

Adopted Children and Stepchildren: 2010

Population Characteristics

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INTRODUCTION

Children live in a variety of family configurations. The type of relationship between children and their coresident parents reflects the way the family was formed. A parent's remarriage or repartnering may result in a child living with a stepparent. Other parents may build their families through adoption. Ninety-five percent of children under 18 live with one or two biological parents, but children may also live with adoptive parents or stepparents.¹

This report provides a portrait of adopted children and stepchildren of the householder.² Together, these children represent about 7 percent of the 64.8 million sons and daughters under age 18 in 2010. Since the circumstances that lead to children living with an adoptive parent or stepparent differ, the profiles of these groups may be distinct from each other, and from that of children living with a biological parent. In this report, we use several data sources to explore the particular characteristics of each group.

The first section of the report provides estimates of adopted children and stepchildren of the householder, and explains differences among the data sources. The second section of the report provides a profile of the groups and discusses differences in characteristics

¹ See Table C9 "Children by Presence and Type of Parent(s), Race, and Hispanic Origin: 2012," accessible at <www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/cps2012/tabC9-all.xls>.

² Because it is the household address that is sampled, we do not capture relationships among people who do not live together in the same household.

among stepchildren, adopted children, and biological children of the householder. The third section of the report provides a more focused look at relevant topics for stepchildren and adopted children. We highlight changes in the usage of the term "stepchild," as well as two groups of special interest among adopted children: internationally adopted children and transracially adopted children. In the United States, these subgroups of adopted children have received considerable attention as their numbers have increased. These are also two of the groups we can distinguish in the data, while it is not possible to determine other subgroups of adopted children, which would also be of interest, such as those adopted by their stepparents, by other relatives, through the foster care system, or those adopted privately.

DATA SOURCES

The following data sets are used in this report.

Census 2010

The decennial census is used to count the resident population of the United States. It asks how each household member is related to the householder (someone whose name is on the lease or mortgage and is at least 15 years old). The answer categories for the question are shown in Figure 1, except that "foster child" was not included in 2010. Children of the householder are included in the tables and figures in this report. If the child lived with two parents, decennial census data do not identify whether the second parent was the

Figure 1.

Reproduction of the Question on Relationship to Householder From the American Community Survey

How is this person related to Person 1? Mark (X) ONE box.

<input type="checkbox"/> Husband or wife	<input type="checkbox"/> Son-in-law or daughter-in-law
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological son or daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted son or daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Roomer or boarder
<input type="checkbox"/> Stepson or stepdaughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Housemate or roommate
<input type="checkbox"/> Brother or sister	<input type="checkbox"/> Unmarried partner
<input type="checkbox"/> Father or mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster child
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Other nonrelative
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent-in-law	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

child's biological, step, or adoptive parent. Persons under 18 who are not children of the householder are not included in this report. In this report, people referred to as householders are always parents. Note that decennial data shown in this report include Puerto Rico, while the American Community Survey (ACS) does not. This report shows data from the decennial census about how many biological, adopted, and stepchildren of the householder there are, and where they live.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN “ADOPTED CHILDREN OF THE HOUSEHOLDER?”

The type of relationship between parents and children is reported by respondents, and includes all variations of individuals they may view as their adopted child. Estimates of adopted children from decennial and American Community Survey (ACS) data do not capture all children who are living with a stepparent. This is because these surveys only ask for the relationship to the householder. The category includes various types of adoption, such as adoption of biologically related and unrelated children, adoption of stepchildren, adoption through private and public agencies, domestic and international adoptions, and independent and informal adoptions. Informal adoptions are more common among some cultural groups, as people differ widely in the way they view family relationships and the process of adoption. A qualitative study prepared for the U.S. Census Bureau found that informal adoption of biological grandchildren was common in Inupiaq communities in Alaska.¹ Informal adoptions may also be more common among Hispanics and Blacks than

other race and ethnic groups.² In Census 2000 data, a substantial proportion of foreign-born Latin American children reported as adopted had not come into the United States on visas that would indicate that they had been legally adopted.³ Other studies have found that some parents who have legally adopted children related to them may not report the child as adopted.⁴ We cannot distinguish among children who were adopted by their stepparents, children adopted by their biological grandparents or other relatives, and children adopted by people to whom they were not biologically related.⁵

² Maria Suarez Hamm. “Latino Adoption Issues,” *Adoption Factbook III*. National Council for Adoption. Washington, DC. 1999, pp. 257–260.

Priscilla A. Gibson, Justine Nelson-Christinedaughter, Harold D. Grotevant, and Hee-Kyung Kwon. “The Well-Being of African American Adolescents Within Formal and Informal Adoption Arrangements,” *Adoption Quarterly*, 2005, Vol 9:1.

³ Rose M. Kreider. “Foreign-born adopted children in the U.S., 2000,” In: Thomas Atwood, Lee Allen, and Virginia Ravenel, eds. *Adoption Factbook IV*. Washington, DC: National Council for Adoption; 2007, pp. 133–153.

⁴ Laura F. Radcliff, Matthew D. Bramlett, and Annette Waters. “Legal and Informal Adoption by Relatives in the U.S.: Comparative Characteristics and Well-Being from a Nationally Representative Sample,” *Adoption Quarterly*, 2010, Vol. 13: 268–291.

⁵ An estimate for 1992, derived from court records, found that about 42 percent of all adoptions were by stepparents or by a relative. Victor Flango and Carol Flango. “How Many Children Were Adopted in 1992,” *Child Welfare*, 1995, Vol LXXIV, No. 5, pp. 1018–1024.

¹ Amy Craver. “Complex Inupiaq Eskimo Households and Relationships in Two Northwest Alaska Rural Communities,” Alaska Native Science Commission. University of Alaska, Anchorage, 2001.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN “STEPCHILDREN OF THE HOUSEHOLDER?”

Traditionally, a stepchild was the biological child of an individual's spouse who was not also the individual's biological child. However, earlier data show that the usage of the term has shifted and adults who are not currently married, and in some cases have never been married, report living with stepchildren. Often, these adults have an unmarried partner in the household, who is presumably the child's biological parent.¹ Since the English language does not have a more precise word to describe this kind of relationship, some respondents may decide to report their partner's child as their stepchild, even though they are not married to the child's biological parent.

It is important to keep in mind that, as is the case for adopted children, estimates of stepchildren from decennial and American Community Survey data do not capture all children who are living with a stepparent. This is because these surveys only ask for the relationship to the householder. If the child has a second parent in the household, the type of relationship between that second parent and the child will not be captured in the data. In addition, many children may have stepparents who live in other households. Since U.S. Census Bureau surveys sample addresses, and then determine who lives in the housing unit at that address, the data do not reflect relationships that cross household boundaries.

Similarly, there is some potential overlap between children who are reported as adopted and those reported as stepchildren, since stepchildren may be adopted by their stepparents. As noted previously, respondents report the relationship between the householder and their child as they choose, so we do not know how often stepparents who have adopted their stepchildren might report the child as a stepchild rather than an adopted child. The demographics of stepchildren adopted by a stepparent have been found to be more similar to other stepchildren than to other adopted children.²

¹ Rose M. Kreider. “Adopted Children and Stepchildren: 2000,” *Census 2000 Special Reports*, CENSRR6-RV, 2003, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, available online at <www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/censr-6.pdf>.

² Matthew D. Bramlett. “When Stepparents Adopt: Demographic, Health and Health Care Characteristics of Adopted Children, Stepchildren, and Adopted Stepchildren,” *Adoption Quarterly*, 2010, Vol. 13, pp. 248–267.

American Community Survey 2009–2011

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the largest nationally representative survey in the United States. It replaced the long form of the decennial census. An earlier report, *Adopted Children and Stepchildren: 2000*, used Census 2000 long-form data. For recent years, the ACS contains the characteristics of the child and the household in

which they live, beyond what the decennial census captures. As in the decennial data, only children of the householder who are under 18 years are included in this report. While published ACS tables often show “own” children—never married children of the householder who are under 18—we include children of the householder regardless of marital status in order to replicate the universe used in the

last report, and in 2010 Census data, which contain no marital status information. The ACS is in the field every month and produces annualized estimates for the calendar year. The ACS is a very large nationally representative sample, interviewing over 2.5 million household addresses annually.

The data in this report are from internal U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2009–2011 data files. The internal file is about 50 percent larger than the public use microdata file, so it allows more accurate estimates of relatively small groups like transracially adopted children, internationally adopted children, stepchildren, and their families. This report uses ACS data to show detailed demographic characteristics of these children and their families.

Estimates of the number of children who live with at least 1 stepparent or 1 adoptive parent vary across the data sets used in this report. For example, Census 2010 found 1.5 million adopted children of the householder, compared with 1.6 million in ACS 2009–2011, while CPS 2010 data estimated 1.3 million. Estimates of children who live with at least 1 stepparent vary more widely across surveys, due to differences in data collection, which are described in detail elsewhere in this report. Census 2010 and ACS 2009–2011, both of which collect only relationship to the householder, find 2.8 million stepchildren under 18 in Census 2010 and 2.4 million in ACS 2009–2011, while CPS 2010, which collects the type of relationship to both coresident parents, estimates 4.6 million.

Current Population Survey 2012

The Current Population Survey (CPS), a large nationally representative survey, asks directly whether the child's mother and

Table 1.

Number of Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship and Age: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)

Relationship	Total, all ages	Under 18 years					18 years and over		
		Total	Under 6	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 17	Total	18 to 24	25 and over
Total children of householder . . .	88,820,256	64,778,147	20,277,079	21,902,674	11,188,200	11,410,194	24,042,109	13,649,432	10,392,677
Adopted children	2,072,312	1,527,020	350,546	569,017	304,252	303,205	545,292	325,272	220,020
Stepchildren	4,165,886	2,784,531	283,568	977,547	717,651	805,765	1,381,355	889,359	491,996
Biological children	82,582,058	60,466,596	19,642,965	20,356,110	10,166,297	10,301,224	22,115,462	12,434,801	9,680,661
Percent of Age Group									
Adopted children	2.3	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.1
Stepchildren	4.7	4.3	1.4	4.5	6.4	7.1	5.7	6.5	4.7
Biological children	93.0	93.3	96.9	92.9	90.9	90.3	92.0	91.1	93.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

father are present, and asks the type of relationship they have with the child, whether biological, step, or adoptive. Because of these direct questions, it is possible to identify coresident parents for all children in the household, regardless of whether they are the child of the householder. In this report, as in our published CPS tables, we include children under 18 who are never married and are not themselves a family reference person. This report uses CPS data to show detailed characteristics of stepfamilies.

HOW MANY ADOPTED CHILDREN AND STEPCHILDREN OF THE HOUSEHOLDER ARE THERE?

Census 2000 was the first decennial census to collect information on the type of relationship between the householder and their child, whether biological, step, or adoptive. The same answer categories were introduced to the ACS in 2008. Beginning in 2007, the CPS asked respondents to identify both a coresident mother and father, as

well as asking the type of relationship between the child and their parents. Most of the data used in this report come from the 2010 Census or the American Community Survey. Estimates from the Current Population Survey are also included since the CPS contains additional detail not available in decennial or ACS data. See the Data Sources section for more information.

In 2010, of the 64.8 million children under 18, 93 percent were the biological children of the householder, 4 percent were stepchildren, and 2 percent were adopted children (see Table 1). The number of adopted children under 18 in Census 2010 data (1.5 million) was higher than the estimates from the 2010 CPS (1.3 million). The CPS collects information about the relationship of all children under 18 to coresident parents, regardless of whether they are the children of the householder. In the CPS, the respondent is asked to identify whether a mother and/or father of the child are present, and whether

the parent is the biological, step, or adoptive parent of the child.³ This allows us to identify children who live with two unmarried parents, as well as providing estimates of children who live with a step or adoptive parent. Of the 1.3 million children under 18 living with at least one adoptive parent in the CPS in 2010, 90 percent were the adopted children of the householder.⁴ Using this as a guide, we can expect that the Census 2010 estimate of adopted children under 18 accounts for the vast majority of all children under 18 who are living with at least one adoptive parent.

The relationship to householder question does not capture such a high proportion of stepchildren, however compared with CPS data, where we have a report of two coresidential parents, as well as the type of relationship between them

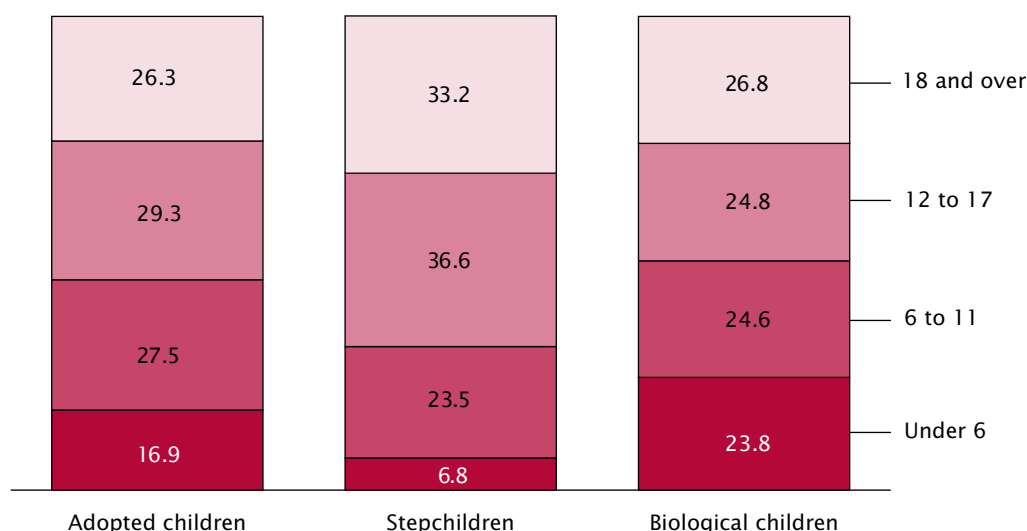
³ The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) also collects information about whether the child's mother and father live in the household, as well as whether the relationship is biological, step, or adoptive. The 2009 estimate of adopted children was 1.4 million.

