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Child and Spousal Support: Maintenance Enforcement Survey Statistics, 2006/2007



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Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

Child and Spousal Support: Maintenance Enforcement Survey Statistics, 2006/2007

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- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^P preliminary
- ^r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published

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Highlights

- In March 2007, just over 401,000 cases, most involving children, were registered in Maintenance Enforcement Programs (MEPs) in 10 reporting provinces and territories. These programs assist in the collection and enforcement of spousal and child support payments.¹
- Children were the beneficiaries of support in 97% of the cases registered in the reporting jurisdictions.
- The majority of cases registered with a MEP are in full compliance with their regular monthly payment in any given month. In March 2007, the proportion of cases in compliance was 67%, ranging from 56% in Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories to 77% in Quebec.
- Compared to the previous year, the average monthly compliance rate increased or remained stable, in most jurisdictions in 2006/2007.
- Cases do not necessarily remain in compliance throughout the year. For the four jurisdictions reporting this data (Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories), one-third of cases made their regular payment in full every month in 2006/2007, and 60% of cases made their payment in full at least 6 months of the year.
- During 2006/2007, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories collected most of the money (80%) that was due. This includes not only all payments made on time, but late payments as well.
- Many cases (62%) already had arrears owing when they enrolled in a MEP. As of March 2007, inherited arrears (arrears that existed before enrolment) had been paid off or reduced in 63% of cases with these arrears.
- On March 31, 2007, 65% of cases had arrears. Quebec had the lowest proportion of cases with arrears (44%) and Northwest Territories the highest (80%). Total arrears owing was \$2.4 billion for the 10 reporting jurisdictions.
- The 20% of cases owing the most arrears were responsible for about 68% of the total arrears in the five jurisdictions reporting more detailed arrears data (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories).
- In 2006/2007, over 310,000 enforcement actions were initiated in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. Tracing, Initiating Garnishments, and Demands for Information or Payment comprised the majority of actions in all jurisdictions.

1. Overall for 2006/2007, 10 jurisdictions provided data to the Maintenance Enforcement Survey (MES) and the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs (SMEP). Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and Nunavut are not included. The five jurisdictions that report to the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories) can provide all statistics presently available through the MES, as well as additional analysis. Some results for the MES do not include all 10 jurisdictions because the data are not available.

1.0 Introduction

During the 1980s and 1990s, all provincial and territorial governments created Maintenance Enforcement Programs (MEPs) to provide administrative support to payors and recipients of child and spousal support, and to improve compliance with support payments. Through both provincial/territorial and federal legislation, the programs were given a number of administrative enforcement powers to secure payments before resorting to the courts.

MEPs play an important role in the area of spousal and child support in Canada. Between 2001 and 2006, there were two million cases of divorce or separation in the ten provinces (General Social Survey, 2006). While not all of these cases end up with a support order that is registered with a MEP, many will.

This report provides an analysis of the characteristics of cases that are registered with the MEPs and highlights changes that have occurred over the five-year period covered by the report.² The results discussed in this report comprise child and spousal support data for 10 provinces and territories, representing 95% of

Canada's population. Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia provide data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey (MES), while Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report to the newer, more detailed Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs (SMEP).³ Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and Nunavut currently do not report. Some charts and data tables do not include all jurisdictions from the MES because the data are not available.

2. Readers should be cautious in using the survey data to evaluate specific Maintenance Enforcement Programs or to generalize the results to all support orders in Canada. The MEPs across Canada differ in a number of important aspects because of different local needs and policies. These differences include client profile, enforcement powers in legislation, enforcement practices, the enrolment process, how payments are handled and registered, the responsibilities of clients, and how cases are closed.
3. For more information about the differences between the two surveys, refer to Section 4.1 Background on the MES and SMEP. Prince Edward Island provided data for the SMEP for reference month March 2007 and this is included in some of the analysis.

2.0 Survey results

2.1 Caseloads and their characteristics

Cases, consisting of payors, recipients, and court-ordered or voluntarily agreed support obligations are managed by Maintenance Enforcement Programs (MEPs). The Maintenance Enforcement Survey (MES) and the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs (SMEP) count a case if it is registered and there is either an ongoing support obligation on the part of the payor that the MEP is monitoring and enforcing, or the obligation has expired and outstanding arrears or fees remain.

Total MEP caseloads, including all interjurisdictional cases

Payors of support do not always live in the same province or country as the recipient. As such, a case may be registered in two MEPs. The term that describes this situation is referred to as interjurisdictional support order status (ISO status).⁴ ISO status distinguishes between three types of cases:

- Non-ISO cases: These are typically cases where the payor and recipient live in the jurisdiction where the case is registered.
- ISO-in cases: These are cases where the MEP has been asked to provide enforcement by another jurisdiction because the payor is known to reside or have assets in the MEP's jurisdiction.
- ISO-out cases: These are cases that have been sent to another jurisdiction for enforcement because the payor lives or has assets there.

The day-to-day caseload of a MEP consists of monitoring non-ISO and ISO-in cases and taking enforcement action when payments are not forthcoming. ISO-out cases also involve work for the MEP, as the MEP is still responsible for communicating with the recipient, disbursing any payment it receives from the reciprocating MEP and possibly taking enforcement actions if the payor has assets remaining in the jurisdiction. However, ISO-out cases are included only in Table 1 to avoid double counting cases where another MEP has primary responsibility for monitoring and enforcing.

In 2006/2007, cases requiring day-to-day enforcement responsibilities (non-ISO and ISO-in cases) comprised the majority of MEP cases, accounting for a low of 72% of cases in the Yukon to a high of 99% of cases in Quebec (Table 1). MEPs in the western provinces and the territories reported larger proportions of interjurisdictional support order cases (ISO-in and ISO-out cases), with Yukon having the highest proportion of ISO cases (57%).

MEP caseloads, where the payor lives in-province

On March 31, 2007, just over 401,000 Non-ISO and ISO-in cases were enrolled in Maintenance Enforcement Programs in 10 provinces and territories. This was down slightly, -1%, from the previous year.

4. The legislation that governs the enforcement of interjurisdictional support orders is called the Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act. The purpose of this legislation is to allow one or both of the parties to obtain or vary a support order under provincial legislation, or to have an existing order recognized and enforced when the parties are in different jurisdictions.

Average monthly caseload decreased in most jurisdictions in 2006/2007 (Table 2).⁵ Prince Edward Island (1%), Quebec (1%), and the Northwest Territories (3%) each had a slight increase in caseload, while New Brunswick remained at the same level as the previous year. For the remaining five reporting provinces and territories, average monthly caseload fell by as much as 6% in Ontario and the Yukon. In Ontario, most of the decline can be attributed to the MEP administratively closing a number of cases during the first months of the fiscal year that no longer needed to be enrolled. However, caseload in Ontario did increase between September 2006 and March 2007, as caseload grew by 2% over the seven month period.

While Table 2 indicates a decline in the caseload for British Columbia, as explained in more detail in Section 4.3, these counts do not include all cases that are being enforced. Not included are cases where the payor owes money to the provincial government for failure to make support payments. If these cases were included, British Columbia's average monthly caseload would show an increase of 1% from 46,222 in 2005/2006 to 46,762 in 2006/2007.

Caseload changes are driven by the number of newly enrolled cases and re-enrolled cases, as well as the number of cases withdrawing from the MEP. In 2006/2007, newly enrolled cases accounted for approximately 9% of total cases administered in the reporting provinces and territories.⁶ New enrolments decreased in most jurisdictions in 2006/2007 from the previous year (Table 3).⁷ The largest decrease was in Alberta, where the number of new enrolments fell by 32%. Newly enrolled cases increased in Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Re-enrolled cases, that is cases that have closed in a previous year and then re-enrolled in the MEP during the current year, generally constitute a smaller proportion of cases administered during the year than new enrolments or closed cases. The number of re-enrolments has remained steady in most jurisdictions over the last five years.

The proportion of cases closed during the fiscal year varied from 6% of administered cases in Quebec to 18% in the Yukon. In most jurisdictions, the number of cases closed has remained at a level similar to previous years, except for Nova Scotia, where the number of cases closed increased by 12% from 2005/2006, and Alberta where cases closed decreased by 20%. In both jurisdictions, the changes were triggered by the program withdrawing the cases.⁸ In Nova Scotia cases withdrawn by the program increased by 32% in 2006/2007, while in Alberta cases withdrawn by the MEP dropped by 41%.

In all reporting jurisdictions except Quebec and the Northwest Territories, the number of cases closed exceeded the number of cases added to the caseload through new enrolments and re-enrolments. Caseload growth has slowed or declined, as enrolments have generally been decreasing while the number of closed cases has more or less remained stable.

5. The reader should note that as a result of a random rounding methodology, some small differences can be expected in corresponding values among various tables. Tables with corresponding values for the total number of maintenance enforcement cases enrolled (excluding ISO-out cases) on March 31, 2007 are: Tables 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17. Tables with corresponding values for the total number of maintenance enforcement cases enrolled with arrears on March 31, 2007 are: Tables 18 and 19. In these tables, total cases enrolled may vary slightly between tables due to a random rounding methodology (see 4.7 Confidentiality/Random Rounding).
6. Data for caseload changes are not available in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Ontario.
7. As cases in opt-out jurisdictions are automatically enrolled from the court at the time of the order, these jurisdictions should have a higher number of new enrolments relative to opt-in jurisdictions, where the recipients have to voluntarily enrol their cases in the MEP. In Table 3, Nova Scotia and Quebec are opt-out jurisdictions and Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories are opt-in jurisdictions.
8. Depending on the jurisdiction, MEPs can withdraw cases from their program for a variety of reasons such as the recipient is accepting direct payments or the location of the recipient or payor is unknown.

Text box 1

Total cases of spousal and child support, 2001 to 2006

Most divorces or separations do not involve support arrangements

According to the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS)⁹ on families, between 2001 and 2006, there were two million cases of divorce or separation in the 10 provinces (Chart 1), including the ending of common law unions. About 609,000 cases (roughly one-third of total cases) had an arrangement for support payments in place.

More than half of support cases formally registered in court were also enrolled in a MEP

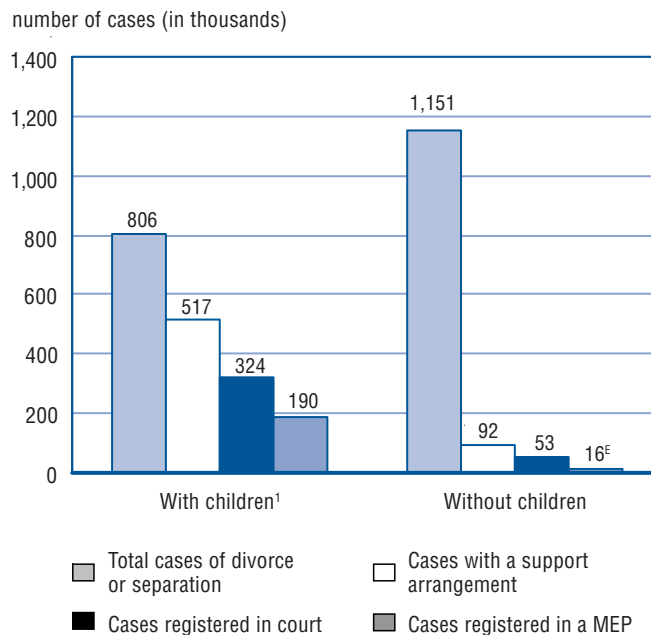
Support arrangements may be registered in court. If a payor is delinquent in making support payments, the recipient needs a court order to enforce the arrangement through the courts, or to enrol in a MEP. Approximately 377,000 cases, or 62% of cases with a support arrangement, had their support arrangement formally registered in court.

The majority of the support cases registered in court (55%) were also enrolled in a MEP at one time (over 90% of these were still registered in 2006), as the GSS indicated that 206,000 cases of divorce or separation that occurred between 2001 and 2006 were enrolled in a MEP during that time.¹⁰ Overall, about 11% of total cases of divorce or separation and 34% of cases with a support arrangement in place were enrolled in a MEP.

Cases involving children are much more likely to have a support arrangement than cases without children

According to the GSS, almost two-thirds (64%) of cases of divorce or separation involving children¹¹ had support arrangements in place (Chart 1). Alternatively, very few separating couples without children had an arrangement for paying support (8%). Thus, even though less than half of total cases of divorce or separation involved children, the vast majority of all separating couples with support arrangements (85%) had children. In turn, almost all of the support cases involved with the family justice system (that is, cases with support arrangements registered in court or with a MEP) have child beneficiaries.

Chart 1
Cases of divorce or separation between 2001 and 2006, in ten provinces



^E use with caution

1. This includes children 23 years or younger as of 2006.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 General Social Survey on Families.

Length of enrolment

In March 2007, in all but one reporting jurisdiction, over half of the cases enrolled had been registered in the MEP for more than five years (Table 4). Nova Scotia had the highest proportion, with 65% of cases registered for more than five years. Many jurisdictions have a significant number of cases registered for 10 years or more. In Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Alberta more than 30% of their total caseload have been registered for 10 years or longer.

9. The GSS is a sample survey of households, which randomly select individuals 15 years or older to respond to the questionnaire. The SMEP and MES are administrative surveys that collect data from provincial and territorial government information systems. For more on the differences between the surveys, refer to the Methodology section.

10. This chart is comparable to the estimated number of new cases enrolling in MEPs between 2001 and 2006, using results of the MES and data from non-reporting jurisdictions. A precise match would be unlikely, given sampling error as well as slight differences between the population interviewed by the GSS and the population from which the MEPs draw their caseload and between reference periods.

11. This includes children 23 years or younger as of 2006.

Characteristics of recipients, payors and children

Survey data indicate that the reporting MEPs operate almost exclusively for the benefit of children. Of the cases registered with the reporting provinces on March 31, 2007, the proportion of cases involving support for child beneficiaries only was 93% in the reporting jurisdictions (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories).¹² Cases where the spouse is a beneficiary accounted for 7% of cases. In 3% of enrolled cases, the spouse was the only beneficiary and in 4% of cases both the spouse and children were beneficiaries. In total, 97% of cases enrolled involved children beneficiaries.

In the large majority of cases in all jurisdictions, the recipient is a female and the payor is a male (Table 6). Depending on the jurisdiction, the median¹³ age for recipients on March 31, 2007 ranged from 37 years to 40 years (Table 7). For payors, the median age varied from 40 years to 43 years while the median age for children ranged between 13 and 16 years. The median ages for payors, recipients and children have all gradually increased over the last five years in most provinces and territories.

In the five jurisdictions reporting to SMEP (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories), cases enrolled in the MEPs in March 2007 involved 91,273 children beneficiaries in total, of which 77,715 of these children were under the age of 20 (14% of children were 20 years of age or older and for 1% of children the age was unknown).

