

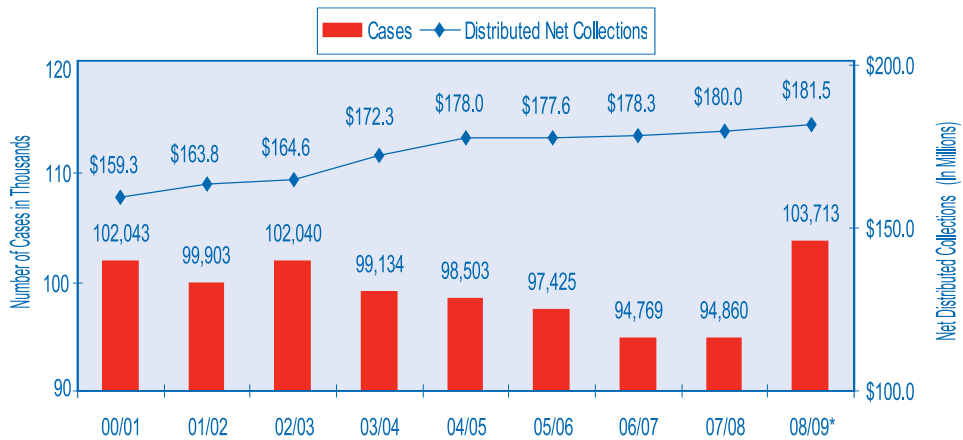
## Definition of Indicator

Child Support refers to the number of child support cases, total and per case amounts of child support collected and distributed, percent of current support distributed, and percent of support orders with medical support ordered, and medical support provided.

## Findings

In 2008/09, Orange County had 103,713 active child support cases. Average per case collection was \$1,750 in 2008/09 for a total distributed net collection of \$181.5 million. Percent of current support collected was 54.0% in 2007/08. In 2008/09, percent of support orders with medical support ordered and provided was 95.2% and 45.0% respectively.

**Total Number of Child Support Cases and Distributed Collections\*, 2000/01 to 2008/09**



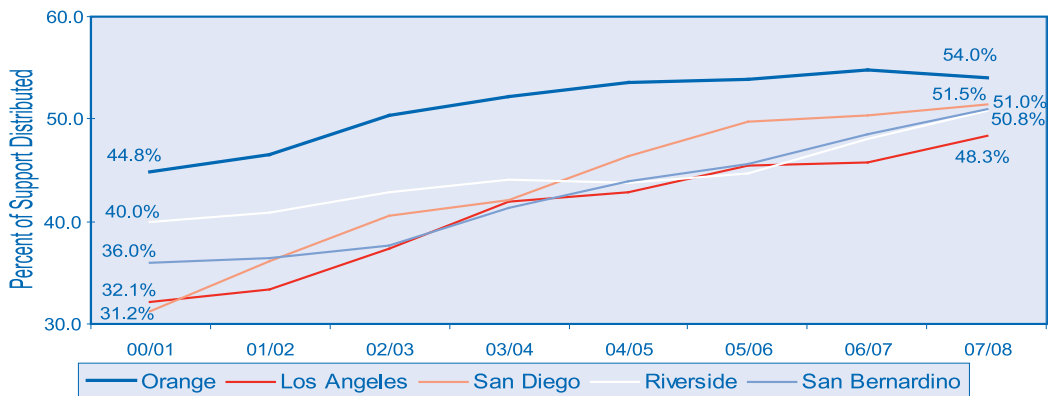
### STATEWIDE:

The collection rate for child support in 2008 was 2.4 billion dollars distributed in child support with the average amount collected per case being \$1,444.<sup>3</sup>

## Trends

From 2007/08 to 2008/09, a 9.3% increase occurred in the number of child support cases from a previous downward trend. Distributed Collections increased 13.9% from 2000/01 to 2008/09. Percent of current support distributed increased 20% from 2000/01 to 2007/08, and stabilized between 2006/07 to 2008/09.