⁴ The corresponding percentage for SIPP was 91 percent in 2009.

Figure 2.

Percent Distribution of Children of the Householder by Type of Relationship and Age: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

and the child, decennial and ACS data likely only identify about half of the children under 18 who live with a stepparent. CPS 2010 data estimate that 55 percent of children under 18 who live with at least one stepparent are the stepchild of the householder.⁵ While CPS 2010 yields an estimate of 4.6 million children under 18 who live with a stepparent, Census 2010 data show 2.8 million who were a stepchild of the householder.⁶

The distribution of children in different age groups by type of

relationship reveals marked differences associated with how the children joined their families. The age distribution of biological children of the householder up to age 18 is primarily a consequence of the number of babies born each year, which has been relatively consistent since the early 1980s.⁷ As a result, the proportions of biological children in each of the three 6-year age groups shown in Figure 2 vary from 24 percent to 27 percent. A smaller percentage of both adopted (17 percent) and stepchildren (7 percent) were under 6 years compared with biological children (24 percent). This difference reflects the time it takes to finalize the adoption process, as well as the decreasing number of

infants in the United States available for adoption, and the fact that children who are adopted by their stepparents would likely be at least several years old, having come from a previous union.⁸ A higher percentage of stepchildren of the householder were 18 and over (33 percent compared with 26 percent for adopted children and 27 percent for biological children). But the fact that a relatively low proportion of children living with a stepparent are represented, as discussed above, may have an effect on the age distribution of this group.

⁵ The corresponding estimate from SIPP 2008 Wave 2 data was 49 percent.

⁶ See Table C9 "Children by Presence and Type of Parent(s), Race, and Hispanic Origin: 2010," accessible at www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/cps2010/tabC9-all.xls; and Daphne Lofquist, Terry Lugaila, Martin O'Connell, and Sarah Feliz. "Households and Families: 2010," *2010 Census Brief*, C2010BR-14, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, available online at www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-14.pdf.

⁷ After age 18, leaving home for school, jobs, military service, or to start a household strongly affects the number of children living with their parents, regardless of type of parent-child relationship.

⁸ Jo Jones. "Who Adopts? Characteristics of Women and Men Who Have Adopted Children," *NCHS data brief*, No 12. National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD. 2009.

Table 2.

Number and Percent of Householder's Children by Type of Relationship for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)

Area	Total children of householder	Children under 18 years							18 years and over		
		Total under 18 years	Adopted children		Stepchildren		Biological children		Adopted children	Stepchildren	Biological children
			Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent	Number	Per-cent			
United States..	88,820,256	64,778,147	1,527,020	2.4	2,784,531	4.3	60,466,596	93.3	545,292	1,381,355	22,115,462
Region											
Northeast.....	15,796,228	10,996,640	241,144	2.2	321,980	2.9	10,433,516	94.9	101,144	208,280	4,490,164
Midwest.....	19,221,176	14,457,188	365,679	2.5	621,762	4.3	13,469,747	93.2	116,103	278,914	4,368,971
South.....	32,597,699	23,898,131	557,437	2.3	1,207,949	5.1	22,132,745	92.6	201,856	570,265	7,927,447
West.....	21,205,153	15,426,188	362,760	2.4	632,840	4.1	14,430,588	93.5	126,189	323,896	5,328,880
State											
Alabama.....	1,345,625	964,604	24,565	2.5	55,729	5.8	884,310	91.7	9,130	26,446	345,445
Alaska.....	211,837	165,810	7,027	4.2	8,064	4.9	150,719	90.9	2,050	2,797	41,180
Arizona.....	1,845,458	1,392,051	34,320	2.5	66,216	4.8	1,291,515	92.8	10,793	28,392	414,222
Arkansas.....	805,163	614,172	17,138	2.8	40,866	6.7	556,168	90.6	5,127	14,644	171,220
California.....	11,308,643	7,839,242	157,427	2.0	275,206	3.5	7,406,609	94.5	64,084	176,219	3,229,098
Colorado.....	1,398,288	1,103,342	30,503	2.8	49,600	4.5	1,023,239	92.7	7,894	19,212	267,840
Connecticut.....	1,031,514	742,162	17,130	2.3	21,115	2.8	703,917	94.8	5,893	13,517	269,942
Delaware.....	249,045	176,188	3,762	2.1	7,750	4.4	164,676	93.5	1,569	4,655	66,633
District of Columbia...	121,429	80,575	2,269	2.8	1,490	1.8	76,816	95.3	1,024	1,230	38,600
Florida.....	4,884,582	3,429,355	77,721	2.3	168,932	4.9	3,182,702	92.8	34,549	98,451	1,322,227
Georgia.....	2,879,619	2,141,127	52,605	2.5	104,516	4.9	1,984,006	92.7	17,120	50,075	671,297
Hawaii.....	362,370	230,892	6,931	3.0	8,703	3.8	215,258	93.2	3,294	5,363	122,821
Idaho.....	478,910	390,873	10,094	2.6	21,051	5.4	359,728	92.0	2,480	6,275	79,282
Illinois.....	3,840,210	2,753,355	64,315	2.3	95,582	3.5	2,593,458	94.2	24,315	53,671	1,008,869
Indiana.....	1,877,746	1,425,310	37,603	2.6	76,618	5.4	1,311,089	92.0	11,712	32,360	408,364
Iowa.....	828,460	669,076	19,207	2.9	31,606	4.7	618,263	92.4	4,454	10,030	144,900
Kansas.....	820,552	658,222	18,845	2.9	34,911	5.3	604,466	91.8	4,907	11,088	146,335
Kentucky.....	1,192,971	889,181	23,363	2.6	51,155	5.8	814,663	91.6	6,570	21,423	275,797
Louisiana.....	1,325,420	936,962	19,450	2.1	52,736	5.6	864,776	92.3	8,033	23,729	356,696
Maine.....	326,802	249,352	7,498	3.0	12,059	4.8	229,795	92.2	2,121	5,092	70,237
Maryland.....	1,659,071	1,170,334	27,146	2.3	40,700	3.5	1,102,488	94.2	11,741	28,073	448,923
Massachusetts.....	1,823,575	1,290,794	29,636	2.3	29,871	2.3	1,231,287	95.4	12,225	21,219	499,337
Michigan.....	2,892,845	2,095,753	57,072	2.7	88,536	4.2	1,950,145	93.1	19,435	46,093	731,564
Minnesota.....	1,507,367	1,186,710	29,669	2.5	39,957	3.4	1,117,084	94.1	8,530	16,145	295,982
Mississippi.....	880,481	620,956	14,228	2.3	36,220	5.8	570,508	91.9	5,877	16,392	237,256
Missouri.....	1,672,430	1,263,106	34,052	2.7	66,243	5.2	1,162,811	92.1	10,134	28,605	370,585
Montana.....	250,732	199,586	6,613	3.3	10,514	5.3	182,459	91.4	1,754	3,030	46,362
Nebraska.....	519,519	420,081	11,009	2.6	16,859	4.0	392,213	93.4	2,921	5,461	91,056
Nevada.....	764,477	571,828	11,737	2.1	30,198	5.3	529,893	92.7	4,453	14,312	173,884
New Hampshire.....	353,164	263,119	6,282	2.4	10,912	4.1	245,925	93.5	2,062	5,628	82,355
New Jersey.....	2,690,797	1,854,730	36,398	2.0	46,920	2.5	1,771,412	95.5	16,344	36,790	782,933
New Mexico.....	594,731	436,675	10,611	2.4	23,406	5.4	402,658	92.2	3,876	8,702	145,478
New York.....	5,610,628	3,785,466	75,634	2.0	97,908	2.6	3,611,924	95.4	37,913	67,924	1,719,325
North Carolina.....	2,645,200	2,003,199	47,791	2.4	91,239	4.6	1,864,169	93.1	15,184	41,695	585,122
North Dakota.....	171,154	139,037	3,255	2.3	5,853	4.2	129,929	93.4	838	1,526	29,753
Ohio.....	3,287,475	2,436,267	56,874	2.3	110,437	4.5	2,268,956	93.1	19,708	52,453	779,047
Oklahoma.....	1,046,183	808,840	24,849	3.1	53,646	6.6	730,345	90.3	7,177	18,469	211,697
Oregon.....	1,003,171	772,039	22,972	3.0	36,939	4.8	712,128	92.2	7,136	15,655	208,341
Pennsylvania.....	3,517,169	2,491,195	59,252	2.4	91,529	3.7	2,340,414	93.9	21,678	51,980	952,316
Rhode Island.....	289,094	201,195	5,148	2.6	6,731	3.3	189,316	94.1	1,801	4,219	81,879

Table 2.

Number and Percent of Householder's Children by Type of Relationship for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 2010—Con.

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)

Area	Total children of householder	Children under 18 years							18 years and over		
		Total under 18 years	Adopted children		Stepchildren		Biological children		Adopted children	Stepchildren	Biological children
			Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent			
South Carolina	1,273,940	918,013	23,041	2.5	44,456	4.8	850,516	92.6	9,159	21,720	325,048
South Dakota	220,520	179,645	5,032	2.8	7,615	4.2	166,998	93.0	1,135	2,111	37,629
Tennessee	1,751,644	1,285,208	35,366	2.8	70,600	5.5	1,179,242	91.8	11,954	33,077	421,405
Texas	7,861,974	5,888,009	118,556	2.0	300,427	5.1	5,469,026	92.9	40,753	125,941	1,807,271
Utah	991,058	784,125	22,583	2.9	32,437	4.1	729,105	93.0	5,990	12,677	188,266
Vermont	153,485	118,627	4,166	3.5	4,935	4.2	109,526	92.3	1,107	1,911	31,840
Virginia	2,205,094	1,635,360	36,058	2.2	66,849	4.1	1,532,453	93.7	13,446	35,397	520,891
Washington	1,846,348	1,418,356	38,379	2.7	62,891	4.4	1,317,086	92.9	11,574	29,197	387,221
West Virginia	470,258	336,048	9,529	2.8	20,638	6.1	305,881	91.0	3,443	8,848	121,919
Wisconsin	1,582,898	1,230,626	28,746	2.3	47,545	3.9	1,154,335	93.8	8,014	19,371	324,887
Wyoming	149,130	121,369	3,563	2.9	7,615	6.3	110,191	90.8	811	2,065	24,885
Puerto Rico	1,265,212	763,558	13,387	1.8	39,483	5.2	710,688	93.1	10,487	18,328	472,839

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

WHERE DO ADOPTED CHILDREN AND STEPCHILDREN LIVE?

The proportion of children under 18 who were adopted hardly varied by region (see Table 2).⁹ The observed percent in the Midwest (2.5 percent) was higher than the other three regions (2.2 percent to 2.4 percent), but these percentages are substantively quite comparable.

