

# California Dominates Child Support Enforcement (CSE)

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## Executive Summary

Of the 23 tables included in the US House Green Book in section 8 entitled "Child Support Enforcement (CSE)", 16 tables compare states regarding CSE statistics.

California leads the nation in 10 of the 16 tables and appears in the top 5 states in 13 of the tables.

California may have grounds to change these rankings after reviewing the data in Table 8-2 and Table 8-22

**Table 8-2 (CS guideline awards)** is completely erroneous showing Indiana leading the nation demanding \$899 / mo. (20% of the NCP's income) for 2 children with California appearing fourth in the nation demanding \$770 / mo. (18% of the NCP's income). The child support calculator provided on the Internet shows California leading the nation demanding \$1,750 / mo. (40% of the NCP's income) with Indiana not appearing in the top 5 states with \$1,194 / mo. (27% of NCP's income).

**Table 8-22 (% of CS paternities established)** is erroneous showing Maryland leading the nation in 1998 establishing 155% paternities. The percentages presented were calculated using **Table 8-20 (paternities established)** versus **Table 8-21 (out-of-wedlock births)**. The percentage of paternity establishment must be calculated from cumulative totals from prior years to eliminate children born from prior years having their paternity established in later years. Table 8-20 skips paternities established by states in 1988 and 1994 while Table 8-21 skips out-of-wedlock births reported by states in 1988 and 1992 which only allows a cumulative total of the last four consecutive years (1995 - 1998). The four-year cumulative percentage of paternity establishment shows Wyoming leading the nation with 110% paternity establishment (717 paternities over and above out-of-wedlock births). California ranks third with 105% (34,539 paternities over and above out-of-wedlock births). Clearly California would lead the nation if the number of paternities established over and above their reported out-of-wedlock births were considered. It should be pointed out that the paternity percentages reported by states determine the amount of federal incentive payments. The data suggests three possible explanations for states reporting numbers that exceed 100%:

- Establishment of paternities for children born in other states.
- Establishment of paternities for children born within a marriage but not from the husband.
- Establishment of paternities due to fraudulent or redundant enforcement orders.

**Table 8-4 (Financing of the Federal / State CSE program)** shows California leads the nation in 1998 spending \$515 million in child support enforcement administration costs.

**Table 8-10 (Profile of collections and expenditures)** shows California leading the nation in 1998 receiving \$84 million in federal incentive payments.

**Table 8-11 (Total CS collections)** shows California leading the nation in 1998 collecting \$1.37 billion in child support money.

**Table 8-12 (Total AFDC CS collections)** shows California leading the nation in 1998 collecting \$611 million of AFDC money

**Table 8-13 (Total non-AFDC CS collections)** shows Ohio leading the nation in 1998 collecting \$1.05 billion of non-AFDC money. California appears fourth collecting \$761 million

**Table 8-14 (Average of AFDC CS cases making a collection)** shows California leading the nation in 1998 averaging 303,129 AFDC cases.

**Table 8-15 (Average of non-AFDC CS cases making a collection)** shows the exact same numbers reported by the top 5 states in Table 8-14. The tables should represent opposing collections and not all states show the same numbers in both tables. Table 8-12 and Table 8-13 show a marked difference in money collected and may imply that the numbers reported by states are erroneous in Table 8-14 or Table 8-15.

**Table 8-16 (% of CS orders that include health insurance)** shows Hawaii leading the nation in 1998 establishing 100% of CS orders that include health insurance. California does not appear in the top 5 states establishing 76%.

**Table 8-17 (% of AFDC payments recovered)** shows Arkansas leading the nation in 1996 recovering 41% of AFDC money. California does not appear in the top 5 states recovering 11%.

**Table 8-18 (Federal income tax refund collections)** shows California leading the nation in 1998 intercepting \$152 million in tax refunds destined for noncustodial parents.

**Table 8-19 (CS collections per total administrative expenditures)** shows Michigan leading the nation in 1998 collecting \$7.2 for every administrative dollar. California does not appear in the top 5 states collecting \$2.7.

**Table 8-23 (Share of program savings)** shows California leading the nation in 1998 pocketing \$189 million in the administration of the child support enforcement program.

