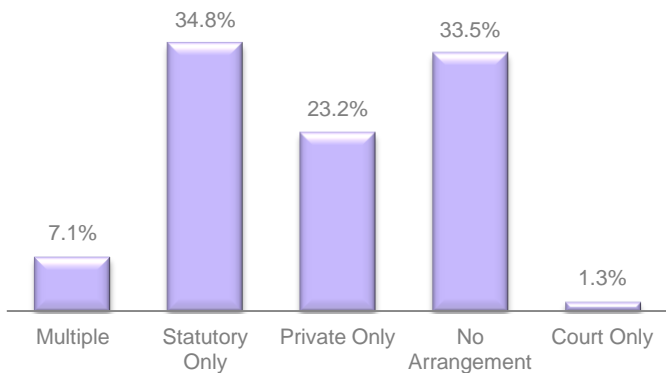
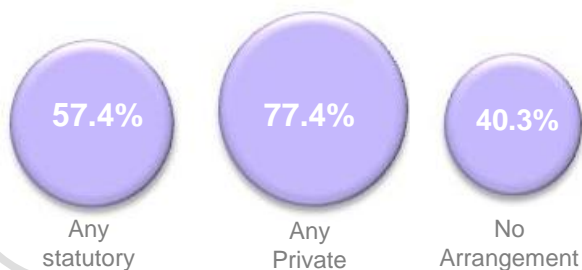


Child Maintenance Service Child Maintenance Population Survey Results - 2016

Arrangement Types



Parents with Care who agree their arrangement is working well



Knowledge of CMS



43.8% know how much they should receive if CMS calculated the maintenance amount

78.3% feel they have at least a little knowledge of the services provided by CMS



48.8% were aware that CMS had introduced charges to collect and enforce maintenance

51.3% are paying or would be willing to pay to use CMS to collect and enforce maintenance



Feelings on Child Maintenance situation



68.5% are happy with the child maintenance situation as it is

32.2% feel angry when they think about the child maintenance situation



69.4% do not feel worried when they think about the child maintenance situation

34.0% can talk to the non resident parent about child maintenance without getting upset



Child and Non Resident Parent Contact

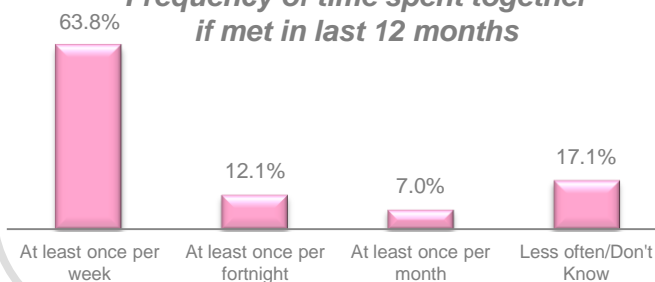


16.4% advised contact between child and non resident parent was covered by a court decision

58.5% of children who meet at least weekly with non resident parent stay over night at least one night per week



Frequency of time spent together if met in last 12 months



Notes:

In 2016 the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) commissioned a survey of the child maintenance population in Northern Ireland to establish the level of knowledge regarding the services CMS provides and to understand the factors that impact individual and family decisions with regard to child maintenance arrangements.

The person/parent who has legal responsibility of the child and who child benefit is paid to, is known as the Parent with Care (PWC) on the CMS system. Throughout this bulletin the parent who has legal responsibility of the child (regardless of the type of arrangement they have) is termed as the PWC. The person/parent who does not normally live with the child and who does not receive child benefit will be termed as the Non Resident Parent (NRP), regardless of the type of arrangement. In this survey only the PWC was contacted. Child maintenance is paid to the PWC. Consequently, NRPs were not contacted in this survey because they do not receive child maintenance. NRPs' views and attitudes were however collected in the CMS Customer Satisfaction Survey 2016 and CMS Choices Survey 2016, and will be included in a follow-up report to cover the 30 month review of the new CMS2012 scheme.

In June 2014, the Child Maintenance Service introduced collection and enforcement fees for the statutory maintenance scheme which was launched in December 2012. It also marked the first steps by CMS to close down the 1993 and 2003 statutory schemes. An additional 20% fee is charged to the NRP on top of their maintenance assessment and the PWC receives 4% less than the paid amount (for cases which are not Direct Pay). These charges have been introduced to try to encourage parents to consider their child maintenance options, where this is possible, before applying to the Child Maintenance Service to set up an arrangement.

Categories in the Survey

The main categories in the survey refer to the types of arrangement – statutory arrangement, court order, private arrangement, multiple arrangements and no arrangement.

Statutory arrangement – Either the NRP or PWC has applied to CMS to process their case and to calculate the amount which should be paid. The statutory service can collect and enforce payments on behalf of parents.

Court order – An order has been issued from the court for the NRP to pay maintenance.

Private arrangement – The PWC and the NRP have a maintenance arrangement in place that has been set up between themselves.

Multiple arrangements – The PWC and NRP have a number of different arrangements in place at the same time i.e. statutory and court arrangements; statutory and private arrangements; court and private arrangements; or statutory, court and private arrangements.

No arrangement – No child maintenance arrangement currently in place.

Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

The fieldwork was carried out by an independent survey team from 5th October to 4th December 2016 and results were analysed by Analytical Services Unit (ASU) which forms part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

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