Social assistance

The social assistance status of a recipient is an important aspect of maintenance enforcement. All provinces and territories treat child support payments as income for determining the amount of monthly social assistance benefits. As such, social assistance benefits to recipients may be reduced based on the amount of child support payments. If a parent is entitled to receive child support and makes an application for social assistance, the social benefits agency may require the parent to seek child support payments and/or require the recipient to enrol in a MEP.

The term “assignment status” is used to describe those cases where some or all of the support payment goes to the government rather than the recipient.¹⁴ This occurs when the government provides social assistance

payments directly to the recipient, or has done so in the past, and the support coming from the payor is being used to defray these costs. It should be noted that not all persons receiving social assistance are required to assign their support payments to the government.

The proportion of assigned MEP cases varies from province to province. As of March 31, 2007, the percentage of assigned cases ranged from 4% in Saskatchewan to 22% in New Brunswick (Table 8). The number and proportion of assigned cases has decreased in recent years in most jurisdictions. In total, the number of assigned cases dropped by 4% in 2006/2007.¹⁵

2.2 Financial aspects of MEP caseload

Amounts regularly due

The process of monitoring and enforcing by the MEPs stems from an order or agreement stipulating the payment of support. To register or enrol in a maintenance enforcement program, a recipient or payor must have a court order or an agreement that has been filed officially with the court. The order or agreement will have a stated support amount and the frequency with which it is to be paid. These amounts are called “amounts regularly due”.¹⁶

12. The chart excludes cases where the type of beneficiary is unknown (about 9% of total cases enrolled in the eight jurisdictions). Most of these cases are from Alberta, where the type of beneficiary is unknown for all cases that do not have an ongoing regular payment.
13. The median is the middle point of the age distribution, where if the ages are arranged in increasing or decreasing order, one-half of the group is above the middle-point and one-half below it.
14. In British Columbia, all support payments received are disbursed to the recipients, regardless of their social assistance status. However, recipients on social assistance may have their social assistance benefits reduced based on the amount of support received. For the purposes of this report, these cases are considered assigned, even though all payments go to the recipient.
15. This may be a continuation of the general decrease in the proportion of the population on social assistance in all Canadian provinces found between 1993 and 2003 (Roy, 2004).
16. An order may contain other amounts that are also enforceable by the MEP. These are usually called “event-driven amounts”. They can be characterized as payments that must be paid when they come due, perhaps when a receipt or an invoice is produced. Examples would include the payment of dental bills or yearly sports enrolment fees. Other payments that may be due in a month include scheduled repayment of arrears (could be court-ordered or voluntary), fees, costs and penalties. For the purposes of the survey, these payments, plus payment amounts regularly due, are called “total payments due”.

Text box 2

Measuring compliance

This report uses three indicators to measure compliance: monthly compliance rate, the regularity of monthly compliance rate and collection rates.

The monthly compliance rate is a month-end snapshot of the proportion of cases in compliance in the given month. A case is in compliance if the amount of money received during the month is equal to or greater than the amount due, regardless of whether arrears are owing. Monthly compliance is calculated for both regular payment due and total payment due. This report focuses on regular payments, which make up the bulk of total payments. For each table on compliance, similar distributions were observed for compliance with total payment. However, compliance with total payments due tends to be slightly lower than compliance with regular amounts due.

The regularity of monthly compliance rate looks at how regular monthly compliance is for cases that have been enrolled in the MEP for the entire fiscal year and with a regular payment due each month. This indicator shows how many cases met their obligations every month in the year, and alternatively, how many cases never met their obligations. This measurement is available only for jurisdictions reporting to the SMEP.

Another measurement used in this report is the collection rate. A collection rate tabulates total amounts received by the MEP over a period of time (in this report, the fiscal year) and divides amounts received by the total amount due over the same period. A rate of 100% would mean the amount received equalled the amount due. Unlike monthly compliance rates, which require full compliance with the obligations, the collection rates incorporate cases with partial compliance.

This report uses two collection rates: the regular payment collection rate and the total payment collection rate. The regular payment collection defines amounts due as regular amounts due and amounts received as regular payment that was received in the month the obligation became due. A payment made late, in the following month for example, would not be classified as regular payment received; it would be a non-scheduled arrears payment. Some jurisdictions reporting to the MES and all jurisdictions reporting to the SMEP can provide data on the regular payment collection rate.

For jurisdictions reporting to the SMEP, a total collection rate can also be calculated. Total amount due is defined as all obligations due in the fiscal year, including regular payment, event driven payments, scheduled arrears payments and fees and costs to the MEP or recipient.¹⁷ Total amount received is all money received by the MEP, including non-scheduled arrears payments. Thus, the total collection rate incorporates late payments, as well as payments made in the month they were due.¹⁸

In March 2007 in the 10 reporting provinces and territories, a large proportion of cases (ranging from 42% in the Northwest Territories to 67% in New Brunswick) involved a regular monthly payment of \$400 or less (Table 9). The proportion of cases involving a monthly payment amount above \$1,000 ranged from 2% to 6%. This pattern has been consistent over the previous four years.

Nova Scotia had the lowest median monthly regular payment (\$201), while the Northwest Territories had the highest (\$350) (Table 10). Median payment varies depending on the type of beneficiary. Not surprisingly, the median monthly amount due for cases where the beneficiary involved children increased gradually as the number of children covered in the support order(s) increased. With one minor exception, this same pattern is evident for cases involving an amount for both the spouse and children. The median payment due has been stable over the last five years in all reporting jurisdictions.

Another way of evaluating payment due is to examine the total annual amount of regular payments that MEPs are responsible for enforcing. In 2006/2007, regular amounts due in eight reporting jurisdictions (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories) totalled \$927 million (Table 11). The annual amount due has remained stable from previous years, except in Quebec where it has consistently increased over the last five years. Annual amount due in Quebec in 2006/2007 is 19% more than it was in 2002/2003. Factors accounting for this increase likely include a growing caseload.

Amounts received and compliance

Monthly compliance

Each month, the majority of cases are in compliance with their regular monthly payments. In March 2007, just over two-thirds of cases (67%) were in compliance in the 10 reporting jurisdictions. Compliance rates ranged from 56% of cases being compliant in Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories to 77% of cases in Quebec (Table 12). Jurisdictional practices have an impact on compliance rates. For example, Nova Scotia,

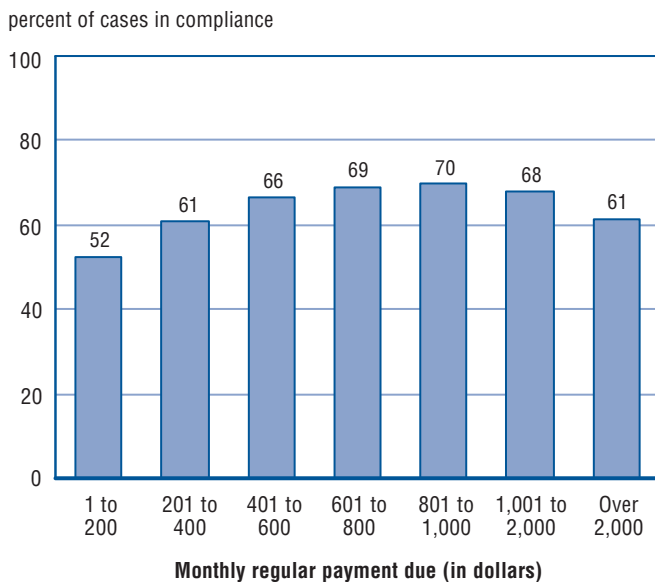
17. Refer to Appendix A, Glossary of terms, for definitions the different types of payment obligations.

18. Some non-scheduled arrears payments received may be in consideration of obligations that were due in previous fiscal years.

British Columbia and Yukon¹⁹ permit direct payments, a policy which has the effect of lowering compliance rates.

Chart 2

Compliance rates by amount of monthly regular payment due, March 2007 for ten provinces and territories



Notes: Figures may not total 100% due to rounding. ISO-out cases are excluded. MES and SMEP data are not reported by Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and Nunavut.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Compliance varies somewhat by the amount of regular payment due (Chart 2). Generally, the lowest compliance rates were for cases with regular amounts due between \$1 and \$200. One possible explanation could be that higher support amounts generally indicate greater income and employment stability, thus an increased likelihood that the paying parent may be able to deal with unforeseen situations (e.g., unanticipated major expenses) while maintaining child support payments. However, cases with regular amounts due of over \$2,000 also tend to have lower compliance rates.

An examination of compliance by type of beneficiary indicates that compliance is highest for cases where the beneficiary is spouse-only. In March 2007, compliance on spouse only cases ranged from 50% in the Northwest Territories to 81% in Saskatchewan (Table 13). Conversely, compliance rates for children only cases were somewhat lower: from 55% in Nova Scotia and Alberta to 66% in Saskatchewan.

In 2006/2007, the average monthly compliance rate was 67% for the 10 jurisdictions, ranging from 54% in the Northwest Territories to 79% in Quebec (Table 14). These rates have either been increasing or remaining stable in almost all jurisdictions. For the five jurisdictions reporting data over the five-year period between 2002/2003 and 2006/2007, average monthly compliance increased in most jurisdictions. Prince Edward Island and British Columbia had the largest increase, both showing a four percentage point jump in their compliance rate.

Regularity of compliance

Overall, compliance rates vary slightly from one month to the next, as presented in the 60-month view of compliance in Table 14. During the 2006/2007 fiscal year, in most jurisdictions, there were small changes in compliance rates from month to month.

Despite stable compliance rates, new data from the SMEP show that many recipients do not necessarily receive their full support payments every month. In 2006/2007 one-third of cases²⁰ made their payment every month in the four reporting jurisdictions (Table 15). Alberta had the highest proportion of cases in full compliance every month at 35% and the Northwest Territories had the lowest proportion, at 13%. A majority of cases (around 60% in all jurisdictions) were in full compliance at least 6 months of the year, and approximately 21% of cases were never in full compliance. A small proportion of cases received no payment (ranging from 22% of cases in Nova Scotia to 7% in the Northwest Territories).

19. Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In Nova Scotia and Yukon, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.

20. Table 15 examined all cases that were enrolled for the entire fiscal year and also had a regular payment due each month of the year.

The proportion of cases in full compliance every month rose in each of the four jurisdictions in 2006/2007 from the previous year. Alberta had the largest increase, up four percentage points from 31% to 35%.

Regularity of compliance is likely associated with the relationship between the payor and the beneficiary (ies) (who are primarily children). The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth found a strong positive link between the frequency of visits of a non-resident father with his children and the likelihood that the father would make regular support payments (Juby et al., 2007).

ISO-in cases, which involve payors and recipients living in different jurisdictions, are less likely to have regular compliance every month. In 2006/2007, approximately 26% of ISO-in cases made their regular payment every month, compared to 34% of non-ISO cases. Previous research indicated that differences in compliance for ISO-in and non-ISO cases were not caused by MEPs treating ISO-in cases differently than non-ISO cases (Department of Justice, 1999).

Compliance tends to be more regular in cases with an older payor. As of March 31, 2007, for cases where the payor was under 35 years of age, 25% of cases were in compliance every month, as compared to 33% compliance in cases where the payor was between 35 and 44 years of age, and 39% compliance in cases where the payor was over 44 years old.

Older payors may be better able to make regular payments. Results from the Survey of Financial Security have shown that median net worth increased considerably with age, even though median after-tax income was relatively stable across age groups. Older age groups have greater savings and less total debt (Augustin and Sanga, 2002), which may allow for more financial flexibility to make regular support payments. As well, MEPs have more opportunities to intercept regular federal government transfer payments to older Canadians, such

as Canadian Pension Plan and the Old Age Security payments, which might contribute to more regular compliance.

Collection rates: amounts due and received for 2006/2007

During 2006/2007, MEPs in eight reporting jurisdictions were successful in collecting 80% of the regular dollars due (Table 1). This amounted to a total of nearly \$742 million of regular payment received in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Regular payment collection rates in individual jurisdictions ranged from 60% for regular amounts due in the Northwest Territories to 90% in Quebec. Over the most recent five-year period, the proportion of regular amounts collected to amounts due is up slightly in most reporting jurisdictions.

MEPs also collect a large amount of non-scheduled arrears payments throughout the year. The four jurisdictions reporting to the SMEP collected \$49 million in non-scheduled arrears payments in 2006/2007, which amounted to 29% of regular payment collected.

Total money collected in 2006/2007 in the jurisdictions reporting to SMEP equalled 80% of total amounts due. The rates changed little from the previous year. Collection rates ranged from 77% in Nova Scotia to 96% in Yukon (Text table 1). In both Yukon and the Northwest Territories, total payment collection rates increased considerably from the regular payment collection rate due to the relatively large amount of non-scheduled arrears payments (late payments) received during the year in both jurisdictions. Alberta was the only jurisdiction with a significant difference between the amount of regular payment due and total payment due in 2006/2007, as \$29.4 million in non-regular payment was charged to payors in 2006/2007 (14% of total payment due).

Text table 1

Total collection rate, 2006/2007

	Cases administered	Total amount due	Total amount received	Collection rate
	number	millions of dollars	millions of dollars	percent
Nova Scotia	20,430	64.8	50.2	77
Alberta	51,360	213.4	172.9	81
Yukon	486	1.7	1.6	96
Northwest Territories	720	3.3	3.1	95

Notes: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Cases administered include cases registered for at least part of the year, i.e. cases enrolled and cases terminated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Arrears

Arrears refer to money owing from earlier missed payments. Maintenance enforcement programs can register cases with arrears that have already accumulated. Arrears can also accrue during the time the MEP has management of the case, should payments not be made and enforcement fail to secure sufficient payment. Arrears are sometimes subject to court-ordered or negotiated scheduled payment plans, to enable the payor to gradually repay the amount due over a period of time. As long as the payment schedule is being adhered to, it is likely that no additional enforcement action will be taken.

The majority of cases that enrol with a MEP have a history of payment problems prior to registration. Of the cases enrolled on March 31, 2007, the proportion of cases in the reporting jurisdictions entering the program with arrears was 62%, ranging from 48% in Alberta to 73% in British Columbia (Table 16).²¹ Most of these cases entering the MEP with arrears (63%) had either reduced or eliminated the arrears amounts inherited since enrolment. Quebec had the highest proportion of cases that had reduced or eliminated their inherited arrears (74%), while Prince Edward Island had the lowest (33%). In the other jurisdictions, the proportion hovered around 50%.

In March 2007, the proportion of MEP caseload having arrears was 65%, ranging from 44% in Quebec to 80% in Northwest Territories (Table 17). In seven of ten jurisdictions, the proportion of cases with arrears declined or stayed the same from the previous year. The largest decline was in Alberta, where the proportion of cases in arrears dropped three percentage points, from 70% on March 31, 2006 to 67% on March 31, 2007. In Ontario, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories the proportion of cases with arrears increased slightly.