# California Dominates Child Support Enforcement (CSE)

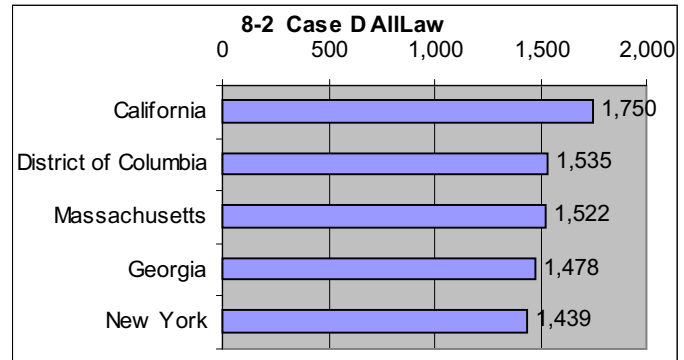
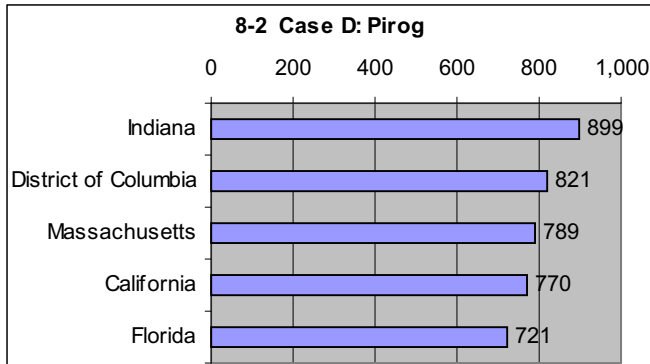
**Table 8-2 (Amount Of CS Awarded By State Guidelines In Various Cases)**

Data provided by Pirog, Klotz, and Byers was based on a hypothetical case D which specified a NCP earning \$4,400 / mo., the CP earning \$1,750 / mo., and 2 children and showed:

Indiana leading the nation in child support demanding \$899 / mo. (20% of NCP income) for child support.

Data provided by AllLaw.com using the same hypothetical case as above showed:

California leading the nation in child support demanding \$1,750 / mo. (40% of NCP income) for child support.



**Table 8-4 (Financing Of The Federal/State CS Enforcement Program, Fiscal Year 1998)**

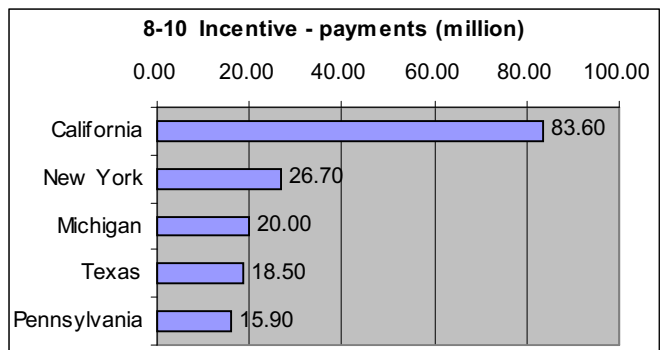
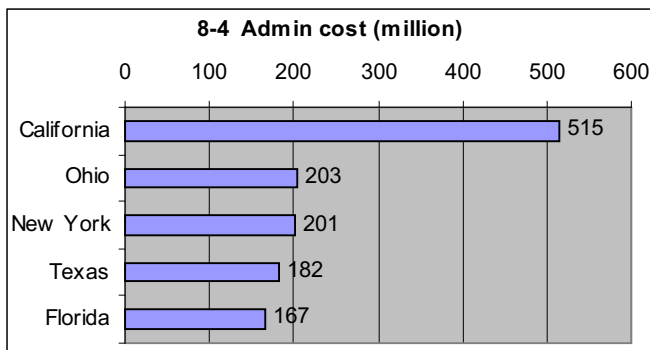
Data provided by Office of Child Support Enforcement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation in 1998 spending \$515 million in child support enforcement costs.

**Table 8-10 (State Profile Of Collections And Expenditures, Fiscal Year 1998)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation receiving \$83.6 million in CSE incentive money.