By state, this percentage ranged from 2.0 percent in California, New Jersey, New York, and Texas to 4.2

percent in Alaska. As previously noted, informal adoption has been found to be common among some Alaskan Native groups, which may have contributed to the higher percentage in Alaska.¹⁰

Figure 3a maps the percentage of children of the householder who are adopted in each U.S. county. The percentages vary from less than 1.9 to 17.8. The most important observation about geographic patterns in the percentage of children who were adopted is that adoption is a family-building process that takes place in all states in about the same proportions. As mentioned previously, counties in Alaska with the highest percentages of adopted children likely reflect Alaskan Native communities in which the meaning and practice of adoption may differ than in other communities. Census data include

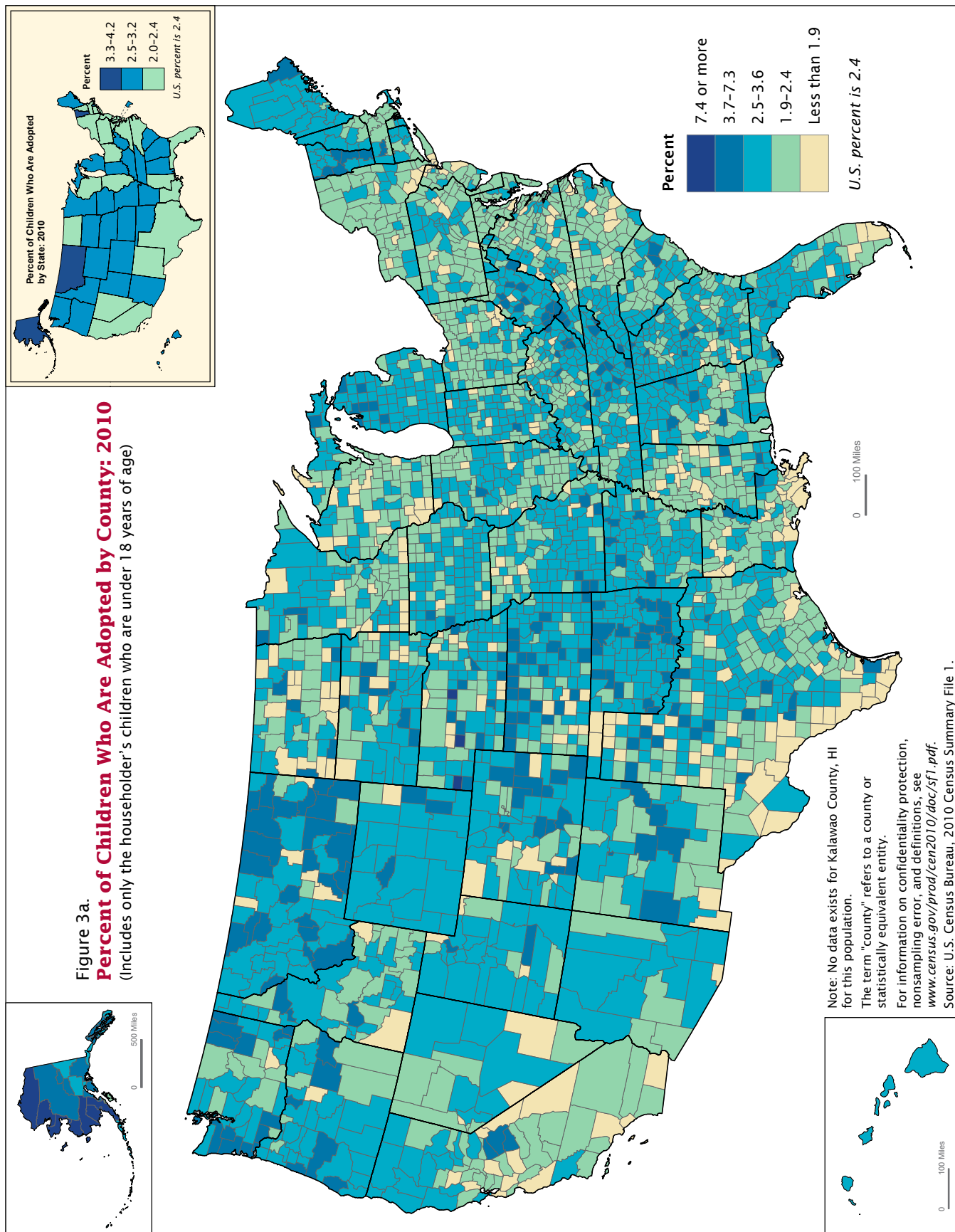
¹⁰ Amy Craver. "Complex Inupiaq Eskimo Households and Relationships in Two Northwest Alaska Rural Communities," Alaska Native Science Commission, University of Alaska, Anchorage. 2001.

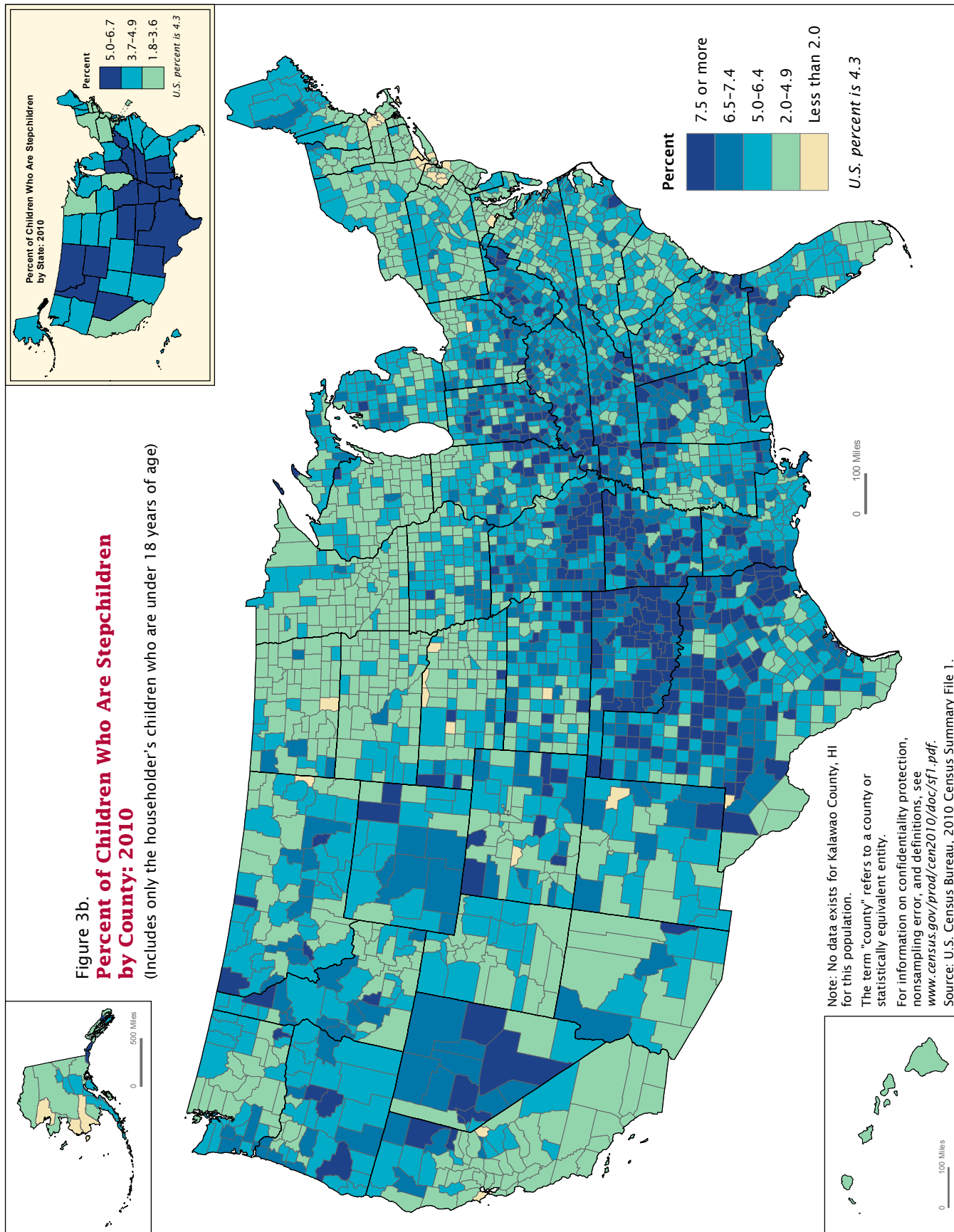
various types of adoption, each of which may have its own geographic pattern, which may also contribute to the lack of a distinct geographic pattern when all types of adoptions are considered.

Nationally, 4.3 percent of children of the householder under age 18, in 2010, were stepchildren. At the regional level, percentages of children of the householder under 18 who were stepchildren varied more than the corresponding percentages of adopted children, ranging from 2.9 percent in the Northeast to 5.1 percent in the South. The West was lower at 4.1 percent and the Midwest was at the national average of 4.3 percent.

For children under 18, the state with the highest percentage of children of the householder who were stepchildren was Arkansas (6.7 percent), followed by Oklahoma (6.6 percent), Wyoming, and West Virginia (6.3 and 6.1 percent, respectively) (see Figure 3b). The

⁹ The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.





District of Columbia had the lowest percentage of children of the householder under 18 who were stepchildren—1.8 percent. The states with relatively low percentages were Massachusetts (2.3 percent), New Jersey (2.5 percent), New York (2.6 percent), and Connecticut (2.8 percent). The differences in these state percentages are affected by the likelihood that parents remarry after divorce, whether the child lives with the father or the mother after a divorce, and the gender of the householder in remarried-couple families. Since most children continue to live with their mothers rather than their fathers, remarried-couple households with the husband as the householder will tend to identify more householder-stepchild relationships than remarried couples with the wife as the householder.

PROFILE OF CHILDREN OF THE HOUSEHOLDER

Demographic Patterns

Since adopted children and stepchildren enter their families in different ways than biological children, their demographic characteristics may also vary, reflecting these paths. Tables 3a and 3b provide a profile of selected characteristics of children of the householder. The data in these tables comes from the ACS, so the totals here are slightly different from the totals using 2010 Census data that are presented in Table 1. As illustrated in Figure 2, the age distributions of the three groups of children differ. Table 3a provides estimates by type for each year of age for children under 18. The American Community Survey collected the current age of the adopted child and not the age at adoption, which precludes

estimates of how the incidence of adoption has changed over time.

In comparison, the relative lack of substantive variation in the number of biological children at each age reflects roughly equal numbers of annual births during the preceding two decades. The relative increases by age shown for adopted children and stepchildren reflect the length of the adoption process for adopted children and the intervals between parental marriage, childbearing, divorce, and remarriage for stepchildren. The number of stepchildren was larger at each single year of age through the age of 16, (for example, there were more stepchildren aged 6 than aged 5).¹¹ In addition to different age patterns, the sex ratio (i.e., the number of males per 100 females) shows variations among adopted, biological, and stepchildren. The sex ratio has a value of 100 when there are equal numbers of boys and girls; a value above 100 indicates more boys than girls and a value below 100 indicates more girls than boys.

For children under 18, the sex ratio was highest for biological children (105), followed by stepchildren (103) and adopted children (87). The sex ratio for biological children reflects the fact that there are more male births than female births. While there are relatively few teens who marry, girls tend to leave home earlier than boys, reflecting in part the earlier average age at first marriage for women than for men. More girls than boys are adopted, for several reasons. First, women in general express a

preference for adopting girls,¹² and single women more frequently have adopted girls than boys.¹³

Figure 4 displays the sex ratio of biological, adopted, and stepchildren of the householder by age. Age is shown in single years up to age 17. For all ages under 18, there were more adopted girls than boys at each year of age.¹⁴ The sex ratio for biological children was fairly constant for children under 18 years.

Race, Hispanic Origin, and Nativity

In 2009–2011, White alone, non-Hispanic children made up the majority of step and biological children of householders under 18—about 56 percent of biological children and 61 percent of stepchildren (see Table 3b).¹⁵ Just under half (49 percent) of adopted children were White, non-Hispanic.¹⁶

¹² Anjani Chandra, Joyce Abma, Penelope Maza, and Christine Bachrach. "Adoption, Adoption Seeking, and Relinquishment for Adoption in the United States." *Vital and Health Statistics*, No. 306, National Center for Health Statistics. Hyattsville, MD, 1999.

¹³ Victor Groze. "Adoption and single parents: a review." *Child Welfare*, 1991. Vol. 70, No. 3, pp. 321–332.

¹⁴ Ages 0, 1, and 16 are not significantly different between females and males.

¹⁵ The American Community Survey allows respondents to choose more than one race. With the exception of the Two or More Races group, all race groups discussed in this report refer to people who indicated only one racial identity among the six major categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race. For further information on each of the six major race groups and the Two or More Races population, see reports from the Census 2010 Brief series (C2010BR-02/01), available on the Census 2010 Web site at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>. The use of the single-race population in this report does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. The Census Bureau uses a variety of approaches.

¹⁶ This report will refer to the White-alone population as White, the Black-alone population as Black, the Asian-alone population as Asian, and the White-alone-non-Hispanic population as White, non-Hispanic. Because Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups.

¹¹ Age 15 years is not significantly different from age 14 years and age 17 years is not significantly different from age 16 years.

Table 3a.

