

Adoption Trends 2000



- ▶ SCF finalized 831 adoptions in federal fiscal year 2000.
- ▶ Adoptions for children 14 and older reached a record high of 43, or over 5 percent of all adoptions.
- ▶ SCF finalized 155 adoptions with children under 3 years old in 2000 – nearly 19 percent of total adoptions.
- ▶ Most children (over 64 percent) were adopted by relatives or foster parents.

Adoptions

**SCF FINALIZED
831 ADOPTIONS IN FEDERAL
FISCAL YEAR* 2000**



Adoptions of children from foster care have continued to increase dramatically because of adoption reform initiatives begun in 1997 at both the state and national level. The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) passed by Congress in 1997 and Oregon's SB408 (passed in 1999 to conform to ASFA) share the goal of moving children more quickly from temporary foster care to permanency.

When adoption is the goal, a family is recruited that best matches the child's needs. Many factors are considered, including keeping siblings together if it is in the best interests of the children.

OREGON WAS ONE OF TWO STATES HONORED IN 1999 BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WITH THE ADOPTION 2002 AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE PRACTICES LEADING TO INCREASED ADOPTIONS.

Special needs ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Most of the children placed for adoption by SCF have "special needs."

- Are 6 years of age or older.
- Are part of a sibling group.
- Have a physical, emotional, or mental handicapping condition.
- Are part of an ethnic/racial/cultural minority.

**In 1998 the federal government began requiring states to use a single system to report where children go when they leave foster care. This report on adoption trends is the data Oregon reported to the federal government for the federal fiscal year from October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000.*

The Children

One-hundred-fifty-five (155) children under the age of three years were adopted in the federal fiscal year which ended September 30, 2000. As children get older, the chances for an adoptive placement decrease dramatically, creating a severe need for adoptive homes for children over age 7.

Age

AGE of ADOPTED CHILDREN

less than 3	155	18.7%
3-4 yrs	194	23.3%
5-7 yrs	206	24.8%
8-10 yrs	157	18.9%
11-13 yrs	76	9.1%
14 and older	43	5.2%

Ethnicity

CHILD'S ETHNICITY

White	590	71.0%
African-American	96	11.6%
Hispanic	100	12.0%
Native American	36	4.3%
Asian	4	0.5%
Unknown ethnic	3	0.4%
Multiracial	2	0.2%

28.6% of children adopted in the federal fiscal year which ended September 30, 2000 belonged to ethnic minorities.



The 831 children adopted in 2000

	Came from:	Went to:
Metro Region	312	189
Western Region	231	242
Eastern Region	60	76
Southern Region	226	164
Oregon private licensed adoption agencies or out of state		160

Gender

FINALIZED ADOPTIONS IN 2000 INCLUDED MORE GIRLS THAN BOYS:

444 (53.4%)	Females
387 (46.6%)	Males

The Families

Federal and Oregon statutes both require that consideration must be given to relatives as the placement of choice for children unable to live safely with their parent(s). Relative caregivers, including both those who foster and those who adopt, must meet the same criteria for safety that non-related caregivers must meet.

The length of time to achieve adoption depends on the complexity and severity of a child's needs and the availability of appropriate caregivers already known to the child.

SCF completed more than 1,200 adoption home studies during 1999 and 2000.

TWO-THIRDS OF THE CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM SCF ARE ADOPTED BY THEIR RELATIVES OR NON-RELATED FOSTER PARENTS

- Non-relative foster parents became adoptive parents for 260 (31.3%) of the finalized adoptions.
- 239 finalized adoptions (28.8%) were with relatives who were providing foster care.
- An additional 35 finalized adoptions (4.2%) were with relatives who were not providing foster care.

ADOPTIVE HOMES FOR OLDER CHILDREN, CHILDREN OF COLOR, AND SIBLING GROUPS CONTINUE TO BE IN HIGH DEMAND



Recruiting homes

- 671 children (80.8%) were adopted by families recruited by SCF.
- 38 children (4.6%) were adopted by families recruited by Oregon private adoption agencies.
- 42 children (5.1%) were adopted by families recruited by out-of-state private agencies.
- 80 children (9.6%) were adopted by families recruited by out-of-state public agencies.

After the adoption

Low disruptions

SCF works diligently to recruit families who match the needs of the child. This careful adoption process helps assure that the adoption will be successful. Statistics show 92.5 percent of Oregon adoptive placements continued without disruption. The national average is 85-90 percent.

92.5 PERCENT OF OREGON ADOPTIONS CONTINUE TO FINALIZATION WITHOUT DISRUPTION

Partnerships

The success of SCF's Adoptions Program in achieving timely adoptions for children relies on strong partnerships with a wide variety of private sector agencies

and individuals. These partnerships include the Special Needs Adoption Coalition, a group of 11 licensed Oregon private adoption agencies that recruit, train, and link adoptive families with children; the Boys and Girls Aid Society, which coordinates recruitment, training, screening families, and contracts to operate the foster/adopt family inquiry telephone line; Northwest Adoption Exchange for nationwide recruitment of qualified adoptive families; and more than three dozen out-of-state private adoption agencies who bring forward prospective adoptive families.

Preserve families

SCF provides services to preserve adoptive families. As of December 2000, 6,641 adopted Oregon children had identified special needs and were receiving one or more adoption support

services. The Adoption Assistance program provides benefits such as medical coverage, monthly payments, or one-time payments for unexpected needs until a special needs adopted child reaches the age of 18. The number of children receiving Adoption Assistance has increased 123 percent from 1995 to 2000.

Support

The 1999 opening of the Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (OPARC) to serve the families of children adopted from foster care has gained national attention as a model support program for adoptive families. Services include regional trainings, a lending library and resource center, a website, and assistance to start local adoption support groups.

