

Voluntary Paternity Acknowledgements

Who Signs Them?

What Difference Does It Make?



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Workshop presented at the 25th Annual Training Conference
Maryland Joint Child Support Council, October 2006

This research was funded by the Maryland Department of Human Resources,
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★



Paternity Affidavits: Top Ten Facilities in CY 2005

Holy Cross Hospital	2234
Prince George's Hospital Center	1386
Mercy Medical Center	1163
Franklin Square Hospital Center	1076
Anne Arundel Medical Center	899
The Johns Hopkins Hospital	834
Peninsula Regional Medical Center	794
Maryland General Hospital	717
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	712
Sinai Hospital	682

Source: University of MD VAPP database

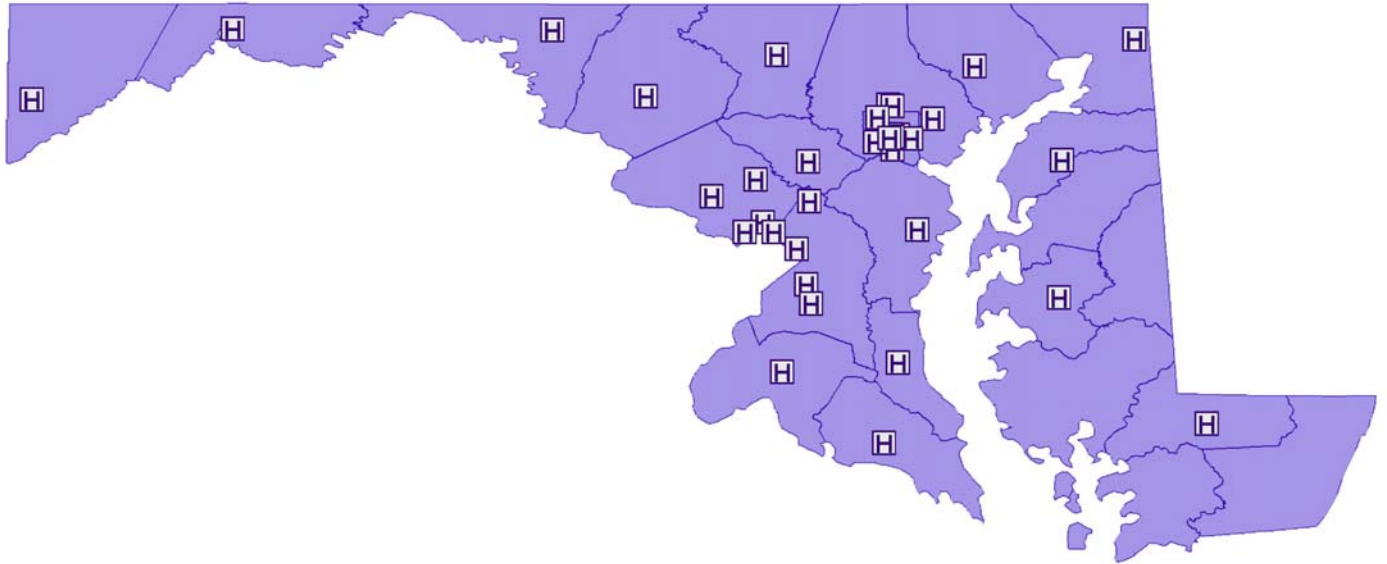


Geographic Distribution of Non-Marital Births and Affidavits

- ❖ 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



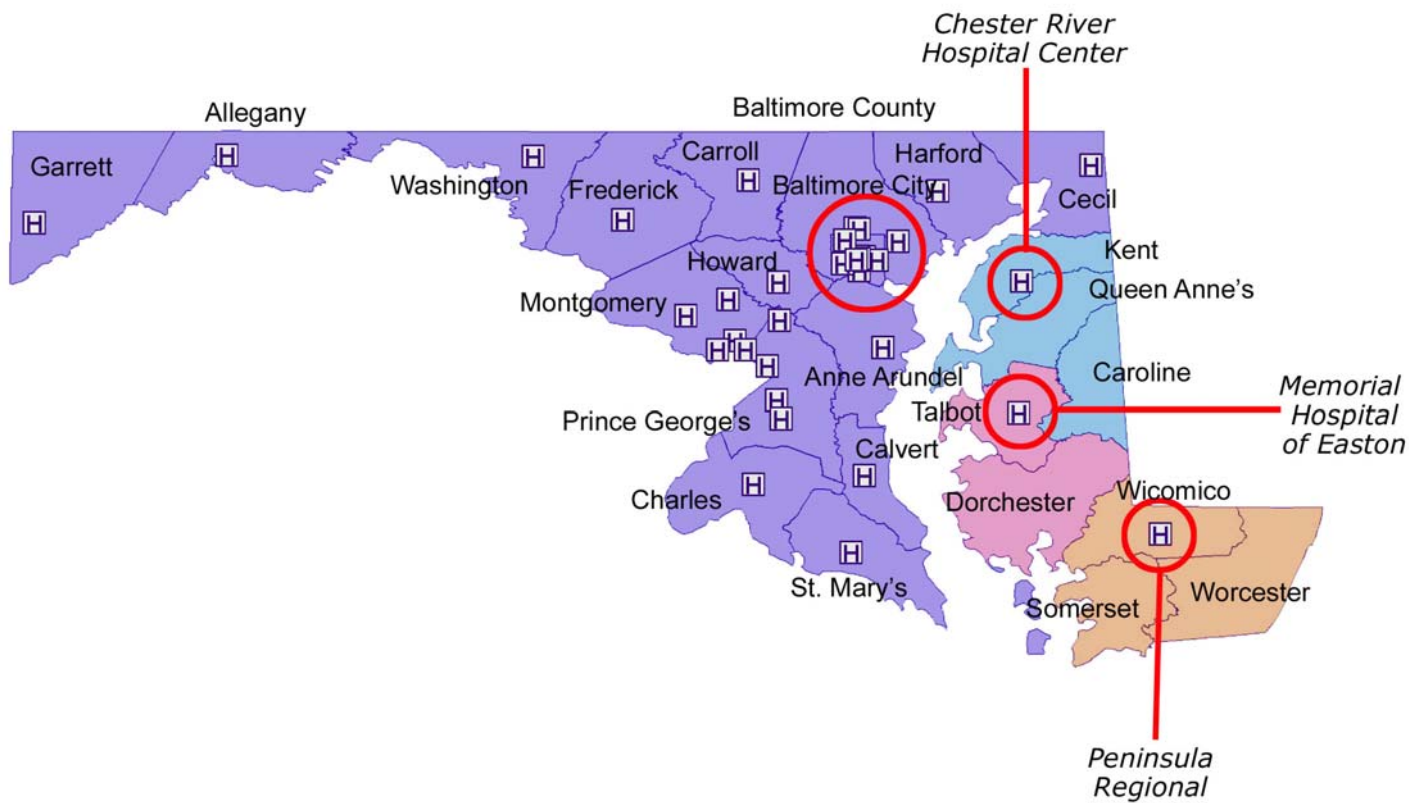
Anne Arundel Medical Center
Calvert Memorial Hospital
Carroll Hospital Center
Chester River Hospital Center
Civista Health
Franklin Square Hospital Center
Frederick Memorial Hospital
Garrett County Memorial Hospital
Greater Baltimore Med Center (GBMC)
Harbor Hospital Center
Holy Cross Hospital
Howard 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

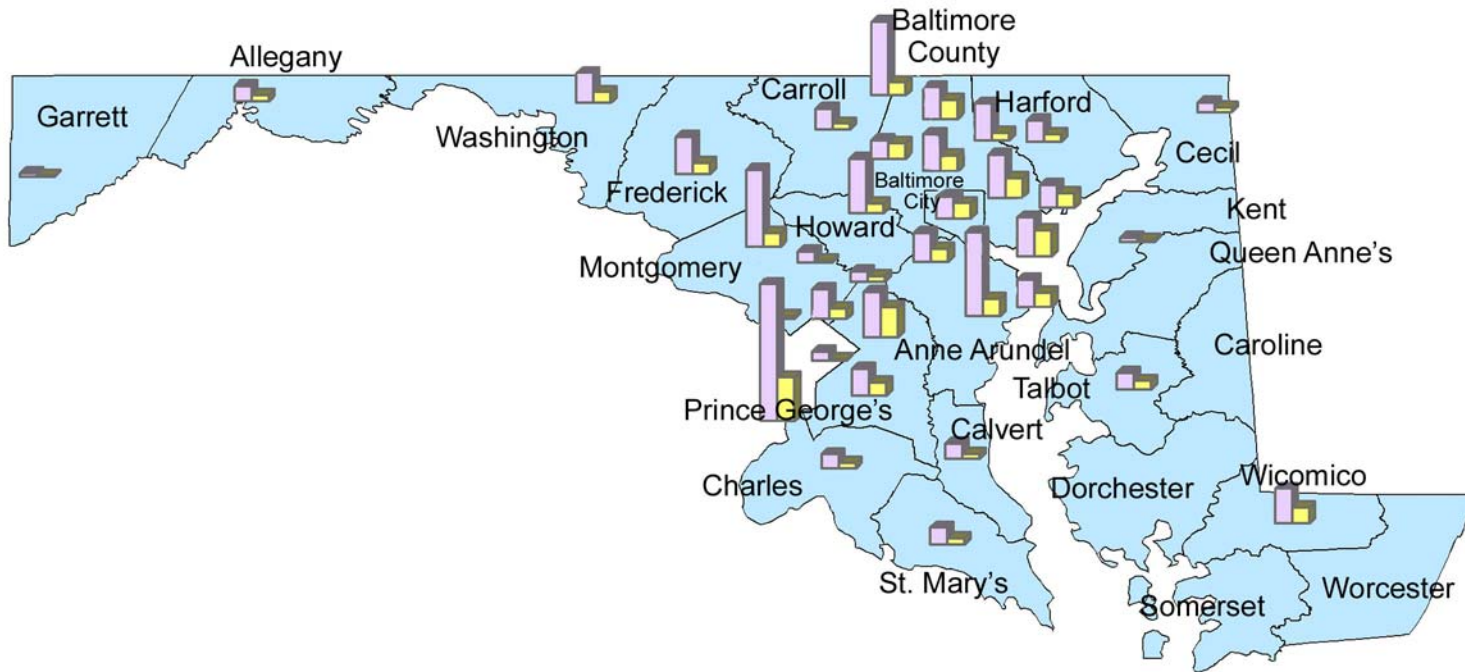
Saint Joseph Medical Center
Saint Mary's Hospital
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
Southern Maryland Hosp CTR
National Naval Medical Center
Union Hospital
University of Maryland Medical System
Upper Chesapeake Med Ctr
Washington Adventist Hospital
Washington County Hospital Assoc.