Total arrears owing for March 31, 2007 for the ten provinces and territories reporting data were \$2.4 billion. Most jurisdictions reported a small increase in the total dollar amount of arrears owing from the previous year (between 1% to 6%). Three jurisdictions saw their total arrears owing decrease (Nova Scotia, Alberta and the Yukon).²²

A significant amount of arrears can accrue before cases enrol in the MEP. Data from five jurisdictions reporting to SMEP²³ indicate that for all cases enrolled on March 31, 2007, total inherited arrears was \$174 million, as a little less than half the cases (49%) had inherited arrears. Some cases enter the MEP with substantial amounts already in arrears. About 7% of cases in the reporting jurisdictions enrol in the MEPs with over \$10,000 owing in arrears.

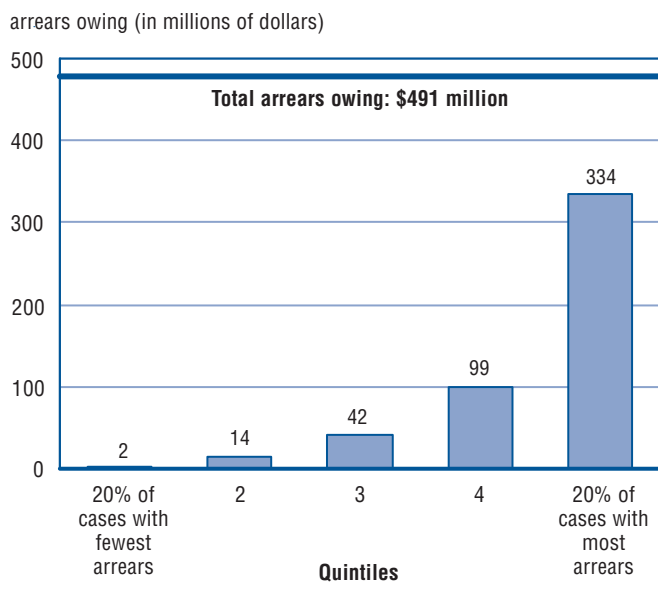
A small percentage of cases can account for a large proportion of arrears, as some cases may have tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in arrears, and others will have very modest amounts owing. In the five jurisdictions reporting data to the SMEP, cases with arrears on March 31, 2007 were ranked according to the amount of arrears and then divided into 5 groups with an equal number of cases per group (Chart 3). The 20% of cases with the most arrears accounted for 68% of the \$491 million in arrears owing. Looking at individual jurisdictions, in Nova Scotia, for example, the 20% of cases with the most arrears (2,230 cases, which is 13% of total cases enrolled) accounted for 72% of total arrears, representing \$59 million. Similar patterns were found in the other four jurisdictions.

21. The charts for Prince Edward Island are not comparable as the arrears status at entry was not known for 22% of cases. Data not reported by New Brunswick, Ontario, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

22. Arrears can decrease not only from payors making arrears payments which reduce or pay off outstanding amounts, but also by cases with arrears owing withdrawing from the MEP, and by adjustments made to outstanding amounts, such as the recipient forgiving a portion or all of the arrears owing.

23. The analysis on inherited arrears and analysis on Chart 3, total arrears owing by quintiles, include results from Prince Edward Island, as well as the other jurisdictions reporting to SMEP.

Chart 3
Total arrears owing on March 31, 2007,
five provinces and territories



Notes: ISO-out cases are excluded.
 Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Program data is reported by Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.
 The 43,666 cases with arrears on March 31, 2007, were ranked from lowest to highest amount of arrears owing, and placed in 5 equal groups of 8,733 cases, called quintiles.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

2.3 Enforcement

Enforcement actions

Maintenance Enforcement Programs can undertake a variety of actions to enforce current payments or existing arrears. There are two main categories of enforcement actions: administrative enforcement and court enforcement. Administrative enforcement by the MEP includes jurisdictional garnishment and attachment (of money owed to the payor) and MEP traces (attempts to find the payor using jurisdictional information banks). Court enforcement occurs before a judge and can include default and committal hearings.

Enforcement actions increase in intensity in response to more difficult cases and complex situations. This is particularly true when it is clear that the payor has the ability to pay but refuses to do so. As a matter of practice, administrative enforcement measures are

exhausted early in the process, with the provincial/territorial avenues being taken first. In most jurisdictions, federal enforcement assistance, in the form of federal tracing, federal garnishment and federal license denial, is taken after most provincial/territorial avenues have been exhausted. If those mechanisms fail to generate payment, MEPs then have court enforcement activities as an option, which are generally taken as a last resort.

Among six reporting jurisdictions (Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories), slightly more than 310,000 enforcement actions were performed in 2006/2007 (Table 20).²⁴ This was down by 6% from the previous year. Possible reasons for the decrease include fewer cases administered, higher compliance rates and fewer cases with arrears.

Almost all actions reported to the MES or SMEP were administrative enforcement actions (99%). In 2006/2007, court enforcement was used only in a small number of cases, and the number of default hearings could not be reported in all jurisdictions. The results for 2006/2007 for the most commonly used administrative enforcement actions are as follows:

Tracing: Every jurisdiction performed a large number of traces in an attempt to locate payors. All MEPs made extensive use of provincial/territorial government resources and most had traces using federal tools (FOAEAA²⁵ Part 1). In total, there were close to 78,000 MEP traces and 7,000 federal traces in the six jurisdictions in 2006/2007.

Demands: There were over 30,000 demands for payment in the three jurisdictions that reported this data (Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia). In addition, about 26,000 demands for information were made in the six jurisdictions.

24. Because some data on enforcement actions is not available to the MES or SMEP, the actual number of actions is higher than reported. See Table 20 for more information about these limitations.
 25. The federal legislation *Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act* (FOAEAA) allows MEPs to access federal government resources to assist in enforcement. The legislation has three parts. Under part 1, the MEPs can request tracing searches using federal government databanks to locate payors and their employer. Part II allows for the interception of federal money owing to the payor, such as income tax refunds. Part III, MEPs can apply to have federally issues licenses, most notably passports, to be denied.

Garnishments and Voluntary Payment Arrangements (VPA): After tracing, initiation of jurisdictional garnishment of wages or income sources was the most frequently used enforcement action. All reporting jurisdictions made considerable use of this enforcement tool, as just over 60,000 garnishment actions were initiated in 2006/2007. This total is up slightly from the previous year, one of the few enforcement actions to show an increase. The number of voluntary payment arrangements also increased in 2006/2007, reaching close to 10,000 VPAs. The increase was largely due to changes in British Columbia where the number of VPAs went from 700 in 2005/2006 to over 2,000 in 2006/2007.

Licence interventions: Almost 23,000 motor vehicle licence interventions were initiated in five jurisdictions (all but the Northwest Territories) and close to 11,000 federal licence suspensions under FOAEAA – Part III were initiated (totals do not include Nova Scotia). Alberta made considerable use of licence interventions, with over 19,000 motor vehicle licence cancellations or restrictions initiated. These initiations affected over 10,000 payors and resulted in cancellations or restrictions put in place for over 3,500 payors (roughly 10% of payors enrolled in their program). Furthermore, both Alberta and the Yukon frequently used the federal licence suspension tool, representing 6% and 5% respectively of total administrative actions in these two jurisdictions.

Federal interceptions: All six reporting jurisdictions initiated actions for the interception of federal funds under FOAEAA – Part II, such as income tax refunds (including GST credits) and Employment Insurance benefits, as close to 25,000 applications were made. This action represented 28% of total reported administrative

actions in Nova Scotia and 15% in the Northwest Territories.

Recently, the Department of Justice undertook an analysis to measure the effectiveness of the federal enforcement mechanism – the passport/license denial program under FOAEAA Part III (Department of Justice, 2005). In collaboration with four MEPs (Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia) the study examined samples of cases from each where a federal licence denial action was initiated – a warning letter was sent by the MEP to the person who was in arrears.²⁶ The measure of effectiveness used for the study was whether there was a reduction in the amount of arrears at various stages of the denial process or at some time following its completion. For all MEPs, the results show a reduction in arrears. For a majority of cases, this meant actual payments were made. In other cases, the arrears were reduced usually because the case was withdrawn altogether from the MEP or agreements were made between parties on a reduced amount of the arrears. The amount of arrears reduction and at what stage in the process varied. Interestingly, there was a finding of reductions in arrears occurring following the initial warning letter, thus alleviating the need of a formal application to Justice Canada for a denial or suspension of the person's passport or federal transport licence. The study concluded that this enforcement action contributed to the positive result for a number of recipients and their children by initiating regular payments and/or receipt of previously owed monies.

26. The warning letter is the first step in the federal licence denial process. It requires the person in arrears to contact the MEP and if not, the MEP will proceed with a formal application to Justice Canada to have that person's passport or transport licence suspended and/or denied upon application.

3.0 A description of maintenance enforcement services

The task of processing and ensuring that child and spousal support is paid is essentially the same for all maintenance enforcement programs (MEPs) across Canada. MEPs register cases, process payments, and monitor and enforce cases. Eventually, a case no longer needs to be in a program and is closed. Each jurisdiction has developed its own maintenance enforcement policies and procedures to address local needs. The following provides an overview of these jurisdictional differences.

3.1 Registration

All support recipients with an enforceable court order or agreement²⁷ can avail themselves of the services of a maintenance enforcement program. However, not all cases of child and spousal support that exist in a province or territory are administered by maintenance enforcement programs.

About half of the jurisdictions have adopted an automatic or “opt-out” registration system. This includes Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba. In these six jurisdictions, maintenance orders are automatically enrolled with a maintenance enforcement program at the time of the order. To be removed from the caseload of a MEP, a recipient must ask to be withdrawn from the program.²⁸ In many jurisdictions, the payor has to agree to the withdrawal. This request can be denied if the recipient is collecting social assistance.²⁹

27. Domestic contracts that meet jurisdictional requirements for enforcement include paternity agreements and separation agreements filed in court.

28. Data on the number of individuals who opt-out of programs are not available.

29. Provinces and territories treat child support as income and deduct it in whole or in part from social assistance benefits to which recipients would be otherwise entitled.

Seven jurisdictions, including Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have an “opt-in” program, whereby registration is at the option of either the recipient or payor. The only exception is cases where the recipient is entitled to social assistance, in which case enrolment is mandatory.

“Opt-in” jurisdictions tend to have a higher proportion of difficult cases, meaning cases already having arrears when they first register, or where there has been some difficulty in securing payments. Conversely, “opt-out” jurisdictions tend to have relatively more cases to administer and enforce because all new court orders in the jurisdiction are automatically enrolled.

3.2 Payment processing

Much of the visible activity of MEPs involves the processing and disbursement of payments to recipients. In most jurisdictions, payors can make payments by cheque, money order, credit card, telephone or Internet banking, or by pre-authorized payment. Payments may also come directly from an attachment of wages, a garnishment and attachment of assets (e.g. bank account), or a federal interception of federal monies owed to the payor, such as an income tax refund.

Eight MEPs use a “pay-to” system to process payments; where the payor makes his/her payment payable to the MEP, which functions as a clearinghouse for the payment before disbursing it to the recipient. Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut use this approach. The remaining jurisdictions use a combination of “pay-to” and “pay-through”. The “pay-through” approach refers to a system where payors forward their payment to the MEP; the MEP records the payment and forwards it to the recipient.

3.3 Enforcement

The MEPs are required by their legislation to monitor and enforce cases that are registered with them. They must enforce the terms and amount of the order or agreement, and have no discretion to change the terms in any way. Should circumstances change, the parties are encouraged to seek legal advice. One option that might be considered is to pursue a variation in the order or agreement through the courts.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba offer a recalculation service that allows for a regular administrative review (usually annual) of the payor's financial circumstances and possible "recalculation" of the payment terms in the order, without going to court. This avoids the time-consuming and costly court process that may deter payors or recipients from seeking variations, even when financial circumstances have changed.

MEPs aim at securing regular and ongoing payments, and sufficient amounts to satisfy the obligations. The MEPs resort to enforcement activities when they are unable to secure support payments. There are a number of enforcement mechanisms that can be used to collect support payments. Enforcement mechanisms can be seen as a graduated process that intensifies with the complexity of the case. This is particularly true when it is clear that the payor has the means to make payments, but refuses to do so. In the situation where the payor cannot afford further payments, many MEPs will not increase the intensity of the enforcement actions.

Overall, there are two distinct areas of enforcement: administrative and court enforcement. In general, most MEPs will first attempt to obtain payment through administrative means. Administrative enforcement can range from telephoning the payor and trying to informally negotiate a payment, to a more formal enforcement process whereby the payor has the funds garnished from his or her wages. Court enforcement remedies range from a summons to appear, to a fine or jail.

The federal government provides assistance to the enforcement efforts of the MEPs. The Family Law Assistance Services Section of the federal Department of Justice provides access to federal databases in order to

search for payors,³⁰ and allows for the interception of federal funds³¹ and the denial/suspension of federally administered licenses including passports (*Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act*). Under the *Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act (GAPDA)*, federal employee salaries and pensions are subject to garnishment.

Because MEPs operate under unique provincial/territorial legislation, they differ in the nature and scope of their enforcement powers. Garnishments and attachments, for example, may be restricted by a provincial law that limits the percentage of a paycheck that can be attached. In some provinces, this is set at a 50% maximum, while in others it may be 40%.

Deterrent penalties and service fees have been introduced by MEPs in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. Examples of these penalties include the following:

- Nova Scotia charges penalties and fees for non-sufficient funds (NSF) cheques, the issuance of a garnishment, and the revocation of motor vehicle privilege. There is also an annual administrative default fee of \$213.
- In Quebec, the MEP charges for NSF cheques and applies collection charges for unpaid demands for payment.
- Deterrent penalties and service fees are being phased-in in Alberta. In the first phase, beginning November 2005, three penalties were introduced: a default penalty for late or missed payments, a penalty for NSF items and a penalty for failure to file a Statement of Finances.
- British Columbia introduced a default fee in 1998/1999. Each year the payor is charged the equivalent of one month's maintenance, to a maximum of \$400, upon the second default of the year.

These types of provincial/territorial variations must be considered when assessing the information compiled in this report.

30. Databases at the Canada Revenue Agency and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) can be searched for a payor's address, as well as their employer's name and address.

31. Federal funds that can be intercepted include income tax refunds, employment insurance benefits, old age security, Canada Pension Plan benefits, interest on regular Canada Savings Bonds, and selected Agriculture programs.

3.4 Case closure

Conditions for withdrawal from a MEP vary by jurisdiction. Cases can be withdrawn by the recipient (opt-out) or by the program. Recipients can withdraw from the program for a variety of reasons, for example, they do not feel they need to have the order enforced. In many jurisdictions, the payor's agreement is required in order for the recipient to withdraw from the program.

Payors can also withdraw from the program, but under limited circumstances. In particular, this is allowed in Ontario, provided the recipient is in agreement; in British Columbia, if the payor was the one who registered the order and the recipient is in agreement; and in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest

Territories, if the payor was the one who registered the order. In Quebec, the payor and the recipient can jointly apply to the Court for an exemption from having the MEP administer their case. In order for the Court to agree, the payor must provide the MEP with security (a sum of money, a letter of guarantee or a guarantee from a financial institution) covering payment of support for one month.

