

*Strong States, Strong Nation*



# Child Support and Domestic Violence

 NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

Thursday, November 30, 2017  
Family Violence Virtual Roundtable

# About NCSL



- Bipartisan organization serving legislators and staff in all 50 states and territories
  - Improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures
  - Provide state legislatures a strong, cohesive voice at the federal level
  - Promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures

# Statistics



- 1-in-4 women and 1-in-7 men will experience DV in their lifetime
- More than 90% of women who have experienced DV would pursue child support if they could do so safely
- Child and Family Research Partnership, at the University of Texas
  - **37 percent** of surveyed custodial parents with formal child support orders, reported experiencing domestic violence from their child's other parent at least once by the time their child was 3 years old
  - **43 percent** of mothers who did not have a formal child support order, and who were not receiving any formal or informal child support, reported experiencing domestic violence by the child's father.
- More than 1/2 of families in child support caseload are currently receiving or have previously received cash assistance.

## Sources:

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocse/family\\_violence\\_collaboration.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocse/family_violence_collaboration.pdf)

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/2016\\_preliminary\\_report.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/programs/css/2016_preliminary_report.pdf)

[https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS\\_Report2010-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf)

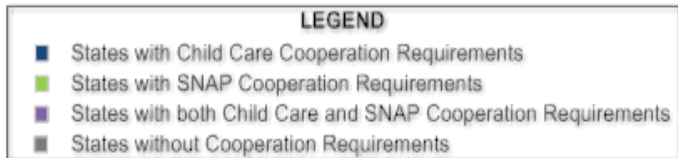
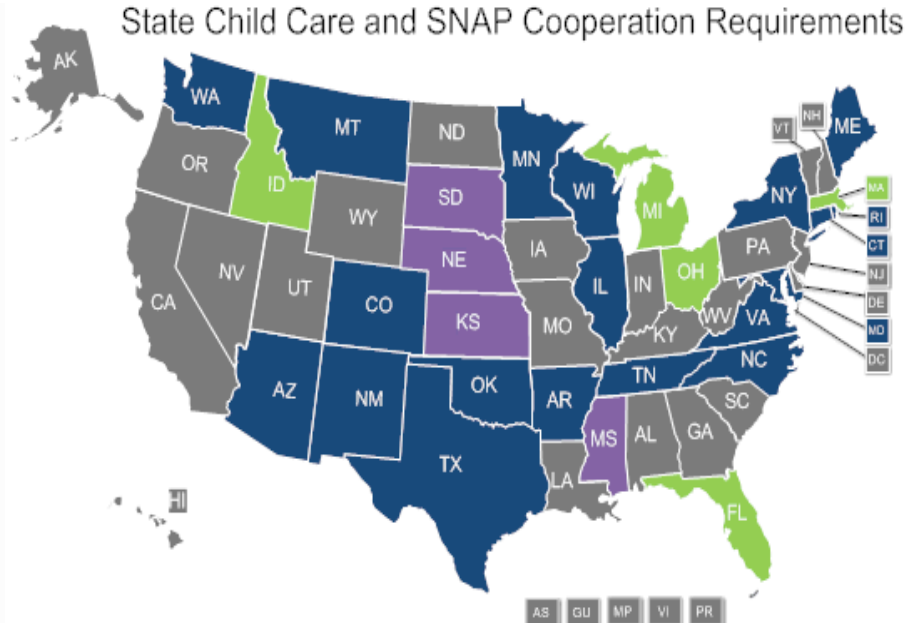
# Cooperation Requirements



Child Care: 23 States  
SNAP: 9 States

In 2017: legislation in  
12 states (AL, AK, AR,  
IN, MS, NH, NC, SC,  
SD, WA, WV, WI).

13 states have child  
care requirements in  
regulation.



