Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgements

Who Signs Them?
What Difference Does It Make?

University of Maryland
School of Social Work

Pamela C. Ovwigho & Joohee Yum

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Child Support Enforcement Administration
Workshop Outline

- Trivia
- Background
- Geographic analysis of non-marital births & affidavits
- Audience discussion
- Who signs affidavits?
- What difference does an affidavit make for child support?
- Conclusions
- Trivia answers & prizes
Paternity Establishment

- Determining an individual’s legal father

- Paternity establishment is important for individual children, parents, the child support program, & the state
Why Paternity Matters to the Individual Child & Parent

- Sense of Identity
- Relationship
- Medical background
- Child Support
- Social Security blanket protection
- Right of inheritance
- Visitation / Custody
Why Paternity Matters to the Child Support Program

- Necessary before a support order can be established

- Higher paternity establishment rate = more incentive $
Why Paternity Matters to the State

- States must meet a 90% paternity establishment threshold.

- National IV-D caseload: 83.4% of children born out of wedlock have paternity established.

- Maryland’s rate was 86.5%

Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgements

- In-hospital voluntary paternity acknowledgements are an effective way to increase paternity establishment.

- Provide easy access to parents at “the magic moment”.

- Legal finding of paternity.

- Contains information on father that can be used for location.
Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgements Statistics

- In calendar year 2005, paternity affidavits were filed for 18,172 children
- 7 out of 10 non-marital births
- Approximately 82% of the paternities reported in the federal statistics are from affidavits*

*Source: Author calculations from September 2005 OCSE 157 report for Maryland.
# Paternity Affidavits: Top Ten Facilities in CY 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Affidavits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross Hospital</td>
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<td>Prince George’s Hospital Center</td>
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<td>Mercy Medical Center</td>
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<td>Greater Baltimore Medical Center</td>
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<td>Sinai Hospital</td>
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Source: University of MD VAPP database
Geographic Distribution of Non-Marital Births and Affidavits

- Analyzed data for 35 birthing facilities in Maryland

- Using Geographic Information System (GIS), facilities are displayed on maps with unmarried birth rate & affidavit rate (2004, 2005, 2006)
Birthing Hospitals in MD 1

Anne Arundel Medical Center
Calvert Memorial Hospital
Carroll Hospital Center
Chester River Hospital Center
Civista Health
Frankin Square Hospital Center
Frederick Memorial Hospital
Garrett County Memorial Hospital
Greater Baltimore Med Center (GBMC)
Harbor Hospital Center
Holy Cross Hospital
Howard County General Hospital, Inc
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
Laurel Regional Hospital
Malcolm Grow Medical Center
Maryland General Hospital
Memorial Hospital of Cumberland, Inc
Memorial Hospital of Easton MD, Inc
Mercy Medical Center
Montgomery County General Hospital
Peninsula Regional Medical Center
Prince George's Hospital Center
Saint Agnes Healthcare, Inc
Saint Joseph Medical Center
Saint Mary's Hospital
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
Southern Maryland Hosp CTR
National Naval Medical Center
Union Hospital
University of Maryland Medical System
Upper Chesapeake Med Ctr
Washington Adventist Hospital
Washington County Hospital Assoc.
Birthing Hospitals in MD 2
Total Births vs. Unmarried Births in 2005
Non-Marital Birth Rate
2004 - 2006
CSES Affidavit Rate
2004 - 2006
Affidavit Rate: Western Region
Affidavit Rate: Upper and Lower Shore
Affidavit Rate:
Metro, Montgomery, & Baltimore
Affidavit Rate:  
Prince George’s, Anne Arundel, & Southern
Audience Discussion

- How can you use affidavits in your daily work?
- What do you see as the main benefits?
- Any concerns or issues?
SSW Fax Back Service

The number of callers steadily increased until 2003.

In the first 9 months of 2006, SSW staff handled almost 5500 affidavit requests.

Source: Author calculations from SSW faxback database.

*Through September
In most cases, an inquiry results in the location of an affidavit.

Source: Author calculations from SSW Fax Back database.

*Through September
SSW Fax Back Service

Jurisdictions vary in their use of the faxback service.

Source: Author calculations from SSW affidavit & faxback database. Year 2004 data.
What Difference Do Affidavits Make?

We have been researching three main questions:

- Who signs affidavits?
- Do affidavit kids become IV-D kids? **YES!**
- Are the child support outcomes different if there is an affidavit? **YES, they are better!**
Who Signs Paternity Affidavits?

- Limited data comparability between DVR & affidavits, particularly for fathers

- In general, affidavit signers resemble the non-marital birth population.

- Data suggest that older mothers may be more likely to sign an affidavit than younger mothers.

Source: Authors’ calculations from DHMH extract data.
Who Signs Paternity Affidavits?

Younger mothers are less likely to have a signed affidavit.

Source: Authors’ calculations from DHMH extract data for births in CY 2005.
Do Affidavit Children Become IV-D Children?

1 out of 3 affidavit children become IV-D children in their first year of life.

Do Affidavit Children Become IV-D Children?

3 out of 5 affidavit children become IV-D children by their 5th birthday

Do Affidavit Children Become IV-D Children?

Local jurisdictions vary. In Baltimore City, 4 out of 5 affidavit children become IV-D children by their 5th birthday.

Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

Of all children born out of wedlock in 2001 who became known to the child support system by their 1st birthday, about half had a paternity affidavit.

Children with an affidavit are more likely to have an order for current support established before their 4th birthday.

Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

Orders for current support are established slightly faster, on average, for children with affidavits.

Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

Payment rates are similar for those with an affidavit & those without.

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4*
Percent paying any support
71.9% 79.2% 79.8% 80.4%
Affidavit 72.2% 76.3% 77.1% 77.1%
No affidavit

among those owing any court-ordered support

Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

Among children with an order, those with an affidavit receive the same amount of child support than those without an affidavit.

Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

Affidavit children are better off as a group in terms of support received. On average, children with an affidavit receive an additional $700 in support in their first four years of life.

Conclusions

- Affidavits are critical to Maryland’s child support program in meeting performance measures & improving child support outcomes

- Affidavits are critical to Maryland’s children in providing them a legal father & increasing the likelihood that they will receive child support early in life

- Creative thinking about ways to expand the reach & use of affidavits may yield high payoffs in terms of the child support program & the children it serves.
Trivia Answers

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And the winner is . . .
Thank you!

To read the full reports please visit our Web site:

www.familywelfare.umaryland.edu/publications/