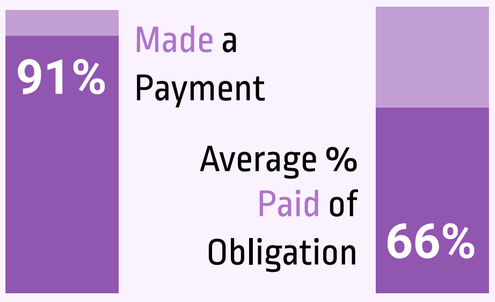
Obligor Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$22,408
Average Current Support Due

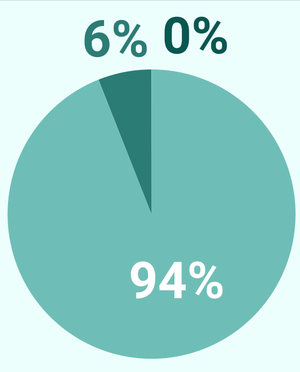


$15,594
Average Current Support Paid

91% owed arrears

$16,874
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$22,439
Average Current Support Owed

$15,487
Average Current Support Received

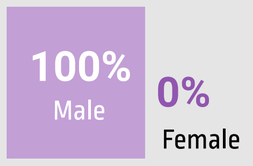
$12,278
Median Arrears Owed

95% were owed arrears

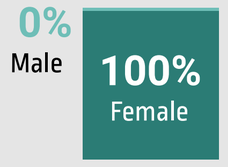
Demographics

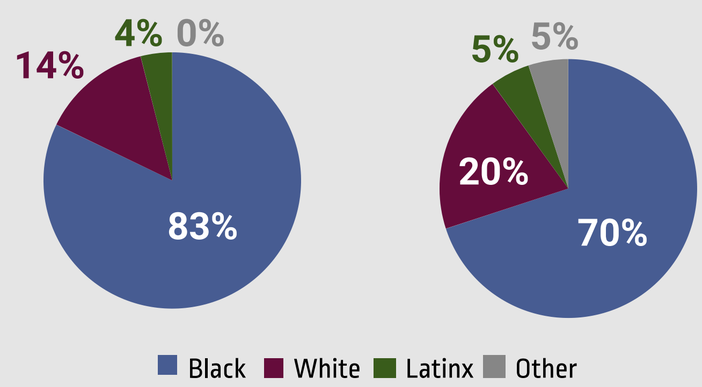
December 2018

Obligor Only



Custodian Only





38 years
Average Age

35 years
Average Age

Note: Howard County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 476 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=456). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

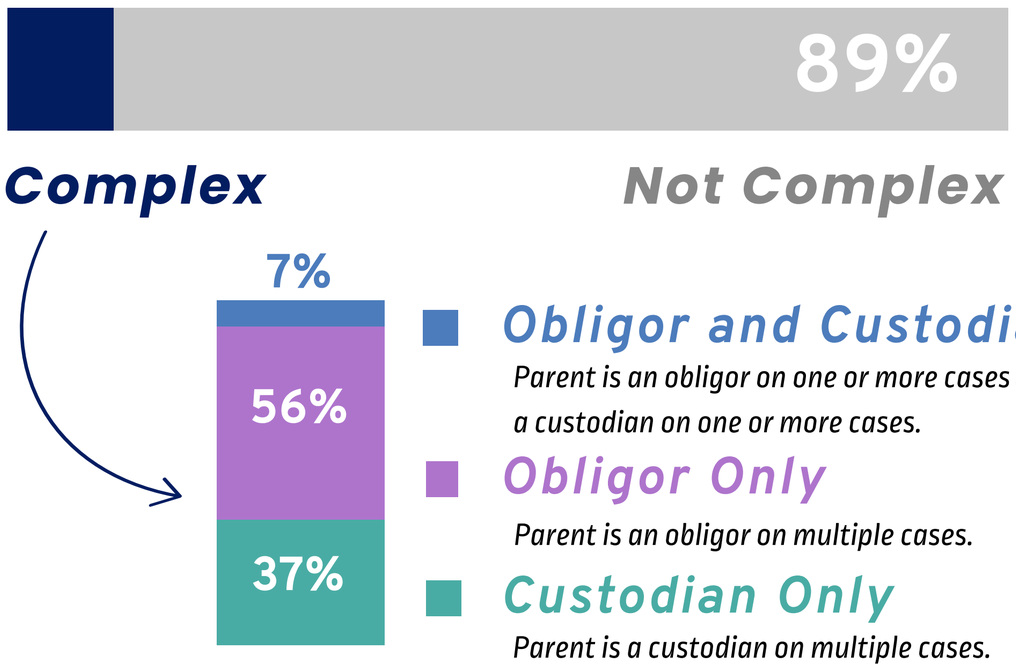
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

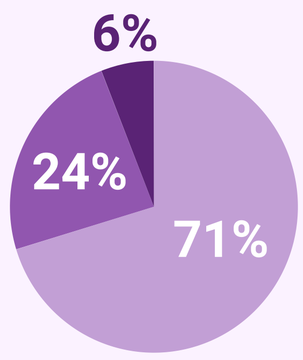
KENT COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

11% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

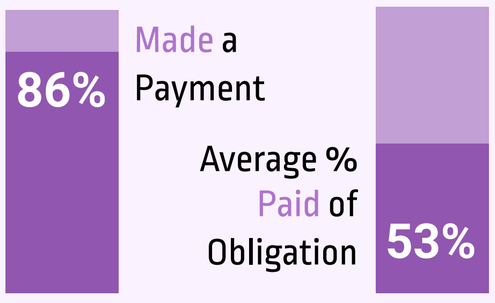


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$14,833
Average Current Support Due

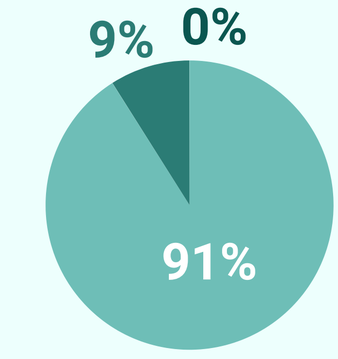


$8,201
Average Current Support Paid

94% owed arrears

$21,886
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$14,469
Average Current Support Owed

$9,009
Average Current Support Received

$8,934
Median Arrears Owed

100% were owed arrears

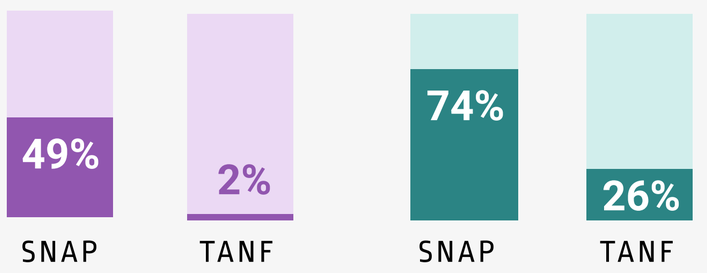
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

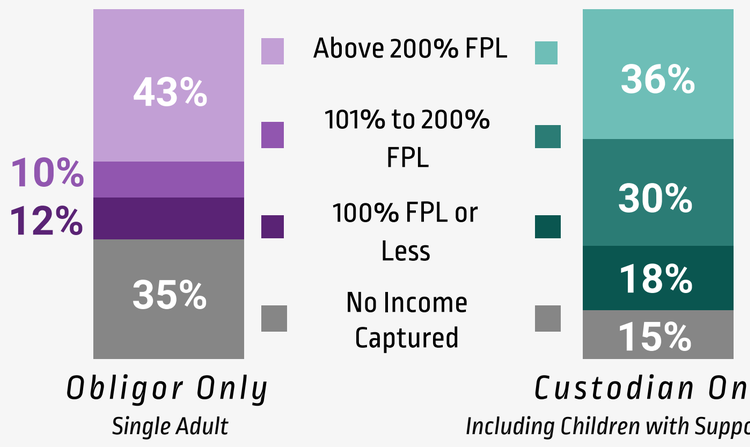
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
65%	85%
$42,494	**$42,988**
Median Earnings	*Median Earnings*
$34,250	**$48,029**
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid	*Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received*

Safety Net Participation



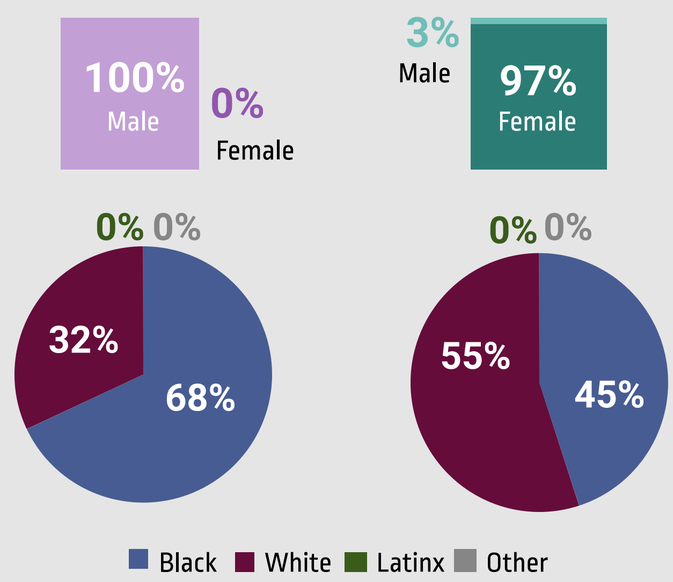
Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

December 2018



36 years
Average Age

32 years
Average Age

Note: Kent County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 91 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=85). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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University of Maryland School of Social Work

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

7% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

Obligor and Custodian
Parent is an obligor on one or more cases and a custodian on one or more cases.

