



The Adoption Center  
of the MidSouth

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## ***Adoption Statistics***

- There are an estimated 542,000 children in foster care in the United States, and more than 126,000 of them are waiting to be adopted.
- A national survey showed that four in 10 Americans have considered adoption. That translates into over 80 million Americans. If only one out of 500 Americans adopted from the foster care system, these children would have homes. (Source: National Adoption Attitudes Survey 2002; Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption; [www.davethomasfoundation.org](http://www.davethomasfoundation.org))
- Since 1987, the number of children in foster care has nearly doubled, and the average time a child remains in foster care has lengthened to nearly three years. Each year, approximately 20,000 children in foster care will age out of the system without ever being placed with a permanent family.
- In September 2000, of the 556,000 children in foster care, 40% were Black Non-Hispanic, 38% were White Non-Hispanic, 15% were Hispanic, 2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% two or more Races Non-Hispanic and 4% are unable to determine.
- The adoptive family structure is as follows: Married Couples 66%, Single Females 32%, Single Males 2%, and Unmarried Couples 1%.
- Children in foster care are adopted by three types of families: former foster parents, relatives and unrelated in families. About 61% of the adoptions of children in foster care were by foster parents to whom the children were not related; 21% were by relatives; and 18% of the adoptions were by families to whom the children were not related.
- To find out more about adopting a child in the United States, please check out [www.nationaladoptionday.org](http://www.nationaladoptionday.org) or [www.davethomasfoundation.org](http://www.davethomasfoundation.org) or call 1-800-TO-ADOPT.

*Unless otherwise indicated, statistics are provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families Administration on Children; Interim Estimates for FY 2000; [www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/afcars/report7.htm](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/afcars/report7.htm).*