# Good Cause Exemption

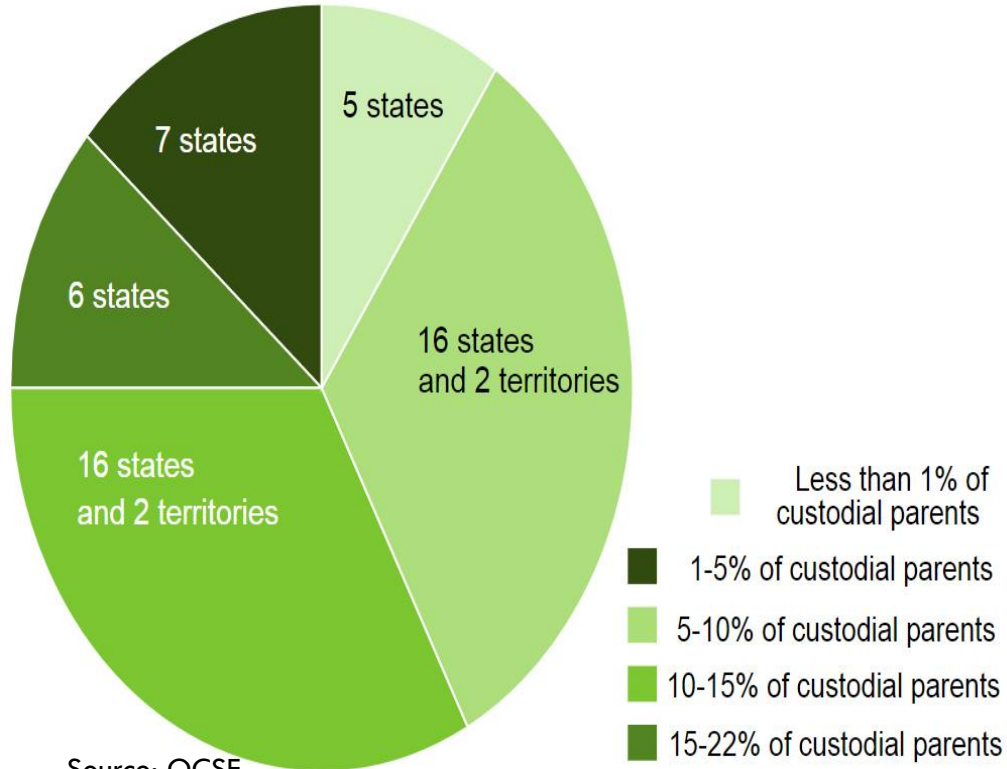


- ❑ Federal requirement under PRWORA and states have enacted statutes or adopted regulations to define and apply.
- ❑ Data from 2015 shows that 33 states reported less than 1 percent of their TANF caseload with a domestic violence waiver.
- ❑ Only a handful of states reported more than 2 percent of recipients being granted a domestic violence waiver.

# Family Violence Indicators



Low of .3% to a high of 22.4% of custodial parents with a family violence indicator flag attached to their child support case.



Source: OCSE

# Collaborations



- ❑ Child Support Programs
- ❑ Safe Court Access
- ❑ Domestic Violence Task Forces/Commissions/Councils
- ❑ Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews

# Child Support Programs



- ❑ Partnerships with local domestic violence programs
- ❑ Training of child support staff
- ❑ E.g., Texas' Get Child Support Safely



# Safe Court Access



- ❑ Modified court procedures
- ❑ Training for court and child support staff
  - ▣ Benchcards/Benchbooks
- ❑ Extra security at the court house
- ❑ Telephonic hearings and testimony