Obligor Only
Parent is an obligor on multiple cases.

Custodian Only
Parent is a custodian on multiple cases.

Economic Resources

2019

Employment

Obligor Only

59%

$62,572
Median Earnings

$49,694
Adjusted Median Earnings
For Child Support Paid

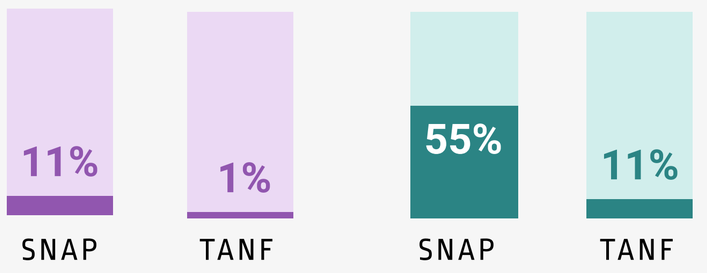
Custodian Only

65%

$57,446
Median Earnings

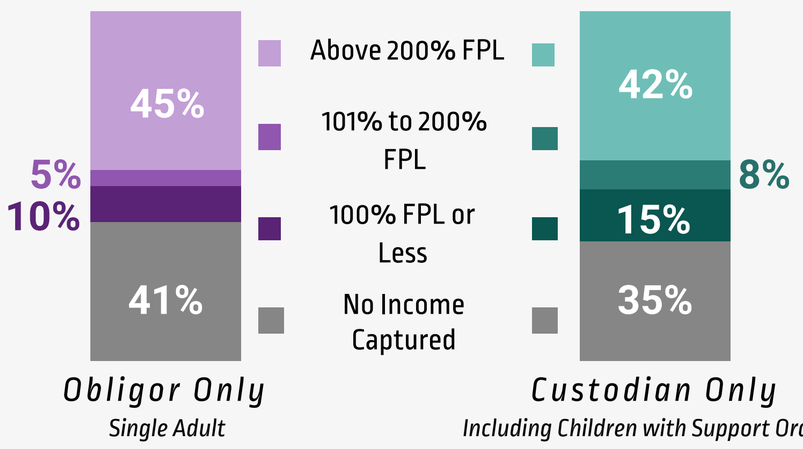
$71,802
Adjusted Median Earnings
For Child Support Received

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

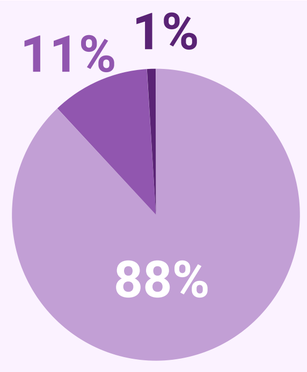
Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Obligor Only
Single Adult

Custodian Only
Including Children with Support Orders

Obligor Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$20,522
Average Current Support Due

91% Made a Payment

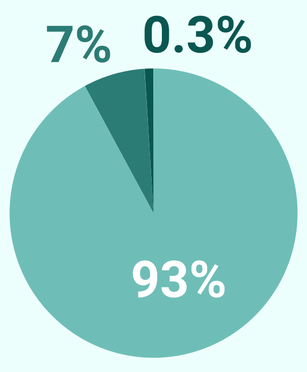
Average % Paid of Obligation **66%**

$14,724
Average Current Support Paid

90% owed arrears

$14,851
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$19,256
Average Current Support Owed

97% Received a Payment

Average % Received of Obligation **65%**

$13,653
Average Current Support Received

$8,760
Median Arrears Owed

94% were owed arrears

Demographics

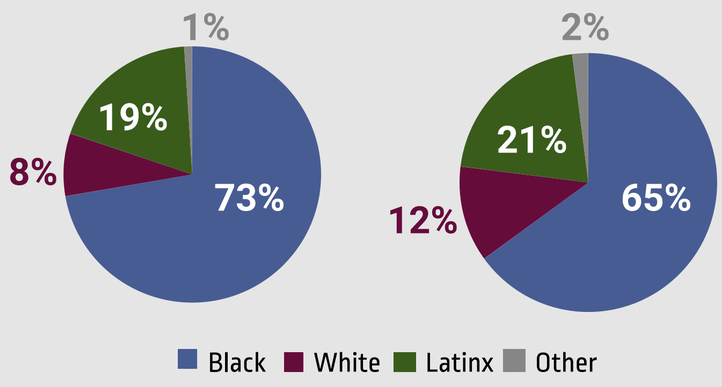
December 2018

Obligor Only

99.8% Male
0.2% Female

Custodian Only

0.2% Male
99.8% Female



38 years
Average Age

35 years
Average Age

Note: Montgomery County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 1,561 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=1,493). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

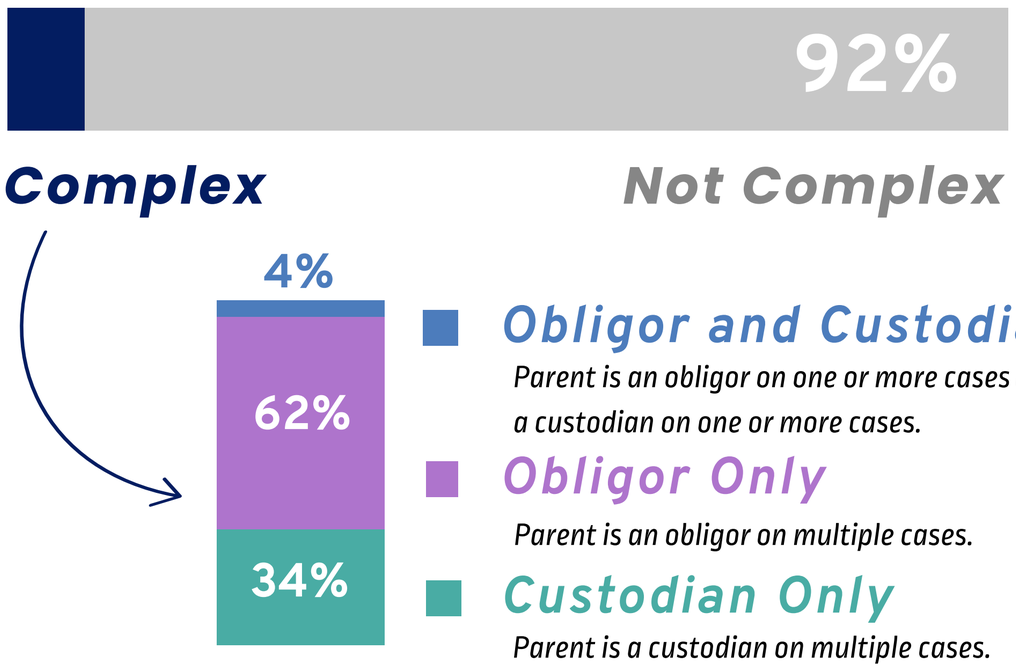
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

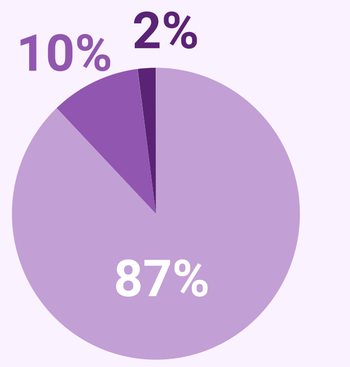
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

8% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



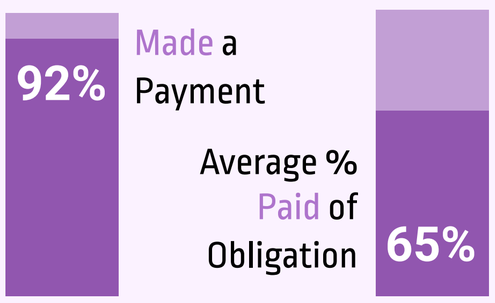
Obligor Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$22,862
Average Current Support Due

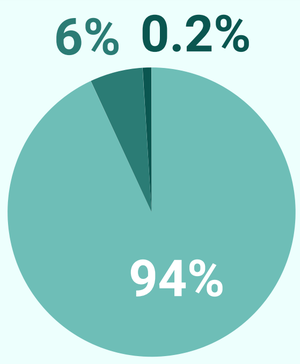


$16,149
Average Current Support Paid

91% owed arrears

$17,009
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$21,693
Average Current Support Owed

