

Mississippi Child Support Current Support Collections

The following is an example “Use Case” produced by OCSE to illustrate how OCSE’s Data Analytics project “Current Support Deep Dive” report could be used by a IV-D Director. This was presented at the NCCSD Systems Modernization/Data Analytics workgroup-sponsored webinars in June 2021.

Current Support Collections Introduction

- “Current Support” collections are those periodic support payments ordered to be paid by a non-custodial parent, and calculated under a state’s federally mandated Guidelines.
- *Consistent* current support collections are an important source of income for children.
- Congress considered them so important that the “current support” federal collections measure (CS%) is one of three that are weighted at 100% when calculating a state’s incentive payments.
- This analysis uses state-reported data from the federal “Annual Data Report” known as the OCSE-157, and other federal sources such as the National Directory of New Hires.
- It looks at data that influences the success of the CS% in comparison states.

Current Support Federal Performance Measure Introduction

- The CS% is calculated by comparing every month's current support amount due (Line 24) versus the current support distributed (Line 25).
- Amounts must be both distributed and disbursed to count.
- Support includes child, cash medical and spousal.*

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL DATA REPORT - Page 3

| ITEMS | (a) TOTAL | (b) CURRENT ASSISTANCE | (c) FORMER ASSISTANCE | (d) NEVER ASSISTANCE |
|--|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 22. Cases Open at the End of the Fiscal Year Where Health Insurance is Ordered | | | | |
| 23. Cases Open at the End of the Fiscal Year Where Health Insurance is Provided and Ordered | | | | |
| SECTION F: COLLECTIONS DUE AND DISTRIBUTED | | | | |
| 24. Total Amount of Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year | | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| 25. Total Amount of Support Distributed as Current Support During the Fiscal Year | | \$ | \$ | \$ |

*as long as the latter is included in the child support court order.

Agenda

Review of data from similar states and the national averages:

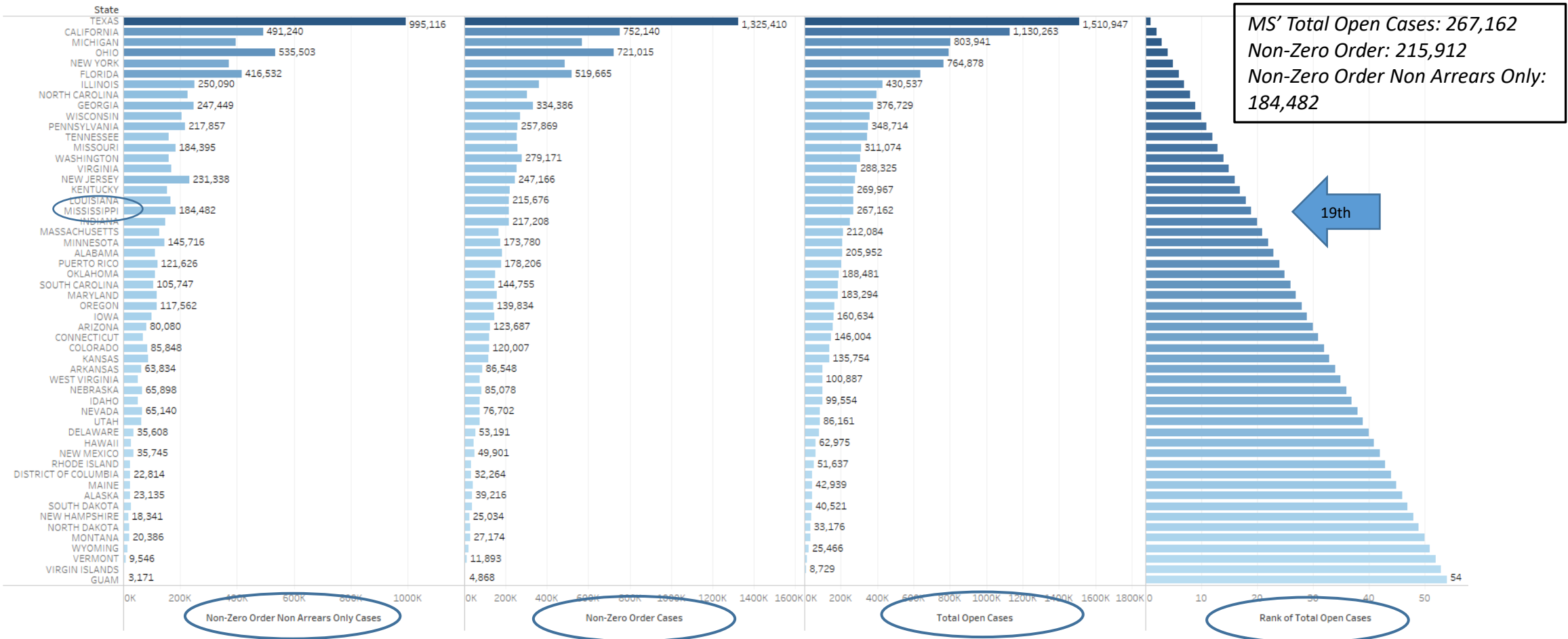
- Louisiana, Virginia, Missouri and Wisconsin are closest in the number of cases where a current child support payment is expected (known as “*non-zero order, non-arrears only*” cases).
- Comparisons are made of the CS% in the three types of cases: Current Assistance, Former Assistance, and Never Assistance, as well as the overall CS%.
- Additional Data Comparisons: Current Support amounts due; Incentives per Case; Expenditures and number of staff per IV-D case; IV-D Income Withholding %; New Hire unverified % and record counts; Undistributed Collections.
- All data is Federal Fiscal Year 2019 unless otherwise indicated.

Definitions and Relevance

- Federal Current Support Collections: Every month, what percentage of the overall current support ordered is collected and distributed to families? This measure impacts how much federal incentive money is received.
- Current Assistance Case: Family is currently receiving TANF or child is in federally funded foster care. When MS' \$100 passthrough policy is implemented, many current support collections on the TANF cases will go directly to the family.
- Former Assistance Case: Family or child formerly received TANF or Foster Care, and requested ongoing assistance from the child support agency.
- Never Assistance Case: Family never received TANF or Foster Care, but could be a Medicaid Only recipient, or a SNAP Only recipient since MS has mandatory referral of those cases.
- IV-D Income Withholding % of Collections: What percentage of a state's IV-D collections are from income withholding orders (IWO)? IWOs are by far the best tool for consistent child support payments.
- New Hire unverified % (and counts): What percentage of the new hire records for a state fail a NCP Name/SSN match, representing missed opportunities to send IWOs.

