



# Child Welfare Information Gateway

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September 2011

## How Many Children Were Adopted in 2007 and 2008?



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau



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## Highlights

The following are key findings from this report:

- **In 2007 and 2008, approximately 136,000 children were adopted annually in the United States.** This represents a 6-percent increase in adoptions since 2000 and a 15-percent increase since 1990 (Flango & Flango, 1995).
- **Although the number of adoptions has risen, the adoption rate per 100,000 adults in the United States has decreased.** The adoption rate per 100,000 adults (i.e., persons aged 18 and older who became adoptive parents) in 2000 was 61.5, and the adoption rate was 58.3 in 2008—a 5-percent decrease.
- **The percentages for the three types of adoptions were nearly identical from 2000 to 2008.** Even though the numbers of adoptions increased, the proportions of public agency, intercountry, and other adoptions remained stable from 2000 to 2008.
  - **Approximately two-fifths of adoptions occur through public child welfare agencies.** Public agency adoptions accounted for 39 percent (52,657) of all adoptions in 2007 and 41 percent (55,303) of all adoptions in 2008. In 2000, there were 50,600 public agency adoptions, which was approximately 40 percent of all adoptions.
  - **Intercountry adoptions accounted for 14 percent of all adoptions in 2007 and 13 percent of all adoptions in 2008.** In 2007, U.S. citizens adopted 19,569 children from foreign countries, and 17,416 children were adopted from foreign countries in 2008. In 2000, 14 percent (17,718) of all adoptions were of children from foreign countries.
  - **Nearly half of all adoptions were from other sources.** Adoptions from other sources (e.g., private agencies, Tribes) accounted for 47 percent (63,775) of all adoptions in 2007 and 46 percent (63,094) in 2008. In 2000, they accounted for 47 percent (59,775) of all adoptions.

## Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide estimates of the number of children adopted in each of the 50 States, plus Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico, for 2007 and 2008 and to use these numbers to estimate the composition of all adoptions in the United States. This report includes the following:

- Highlights of the data
- Findings on the numbers of public, intercountry, and other adoptions
- A description of the data sources and data caveats

There is no single source for the total number of children adopted in the United States, and there is currently no straightforward way of determining the total number of adoptions, even when multiple data sources are used. No single agency is charged with compiling this information, and agencies that do collect adoption-related data do so for their own purposes and therefore count adoptions differently (e.g., by court cases filed, birth certificates modified, adoptions completed by public agencies), which makes aggregation difficult.

This report uses data from 2007 and 2008—rather than more recent years—because of the length of time it takes States and secondary data sources (e.g., the National Center for State Courts) to process the data and make them available. Data often are not available until 2 years after the reporting year concludes. Where indicated, comparisons are made with data from Child Welfare Information Gateway's *How Many Children Were Adopted in 2000 and 2001?* available at [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s\\_adopted/index.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s_adopted/index.cfm)

Data for this report were collected primarily by the following sources:

- State courts (total adoptions)
- State bureaus of vital records (total adoptions)
- The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (public agency adoptions)
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs (intercountry adoptions)

The total number of adoptions was determined using court data and, where court data were unavailable, data from State bureaus of vital records. Although not perfect, this methodology produces the best estimate of adoptions that is comparable to earlier work in this area, and the conclusions reached based on these data can be used to make policy decisions. The number of other adoptions (i.e., adoptions other than public agency and intercountry) was calculated by subtracting AFCARS and intercountry adoptions from the total number of adoptions. Although most of the data used to determine the totals were official data obtained through government sources (e.g., courts), a few are estimates based on actual data from surrounding years or approximations from local officials. For 2007 and 2008, the only estimates are data from two counties; all other data from 2007 and 2008 are official numbers. (See Appendix E for detailed information about these data.) The result is an approximation, but any difference due to gaps and overlap among counts is unlikely to affect the conclusions drawn.

See the Glossary of Adoption Types (next page) for additional information about term definitions and data sources.

## Glossary of Adoption Types

Adoption Type	Definition	Possible Data Sources			
		State Courts	State Bureaus of Vital Records	AFCARS	Department of State
Public agency	An adoption with public agency involvement, either directly through a public agency or through a private agency that is contracted by a public agency. The public agency usually has legal and physical custody of the child.	X	X	X	
Private agency	An adoption through a private agency that facilitates the adoption of the child after the birth parents relinquish their parental rights to the agency	X	X		X
Intercountry	An adoption of a child who is a citizen of one country by parents who are citizens of a different country	X	X		X
Tribal/ Customary	An adoption in an American Indian community that does not always require the termination of the birth parents' parental rights	X	X	X	
Nonagency	There are three general types of nonagency adoptions:				
	<b>Facilitated:</b> An adoption through which a facilitator links prospective adoptive parents with expectant birth mothers for a fee	X	X		
	<b>Independent:</b> An adoption in which an attorney or other person assists the prospective parents with the adoption process. The birth parents relinquish parental rights directly to the adoptive parents rather than an agency.	X	X		
	<b>Stepparent:</b> An adoption of a spouse's child by the stepparent	X	X		

**Glossary notes:** Relative or kinship adoptions may be included in any of the adoption types. Additionally, the definitions in this glossary may not equate to definitions used by every jurisdiction.

## Findings

### Total Adoptions

In 2007, 136,001 children were adopted, and in 2008, 135,813 children were adopted. The 2008 number is a 6-percent increase in total adoptions from the year 2000, when 127,985 children were adopted. Exhibits 1 and 2 show the number of adoptions in each State for 2007 and 2008. These exhibits also indicate the data source for each State's totals.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Total Adoptions by Data Source, 2007**

State	Courts	Vital Records	Other Sources	Total
Alabama*			2,298	2,298
Alaska	618			618
Arizona*	2,491			2,491
Arkansas	2,041			2,041
California*		13,889		13,889
Colorado	2,665			2,665
Connecticut	1,753			1,753
Delaware	251			251
District of Columbia	250			250
Florida*		6,845		6,845
Georgia*			3,913	3,913
Hawaii	673			673
Idaho	886			886
Illinois	4,471			4,471
Indiana	3,722			3,722
Iowa	2,101			2,101
Kansas	2,048			2,048
Kentucky	2,889			2,889
Louisiana	1,287			1,287
Maine*	843			843
Maryland	2,988			2,988
Massachusetts	2,397			2,397
Michigan	5,102			5,102
Minnesota	2,098			2,098
Mississippi	1,197			1,197
Missouri	2,826			2,826
Montana	713			713
Nebraska	943			943
Nevada	856			856
New Hampshire	649			649
New Jersey	2,248			2,248



State	Courts	Vital Records	Other Sources	Total
New Mexico	685			685
New York	8,168			8,168
North Carolina*		6,093		6,093
North Dakota	275			275
Ohio	5,006			5,006
Oklahoma*	2,477			2,477
Oregon	2,044			2,044
Pennsylvania	4,973			4,973
Puerto Rico*	347			347
Rhode Island	484			484
South Carolina*		1,603		1,603
South Dakota*	368			368
Tennessee	3,305			3,305
Texas*		10,551		10,551
Utah	1,759			1,759
Vermont	458			458
Virginia*			2,799	2,799
Washington	2,994			2,994
West Virginia	922			922
Wisconsin	2,395			2,395
Wyoming*	371			371
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,010</b>	<b>38,981</b>	<b>9,010</b>	<b>136,001</b>

\*See Appendix E for additional information.