$15,807
Average Current Support Received

$11,881
Median Arrears Owed

95% were owed arrears

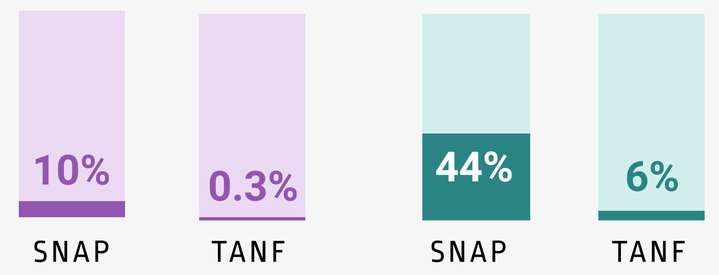
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

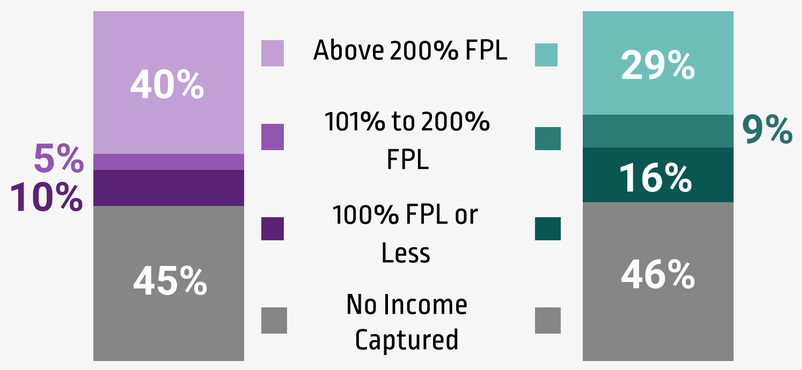
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
55%	54%
$62,558 Median Earnings	**$49,196** Median Earnings
$49,321 Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support *Paid*	**$62,983** Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support *Received*

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



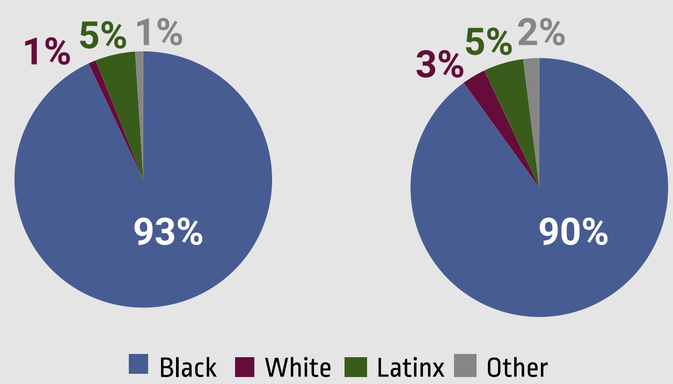
Obligor Only
Single Adult

Custodian Only
Including Children with Support Orders

Demographics

December 2018

Obligor Only	Custodian Only
99.6% Male	0.2% Male
0.4% Female	99.8% Female



38 years *Average Age*

35 years *Average Age*

Note: Prince George's County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 3,107 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=2,984). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

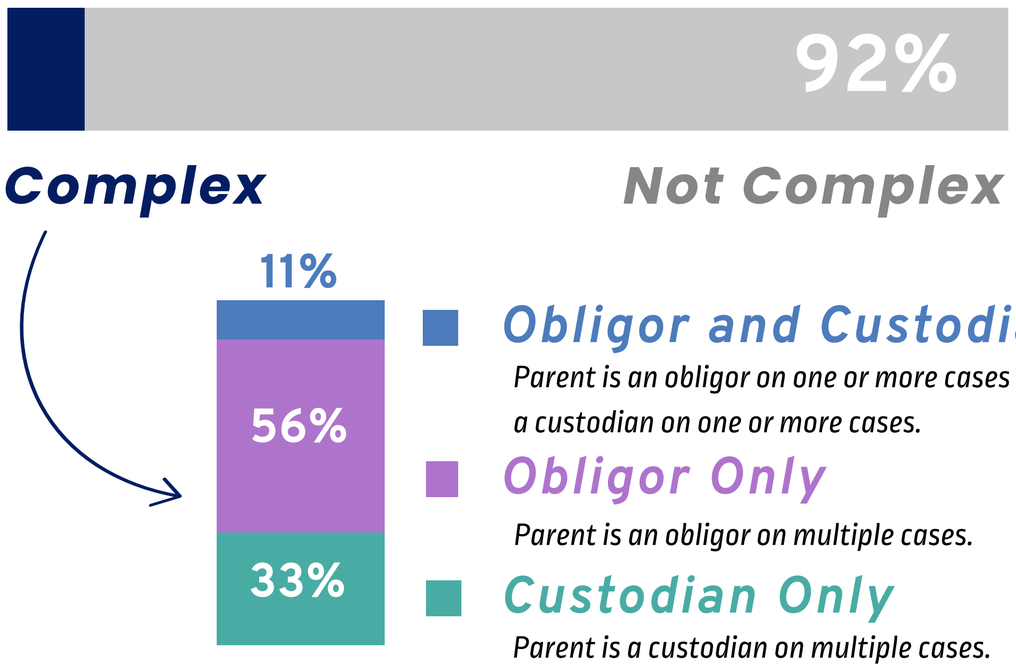
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

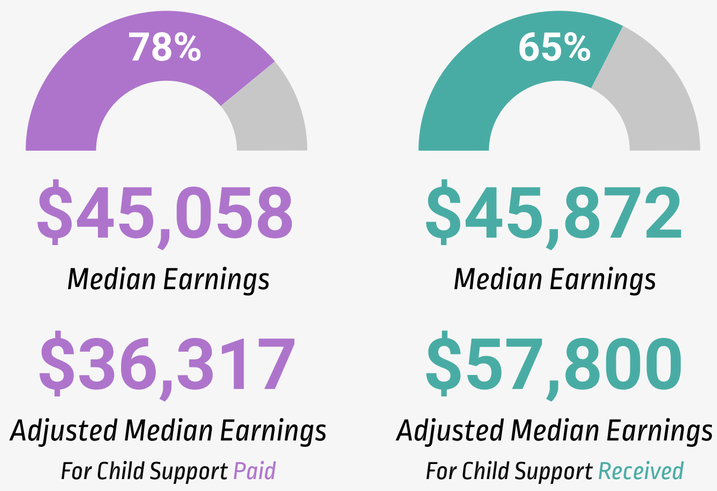
8% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



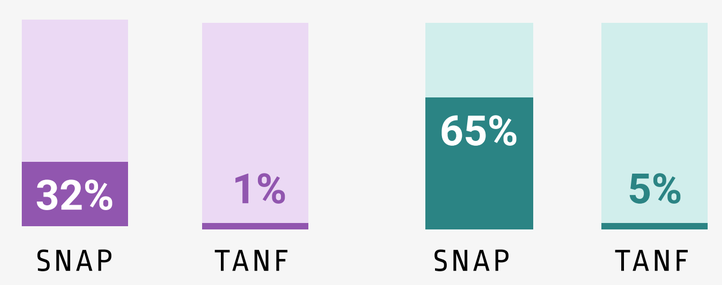
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

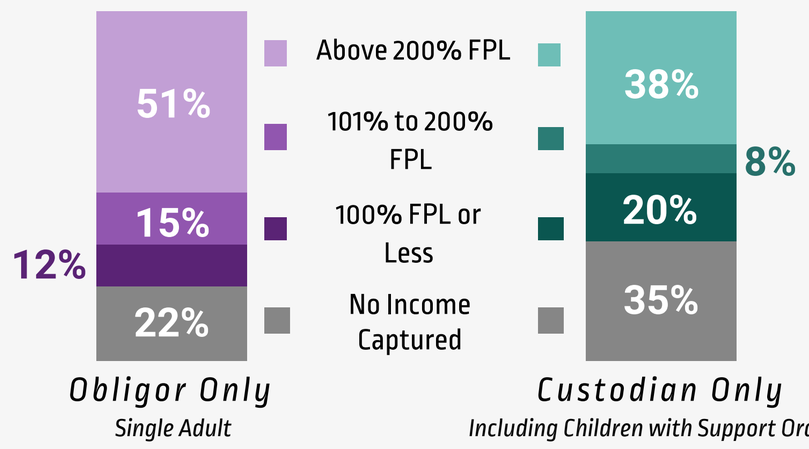


Safety Net Participation

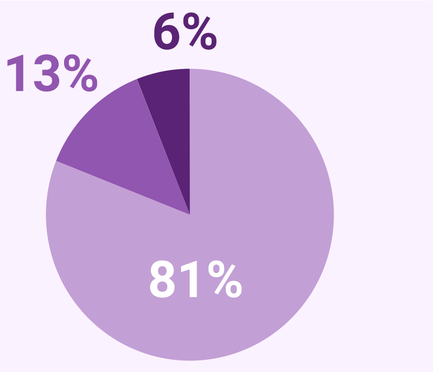


Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support

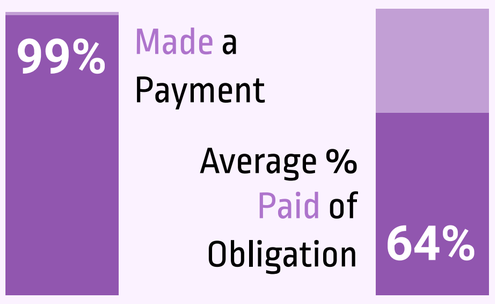


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$18,108
Average Current Support Due