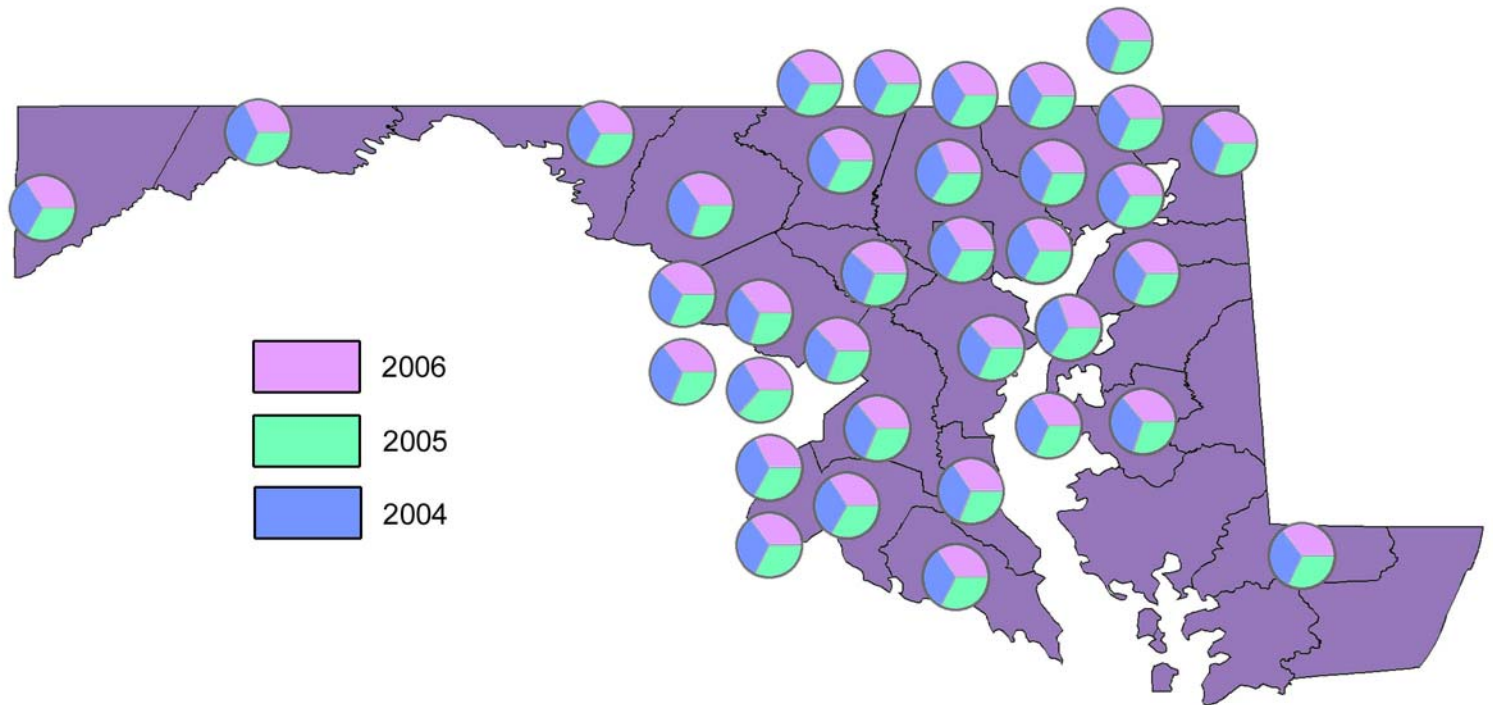
Birthing Hospitals in MD 2



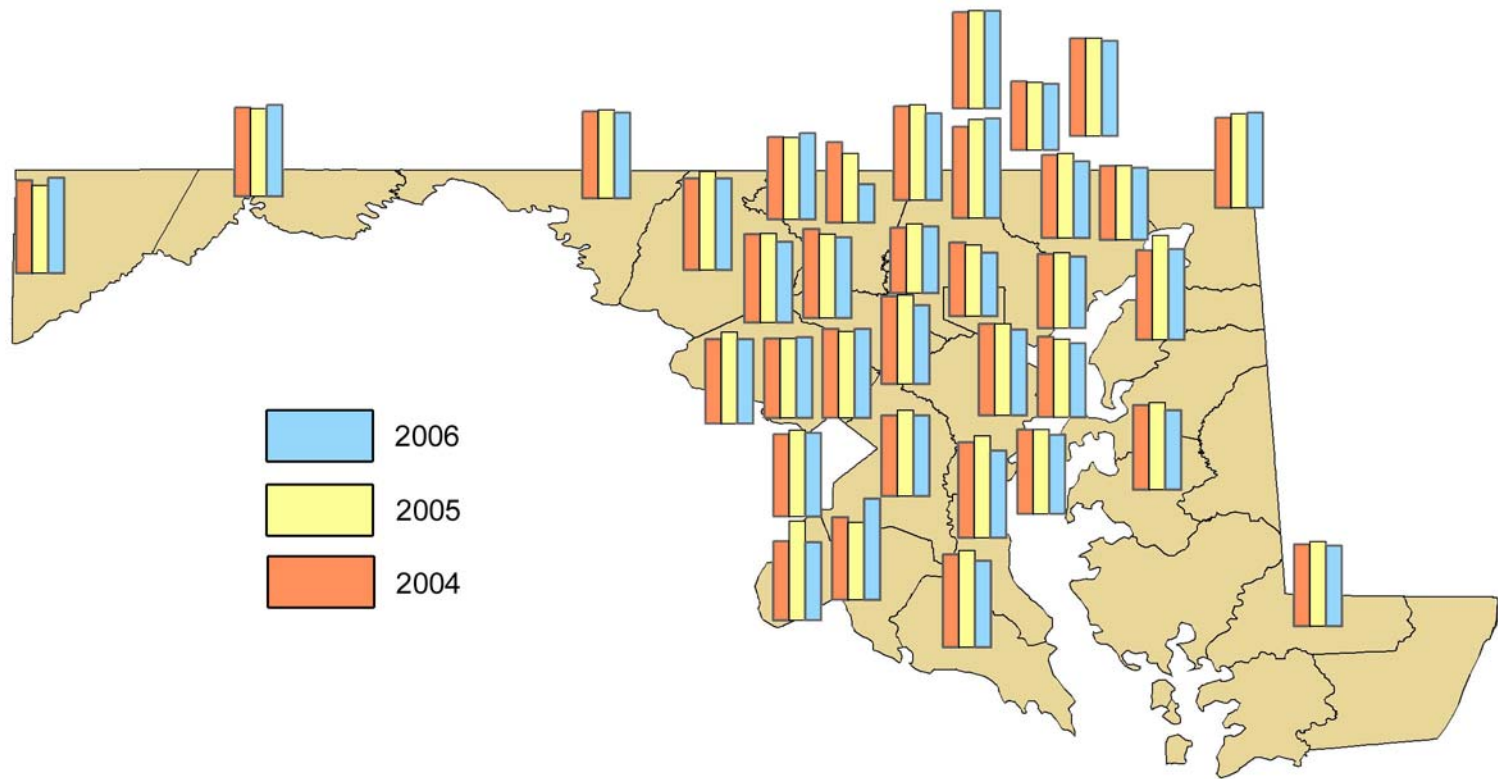
Total Births vs. Unmarried Births in 2005