# California Dominates Child Support Enforcement (CSE)

**Table 8-11 (Total CS Collections By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1979-98)**

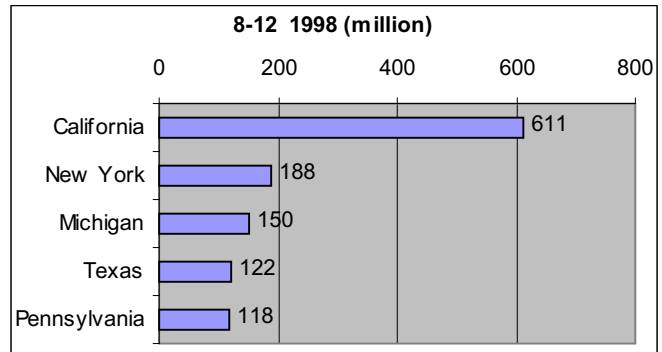
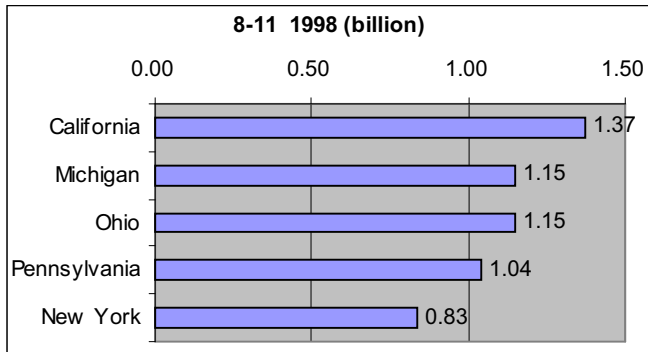
Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation in 1998 collecting \$1.37 billion in child support.

**Table 8-12 (Total AFDC Collections By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1979-98)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation in 1998 collecting \$611 million in AFDC money.



**Table 8-13 (Total Non-AFDC Collections By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1979-98)**

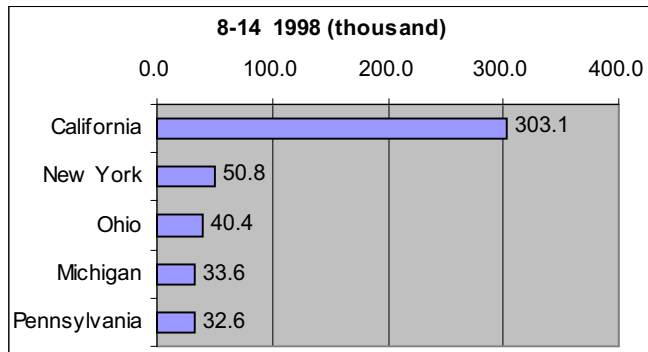
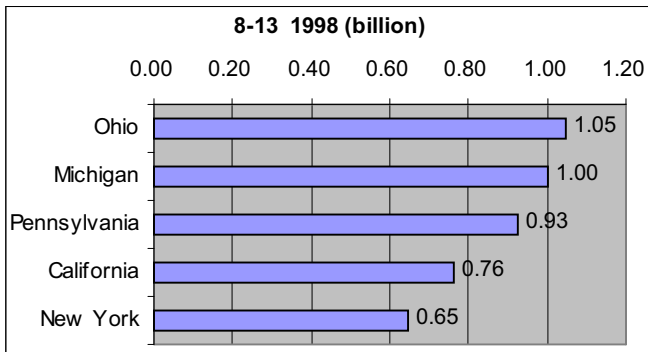
Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

Ohio leads the nation in 1998 collecting \$1.05 billion in non-AFDC money. California is fourth collecting \$760 million.

**Table 8-14 (Average Number Of AFDC CS Cases Collection Made, By State For Selected Fiscal Years 1978-98)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation in 1998 collecting an average \$303,100 in AFDC money



# California Dominates Child Support Enforcement (CSE)

**Table 8-15 (Average Number Of Non-AFDC CS Cases, Collection Made By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1978-98)**

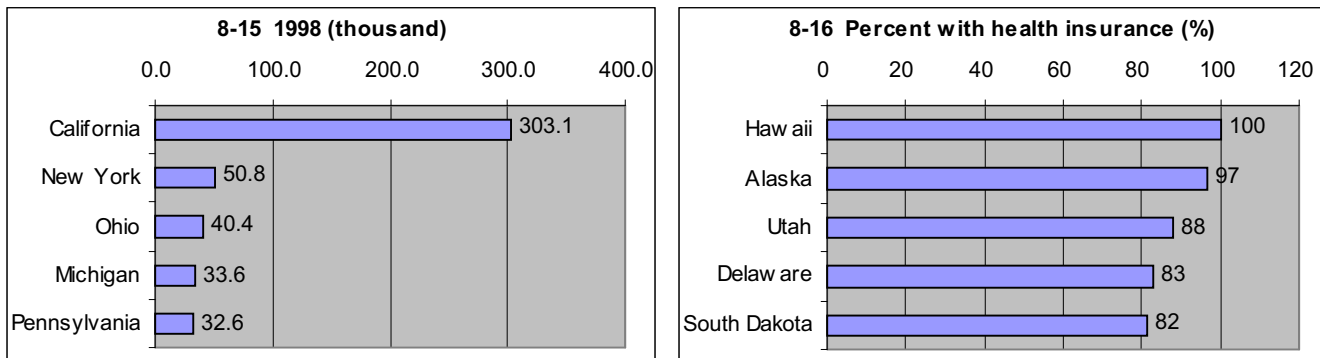
Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation in 1998 collecting an average \$303,100 in non-AFDC money. The top five states reported the exact same numbers in Table 8-14.