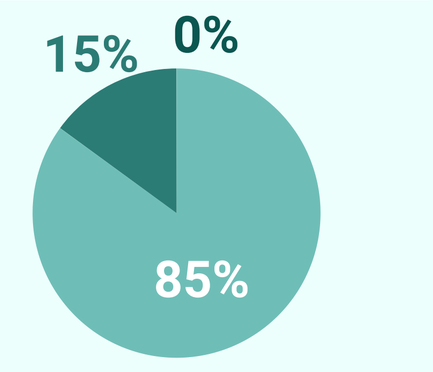


$12,512
Average Current Support Paid

94% owed arrears

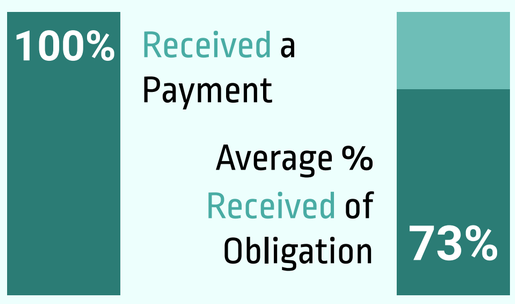
$16,431
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$20,279
Average Current Support Owed



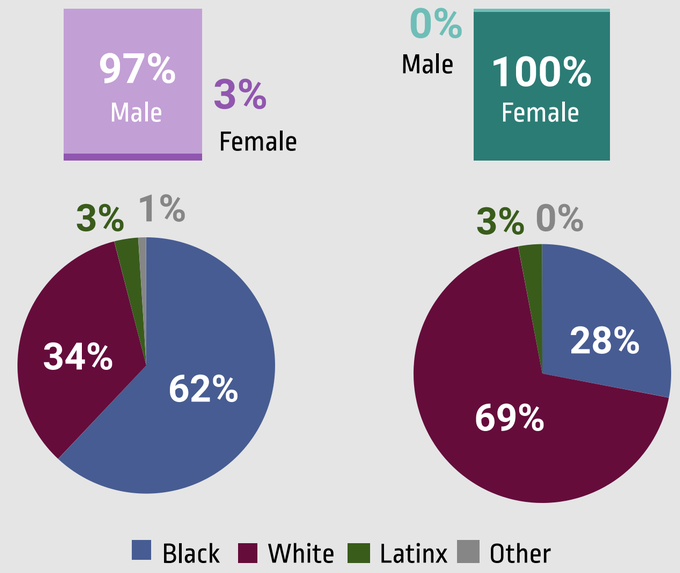
$15,254
Average Current Support Received

$8,848
Median Arrears Owed

98% were owed arrears

Demographics

December 2018



38 years
Average Age

34 years
Average Age

Note: Queen Anne's County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 121 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=108). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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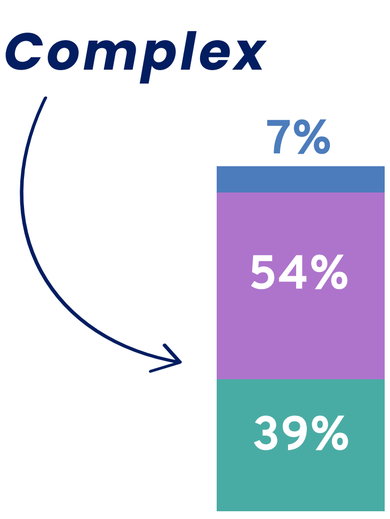
University of Maryland School of Social Work

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

12% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



Obligor and Custodian
Parent is an obligor on one or more cases and a custodian on one or more cases.

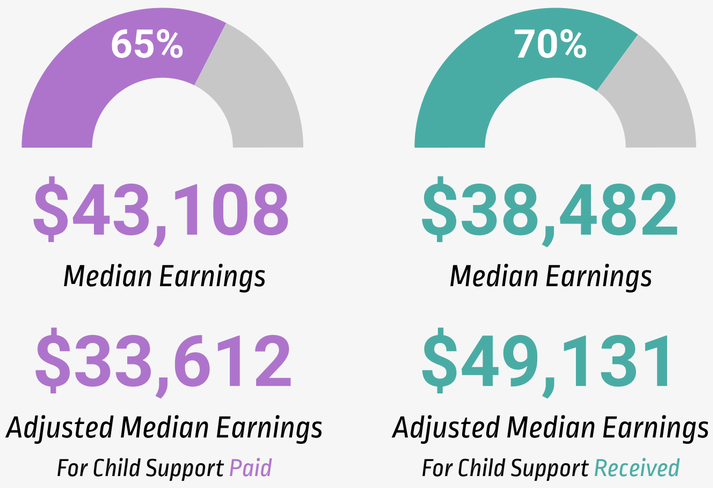
Obligor Only
Parent is an obligor on multiple cases.

Custodian Only
Parent is a custodian on multiple cases.

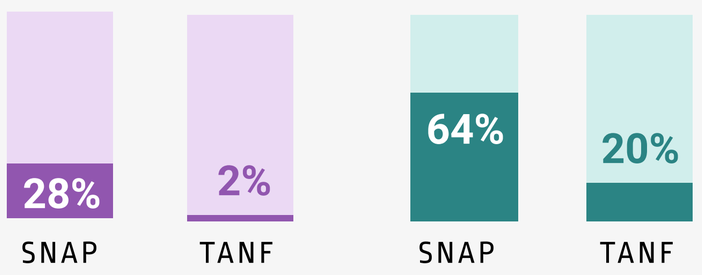
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

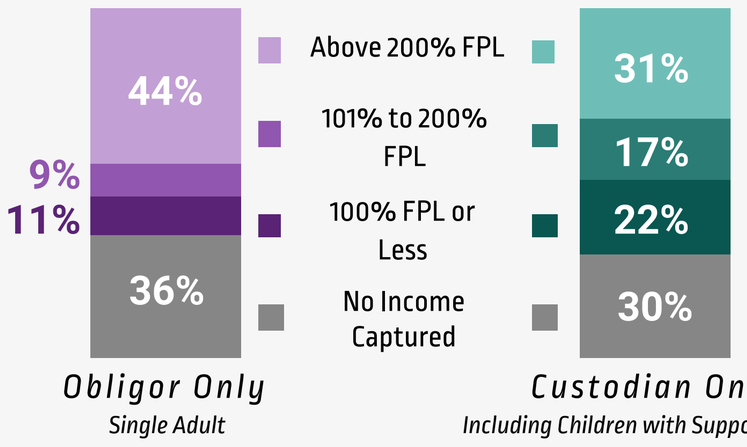


Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

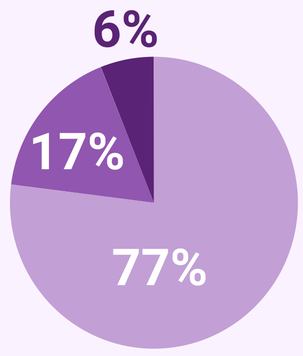
Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Obligor Only
Single Adult

Custodian Only
Including Children with Support Orders

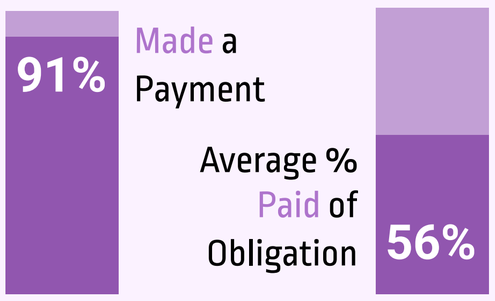
Obligor Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$19,441
Average Current Support Due

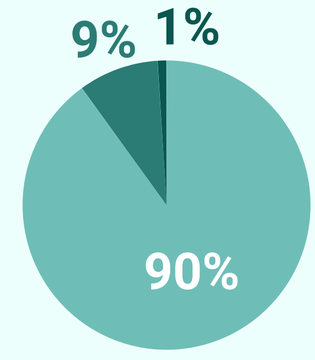


$11,870
Average Current Support Paid

91% owed arrears

$18,570
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$16,828
Average Current Support Owed

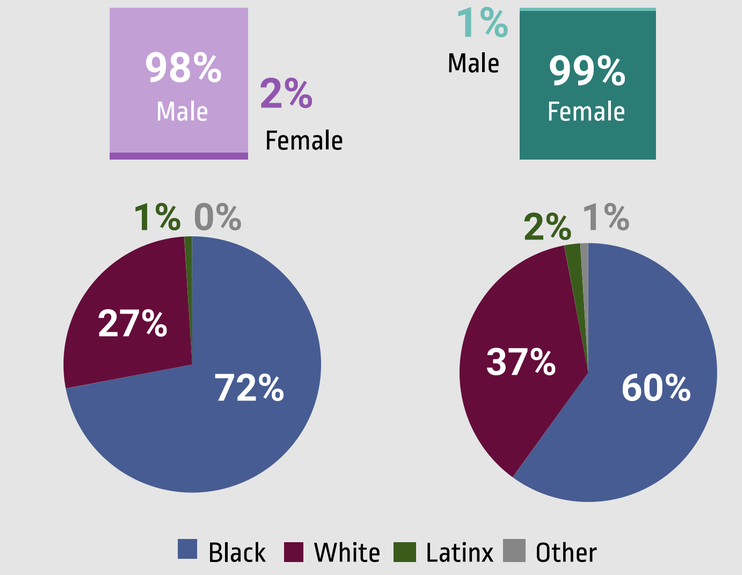
$11,103
Average Current Support Received