**Exhibit 2**  
**Total Adoptions by Data Source, 2008**

State	Courts	Vital Records	Other Sources	Total
Alabama*			2,252	2,252
Alaska	643			643
Arizona*	2,907			2,907
Arkansas	2,133			2,133
California*		12,207		12,207
Colorado	2,873			2,873
Connecticut	1,517			1,517
Delaware	204			204
District of Columbia	274			274
Florida*		7,892		7,892
Georgia*			3,910	3,910
Hawaii	675			675
Idaho	900			900
Illinois	4,193			4,193
Indiana	3,896			3,896
Iowa	1,937			1,937
Kansas	2,097			2,097
Kentucky	3,034			3,034
Louisiana	1,510			1,510
Maine*	850			850
Maryland	3,070			1,070
Massachusetts	2,272			2,272
Michigan	5,074			5,074
Minnesota	2,025			2,025
Mississippi	1,264			1,264
Missouri	2,734			2,734
Montana	885			885
Nebraska	992			992
Nevada	869			869
New Hampshire	687			687
New Jersey	2,412			2,412
New Mexico	694			694
New York	8,524			8,524
North Carolina*		5,198		5,198
North Dakota	299			299
Ohio	4,824			4,824
Oklahoma*	2,787			2,787
Oregon	1,991			1,991
Pennsylvania	4,973			4,973
Puerto Rico*	324			324

State	Courts	Vital Records	Other Sources	Total
Rhode Island	492			492
South Carolina*		1,546		1,546
South Dakota*	407			407
Tennessee	3,139			3,139
Texas*		11,006		11,006
Utah	1,769			1,769
Vermont	431			431
Virginia*			2,578	2,578
Washington	3,058			3,058
West Virginia	1,010			1,010
Wisconsin	2,219			2,219
Wyoming*	386			386
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,224</b>	<b>37,849</b>	<b>8,740</b>	<b>135,813</b>

\*See Appendix E for additional information.

As shown in Exhibit 3, even with the increase in adoptions since 2000, the proportion of adoptions by type has remained relatively constant.

**Exhibit 3**  
**Percentage of Adoptions by Type, 2000 and 2008**

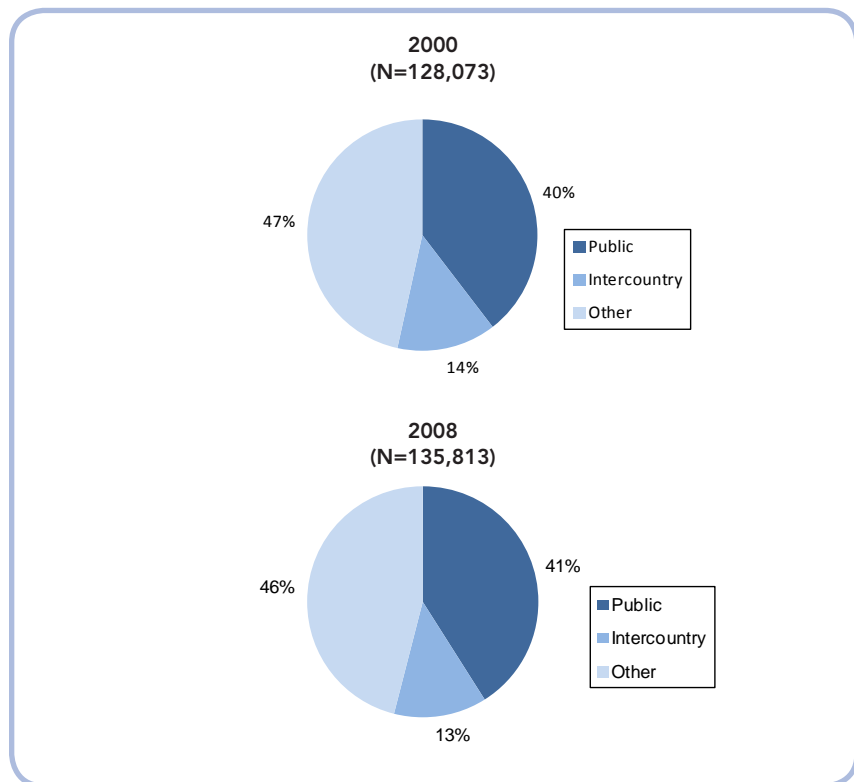
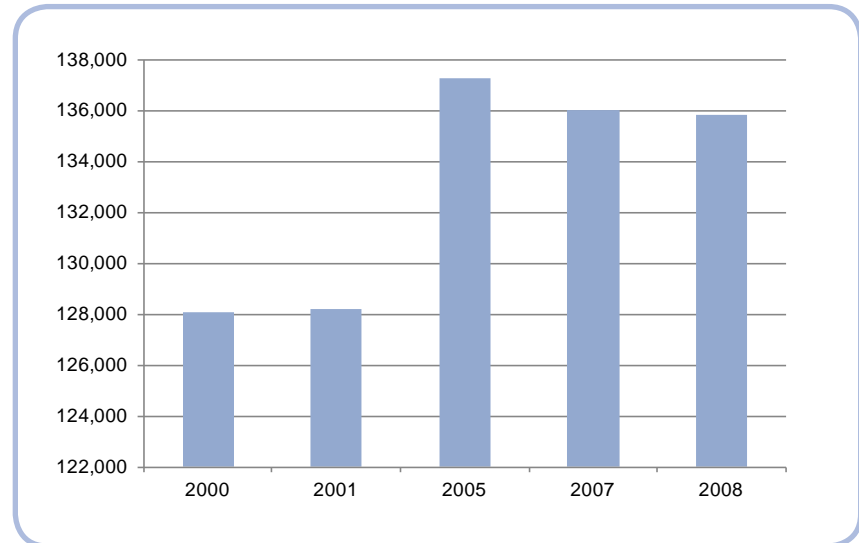


Exhibit 4 shows the total number of adoptions for selected years from 2000 to 2008. The numbers of adoptions in each State for selected years are presented in Appendix A.