Selected Characteristics of the Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship and Sex of Child: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic of child	Adopted children			Stepchildren			Biological children		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	1,556,706	724,707	831,999	2,358,467	1,198,421	1,160,046	61,579,360	31,577,709	30,001,651
Age									
Under 1 year	32,777	15,533	17,244	10,185	5,269	4,916	3,058,822	1,560,127	1,498,695
1 year	45,256	21,664	23,592	17,161	9,444	7,717	3,244,726	1,656,700	1,588,026
2 years	59,055	27,699	31,356	28,306	14,513	13,793	3,421,392	1,749,849	1,671,543
3 years	69,631	30,413	39,218	45,204	24,299	20,905	3,459,926	1,774,493	1,685,433
4 years	81,460	37,539	43,921	62,399	32,374	30,025	3,471,959	1,780,670	1,691,289
5 years	81,659	38,153	43,506	75,869	38,632	37,237	3,423,225	1,747,467	1,675,758
6 years	89,753	40,664	49,089	96,032	47,518	48,514	3,420,113	1,752,740	1,667,373
7 years	91,404	42,363	49,041	110,404	54,872	55,532	3,420,105	1,746,343	1,673,762
8 years	93,707	43,319	50,388	129,375	63,800	65,575	3,437,982	1,758,425	1,679,557
9 years	96,115	43,864	52,251	149,471	76,402	73,069	3,457,326	1,767,986	1,689,340
10 years	100,808	46,284	54,524	164,442	83,886	80,556	3,495,136	1,799,246	1,695,890
11 years	101,275	46,223	55,052	173,964	87,975	85,989	3,451,450	1,779,671	1,671,779
12 years	108,375	50,776	57,599	190,642	96,312	94,330	3,459,042	1,781,884	1,677,158
13 years	102,698	48,737	53,961	207,581	107,970	99,611	3,428,709	1,767,239	1,661,470
14 years	102,278	47,869	54,409	219,478	111,522	107,956	3,467,337	1,774,040	1,693,297
15 years	101,243	48,002	53,241	223,073	113,632	109,441	3,497,285	1,793,775	1,703,510
16 years	100,175	49,130	51,045	230,566	114,855	115,711	3,505,836	1,805,459	1,700,377
17 years	99,037	46,475	52,562	224,315	115,146	109,169	3,458,989	1,781,595	1,677,394
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White alone	934,203	452,993	481,210	1,744,313	883,981	860,332	42,969,766	22,086,151	20,883,615
Black or African American alone . .	251,002	122,345	128,657	293,695	149,451	144,244	8,183,291	4,152,656	4,030,635
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	28,246	13,903	14,343	25,004	12,882	12,122	515,679	263,503	252,176
Asian alone	154,894	43,664	111,230	41,399	21,460	19,939	2,755,546	1,423,493	1,332,053
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	5,545	2,665	2,880	3,944	2,120	1,824	104,356	53,789	50,567
Some other race alone	81,929	39,555	42,374	134,725	70,329	64,396	3,864,379	1,968,892	1,895,487
Two or more races	100,887	49,582	51,305	115,387	58,198	57,189	3,186,343	1,629,225	1,557,118
Hispanic or Latino (of any race) . .	293,081	141,994	151,087	495,374	251,542	243,832	13,824,704	7,065,217	6,759,487
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	762,092	370,621	391,471	1,428,575	724,942	703,633	34,170,553	17,585,371	16,585,182
Nativity and English Ability									
Native	1,293,846	623,048	670,798	2,239,008	1,137,329	1,101,679	59,579,178	30,538,467	29,040,711
Foreign born	262,860	101,659	161,201	119,459	61,092	58,367	2,000,182	1,039,242	960,940
Aged 5 and over	221,871	84,303	137,568	115,362	58,661	56,701	1,837,863	956,587	881,276
Speaks non-English language at home ¹	45,894	19,711	26,183	99,241	50,913	48,328	1,621,041	843,789	777,252
Speaks English very well	29,198	10,909	18,289	61,829	31,382	30,447	1,094,498	561,492	533,006
Disability Status¹									
Aged 5 and over	1,268,527	591,859	676,668	2,195,212	1,112,522	1,082,690	44,922,535	23,055,870	21,866,665
At least one disability	147,547	84,878	62,669	132,766	85,373	47,393	2,086,085	1,333,055	753,030
Hearing disability	12,757	6,790	5,967	13,908	7,344	6,564	268,301	150,215	118,086
Vision disability	14,950	7,348	7,602	18,684	9,752	8,932	314,963	165,058	149,905
Cognitive disability ²	126,284	75,578	50,706	104,949	71,260	33,689	1,539,047	1,050,583	488,464
Ambulatory disability	15,132	7,268	7,864	12,106	6,420	5,686	272,834	149,293	123,541
Self-care disability	23,386	13,178	10,208	15,965	9,514	6,451	387,857	238,297	149,560
Independent living	15,649	8,739	6,910	12,317	7,613	4,704	175,528	106,777	68,751
Multiple disabilities ³	37,985	21,771	16,214	29,348	17,977	11,371	540,915	339,115	201,800
In poverty ⁴	219,692	104,625	115,067	382,962	197,030	185,932	12,967,752	6,594,520	6,373,232

¹ These questions were asked only of people aged 5 and over.

² The question asks if the person has difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.

³ This includes children with any combination of two or more of the disabilities listed above.

⁴ Household poverty level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

Table 3b.

Percent Distribution of Selected Characteristics of Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship and Sex of Child: 2009–2011

(In percent. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic of child	Adopted children			Stepchildren			Biological children		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age									
Under 1 year	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.0	4.9	5.0
1 year	2.9	3.0	2.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	5.3	5.2	5.3
2 years	3.8	3.8	3.8	1.2	1.2	1.2	5.6	5.5	5.6
3 years	4.5	4.2	4.7	1.9	2.0	1.8	5.6	5.6	5.6
4 years	5.2	5.2	5.3	2.6	2.7	2.6	5.6	5.6	5.6
5 years	5.2	5.3	5.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	5.6	5.5	5.6
6 years	5.8	5.6	5.9	4.1	4.0	4.2	5.6	5.6	5.6
7 years	5.9	5.8	5.9	4.7	4.6	4.8	5.6	5.5	5.6
8 years	6.0	6.0	6.1	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6
9 years	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.3	5.6	5.6	5.6
10 years	6.5	6.4	6.6	7.0	7.0	6.9	5.7	5.7	5.7
11 years	6.5	6.4	6.6	7.4	7.3	7.4	5.6	5.6	5.6
12 years	7.0	7.0	6.9	8.1	8.0	8.1	5.6	5.6	5.6
13 years	6.6	6.7	6.5	8.8	9.0	8.6	5.6	5.6	5.5
14 years	6.6	6.6	6.5	9.3	9.3	9.3	5.6	5.6	5.6
15 years	6.5	6.6	6.4	9.5	9.5	9.4	5.7	5.7	5.7
16 years	6.4	6.8	6.1	9.8	9.6	10.0	5.7	5.7	5.7
17 years	6.4	6.4	6.3	9.5	9.6	9.4	5.6	5.6	5.6
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White alone	60.0	62.5	57.8	74.0	73.8	74.2	69.8	69.9	69.6
Black or African American alone	16.1	16.9	15.5	12.5	12.5	12.4	13.3	13.2	13.4
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
Asian alone	10.0	6.0	13.4	1.8	1.8	1.7	4.5	4.5	4.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Some other race alone	5.3	5.5	5.1	5.7	5.9	5.6	6.3	6.2	6.3
Two or more races	6.5	6.8	6.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.2
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	18.8	19.6	18.2	21.0	21.0	21.0	22.5	22.4	22.5
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	49.0	51.1	47.1	60.6	60.5	60.7	55.5	55.7	55.3
Nativity and English Ability									
Native	83.1	86.0	80.6	94.9	94.9	95.0	96.8	96.7	96.8
Foreign born	16.9	14.0	19.4	5.1	5.1	5.0	3.2	3.3	3.2
Aged 5 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Speaks non-English language at home ¹	20.7	23.4	19.0	86.0	86.8	85.2	88.2	88.2	88.2
Speaks English very well	63.6	55.3	69.9	62.3	61.6	63.0	67.5	66.5	68.6
Disability Status¹									
Aged 5 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
At least one disability	11.6	14.3	9.3	6.0	7.7	4.4	4.6	5.8	3.4
Hearing disability	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.5
Vision disability	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Cognitive disability ²	10.0	12.8	7.5	4.8	6.4	3.1	3.4	4.6	2.2
Ambulatory disability	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Self-care disability	1.8	2.2	1.5	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.7
Independent living	1.2	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3
Multiple disabilities ³	3.0	3.7	2.4	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.5	0.9
In poverty ⁴	14.1	14.4	13.8	16.2	16.4	16.0	21.1	20.9	21.2

¹ These questions were asked only of people aged 5 and over.

² The question asks if the person has difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.

³ This includes children with any combination of 2 or more of the disabilities listed above.

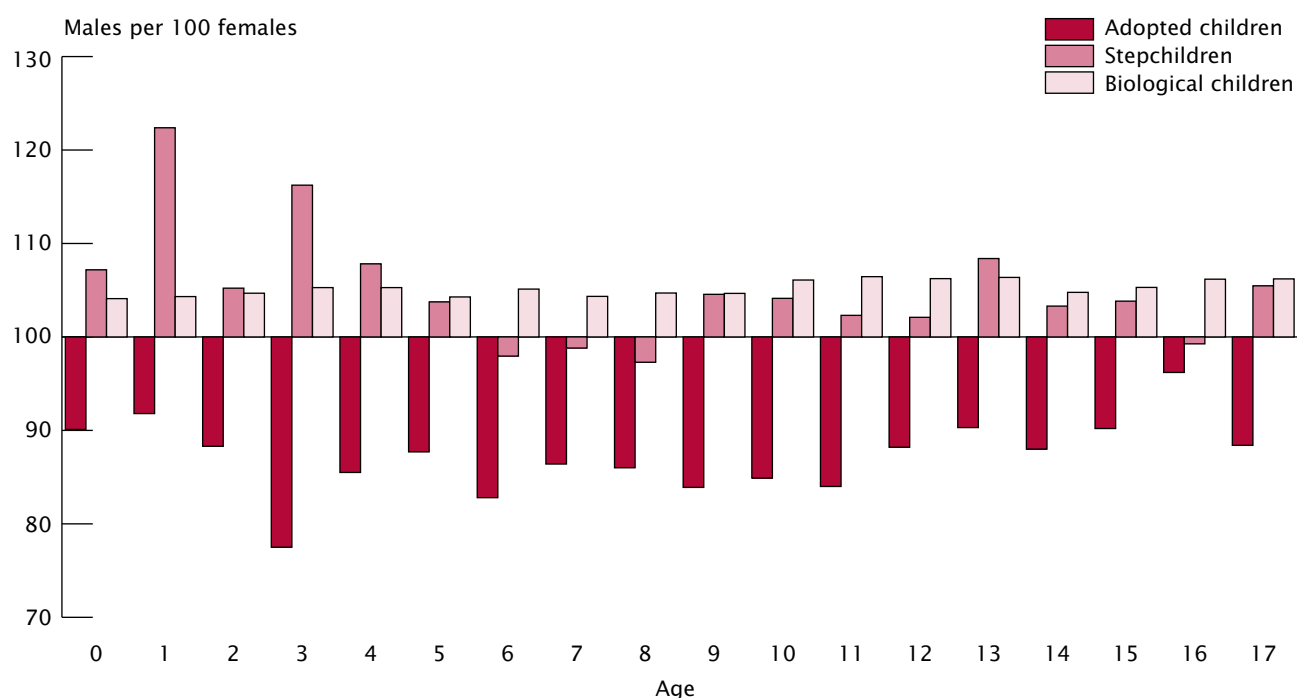
⁴ Household poverty level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

Figure 4.

Sex Ratio for Children of the Householder by Age of Child: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

A higher percentage of adopted children under 18 were Black (16 percent) than the percentage of stepchildren and biological children (13 percent each).^{17,18} This higher percentage may be due in part to the fact that the percentage of children in the foster care system who are Black is higher than the percentage of children in the overall population who are Black, and may also reflect a higher number of informal adoptions in African

American communities.¹⁹ Although the percentage of children under 18 who were American Indian and Alaska Native is small, a higher percentage of adopted children were American Indian and Alaska Native (2 percent) than the percentage of biological (1 percent) or stepchildren (1 percent), which may be related to informal adoptions in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.²⁰

The percentage of adopted children under 18 who were Asian (10 percent) is higher than the percentage

of biological children (5 percent) and stepchildren (2 percent) who were Asian. This is due largely to the fact that around half (51 percent) of all foreign-born adopted children were born in Asia. A lower percentage of adopted children than stepchildren or biological children under 18 were Hispanic (19 percent compared with 21 percent and 23 percent, respectively).

Tables 3a and 3b also show the number and percentage of children of the householder who were foreign born and the number who spoke English “very well” among those 5 to 17 years who spoke a language other than English at home. About 5 percent of stepchildren and 3 percent of biological children under 18 in 2009–2011 were foreign born. The corresponding percentage was higher for

¹⁷ Hereafter, this report uses the term Black to refer to people who are Black or African American, the term Pacific Islander to refer to people who are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and the term Hispanic to refer to people who are Hispanic or Latino.

¹⁸ Due to rounding stepchildren and biological children both equal 13 percent. All three child groups are statistically different.

¹⁹ Priscilla A. Gibson, Justine Nelson-Christinedaughter, Harold D. Grotevant, and Hee-Kyung Kwon. “The Well-Being of African American Adolescents Within Formal and Informal Adoption Arrangements,” *Adoption Quarterly*, 2005, Vol 9:1.

²⁰ The percentage of children under the age of 18 who report American Indian or Alaska Native is 0.87 percent. Found in calculations not shown here.

adopted children—14 percent for boys and 19 percent for girls. The higher percentage for girls was heavily influenced by the number of foreign-born adopted children who were Asian, because the majority of adopted Asian children were girls.

