

# Adoption Statistics

An at-a-glance overview of United States adoption trends by type since 2000



**24%**

Decline in *adoptions from foster care* since peaking in 2019



**94%**

Decline in *intercountry adoptions* since peaking in 2004



**3%**

Increase in *private domestic adoptions* since 2019



**15,590**

Youth aged out of foster care without a permanent family in FY23



**77,089**

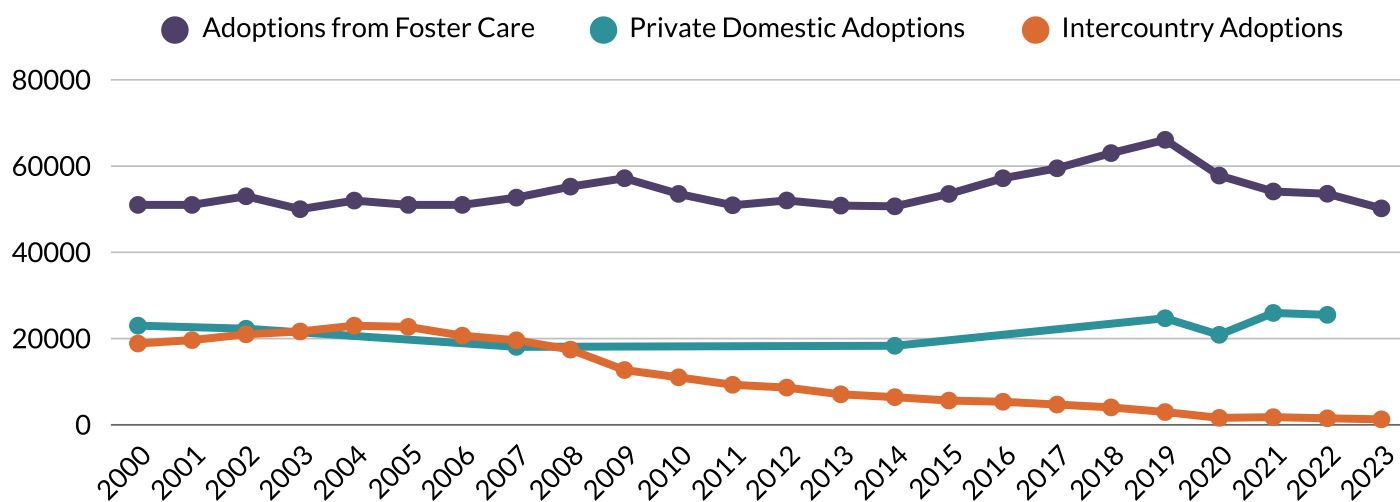
Children were waiting to be adopted at the end of FY23\*



**67,746**

Children were in foster care for 2+ years before exiting in FY23

## Annual Adoptions by Type



### Sources:

AFCARS Reports & Dashboard  
US Department of State Statistics  
Adoption by the Numbers, NCFA

Updated in 2025

**Reporting periods:** For intercountry adoptions and adoptions from foster care, the reporting period is the federal fiscal year. Different reporting periods were used in estimates for private domestic adoptions.

**A note about private domestic adoption data:** Data from 2014 solely included unrelated, domestic, infant adoptions (including those from the public system). Data from 2019 to 2022 solely included private, domestic, non-stepparent adoptions. Adoptions in U.S. territories and by Americans residing overseas have been excluded from private domestic adoption data.

\* The number of children awaiting adoption refers to children in U.S. foster care with a permanency plan of adoption. Not all children with adoption permanency plans are legally free for adoption.



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