

# PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT & INTERSTATE CASES: THE VIEW FROM MARYLAND



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ATLANTIC CITY, NJ  
MARCH 22-23, 2006

This research was funded by the Maryland Department of Human Resources,  
Child Support Enforcement Administration

# BACKGROUND



- Nationally, interstate cases are 25% of the child support caseload, but only 7% of child support collections (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2002).
- In Maryland, interstate cases represent approximately 11% of the child support caseload and 7% of distributed collections (Office of Child Support Enforcement, 2005).
- Efforts have been made to improve processing and collections for interstate cases, but challenges remain.

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS



1. How many children become known to the child support system within five years of birth? How quickly do they become known?
2. Do children's rates of becoming known to the child support system vary by parents' state of residence?
3. How many children under 5 in Maryland's child support caseload were born in another state?
4. Does paternity status differ by child's birth state?

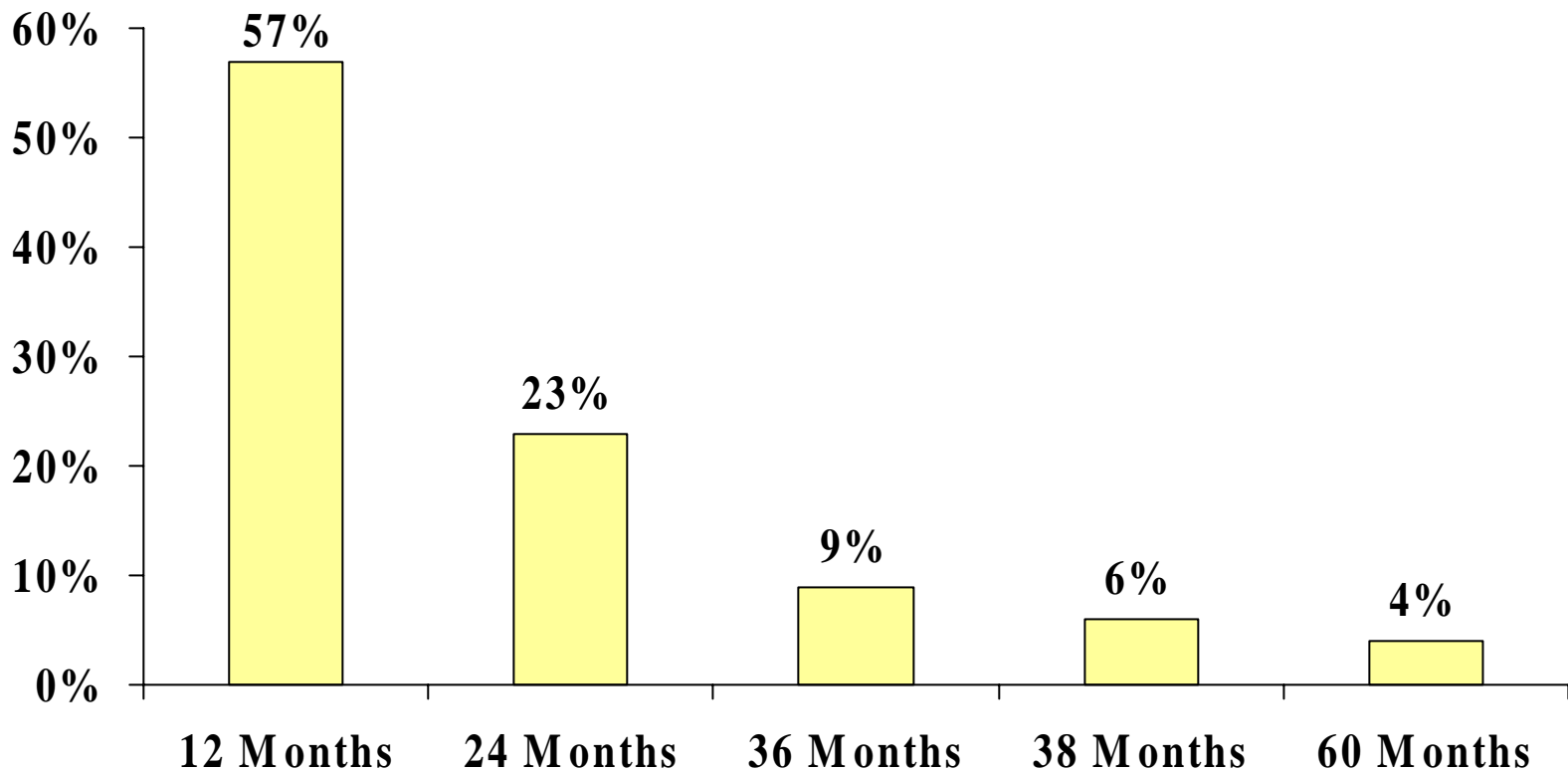
# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



## **Research Question #1:**

- Among the 16,473 children with a signed affidavit of parentage in 2000, 8,987 (55%) became known to the child support system within 5 years of birth.
- The majority of these children became known to the child support system within 10 months of birth (Median = 9.2).