$10,048
Median Arrears Owed

94% were owed arrears

Demographics

December 2018



36 years
Average Age

33 years
Average Age

Note: St. Mary's County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 571 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=533). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

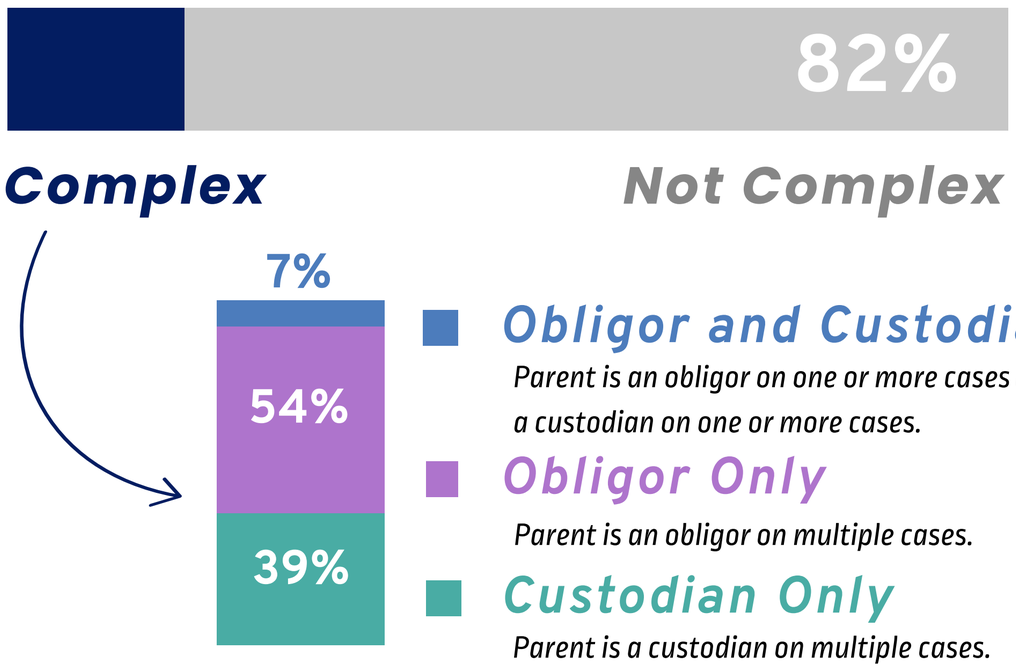
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

SOMERSET COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

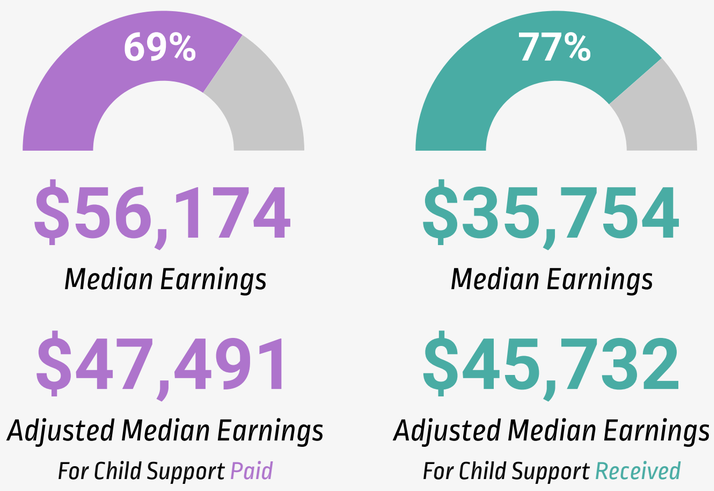
18% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



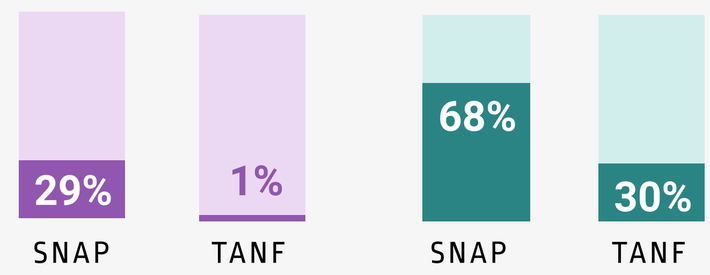
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

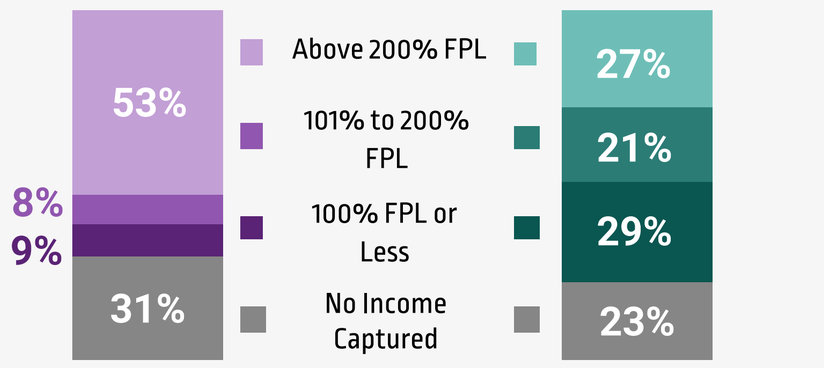


Safety Net Participation

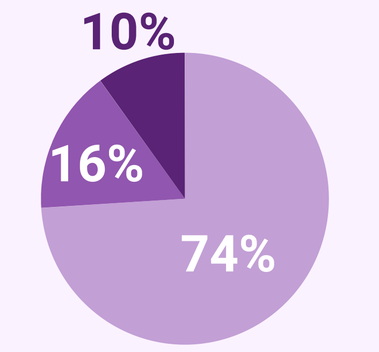


Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support

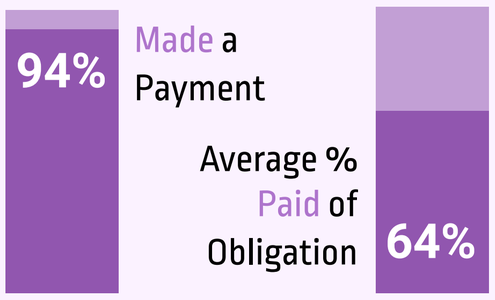


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$13,264
Average Current Support Due

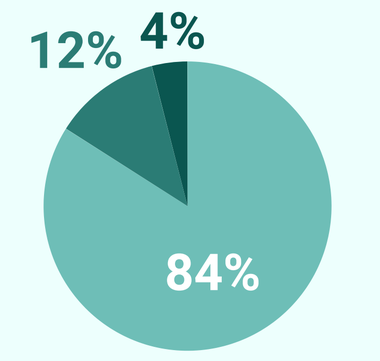


$8,815
Average Current Support Paid

94% owed arrears

$12,255
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$12,139
Average Current Support Owed

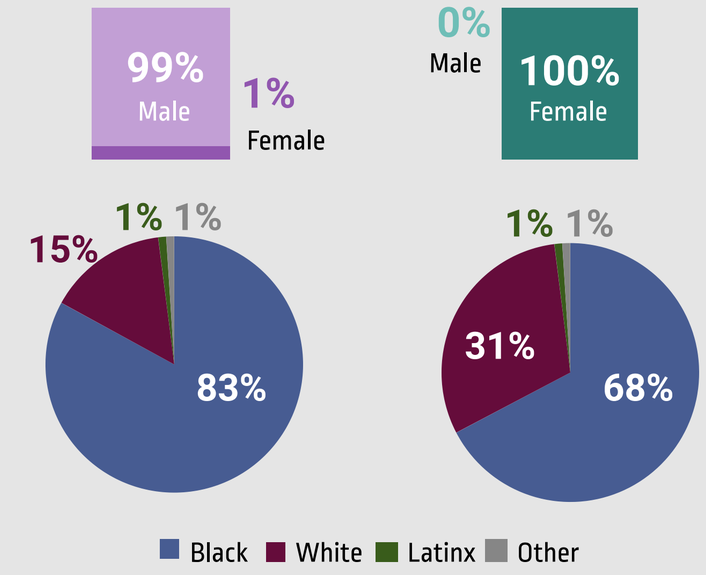
$7,790
Average Current Support Received

$5,600
Median Arrears Owed

96% were owed arrears

Demographics

December 2018



36 years
Average Age

33 years
Average Age

Note: Somerset County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 291 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=271). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

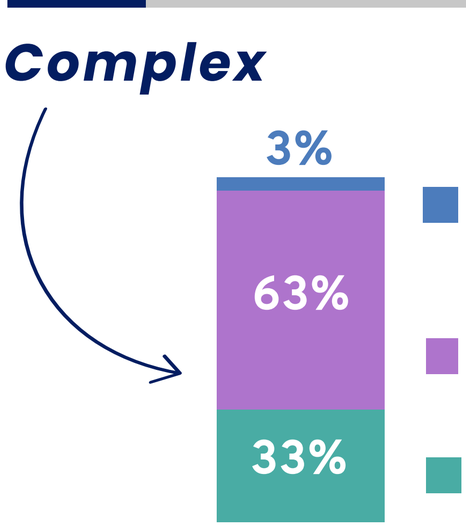
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

TALBOT COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

14% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*



Obligor and Custodian
Parent is an obligor on one or more cases and a custodian on one or more cases.