**Table 8-16 (CS Orders Established, Enforced, And Modified, Include Health Ins By State, Fiscal Year 1998)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

Hawaii leads the nation establishing 100% child support orders that included health insurance. California does not appear with 76%.



**Table 8-17 (Percentage Of AFDC Payments Recovered CS Collections By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1979-96)**

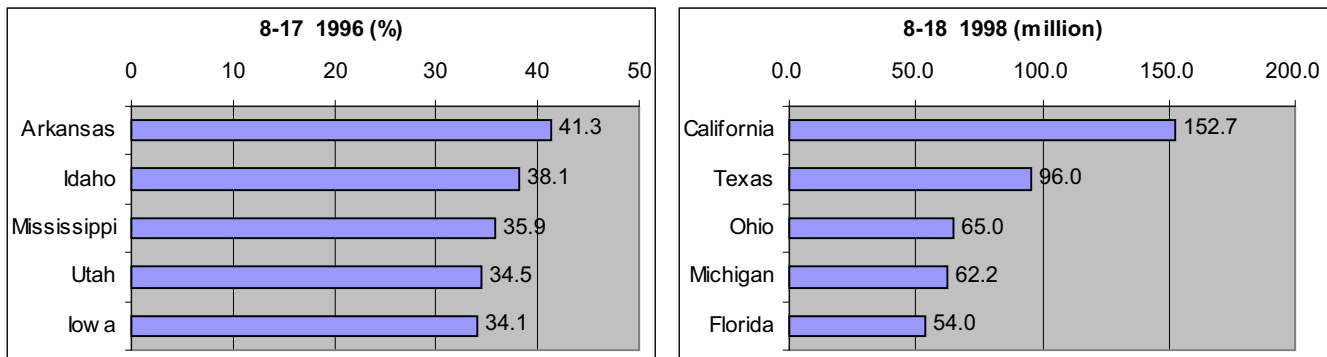
Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

Arkansas leads the nation recovering 41% of AFDC money through child support. California does not appear with 10.6%.

**Table 8-18 (Federal Income Tax Refund Offset Collections By State, Fiscal Years 1983-98)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation collecting \$153 million in income tax refund money from noncustodial parents.



# California Dominates Child Support Enforcement (CSE)

**Table 8-19 (Total CS Collections Per Dollar Of Total Adm. Expenditures By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1978-98)**

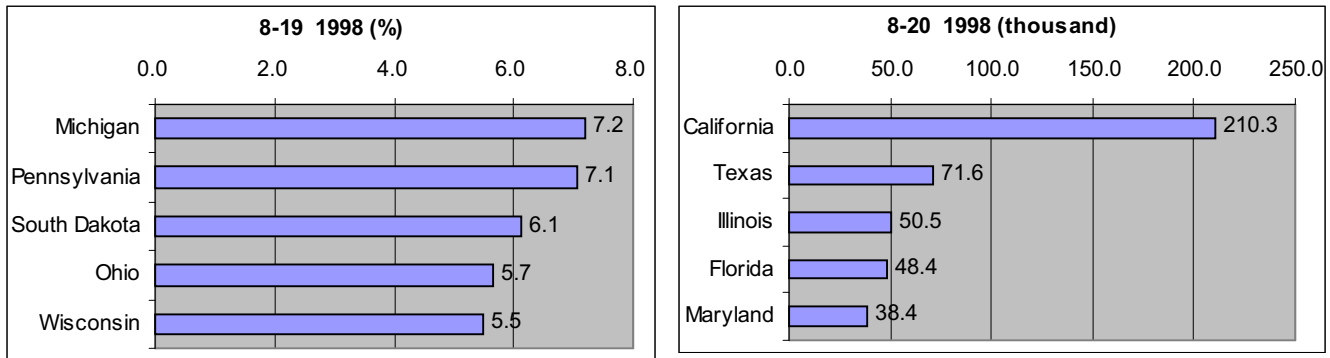
Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

Michigan leads the nation a ratio of 7.2 child support collections per dollar of administration costs. California does not appear with a ratio of 2.7.

