

Child Support Enforcement recently completed the tenth annual assessment of North Dakota's voluntary paternity acknowledgment program. This assessment covers the period from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. During this period, there were 3,479 out of wedlock births in North Dakota and there were 2,881 voluntary paternity acknowledgments completed. The ratio of voluntary paternity acknowledgments to out of wedlock births for the period is 82.8%.

A large majority (85.9%) of the voluntary paternity acknowledgments were completed within three days of the child's date of birth, which is an indication that these acknowledgments were completed at the hospital with the assistance of hospital staff. Based on hospital size, the highest-performing hospitals for providing voluntary paternity acknowledgment services were Innovis of Fargo (among large hospitals), Jamestown Hospital and Mercy Hospital of Williston (among medium-size hospitals) and West River Regional Medical Center of Hettinger (among small hospitals).

Child Support Enforcement wishes to thank the hospitals and other voluntary paternity acknowledgment service providers for their efforts.