Overview of Caseloads (FFY2019)

Overall, Non-Zero Order and Non-Zero Order, Non-Arrears Only



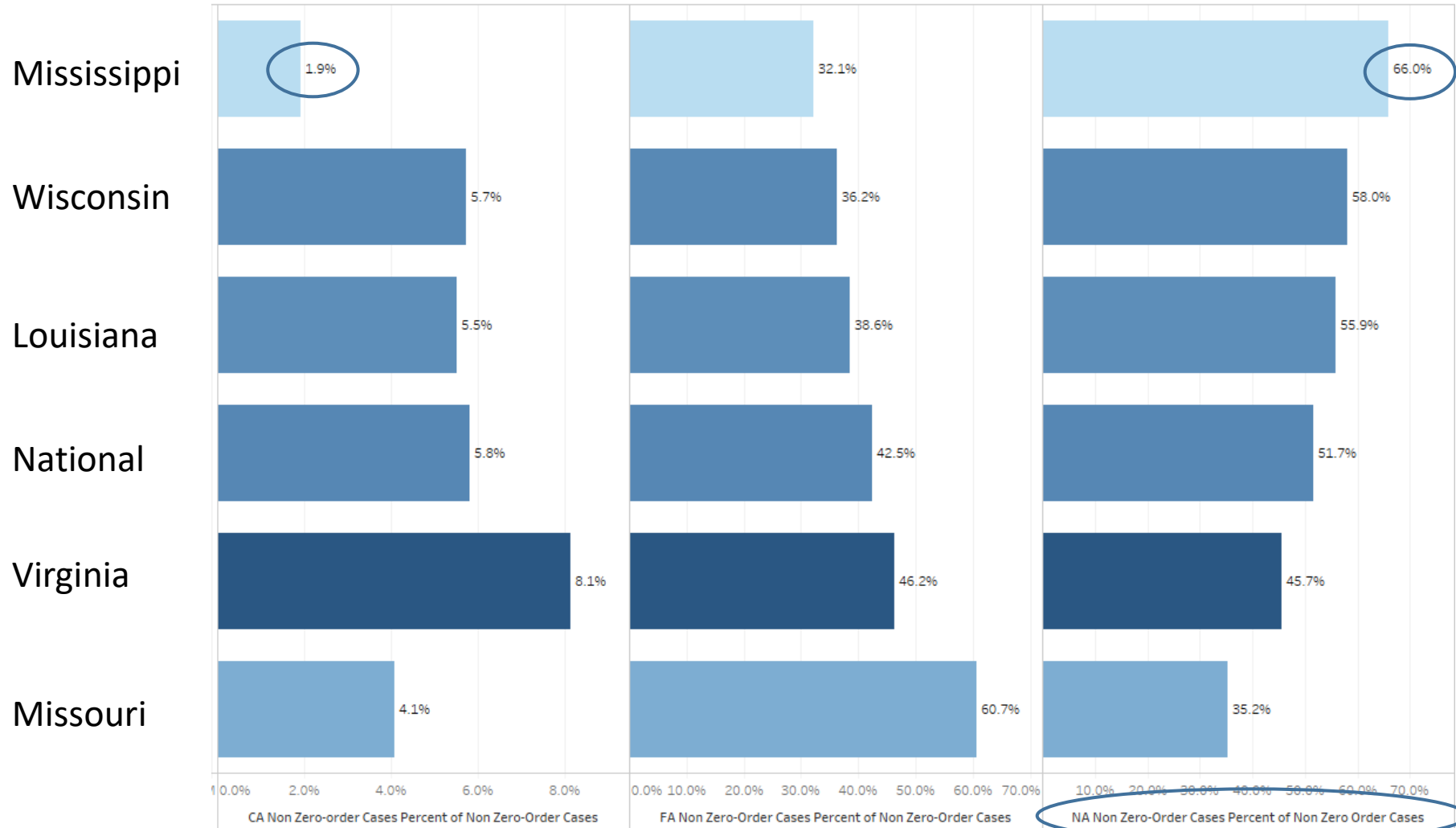
A “non-zero order” case is one where a payment is expected. A “non-zero order, non-arrears only” case is one where a current support payment is expected.

States closest to MS in Non-Zero Order, Non-Arrears Only Caseloads: WI, MO, VA, LA



*A "non-zero order" case is one where a payment is expected. A "non-zero order, non-arrears only" case is one where a current support payment is expected.

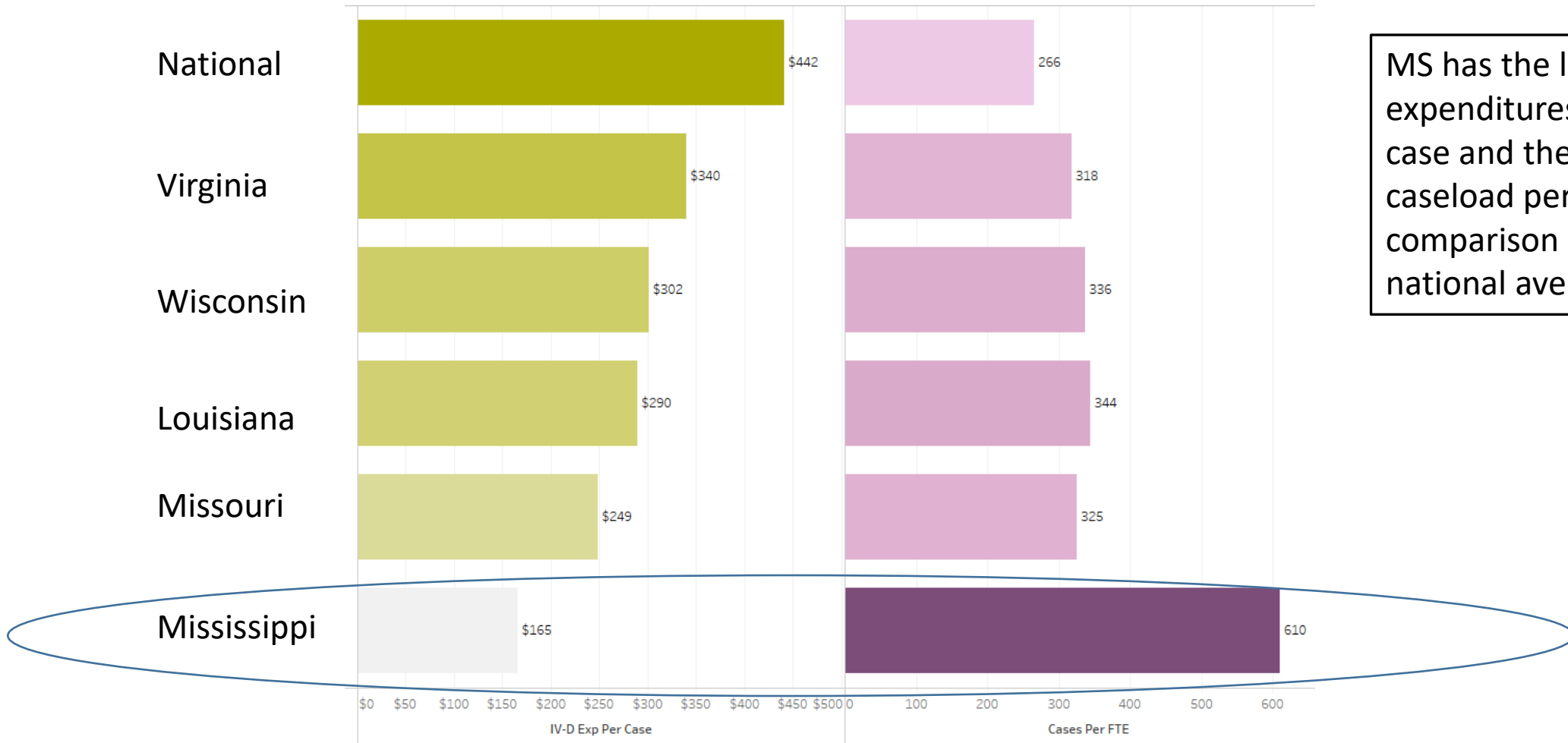
Comparison of Current Assistance, Former Assistance and Never Assistance Non-Zero Order Caseloads *(Sorted by NA)*



MS has the highest % of Never Assistance cases, and the lowest % of Current Assistance cases of the comparison states in cases where a payment is expected.