Generally, a case is closed or "terminated" if the terms of the order have expired, or either party dies. There may be situations where a MEP will close a case because it may be impractical to enforce, for example, if a recipient moves and cannot be located.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Background on the MES and SMEP

The Maintenance Enforcement Survey (MES) and the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs (SMEP) gather information on maintenance enforcement cases, and on some of the key characteristics associated with those cases. Case flow and changes in the volume of cases can be measured over time. In addition, survey data provide information on financial matters, the processing of payments, and the tracing and enforcement actions taken by maintenance enforcement programs (MEPs).

The MES is an aggregate survey, meaning that there is no information on individual cases, and data are collected and reported for pre-defined categories. As a result, opportunities for further analysis of the data to produce or derive new measures are quite limited. The data collection tables used by the survey were constructed during the identification of information needs and survey specifications in 1995.

The SMEP is currently being implemented by the CCJS. It is a microdata survey that will eventually collect data from all 13 provincial/territorial MEPs. Once all jurisdictions currently reporting to the MES are converted to SMEP, the MES will be terminated. The switch from aggregate to microdata collection allows for more extensive and dynamic analysis of maintenance enforcement information. The SMEP can produce all statistics presently available through the MES, as well as numerous additional types of analyses and views of maintenance enforcement data.

4.2 The General Social Survey

In 2006, Statistics Canada conducted the family cycle of the General Social Survey for the fourth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1990, 1995 and 2001. The objective of the survey was to monitor changes in Canadian families, which includes estimating the number of cases of divorce or separation, including the break-up

of common law unions, and post-separation arrangements in place for the payment of support.

Sampling

The 2006 GSS had a sample size of 24,000 households from the ten Canadian provinces. Households were selected using random digit dialing. Once a household was chosen an individual 15 years or older was selected randomly to respond to the survey. The use of telephones for sample selection and data collection means that the 2006 GSS sample in the provinces only covers 93% of the population that had telephone service. Households without telephones, households with only cellular phone service, and individuals living in institutions were excluded. These groups combined represent 7% of the target population. The response rate for the 2006 GSS was 68%.

Data Limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. The difference between the estimate obtained from the sample and the one resulting from a complete count is called the sampling error of estimate. This report uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has a high CV (over 33%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable. An estimate that has a CV between 16.6% and 33.3% should be used with caution.

There are also some limitations in comparing the target population of the 2006 GSS to the population from which the MEPs draw their caseload. The GSS produced estimates on support arrangements for cases of divorce or separation only. Cases of child support where there is no relationship between the parents are not included in the GSS estimates, although the support arrangement for these cases can be registered in a court and with a MEP.

Furthermore, only one case of separation/divorce is considered per GSS respondent. However, in some instances, the respondent may have separated/divorced multiple times in the 5-year period (all MEPs have payors or recipients involved in multiple cases of support). Thus, for respondents who have divorced or separated multiple times, the number of cases of divorce/separation is underestimated.

4.3 Data collection

The MES and the SMEP are administrative surveys that collect data from the case management information systems maintained by provincial and territorial MEPs. Data are extracted from each MEP's automated information system according to the survey specifications. Computer interfaces map survey concepts to local system information and the data are then electronically extracted from the system and transmitted to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

4.4 Survey coverage

The current report presents data for fiscal years 2002/2003 through 2006/2007. For 2006/2007, there are 10 reporting jurisdictions: Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, which report to the MES survey, and Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories which provide data to the SMEP survey. Together, these 10 jurisdictions account for about 95% of Canada's population.

Because the survey was implemented in different jurisdictions at different points in time, data coverage over the five-year period varies by jurisdiction. Additionally, some publication tables do not include all 10 survey respondents because the data are not available from some jurisdictions.

In 2003/2004, British Columbia enacted legislation that expanded the definition of maintenance to include amounts owing to the provincial government as a result of failure to pay monthly support amounts. In particular, any payor that fails to make their full monthly support payment twice in the same calendar year is subject to a default fee of one month's maintenance or \$400, whichever is less. This default fee is treated as maintenance and cases are enforced in the same way as other support cases. This has resulted in an increase in British Columbia's caseload by about 7,000 cases.

Information on these cases is not available because the MES data extraction software has not been updated to capture this information. Once British Columbia is converted to the new Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs, this information will become available.

The jurisdictions currently reporting data to the survey are not representative of the non-reporting provinces and territories. Moreover, the MES and the SMEP data are not representative of the estimated 66% of support arrangements that exist outside the provincial/territorial MEPs.

4.5 Reported timeframes

As support payments are often paid monthly, much of the MES data and all of the SMEP data are collected from the MEPs on a monthly basis. The MES also collects some annual data. For example, information such as median age of payors and recipients and median child support obligation is not prone to large monthly fluctuations and is collected for the fiscal year ending March 31st.

Data for the MES are collected in a "snapshot" manner, meaning they provide a view of the various statistics at the end of the month or the end of the fiscal year. The survey will not reflect new information coming to light after month-end or year-end data collection, such as the payor having made a direct payment to the recipient or a cheque-based payment being returned for non-sufficient funds. Data from the SMEP are also collected in a "snapshot" manner, so they too provide a view of the various statistics at month-end. However, unlike the MES, the survey captures any adjustments to payments or other information that are made in subsequent months.

4.6 Data limitations

Section 3 describes the operational differences that exist among maintenance enforcement programs, from how cases are enrolled and closed, to how they are enforced, that may have an impact on the interpretation of survey data. In addition, because the survey data are obtained from operational information systems designed to assist the MEPs in monitoring and enforcing their caseload, there will be some deviations from survey specifications. The following paragraphs outline where these effects are known.

Prince Edward Island

In Prince Edward Island, no data are available for the authority of the order (*Divorce Act*, Provincial order, etc.), reason for case termination or withdrawal, and only partial data are available for payment history. Total payment amounts due exclude scheduled arrears.

Nova Scotia

In Nova Scotia, one practice that affects the survey data is the acceptance of direct payments of support to the recipient.³² When a payor pays the recipient directly, the MEP does not record the payment until it receives notification, and, as such, the case will be categorized as “in default” because the MEP has no record of payment. Each month, approximately 1% of cases report a payment, or payments, made in a previous month. As a result, the compliance rate will appear to be lower than it actually is.

Nova Scotia data do not distinguish between provincial support orders and support agreements registered under provincial legislation.

Quebec

Quebec’s program requires that the payor set up a payment method at the outset, either through payroll deductions or a payment order. If by payment order, payors must remit support payments directly to the MEP and provide a security sufficient to guarantee one month of support payments. In certain cases, if the program is certain to recover the sum from the payor, the legislation allows for the MEP to provide an advance to the recipient to help ensure regularity of payments. Advances are considered to be support payments and must be repaid by the payor. As well, the legislation requires that payments go to the recipients on the 1st and 16th of every month.

Quebec’s program does not distinguish between types of beneficiaries, and therefore cannot report this information to the survey. As well, direct payment cases are included in the annual tables (Tables 1, 3, 4, 16, 18 and 19), but not the monthly tables. Therefore, case counts for the annual tables will be greater.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan’s information system is unable to provide an accurate median age of children for whom there are support payments. Instead, the ages of all children a couple has are included in the median age calculation, regardless of whether they are covered by the support agreement.

British Columbia

In British Columbia, as in Nova Scotia, the legislation permits the acceptance of direct payments of support. Until the MEP receives notification that the payment has been made, the case is considered to be “in default” and the compliance rate will appear to be lower than it actually is.

British Columbia legislation requires that interest be charged on late and unpaid maintenance. This interest is payable to the recipient. Although the dollars due and received for interest are not collected by the MES, this practice could influence payment compliance.

As described in Section 3.3, British Columbia introduced a default fee in 1998/1999. Each year the payor is charged the equivalent of one month’s maintenance, to a maximum of \$400, upon the second default of the year. This penalty, which is payable to the MEP, has resulted in an increase in caseload by about 7,000 cases, but information on these cases is not collected by the MES.

Northwest Territories

In the Northwest Territories, no data are available for the authority of the order (*Divorce Act*, Provincial order, etc.). The assignment status of a case is also not available. Moreover, the Northwest Territories’ program cannot distinguish between “children only” cases and “spouse and children” beneficiary cases. Both types of cases are captured as “children only” in the SMEP.

Yukon

In Yukon, one practice that affects the survey data is the acceptance of direct payments of support to the recipient. When a payor pays the recipient directly, the MEP does not record the payment until it receives notification, and, as such, the case will be categorized as “in default” because the MEP has no record of payment. Each month, approximately 0.5% of cases report a payment, or payments, made in a previous month. As a result, the compliance rate will appear to be lower than it actually is.

To summarize, the national survey definitions do enable some comparisons between jurisdictions but always within the context of operational differences of the MEPs, differences in case profiles and differences in how data are reported to the survey. Nevertheless, with

32. Direct payments are defined as payments made by the payor to the recipient that do not involve the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

an increasing number of MEPs supplying data, a more complete picture of the national context is emerging and ongoing data collection is beginning to provide an opportunity to examine trends over time.

4.7 Confidentiality/random rounding

Maintenance Enforcement Survey data have been subjected to a confidentiality procedure known as “random rounding” to reduce the likelihood of associating the data with any identifiable individual. The technique of random rounding provides protection against disclosure, but does not add significant distortion to the

data. In this report, all MES and SMEP data involving counts of individuals or cases are randomly rounded either up or down to the nearest multiple of 3. Thus, a case count of 32 would become either 30 or 33 when rounded. Data in table 15 from the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs also employed the random rounding procedure, except counts were rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.

It should be noted that totals are calculated from their randomly rounded components, rather than being rounded independently. Thus some small differences can be expected in corresponding values among various MES tables.

5.0 Appendix A: Glossary of terms

Administrative survey

An administrative survey uses data that were collected by another agency or group for its own purposes. While the data collected were designed to assist decision-making or monitoring by the original agency, data can be extracted for research purposes providing a source for this information without having to mount a separate survey.

Aggregate survey

This refers to a survey where information on individual cases is not collected, but where data are summarized, collected and reported for pre-defined categories. More specifically, computer interfaces map survey concepts to local system information and the data are then electronically extracted from the system in aggregate form.

Appointment of receiver

This refers to action taken by a master/court administrator or a judge where a receiver is appointed to examine the payor's financial situation.

Arrears

Arrears refer to money owing from earlier missed payments. As a result of either a court order or voluntary payment arrangement, an amount of arrears may end up being subject to a schedule. As long as the payment schedule is being adhered to, it is likely no additional enforcement action can be taken. Any non-scheduled arrears are those arrears which are owed from an earlier time, and for which there is no payment schedule established. The full amount is due and enforceable.

It is possible for a case to have arrears and be in compliance with total expected payments at the same time. This would be the situation if the payor were making all the current payments due, including the scheduled arrears payment.

Assignment status

This identifies whether the recipient is receiving social assistance and has had his or her case formally assigned to the Crown, or it may signify that arrears exist and that when collected, should be used to recover Social Assistance payments previously paid. Monies that are collected on behalf of the recipient on social assistance are either paid directly back to the provincial/territorial government or are reported and then deducted from the next assistance cheque.

Authority for the order

Support obligations enforced by the MEPs are the product of a court order or an agreement between the recipient and the payor. Orders for support may be the result of consent between the parties or a contested court hearing, and may be granted either under the federal divorce legislation, or the applicable provincial/territorial maintenance legislation.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary is the person(s) entitled to the benefit of the support payment, and is named in the support order. The beneficiary may be children only, spouse only, or both. In a very small number of cases in some jurisdictions, the beneficiary may also be a parent of the payor.

Cases administered

This includes all cases that were enrolled with the MEP at some point during a period of time, for example a year. It is a measure of all the cases for which the MEP had responsibility to monitor and enforce. Thus it includes both enrolled and terminated cases, but excludes ISO-out cases.

Cases enrolled

This includes all cases that are enrolled with the MEP at a particular point in time or over a period of time (i.e. all cases enrolled for the entire fiscal year). It can include cases for which the MEP is responsible to monitor (ISO-out cases) as well as those for which it is responsible to monitor and enforce (non-ISO and ISO-in cases).

Collection calls

This refers to an enforcement activity that involves the phoning of payors to demand payment.

Collection rate

Total amounts received by the MEP over the fiscal year are divided total amounts due over the same time period. A rate of 100% would mean the amount received equalled the amount due.

Committal hearing

This refers to the hearing held when a payor defaults on an order where the penalty is jail.

Compliance/default

For purposes of the survey, compliance means that at least the amount expected in a month is received. Cases where there is nothing due in a month are counted as being in compliance. Excess payments or early payments are not considered separately. Cases not in compliance are in default.

Cases in compliance may also have arrears, either non-scheduled or scheduled. The determination of compliance is only made against the current amount due in a month.

Credit Bureau reporting

Credit Bureau reporting occurs when a MEP advises the Credit Bureau of payors who are in arrears. This lets other potential credit granters know of the debt so they will take this into consideration before allowing the payor to take on a new obligation that might be affected by the support obligation.

Default hearing

This refers to a hearing before a master/court administrator or judge to determine what action may be appropriate in the face of a failure to make support payments.

Demand for information

This includes all demands (usually letters) sent where the maintenance enforcement program is asking for information. Letters can be sent to the recipient, the payor, or some other party, such as an employer.

Demand for payment

This includes all demands (usually letters) sent where the maintenance enforcement program is asking for payment. The letter could be to the payor or some other party, such as an employer who has not sent in the money from a garnishment order, for example.

Direct payments

Direct payments are defined as payments made by the payor to the recipient, as stipulated by order/agreement that do not involve the maintenance enforcement program other than for adjustments to arrears, or for notification of failure to continue direct payment.

Enforcement activity

Various methods can be employed by a MEP to enforce an outstanding payment. Activities taken on a case can be categorized into three main types according to who conducts the procedure:

- Administrative activities are those mechanisms employed by the MEP itself, and would include demands for information, jurisdictional garnishment and attachment and Credit Bureau reporting as examples.
- Quasi-judicial enforcement are activities undertaken by a master or court administrator, and may involve conducting a default hearing.
- Court-based enforcement involves court and judge time and is generally employed as a last resort. These tend to be more serious enforcement actions, involving default hearings, issuing of warrants, and default orders, and may culminate in fines or jail.

Event-driven payments

This refers to monies that are due because of some situation that has arisen if provided for in the order or agreement. For instance, an event-driven payment could be for tuition, dental work or lessons.

Examination of payor

This refers to any and all activity taken by the maintenance enforcement program to examine a payor with respect to assets, and liabilities. In some jurisdictions, this action can be undertaken by administrative staff, or court administrators.

Execution order

This refers to the order made by a judge to liquidate assets.

Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act (FOAEAA)

Under the three parts of the federal *Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act (FOAEAA)*, MEPs can access different services provided by the Family Law Assistance Service (FLAS) of the federal Department of Justice. Part I allows for requests to search various federal databanks to determine the location of the payor. Part II allows for the interception of federal money owing to a payor. This most frequently takes the form of intercepting an income tax refund. Part III allows the MEP to apply through FLAS to the applicable federal department to have federally-administered licenses revoked or denied. This encompasses passports and certain transport (aviation and marine) licenses.

Federal garnishment

This refers to garnishments made pursuant to the *Queen's Regulations*, and the *Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act (GAPDA)*.

Federal licence suspension

This refers to the *Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act (Part III)* which allows the denial of passports, aviation licences, and marine certificates.

Federal trace

This refers to the request for a federal trace under the *Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act (Part I)*.

Garnishment, Attachment, and Pension Diversion Act (GAPDA)

Under the *Garnishment Attachment and Pension Diversion Act (GAPDA)*, federal employee salaries and pensions are subject to garnishment.

Garnishment and attachment

This refers to the legal redirection of money owed to a support payor by another person or a corporation. A garnishment is referred to as a wage attachment in some jurisdictions. Most MEPs are able to issue their own garnishments and attachments, without court involvement.

Inherited arrears

These are the arrears that accrue before the case was enrolled in a MEP. MEPs are responsible to enforce on inherited arrears if repayment is not made after enrolment.

Interception of federal funds

Under the *Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act (Part II)*, the maintenance enforcement program can intercept federal funds, such as income tax refunds, employment insurance benefits, old age security, Canada Pension Plan benefits, interest on regular Canada Savings Bonds, and selected Agriculture programs.

ISO status

Formerly referred to as REMO (reciprocal enforcement maintenance orders) or RESO (reciprocal enforcement support orders) status, ISO (interjurisdictional support order) status indicates whether cases cross jurisdictional boundaries, usually because the payor and recipient live in different provinces, territories or countries. Cases are classified according to three categories:

- **Non-ISO cases**

These are typically cases where both parties live within the jurisdiction where the case is registered. Additionally, where parties conduct business, bank, or have assets in a jurisdiction, they may be registered there without residing there.

- **ISO-in cases**

These are cases that the jurisdiction has been asked to enforce by another jurisdiction because the payor is known to reside and/or have assets in its jurisdiction.

- **ISO-out cases**

These are cases that have been sent to another jurisdiction, and are registered there for enforcement purposes because the payor lives and/or has assets there.

For cases that cross jurisdictional boundaries, the provinces and territories have introduced new legislation, the *ISO Act*. The purpose of this legislation, as with the REMO/RESO legislation that preceded it, is to allow one or both of the parties to obtain or vary a support order, or to have an existing order recognized and enforced when the parties are in different jurisdictions.

Jurisdiction

This describes the province or territory.

Jurisdictional garnishment

This refers to the formal process whereby an amount is deducted from a payor's salary or wages, or other source of income on a regular basis.

Land registration

This refers to actions taken to encumber the sale of specific real estate. A support order may be registered in the Land Registry Office in the jurisdiction against the payor's land. Upon registration, both the ongoing support obligation and any arrears owing become a charge on the property. The charge may be enforced by sale of the land.

Maintenance enforcement plan trace

This refers to all attempts to find the payor using jurisdictional information banks.

Microdata survey

This refers to a survey where information is extracted for each individual case. Summary data (mostly aggregations of the values for each case record) are produced at the CCJS.

Motor vehicle license intervention

A motor vehicle license intervention may be placed in order to prevent the renewal of licenses (and in some jurisdictions, motor vehicle-related services) and/or suspension of driving privileges prior to satisfying the support obligation.

Opt-in registration

In an "opt-in" registration system, enrolment with a MEP is at the option of either the recipient or payor. The only exception is cases where the recipient is entitled to social assistance, in which case enrolment is mandatory.

Opt-out registration

In an automatic or "opt-out" registration system, maintenance orders are automatically enrolled with a maintenance enforcement program at the time of the order. To be removed from the caseload of a MEP, a recipient must ask to be withdrawn from the program. In many jurisdictions, the payor has to agree to the withdrawal. This request can be denied if the recipient is collecting social assistance.

Order forfeiture of security

This refers to action taken by a master or court administrator where final authority is given to seize a security.

Order to provide information

This refers to a court order to provide information, including the payor's financial affairs.

Pay-through system

The pay-through approach refers to a system where payors forward their payment to the MEP; the MEP records the payment and forwards it to the recipient.

Pay-to system

In a "pay-to" system, the payor makes his/her payment payable to the MEP, which functions as a clearinghouse for the payment before disbursing it to the recipient.

Payor

The payor is the person named in the order/agreement who provides the support payments. Some MEPs refer to the payor as the "debtor" or "respondent".

Personal property lien

Support payments in arrears can be registered as a lien or charge against any personal property (e.g. motor vehicle) owned or held by the support payor in the jurisdiction. Registration affects the ability of the payor to sell or finance the encumbered personal property.

Reason for termination

Cases will terminate or cease to be enrolled in a MEP for a variety of reasons. For example, orders expire as children age, the payor or recipient may die, or the recipient or payor may choose to withdraw from the program. In some instances the program may close the case depending upon its policy. For example, a MEP might close a case if the recipient cannot be located or if the recipient is accepting direct payments contrary to the program's policy.

Recipient

The recipient is the person named in the order/agreement to receive the support and is generally the parent who has parental responsibility for the children. Sometimes the recipient is a grandparent or another person responsible for the children. The money the recipient receives could be for the benefit of the recipient, for dependent child(ren), or for both. Some MEPs refer to the recipient as the "creditor" or "claimant".

Register order against personal property

This refers to the registration of the maintenance order against property of the payor.

Regular payments

This refers to the amount ordered or agreed to, expressed as a monthly payment due and includes the regular ongoing amount due in one month. Scheduled arrears are not included.

Total payments

This refers to all monies for support, expressed as a monthly payment. This amount includes the regular amount expected for a given month plus scheduled arrears, event-driven payments, and fees, costs and penalties due.

Voluntary payment arrangement

This refers to an arrangement made by the maintenance enforcement program and agreed to by the payor where a voluntary payment schedule is established. The voluntary assignment of wages is included.

Writ of execution

This refers to the actions taken by the maintenance enforcement program that result in payment, for example the seizure and sale of a payor's assets.

Writ of seizure and sale

A legal document by which a sheriff in a jurisdiction where the writ is filed can be authorized to seize either personal property (e.g. motor vehicle) or real property (e.g. land) of a support payor in default and to sell the property to satisfy the support debt. A writ of seizure and sale can also affect the ability of a payor to finance or sell the encumbered property.

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Data tables

Table 1

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by interjurisdictional support order (ISO) status, by fiscal year

	Cases enrolled		Non-ISO	ISO-in	ISO-out
	number	percent			
Prince Edward Island					
2002/2003	2,424	100	84	11	5
2003/2004	2,571	100	85	11	4
2004/2005	2,568	100	85	11	4
2005/2006	2,676	100	85	11	4
2006/2007	2,730	100	84	11	5
Nova Scotia²					
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	20,526	100	83	6	11
2005/2006	20,580	100	82	6	12
2006/2007	19,968	100	82	6	12
Quebec¹					
2002/2003	115,152	100	98	1	1
2003/2004	121,464	100	98	1	1
2004/2005	125,652	100	98	1	1
2005/2006	129,390	100	98	1	1
2006/2007	132,177	100	98	1	1
Saskatchewan					
2002/2003	9,483	100	68	13	19
2003/2004	9,663	100	68	13	19
2004/2005	9,675	100	67	13	19
2005/2006	9,366	100	69	13	19
2006/2007	9,156	100	70	13	18
Alberta²					
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	50,271	100	75	16	9
2006/2007	48,897	100	75	17	9
British Columbia					
2002/2003	46,335	100	77	9	14
2003/2004	46,191	100	77	9	14
2004/2005	45,132	100	77	9	14
2005/2006	44,544	100	77	9	14
2006/2007	43,578	100	77	9	14
Yukon²					
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	591	100	39	32	29
2004/2005	603	100	40	32	28
2005/2006	582	100	44	28	28
2006/2007	555	100	43	29	28
Northwest Territories²					
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	855	100	47	29	24
2005/2006	816	100	50	27	23
2006/2007	858	100	51	26	23

1. In Quebec, cases enrolled in the annual tables include direct payment cases. Direct payments are defined as payments made by the payor to the recipient which do not involve the maintenance enforcement program.

2. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO refers to interjurisdictional support orders. The provinces and territories have enacted legislation to ensure that orders/agreements can be enforced beyond their borders. Non-ISO cases are typically cases where both parties live in the same province/territory. ISO-in cases are cases that the province/territory has been asked by another jurisdiction to enforce because the payor lives and/or has assets inside their borders. ISO-out cases are cases that the province/territory has sent to another jurisdiction for enforcement because the payor lives and/or has assets outside their borders.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 2

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, April 2002 to March 2007

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Average ¹
	number												
Prince Edward Island													
2002/2003	2,118	2,142	2,154	..	2,193	2,205	2,211	2,244	2,271	2,280	2,289	2,307	2,219
2003/2004	2,319	2,340	2,343	2,364	2,364	2,400	2,418	2,424	2,442	2,430	2,451	2,460	2,396
2004/2005	2,481	2,481	2,499	2,508	2,343	2,349	2,364	2,394	2,400	2,430	2,439	2,457	2,429
2005/2006	2,469	2,511	2,502	2,523	2,547	2,514	2,547	2,535	2,565	2,550	2,559	2,571	2,533
2006/2007	2,580	2,568	2,568	2,565	2,535	2,553	2,559	2,559	2,565	2,586	2,580	2,598	2,568
Nova Scotia²													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	18,249	18,282	18,231	18,240	18,285	18,267	18,189	..
2005/2006	18,228	18,207	18,204	18,171	18,207	18,207	18,225	18,204	18,132	18,144	18,183	18,177	18,191
2006/2007	18,207	18,120	18,120	18,024	17,940	17,811	17,730	17,748	17,631	17,661	17,691	17,577	17,855
New Brunswick													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	13,155	13,197	13,227	13,314	13,374	13,389	13,449	13,485	13,518	13,515	13,536	13,536	13,391
2004/2005	13,482	13,506	13,488	13,515	13,446	13,434	13,308	13,215	13,083	13,002	12,996	12,987	13,289
2005/2006	12,972	12,936	12,912	12,909	12,873	12,876	12,846	12,840	12,831	12,855	12,840	12,807	12,875
2006/2007	12,828	12,813	12,822	12,840	12,837	12,837	12,837	12,825	12,834	12,864	12,852	12,840	12,836
Quebec													
2002/2003	94,755	94,959	95,316	95,730	96,027	96,102	96,597	96,912	97,317	97,863	98,382	98,664	96,552
2003/2004	99,075	99,552	99,696	100,029	100,299	100,587	100,677	100,878	101,238	101,682	102,000	102,339	100,671
2004/2005	102,522	102,792	102,846	102,888	103,035	103,218	103,095	103,344	103,611	103,755	104,082	104,385	103,298
2005/2006	104,670	104,847	105,063	105,270	105,600	105,669	105,735	105,861	106,122	106,230	106,425	106,227	105,643
2006/2007	106,395	106,602	106,458	106,587	106,752	106,593	106,575	106,674	106,764	106,929	106,977	107,070	106,698
Ontario													
2002/2003	172,140	173,094	173,907	174,360	175,308	175,851	175,923	174,075	173,142	173,223	173,358	173,124	173,959
2003/2004	172,935	173,346	173,532	173,502	174,159	174,744	175,794	176,175	176,700	177,492	177,690	176,730	175,233
2004/2005	176,769	176,397	176,418	177,036	177,120	177,231	177,948	177,933	178,122	178,326	178,542	178,251	177,508
2005/2006	178,662	178,680	179,154	179,517	179,838	180,090	180,429	180,942	180,966	181,032	180,192	175,005	179,542
2006/2007	172,398	169,524	168,306	167,394	167,202	168,411	168,669	168,702	168,786	169,974	169,845	170,826	169,170
Saskatchewan													
2002/2003	7,863	7,809	7,803	7,821	7,791	7,788	7,800	7,767	7,746	7,758	7,614	7,686	7,771
2003/2004	7,680	7,725	7,752	7,758	7,809	7,818	7,866	7,827	7,824	7,857	7,854	7,848	7,802
2004/2005	7,800	..	7,809	7,860	7,908	7,893	7,848	7,887	7,875	7,875	7,863	7,791	7,855
2005/2006	7,767	7,740	7,773	7,761	7,794	7,737	7,752	7,725	7,770	7,737	7,653	7,635	7,737
2006/2007	7,602	7,572	7,608	7,557	7,596	7,593	7,596	7,620	7,695	7,644	7,545	7,548	7,598
Alberta²													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	46,578	47,043	47,607	46,977	46,170	46,143	46,125	46,107	46,110	46,083	46,062	45,963	46,414
2006/2007	45,903	45,612	45,393	45,288	45,138	45,078	45,021	44,826	44,793	44,721	44,694	44,619	45,091
British Columbia													
2002/2003	40,011	40,011	40,044	40,119	40,197	40,170	40,092	40,080	39,978	39,984	39,912	39,948	40,046
2003/2004	39,957	39,912	39,924	39,888	39,741	39,684	39,708	39,771	39,792	39,792	39,789	39,774	39,811
2004/2005	39,753	39,732	39,552	39,396	39,273	39,144	39,039	38,928	38,895	38,901	38,958	38,814	39,199
2005/2006	38,712	38,661	38,637	38,601	38,532	38,514	38,460	38,493	38,499	38,496	38,394	38,355	38,530
2006/2007	38,433	38,355	38,316	38,229	38,055	37,914	37,785	37,698	37,680	37,647	37,650	37,572	37,945
Yukon²													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	414	423	429	423	429	432	420	432	432	426	426	420	426
2004/2005	420	408	414	432	423	414	411	417	420	426	438	438	422
2005/2006	432	429	438	444	435	432	423	426	423	423	414	423	429
2006/2007	417	414	408	411	408	402	417	393	387	390	396	402	404
Northwest Territories²													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	654	..
2005/2006	645	648	642	648	639	642	636	636	636	627	621	627	637
2006/2007	633	645	657	660	663	675	657	642	651	657	657	654	654

1. The average monthly caseload for the year is calculated by taking the sum of the monthly figures and dividing by 12. In certain instances, monthly average caseload is calculated using 11 months of data if caseload data from one month are not available.

2. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Note: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 3

Maintenance enforcement cases administered, by new enrollments, re-enrollments and closed cases, by fiscal year

	Cases administered during fiscal year ¹	Cases					
		New enrolments		Re-enrolments ²		Closed cases ³	
		number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Nova Scotia⁵							
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	20,718	2,166	10	612	3	2,547	12
2006/2007	20,430	1,953	10	561	3	2,859	14
Quebec							
2002/2003	120,393	15,834	13	921	1	6,618	5
2003/2004	127,026	14,490	11	987	1	7,023	6
2004/2005	131,097	12,969	10	900	1	7,029	5
2005/2006	135,606	13,149	10	981	1	7,746	6
2006/2007	138,744	12,096	9	999	1	8,061	6
Saskatchewan							
2002/2003	8,643	774	9	42	0	948	11
2003/2004	8,808	846	10	210	2	969	11
2004/2005	8,910	810	9	192	2	1,116	13
2005/2006	8,724	684	8	192	2	1,095	13
2006/2007	8,634	741	9	174	2	1,083	13
Alberta⁵							
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	54,417	6,468	12	2,121	4	8,445	16
2006/2007	51,360	4,398	9	2,034	4	6,741	13
British Columbia							
2002/2003	45,348	4,869	11	603	1	5,409	12
2003/2004	45,072	4,593	10	678	2	5,298	12
2004/2005	43,959	3,654	8	609	1	5,151	12
2005/2006	43,455	4,107	9	642	1	5,109	12
2006/2007	42,357	3,555	8	558	1	4,797	11
Yukon⁵							
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	483	54	11	21	4	66	14
2004/2005	507	72	14	27	5	72	14
2005/2006	504	57	11	21	4	84	17
2006/2007	486	60	12	18	4	87	18
Northwest Territories^{4,5}							
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	714	78	11	12	2	87	12
2006/2007	720	117	16	12	2	63	9

1. This is the number of cases enrolled for all or part of the fiscal year. This figure may be undercounted, as it does not include non-ISO cases that become ISO-outs during the year.
2. Re-enrolments are cases that were not enrolled in the MEP at the beginning of the fiscal year, but re-enrolled at some point during the year. Cases that were newly enrolled, withdrawn then re-enrolled all in the same year are categorized as re-enrolments only.
3. Closed cases are cases that terminated or withdrew from the MEP during the fiscal year and did not re-enrol.
4. In the Northwest Territories, totals for closed cases and cases administered are undercounted.
5. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Note: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 4

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by length of enrolment, by fiscal year

	Cases enrolled		Length of time enrolled (years)						
			≤1	>1 to 3	>3 to 5	>5 to 7	>7 to 10	>10 to 15	>15
	number	percent	percentage of cases						
Prince Edward Island									
2002/2003	2,310	100	12	20	17	19	18	13	2
2003/2004	2,466	100	9	20	16	17	20	16	3
2004/2005	2,454	100	10	17	18	14	20	17	4
2005/2006	2,553	100	8	17	17	14	21	18	5
2006/2007	2,583	100	7	15	16	15	19	21	7
Nova Scotia^{1,4}									
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	18,174	100	8	14	15	13	50	..	..
2005/2006	18,177	100	8	14	13	13	23	28	..
2006/2007	17,568	100	8	14	13	13	19	33	..
Quebec^{1,2}									
2002/2003	113,775	100	14	30	31	25	..	..	..
2003/2004	120,003	100	12	25	29	24	10	..	..
2004/2005	124,068	100	11	22	23	25	19	..	..
2005/2006	127,860	100	10	20	20	23	27	..	..
2006/2007	130,683	100	9	18	18	19	28	7	..
Saskatchewan³									
2002/2003	7,695	100	9	17	16	23	22	12	1
2003/2004	7,833	100	10	16	15	13	30	14	2
2004/2005	7,791	100	10	18	14	13	26	17	2
2005/2006	7,620	100	8	19	13	13	24	20	3
2006/2007	7,554	100	9	16	15	12	17	27	4
Alberta⁴									
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	45,969	100	9	17	15	12	17	21	10
2006/2007	44,613	100	9	17	14	12	16	21	11
British Columbia									
2002/2003	39,954	100	11	23	20	16	14	16	..
2003/2004	39,783	100	11	20	19	16	16	17	1
2004/2005	38,814	100	9	19	18	17	18	15	3
2005/2006	38,349	100	10	17	16	16	20	16	5
2006/2007	37,563	100	9	16	16	15	20	17	6
Yukon⁴									
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	414	100	12	16	19	16	20	17	..
2004/2005	435	100	14	16	16	16	20	19	..
2005/2006	417	100	10	20	13	16	19	17	5
2006/2007	399	100	13	20	12	12	20	20	5

Table 4

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by length of enrolment, by fiscal year (concluded)

	Cases enrolled		Length of time enrolled (years)						
			≤1	>1 to 3	>3 to 5	>5 to 7	>7 to 10	>10 to 15	>15
	number	percent	percentage of cases						
Northwest Territories⁴									
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	657	100	15	20	19	14	17	13	1
2005/2006	630	100	12	23	19	15	15	15	1
2006/2007	654	100	17	22	15	15	15	16	1

1. In Nova Scotia and Quebec, length of time enrolled does not exceed 11 years because in 1996 the MEP information systems were implemented by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice and the Ministère du Revenu du Québec in 1996, and the date of enrolment for previously enrolled cases was set to 1996.
2. In Quebec, cases enrolled include direct payment cases. Direct payments are defined as payments made by the payor to the recipient which do not involve the maintenance enforcement program.
3. In Saskatchewan in 1997, an increase in staff, judges, and the introduction of the Child Support Guidelines may have increased the number of cases processed in that year. In 2002/2003, this corresponds with cases of 5 to 7 years duration with the maintenance enforcement program. In 2003/2004, it corresponds with cases of 7 to 10 years duration, and in 2006/2007 it corresponds with cases of 10 to 15 years duration.
4. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 5

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by authority of order/agreement and type of beneficiary, at March 31, 2007

Province and type of beneficiary	Cases enrolled		Authority of order/agreement							
			Divorce Act		Provincial order		Provincial agreement		Unknown	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Nova Scotia^{1,2}										
Children only	15,750	100	4,320	27	.	.	.	.	11,430	73
Spouse only	828	100	426	51	.	.	.	.	402	49
Spouse with children	741	100	486	66	.	.	.	.	255	34
Unknown	246	100	66	27	.	.	.	.	180	73
Total	17,565	100	5,298	30	.	.	.	.	12,267	70
Saskatchewan										
Children only	6,423	100	2,589	40	2,928	46	378	6	528	8
Spouse only	222	100	156	70	27	12	9	4	30	14
Spouse with children	360	100	267	74	60	17	12	3	21	6
Unknown	546	100	261	48	159	29	18	3	108	20
Total	7,551	100	3,273	43	3,174	42	417	6	687	9
Alberta²										
Children only	32,787	100	12,939	39	15,507	47	4,341	13	0	0
Spouse only	1,092	100	1,002	92	90	8	0	0	0	0
Spouse with children	861	100	723	84	135	16	3	0	0	0
Unknown	9,876	100	78	1	33	0	6	0	9,759	99
Total	44,616	100	14,742	33	15,765	35	4,350	10	9,759	22
British Columbia										
Children only	34,842	100	7,779	22	24,657	71	2,364	7	42	0
Spouse only	825	100	417	51	318	39	90	11	0	0
Spouse with children	1,779	100	693	39	936	53	147	8	3	0
Unknown	120	100	48	40	54	45	12	10	6	5
Total	37,566	100	8,937	24	25,965	69	2,613	7	51	0
Yukon²										
Children only	288	100	78	27	195	68	15	5	0	0
Spouse only	15	100	9	60	6	40	0	0	0	0
Spouse with children	6	100	3	50	0	0	3	50	0	0
Unknown	96	100	9	9	27	28	3	3	57	59
Total	405	100	99	24	228	56	21	5	57	14

1. In Nova Scotia, separate figures for provincial orders and agreements are not available. The combined figure is included in unknown. Furthermore, the authority of the support order is unavailable for cases that do not have an active regular payment obligation.
2. Nova Scotia, Alberta and Yukon report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 6

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by sex of payor and recipient, at March 31

	Cases enrolled		Sex of payor and recipient		
			Male payor female recipient	Female payor male recipient	Unknown ¹
			number	percent	percentage of cases
Prince Edward Island					
2003	2,307	100	95	0	5
2004	2,466	100	95	0	5
2005	2,457	100	91	0	9
2006	2,571	100	87	0	13
2007	2,598	100	87	0	13
Nova Scotia²					
2003	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..
2005	18,177	100	96	3	1
2006	18,171	100	96	3	1
2007	17,568	100	96	3	1
Saskatchewan					
2003	7,695	100	98	2	1
2004	7,839	100	98	2	0
2005	7,791	100	98	2	0
2006	7,629	100	98	2	0
2007	7,551	100	98	2	0
Alberta²					
2003	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..
2005	..	..	..	..	..
2006	45,972	100	96	3	1
2007	44,619	100	96	3	1
British Columbia					
2003	39,942	100	97	2	1
2004	39,780	100	97	3	1
2005	38,811	100	97	3	1
2006	38,349	100	96	3	1
2007	37,566	100	96	3	1
Yukon²					
2003	..	..	..	..	..
2004	417	100	97	2	1
2005	438	100	97	3	1
2006	423	100	96	3	1
2007	399	100	97	2	1
Northwest Territories²					
2003	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..
2005	654	100	90	4	6
2006	630	100	91	3	6
2007	657	100	91	4	5

1. The "Unknown" category includes a small proportion of "Other" cases, which consists of male payor and male recipient, or female payor and female recipient.

2. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 7

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by median age of payor, recipient and children, at March 31

	Payor	Recipient	Children
	median age (years)		
Prince Edward Island			
2003	41	39	14
2004	41	39	14
2005	41	38	14
2006	42	40	15
2007	43	40	16
Nova Scotia²			
2003	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..
2005	41	39	14
2006	42	39	14
2007	42	39	15
Saskatchewan¹			
2003	41	38	14
2004	41	39	14
2005	41	39	14
2006	42	39	14
2007	42	39	14
Alberta²			
2003	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..
2005	..	..	..
2006	41	38	13
2007	41	38	13
British Columbia			
2003	41	39	13
2004	42	39	13
2005	42	40	13
2006	43	40	13
2007	43	40	13
Yukon²			
2003	..	..	..
2004	42	38	13
2005	43	38	13
2006	43	39	13
2007	43	39	13
Northwest Territories²			
2003	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..
2005	39	36	13
2006	40	37	14
2007	40	37	14

1. Median age for children for Saskatchewan includes all children associated on the order, including an unknown number who may not be covered by the agreement.

2. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Note: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 8

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by assignment status, at March 31

	Cases enrolled		Cases assigned ¹	
	number		number	percent
Prince Edward Island				
2003	2,307		351	15
2004	2,460		336	14
2005	2,457		348	14
2006	2,571		348	14
2007	2,598		315	12
Nova Scotia³				
2003	..		..	..
2004	..		..	..
2005	18,189		2,415	13
2006	18,177		2,394	13
2007	17,577		2,370	13
New Brunswick				
2003	..		..	..
2004	13,536		3,225	24
2005	12,987		2,967	23
2006	12,807		2,913	23
2007	12,840		2,835	22
Quebec				
2003	98,664		23,175	23
2004	102,339		22,650	22
2005	104,385		21,441	21
2006	106,227		20,223	19
2007	107,070		19,164	18
Ontario				
2003	173,124		17,520	10
2004	176,730		17,625	10
2005	178,251		16,965	10
2006	175,005		16,356	9
2007	170,826		16,320	10
Saskatchewan				
2003	7,686		396	5
2004	7,848		378	5
2005	7,791		366	5
2006	7,635		315	4
2007	7,548		267	4
Alberta³				
2003	..		..	..
2004	..		..	..
2005	..		..	..
2006	45,963		2,649	6
2007	44,619		2,370	5
British Columbia²				
2003	39,948		7,782	19
2004	39,774		6,435	16
2005	38,814		5,601	14
2006	38,355		5,205	14
2007	37,572		4,806	13

1. Assignment status indicates that the recipient is receiving social assistance and has assigned their entitlement to receive support payments to the government.
2. In British Columbia, all support payments received are disbursed to the recipients, regardless of the social assistance status of the recipient. However, recipients on social assistance may have their social assistance benefits reduced based on the amount of support received. For the purposes of this report, these cases are considered assigned.
3. Nova Scotia and Alberta report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Note: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 9

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by regular monthly payment due, at March 31

	Cases enrolled		Regular monthly payment due (dollars)							
			0 ¹	1 to 200	201 to 400	401 to 600	601 to 800	801 to 1,000	1,001 to 2,000	over 2,000
	number	percent	percentage of cases							
Prince Edward Island										
2003	2,295	100	11	35	36	12	3	1	1	1
2004	2,469	100	14	33	35	11	4	1	2	0
2005	2,463	100	14	33	35	11	4	1	2	0
2006	2,571	100	16	31	34	12	4	2	2	0
2007	2,601	100	19	29	32	12	4	2	2	0
Nova Scotia²										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	18,183	100	10	43	27	11	4	2	2	1
2006	18,171	100	11	41	28	11	4	2	2	1
2007	17,565	100	12	38	28	12	5	2	2	1
New Brunswick										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	13,542	100	17	41	27	8	3	1	1	0
2005	12,981	100	16	40	28	9	3	2	2	0
2006	12,816	100	15	40	29	10	3	1	2	1
2007	12,828	100	16	38	29	10	3	2	2	0
Quebec										
2003	98,667	100	11	22	37	16	7	3	4	1
2004	102,336	100	10	21	37	17	7	3	4	1
2005	104,388	100	10	21	37	17	7	3	4	1
2006	106,227	100	9	20	37	18	8	3	4	1
2007	107,070	100	8	20	37	18	8	3	4	1
Ontario										
2003	173,118	100	20	25	27	13	6	3	4	1
2004	176,727	100	21	24	26	14	6	3	4	1
2005	178,251	100	23	22	26	13	6	3	4	1
2006	175,005	100	23	22	27	14	6	3	4	1
2007	170,835	100	21	22	27	14	7	4	5	1
Saskatchewan										
2003	7,701	100	12	34	31	14	5	2	2	0
2004	7,836	100	13	32	32	14	6	2	2	0
2005	7,785	100	13	31	32	15	5	2	2	0
2006	7,635	100	13	29	32	15	6	3	2	0
2007	7,560	100	14	28	32	15	6	2	2	0
Alberta²										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2006	45,963	100	19	24	30	14	6	3	3	1
2007	44,622	100	20	22	30	15	6	3	3	1
British Columbia										
2003	39,942	100	11	33	33	14	5	3	2	1
2004	39,774	100	12	31	33	14	5	3	2	1
2005	38,808	100	13	29	33	14	5	3	3	1
2006	38,343	100	13	28	33	14	5	3	3	1
2007	37,569	100	14	27	33	14	6	3	3	1

Table 9

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by regular monthly payment due, at March 31 (concluded)

	Cases enrolled		Regular monthly payment due (dollars)							
			0 ¹	1 to 200	201 to 400	401 to 600	601 to 800	801 to 1,000	1,001 to 2,000	over 2,000
	number	percent	percentage of cases							
Yukon²										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	423	100	11	23	34	19	5	4	3	1
2005	441	100	12	26	36	18	3	3	2	1
2006	414	100	12	22	38	18	4	2	3	0
2007	408	100	13	26	33	16	7	2	2	0
Northwest Territories²										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	654	100	16	14	32	20	8	6	4	0
2006	636	100	14	11	32	24	9	5	5	0
2007	657	100	15	11	31	21	10	7	5	1

1. Cases may have a \$0 amount due for several reasons including: they have no regular ongoing obligation, they only have arrears, or they have a different payment schedule, such as quarterly.

2. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 10

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled and regular monthly median payment due, by type of beneficiary, at March 31, 2007

	Type of beneficiary									
	Total	One child	Two children	Three children or more	Spouse only	Spouse with one child	Spouse with two children	Spouse with three children or more	Other	Unknown
Prince Edward Island										
Cases enrolled (number)	2,595	1,356	669	267	75	39	36	12	0	141
Monthly median regular amount due (dollars)	213	200	284	317	438	237	500	460	...	193
Nova Scotia²										
Cases enrolled (number)	17,565	9,846	4,530	1,374	828	264	315	162	3	243
Monthly median regular amount due (dollars)	201	157	300	377	400	380	645	717	190	187
Saskatchewan										
Cases enrolled (number)	7,551	3,690	1,890	843	222	129	138	93	0	546
Monthly median regular amount due (dollars)	250	213	340	433	350	345	612	750	...	..
Alberta²										
Cases enrolled (number)	44,616	21,447	8,823	2,517	1,092	318	357	186	0	9,876
Monthly median regular amount due (dollars)	251	254	453	593	525	1,000	1,416	1,771	...	..
British Columbia										
Cases enrolled (number)	37,566	22,992	8,796	3,054	825	759	705	315	0	120
Monthly median regular amount due (dollars)	259	212	372	403	500	500	714	868	...	..
Yukon²										
Cases enrolled (number)	405	207	60	21	15	6	0	0	0	96
Monthly median regular amount due (dollars)	276	267	435	565	200	795	...	...	...	..
Northwest Territories^{1,2}										
Cases enrolled (number)	657	357	174	105	21	.	.	.	0	0
Monthly median regular amount due (dollars)	350	300	409	587	525	.	.	.	...	...

1. The Northwest Territories cannot distinguish between 'children only' cases and 'spouse and children' cases. Both types of cases are included in the 'children only' categories.

2. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Note: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 11

Maintenance enforcement cases administered with a regular amount due, by amount due and received, by fiscal year

	Cases administered with a regular amount due ¹	Regular amount due	Regular amount received	
	number	millions of dollars	millions of dollars	percent
Prince Edward Island				
2002/2003	2,121	7.7	5.1	66
2003/2004	2,238	8.2	5.4	66
2004/2005	2,361	8.3	5.5	67
2005/2006	2,271	8.4	5.6	66
2006/2007	2,214	8.3	5.4	66
Nova Scotia^{3,4}				
2002/2003	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	18,879	62.9	39.3	62
2006/2007	18,582	63.3	39.7	63
Quebec²				
2002/2003	94,143	406.2	360.3	89
2003/2004	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	100,359	453.5	407.6	90
2005/2006	102,915	470.7	421.5	90
2006/2007	104,496	484.7	434.2	90
Saskatchewan				
2002/2003	8,022	29.5	23.2	79
2003/2004	7,995	30.2	23.5	78
2004/2005	7,953	32.3	24.7	77
2005/2006	7,863	31.6	25.4	80
2006/2007	7,794	32.2	27.1	84
Alberta⁴				
2002/2003	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	44,349	186.0	118.6	64
2006/2007	42,309	184.0	122.5	67
British Columbia³				
2002/2003	40,584	154.0	109.3	71
2003/2004	40,098	151.6	108.1	71
2004/2005	38,706	149.8	109.2	73
2005/2006	37,809	148.9	109.1	73
2006/2007	36,675	149.4	110.1	74
Yukon^{3,4}				
2002/2003	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	444	1.8	1.1	63
2004/2005	450	1.7	1.2	68
2005/2006	450	1.7	1.2	70
2006/2007	429	1.7	1.1	68

Table 11

Maintenance enforcement cases administered with a regular amount due, by amount due and received, by fiscal year (concluded)

	Cases administered with a regular amount due ¹	Regular amount due	Regular amount received	
	number	millions of dollars	millions of dollars	percent
Northwest Territories⁴				
2002/2003	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	645	3.1	1.9	61
2006/2007	669	3.2	1.9	60

1. Excludes those cases that only have other types of payments due (scheduled arrears, event-driven payments, and fees, costs and penalties).
2. In certain cases if the program is certain to recover the sum from the payor, Quebec legislation allows for the MEP to provide an advance to the recipient to help ensure regularity of payments. Advances are considered to be support payments and must be repaid by the payor.
3. Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In Nova Scotia and Yukon, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.
4. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Cases administered include cases registered for at least part of the year, i.e. cases enrolled and cases terminated. The amount due represents the total regular amount due for the year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 12

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by regular monthly payment due and proportion in compliance, at March 31

	Regular monthly payment due (dollars)							
	Total	1 to 200	201 to 400	401 to 600	601 to 800	801 to 1,000	1,001 to 2,000	over 2,000
	percentage of cases in compliance							
Prince Edward Island								
2003	49	34	47	51	57	64	36	67
2004	55	43	50	55	58	50	36	50
2005	55	44	49	53	61	55	47	50
2006	58	44	51	57	61	50	47	...
2007	58	42	51	56	67	41	48	33
Nova Scotia^{1,4}								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	55	45	54	55	58	55	49	53
2006	56	44	54	57	58	53	53	51
2007	56	44	54	57	58	53	58	51
New Brunswick								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	61	48	56	62	60	61	66	44
2005	60	49	55	56	54	57	47	40
2006	62	52	58	59	62	58	55	27
2007	65	54	63	64	65	60	64	61
Quebec²								
2003	79	68	75	81	85	86	85	83
2004	79	68	74	82	85	87	86	84
2005	78	67	73	81	84	86	85	85
2006	78	68	74	81	84	87	86	83
2007	77	68	72	80	84	85	86	84

Table 12

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by regular monthly payment due and proportion in compliance, at March 31 (concluded)

	Regular monthly payment due (dollars)							
	Total	1 to 200	201 to 400	401 to 600	601 to 800	801 to 1,000	1,001 to 2,000	over 2,000
	percentage of cases in compliance							
Ontario³								
2003	61	41	52	57	60	60	58	46
2004	63	42	54	60	62	65	61	51
2005	64	43	54	59	62	63	60	51
2006	66	47	56	62	64	66	63	54
2007	64	45	54	60	63	65	62	53
Saskatchewan								
2003	65	56	64	62	65	63	59	50
2004	67	59	64	67	62	62	68	83
2005	68	60	65	64	61	67	61	50
2006	69	60	67	67	62	64	64	56
2007	69	59	66	66	63	66	62	60
Alberta⁴								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2006	70	59	66	61	63	66	62	59
2007	64	49	55	59	59	61	61	58
British Columbia¹								
2003	60	51	57	59	58	56	53	53
2004	63	53	60	62	60	58	55	55
2005	65	55	61	63	61	60	56	56
2006	65	55	61	62	61	61	55	55
2007	64	54	60	62	60	61	57	53
Yukon^{1,4}								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	62	50	54	67	43	83	50	100
2005	65	53	62	62	50	50	100	100
2006	60	48	55	60	50	67	75	...
2007	62	49	49	68	70	100	67	...
Northwest Territories⁴								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	57	39	53	45	50	42	75	...
2006	61	54	54	56	47	40	73	...
2007	56	36	48	50	52	60	55	50

1. Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In Nova Scotia and Yukon, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.
2. In certain cases, if the program is certain to recover the sum from the payor, Quebec legislation allows for the MEP to provide an advance to the recipient to help ensure regularity of payments. Advances are considered to be support payments and must be repaid by the payor.
3. Ontario may have some cases that paid beyond month end that are included as having made a payment in the month.
4. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Regular payments are the ongoing amount ordered or agreed to. Compliance in this instance indicates that the regular amount expected in the month was received. The figure for compliance on total cases includes cases where no monthly payment is due. As cases with no payment in a month are coded as 100% compliant, the compliance for total cases may be higher than it would be if based solely on the numbers for the different payment categories shown in this table.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 13

Maintenance enforcement cases in compliance with regular payments due, by type of beneficiary, at March 31, 2007

	Type of beneficiary								
	Children only			Spouse only			Spouse with children		
	Cases enrolled	Cases in compliance		Cases enrolled	Cases in compliance		Cases enrolled	Cases in compliance	
	number	number	percent	number	number	percent	number	number	percent
Prince Edward Island	2,295	1,326	58	75	57	76	87	48	55
Nova Scotia ^{1,3}	15,744	8,643	55	831	600	72	744	456	61
New Brunswick	11,127	7,251	65	405	294	73	1,239	795	64
Saskatchewan	6,429	4,230	66	225	183	81	354	255	72
Alberta ³	32,787	18,126	55	1,095	711	65	858	405	47
British Columbia ¹	34,851	22,446	64	828	582	70	1,776	1,005	57
Yukon ^{1,3}	291	162	56	15	12	80	6	3	50
Northwest Territories ^{2,3}	633	357	56	24	12	50	.	.	.

1. Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In Nova Scotia and Yukon, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.
2. The Northwest Territories cannot distinguish between 'children only' cases and 'spouse and children' cases. Both types of cases are included in the 'children only' categories.
3. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Regular payments are the ongoing amount ordered or agreed to. Compliance indicates that the regular amount expected in a month was received in full by the end of the month.

"Other" and "Unknown" type of recipient categories are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 14

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by compliance on regular monthly payments due, at month end

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Average ⁴
	percentage of cases in compliance												
Prince Edward Island													
2002/2003	55	53	54	..	51	52	50	53	49	50	52	49	52
2003/2004	55	52	52	52	50	52	51	52	51	53	51	55	52
2004/2005	50	54	51	52	56	53	55	55	53	54	55	55	54
2005/2006	54	56	53	53	54	53	53	52	53	54	55	58	54
2006/2007	56	56	56	54	56	56	56	55	56	58	55	58	56
Nova Scotia^{1,5}													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	53	53	54	53	51	53	55	..
2005/2006	54	56	55	53	54	53	53	55	52	54	53	56	54
2006/2007	54	56	55	54	55	52	56	56	53	56	54	56	55
New Brunswick													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	48	59	55	59	54	..	58	55	56	59	54	61	56
2004/2005	59	61	57	58	60	57	55	57	57	59	52	60	58
2005/2006	58	63	58	59	61	59	60	56	58	62	59	62	60
2006/2007	61	61	60	61	59	57	62	57	57	62	56	65	60
Quebec²													
2002/2003	78	79	80	80	80	79	80	80	80	77	78	79	79
2003/2004	79	79	80	79	80	79	79	79	79	76	78	79	79
2004/2005	79	79	81	81	81	80	79	79	79	75	78	78	79
2005/2006	78	79	80	80	80	80	78	80	79	75	77	78	79
2006/2007	78	79	81	79	80	79	79	80	79	76	78	77	79

Table 14

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by compliance on regular monthly payments due, at month end (concluded)

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Average ⁴
percentage of cases in compliance													
Ontario³													
2002/2003	59	63	61	60	60	59	60	60	59	61	59	61	60
2003/2004	60	62	62	61	59	62	62	59	60	61	..	63	61
2004/2005	63	63	64	64	63	63	63	63	63	62	64	64	63
2005/2006	65	65	66	64	65	65	65	66	65	65	64	66	65
2006/2007	64	65	65	62	62	63	63	62	61	63	61	64	63
Saskatchewan													
2002/2003	68	67	63	65	63	64	65	65	63	64	64	65	65
2003/2004	67	65	64	66	60	63	65	61	65	60	61	67	64
2004/2005	67	66	66	64	65	65	65	67	65	64	63	68	65
2005/2006	68	67	68	61	67	66	66	67	66	63	65	69	66
2006/2007	66	69	66	65	67	66	68	66	68	66	65	69	67
Alberta⁵													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005/2006	58	59	59	57	58	58	58	61	59	61	61	70	60
2006/2007	61	63	62	61	63	61	63	62	60	63	62	64	62
British Columbia¹													
2002/2003	61	60	60	61	59	59	60	60	60	59	59	60	60
2003/2004	61	61	60	60	59	61	62	59	61	58	58	63	60
2004/2005	62	61	62	61	62	61	61	64	64	63	63	65	62
2005/2006	65	63	64	62	63	63	63	63	62	63	63	65	63
2006/2007	64	65	64	63	64	63	65	64	62	64	63	64	64
Yukon^{1,5}													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	59	59	58	59	55	58	59	54	59	54	55	62	58
2004/2005	60	61	60	62	60	60	57	61	58	56	59	65	60
2005/2006	62	64	64	56	63	60	59	59	61	56	57	60	60
2006/2007	54	63	61	58	63	57	59	58	54	59	55	62	59
Northwest Territories⁵													
2002/2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2003/2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004/2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	..
2005/2006	56	60	47	51	56	57	52	56	49	57	54	61	55
2006/2007	51	66	55	47	55	53	51	58	45	57	48	56	54

1. Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In Nova Scotia and Yukon, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.
2. In certain cases if the program is certain to recover the sum from the payor, Quebec legislation allows for the MEP to provide an advance to the recipient to help ensure regularity of payments. Advances are considered to be support payments and must be repaid by the payor.
3. Ontario may have some cases that paid beyond month end that are included as having made a payment for the month.
4. The average monthly compliance rate for the year is calculated by taking the sum of the monthly figures and dividing by 12. In certain instances, monthly average caseload is calculated using 11 months of data if caseload data from one month are not available.
5. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Regular payments are the ongoing amount ordered or agreed to.