**Exhibit 4**  
**Total Number of Adoptions, Selected Years 2000–2008**

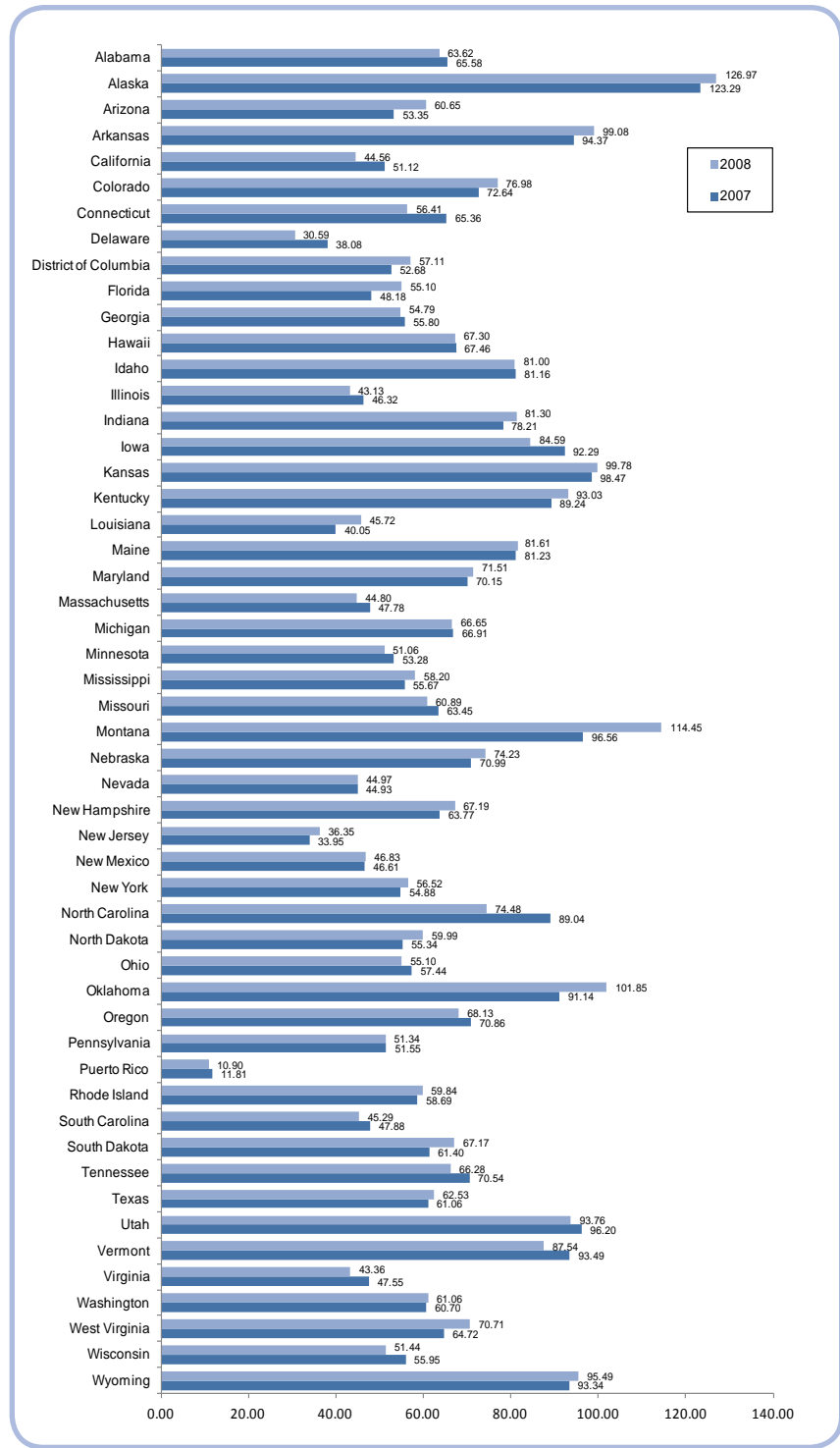


**Note:** Data from 2005 are presented in this chart as a midpoint to illustrate trends from the initial 2000–2001 data to the 2007–2008 data.

The adoption rate per 100,000 adults (i.e., persons aged 18 and older who became adoptive parents) was 59.0 in 2007 and 58.3 in 2008. The rate was 61.5 in 2000, which means there was a 5-percent decrease from 2000 to 2008.<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 5 (next page) provides State-specific data on rates of adoption per 100,000 adults in 2007 and 2008.

<sup>1</sup> Data on the number of individuals 18 aged and older for 2000, 2007, and 2008 are from estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau. 2007 data were obtained from <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2007-01.html>

**Exhibit 5**  
**Adoption Rates per 100,000 Adults by State, 2007 and 2008**



## Adoptions by Source

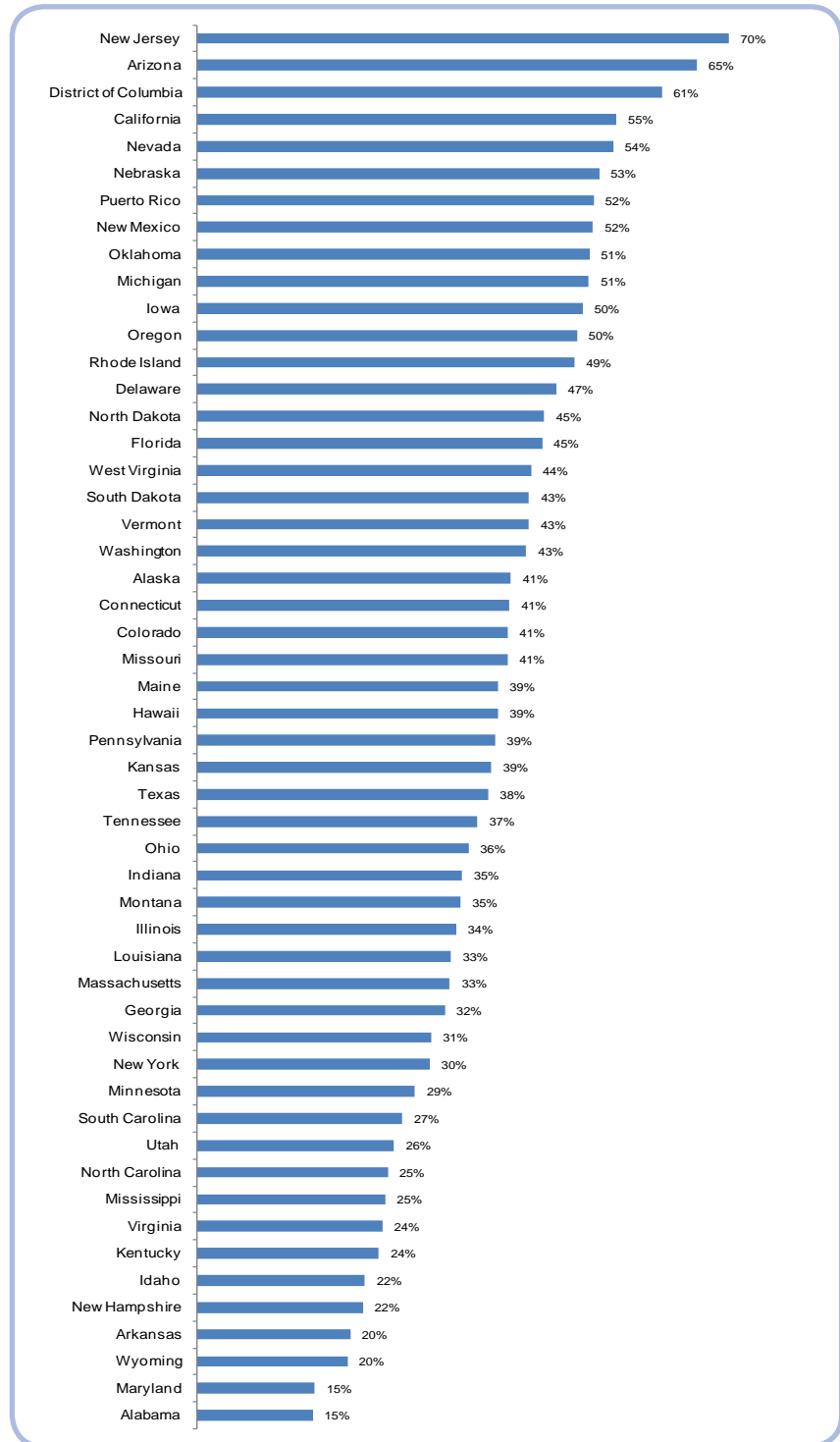
**Public Agency Adoptions.** According to AFCARS data, 52,657 children were adopted through public agencies in 2007, and 55,303 were adopted in 2008. Exhibits 6 and 7 show the percentage of all adoptions made through a public agency by State for 2007 and 2008, with the States ranked from highest percentage to lowest.

Thirty-nine percent of all adoptions in 2007 were placed by a public agency, and 41 percent of all adoptions in 2008 were placed by a public agency. The percentage of adoptions arranged through a public agency (40 percent) has remained relatively steady since 2000, but it is far higher than it was in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when rates hovered around 16 percent (Flango & Flango, 1995). In 2007, there were 12 States that had 50 percent or more of their adoptions placed by a public agency. In 2008, there were 15 States that had 50 percent or more of their adoptions placed through a public agency. New Jersey (70 percent) had the highest rate in 2007, and California (64 percent) had the highest rate in 2008. Alabama and Maryland had the lowest rates of public agency adoptions in both 2007 (15 percent) and 2008 (20 percent). (See Appendix B for State-specific public agency adoption data for 2000, 2007, and 2008.)

**Intercountry Adoptions.** In 2007, U.S. citizens adopted 19,569 children from foreign countries (14 percent of adoptions that year), and in 2008, 17,416 children were adopted from foreign countries (13 percent of adoptions that year). These numbers are in a similar range to data from 2000 and 2001, when 17,718 children (14 percent of adoptions in 2000) and 19,237 children (15 percent of adoptions in 2001) were adopted from foreign countries. Exhibit 8 (page 17) shows the number of intercountry adoptions by State.