**Percent of Current Support Distributed\*, 2000/01 to 2007/08**

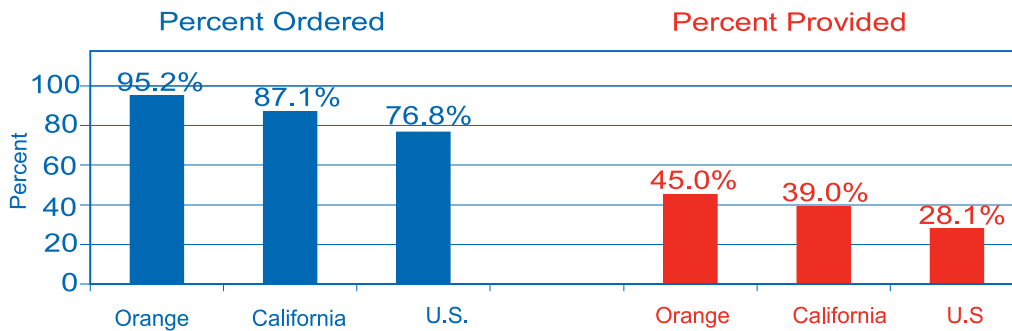


\*Total number of cases each year is a 12-month average from July to June. All 2008/09 figures are projected through June using actual data through April 2009. Percent of current support distributed is the percentage of current support paid from amount owed (excludes arrears), and figures are as of September.

### RELATED INDICATORS:

- CalWORKs
- Dependents of the Court & Out-of-Home Care
- Early Care and Education

## Percent of Support Orders with Medical Support Ordered and Provided, 2008/09\*\*



\*\* Percent of support orders with medical support ordered by the courts and percent of support orders where medical support was provided is a subset of support orders. Orange County data is as of Apr-09. California and Nationwide data is as of Sep-08.

### Why is this Important?

Research has found that child support payments lift more than a million Americans above the poverty line each year and assists families with incomes above the poverty line to make ends meet.<sup>1</sup> For instance, child support pays for child care, food, shelter, school clothes, and provides needed medical support. Single parents receiving child support are more likely to obtain employment faster and maintain their jobs compared to those who do not receive child support.

### What's Happening in Orange County?

The mission of the Orange County Department of Child Support Services (CSS) is "To enhance the quality of life for children and families by establishing and enforcing court orders for the financial and medical support of children in an effective, efficient and professional manner."

In Orange County:

- According to a recent survey, it is estimated that approximately 12% of Orange County's 766,233 children live in poverty.<sup>2</sup>
- Receiving child support payments helps parents achieve self-sufficiency and prevents them from returning to public assistance.
- Distributed Net Collections increased consistently year to year from 2000 to 2009.

### What's Working:

Over the past eight fiscal years, improving processes resulted in greater financial and medical support for children. Current successful initiatives include:

- Implementation of an Early Intervention process that actively engages parents to agree on their child support payment amount during the initial stages of establishing a court order.
- Providing enhanced outreach to the public in the form of education and improved customer service.
- Implementation of a statewide child support enforcement system that improved automation capabilities to better serve customers.

#### Definitions

- Percent of Current Support Distributed= A percentage of monthly child support payments paid as a percentage of the monthly amount ordered (excludes past due arrears paid and arrears owed.)
- Medical support is a form of child support often provided as healthcare insurance under a parent's work-related health care coverage.

✓ See page 156 in Supplemental Tables for additional data

#### NATIONWIDE:

The Child Support Enforcement program had 15,675,989 cases in 2008.

Collections reached \$26.7 billion in 2008.<sup>3</sup>

#### DATA SOURCE:

Orange County Child Support Services

#### NOTES:

- <sup>1</sup> Turetsky, Vicki. The Child Support Enforcement Program: A Sound Investment in Improving Children's Chances in Life. October, 2005. Retrieved on April 9, 2007 from [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org)
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey. [www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov)
- <sup>3</sup> California Department of Social Services, Comparative Data for Managing Program Performance, 2008