# Domestic Violence Task Forces/Commissions/Councils

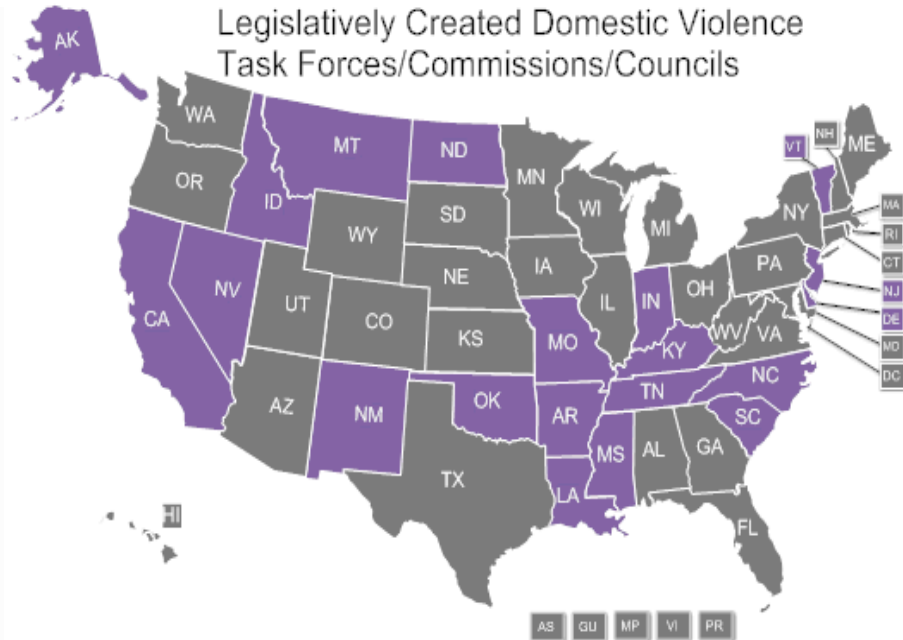


Every state has a Domestic Violence Coalition

20 States have Legislatively Created

No child support program representation

Exception: South Carolina in 2015



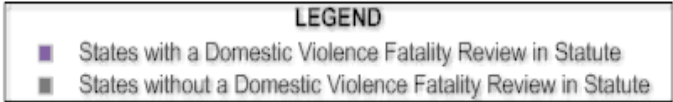
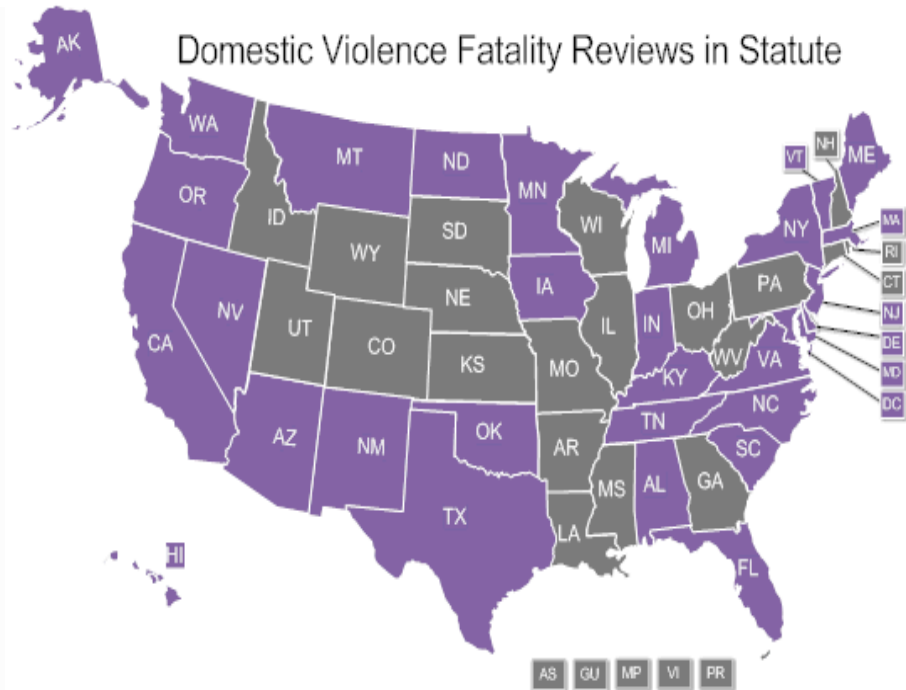
# Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews



30 States and D.C. have a DV Fatality Review process

No child support program representative in statutory membership

DV Coalition may serve same function



# Resources



- ❑ [Child Support and Family Law Legislation Database](#)
- ❑ [Child Support Homepage](#)
- ❑ [Child Support and Domestic Violence](#)
- ❑ **Coming Soon! “How to Talk to State Legislatures: A Guide for Child Support Professionals”**

# Questions?



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