Comparison of IV-D Expenditures per Case and Cases Per FTE*

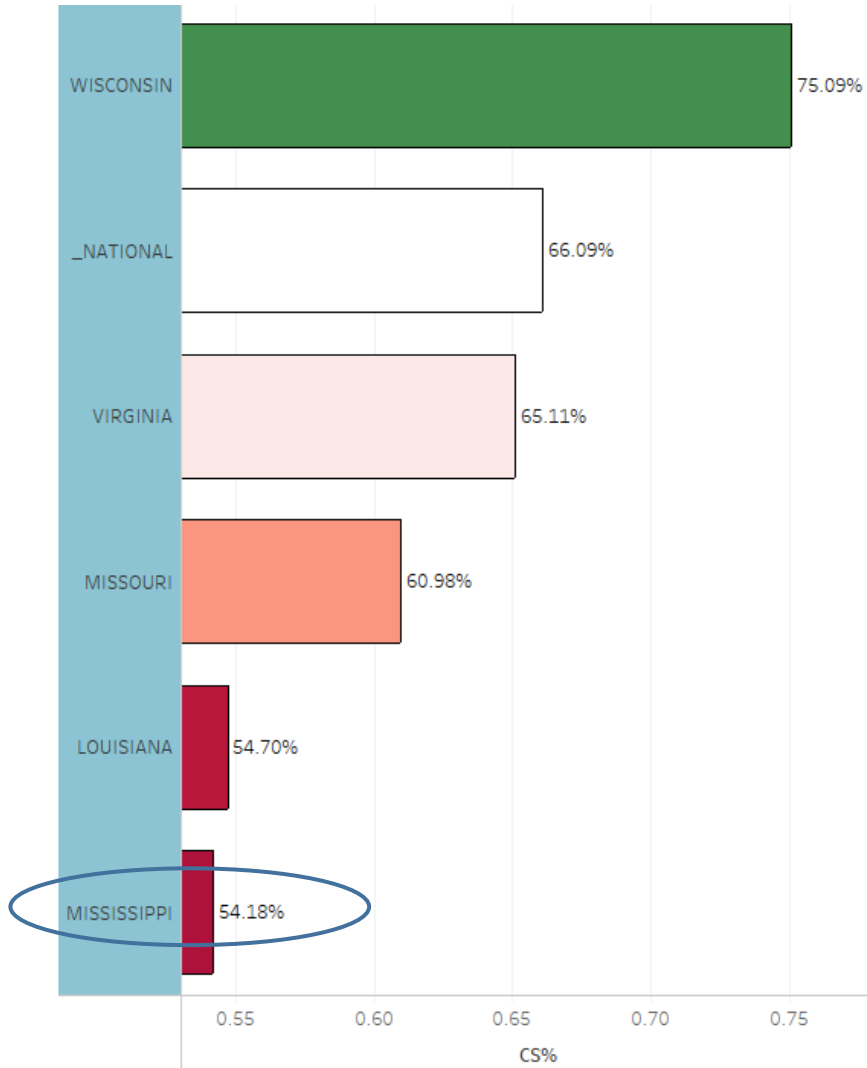
(Sorted by Expenditures per IV-D case)



MS has the lowest expenditures per IV-D case and the highest caseload per FTE of the comparison states and national average.

*FTE = Full Time Equivalent staff person

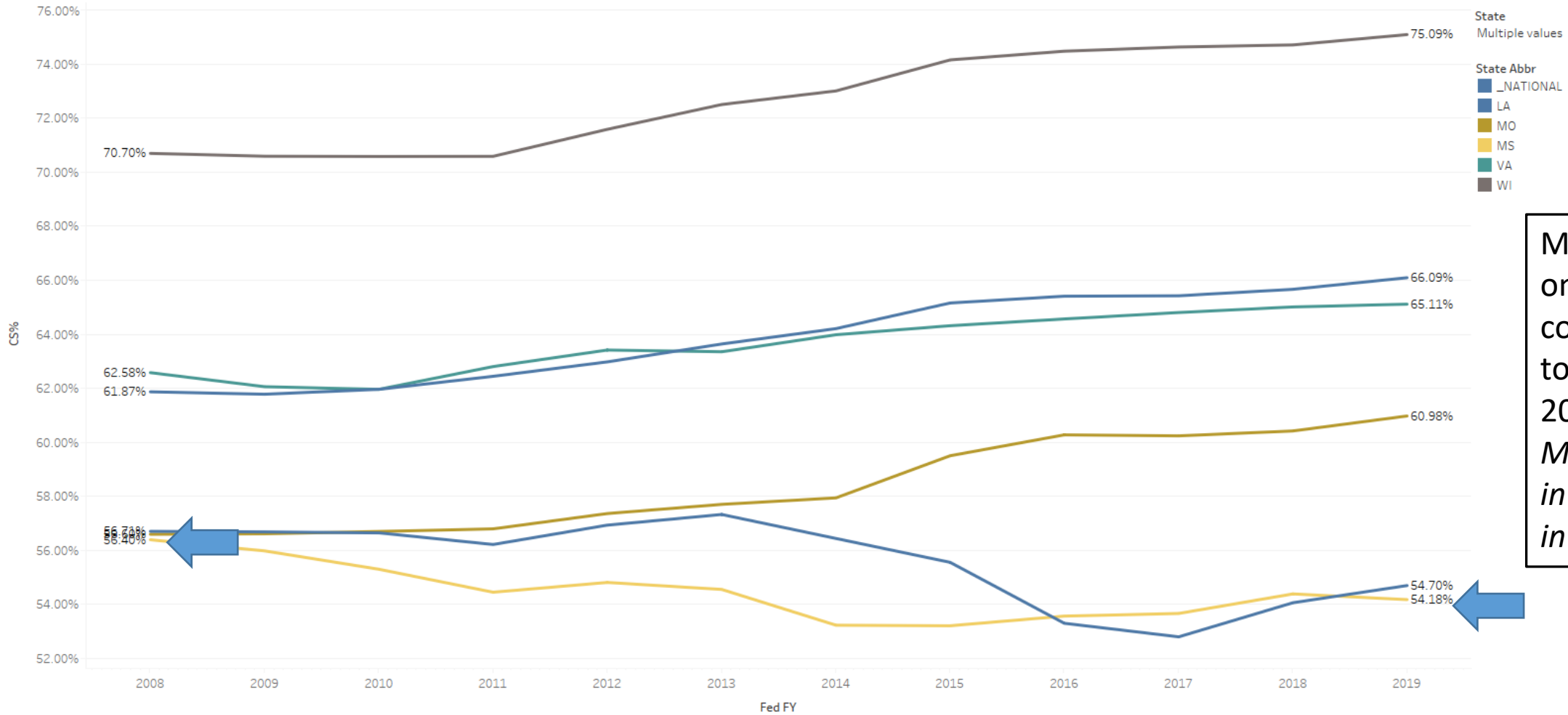
Comparison of Federal Current Support Collections Measure



Federal Current Support Collections %:

