

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



95%

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 2023



77,089

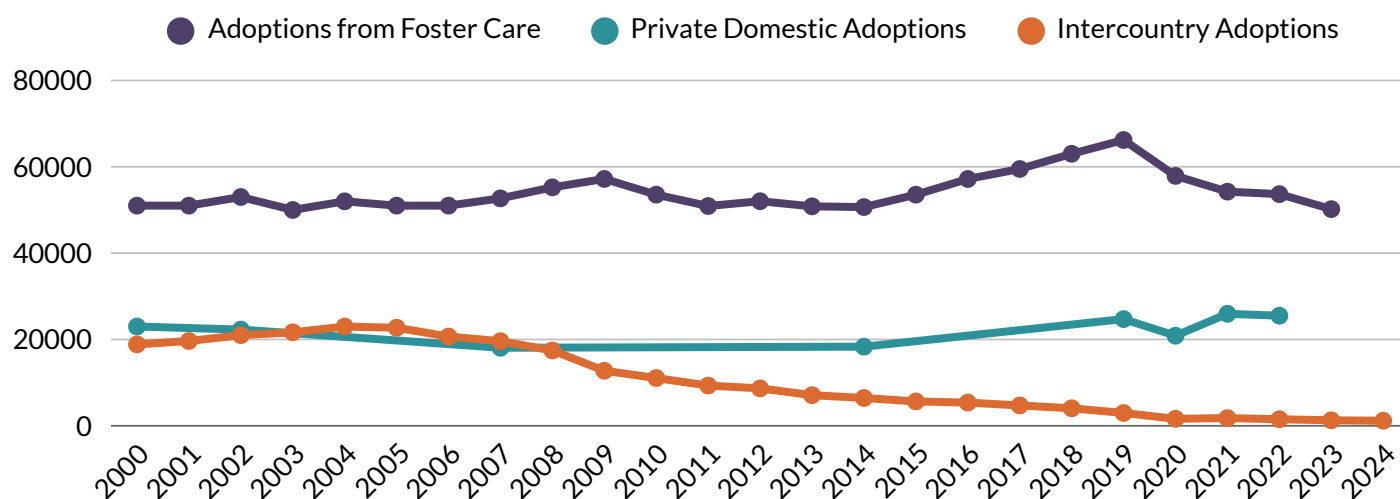
U.S. foster children were waiting to be adopted at the end of 2023*



67,746

Children were in foster care for 2+ years before exiting in 2023

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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