# NUMBER OF MONTHS UNTIL CHILDREN WITH AFFIDAVITS ENTER THE CHILD SUPPORT SYSTEM



Data source: Maryland paternity affidavit for children born in 2000 & Child Support Enforcement System

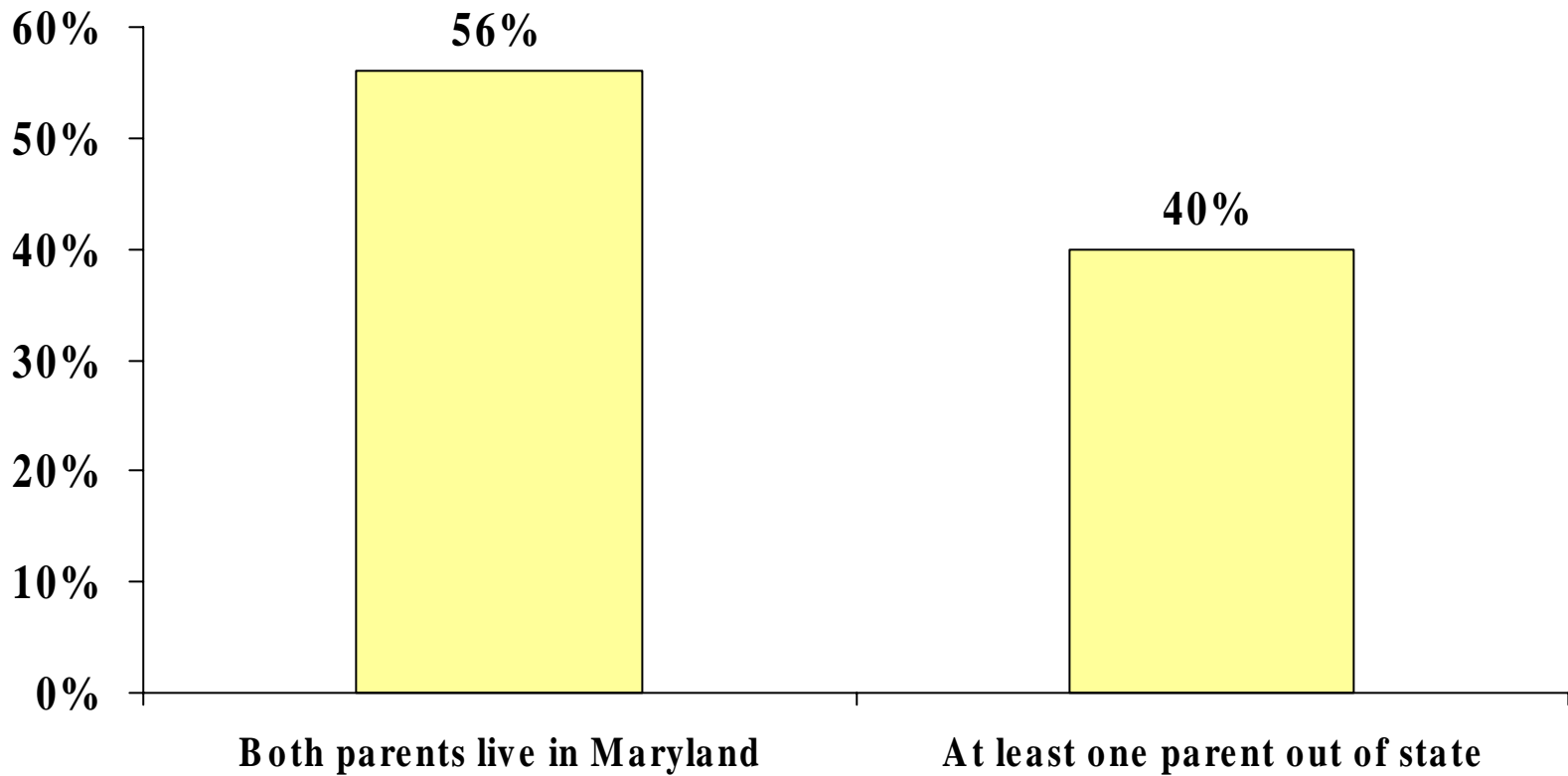
# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



## **Research Question #2:**

- Six percent of fathers and two percent of mothers who signed an affidavit of parentage in 2000 did not live in Maryland.
- Children with both parents in Maryland are more likely to become known to Maryland's child support system than children with one or more parents out of state.
- However, two-fifths of children with a parent residing outside of Maryland enter Maryland's child support system.

# PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN THAT BECOME KNOWN TO THE CHILD SUPPORT SYSTEM BY PARENTS' STATE OF RESIDENCE



Data source: Maryland affidavit data for children born in 2000

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

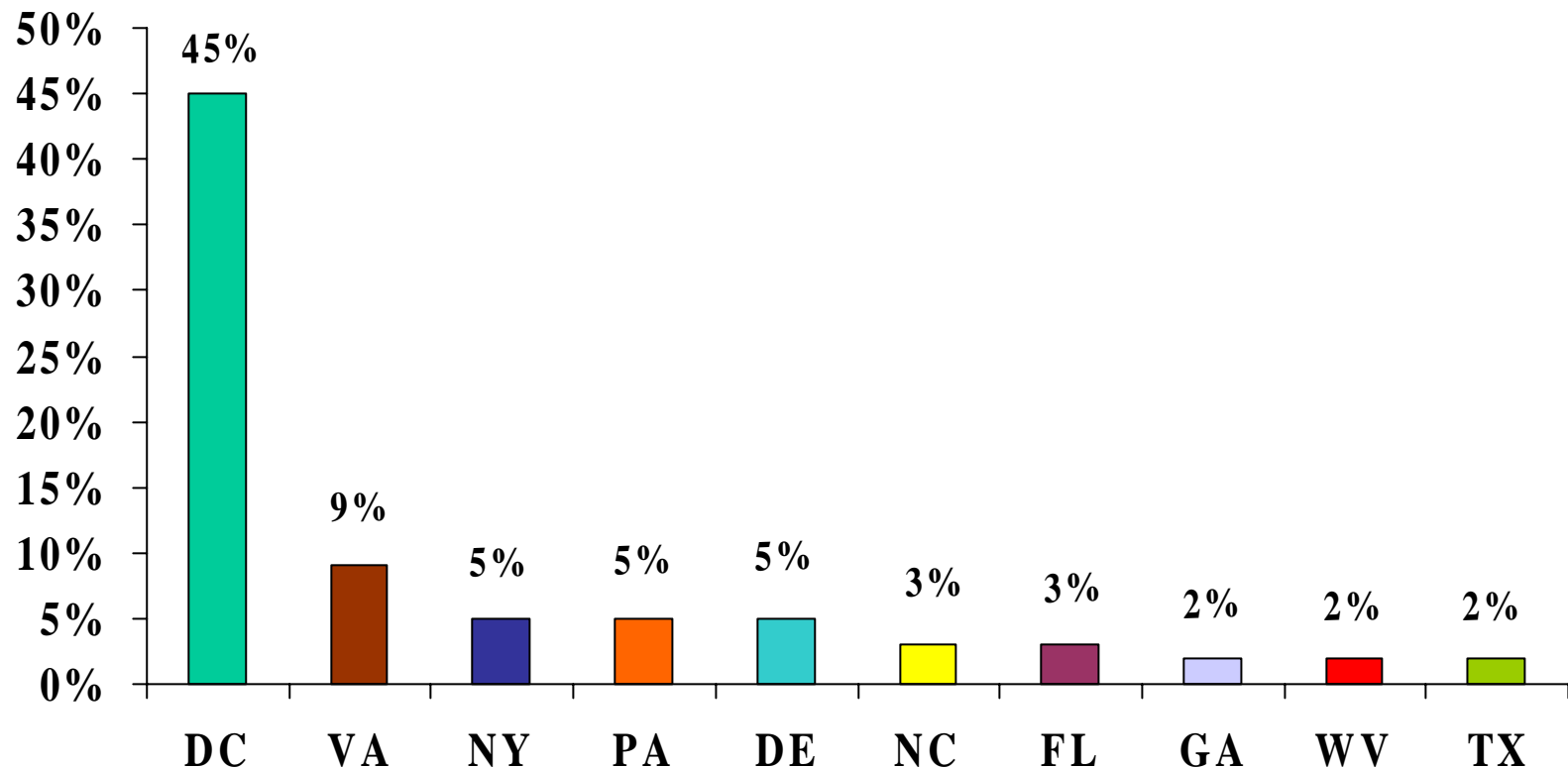


## **Research Question #3:**

- Of the 57,225 children under age 5 in Maryland's child support caseload, 9% were born outside of Maryland.
- Among those children, 45% were born in DC.