Obligor Only
Parent is an obligor on multiple cases.

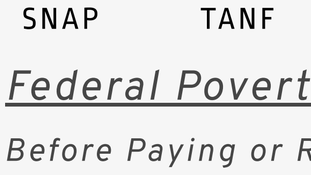
Custodian Only
Parent is a custodian on multiple cases.

Economic Resources

2019

Employment

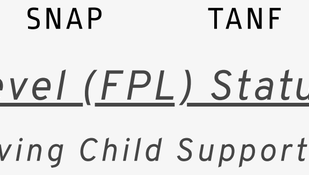
Obligor Only



$42,839
Median Earnings

$32,814
Adjusted Median Earnings
For Child Support Paid

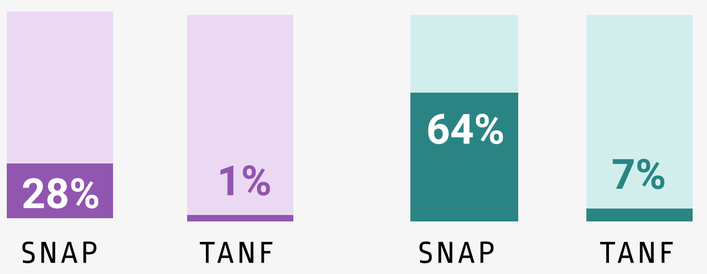
Custodian Only



$52,055
Median Earnings

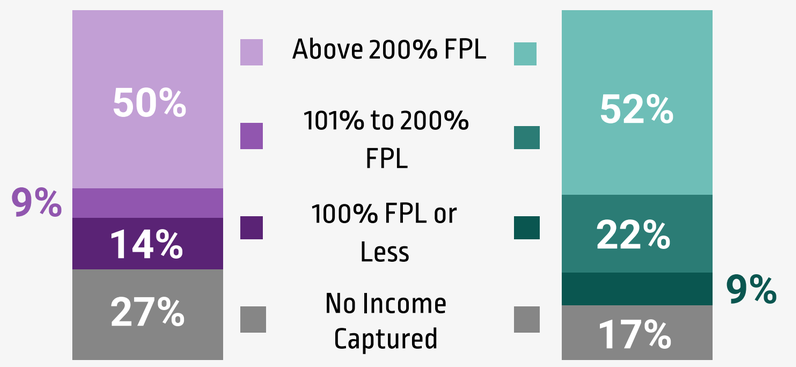
$63,761
Adjusted Median Earnings
For Child Support Received

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

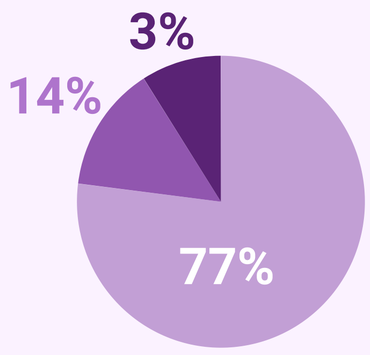
Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Obligor Only
Single Adult

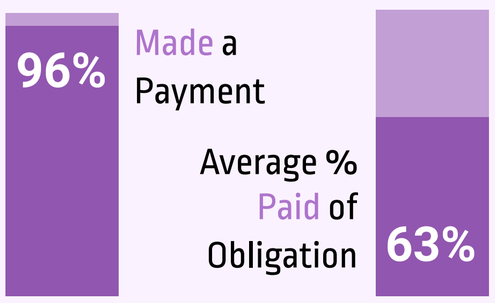
Custodian Only
Including Children with Support Orders

Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$15,659
Average Current Support Due

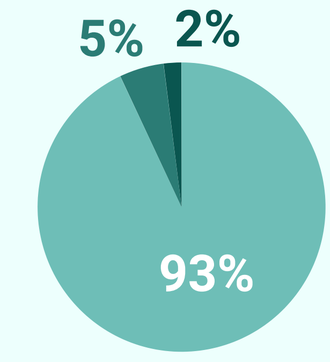


$10,530
Average Current Support Paid

90% owed arrears

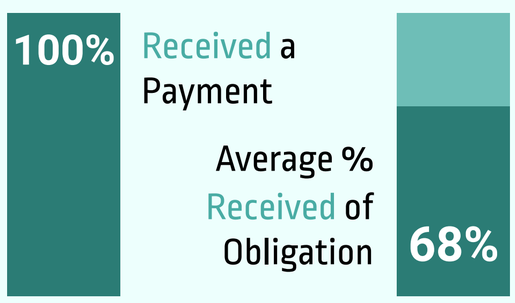
$11,047
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Children on Average

$16,013
Average Current Support Owed



$11,520
Average Current Support Received

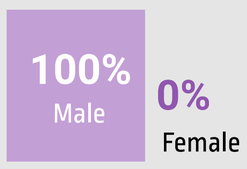
$5,803
Median Arrears Owed

98% were owed arrears

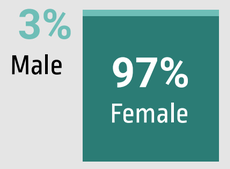
Demographics

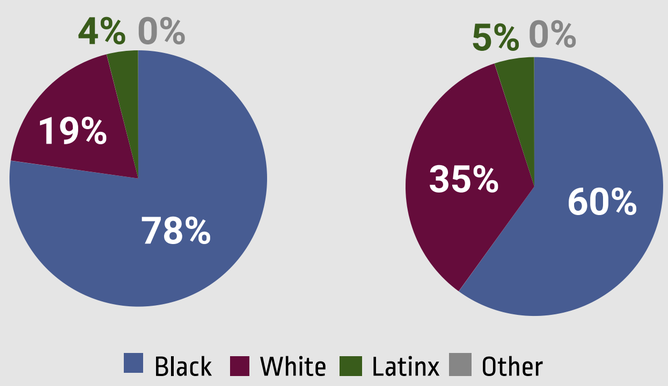
December 2018

Obligor Only



Custodian Only





36 years
Average Age

34 years
Average Age

Note: Talbot County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 174 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=168). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

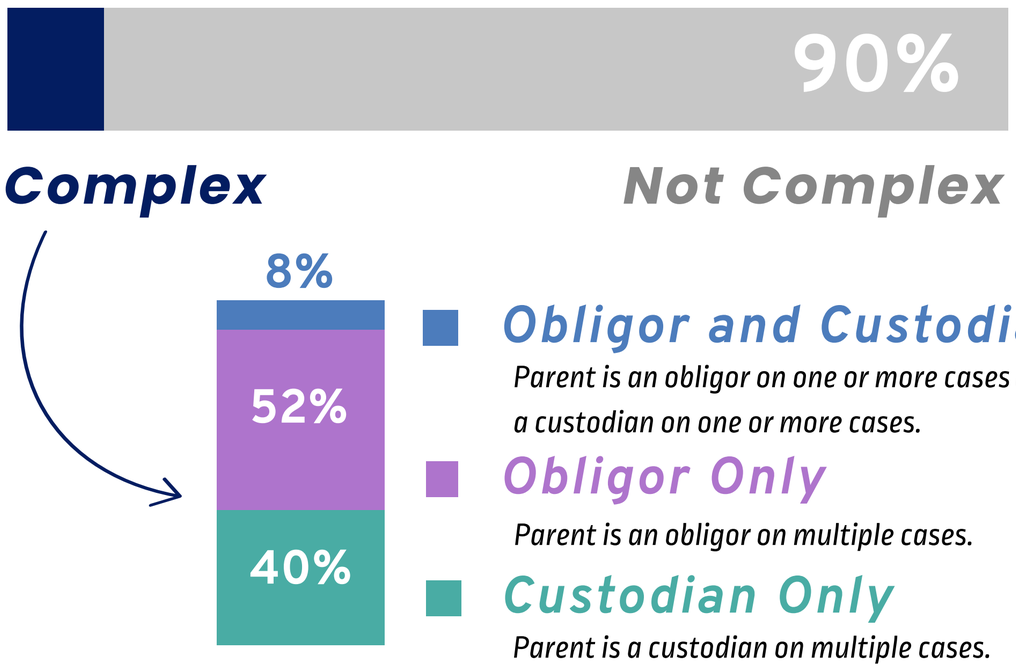
For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