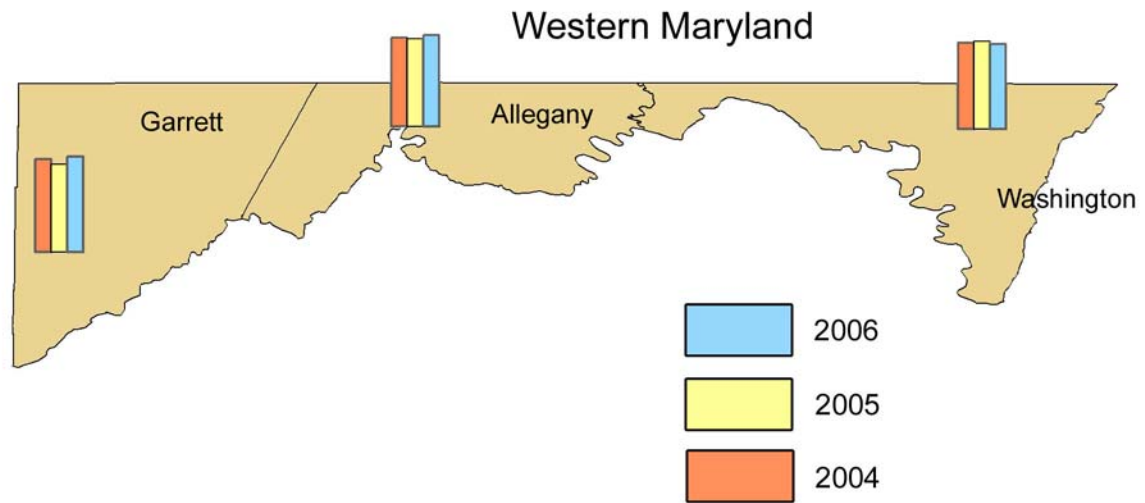
Non-Marital Birth Rate 2004 - 2006



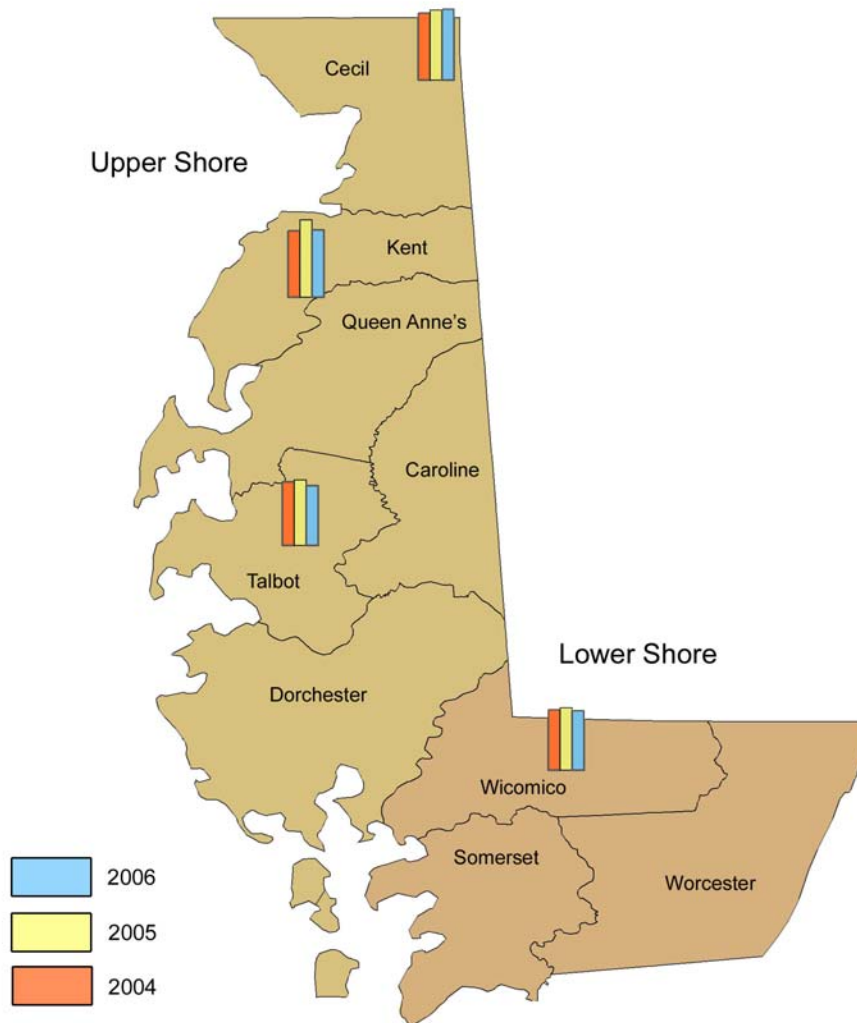
CSES Affidavit Rate 2004 - 2006



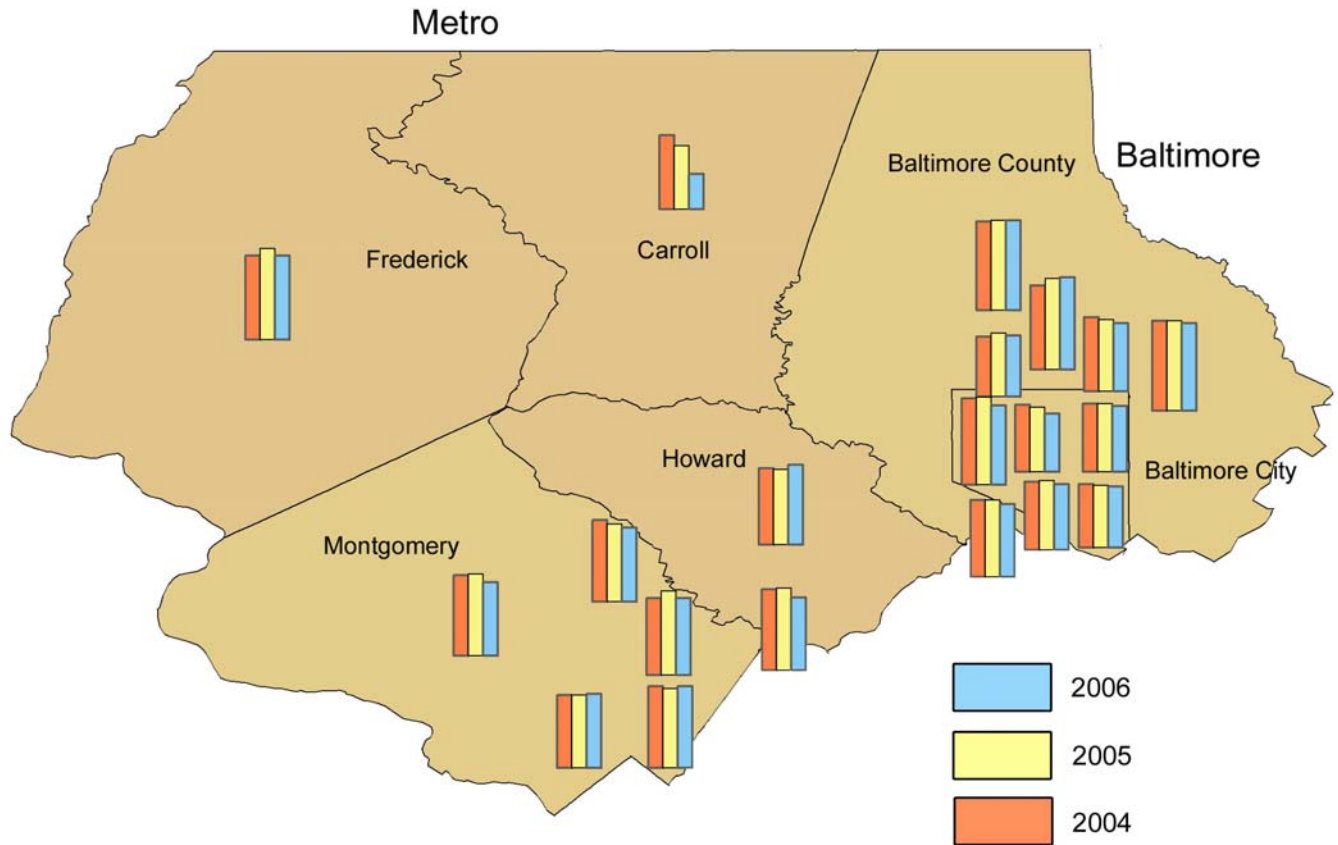
Affidavit Rate: Western Region



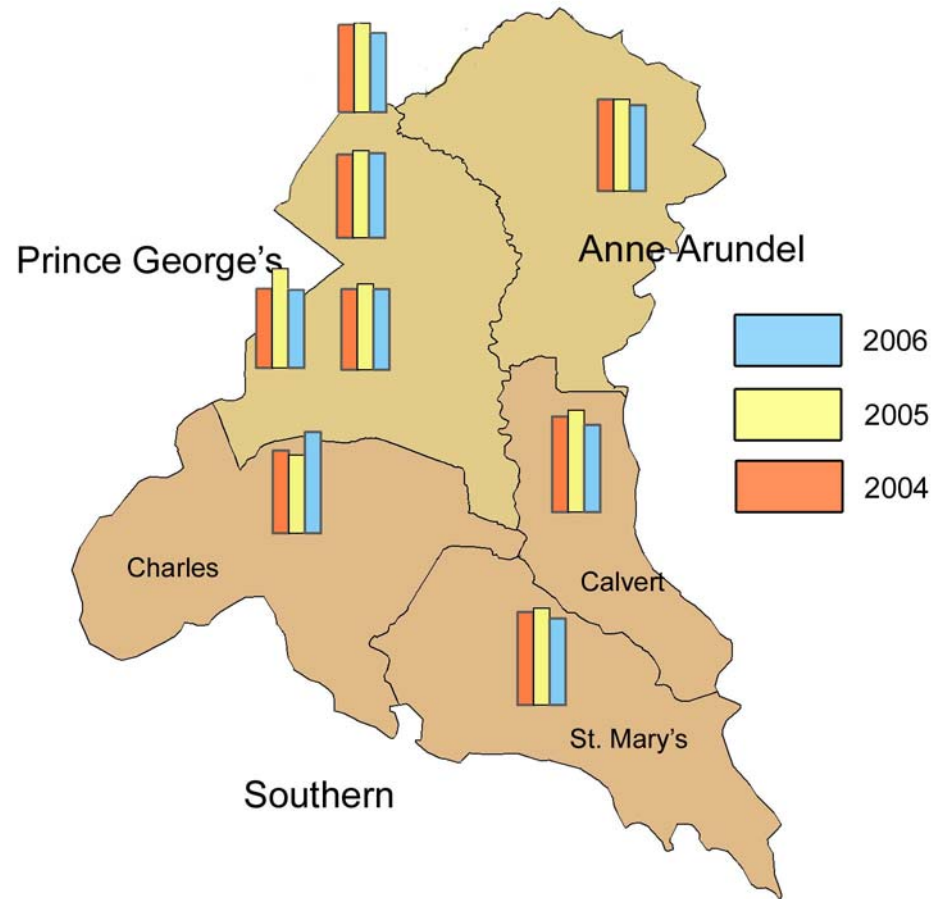
Affidavit Rate: Upper and Lower Shore



Affidavit Rate: Metro, Montgomery, & Baltimore