While most foreign-born biological children and stepchildren between the ages of 5 and 17 (88 percent and 86 percent, respectively) spoke a language other than English at home, this was not the case for foreign-born adopted children. Nineteen percent of foreign-born adopted girls and 23 percent of foreign-born adopted boys between the ages of 5 and 17 spoke a language other than English at home. Many of the foreign-born adopted children were likely adopted at a young age, before they could speak any language fluently, and since their parents often speak only English, they do so as well.²¹ ACS data also include foreign-born adopted children who may have come to the U.S. with their foreign-born biological parent, whose spouse adopted the child. These children would be more likely to already speak a language other than English fluently. Of those who spoke a language other than English, the proportion who spoke English “very well” was over half for all children, ranging from 62 percent of stepchildren to 68 percent of biological children.

Disability and Poverty Status

The 2009–2011 American Community Survey provided basic information about physical and mental limitations that children may have. For each person aged 5 and over, information was collected on

²¹ See Glennen 2002 for a review of literature about internationally adopted children and language development and use. Sharon Glennen. “Language development and delay in internationally adopted, infants and toddlers: A review,” *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 2002, Vol. 11:3, pp. 333–339.

hearing or vision difficulties; conditions which limited basic activities; difficulty in learning, remembering, or concentrating; and difficulty in getting dressed, bathing, or getting around inside the house. Respondents answered these questions as they perceived the capabilities of the child, regardless of whether the condition fit any medical or legal definitions of a disability.

Table 3b indicates that a higher proportion of adopted children under 18 than of biological children and stepchildren under 18 had at least one disability.²² This was true for both boys (14 percent for adopted children, compared with 8 percent for stepchildren and 6 percent for biological children) and girls (9 percent for adopted children, compared with 4 percent of stepchildren and 3 percent for biological children). This finding is supported by prior research, which also showed that adopted children were more likely than other children to have special health care needs.²³

The most commonly reported disability was difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating, which is categorized in the table under the term “cognitive disability.”

²² The word “disability” as used in this report refers to people who answered “yes” to American Community Survey questions 17a-b, 18a-c, and 19. Question 17a reads: Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing? 17b. Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses? 18a. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions. 18b. Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs? 18c. Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing? 19. Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?

²³ Sharon Vandivere, Karin Malm, and Laura Radel. *Adoption USA: A Chartbook Based on the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2009.

The percentage of children under 18 who had multiple disabilities (more than one of the categories listed) ranged from 0.9 percent for biological daughters to 3.7 percent for adopted sons. Although the categories available for analysis do not have exact medical definitions, it appears that adoptive families are more likely than others to face the challenge of dealing with disabilities among their children. However, research also suggests that adopted children are more likely to have consistent health insurance coverage than biological children and are more likely to be taken to preventative health care visits.²⁴ In addition, adopted children tended to live in families that were better off economically than those of biological children. Table 3b shows that about 14 percent of adopted children of the householder were in poverty, compared with 16 percent for stepchildren. Biological children under 18 recorded the highest proportion living in poverty (21 percent).

PROFILE OF THE HOUSEHOLDERS OF ADOPTED CHILDREN AND STEPCHILDREN

Race and Hispanic Origin of the Householder

While the previous sections of this report have examined the characteristics of adopted children and stepchildren, the following sections present estimates of the numbers of such children by the characteristics of the householder. Table 4 shows that there was less variation in the race and origin of the householder across the three groups of children, than in the race and origin of the children themselves. The percentage of children

²⁴ Matthew D. Bramlett, Laura F. Radel, and Stephen J. Blumberg. “The Health and Well-Being of Adopted Children,” *Pediatrics*, 2007, Supplement 1, Vol. 119 (Feb), pp. S54–S60.

Table 4.

Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship, Age, and Selected Characteristics of the Householder: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic of householder	Adopted children			Stepchildren			Biological children		
	Under 18 years		18 years and over	Under 18 years		18 years and over	Under 18 years		18 years and over
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number
Total	1,556,706	100.0	595,346	2,358,467	100.0	1,254,674	61,579,360	100.0	24,577,382
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder									
White alone	1,220,377	78.4	451,035	1,817,273	77.1	948,884	44,340,844	72.0	16,933,885
Black or African American alone	196,123	12.6	91,596	301,089	12.8	186,433	8,293,975	13.5	4,164,025
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	17,666	1.1	7,003	24,711	1.0	12,346	551,348	0.9	254,384
Asian alone	37,943	2.4	17,382	35,633	1.5	27,222	3,014,595	4.9	1,295,686
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	3,251	0.2	1,680	4,506	0.2	1,733	125,866	0.2	51,004
Some other race alone	55,628	3.6	17,785	126,171	5.3	56,111	4,001,037	6.5	1,449,122
Two or more races	25,718	1.7	8,865	49,084	2.1	21,945	1,251,695	2.0	429,276
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	187,114	12.0	64,186	402,742	17.1	193,412	12,652,153	20.5	4,648,636
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	1,098,278	70.6	408,359	1,563,902	66.3	824,178	36,298,341	58.9	13,967,884
Child and Householder Race/Origin Difference									
Different race ¹	373,751	24.0	88,329	297,023	12.6	129,981	4,393,064	7.1	1,129,069
Different Hispanic origin ²	157,275	10.1	43,027	226,060	9.6	97,574	2,051,485	3.3	482,082
Living Arrangement of the Householder									
Married couple households	1,136,207	73.0	370,686	1,873,706	79.4	1,062,126	42,440,501	68.9	14,087,611
Male householder—no spouse present	101,535	6.5	58,989	361,371	15.3	139,577	3,848,761	6.3	1,946,421
With an unmarried partner	35,829	2.3	5,568	291,999	12.4	57,219	1,601,687	2.6	186,934
No unmarried partner present	65,706	4.2	53,421	69,372	2.9	82,358	2,247,074	3.6	1,759,487
Married—spouse absent	12,381	0.8	6,463	23,872	1.0	20,688	312,034	0.5	220,014
Divorced or widowed	32,324	2.1	39,628	19,018	0.8	47,276	1,136,460	1.8	1,269,925
Separated	7,503	0.5	3,526	6,619	0.3	7,950	315,685	0.5	164,746
Never married	13,498	0.9	3,804	19,863	0.8	6,444	482,895	0.8	104,802
Female householder—no spouse present	318,964	20.5	165,671	123,390	5.2	52,971	15,290,098	24.8	8,543,350
With an unmarried partner	44,100	2.8	8,726	86,581	3.7	17,334	2,502,039	4.1	435,267
No unmarried partner present	274,864	17.7	156,945	36,809	1.6	35,637	12,788,059	20.8	8,108,083
Married—spouse absent	16,677	1.1	7,446	11,030	0.5	5,576	890,400	1.4	366,859
Divorced or widowed	121,175	7.8	115,967	8,685	0.4	21,563	4,590,771	7.5	5,731,052
Separated	36,234	2.3	11,586	6,205	0.3	5,102	2,062,411	3.3	834,665
Never married	100,778	6.5	21,946	10,889	0.5	3,396	5,244,477	8.5	1,175,507
Average age of householder (in years)	44.8	X	58.9	38.5	X	51.4	38.4	X	55.5
Average Age Difference (in years)									
Between householder and child	35.2	X	32.2	27.1	X	26.2	29.8	X	28.1
Between spouse ³ of householder and child	34.7	X	31.1	25.1	X	24.5	30.3	X	27.9
Between partner ⁴ of householder and child	30.1	X	25.5	24.0	X	23.4	26.5	X	23.5

X Not applicable.

¹ Child and householder do not report the same group, where race groups are: White alone, Black alone, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone. Some Other Race alone, or either the child or householder reports multiple race groups.

² Child is Hispanic and householder is not Hispanic, or vice versa.

³ For households containing a spouse of householder.

⁴ For households containing an unmarried partner of the householder.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

under 18 who lived with a White, non-Hispanic householder was higher for adopted children (71 percent) than for both stepchildren (66 percent) and biological children (59 percent). The range in the percentages of children under 18 who lived with a Black householder was relatively small—13 percent of adopted children and stepchildren, compared with 14 percent of biological children.²⁵

Table 4 also shows the percentage of children under 18 who differed in race or Hispanic origin from the householder. Adopted children had the highest percentages who were of different races from the householder—24 percent for those under 18, and 15 percent for those 18 and over. About 13 percent of stepchildren under 18 and 10 percent of those 18 and over were of different races than the householder, compared with 7 percent of biological children under 18 years and 5 percent of these 18 and over.²⁶

About the same percentage of adopted children and stepchildren under 18 years were Hispanic while the householder was not, or vice versa (10 percent).²⁷ The corresponding percentage for biological children was lower, at 3 percent. Second and later marriages are more likely to involve spouses of

different races or ethnicity;²⁸ so it is not surprising that a higher percentage of stepchildren than biological children were of a different race or ethnicity than their householder parent. In addition, cohabiting couples are more likely to differ in race and/or ethnicity, so those who report their unmarried partner's biological children as their stepchildren would also be more likely to be in interracial families.²⁹

Living Arrangements and Age of the Householder

Since the type of relationship between parent and child partly depends on the way the family was formed, the living arrangements of biological, step, and adopted children differ. Table 4 shows that the percentage of adopted children under 18 who lived with two married parents (73 percent) was higher than the percentage of biological children (69 percent) but lower than the percentage of stepchildren (79 percent). This contrast is expected because most stepchildren gain a stepparent when one of their biological parents remarries.

Data in Table 4 present the current living arrangements of the householder and whether they were living with a spouse, were formerly married, were never married, or were living with an unmarried partner when the survey was taken. The marital status and living arrangements of parents at the time of the survey may differ from when they adopted their children. About 7 percent of adopted children and biological children under

18 lived with a male householder who had no spouse present, compared with 15 percent of stepchildren.³⁰ Eighty-one percent of these stepchildren also lived with their stepfather's unmarried partner, significantly higher than the 35 percent of children living with their adoptive father with no spouse present, or the 42 percent of children living with their biological father with no spouse present. This may reflect the usage of "step" to describe the relationship between an adult and their unmarried partner's biological child.

The percentage of children under 18 who lived with a female householder who had no spouse present varied from 5 percent for stepchildren, to 21 percent for adopted children, to 25 percent for biological children. A higher percentage of stepchildren who lived with a householder without a spouse present, also lived with their parent's unmarried partner, than did adopted or biological children. While 70 percent of children living with their stepmother with no spouse present also lived with their stepmother's unmarried partner, just 14 percent of children living with their adoptive mother, and 16 percent of children living with their biological mother, also lived with their mother's unmarried partner. This same pattern held for children living with a male householder who had no spouse present, with 81 percent of stepchildren, 42 percent of biological children, and 35 percent of adopted children living with their father and his unmarried partner. Seven percent of the adopted children and 9 percent of the biological children under 18 lived with a never married mother who was not living with a partner, compared with about 1 percent of

²⁵ Adopted children and stepchildren are not statistically different from each other.

²⁶ Children may differ in race from the householder under this classification method if their parent is multiracial and the child is reported as being one race. Also, if the child has one parent who is White and one parent who is Black, the child may be reported as White and Black, in which case they would be included in the "Two or more races" category, and thus differ from the householder. Additionally, all those in the "Two or more races" category are automatically included in the "child is different race than householder" category.

²⁷ Due to rounding, adopted children and stepchildren both equal 10 percent. These two groups are statistically different from each other.

²⁸ Stanley O. Gaines and James H. Liu. "Multicultural/multiracial relationships." In C. Hendrick and S. Hendrick (Eds.), *Close relationships: A sourcebook*, Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2000, pp. 97–108.

²⁹ Daphne Lofquist, Terry Lugaila, Martin O'Connell, and Sarah Feliz. "Households and Families: 2010," *2010 Census Brief*, C2010BR-14, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, available online at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-14.pdf>.

³⁰ Due to rounding, adopted and biological children both equal 7 percent. These two groups are statistically different from each other.

each group, who lived with a never married father who did not live with a partner.³¹

The householders of biological children and stepchildren under 18 were, on average, 39 years old, while householders of adopted children were about 7 years older (45 years).³² This age difference is not surprising since the adoption process often takes time, and people who adopted in order to build their families tend to be older, especially if they adopted children after trying to have biological children. Adoptive parents who are also the biological grandparents of the child would tend to be older as well. Previous research has found that adoptive mothers also tend to be older.³³ Not surprisingly, adopted children under 18, on average, had a larger age difference with their parent than did biological and stepchildren.

When comparing these estimates with those from Census 2000 (in Table 6 of the previous report), it is interesting to note that while householder parents of stepchildren were older than in 2000 (38.5 years, compared with 37.7 years), these parents were closer in age to their stepchildren on average, with a gap of 27.1 years in 2010 compared with 28.1 years in 2000.³⁴ Several factors may affect this gap. In the past, step relationships were created through

marriage, and those who marry have become an increasingly selective group, tending toward those who have more education, and who are also less likely to divorce. More recently, the usage of the term “step” to include relationships that do not involve marriage would tend to include more couples with lower educational attainment, who may be less likely to marry, but more likely to have their children at younger ages.³⁵ In addition, the group of children who live with a stepparent and are represented in these data may have shifted since Census 2000. In Census 2000 data, 71 percent of households with a child under 18 had a male householder, while in ACS 2009–2011 data, 51 percent had a male householder. Stepchildren are more likely to live with a stepfather than a stepmother, so this large decrease in whether the husband was reported as the householder may affect the characteristics of the group of stepchildren who are shown in the data.