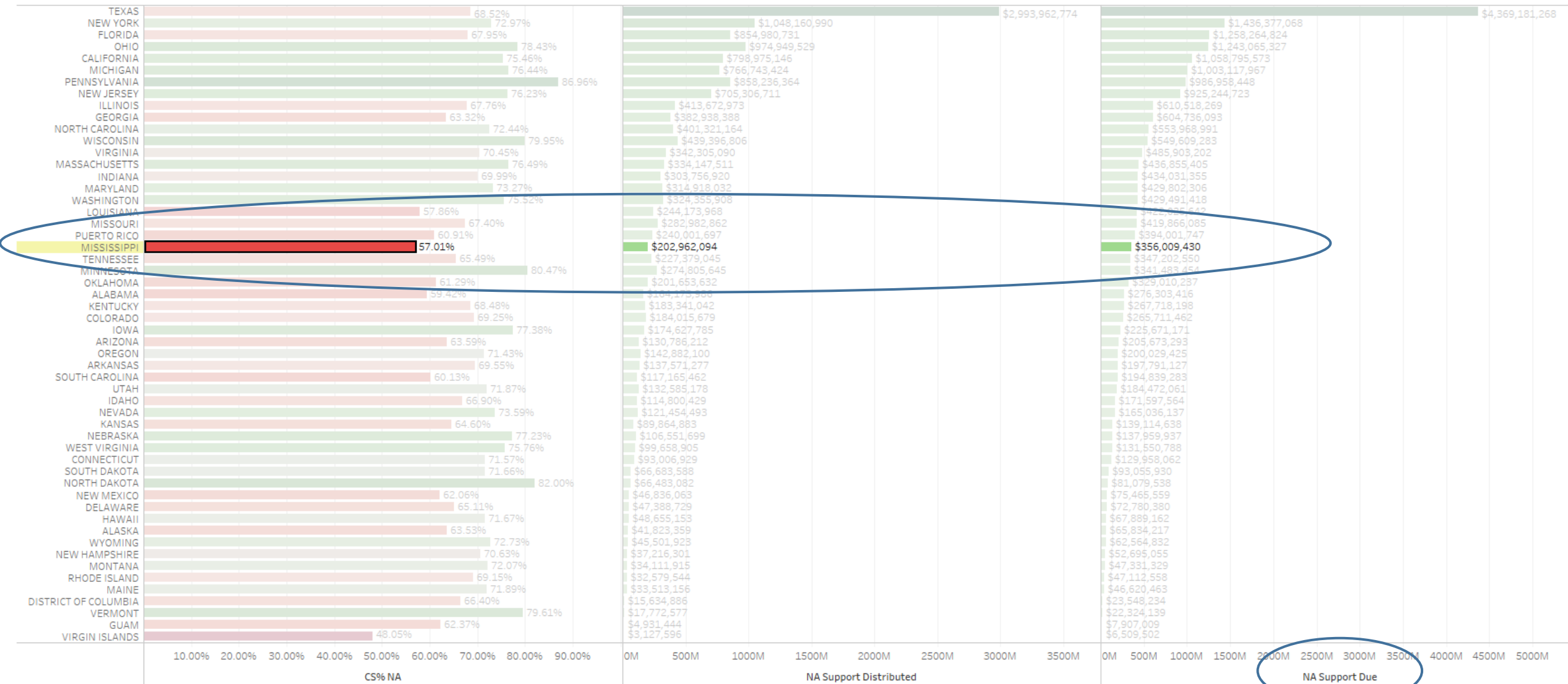
- *National average is 66.09%*
- *FFY2019 National Rankings:*
 - *Wisconsin: 75.09%, ranked 5th*
 - *Virginia: 65.11%, ranked 26th*
 - *Missouri: 60.98%, ranked 38th*
 - *Louisiana: 54.70%, ranked 50th*
 - *Mississippi: 54.18%, ranked 53rd*
- *This measure is one of three that counts at 100% when incentives are calculated.*

Current Support % Trends



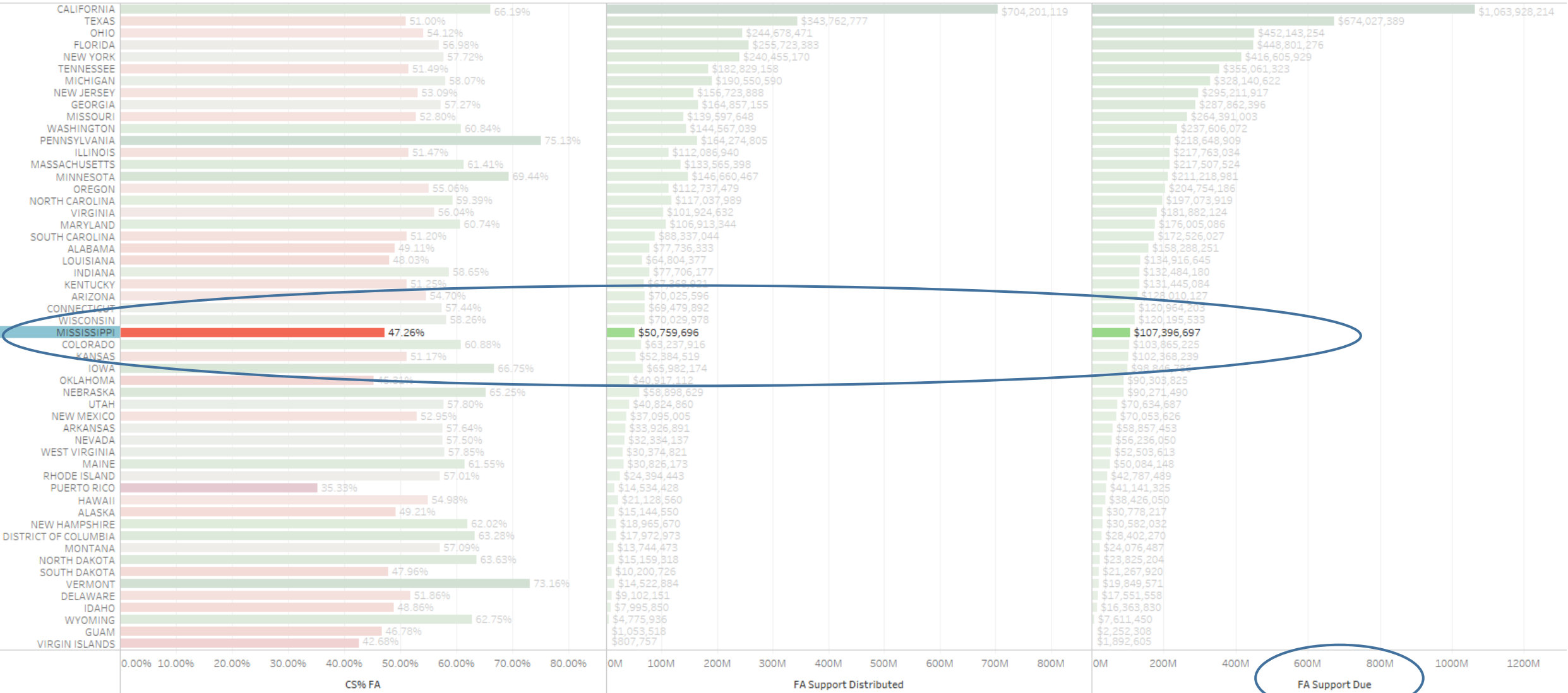
MS and LA are the only ones of the comparison states to go down since 2008.
MS: from 56.40% in 2008 to 54.18% in 2019

Mississippi's NA Current Support Due ranks 21st highest.