Affidavit Rate: Prince George's, Anne Arundel, & Southern





Audience Discussion

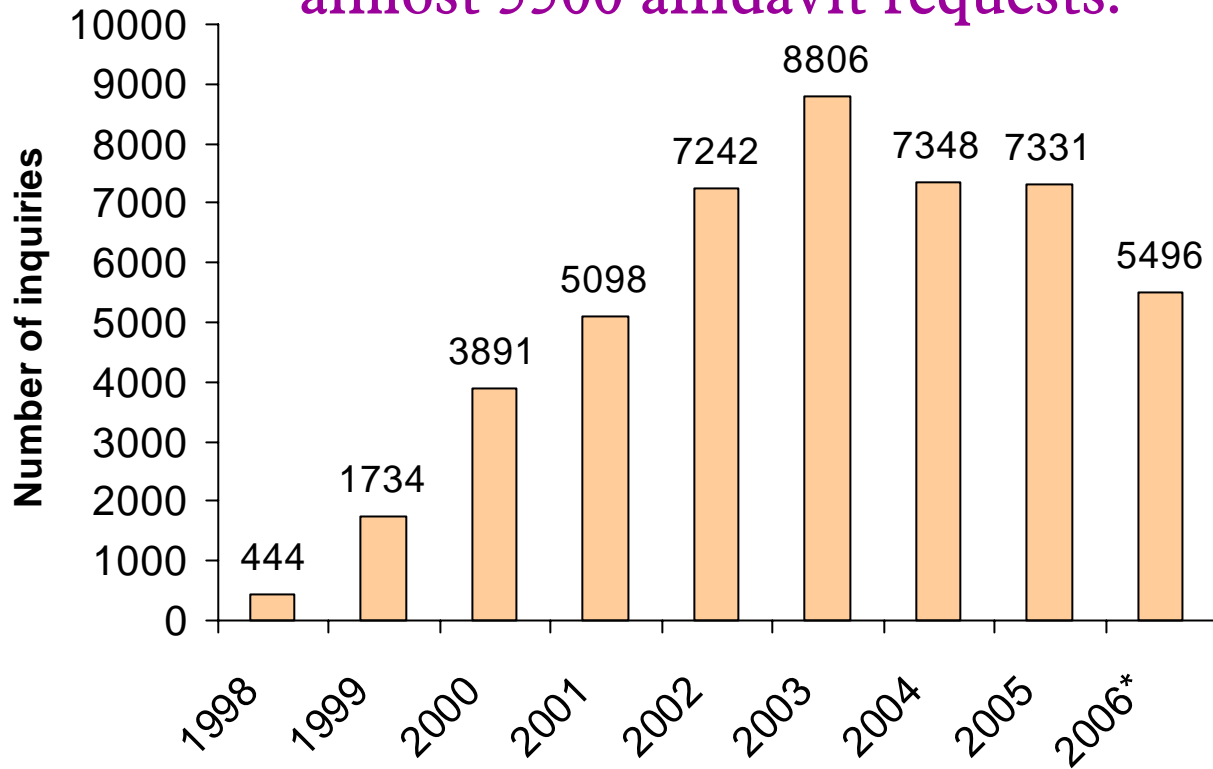
- ❖ How can you use affidavits in your daily work?
- ❖ What do you see as the main benefits?
- ❖ Any concerns or issues?



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.



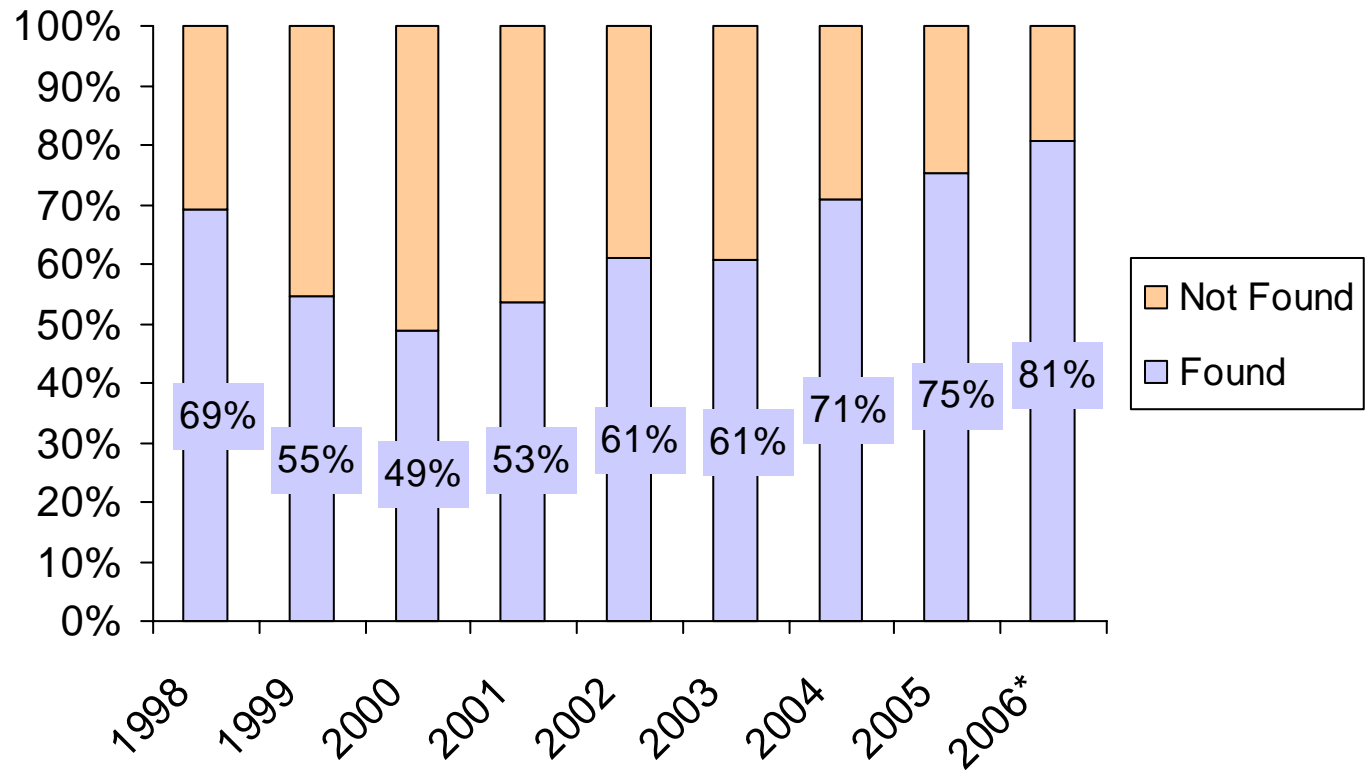
Source: Author calculations from SSW faxback database.