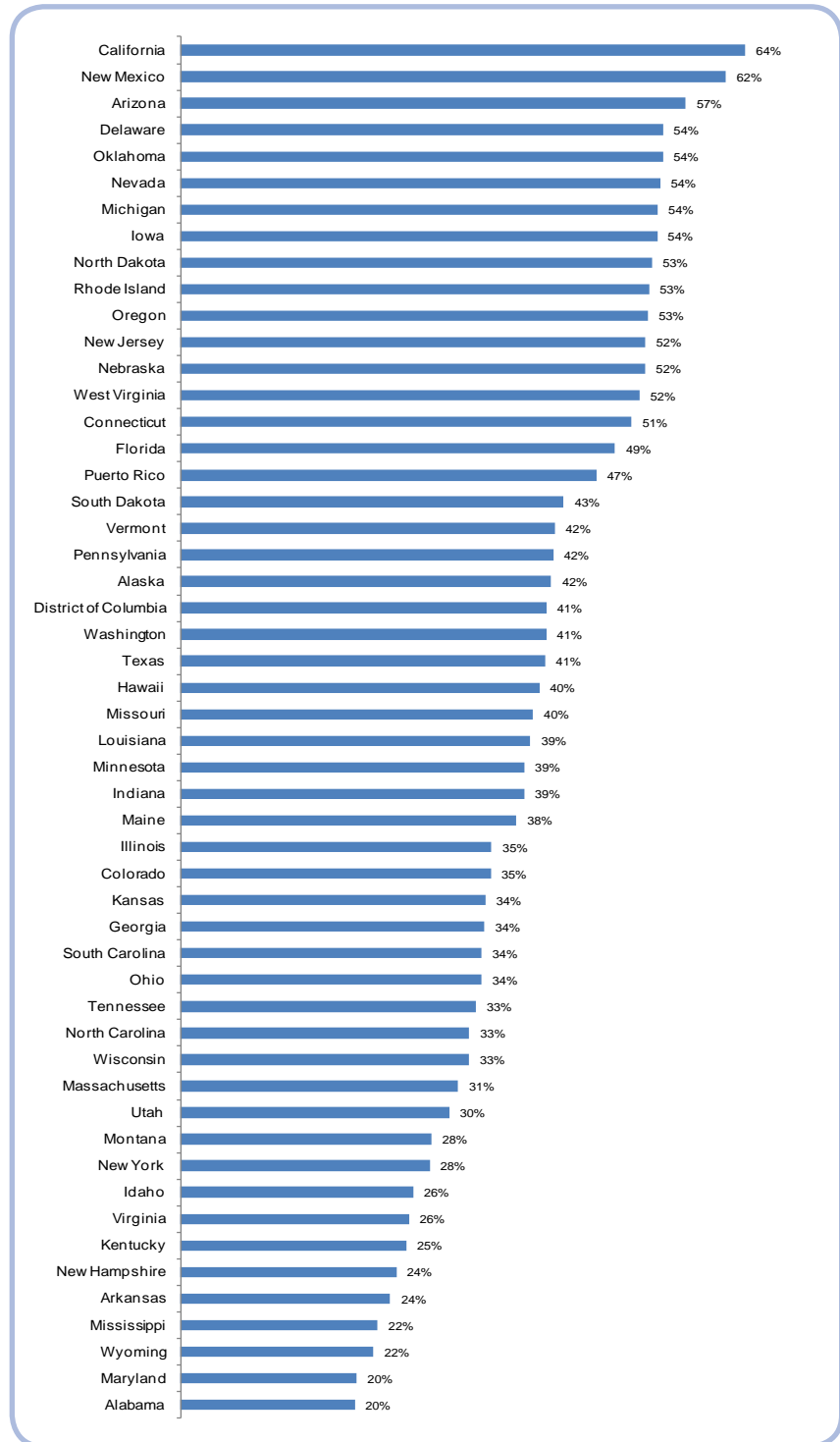
**Other Types of Adoptions.** The category of other adoptions includes all types of adoptions that are not public agency or intercountry, such as private agency, Tribal, facilitated, independent, and stepparent. The total number for other types of adoptions can be estimated by subtracting both the number of public agency adoptions reported in AFCARS and the intercountry adoptions reported by the State Department from the total number of adoptions, as reported by the courts or the bureaus of vital records. Although an approximation, these estimates are useful for most policy purposes. In 2007, 63,775 children (47 percent of adoptions) were adopted through other sources, and in 2008, 63,094 children (46 percent of adoptions) were adopted in this manner. In 2000, they accounted for 47 percent (59,775) of all adoptions. (See Appendix C for State-specific data.)