Household Income and Educational Attainment of the Householder

Adoptive mothers have been found to be more educated and to have higher incomes than biological mothers.³⁶ American Community Survey data support these findings and show that, for children under 18, adopted children of the householder lived in households that had higher median incomes than those of either stepchildren or biological children (see Table 5).

Almost 49 percent of adopted children under 18 lived in households

with incomes of \$75,000 or more, compared with 41 percent of stepchildren and 40 percent of biological children. Fifteen percent of adopted children under 18 lived in households with incomes of \$150,000 or more, higher than either stepchildren (9 percent) or biological children (11 percent). Comparing median household income for these groups is another way to consider their relative affluence. While the median household income for adopted children under 18 (\$73,000) was higher than that of both biological children (\$60,000) and stepchildren (\$65,000), among children of the householder who were 18 years old and over, stepchildren had the highest household incomes, at about \$84,000, compared with \$76,000 for adopted children and \$70,000 for biological children. The households, with children under 18, in which adopted children and stepchildren of the householder live are a little larger, on average (4.8 and 5.1 people, respectively), than households in which biological children live (4.6 people). So the higher income of households with adopted children or stepchildren is spread across more people. It is also important to note that these households overlap, since families may include any combination of biological, step, and adopted children.

Adopted children also lived with householders who were more educated than the householders of either stepchildren or biological children (see Figure 5). Twenty-two percent of adopted children under 18 lived with a householder with a bachelor's degree, compared with 19 percent of biological children and 14 percent of stepchildren. While 17 percent of adopted children under 18 lived with a householder with at least a graduate or professional school degree, just

³¹ Stepchildren, adopted, and biological children living with a never married father who was not living with a partner were not statistically different from each other.

³² Stepchildren and biological children's average age of householder are statistically different.

³³ Jo Jones, “Who Adopts? Characteristics of Women and Men Who Have Adopted Children,” *NCHS Data Brief* No. 12, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD. 2009.

³⁴ Rose M. Kreider, “Adopted Children and Stepchildren: 2000,” *Census 2000 Special Reports*, CENSR-6RV, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, available online at <www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/censr-6.pdf>.

³⁵ Gary R. Lee and Krista K. Payne, “Changing Marriage Patterns Since 1970: What's Going on, and Why?” *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 2010, Vol. 41:4:537–555.

³⁶ Jo Jones, “Who Adopts? Characteristics of Women and Men Who Have Adopted Children,” *NCHS Data Brief* No. 12, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD. 2009.

Table 5.

Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship and Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Householder: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristics of the householder	Adopted children			Stepchildren			Biological children		
	Under 18 years		18 years and over	Under 18 years		18 years and over	Under 18 years		18 years and over
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number
Total	1,556,706	100.0	595,346	2,358,467	100.0	1,254,674	61,579,360	100.0	24,577,382
Household Income (in 2011 dollars)									
\$0 or less	10,635	0.7	2,366	7,629	0.3	2,279	709,728	1.2	109,639
\$1–\$9,999	50,504	3.2	11,619	53,699	2.3	12,547	3,396,838	5.5	618,077
\$10,000–\$14,999	42,823	2.8	12,511	57,797	2.5	14,850	2,620,410	4.3	638,187
\$15,000–\$24,999	104,774	6.7	35,157	169,637	7.2	47,316	5,824,217	9.5	1,753,926
\$25,000–\$34,999	115,884	7.4	42,573	212,875	9.0	71,160	5,799,732	9.4	2,038,812
\$35,000–\$49,999	175,963	11.3	73,827	341,952	14.5	133,901	7,754,933	12.6	3,150,104
\$50,000–\$74,999	295,069	19.0	114,301	539,510	22.9	257,970	11,029,989	17.9	4,867,029
\$75,000–\$99,999	238,839	15.3	94,401	388,942	16.5	229,481	8,229,929	13.4	3,781,325
\$100,000–\$149,999	281,650	18.1	118,087	381,833	16.2	293,112	9,137,128	14.8	4,471,365
\$150,000–\$199,999	114,506	7.4	46,690	117,695	5.0	112,724	3,475,555	5.6	1,768,439
\$200,000 or more	126,059	8.1	43,814	86,898	3.7	79,334	3,600,901	5.8	1,380,479
Median household income	\$73,378	X	\$76,240	\$64,974	X	\$84,076	\$59,905	X	\$70,030
Average household size	4.81	X	4.52	5.07	X	4.86	4.64	X	4.52
Educational Attainment of the Householder									
Less than high school	145,117	9.3	80,342	280,006	11.9	173,724	8,563,805	13.9	4,827,700
High school graduate	309,421	19.9	147,239	712,839	30.2	383,469	14,000,959	22.7	7,221,300
Some college	492,876	31.7	178,221	894,491	37.9	432,632	19,860,142	32.3	7,378,413
Bachelor's degree	338,892	21.8	102,005	326,814	13.9	171,984	11,949,147	19.4	3,250,098
Graduate or professional school degree	270,400	17.4	87,539	144,317	6.1	92,865	7,205,307	11.7	1,899,871
Labor Force Participation of the Householder									
In labor force	1,285,983	82.6	381,705	2,142,982	90.9	1,018,780	52,428,714	85.1	17,291,918
Employed	1,201,546	77.2	357,282	1,959,426	83.1	941,318	48,174,874	78.2	15,994,882
Unemployed	84,313	5.4	24,423	183,381	7.8	77,462	4,251,320	6.9	1,297,036
Not in labor force	270,723	17.4	213,641	215,485	9.1	235,894	9,150,646	14.9	7,285,464
Tenure									
Owens home	1,184,249	76.1	491,146	1,445,259	61.3	984,434	38,105,522	61.9	18,427,201
Rents home ¹	372,457	23.9	104,200	913,208	38.7	270,240	23,473,838	38.1	6,150,181

X Not applicable.

¹ Includes those who occupy without cash payment.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

12 percent of biological children and 6 percent of stepchildren did.

Labor Force and Homeownership

The labor force participation rates of the householder of adopted and biological children under 18 were roughly comparable—83 percent of adopted children and 85 percent of biological children lived

with a householder who was in the labor force. A higher percentage of stepchildren lived with a householder who was in the labor force—91 percent. Among children whose householders were in the labor force, a lower percentage of adopted children (5 percent) lived with householders who were unemployed than stepchildren

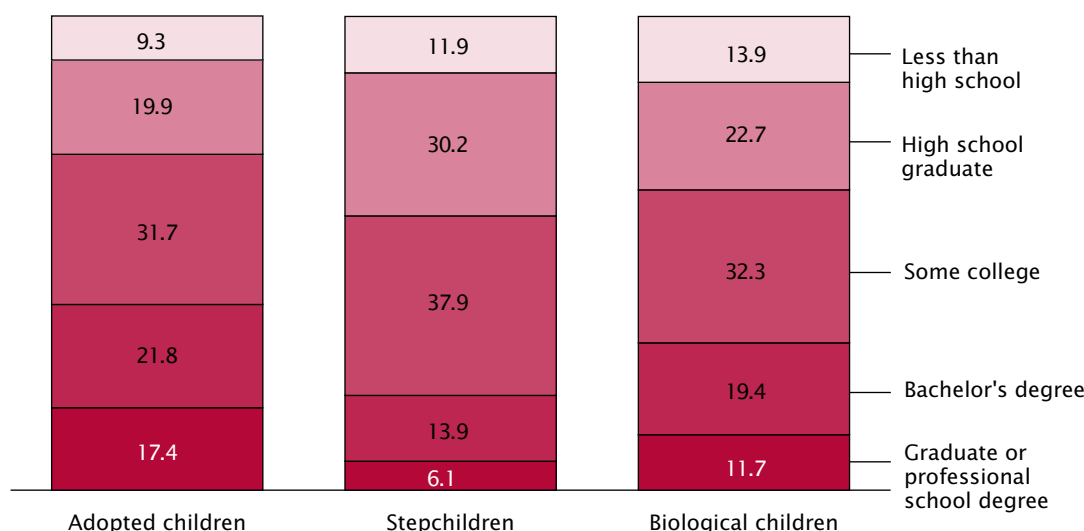
(8 percent) or biological children (7 percent).

One commonly accepted indicator of socioeconomic well-being is whether a family owns its home. While 76 percent of adopted children under 18 years old lived with parents who owned their homes, the corresponding percentage for both biological and stepchildren

Figure 5.

Percent of Children of the Householder Under 18 by Educational Attainment of the Householder: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

under 18 was 62 percent and 61 percent, respectively.

The next section of the report highlights particular topics that are of interest within the larger groups of stepchildren and adopted children. Among stepchildren, we use CPS data to highlight the use of the term “step” to describe relationships among parents and children that did not involve marriage between the stepparent and the child’s biological parent. We also explore how often biological parents who live with an unmarried partner report their partner as the stepparent of their child. Among adopted children, we highlight two groups that have received a lot of attention in the research community, as well as in the media, and that we can estimate with these data—internationally adopted

children and transracially adopted children.

STEPCHILDREN: INCREASING USE OF THE TERM

Traditionally, the word “stepchild” was used to mean a child who came to be related to a person through marriage to the child’s parent. However, as marriage, remarriage, and cohabitation patterns have changed, the words “stepchild” and “stepfamily” are now being used to include some families that are formed by cohabitation rather than marriage. For example, unmarried people may identify the biological child of their current partner as their stepchild, and who may have been either previously

married or never married.³⁷ The living arrangements of householders who reported a stepchild living with them indicate usage of this more recent definition.

Using ACS data, Table 6 shows the distribution of households with stepchildren under 18 by the sex, marital status, and living arrangement of the householder. Households are shown separately for male and female householders, since the distribution across the various types of living arrangements differs by the sex of the stepparent. Ninety-seven percent of stepfathers had a partner (83 percent had a spouse and 14 percent had an unmarried partner). A lower proportion of stepmothers (94 percent) had a partner—76 percent

³⁷ Rose M. Kreider. “Adopted Children and Stepchildren: 2000,” *Census 2000 Special Reports*, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2003.

Table 6.

Households With Stepchildren Under 18 by Householder's Living Arrangements: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Living arrangements and marital status of the householder	Stepfather				Stepmother			
	Number	Margin of error ¹	Percent	Margin of error ¹	Number	Margin of error ¹	Percent	Margin of error ¹
Total households with stepchildren.	1,354,977	11,209	100.0	X	339,369	5,106	100.0	X
Married ²	1,126,660	10,324	83.2	0.3	258,619	4,716	76.2	0.7
Not married	228,317	5,080	16.9	0.3	80,750	2,589	23.8	0.7
Has unmarried partner.	193,822	4,590	14.3	0.3	60,764	2,443	17.9	0.7
Never married	118,309	3,604	8.7	0.2	34,866	1,847	10.3	0.5
Ever married ³	75,513	2,259	5.6	0.2	25,898	1,525	7.6	0.5
No partner	34,495	1,925	2.5	0.1	19,986	1,425	5.9	0.4
Never married	14,377	1,234	1.1	0.1	8,106	1,005	2.4	0.3
Ever married ³	20,118	1,472	1.5	0.1	11,880	1,056	3.5	0.3

X Not applicable.

¹ This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

² Includes married spouse present and married spouse absent.

³ Includes separated, widowed, and divorced.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

had a spouse and 18 percent had an unmarried partner. However, 18 percent of stepmothers had an unmarried partner, higher than the rate for stepfathers. Together, 255,000 stepparents who reported unmarried partners identified children under 18 in their households as stepchildren.³⁸ These children were likely the biological children of their current partner rather than the biological children of their ex-spouse. In fact, 61 percent of the stepfathers and 57 percent of the

³⁸ In addition to the cases in which respondents reported household members as stepchildren of the householder, although the householder was unmarried, some of these family situations were created when either the stepparent's marital status or the child's relationship to the householder was imputed. However, this affects only a small proportion of the cases. Just 3 percent of stepchildren under 18 who had a never married householder received an imputed value for their relationship to the householder. Three percent of the never married householders with a stepchild, and 8 percent of the remaining unmarried householders, had an imputed value for their marital status. So the vast majority of households with unmarried stepparents were reported as such.

stepmothers who had an unmarried partner had never been married.

Lower proportions of stepparents who did not live with a partner were never married: 42 percent for stepfathers and 41 percent of stepmothers.³⁹ These data reflect the changing usage of the terms "stepchild" and "stepfamily," since they show that some householders considered themselves stepparents even though they were not married to the biological parent of the child in their household. Indeed, 58 percent of the currently unmarried stepfathers and 53 percent of the currently unmarried stepmothers had never been married. This represents an increase from 2000, when 51 percent of currently unmarried stepfathers and 41 percent of currently unmarried stepmothers had never been married. Research comparing well-being for stepchildren

³⁹ Stepfathers and stepmothers were not statistically different.

living with married or cohabiting parents found little difference.⁴⁰

Table 7 takes a more detailed look at children who lived with at least one stepparent. Unlike ACS, CPS data include the identification of two coresident parents, as well as the type of relationship between the child and those parents, whether biological, step, or adoptive. This allows us a look at how often respondents report the cohabiting partner of a biological or adoptive parent as a stepparent. Of the 5.6 million children under 18 who lived with a parent who was cohabiting, 46 percent lived with two biological or adoptive parents. Another 46 percent lived with one biological or adoptive parent who was cohabiting, and just 6 percent lived with one biological or adoptive parent and

⁴⁰ Megan M. Sweeney. "Stepfather Families and the Emotional Well-Being of Adolescents," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 2007, Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 33–49.