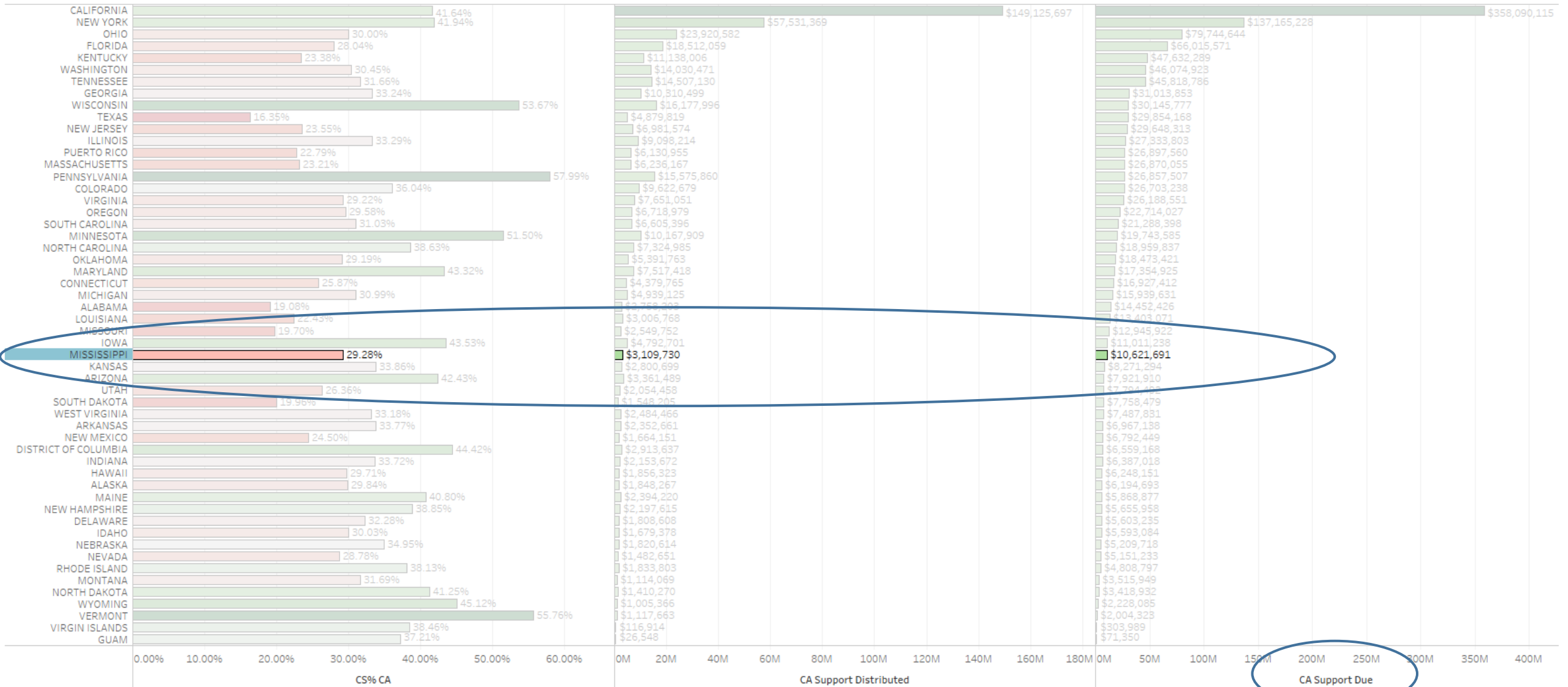
Slide 20 from the Current Support report

Mississippi's FA Current Support Due ranks 28th highest.



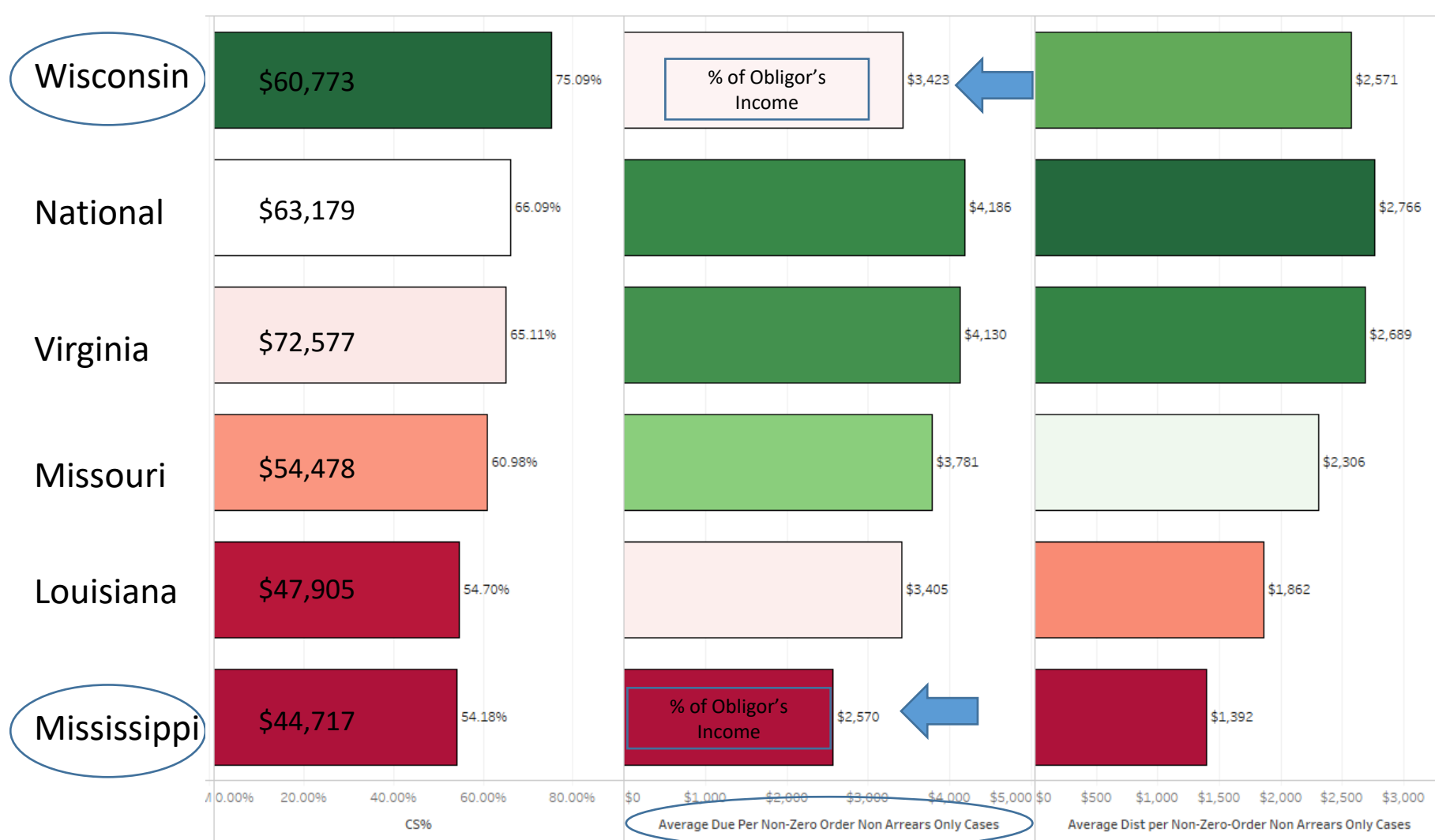
Slide 19 from the Current Support report

Mississippi's CA Current Support Due ranks 30th highest.