# TOP 10 BIRTH STATES FOR CHILDREN BORN OUTSIDE OF MARYLAND



Data source: Child age 5 and under in Maryland's child support caseload in December 2005.

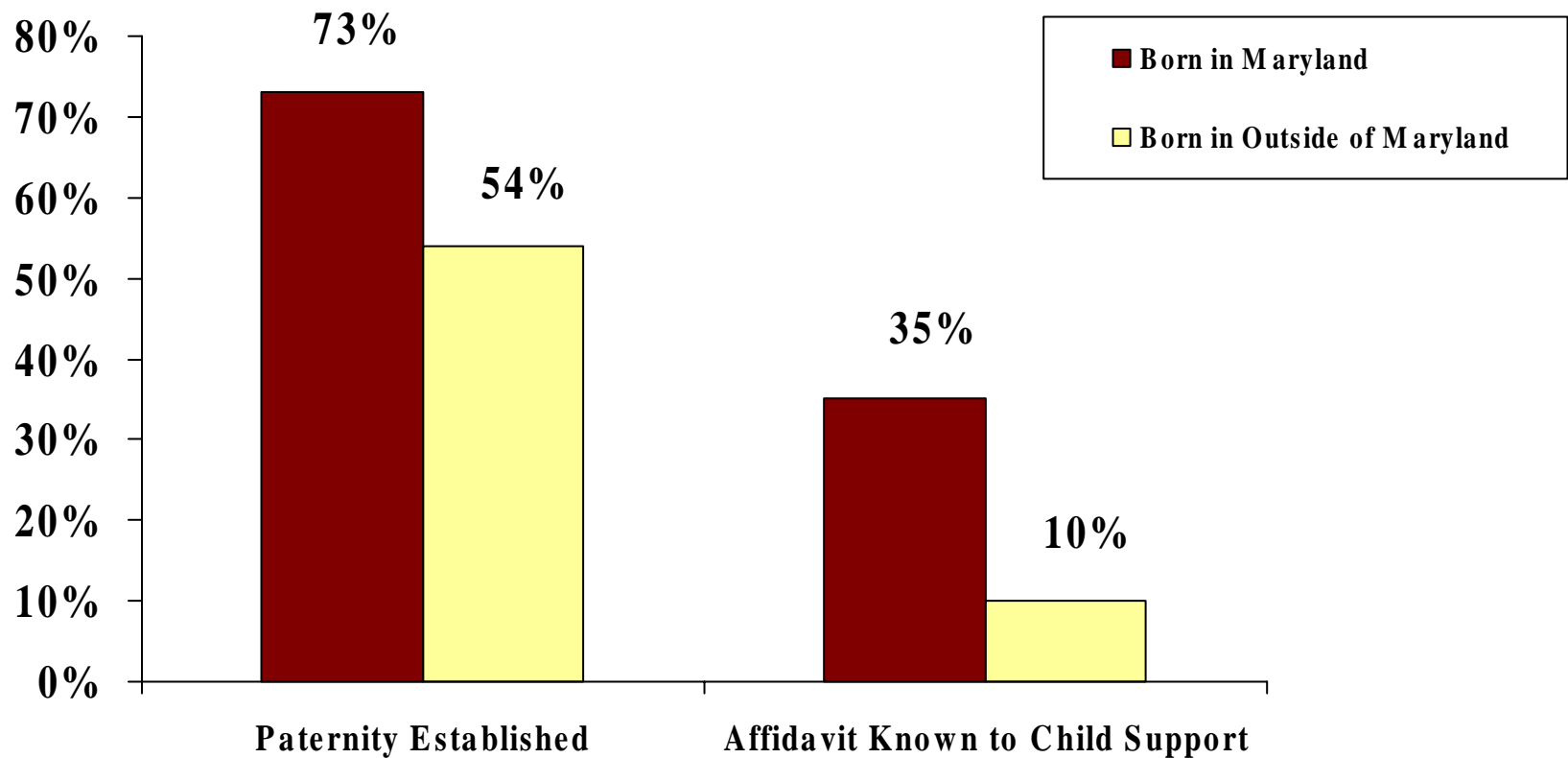
# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