### Exhibit 6 Public Agency Adoptions as Percentage of Total Adoptions, 2007

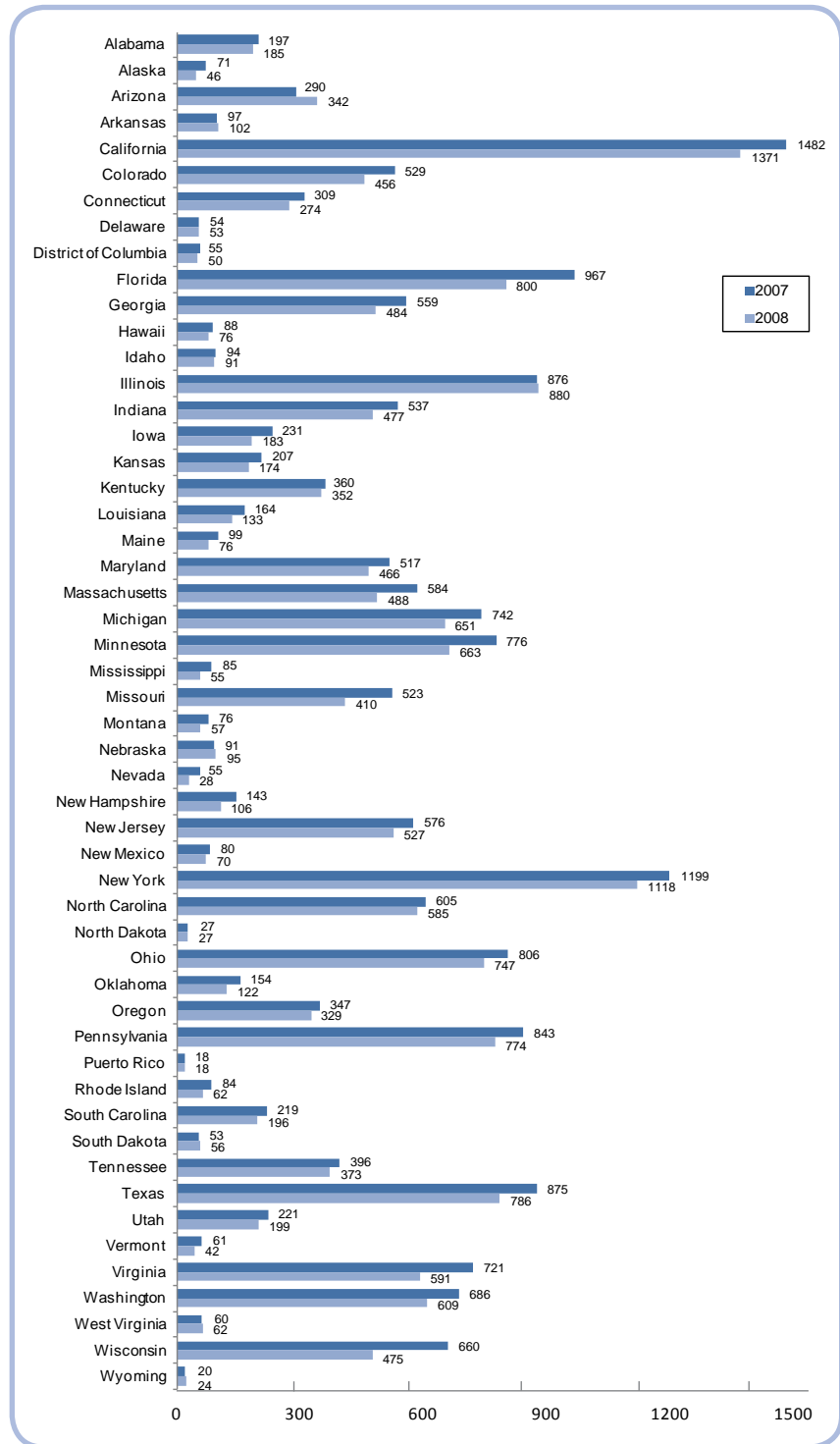




### Exhibit 7 Public Agency Adoptions as Percentage of Total Adoptions, 2008



### Exhibit 8 Intercountry Adoptions, 2007 and 2008



## Data Sources

This section provides a brief history of adoption data collection and a description of data sources, including their strengths and limitations.

### History of Data Sources

A variety of sources have contributed adoption data during the past 70 years. From 1944 through 1975, the Children's Bureau and the National Center for Social Statistics collected voluntary annual data from States about adoptions (Maza, 2001). The estimated number of adoptions in 1944 was 50,000, and the highest number of adoptions (175,000) during that period was in 1970 (Maza, 2001; Stolley, 1993).

From 1975 to the early 1980s, no national adoption data were collected. In 1983, the American Public Welfare Association (now known as the American Public Human Services Association), through funding from the Children's Bureau, implemented the Voluntary Cooperative Information System (VCIS) to collect national data on the adoption of children who were in, or passed through, the public child welfare system (Children's Bureau, 1998). Additionally, the National Council for Adoption (formerly, the National Committee for Adoption) collected and published State-by-State data on adoptions for 1982, 1986, and 1997.

In 1986, Congress passed an amendment to title IV-E that established an advisory committee to address the collection of adoption and foster care data. In 1993, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a regulation establishing the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). The final rule required States to submit data to the Children's Bureau about all adoptions that were conducted through public child welfare agencies. States were first required to submit AFCARS data in Federal fiscal year 1995. During the transition to AFCARS, VCIS was phased out.

### Description of Data Sources

**State Courts.** All adoptions of U.S.-born children and an unknown number of intercountry adoptions are finalized in U.S. courts. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Court Statistics Project collects data provided by the courts, including adoption filings (requests to adopt that are submitted to the court) and dispositions (decisions to grant or deny adoptions).

NCSC provides adoption data submitted by State courts, but it cannot provide a national total for the following reasons:

- **Incomplete data submissions.** Ten State court systems did no central data collection on the number of adoptions finalized in State courts for 2007 and 2008, and two additional State court systems did not report data for 2005 and 2006. Adoptions make up such a small percentage of court caseloads that sometimes they are categorized as part of a larger case grouping, such as “other civil petitions,” rather than reported separately. Therefore, it is not possible to distinguish adoptions from other petitions because only the larger case category is recorded. Additionally, some States submitted data only for adoption petitions filed rather than for adoption petitions granted. Although nearly all petitions filed are granted, some are denied, so counting filings data may be a very slight overestimate. In practice, the discrepancy is very small and therefore unlikely to affect any conclusions drawn.
- **Undercount of intercountry adoptions.** An adoption finalized in a foreign country and recognized by the United States does not require a filing or disposition in a State unless the adoptive parents choose to file to obtain additional legal recognition for the adoption.<sup>2</sup> Because not all parents choose to file in a U.S. court, the State court numbers do not reflect all intercountry adoptions.
- **Multiplicity of court sources.** In some States, obtaining a total number of adoptions requires combining data from multiple types of courts that have jurisdictions over adoption cases.

Every other potential source of adoption information is less useful than court data for calculating the total number of adoptions, which is why this report uses court data as its base and supplements it with data from bureaus of vital records in States where court data were unavailable.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> This report does not reflect policies and practices since the United States’ ratification in April 2008 of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. For more information about the Hague Convention, see Information Gateway’s *Intercountry Adoption From Hague and Non-Hague Convention Countries*: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/hague.cfm>

<sup>3</sup> Data from bureaus of vital records were obtained by calling each of the States for which NCSC did not have any data. For details about specific States, see Appendix E.

**State Child Welfare Agencies.** The total number of public agency adoptions in this report is based solely on AFCARS data.<sup>4</sup> State child welfare agencies are mandated to report information semiannually on public child welfare agency adoptions, as well as on children in foster care, to the federally operated AFCARS. Federal legislation and regulations established AFCARS to collect uniform, reliable information on children who were adopted under the responsibility of the State title IV-B/IV-E agency.<sup>5</sup> State child welfare agencies are required to report case-specific information on each child in foster care, each child adopted from the public child welfare system, and each adoption in which there has been public child welfare agency involvement, such as for a child who was never in foster care but for whom adoption assistance payments are made. AFCARS is the only data source that also includes information about the characteristics of adopted children, the birth families, and adoptive families.<sup>6</sup> State agencies may *voluntarily* report adoptions made under the auspices of private adoption agencies or individually arranged adoptions completed without agency involvement, but most States do not do so.

**State Bureaus of Vital Records.** Bureaus of vital records (or vital statistics) are potential sources of adoption information because the adoptive parent often requests an amended birth certificate. In some cases, however, adoptive parents may not request amended birth certificate, such as when a stepparent adopts an older child. Additionally, bureaus of vital records usually collect data for birth certificate amendments for children born in their State. Some of those children, however, may live in another State or abroad at the time of adoption. AFCARS counts adoptions in the State where the adoption occurred, and courts count adoptions in the State where the petitions are filed.

**Department of State.** The Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Children's Issues collects data on the number of immigrant visas issued to children to enter the United

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<sup>4</sup> State-specific AFCARS data for this report were obtained from the Children's Bureau website at [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats\\_research/index.htm#afcars](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#afcars)

<sup>5</sup> The collection of information about adoption and foster care from the States was mandated by Congress under title IV-E, Section 479 of the Social Security Act, which was last amended by the Social Security Act of 1994, P.L. 103-432, title II, section 209(c).

<sup>6</sup> For more information about AFCARS, see the website for the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/systems/index.htm#afcars>

States after an intercountry adoption.<sup>7</sup> Some of these adoptive families may choose to readopt the child in the United States as an additional protection of the adopted child's legal status, even if the adoption in the foreign country is recognized by their State. There are no data about the percentage of adoptions that occur abroad that are also processed by U.S. courts.

**Private Agencies.** Usually it is not possible to obtain adoption numbers from private adoption agencies because they do not have requirements, incentives, or places to report data on the number of children adopted through their agencies or the characteristics of the children, the adoptive parents, or the birth parents. Some private agencies assume that these data are captured by public agencies, which, in turn, may be under the impression that private agencies keep comprehensive information about their own adoptions. No data from private adoption agencies are used in this report.