Slide 18 from the Current Support report

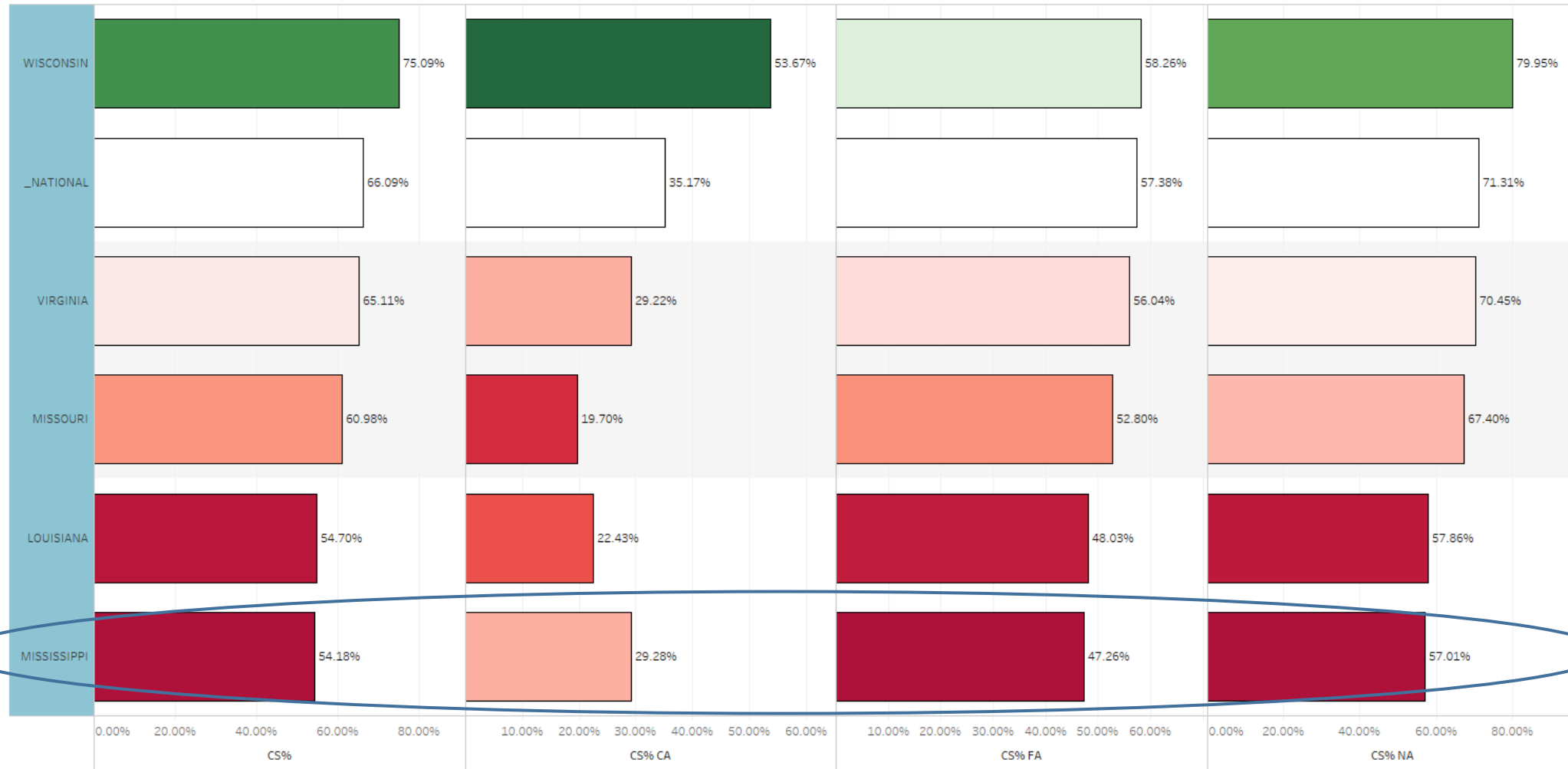
Average Current Support Due Comparison



Relative to its Median Income*, Wisconsin has a low Average Due Per Non-Zero Order Non-Arrears Only Case, which may contribute to their good performance – possibly by consistently performing Review and Adjust activities. Note that MS and WI both have “% of Obligor’s Income” as their Guidelines Type.

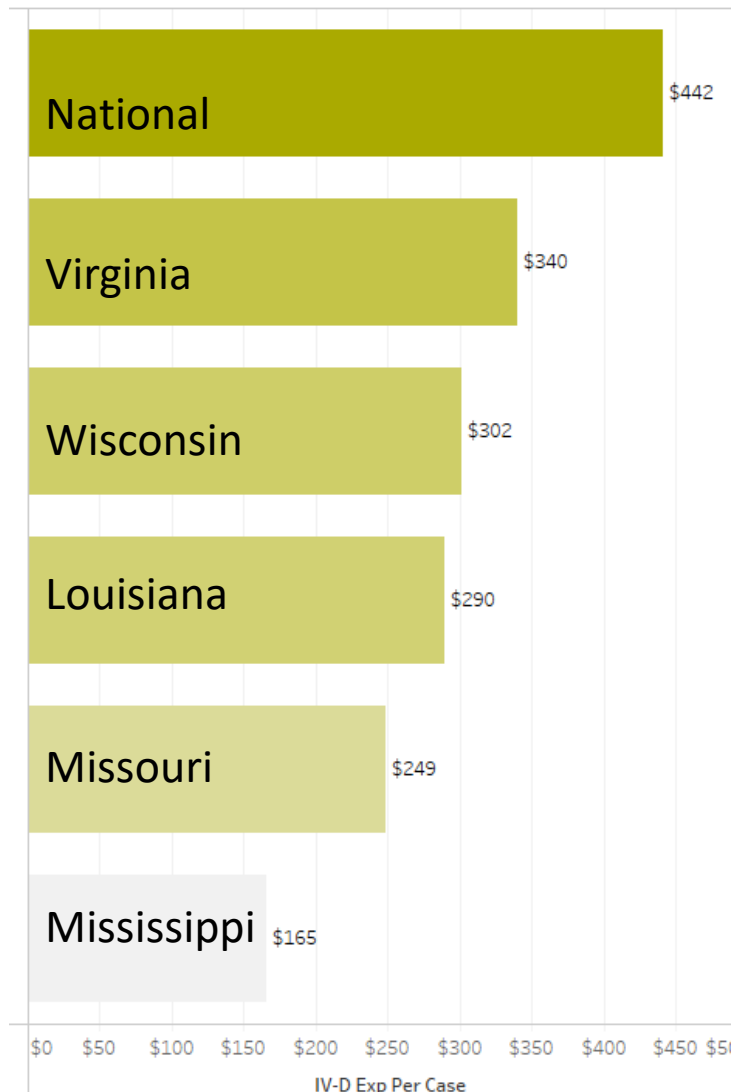
*2018 Median Income source: U.S. Census American Community Survey

Current Support % by Case Type Comparisons: Overall, Current Assistance, Former Assistance, Never Assistance



Mississippi has the lowest CS% performance in all but the Current Assistance CS%.

Comparing Expenditures and Incentives per IV-D Case



Mississippi's **expenditures per IV-D case** are the second lowest in the nation:

National: \$442

Virginia: \$340, ranked 36th

Wisconsin: \$302, ranked 42nd

Louisiana: \$290, ranked 44th

Missouri: \$249, ranked 50th

Mississippi: \$165, ranked 53rd

Mississippi's FFY2018 **Incentives Per IV-D case** are also lower (no graph available):