Table 7.

Selected Characteristics of Children Living in a Stepfamily:¹ 2012

(For more information about ASEC, including the source and accuracy statement, see the technical documentation accessible at www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf)

Characteristics	Children living in a step-family, total	Lives with married parents					Lives with unmarried parent(s)		
		Total ²	Biological mother and stepfather, total		Biological father and stepmother, total		Total ⁴	Lives with two unmarried parents, ³ total	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total (numbers in thousands)	4,287	3,785	2,756	100.0	834	100.0	501	381	100.0
Age of Child									
Less than 6	463	350	248	9.0	78	9.4	113	95	25.0
6 to 11 years	1,435	1,234	927	33.6	242	29.0	201	159	41.8
12 to 17 years	2,389	2,201	1,581	57.4	514	61.7	188	126	33.1
Presence of Siblings⁵									
At least 1 sibling present	3,679	3,240	2,335	84.7	720	86.4	439	318	83.6
Stepsibling	2,475	2,189	1,504	54.6	563	67.5	287	232	61.0
Race of Child									
White alone	3,283	2,962	2,162	78.4	632	75.8	321	263	69.1
White alone, non-Hispanic	2,519	2,310	1,631	59.2	541	64.9	209	172	45.2
Black alone	611	482	354	12.8	111	13.3	129	92	24.2
Asian alone	95	84	58	2.1	24	2.9	11	5	1.3
All remaining single races and all race combinations	298	258	183	6.6	66	7.9	41	20	5.3
Hispanic (of any race)	864	723	591	21.4	102	12.2	141	113	29.7
Median household income in 2011 dollars⁶	67,966	70,216	67,893	X	78,701	X	53,292	63,380	X
Parents' Labor Force Participation									
One parent present	120	X	X	X	X	X	120	X	X
Mother and father in labor force	2,696	2,417	1,719	62.4	588	70.5	279	279	73.3
Father in labor force, mother not in labor force	1,056	990	742	26.9	183	22.0	66	66	17.3
Mother in labor force, father not in labor force	239	222	169	6.1	37	4.4	17	17	4.5
Father not in labor force, mother not in labor force	175	156	125	4.5	26	3.1	19	19	5.0
Tenure									
Owens home	2,492	2,279	1,617	58.7	543	65.1	214	158	41.5
Rents home ⁷	1,794	1,506	1,139	41.3	291	34.9	288	223	58.6

X Not applicable.

¹ This table includes children who live with at least 1 stepparent.

² Includes 179,000 children who live with 2 stepparents and 17,000 children who live with 1 adoptive and 1 stepparent.

³ Includes 348,000 children living with 1 biological or adoptive parent and 1 stepparent, and 33,000 living with 2 stepparents.

⁴ Includes 63,000 children who live with 1 stepparent who is cohabiting, and 57,000 children who live with 1 stepparent who is not cohabiting.

⁵ Includes siblings of any age.

⁶ Median is based on the weighted distribution of children, rather than households.

⁷ Includes those who occupy without cash payment.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.

their cohabiting partner, who was reported as the child's stepparent.⁴¹ To put it another way, 11 percent

⁴¹ The percentage of children living with two biological or adoptive parents does not differ statistically from the percentage who lived with one biological or adoptive parent who was cohabiting.

of children living with one biological or adoptive parent who was cohabiting (but not with the child's other biological or adoptive parent) lived with their parent's cohabiting partner who was identified as the child's stepparent.

Of the estimated 4.3 million children who lived with at least one stepparent, 88 percent lived with married parents, 64 percent with their biological mother and stepfather, and 19 percent with their biological father and stepmother.

Twelve percent of children who lived with at least one stepparent lived with unmarried parents, 76 percent of whom lived with two unmarried parents.

Stepchildren living with unmarried parents were younger than those living with married parents. While 25 percent of those living with two unmarried parents were under age 6, this was true for just 9 percent of stepchildren living with two married parents. Most children living in a stepfamily have siblings present (85 percent). Children living with their married biological father and stepmother are more likely to have a stepsibling present (68 percent) than those living with their married biological mother and stepfather (55 percent) but not statistically different from those living with two unmarried parents (61 percent).

While 13 percent of stepchildren living with married parents are Black, 24 percent of those living with two unmarried parents are Black. Hispanic stepchildren living in stepfamilies were also overrepresented in cohabiting two-parent families, where 30 percent were Hispanic, compared with 12 percent who lived with their married biological father and stepmother, and 21 percent of those who lived with their married biological mother and stepfather. Perhaps reflecting a younger age of the parents, a larger percentage of stepchildren living with two unmarried parents had both their mother and father in the labor force (73 percent), compared with 62 percent for children living with their married biological mother and stepfather. Stepchildren living with two unmarried parents were less likely to live in an owned home, 42 percent, compared with 59 percent

for those who lived with married parents.

INTERNATIONALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

Based on estimates from the National Survey of Adoptive Parents (NSAP), about 25 percent of adopted children were adopted internationally.⁴² While data that would allow us to compare this estimate to the mid-20th century are not available, this is likely a substantial increase since the numbers of native-born babies in the United States who are adoptable has decreased during this period, while the number of children adopted internationally has increased.

The adoption of children born abroad began mainly after World War II when orphaned European children were adopted by U.S. parents.⁴³ In the 1950s, after the Korean War, international adoption became more prevalent, resulting in a long-term stream of Korean children adopted by U.S. parents. In the late 1970s, adoption within the United States increased, including the adoption of special needs children, which was often defined as children who were older or multiracial.⁴⁴ In the next decades, as the availability of adoptable

⁴² The sample of adoptive parents for the NSAP did not include those who adopt a stepchild however, so the percentage of adopted children who were adopted internationally is lower in census surveys, which represent all those who report an adopted child. S. Vandiver, K. Malm, and L. Radel. *Adoption USA: A Chartbook Based on the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. 2009.

⁴³ H. Alstein and R.J. Simon. *Intercountry adoption: a multinational perspective*. New York: Praeger. 1991.

⁴⁴ Kathleen Brumble and Charlene M. Kampfe. "The History of Adoption in the United States: a Focus on the Unique Group of Intercountry Transracial Special Needs Children," *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 2011, Vol 24:2, pp. 157–162.

INTERNATIONALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

Internationally adopted children are defined in this report as foreign-born adopted children of the householder when the householder and their spouse (if present) are U.S. citizens by birth. This excludes foreign-born children who come to the United States with their biological parent who marries a U.S. native who then adopts the child.

infants in the United States, fell, parents began increasingly to look overseas.⁴⁵ In the 1990s, Eastern Europe and China expanded as sending countries. The increased availability of children for adoption from Eastern Europe was furthered by the fall of communism in the U.S.S.R., while the one-child policy in China led in part to large numbers of Chinese girls being available for international adoption.⁴⁶ Globally, the United States adopts the largest number of children from abroad, although when considering the number of adopted children in proportion to the country's population, some other countries adopt at a higher rate.⁴⁷

The high point for international adoptions occurred in 2004, with an estimated global total of 45,000

⁴⁵ Jo Jones, "Who Adopts? Characteristics of Women and Men Who Have Adopted Children," *NCHS Data Brief* No. 12, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD. 2009.

⁴⁶ Kathleen Brumble and Charlene M. Kampfe. "The History of Adoption in the United States: a Focus on the Unique Group of Intercountry Transracial Special Needs Children," *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 2011, Vol 24:2, pp. 157–162.

⁴⁷ Peter Selman. "Global Trends in Intercountry Adoption: 2001–2010," *Adoption Advocate*, No. 44 (Feb), National Council for Adoption, Alexandria VA. 2012.

Table 8.

Internationally Adopted Children Under 18 by Place of Birth and Age: 2009–2011(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Nativity and place of birth	Total adopted children of householder	Under 18 years					18 years and over		
		Total	Under 6	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 17	Total	18 to 24	25 and over
Total¹	244,869	203,656	46,569	89,284	40,850	26,953	41,213	28,457	12,756
Europe ²	60,608	53,089	6,066	24,146	13,856	9,021	7,519	6,299	1,220
Russia	41,915	38,782	5,336	17,906	9,800	5,740	3,133	3,055	78
Asia ²	123,853	103,986	22,977	48,452	20,868	11,689	19,867	12,906	6,961
China	59,696	59,327	14,337	28,894	11,776	4,320	369	369	0
Korea	37,623	23,574	4,380	9,940	4,807	4,447	14,049	8,857	5,192
Africa	10,133	9,747	4,612	3,469	999	667	386	262	124
Latin America ²	49,095	36,328	12,885	12,921	5,039	5,483	12,767	8,763	4,004
Central America ²	33,084	27,623	11,813	10,445	3,234	2,131	5,461	3,265	2,196
Guatemala	27,340	25,659	11,738	9,893	2,658	1,370	1,681	1,344	337
Mexico	2,779	1,195	57	388	348	402	1,584	408	1,176
South America ²	12,886	6,320	600	1,389	1,438	2,893	6,566	4,937	1,629
Northern America	759	227	20	113	49	45	532	114	418

¹ Includes 421 children born in Oceania, which are not shown separately.² Includes areas not shown separately.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

international adoptions, nearly 23,000 of which were completed by parents in the United States. Annual totals decreased after that, so that by 2009, fewer international adoptions occurred than in 1998—nearly 30,000 globally in 2009, compared with about 32,000 in 1998.⁴⁸ By the late 2000s, further changes in the policies of particular countries and the implementation of the Hague Convention and Inter-country Adoption Act (IAA) had the overall effect of reducing international adoptions to the United States.⁴⁹ The IAA took effect in 2008 and required that adoption agencies be accredited. As the largest sending country since 1995, China's move in the mid 2000s

⁴⁸ Peter Selman. "The Rise and Fall of Inter-country Adoption in the 21st Century: Global Trends from 2001 to 2010," in *Inter-country Adoption: Policies, Practices, and Outcomes*, Judith L. Gibbons and Karen Smith Rotabi, eds. 2012, University of Southampton, UK.

⁴⁹ Jo Daugherty Bailey. "Expectations of the Consequences of New International Adoption Policy in the U.S.," *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 2009, Vol. XXXVI, No. 2, pp. 169–184.

to restrict the eligibility criteria for international adoptive parents had a significant impact on the decline in all international adoptions. These restrictions went along with changes that had already been made to encourage adoption within China.⁵⁰ In January of 2008, the United States halted adoptions from Guatemala, another of the main sending countries, while problems with the Guatemalan system were addressed.⁵¹ The overall decrease in international adoption was reflected in the number of immigrant visas issued to orphans coming to the United States for adoption, which decreased from about 18,000 in 2000 to 11,000

⁵⁰ Monica Dowling and Gill Brown. "Globalization and international adoption from China," *Child and Family Social Work*, 2009, Vol. 14, pp. 352–361.

⁵¹ For a more detailed discussion of the reasons numbers of international adoptions fell in the 21st century, see Selman 2012. Peter Selman. "The Rise and Fall of Inter-country Adoption in the 21st Century: Global Trends from 2001 to 2010," in *Inter-country Adoption: Policies, Practices, and Outcomes*, Judith L. Gibbons and Karen Smith Rotabi, eds., University of Southampton, UK. 2012.

in 2010.⁵² The global total in 2010 was about 29,000.⁵³

Taking advantage of the large sample size of the ACS 2009–2011 data file, Table 8 provides a detailed examination of the place of birth of internationally adopted children, while Figure 6 graphs the percent distribution by the current age of the child. Changes in the distribution by age of the child may reflect change over time in the most common birth countries for those under 18. Since most adults 18 and over do not live with their parents, shifts

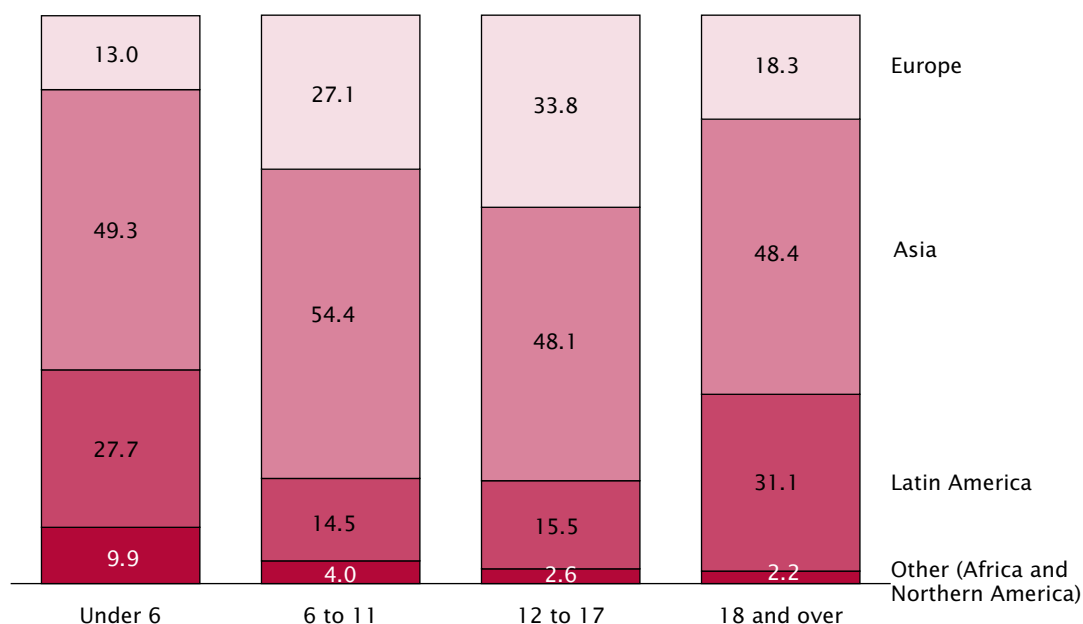
⁵² Totals are from the U.S. State Department Web site at <http://adoption.state.gov/about_us/statistics.php>. For more information about the recent decrease in international adoptions, see Peter Selman. "The Rise and Fall of Inter-country Adoption in the 21st Century: Global Trends from 2001 to 2010," in *Inter-country Adoption: Policies, Practices, and Outcomes*, Judith L. Gibbons and Karen Smith Rotabi, eds. University of Southampton, UK. 2012.