## **Research Question #4:**

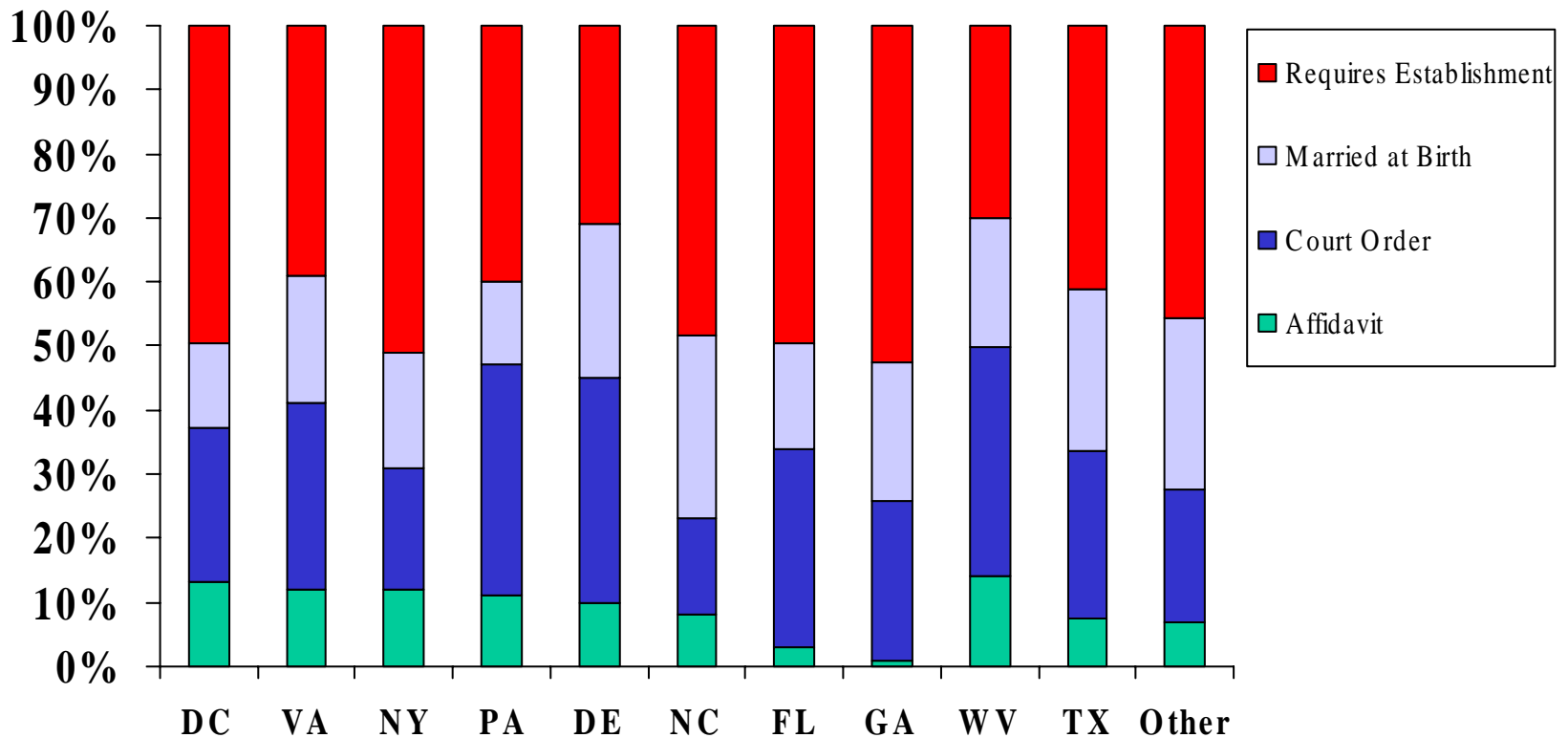
- Children who were born in Maryland are more likely to have paternity established than children born in another state.
  - 73% vs 54% ( $p < .001$ )
- Children who were born in MD are three times more likely to have a signed affidavit of parentage that child support is aware of than children who were born in another state.
  - 35% vs 10% ( $p < .001$ )

# PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT BY CHILD'S BIRTH STATE



Data source: Child age 5 and under in Maryland's child support caseload in December 2005.

# PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT IN TOP 10 STATES WHERE INTERSTATE CHILDREN ARE BORN

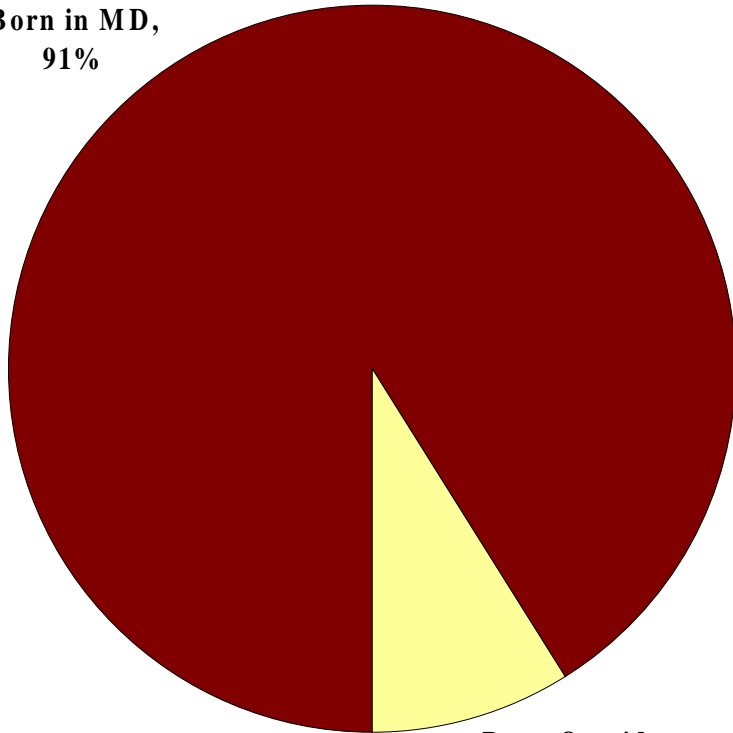


Data source: Child age 5 and under in Maryland's child support caseload in December 2005.

# THE BOTTOM LINE



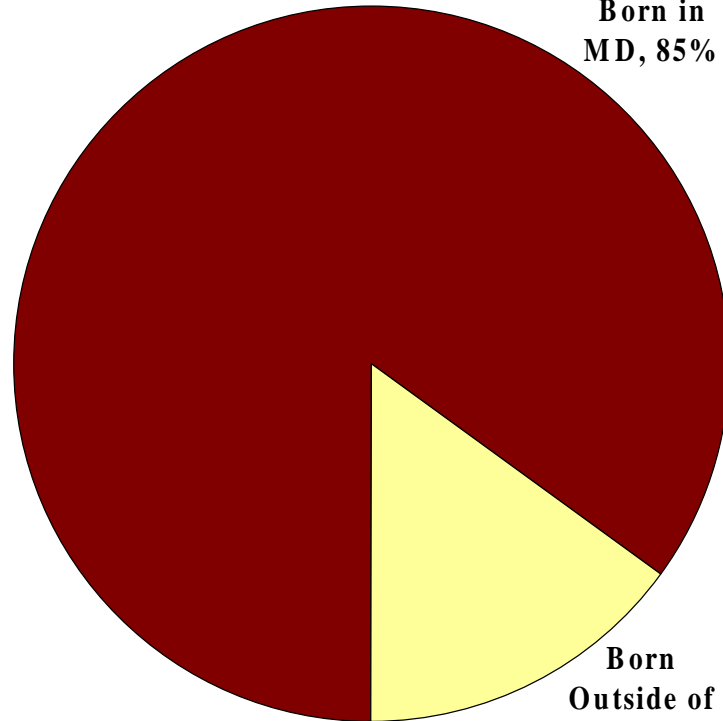
**Born in MD,  
91%**



**Born Outside  
of MD, 9%**

**All Cases**

**Born in  
MD, 85%**



**Born  
Outside of  
MD, 15%**

**Cases Needing  
Paternity Established**

# CONCLUSIONS



- We find that Maryland has exceeded National standards for interstate child support collections; however, there is room for improvement.
- Although children with both parents residing in Maryland are more likely to become known to Maryland's child support system than children with either parent living out of state, two-fifths of the latter group still enter the system and become interstate cases.
- Finally, we find that interstate child support cases are less likely to have paternity established and are much less likely to have a signed affidavit of parentage known to child support than Maryland cases.

THANK YOU!



For further information, please send an e-mail to:

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Or visit our website:

[www.familywelfare.umaryland.edu](http://www.familywelfare.umaryland.edu)

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