Virginia: \$43.6, ranked 17th

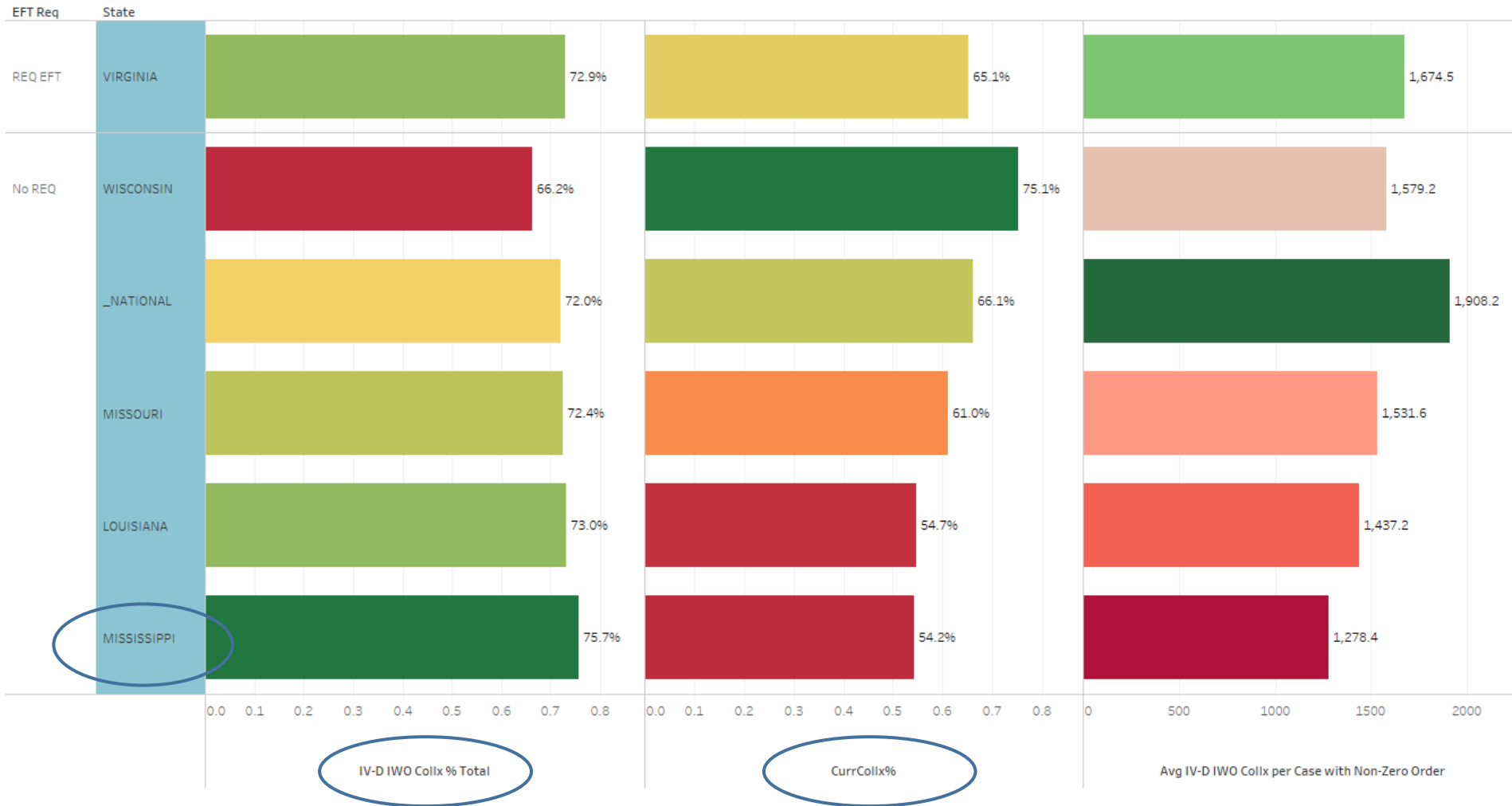
Wisconsin: \$41.1, ranked 21st

Missouri: \$36.1, ranked 31st

Louisiana: \$32.3, ranked 42nd

Mississippi: \$21.2, ranked 49th

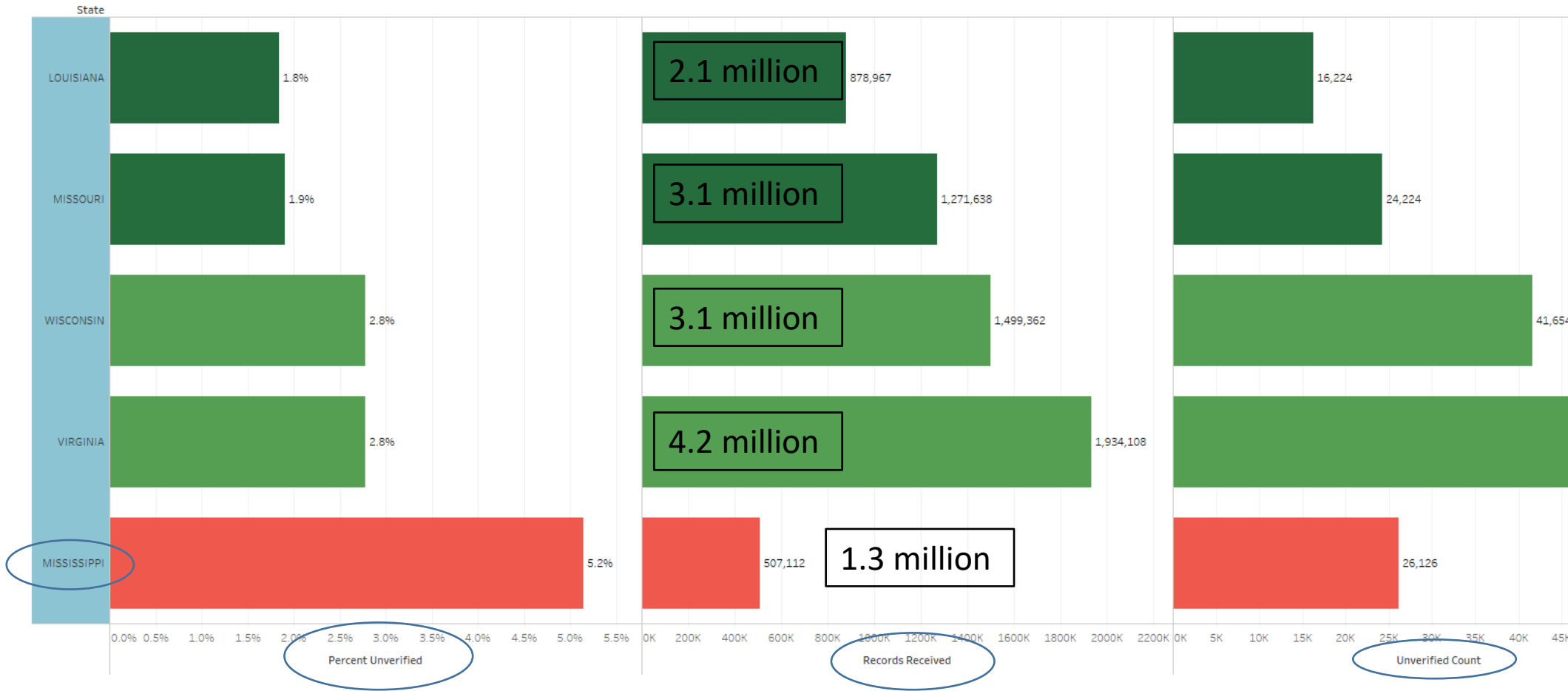
Let's take a quick look at the IV-D IWO % of IV-D Collections, which are an important source of consistent Current Support collections



MS has the highest % of IV-D IWO Collections at 75.7%, even though it has the lowest CSUP %. This may indicate that collections other than IWOs could be improved.

Source: OCSE-34, but this statistic subtracts NIVD collections.