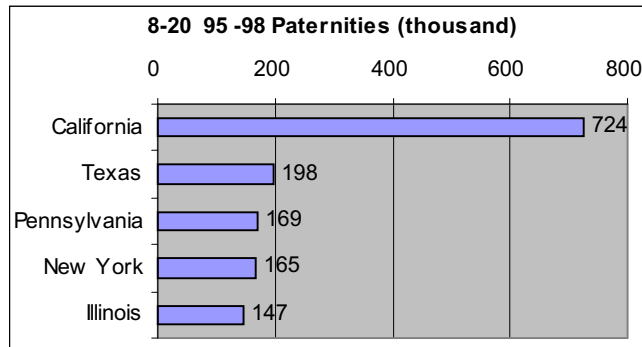
**Table 8-20 (Number Of Paternity's Established By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1979-98)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation in 1998 establishing 210,300 paternities.



California leads the nation in 1995 through 1998 establishing 724,000 paternities over the 4-year period. A cumulative 12-year total spanning 1987 through 1998 was not possible since Table 8-20 omitted years 1988 and 1994.

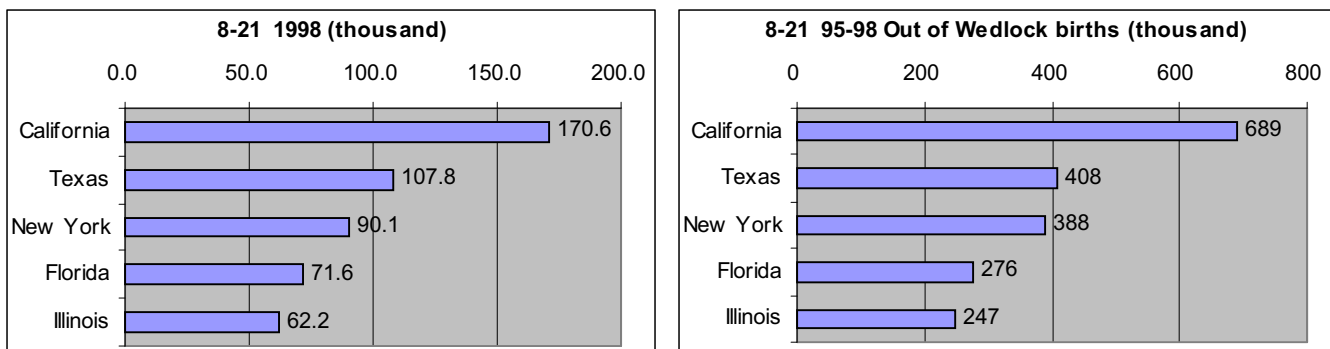


**Table 8-21 (Out-Of-Wedlock Births By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1987-98)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services, and National Center for Health Statistics

California leads the nation in 1998 reporting 170,600 out-of-wedlock births.

California leads the nation in 1995 through 1998 reporting 689,000 out-of-wedlock births over the 4-year period. A cumulative 12-year total spanning 1987 through 1998 was not possible since Table 8-21 omitted years 1988 and 1992.



