

Adoption Statistics

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



32%

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



96%

Decline in *intercountry adoptions* since peaking in 2004



3%

Increase in *private domestic adoptions* since 2019



15,030

Youth aged out of foster care without a permanent family in 2025



67,249

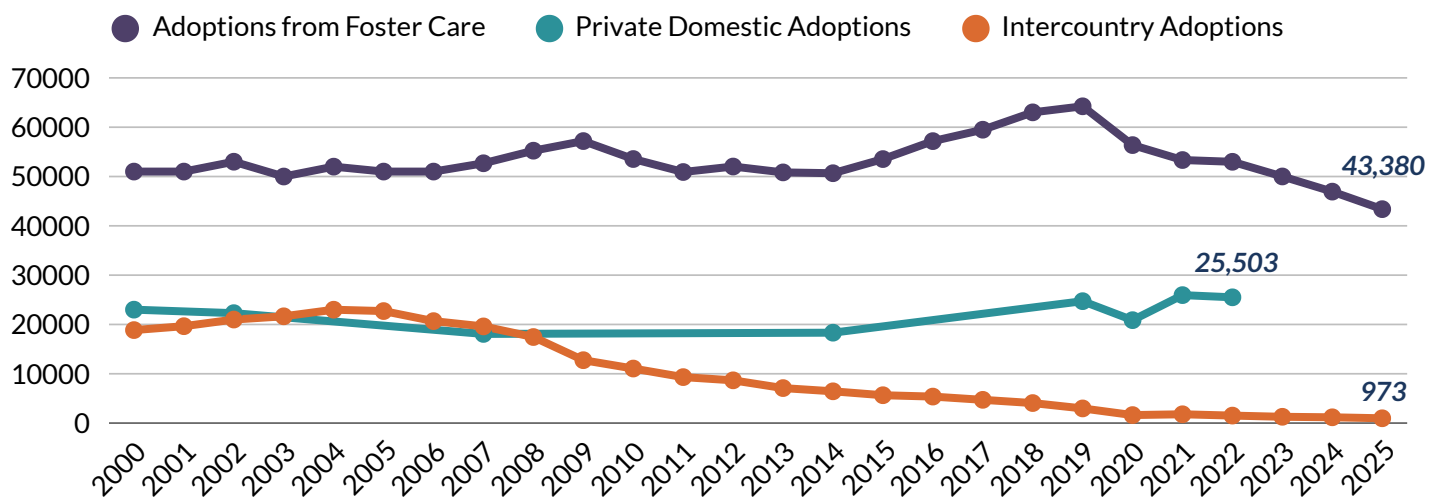
U.S. foster children were waiting to be adopted at the end of 2025



60,828

Children were in foster care for 2+ years before exiting in 2025

Annual Adoptions



Sources:

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

Updated in 2026

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.

A note about foster care data: Data are underreported in FYs 23 & 24 (FY23 is missing data from WA and WY; FY 24 is missing data from WA). "Children awaiting adoption" refers to children in foster care with an adoption permanency plan. Not all children with adoption permanency plans are legally free for adoption.



adoptioncouncil.org



ncfa@adoptioncouncil.org

NCFA