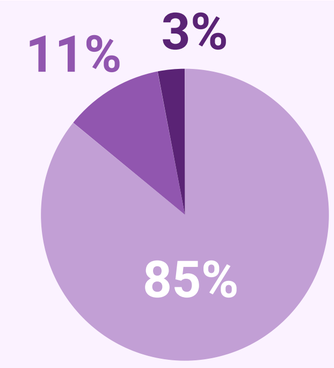
WASHINGTON COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

10% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

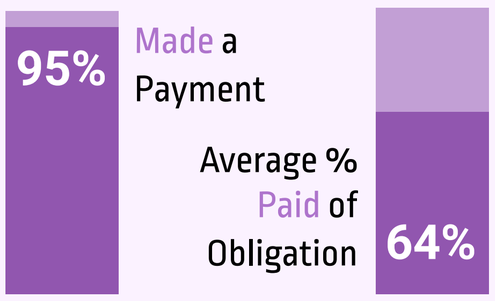


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$13,616
Average Current Support Due

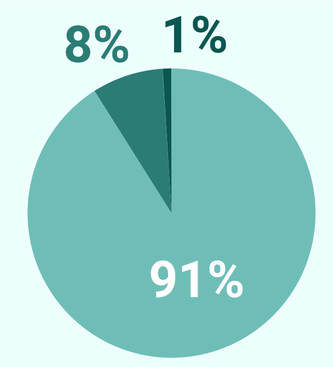


$9,718
Average Current Support Paid

92% owed arrears

$6,520
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



3 Children on Average

$14,213
Average Current Support Owed

$11,169
Average Current Support Received

$3,423
Median Arrears Owed

91% were owed arrears

Economic Resources

2019

Employment

Obligor Only

64%

$51,616
Median Earnings

$41,119
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid

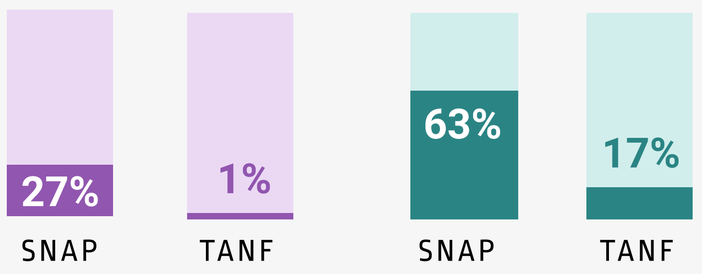
Custodian Only

61%

$37,146
Median Earnings

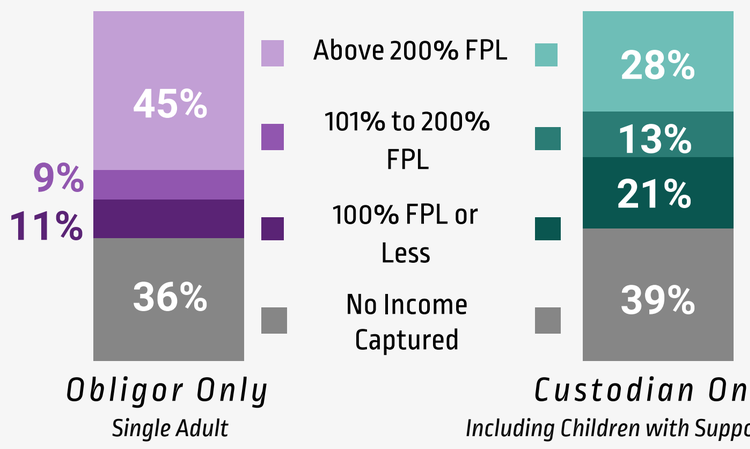
$48,039
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Obligor Only
Single Adult

Custodian Only
Including Children with Support Orders

Demographics

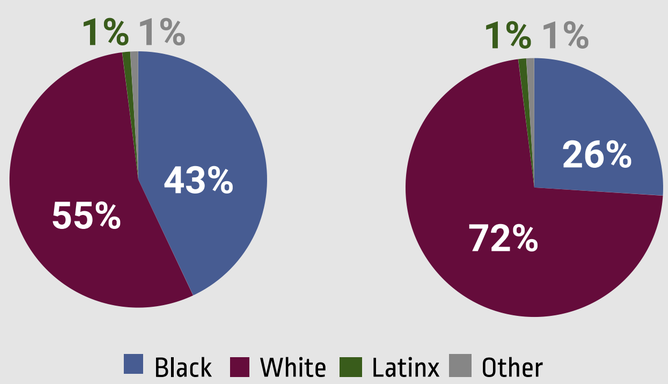
December 2018

Obligor Only

98% Male
2% Female

Custodian Only

1% Male
99% Female



36 years
Average Age

34 years
Average Age

Note: Washington County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 695 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=638). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

For more information, please contact Letitia Logan Passarella: llogan@ssw.umaryland.edu | 410 706 2479

University of Maryland School of Social Work

WICOMICO COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

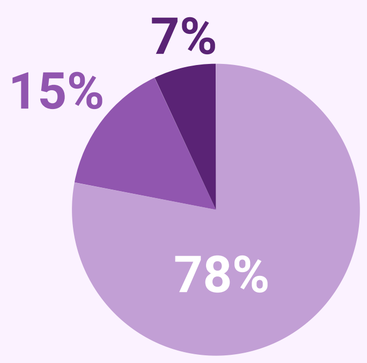
15% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

Obligor and Custodian
Parent is an obligor on one or more cases and a custodian on one or more cases.

Obligor Only
Parent is an obligor on multiple cases.

Custodian Only
Parent is a custodian on multiple cases.

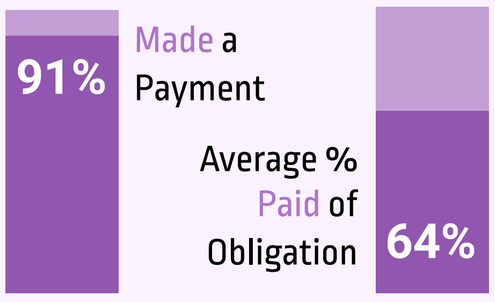
Obligor Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$14,117
Average Current Support Due

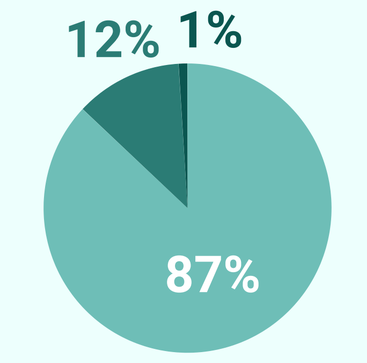


$9,485
Average Current Support Paid

90% owed arrears

$12,647
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Cases 3 Cases
4 or More Cases

3 Children on Average

$14,101
Average Current Support Owed

$9,613
Average Current Support Received

$6,865
Median Arrears Owed

97% were owed arrears

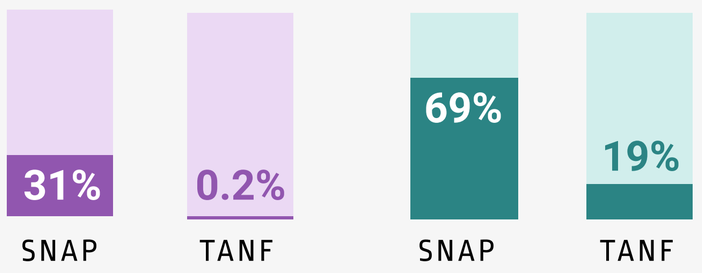
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

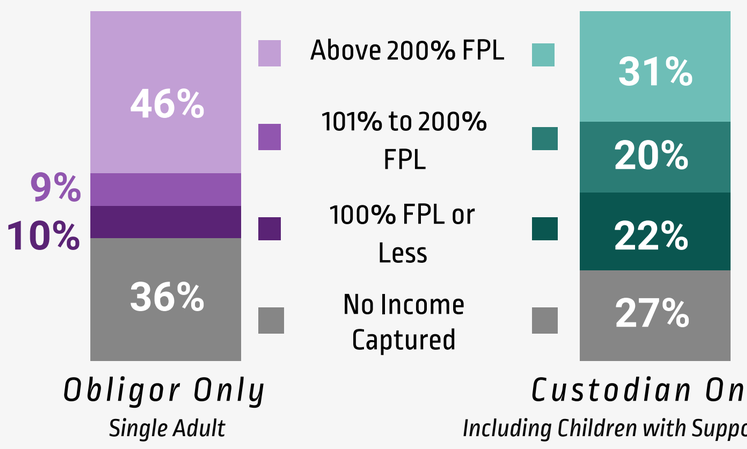
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
64%	73%
$42,720	**$37,893**
Median Earnings	*Median Earnings*
$34,888	**$45,154**
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid	*Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received*

