

# Adoption

# Quick Facts

## Did You Know?

- There are approximately 1.8 million adopted children living in the United States (2007).
  - 38% private domestic adoption
  - 37% foster care adoption
  - 25% international adoption
- Approximately 150,000 children are adopted by U.S. families every year.
  - In 2002, there were 130,269 domestic adoptions and 21,063 intercountry adoptions (for a total of 151,332 adoptions).
- In 1996, there were 19.4 infant adoptions/1000 abortions.
  - This ratio *decreased* in 2002 with only 17.0 infant adoptions/1000 abortions.
    - 22,291 infant adoptions: 1,313,030 abortions
    - This suggests that more women are choosing abortion rather than adoption.
- Special needs adoptions have *increased* since 1982.
  - 1982 (14,005), 1992 (25,855), 2002 (45,584)
- 4 out of 10 adopted children are in *transracial adoptions*.  
(The child is a different race, culture, or ethnicity than the parents.)
- 69% of adopted children live with 2 married parents
- Adopted children are more likely to be diagnosed with depression, ADD/ADHD, or a behavioral disorder (compared to the general population of children).
- 39% adopted children have special health care needs  
(e.g. chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional disorders)
- 54% of children adopted from foster care have a special health care needs
- In 2003, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services stated the following goals for children in foster care:
  - Reunification: 48%
  - Adoption: 20%
  - Living with another relative: 5%
  - Guardianship: 3%
  - Long-term foster care: 8%
  - Emancipation: 6%
  - Case goal not established: 10%
- In the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents, nearly all adoptive parents and their adopted children reported that their adoption experience was positive.

### For more research on adoption, please see the following sources:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2009). *Adoption USA: A chartbook based on the 2007 National Survey of adoptive parents*. Retrieved from

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/09/nsap/chartbook/index.cfm>

National Council for Adoption. (2007). *Adoption Factbook IV*. Sterling, VA: PMR Printing Company, Inc.