*Through September



SSW Fax Back Service

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

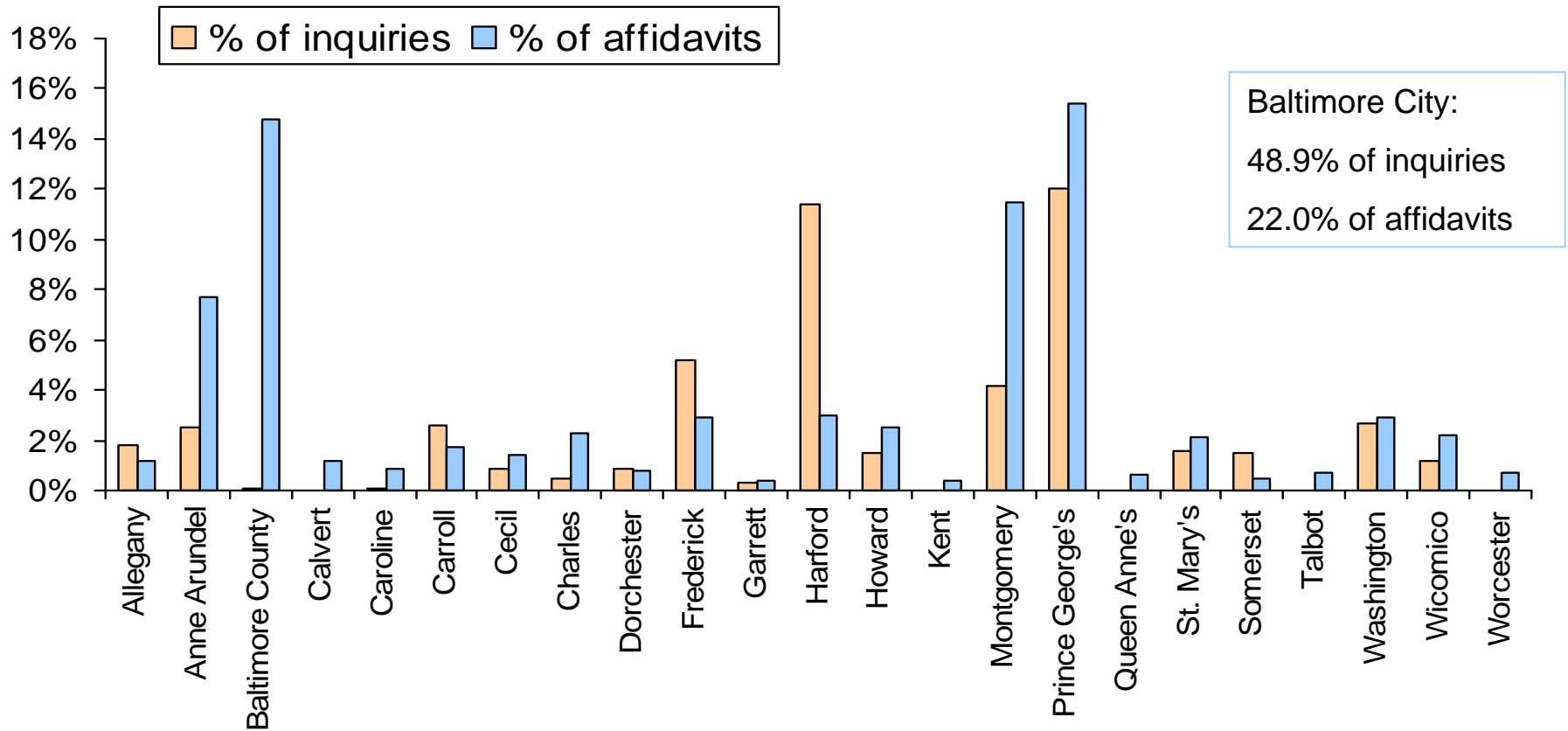


Source: Author calculations from SSW Fax Back database.

*Through September

SSW Fax Back Service

Jurisdictions vary in their use of the faxback service.





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!

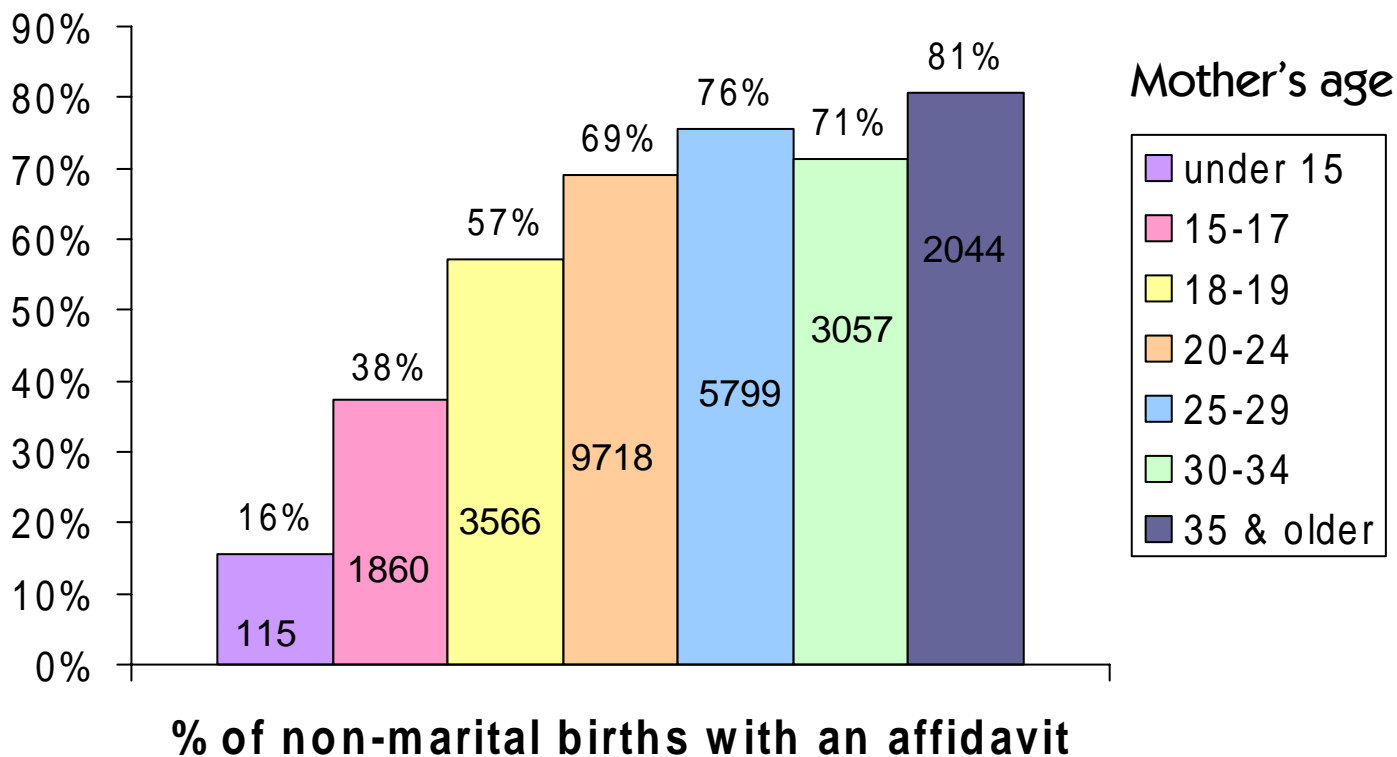
Who Signs Paternity Affidavits?

- ❖ 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.



Who Signs Paternity Affidavits?

Younger mothers are less likely to have a signed affidavit.

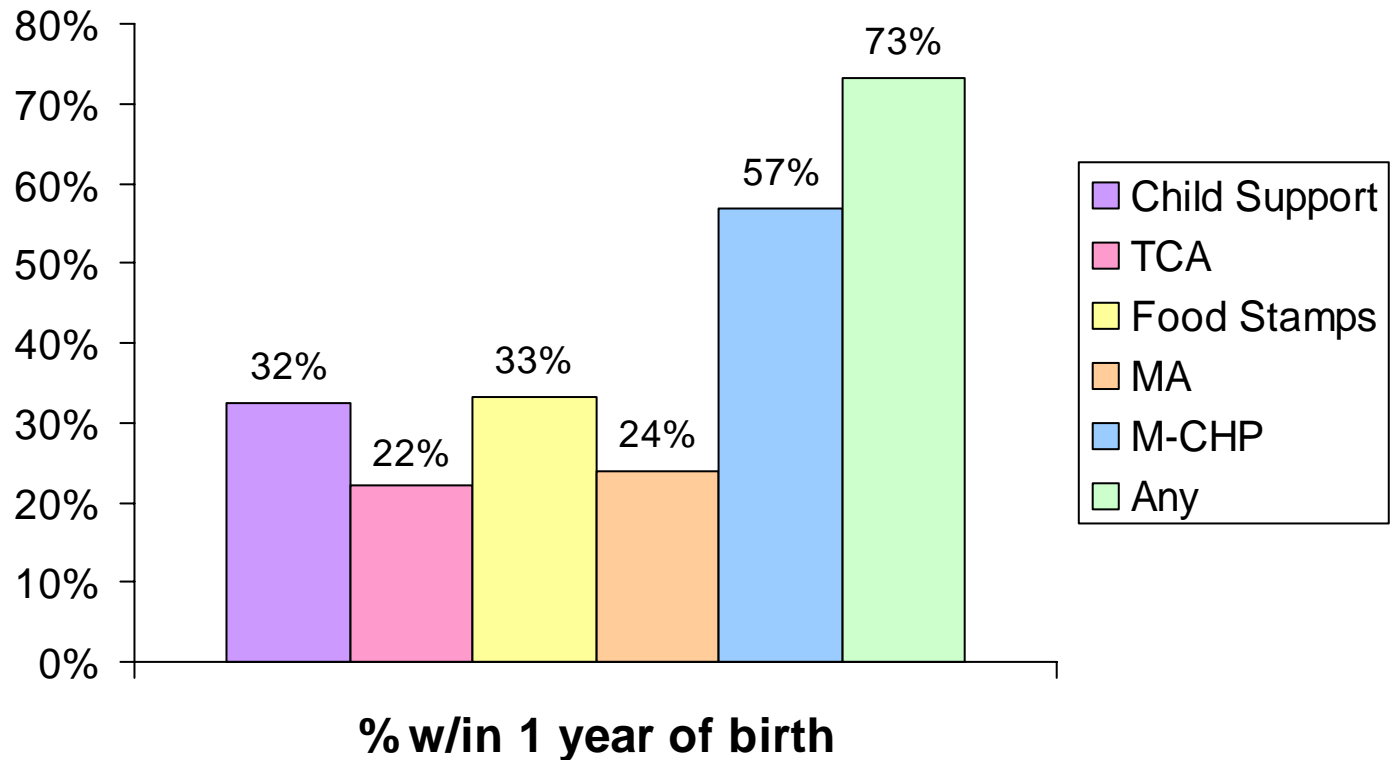


Source: Authors' calculations from DHMH extract data for births in CY 2005.