### Additional Data Notes

The data in this report are drawn from multiple sources, each of which uses different methodology and definitions and is of varying quality. The following provides caveats for the use of the data:

- **Data from the courts were compiled using either filings or dispositions.** Unless otherwise indicated, the court data for 2000 and 2001 are based on either dispositions or filings, depending on the data available from each State. If disposition data were available, those were used. If they were not available, filings data were used. The court data for 2005 through 2008, unless otherwise indicated, are based solely on filings.
- **Data sources use different years for aggregating the data.** The time parameters for the data often change depending on the data source. For example, AFCARS and intercountry adoption data are for a Federal fiscal year (FFY), which begins on October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year (e.g., FFY 2008 begins on October 1, 2007, and ends September 30, 2008). Court and vital records data, however, are nearly always reported by State fiscal year (SFY), which is

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<sup>7</sup> State-specific data on intercountry adoptions was obtained from the Department of State at [http://adoption.state.gov/about\\_us/statistics.php](http://adoption.state.gov/about_us/statistics.php)

either a calendar year (January 1 through December 31) or another timeframe—most often, July 1 through June 30 of the next year, and the ending year is the SFY.

The data provided by these sources cannot easily be separated by month; therefore, this report groups and aggregates data by year without consideration of the type of year (e.g., FFY, SFY). For example, adoptions listed in this report as being from 2008 may be from FFY 2008 or SFY 2008, depending on the source. Since totals from the various sources tend not to change drastically from year to year, it is reasonable to make calculations using data gathered during different timeframes (e.g., determining the percentage of public agency adoptions in a State by dividing a State's total adoptions from a SFY by the number of public agency adoptions from a FFY).

- **Data from State bureaus of vital records may not provide an exact number of adoptions in a particular year.** The bureaus of vital records report when the birth certificate amendment was processed, which may not occur within the same year the adoption was finalized. For example, a child who was adopted in 2003 might not have a birth certificate amended until 2004 or later. Additionally, a State's bureau of vital records has adoption data only for children born in that State. For example, a child born in North Carolina may be adopted in Wyoming, but the birth certificate would be amended only in North Carolina. That may occasionally cause a double count of children in this report if a child was born in a State that provided data on birth certificate amendments and then was adopted in a State that provided court data. It is not known how many children may fall into this category, but this is not likely to have much impact on the data in this report.
- **Some adoptions may be counted in multiple data sources.** There is no overlap between AFCARS data and the data provided by the Department of State. There may be overlap between data provided by NCSC and the Department of State because children adopted abroad may also be adopted in a U.S. court, and there may be overlap between data provided by NCSC and the State bureaus of vital records for reasons to be explained in the methodology section of this report.

For State-specific data notes, where applicable, see Appendix E.

## USE OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION DATA

When calculating total adoption data, this report assumes that some children adopted from foreign countries are readopted in the United States. The intercountry adoption data are not added to the court data to determine the total number of adoptions; the court data are considered to be the total. This yields a conservative estimate of the total number of children adopted. It is possible, however, that very few children are readopted in the United States after being adopted abroad, which would create an underestimation of the total adoptions in this report. Appendix D presents an alternative set of total adoption data calculated by adding the number of intercountry adoptions to the number of adoptions reported by the courts or bureaus of vital records.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

Adoption—both public and private—can provide a safe, permanent home for children who, for myriad reasons, may otherwise not have one. The number of adoptions in 2007 and 2008 has increased since the early 2000s, although the rate of adoptions per 100,000 adults has decreased. Because of the complexity of adoption and child welfare research, it is difficult to attribute changes in national or State data to any specific policy, practice, or other factor. The findings presented in this report suggest several areas for additional research:

- What factors may account for the differences in adoption rates among States?
- Why are the three types of adoptions (public, intercountry, and other) utilized at different proportions in each State?
- How can better adoption data be collected systematically, consistently, and regularly?

Recent changes in the composition of adoptions also will require additional study. Since the Hague Convention was ratified in 2008, the number of intercountry adoptions has decreased dramatically. More than 17,000 children were adopted from



foreign countries in 2008, but the number of intercountry adoptions decreased to 12,744 in 2009 and 11,058 in 2010 (U.S. Department of State, n.d.). Future iterations of this report will address this issue, including how it may affect the utilization of other types of adoptions.

Research into these and other key areas of adoption will provide policymakers, administrators, and caseworkers with valuable information that can be used to find safe, permanent families for all children in need.

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## Appendix A

### Total Adoptions for Selected Years, 2000–2008

State	2000	2001	2005	2006	2007	2008
Alabama	2,009	1,857	2,093	2,223	2,298	2,252
Alaska	634	616	566	571	618	643
Arizona	1,736	1,642	1,953	2,308	2,491	2,907
Arkansas	1,907	1,698	1,934	1,929	2,014	2,133
California	9,054	9,202	12,593	11,728	13,889	12,207
Colorado	2,895	2,877	2,905	2,521	2,665	2,873
Connecticut	1,210	1,164	1,511	1,511	1,753	1,517
Delaware	222	225	169	229	251	204
District of Columbia	492	548	324	299	250	274
Florida	8,088	8,435	6,213	6,541	6,845	7,892
Georgia	3,499	3,499	4,079	3,822	3,913	3,910
Hawaii	626	766	764	703	673	675
Idaho	998	1,048	1,067	1,060	886	900
Illinois	6,921	6,673	4,835	4,735	4,471	4,193
Indiana	3,486	3,588	3,560	3,660	3,722	3,896
Iowa	1,116	1,116	1,785	1,747	2,101	1,937
Kansas	2,025	1,880	2,016	1,915	2,048	2,097
Kentucky	2,265	2,086	3,182	2,948	2,889	3,034
Louisiana	1,553	1,391	1,317	1,459	1,287	1,510
Maine	957	957	869	825	843	850
Maryland	4,161	4,384	3,141	3,158	2,988	3,070
Massachusetts	2,697	3,259	2,518	2,327	2,397	2,272
Michigan	6,190	6,274	5,562	4,898	5,102	5,074
Minnesota	1,622	2,094	2,255	2,205	2,098	2,025
Mississippi	866	866	1,393	978	1,197	1,264
Missouri	2,554	2,554	3,345	3,247	2,826	2,734
Montana	608	600	680	743	713	855
Nebraska	920	939	896	941	943	992
Nevada	827	764	976	974	856	869
New Hampshire	690	630	628	649	649	687
New Jersey	2,294	2,384	2,557	2,398	2,248	2,412
New Mexico	723	680	699	693	685	694
New York	10,821	10,209	10,567	9,125	8,168	8,524
North Carolina	2,710	2,328	5,509	4,633	6,093	5,198
North Dakota	337	368	319	319	275	299
Ohio	5,693	5,564	5,375	5,323	5,006	4,824
Oklahoma	1,533	1,533	1,942	2,155	2,477	2,787
Oregon	2,064	2,029	2,013	2,008	2,044	1,991
Pennsylvania	4,458	4,748	5,284	4,900	4,973	4,973
Puerto Rico	443	464	363	350	347	324
Rhode Island	600	617	599	541	484	492
South Carolina	1,237	1,648	1,499	1,224	1,603	1,546
South Dakota	432	399	263	345	368	407
Tennessee	2,528	2,633	3,220	3,174	3,305	3,139
Texas	8,329	7,957	9,904	9,656	10,551	11,006
Utah	1,599	1,387	1,588	1,713	1,759	1,769

State	2000	2001	2005	2006	2007	2008
Vermont	393	407	437	468	458	431
Virginia	2,218	2,301	2,791	2,897	2,799	2,578
Washington	3,025	2,748	3,174	3,042	2,994	3,058
West Virginia	921	908	929	881	922	1,010
Wisconsin	2,475	2,515	2,697	2,451	2,395	2,219
Wyoming	412	412	367	353	371	386
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,073</b>	<b>127,871</b>	<b>137,225</b>	<b>131,503</b>	<b>136,001</b>	<b>135,813</b>