Safety Net Participation



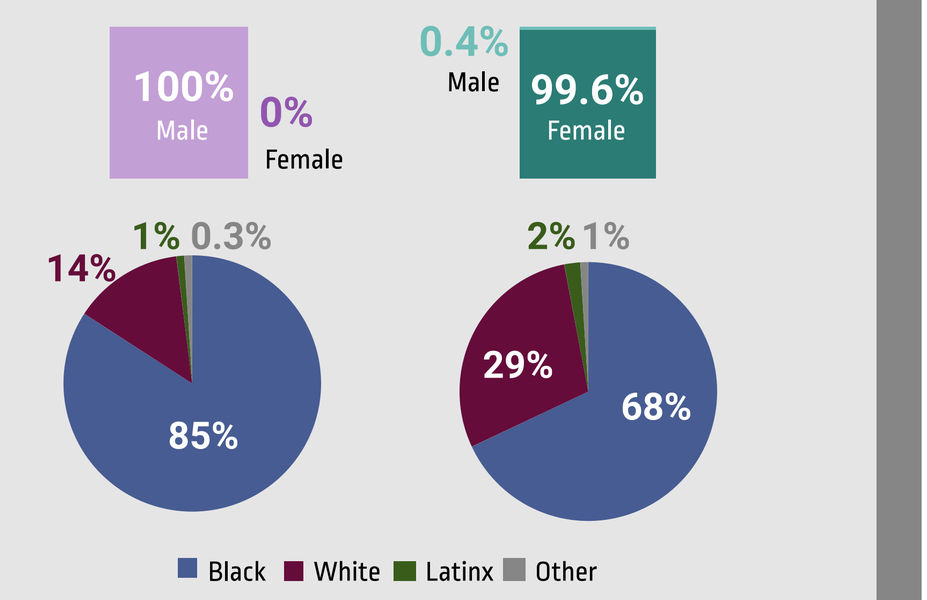
Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

December 2018



36 years
Average Age

33 years
Average Age

Note: Wicomico County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 701 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=675). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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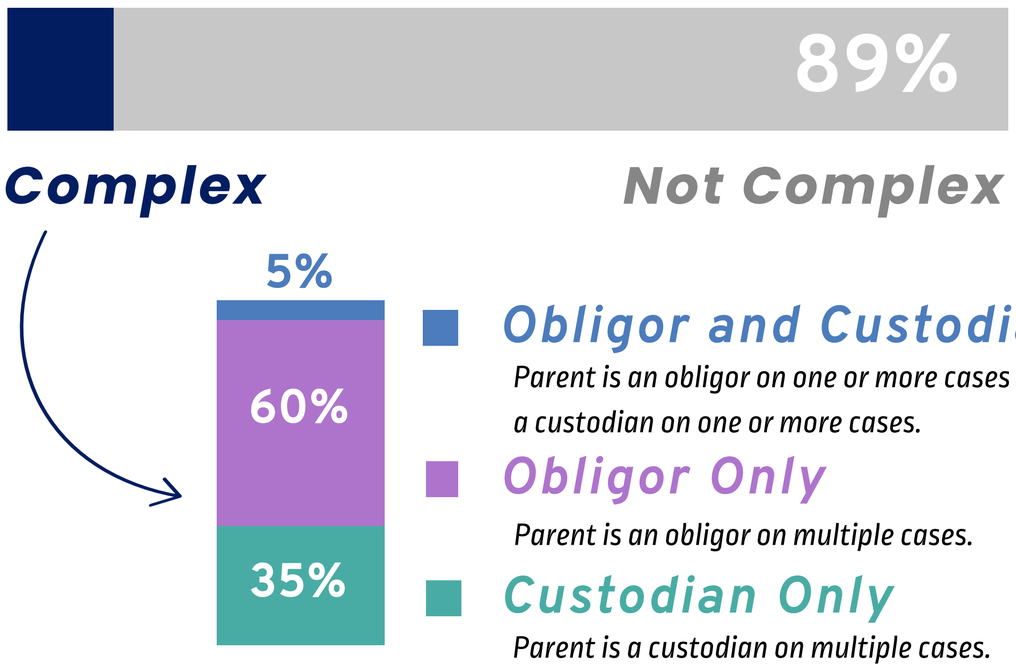
University of Maryland School of Social Work

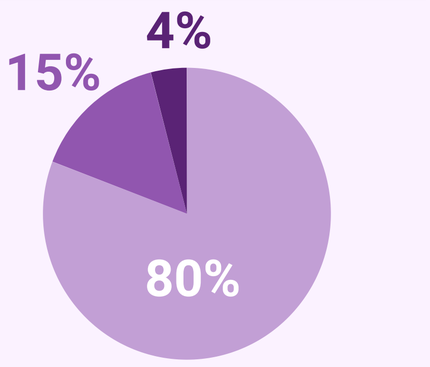
WORCESTER COUNTY

Characteristics of Complex Parents

11% *of parents had two or more child support cases in December 2018.*

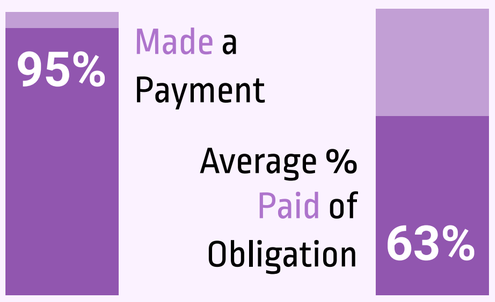


Obligor Only



3 Children on Average

$14,004
Average Current Support Due

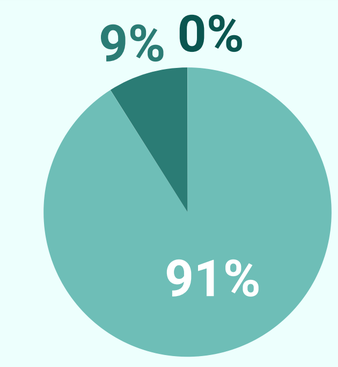


$9,173
Average Current Support Paid

92% owed arrears

$13,433
Median Arrears Due

Custodian Only



2 Children on Average

$13,274
Average Current Support Owed

$9,265
Average Current Support Received

$5,119
Median Arrears Owed

94% were owed arrears

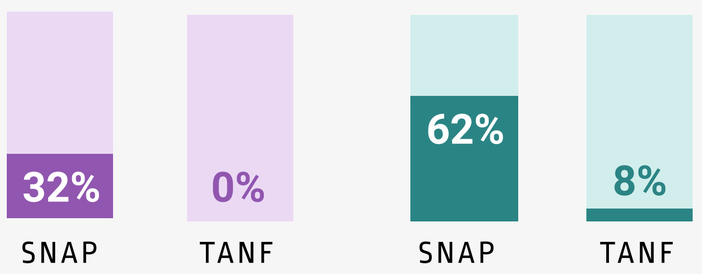
Economic Resources

2019

Employment

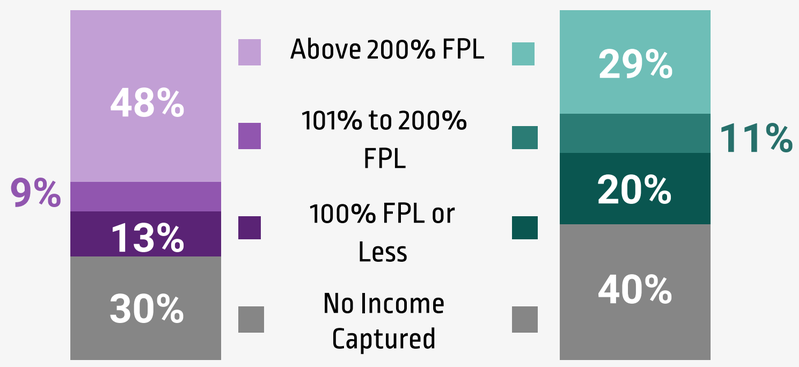
Obligor Only	Custodian Only
70%	60%
$52,812	**$39,274**
Median Earnings	*Median Earnings*
$42,400	**$46,758**
Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Paid	*Adjusted Median Earnings For Child Support Received*

Safety Net Participation



Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Status

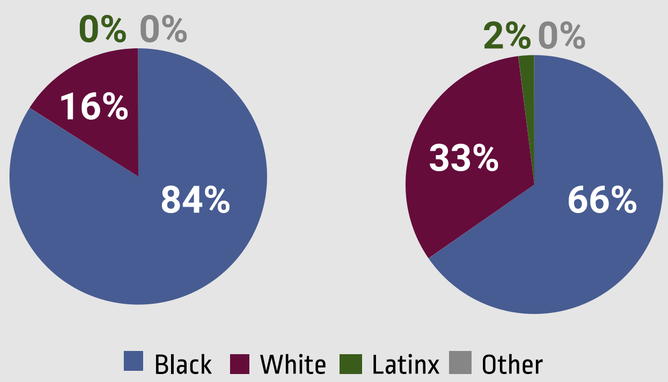
Before Paying or Receiving Child Support



Demographics

December 2018

Obligor Only	Custodian Only
100% Male	0% Male
0% Female	100% Female



37 years	**35 years**
Average Age	*Average Age*

Note: Worcester County's population of parents with two or more child support cases in the public child support program was 187 in December 2018 but most analyses include complex parents who were a custodian on all cases or an obligor on all cases (n=177). Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding. Please see the *Methods* section for more information on wage standardization, exclusions from analyses, study periods, and definitions.

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