



# State Child Welfare Policy Database

## Adoption Facts FFY 2014: United States

### Children adopted from foster care

US

Number of children adopted from foster care	50,644
Average length of stay in care before adoption finalized <sup>1</sup>	32 months
Average age of adopted children <sup>2</sup>	5.7 years
Percent of adopted children who did not receive Title IV-E federal adoption assistance	28%

### Children waiting to be adopted from foster care

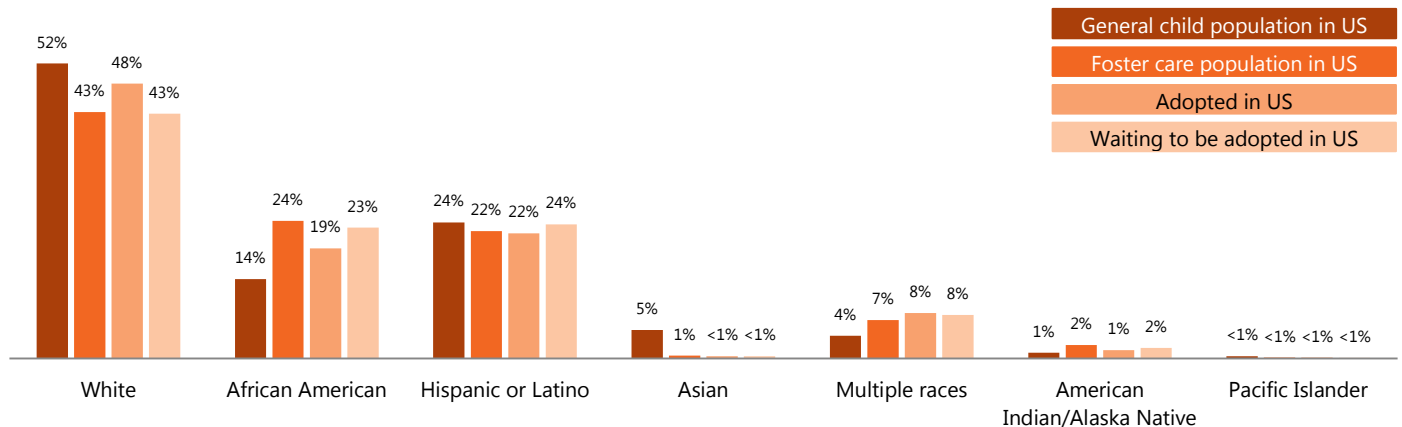
US

Number of children waiting to be adopted from foster care <sup>3</sup>	107,916
Average length of stay in care	32 months
Average age of children waiting to be adopted <sup>4</sup>	7.2 years
Percent of children waiting to be adopted that have spent 5 or more years in foster care	11%

### Age distribution of children adopted and waiting to be adopted from foster care<sup>5</sup>



### Race and ethnicity of children adopted and waiting to be adopted from foster care<sup>6</sup>



Source, unless noted otherwise: This information is from the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), and represents the federal fiscal year 2014 reporting period (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014).

## Gender

US

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Children adopted from foster care	
Female	49%
Male	51%
Children waiting to be adopted from foster care	
Female	48%
Male	52%

## Transracial adoptions<sup>7</sup>

US

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Children of color adopted by white parents	17%
White children adopted by parents of color	2%
Children of color adopted by parents of color of a different race	6%
Children adopted by parents of the same race	66%
Child's and/or parent's race unknown	8%

## Relationship of adoptive parent to child<sup>8</sup>

US

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Foster Parent	50%
Relative	31%
Non-relative	13%
Stepparent	2%
Unknown	4%

<sup>1</sup> Length of stay in care is calculated based on the current removal episode.

<sup>2</sup> Based on child's age on date of adoption.

<sup>3</sup> Children are included in this count if they are in foster care at the end of the fiscal year, under the age of 18, and either their parents have lost parental rights or their case goal is adoption. Children ages 16 and 17 with the case goal of emancipation are not included.

<sup>4</sup> Based on child's age at end of fiscal year.

<sup>5</sup> Does not include children over age 20 or children missing birthdate data; children waiting to be adopted from foster care are age 17 or younger.

<sup>6</sup> Hispanic children are not included in counts for specific racial groups. Children whose race was reported as unknown are not included. Data for the general child population under age 18 is from the U. S. Census Bureau. This information is publicly available on the Kids Count Data Center (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/103-child-population-by-race>).

<sup>7</sup> An adoption is considered transracial if the child has two adoptive parents and is not the same race as either parent or if the child has one adoptive parent and is not the same race as that parent.

<sup>8</sup> In cases where more than one type of adoptive family was selected, Stepparent receives priority followed by Relative, Foster Parent and Non-relative.