## Appendix B

### Public Agency Adoptions as Percentage of Total Adoptions, 2000, 2007, and 2008

	2000			2007			2008		
	Public Adoptions	Total Adoptions	Percentage	Public Adoptions	Total Adoptions	Percentage	Public Adoptions	Total Adoptions	Percentage
Alabama	202	2,009	10%	349	2,298	15%	442	2,252	20%
Alaska	202	634	32%	254	618	41%	269	643	42%
Arizona	853	1,736	49%	1,629	2,491	65%	1,661	2,907	57%
Arkansas	325	1,907	17%	404	2,014	20%	505	2,133	24%
California	8,693	9,054	96%	7,622	13,889	55%	7,777	12,207	64%
Colorado	691	2,895	24%	1,084	2,665	41%	1,005	2,873	35%
Connecticut	499	1,210	41%	717	1,753	41%	772	1,517	51%
Delaware	103	222	46%	118	251	47%	111	204	54%
District of Columbia	319	492	65%	152	250	61%	113	274	41%
Florida	1,609	8,088	20%	3,089	6,845	45%	3,870	7,892	49%
Georgia	1,057	3,499	30%	1,269	3,913	32%	1,340	3,910	34%
Hawaii	280	626	45%	265	673	39%	273	675	40%
Idaho	140	998	14%	195	886	22%	236	900	26%
Illinois	5,668	6,921	82%	1,516	4,471	34%	1,472	4,193	35%
Indiana	1,147	3,486	33%	1,292	3,722	35%	1,510	3,896	39%
Iowa	735	1,116	66%	1,060	2,101	50%	1,041	1,937	54%
Kansas	469	2,025	23%	789	2,048	39%	721	2,097	34%
Kentucky	395	2,265	17%	689	2,889	24%	772	3,034	25%
Louisiana	476	1,553	31%	428	1,287	33%	596	1,510	39%
Maine	411	957	43%	332	843	39%	322	850	38%
Maryland	537	4,161	13%	462	2,988	15%	610	3,070	20%
Massachusetts	861	2,697	32%	794	2,397	33%	712	2,272	31%
Michigan	2,803	6,190	45%	2,617	5,102	51%	2,731	5,074	54%
Minnesota	614	1,622	38%	599	2,098	29%	785	2,025	39%
Mississippi	288	866	33%	295	1,197	25%	281	1,264	22%
Missouri	1,265	2,554	50%	1,149	2,826	41%	1,087	2,734	40%
Montana	236	608	39%	246	713	35%	242	855	28%
Nebraska	300	920	33%	496	943	53%	520	992	52%
Nevada	231	827	28%	466	856	54%	470	869	54%
New Hampshire	96	690	14%	141	649	22%	167	687	24%
New Jersey	837	2,294	36%	1,564	2,248	70%	1,265	2,412	52%

	2000			2007			2008		
	Public Adoptions	Total Adoptions	Percentage	Public Adoptions	Total Adoptions	Percentage	Public Adoptions	Total Adoptions	Percentage
New Mexico	347	723	48%	355	685	52%	427	694	62%
New York	4,234	10,821	39%	2,488	8,168	30%	2,394	8,524	28%
North Carolina	1,337	2,710	49%	1,521	6,093	25%	1,694	5,198	33%
North Dakota	105	337	31%	125	275	45%	159	299	53%
Ohio	2,044	5,693	36%	1,779	5,006	36%	1,638	4,824	34%
Oklahoma	1,062	1,533	69%	1,271	2,477	51%	1,516	2,787	54%
Oregon	831	2,064	40%	1,016	2,044	50%	1,050	1,991	53%
Pennsylvania	1,712	4,458	38%	1,940	4,973	39%	2,090	4,973	42%
Puerto Rico	231	443	52%	180	347	52%	152	324	47%
Rhode Island	260	600	43%	239	484	49%	260	492	53%
South Carolina	378	1,237	31%	431	1,603	27%	525	1,546	34%
South Dakota	94	432	22%	160	368	43%	176	407	43%
Tennessee	431	2,528	17%	1,214	3,305	37%	1,046	3,139	33%
Texas	2,029	8,329	24%	4,022	10,551	38%	4,526	11,006	41%
Utah	303	1,599	19%	454	1,759	26%	536	1,769	30%
Vermont	122	393	31%	199	458	43%	182	431	42%
Virginia	448	2,218	20%	680	2,799	24%	664	2,578	26%
Washington	1,141	3,025	38%	1,291	2,994	43%	1,261	3,058	41%
West Virginia	352	921	38%	403	922	44%	523	1,010	52%
Wisconsin	736	2,475	30%	734	2,395	31%	722	2,219	33%
Wyoming	61	412	15%	73	371	20%	84	386	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,600</b>	<b>128,073</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>52,657</b>	<b>136,001</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>55,303</b>	<b>135,813</b>	<b>41%</b>

### Appendix C Adoptions by Type and State, 2007 and 2008

	2007				2008			
	Other	Public	Intercountry	Total	Other	Public	Intercountry	Total
Alabama	1,752	349	197	2,298	1,625	442	185	2,252
Alaska	293	254	71	618	328	269	46	643
Arizona	572	1,629	290	2,491	904	1,661	342	2,907
Arkansas	1,513	404	97	2,014	1,526	505	102	2,133
California	4,785	7,622	1,482	13,889	3,059	7,777	1,371	12,207
Colorado	1,052	1,084	529	2,665	1,412	1,005	456	2,873
Connecticut	727	717	309	1,753	471	772	274	1,517
Delaware	79	118	54	251	40	111	53	204
District of Columbia	43	152	55	250	111	113	50	274
Florida	2,789	3,089	967	6,845	3,222	3,870	800	7,892
Georgia	2,085	1,269	559	3,913	2,086	1,340	484	3,910
Hawaii	320	265	88	673	326	273	76	675
Idaho	597	195	94	886	573	236	91	900
Illinois	2,079	1,516	876	4,471	1,841	1,472	880	4,193
Indiana	1,893	1,292	537	3,722	1,909	1,510	477	3,896
Iowa	810	1,060	231	2,101	713	1,041	183	1,937
Kansas	1,052	789	207	2,048	1,202	721	174	2,097
Kentucky	1,840	689	360	2,889	1,910	772	352	3,034

	2007				2008			
	Other	Public	Intercountry	Total	Other	Public	Intercountry	Total
Louisiana	695	428	164	1,287	781	596	133	1,510
Maine	412	332	99	843	452	322	76	850
Maryland	2,009	462	517	2,988	1,994	610	466	3,070
Massachusetts	1,019	794	584	2,397	1,072	712	488	2,272
Michigan	1,743	2,617	742	5,102	1,692	2,731	651	5,074
Minnesota	723	599	776	2,098	577	785	663	2,025
Mississippi	817	295	85	1,197	928	281	55	1,264
Missouri	1,154	1,149	523	2,826	1,237	1,087	410	2,734
Montana	391	246	76	713	556	242	57	855
Nebraska	356	496	91	943	377	520	95	992
Nevada	335	466	55	856	371	470	28	869
New Hampshire	365	141	143	649	414	167	106	687
New Jersey	108	1,564	576	2,248	620	1,265	527	2,412
New Mexico	250	355	80	685	197	427	70	694
New York	4,481	2,488	1,199	8,168	5,012	2,394	1,118	8,524
North Carolina	3,967	1,521	605	6,093	2,919	1,694	585	5,198
North Dakota	123	125	27	275	113	159	27	299
Ohio	2,421	1,779	806	5,006	2,439	1,638	747	4,824
Oklahoma	1,052	1,271	154	2,477	1,149	1,516	122	2,787
Oregon	681	1,016	347	2,044	612	1,050	329	1,991
Pennsylvania	2,190	1,940	843	4,973	2,109	2,090	774	4,973
Puerto Rico	149	180	18	347	154	152	18	324
Rhode Island	161	239	84	484	170	260	62	492
South Carolina	953	431	219	1,603	825	525	196	1,546
South Dakota	155	160	53	368	175	176	56	407
Tennessee	1,695	1,214	396	3,305	1,720	1,046	373	3,139
Texas	5,654	4,022	875	10,551	5,694	4,526	786	11,006
Utah	1,084	454	221	1,759	1,034	536	199	1,769
Vermont	198	199	61	458	207	182	42	431
Virginia	1,398	680	721	2,799	1,323	664	591	2,578
Washington	1,017	1,291	686	2,994	1,188	1,261	609	3,058
West Virginia	459	403	60	922	425	523	62	1,010
Wisconsin	1,001	734	660	2,395	1,022	722	475	2,219
Wyoming	278	73	20	371	278	84	24	386
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,775</b>	<b>52,657</b>	<b>19,569</b>	<b>136,001</b>	<b>63,094</b>	<b>55,303</b>	<b>17,416</b>	<b>135,813</b>

## Appendix D

### Alternative Adoption Calculation

The following is an alternative set of total adoption data calculated by adding the number of intercountry adoptions to the number of adoptions reported by the courts or State bureaus of vital records.