New Hire Unverified Data

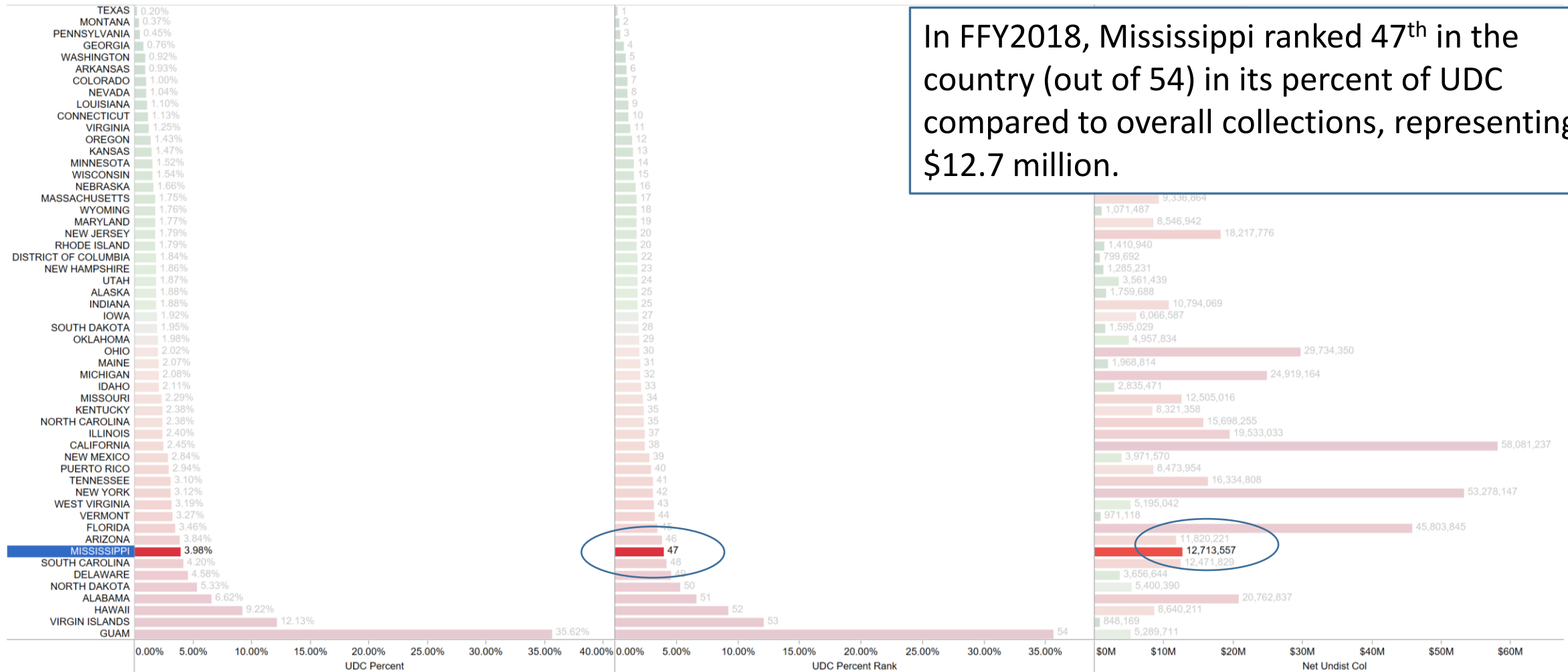


MS has a high % of unverified New Hire records as well as a low number of records received. The national average of unverified records is 4%.

The Civilian Labor Force numbers are included for comparison.*

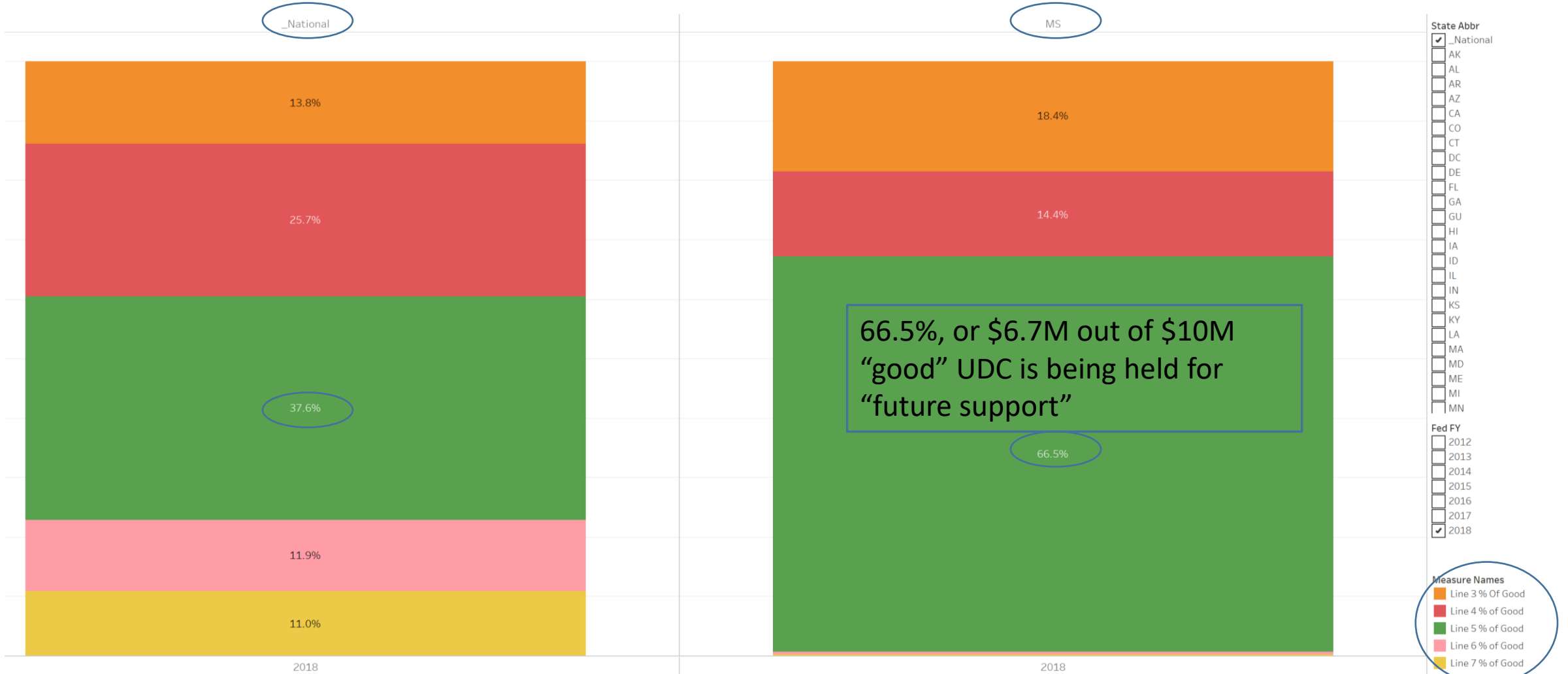
*Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2021. www.bls.gov/regions/home.htm

Now let's look at Undistributed Collections (UDC), which is money that has been collected but not disbursed, and therefore does not contribute to the CS%



In FFY2018, Mississippi ranked 47th in the country (out of 54) in its percent of UDC compared to overall collections, representing \$12.7 million.

Most of MS' "good" UDC falls into Line 5's "future support" category, which is almost double the national average, and may represent funds that could contribute to the CS%.



Summary Observations

- MS' Current Support Collections % is low compared to states with a similar caseload size on those cases where a current support payment is expected.
- The Current Support Amount due on these cases seems high, and a focus on review & adjustment activities may be warranted.
- The quadrennial Guidelines review may want to examine the formulas and tables if they are contributing to current support orders that are higher than like states.
- Passing legislation that changes current support owed by incarcerated obligors to \$0 by operation of law will help the CS%, and will assist caseworkers in focusing on other cases with a better ability to pay, or on Review & Adjust activities.
- MS' expenditures per IV-D case are second lowest in the country.
- The caseload per worker is double that of similar states and the national average.
- MS' IV-D IWO % is excellent but since the CS% is low, a focus on making it easier for non-IWO eligible NCPs to pay, or on non-IWO enforcement mechanisms, may be warranted.
- There may be issues with the New Hire process that are impacting the number of records received and/or the unverified %.
- For Undistributed Collections, the amount and % of Line 5 (Future Support) seems abnormally high, and statewide system changes might be helpful.