Compliance indicates that the regular amount expected in a month was received in full by the end of the month.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 15

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled for entire fiscal year, by regularity of monthly compliance

	Cases enrolled with a regular payment due ¹		Regularity of monthly compliance				
			In full compliance every month	In full compliance between 6 to 11 months	In full compliance between 1 to 5 months	Never in full compliance, some money received	Never in full compliance, no money received
	number	percent	percentage of cases				
Nova Scotia^{2,3}							
2005/2006	14,290	100	27	30	16	3	24
2006/2007	13,690	100	30	29	16	3	22
Alberta							
2005/2006	32,415	100	31	29	21	4	15
2006/2007	30,935	100	35	28	18	5	15
Yukon²							
2005/2006	305	100	27	43	17	2	11
2006/2007	290	100	29	39	18	4	11
Northwest Territories							
2005/2006	450	100	13	45	33	4	6
2006/2007	435	100	13	44	33	2	7

1. Cases enrolled includes all cases enrolled for the entire fiscal year that had a regular payment due each month.
2. Nova Scotia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In both jurisdictions, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.
3. In Nova Scotia, cases in compliance were slightly underestimated in November and December 2005, which may impact the results for 2005/2006.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 16

Maintenance enforcement cases enrolled, by arrears history and status, at March 31, 2007

	Total	Status at entry						Unknown
		No arrears at entry		Entered with arrears				
		No current arrears	Arrears have increased	Arrears have been paid off	Arrears have decreased	Arrears remained constant	Arrears have increased	
Prince Edward Island¹								
Cases enrolled (number)	2,598	138	156	342	228	24	1,140	570
Cases enrolled (percent)	100	5	6	13	9	1	44	22
Nova Scotia³								
Cases enrolled (number)	17,568	3,603	4,473	2,733	2,112	225	4,338	84
Cases enrolled (percent)	100	21	25	16	12	1	25	0
Quebec²								
Cases enrolled (number)	130,686	37,035	7,083	43,506	18,540	549	21,045	2,928
Cases enrolled (percent)	100	28	5	33	14	0	16	2
Saskatchewan								
Cases enrolled (number)	7,551	1,446	1,269	1,515	1,236	51	2,034	0
Cases enrolled (percent)	100	19	17	20	16	1	27	0
Alberta³								
Cases enrolled (number)	44,619	8,892	14,469	5,955	4,644	144	10,515	0
Cases enrolled (percent)	100	20	32	13	10	0	24	0
British Columbia								
Cases enrolled (number)	37,563	5,646	4,578	7,305	5,583	462	13,989	0
Cases enrolled (percent)	100	15	12	19	15	1	37	0

1. Prince Edward Island has a high number of unknowns because of a change in its information system.

2. On November 1, 1996, the Ministère du Revenu implemented the information system of the maintenance enforcement program. When that happened, Quebec knew the amount of arrears due at the time, but could not establish the arrears status at entry for the cases registered before that date. These "unknown" cases account for approximately 2% of Quebec's caseload. In Quebec, cases enrolled include direct payment cases. Direct payments are defined as payments made by the payor to the recipient which do not involve the maintenance enforcement program.

3. Nova Scotia and Alberta report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

At entry into a maintenance enforcement program, arrears status may be unknown until an accurate balance is produced. Therefore, some payors can actually be in arrears but be recorded as having no arrears.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 17

Maintenance enforcement cases with arrears, by amount owing, at March 31

	Cases enrolled	Cases with arrears		Arrears due
	number	number	percent	millions of dollars
Prince Edward Island				
2003	2,295	1,635	71	10.8
2004	2,469	1,755	71	12.5
2005	2,463	1,716	70	11.6
2006	2,571	1,767	69	13.4
2007	2,598	1,785	69	13.9
Nova Scotia^{1,3}				
2003	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..
2005	18,183	12,009	66	82.3
2006	18,171	11,661	64	85.1
2007	17,577	11,148	63	82.2
New Brunswick				
2003	..	..	..	..
2004	13,542	9,924	73	39.2
2005	12,981	10,539	81	39.0
2006	12,816	..	..	40.3
2007	12,840	..	..	42.6
Quebec				
2003	98,667	46,695	47	278.5
2004	102,336	48,723	48	283.7
2005	104,388	45,387	43	285.3
2006	106,227	47,682	45	297.2
2007	107,070	47,280	44	307.5
Ontario				
2003	173,118	131,931	76	1,182.2
2004	176,727	132,654	75	1,192.0
2005	178,251	136,623	77	1,198.8
2006	175,005	126,486	72	1,190.6
2007	170,826	130,956	77	1,233.3
Saskatchewan				
2003	7,701	4,524	59	32.0
2004	7,836	4,674	60	34.4
2005	7,785	4,674	60	37.3
2006	7,635	4,512	59	38.5
2007	7,548	4,587	61	39.8
Alberta³				
2003	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..
2005	..	..	..	..
2006	45,963	32,016	70	387.3
2007	44,619	29,778	67	384.3
British Columbia^{1,2}				
2003	39,942	26,433	66	261.0
2004	39,774	26,421	66	269.9
2005	38,808	25,410	65	277.5
2006	38,343	25,077	65	284.4
2007	37,572	24,609	65	288.3
Yukon^{1,3}				
2003	..	..	..	..
2004	423	288	68	3.9
2005	441	282	64	4.0
2006	414	258	62	3.6
2007	402	246	61	3.4

Table 17

Maintenance enforcement cases with arrears, by amount owing, at March 31 (concluded)

	Cases enrolled		Cases with arrears		Arrears due
	number		number	percent	millions of dollars
Northwest Territories³					
2003	..		..	..	..
2004	..		..	..	..
2005	654		522	80	6.5
2006	636		495	78	6.6
2007	654		522	80	6.9

1. Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In Nova Scotia and Yukon, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.
2. In British Columbia, dollars due and received for interest have not been included.
3. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: ISO-out cases are excluded.

Readers are cautioned against calculating an average per case amount of arrears. Some cases have tens or hundred of thousands of dollars of arrears, while others have a very small amount. The average will be influenced by these cases at either end of the range.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 18

Maintenance enforcement cases with arrears, by percentage received of regular monthly payment due, at March 31

	Total cases with arrears		Percentage received of regular monthly payment due					
			0	1 to 25	26 to 50	51 to 75	76 to 99	100
	number	percent	percentage of cases with arrears					
Prince Edward Island								
2003	1,629	100	50	1	8	3	5	33
2004	1,758	100	47	1	4	3	4	41
2005	1,722	100	47	1	4	2	6	40
2006	1,770	100	47	1	3	3	4	42
2007	1,785	100	47	1	2	3	4	43
Nova Scotia^{1,2}								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	11,997	100	57	0	2	2	3	36
2006	11,670	100	56	1	2	3	3	36
2007	11,148	100	56	0	2	3	3	36
New Brunswick								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	9,927	100	43	0	2	2	3	49
2005	10,533	100	37	1	3	3	4	52
2006	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2007	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec								
2003	46,686	100	33	1	5	2	5	54
2004	48,726	100	30	1	5	3	6	55
2005	45,396	100	35	2	6	3	7	48
2006	47,676	100	33	2	6	2	6	50
2007	47,274	100	36	1	6	2	6	48

Table 18

Maintenance enforcement cases with arrears, by percentage received of regular monthly payment due, at March 31 (concluded)

	Total cases with arrears		Percentage received of regular monthly payment due					
			0	1 to 25	26 to 50	51 to 75	76 to 99	100
	number	percent	percentage of cases with arrears					
Ontario								
2003	131,931	100	41	1	2	3	5	48
2004	132,651	100	40	1	1	2	5	51
2005	136,623	100	37	1	2	2	5	53
2006	126,483	100	37	1	2	2	4	53
2007	130,953	100	38	1	2	2	4	53
Saskatchewan								
2003	4,521	100	46	1	2	2	3	45
2004	4,668	100	44	1	2	2	2	49
2005	4,677	100	43	1	2	3	2	50
2006	4,512	100	41	1	2	3	2	51
2007	4,575	100	40	1	2	2	3	53
Alberta²								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2006	32,022	100	34	1	2	2	2	60
2007	29,775	100	44	1	2	2	1	51
British Columbia¹								
2003	26,424	100	48	2	4	3	4	39
2004	26,424	100	45	2	3	3	4	44
2005	25,413	100	42	2	3	3	4	46
2006	25,077	100	42	2	3	3	4	46
2007	24,606	100	43	2	3	3	4	46
Yukon²								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	282	100	43	1	2	4	2	48
2005	279	100	44	1	2	2	1	49
2006	252	100	49	0	2	2	2	44
2007	243	100	49	0	2	2	1	44
Northwest Territories²								
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	522	100	44	0	2	2	2	49
2006	498	100	37	2	3	4	2	52
2007	522	100	45	1	2	2	2	48

1. Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In Nova Scotia and Yukon, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.

2. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 19

Maintenance enforcement cases with arrears, by elapsed time since last payment, at March 31

	Total cases with arrears		New cases in default ≤30 days since enrolment	Time since payment received (months)				No payments ever made		Unknown
				≤1	>1 to 3	>3 to 12	>12	Cases ≤12 months old	Cases >12 months old	
	number	percent		percent						
Prince Edward Island										
2003	1,635	100	1	43	10	11	22	3	9	0
2004	1,755	100	1	44	9	10	24	3	9	0
2005	1,716	100	0	45	10	12	21	4	8	0
2006	1,767	100	1	43	9	11	25	3	8	0
2007	1,785	100	1	41	10	11	27	2	9	0
Nova Scotia^{1,2}										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	12,009	100	0	34	11	7	0	3	5	39
2006	11,661	100	1	34	11	12	4	4	5	29
2007	11,148	100	1	33	12	13	9	4	6	21
New Brunswick										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	9,924	100	0	46	14	11	17	1	11	0
2005	10,539	100	0	51	15	10	15	1	7	0
2006	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2007	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec										
2003	46,695	100	1	56	11	14	10	2	6	0
2004	48,723	100	1	52	17	12	11	2	5	0
2005	45,387	100	1	46	20	14	12	2	5	0
2006	47,682	100	1	49	19	14	12	2	4	0
2007	47,280	100	1	47	21	14	12	1	3	0
Saskatchewan										
2003	4,524	100	0	44	19	16	14	4	4	0
2004	4,674	100	0	46	17	16	14	4	3	0
2005	4,674	100	0	47	18	14	13	4	3	0
2006	4,512	100	0	48	16	15	14	3	4	0
2007	4,587	100	0	50	18	13	13	4	3	0
Alberta²										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2006	32,016	100	1	55	7	10	0	3	6	19
2007	29,778	100	1	38	14	17	8	4	6	13
British Columbia¹										
2003	26,433	100	1	37	22	16	15	4	5	0
2004	26,421	100	1	39	20	16	16	4	4	0
2005	25,410	100	1	41	19	15	16	4	4	0
2006	25,077	100	1	41	19	16	16	4	4	0
2007	24,609	100	1	40	19	15	17	3	4	0
Yukon^{1,2}										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	288	100	0	48	14	17	0	5	0	17
2005	282	100	3	45	18	13	6	1	3	11
2006	258	100	1	37	17	20	10	5	2	7
2007	246	100	2	38	18	17	10	5	4	6

Table 19

Maintenance enforcement cases with arrears, by elapsed time since last payment, at March 31 (concluded)

	Total cases with arrears		New cases in default ≤30 days since enrolment	Time since payment received (months)				No payments ever made		Unknown
				≤1	>1 to 3	>3 to 12	>12	Cases ≤12 months old	Cases >12 months old	
	number	percent		percent						
Northwest Territories²										
2003	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2004	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2005	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2006	495	100	2	53	16	16	1	3	0	8
2007	522	100	1	47	20	18	3	5	2	4

1. Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Yukon maintain a policy of allowing direct payments to be made and received by their clientele throughout the case duration, and since most of these direct payments are not reported until after the survey data are collected, some payors are reported as not having paid, even though they actually have. In Nova Scotia and Yukon, about 1% of cases each month report a payment, or payments, being made in a previous month.
2. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.

Table 20

Number and type of enforcement actions for maintenance enforcement cases administered, 2006/2007

	N.S. ¹	Sask.	Alta. ¹	B.C.	Y.T. ¹	N.W.T. ¹
	number					
Administrative enforcement action						
Demand for payment	2,199	144	..	28,239	..	..
Demand for information	720	3,264	20,358	921	456	0
Maintenance enforcement program trace	225	3,216	28,074	46,245	60	177
Jurisdictional garnishment and attachment	1,953	2,151	27,582	28,134	153	492
Voluntary payment arrangement	42	3	7,584	2,154	0	..
Credit Bureau reporting	..	0	1,431	6,543	12	0
Land registration	0	573	150	3,141	3	0
Personal property lien	..	0	7,536	2,280	0	..
Motor vehicle licence intervention	213	363	19,566	2,793	30	..
Writ of execution	..	42	0	0	0	51
Collection calls	..	0	..	0	..	..
Examination of payor	141	0	..	0	..	..
Other administrative enforcement actions	30	0	207	15,291	117	6
Subtotal	5,523	9,756	112,488	135,741	831	726
Administrative action under federal legislation						
Federal trace (FOAEAA ² -Part I)	..	0	7,077	3	6	225
Interception of federal funds (FOAEAA-Part II)	2,160	1,278	13,338	7,623	108	180
Federal licence suspension (FOAEAA-Part III)	..	0	7,875	2,589	51	36
Federal garnishment (GAPDA ³)	39	12	45	27	0	..
Subtotal	2,199	1,290	28,335	10,242	165	441
Total administrative actions	7,722	11,046	140,823	145,983	996	1,167
Court enforcement						
Default hearing	..	156	..	465	0	0
Committal hearing	..	0	..	156	..	..
Other court enforcement activities ⁴	..	3	..	1,941	0	0
Total court enforcement actions	..	159	..	2,562	0	0

Table 20

Number and type of enforcement actions for maintenance enforcement cases administered, 2006/2007 (concluded)

	N.S. ¹	Sask.	Alta. ¹	B.C.	Y.T. ¹	N.W.T. ¹
	percentage					
Administrative enforcement action						
Demand for payment	28	1	..	19	...	...
Demand for information	9	30	14	1	46	0
Maintenance enforcement program trace	3	29	20	32	6	15
Jurisdictional garnishment and attachment	25	19	20	19	15	42
Voluntary payment arrangement	1	0	5	1	0	...
Credit Bureau reporting	...	0	1	4	1	0
Land registration	0	5	0	2	0	0
Personal property lien	..	0	5	2	0	..
Motor vehicle licence intervention	3	3	14	2	3	...
Writ of execution	..	0	0	0	0	4
Collection calls	..	0	..	0	..	..
Examination of payor	2	0	..	0	..	..
Other administrative enforcement actions	0	0	0	10	12	1
Subtotal	72	88	80	93	83	62
Administrative action under federal legislation						
Federal trace (FOAEAA-Part I)	..	0	5	0	1	19
Interception of federal funds (FOAEAA-Part II)	28	12	9	5	11	15
Federal licence suspension (FOAEAA-Part III)	..	0	6	2	5	3
Federal garnishment (GAPDA)	1	0	0	0	0	..
Subtotal	28	12	20	7	17	38
Total administrative actions	100	100	100	100	100	100
Court enforcement						
Default hearing	..	7	..	75	0	0
Committal hearing	...	0	...	25	...	...
Other court enforcement activities ⁴	..	93	..	0	0	0
Total court enforcement actions	..	100	..	100	0	0

1. Nova Scotia, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories report detailed microdata through the Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs. The other jurisdictions in the table report aggregate data through the Maintenance Enforcement Survey.

2. *Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act.*

3. *Garnishment, Attachment, and Pension Diversion Act.*

4. Other kinds of court enforcement activity include execution orders, registering an order against personal property, appointing a receiver, order to provide information, issuing a warrant for arrest, appointing a trustee in bankruptcy, and issuing writs for seizure and sale.

Notes: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

ISO-out cases are excluded.

Cases administered includes all cases registered for at least part of the year, i.e., cases enrolled and cases terminated. More than one action may be associated with the same case.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Maintenance Enforcement Survey and Survey of Maintenance Enforcement Programs.