	2007			2008		
	Courts or Bureaus of Vital Records	Intercountry	Total	Courts or Bureaus of Vital Records	Intercountry	Total
Alabama	2,298	197	2,495	2,252	185	2,437
Alaska	618	71	689	643	46	689
Arizona	2,491	290	2,781	2,907	342	3,249
Arkansas	2,014	97	2,111	2,133	102	2,235
California	13,889	1,482	15,371	12,207	1,371	13,578
Colorado	2,665	529	3,194	2,873	456	3,329
Connecticut	1,753	309	2,062	1,517	274	1,791
Delaware	251	54	305	204	53	257
District of Columbia	250	55	305	274	50	324
Florida	6,845	967	7,812	7,892	800	8,692
Georgia	3,913	559	4,472	3,910	484	4,394
Hawaii	673	88	761	675	76	751
Idaho	886	94	980	900	91	991
Illinois	4,471	876	5,347	4,193	880	5,073
Indiana	3,722	537	4,259	3,896	477	4,373
Iowa	2,101	231	2,332	1,937	183	2,120
Kansas	2,048	207	2,255	2,097	174	2,271
Kentucky	2,889	360	3,249	3,034	352	3,386
Louisiana	1,287	164	1,451	1,510	133	1,643
Maine	843	99	942	850	76	926
Maryland	2,988	517	3,505	3,070	466	3,536
Massachusetts	2,397	584	2,981	2,272	488	2,760
Michigan	5,102	742	5,844	5,074	651	5,725
Minnesota	2,098	776	2,874	2,025	663	2,688
Mississippi	1,197	85	1,282	1,264	55	1,319
Missouri	2,826	523	3,349	2,734	410	3,144
Montana	713	76	789	855	57	912
Nebraska	943	91	1,034	992	95	1,087
Nevada	856	55	911	869	28	897
New Hampshire	649	143	792	687	106	793
New Jersey	2,248	576	2,824	2,412	527	2,939
New Mexico	685	80	765	694	70	764
New York	8,168	1,199	9,367	8,524	1,118	9,642
North Carolina	6,093	605	6,698	5,198	585	5,783
North Dakota	275	27	302	299	27	326
Ohio	5,006	806	5,812	4,824	747	5,571
Oklahoma	2,477	154	2,631	2,787	122	2,909
Oregon	2,044	347	2,391	1,991	329	2,320
Pennsylvania	4,973	843	5,816	4,973	774	5,747

	2007			2008		
	Courts or Bureaus of Vital Records	Intercountry	Total	Courts or Bureaus of Vital Records	Intercountry	Total
Puerto Rico	347	18	365	324	18	342
Rhode Island	484	84	568	492	62	554
South Carolina	1,603	219	1,822	1,546	196	1,742
South Dakota	368	53	421	407	56	463
Tennessee	3,305	396	3,701	3,139	373	3,512
Texas	10,551	875	11,426	11,006	786	11,792
Utah	1,759	221	1,980	1,769	199	1,968
Vermont	458	61	519	431	42	473
Virginia	2,799	721	3,520	2,578	591	3,169
Washington	2,994	686	3,680	3,058	609	3,667
West Virginia	922	60	982	1,010	62	1,072
Wisconsin	2,395	660	3,055	2,219	475	2,694
Wyoming	371	20	391	386	24	410
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,001</b>	<b>19,569</b>	<b>155,570</b>	<b>135,813</b>	<b>17,416</b>	<b>153,229</b>

## Appendix E State-Specific Data Notes

These notes provide information about data that were not obtained through the National Center for State Courts database or the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.

State	Data Notes
Alabama	The total adoptions for 2005–2006 are based on the numbers of nonpublic agency adoptions provided by the Alabama State Department of Human Resources (DHR). DHR calculated the data by tallying the number of nonpublic agency adoption petitions submitted by attorneys. For this report, the nonpublic agency adoption data were added to the AFCARS data to calculate the total adoptions.
Arizona	The total adoptions in 2008 were calculated using a combination of State and county data. In 2008, Maricopa County, the State's largest county, converted its case management system; therefore, only part of the year's data was submitted with the State totals to the National Center for State Courts. Maricopa County provided its data separately for this report, and it was incorporated into the State total.
California	The total adoptions for 2006–2008 were provided by the California Department of Public Health and are based on the number of birth certificates amended due to adoptions of children born in California. Data on the total adoptions for 2005 were unavailable, and so an estimate was calculated based on the percentage of public agency adoptions in the following years.
Florida	The total adoptions for 2005–2006 were provided by the Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics and are based on birth certificates amended due to adoptions of children born in Florida.
Georgia	The total adoptions for 2005–2008 were provided by the Georgia Department of Human Services and are based on the number of court petitions it receives.
Maine	The total adoptions for 2007 and 2008 were obtained by contacting the Probate Courts in each of Maine's 16 counties. Actual filings data were obtained for 14 counties, and estimates provided by court staff were used for the remaining two counties.

North Carolina	The total adoptions for 2005–2008 were provided by the North Carolina Vital Records office and are based on the number of birth certificates amended due to adoptions of children born in North Carolina.
Oklahoma	Official total adoption data for 2005 and 2006 were not available. The estimates used for these years were calculated by taking the average percentage of public agency adoptions in 2007 and 2008 and dividing the number of public agency adoptions for 2005 and 2006, as reported in AFCARS, by that average.
Puerto Rico	The total adoptions for 2000 and 2001 were provided by the Puerto Rico Office of Courts Administration. Additionally, AFCARS data from 2001 were not consistent with the court data. The court data were more stable, and so the 2001 public agency adoption number for Puerto Rico was determined by taking the percentage of public agency adoptions in 2000 and applying that number to the total adoptions in 2001.
South Carolina	The number of adoptions for 2005–2006 was provided by the Division of Biostatistics of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and is based on birth certificates amended due to adoptions of children born in South Carolina.
South Dakota	The number of adoptions for 2006–2008 was provided directly by the South Dakota Unified Judicial System. Official total adoption data for 2005 were not available. The estimate used for this year was calculated by taking the average percentage of public agency adoptions in 2006–2008 and dividing the number of public agency adoptions for 2005, as reported in AFCARS, by that average.
Texas	The number of adoptions for 2005–2008 was provided by the Vital Statistics Unit of the Texas Department of State Health Services and is based on birth certificates amended due to adoptions of children born in Texas.
Virginia	The total adoptions for 2005–2008 were provided by the Virginia Department of Social Services and are based on the number of final adoption orders it received from the Circuit Courts.
Wyoming	The total adoptions for 2005–2006 were provided by the Vital Statistics Services of the Wyoming Department of Health and are based on birth certificates amended due to adoptions of children born in Wyoming.

**Note:** For more information about data from 2000 and 2001, including data sources, refer to *How Many Children Were Adopted in 2000 and 2001?* at [http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s\\_adopted](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s_adopted)