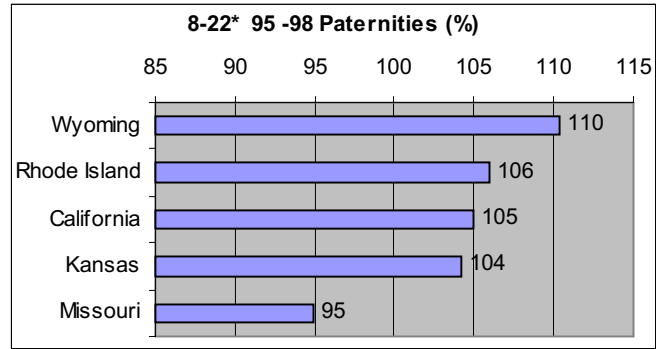
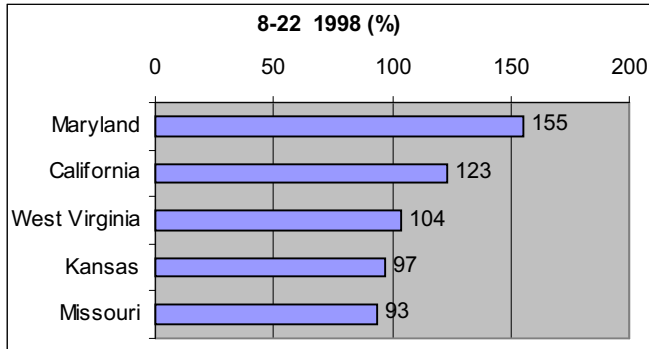
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**Table 8-22 (Percentage Of CS Paternity's Established By State, Selected Fiscal Years 1987-94)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services, and National Center for Health Statistics

Maryland leads the nation in 1998 establishing 155% paternities vs. out-of-wedlock births. California is second establishing 123%.

Wyoming leads the nation in 1995 through 1998 establishing 110% paternity vs. out-of-wedlock births over the 4-year period. California is third establishing 105%. A cumulative 12-year total spanning 1987 through 1998 was not possible since Table 8-20 omitted years 1988 and 1994 and Table 8-21 omitted years 1988 and 1992.

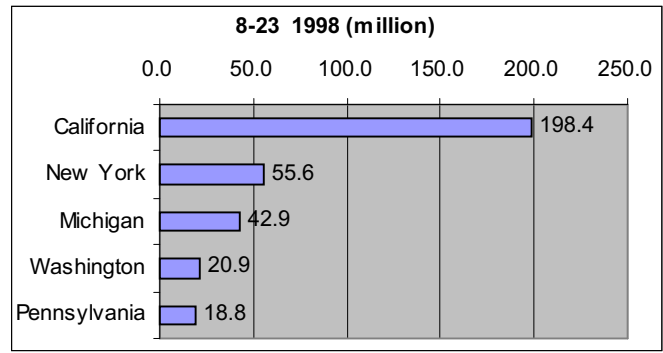
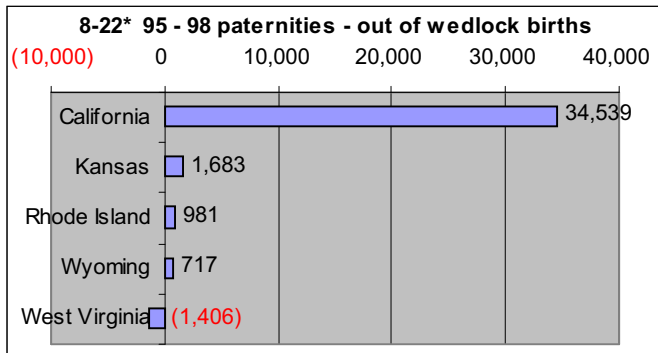


California leads the nation in 1995 through 1998 establishing 34,539 paternities over and above out-of-wedlock births over the 4-year period. A cumulative 12-year total spanning 1987 through 1998 was not possible since Table 8-20 omitted years 1988 and 1994 and Table 8-21 omitted years 1988 and 1992.

**Table 8-23 (State Share Of Program Savings By State, Fiscal Years 1989-98)**

Office of Child Support Enforcement, US Department of Health and Human Services shows:

California leads the nation in 1998 pocketing a \$198 million profit in the administration of child support enforcement.



The tables not included in this analysis do not compare states and include:

Table 8-1 (Summary Of National CS Program Statistics, Selected Fiscal Years 1978-98)

Table 8-3 (CS Collections Made By Various Enforcement Techniques, Selected Fiscal Years 1989-98)

Table 8-5 (Federal And State Share Of CS ``Savings," Fiscal Years 1979-98)

Table 8-6 (CS Payments Awarded And Received By Women With Children, By Selected Characteristics, 1997)

Table 8-7 (CS Payments For All Women, Above And Below The Poverty Level, Selected Years 1978-97)

Table 8-8 (CS Award Status And Inclusion Of Health Insurance, By Selected Characteristics Of Women, 1997)

Table 8-9 (Comparison Of Measures Of IV-D Effectiveness With Census CS Data, 1978-95)

Table 8-24 (States Using Income Shares And Percentage Of Income Approaches To Establish CS Guidelines)