Do Affidavit Children Become IV-D Children?

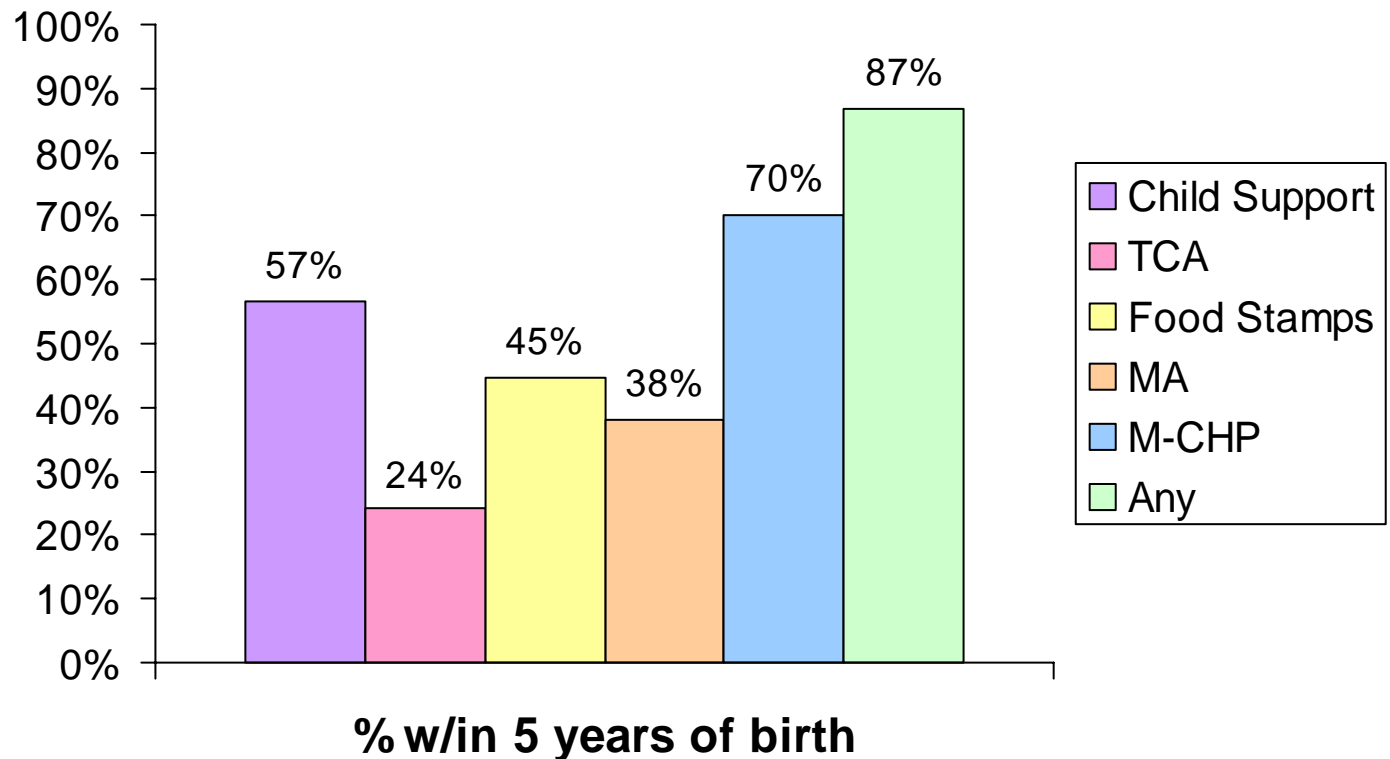
1 out of 3 affidavit children become IV-D children in their first year of life.



Source: Ovwigho, Born, & Srivastava (2002). *Maryland's Paternity Acknowledgement Program: Participant Entries into the Public Child Support & Welfare Programs.*

Do Affidavit Children Become IV-D Children?

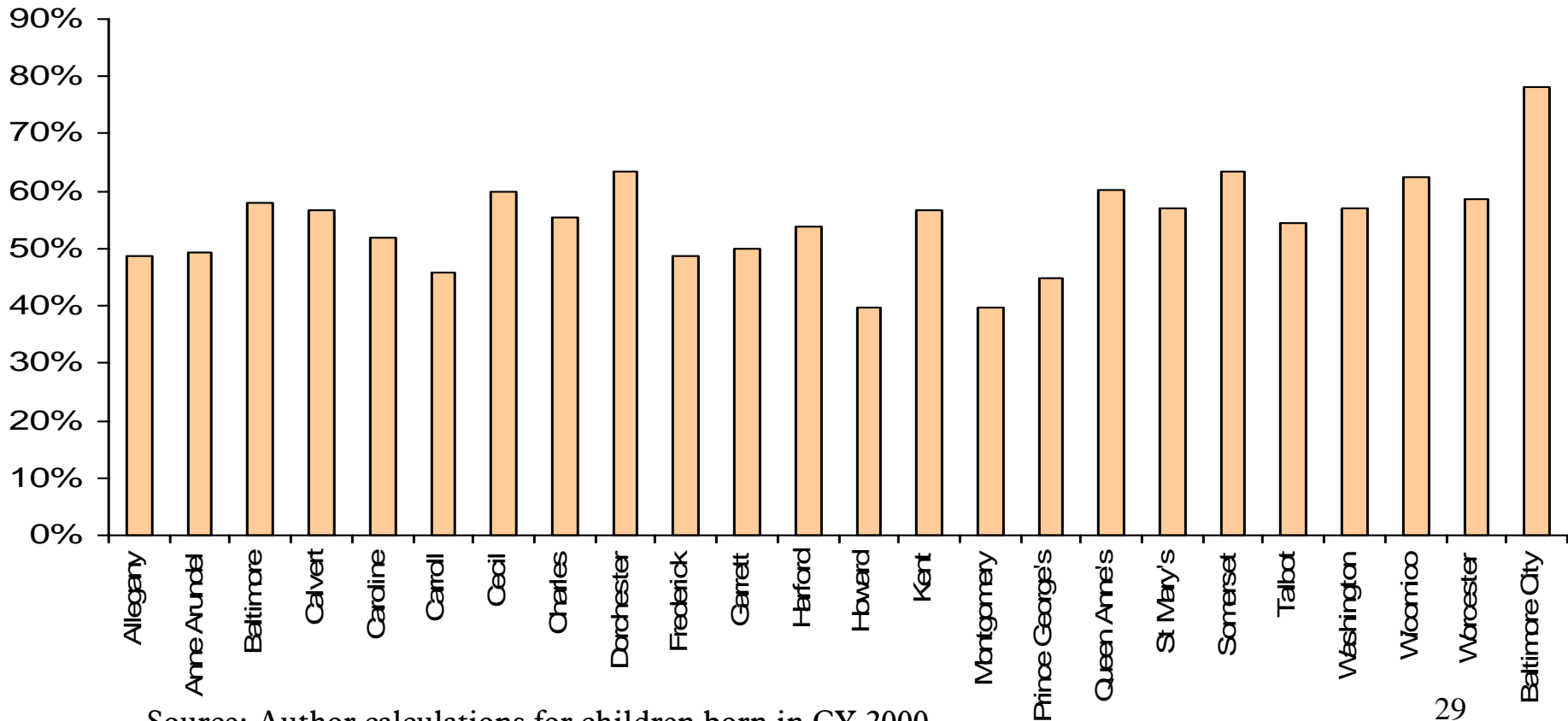
3 out of 5 affidavit children become IV-D children by their 5th birthday



Source: Ovwigo, Born, & Bouchet (2006). Do In-Hospital Paternity Programs Reach Future IV-D Clients? *Child Support Quarterly*.

Do Affidavit Children Become IV-D Children?

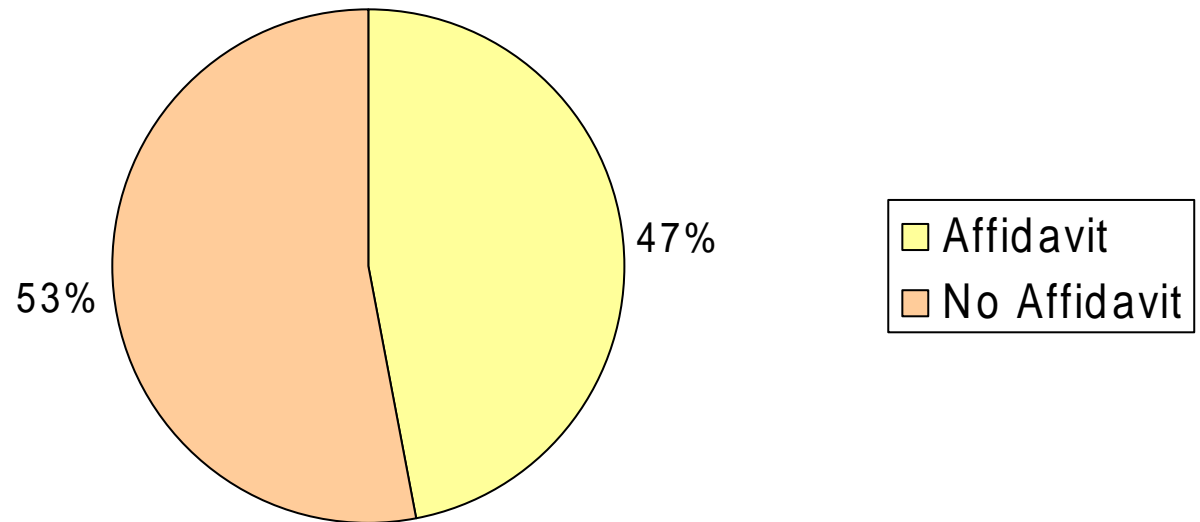
Local jurisdictions vary. In Baltimore City, 4 out of 5 affidavit children become IV-D children by their 5th birthday.



