

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

Adoption USA

June 2010

Descriptive data on adoptions are available from the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents (NSAP). The large-scale survey was conducted under the auspices of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It consisted of a 30-minute telephone survey that was conducted with parents/guardians of 2,737 adopted children ages 17 and under living with at least one adoptive parent, but with neither of the biological parents. Results from the survey are reported in the publication titled *Adoption USA: A Chartbook Based on the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents*.^{*} A summary of the results is provided below.

- ❖ Thirty-eight percent of the adoptions were private domestic (child adopted within the U.S. through a private adoption agency or done privately), 37 percent were foster care (child had been involved with child protective services system and adoption overseen by public child welfare agencies), and 25 percent were international (child adopted from another country usually through a U.S. adoption agency that works with an agency in the adopted child's country).
- ❖ Eighty-five percent of adopted children were perceived to be in excellent or very good health.
- ❖ The percentage of adopted children who had ever lived with birth family members varied by adoption type. For foster-care adoptions, the figure was 59 percent, for private domestic 39 percent, and for international 25 percent.
- ❖ Thirty-seven percent of adopted children were non-Hispanic white, 23 percent were non-Hispanic black, 15 percent were non-Hispanic Asian, 15 percent were Hispanic, and 9 percent were non-Hispanic/other. Children adopted internationally were likely to be non-Hispanic Asian (59 percent); whereas, children adopted from within the U.S. (private domestic) were likely to be white (50 percent).
- ❖ Adopted children ages six and older in foster care were twice as likely to have ever been diagnosed with attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder than were internationally adopted children of the same age (38 percent versus 17 percent). The corresponding percentage for private domestic adopted children was 19.

^{*}Also included in the *Chartbook* are data from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health NSCH. The NSAP was an add-on module to the NSCH.

- ❖ Ninety-seven percent of children five years and older knew they were adopted.
- ❖ Adoption-related expenses were highest for international adoptions. Ninety-three percent of the international adoptions cost \$10,000 or more. Fifty-six percent of the foster-care adoptions had no adoption expenses. Thirty-three percent of the private domestic adoptions expenses were \$10,000 and more.
- ❖ The majority of adopted children have parents who would repeat their decision to adopt their child (87 percent definitely would, 10 percent would, and 3 percent probably or definitely would not).
- ❖ Parents' most-mentioned motivation for adopting a child was to provide a permanent home for a child. Parents' motivation to adopt by adoption type is shown in the table below.

Percentage distribution of children ages 0-17 by parents' motivation to adopt, by adoption type: United States, 2007

Motivation to Adopt	Type of Adoption			
	All adopted children	Foster care	Private domestic	International
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Infertility	52	39	52	72
Wanted to expand family	69	61	60	92
Wanted sibling for a child	24	24	16	36
Had adopted child's sibling	7	11	7	*
Wanted to provide a permanent home for a child	81	86	70	90
Had already formed a bond/loved the child	4	9	*	*
Related to child prior to adoption	7	7	11	*

Note: "Categories are not mutually exclusive, so categories may sum to more than 100."

**The relative standard error exceeds 0.30."

Source: Vandivere, S., Malm, K., and Radel, L. *Adoption USA: A Chartbook Based on the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents*. (Washington, D.C.: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2009), available at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/09/NSAP/chartbook/index.pdf>.

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