Source: Author calculations for children born in CY 2000.

Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

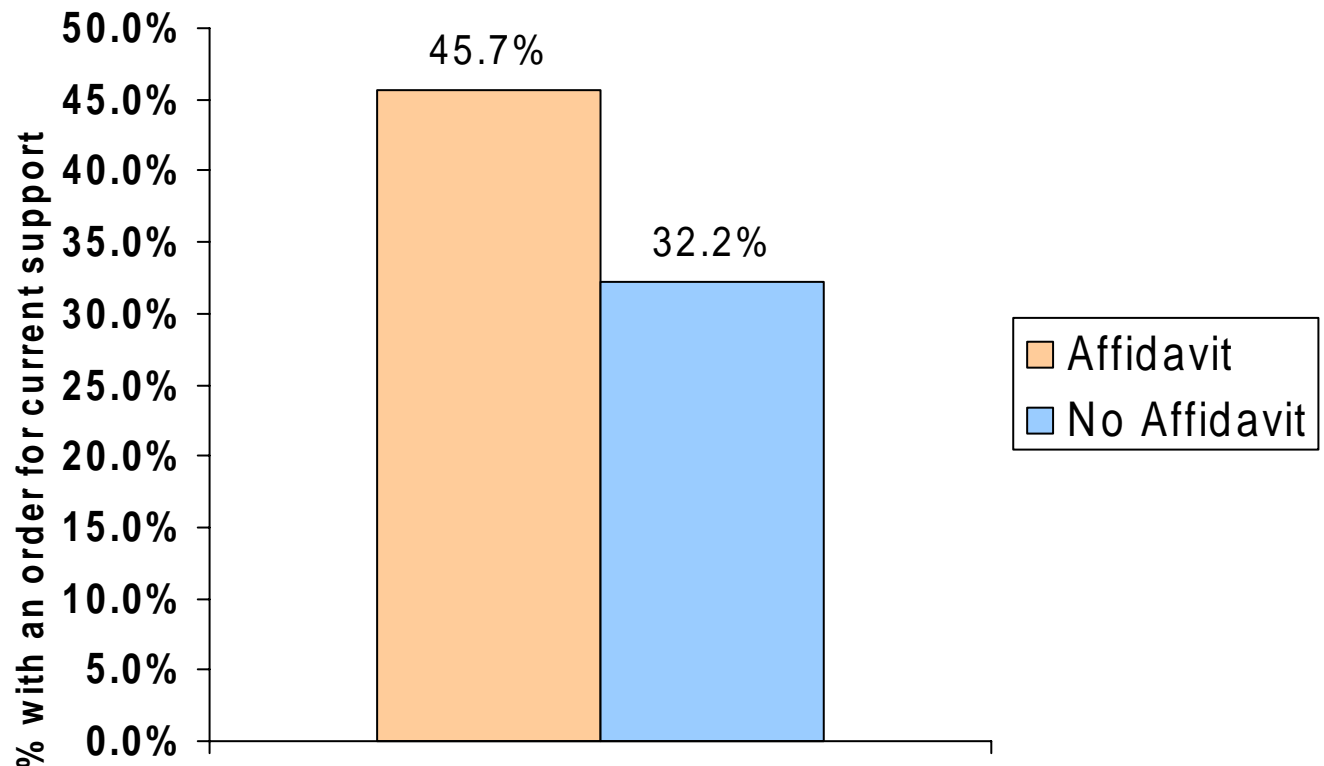
Of all children born out of wedlock in 2001 who became known to the child support system by their 1st birthday, about half had a paternity affidavit.



Source: Ovwigho, Head, & Born (forthcoming). *What difference does it make? Child support outcomes of paternity affidavits.*

Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

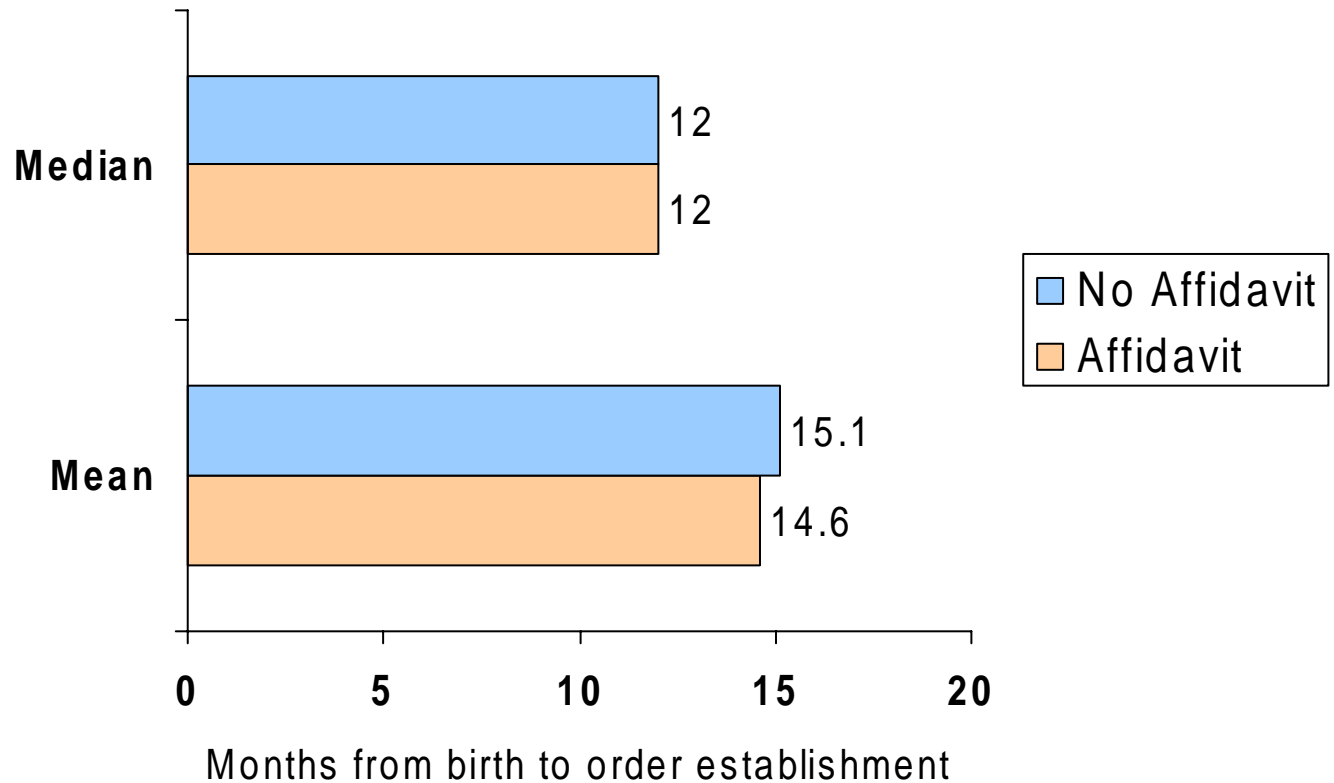
Children with an affidavit are more likely to have an order for current support established before their 4th birthday.



Source: Ovwigho, Head, & Born (forthcoming). *What difference does it make? Child support outcomes of paternity affidavits.*

Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

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

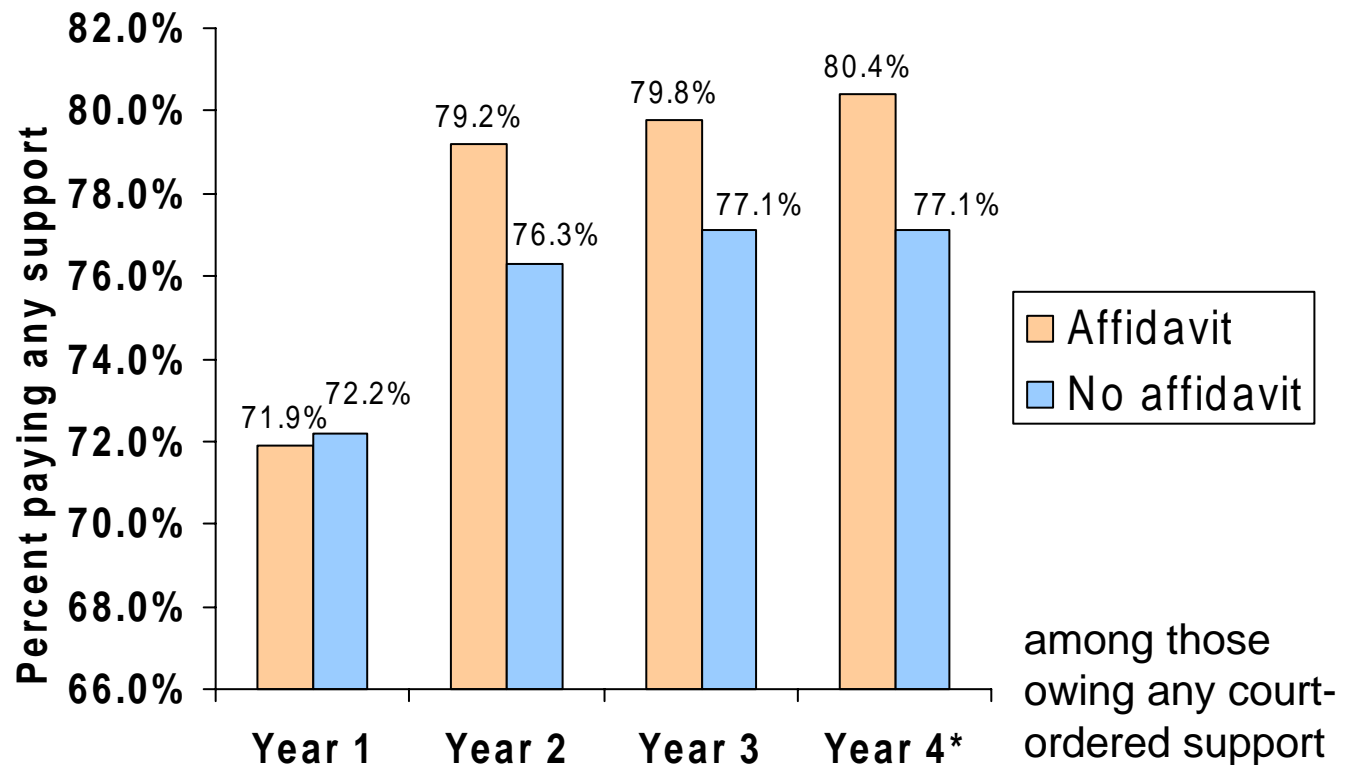


Source: Ovwigho, Head, & Born (forthcoming). *What difference does it make? Child support outcomes of paternity affidavits.*



Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

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

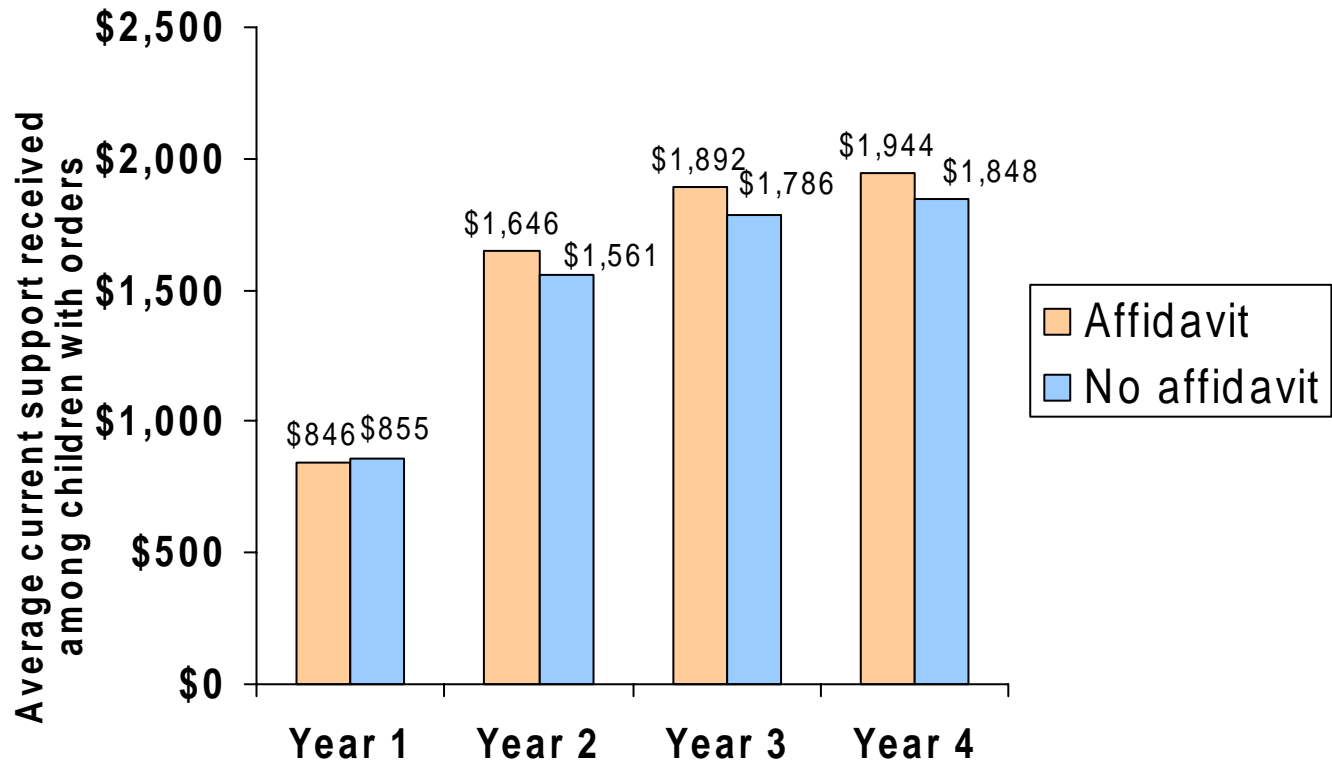


Source: Ovwigho, Head, & Born (forthcoming). *What difference does it make? Child support outcomes of paternity affidavits.*



Affidavits & Child Support Outcomes

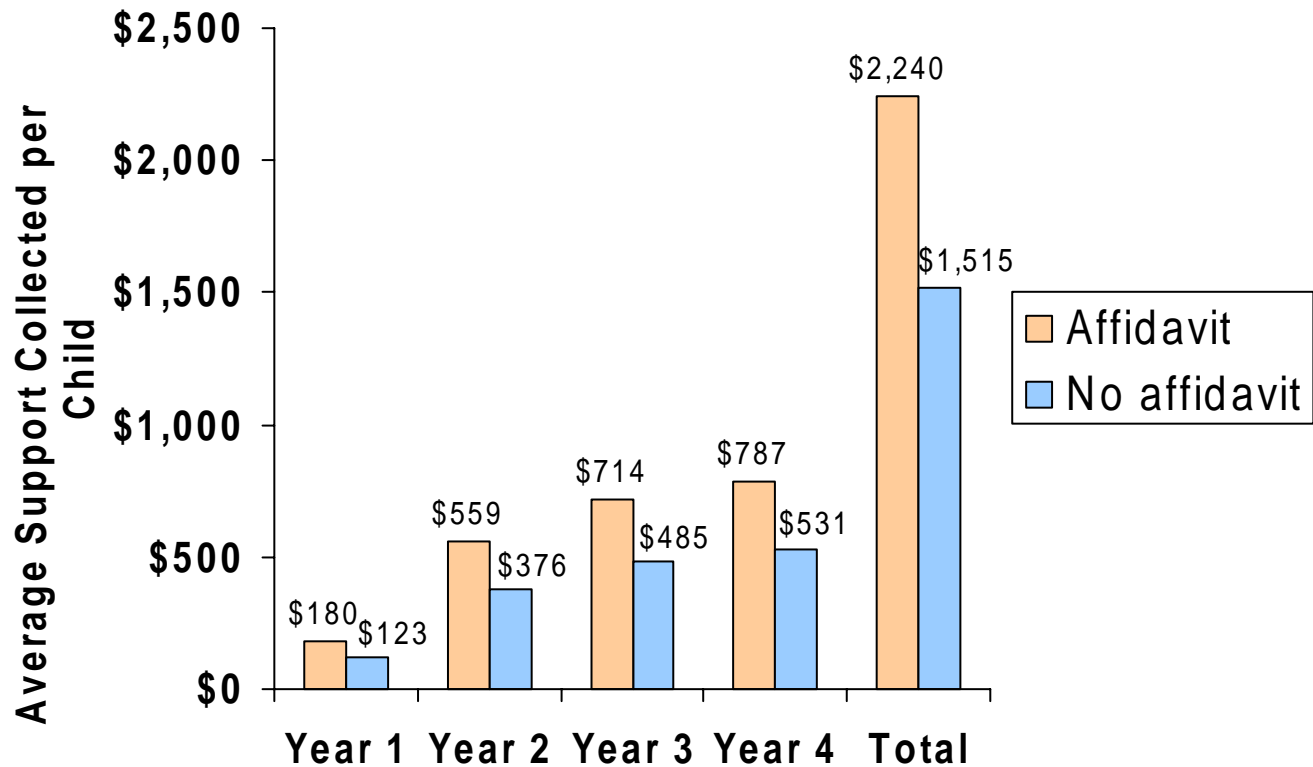
Among children with an order, those with an affidavit receive the same amount of child support than those without an affidavit.



Source: Ovwigo, Head, & Born (forthcoming). *What difference does it make? Child support outcomes of paternity affidavits.*

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.



Source: Ovwigho, Head, & Born (forthcoming). *What difference does it make? Child support outcomes of paternity affidavits.*

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

1.	False	9.	True
2.	True	10.	True
3.	False	11.	True
4.	False	12.	True
5.	True	13.	True
6.	False	14.	False
7.	False	15.	True
8.	True	And the winner is . . .	



Thank you!

**To read the full reports please
visit our Web site:**

www.familywelfare.umaryland.edu/publications/