⁵³ Peter Selman. "The Rise and Fall of Inter-country Adoption in the 21st Century: Global Trends from 2001 to 2010," in *Inter-country Adoption: Policies, Practices, and Outcomes*, Judith L. Gibbons and Karen Smith Rotabi, eds., University of Southampton, UK. 2012.

Figure 6.

Percent Distribution of Internationally Adopted Children of the Householder by Age of Child and Place of Birth: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

in the distribution for that age group are less closely connected to the total distribution by birth country for these adoptees.

In 2009–2011, 13 percent of adopted children under 18 were internationally adopted. About half (51 percent) of the internationally adopted children were born in Asia, about one-fifth (20 percent) in Latin America, and about one-quarter (25 percent) in Europe (Figure 6). Fifty-seven percent of the children from Asia were born in China, and an additional 23 percent were born in Korea. In contrast, for adopted children 18 and over who were born in Asia and lived with their parents, 71 percent were born in Korea. Although only a small proportion of adults live with their

parents, these data reflect the dominance of Korea as a source country for adopted children prior to the 1990s.⁵⁴ In 2009–2011, the majority (73 percent) of internationally adopted children under 18 from Europe were adopted from Russia. The majority (71 percent) of those adopted from Latin America were born in Guatemala, for children under 18. China was the largest single-country source of internationally adopted children, comprising about 60,000 children or about 30 percent (29 percent) of all internationally adopted children under 18.

⁵⁴ Peter Selman. "The Rise and Fall of Intercountry Adoption in the 21st Century: Global Trends from 2001 to 2010," in *Intercountry Adoption: Policies, Practices, and Outcomes*, Judith L. Gibbons and Karen Smith Rotabi, eds., University of Southampton, UK. 2012.

Characteristics of Internationally Adopted Children

A variety of factors combine to make internationally adopted children a subgroup of adopted children who share particular characteristics and challenges. Internationally adopted children receive special attention as a group, in part because these adoptions are often transracial, and so more visible to the public eye. Another reason for the high profile of international adoptions is the intercountry dynamics involved. Sending countries often establish restrictions on who may adopt, and many create a standardized process by which the adoptions take place. At times, the press have focused international

Table 9.

Selected Characteristics of Internationally Adopted Children Under 18 years: 2009–2011(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic of child	Internationally adopted				U.S.-native adopted			
	Number	Margin of error ¹	Percent	Margin of error ¹	Number	Margin of error ¹	Percent	Margin of error ¹
Total	203,656	5,876	100.0	X	1,293,846	13,721	100.0	X
Age of Child								
0 to 5 years	46,569	2,142	22.9	0.8	312,782	6,362	24.2	0.4
6 to 11 years	89,284	3,303	43.8	0.9	464,153	7,235	35.9	0.4
12 to 17 years	67,803	2,557	33.3	0.9	516,911	7,514	40.0	0.4
Race and Hispanic Origin								
White alone	69,253	2,686	34.0	1.1	842,770	11,714	65.1	0.6
Black or African American alone	12,114	1,410	5.9	0.6	233,608	6,640	18.1	0.5
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	4,339	618	2.1	0.3	23,316	1,489	1.8	0.1
Asian alone	97,606	3,742	47.9	1.3	35,991	1,948	2.8	0.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	971	271	0.5	0.1	4,184	745	0.3	0.1
Some other race alone	13,785	1,371	6.8	0.6	60,119	2,806	4.6	0.2
Two or more races	5,588	676	2.7	0.3	93,858	3,807	7.3	0.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	33,157	2,168	16.3	0.9	237,297	6,134	18.3	0.4
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	56,423	2,464	27.7	1.0	696,737	9,626	53.9	0.5
Child and Householder Race/Origin Difference								
Different race ²	158,121	5,349	64.6	1.0	284,507	7,207	15.7	0.4
Different Hispanic origin ³	44,478	2,604	18.2	0.8	148,461	5,215	8.2	0.3
English Ability								
Aged 5 and over	157,087	4,933	100.0	X	981,064	11,072	100.0	X
Speaks non-English language at home ⁴	9,443	886	6.0	0.6	103,079	4,320	10.5	0.4
Speaks English "very well"	6,172	679	65.4	4.3	85,109	4,065	82.6	1.4
Disability Status								
Aged 5 and over	157,087	4,933	100.0	X	981,064	11,072	100.0	X
At least one disability	12,307	1,032	7.8	0.6	127,309	4,428	13.0	0.4
Hearing disability	2,163	428	1.4	0.3	9,321	890	1.0	0.1
Vision disability	1,217	300	0.8	0.2	12,750	1,120	1.3	0.1
Cognitive disability ⁵	8,578	868	5.5	0.5	111,782	4,163	11.4	0.4
Ambulatory disability	1,235	282	0.8	0.2	12,823	1,276	1.3	0.1
Self-care disability	1,986	372	1.3	0.2	19,465	1,509	2.0	0.2
Independent living	1,261	260	0.8	0.2	14,202	1,036	1.4	0.1
Multiple disabilities ⁶	2,820	417	1.8	0.3	33,014	1,818	3.4	0.2

¹ This figure, when added to, and subtracted from the percent, provides the 90 percent confidence interval.² Child and householder do not report the same group, where race groups are: White alone, Black alone, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone, Some Other Race alone, or either the child or householder reports multiple race groups.³ Child is Hispanic and householder is not Hispanic, or vice versa.⁴ These questions were asked only of people aged 5 and over.⁵ The question asks if the person has difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.⁶ This includes children with any combination of two or more of the disabilities listed above.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

scrutiny on the treatment of orphaned children in particular countries, resulting in heightened awareness of these children among potential adoptive parents in the United States. Questions among adoptive parents about how to best connect their children with their birth culture bring these parents

together to form communities like Families with Children from China. In this section, we focus on the characteristics of internationally adopted children in order to highlight the particular profile of this subgroup.

Table 9 shows selected characteristics of adopted children, comparing

internationally with U.S.-native born adopted children. A lower percentage of internationally adopted children were White, non-Hispanic (28 percent), Black (6 percent), or of Two or More Races (3 percent) compared with 54 percent, 18 percent, and 7 percent, respectively, for U.S.-born adopted children. A

higher percentage of internationally adopted children were Asian—48 percent compared with 3 percent of native-born adopted children. Sixteen percent of internationally adopted children were of Hispanic or Latino origin, compared with 18 percent of U.S. native-born adopted children.

While we might expect that some of the internationally adopted children might retain their birth language if they were adopted at older ages, a lower percentage of internationally adopted children aged 5 and older speak a language other than English at home (6 percent) than native-born adopted children (10 percent). Of the small percentage who do speak a language other than English, a lower percentage of the internationally adopted children speak English “very well” (59 percent) than native-born adopted children (77 percent). These findings are based on the definition of “internationally adopted” children that excludes families where the foreign-born child comes to the United States with their biological parent, who then marries, and the new spouse adopts the child.

While previous research using data from Census 2000 showed that internationally adopted children and native-born adopted children had comparable disability rates overall, ACS 2009–2011 data show a different pattern.⁵⁵ A lower percentage of internationally adopted children aged 5 to 17 had at least one disability (8 percent) than native-born adopted children (13

⁵⁵ Rose M. Kreider and Philip Cohen. “Disability Among Internationally Adopted Children in the United States,” *Pediatrics*, 2009, Vol. 124 No. 5, pp. 1311–1318.

TRANSRACIALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

In this report, children of the householder are considered transracially adopted if the householder parent and their adopted child are of different race or origin groups, where the groups are:

White alone, non-Hispanic

Black alone, non-Hispanic

Asian or Pacific Islander alone, non-Hispanic

American Indian and Alaska Native alone, non-Hispanic

Some other race alone, non-Hispanic

White/Black

White/Asian

White/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander

White/American Indian and Alaska Native

White/Some Other Race

Hispanic

OR either parent or child is some other multiracial combination.

percent).⁵⁶ A higher percentage of internationally adopted children than native-born adopted children had a hearing disability. Of those aged 5 to 17, lower percentages of internationally than native-born adopted children had the other types of disabilities. A lower percentage of internationally adopted

⁵⁶ The lower rates of disability of internationally adopted children compared with U.S.-native adopted children in ACS 2009–2011 data, although they had similar rates in Census 2000 data, may be due to compositional differences in the populations since disability rates differ based on birth country. The data are also not directly comparable since there were also changes in the way the disability questions were asked. For discussion and evaluation of the disability items on Census Bureau surveys and in ACS 2008, see Matthew W. Brault, Sharon Stern, and David Raglin. “Evaluation Report Covering Disability,” 2006 American Community Survey Content Test Report, 2007, U.S. Census Bureau, available online at <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/Library/2007/2007_Brault_01.pdf>; and Matthew W. Brault, “Review of changes to the measurement of disability in the 2008 American Community Survey,” U.S. Census Bureau, 2009, available online at <www.census.gov/people/disability/files/2008ACS_disability.pdf>.

children (2 percent) than U.S. native adopted children aged 5 to 17 (3 percent) had multiple disabilities.

TRANSRACIALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

Transracial adoption results in perhaps the most visible group of adoptive families. Based on the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents, 40 percent of adopted children (not including those adopted by their stepparents) were involved in a transracial, transethnic, or transcultural adoption.⁵⁷ A lot of research has focused on this group.

While in the past transracial adoption has at times faced opposition

⁵⁷ Sharon Vandivere, Karin Malm, and Laura Radel. *Adoption USA: A Chartbook Based on the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2009. Keep in mind that this estimate does not include parents who adopt their stepchildren.

and restrictions,⁵⁸ the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 sought to reduce such barriers. Debate continues over whether or how much race or culture should be a factor when children are matched with adoptive parents. An assessment after the passing of the 1994 Multiethnic Placement Act found that transracial adoptions through the public foster care system went from 11 percent of adoptions in 1995 to 15 percent in 2004.⁵⁹ However, this increase has not eliminated the overrepresentation of African American children in foster care.⁶⁰

International adoption has resulted in increases in interracial families.⁶¹ Baden et al. estimated that 80 to 85 percent of international adoptions were transracial, and that about 40 percent of all adoptions by U.S. parents were transracial.⁶²

In 2009–2011, there were 438,000 transracially adopted children under the age of 18, or 28 percent of all adopted children under 18. Table 10 profiles selected

demographic characteristics of transracially adopted children under 18 compared with their other adopted counterparts. Transracially adopted children tended to be younger than other adopted children. Eighteen percent of transracially adopted children were between the ages of 3 and 5, while this was true for 14 percent of other adopted children. Twenty-one percent of other adopted children were aged 15 to 17, compared with 15 percent of transracially adopted children. This likely reflects the fact that many of the transracially adopted children are internationally adopted, and may have been adopted at a younger age than their U.S. native-born counterparts, who would also be more likely to be of the same race as their parent.

The race distributions of the two groups were markedly different. The majority (78 percent) of adoptive householders in the United States are White (see Table 4), and 65 percent of same-race adopted children are White. For the transracially adopted children, 28 percent were Asian or Pacific Islander, 15 percent were Black, 10 percent were White/Black, and 1 percent were Some other race.⁶³ On federal surveys, race is a separate question from whether or not the respondent is Hispanic. For transracially adopted children, 30 percent were reported as Hispanic, while 14 percent of other adopted children were reported as Hispanic. Thirty-six percent of transracially adopted children differed from their parent in terms of whether or not they were Hispanic.

Overall, 37 percent of the transracially adopted children were foreign born, compared with 9 percent of their other adopted counterparts. Ten percent of transracially

and other adopted children had at least one disability.⁶⁴ For transracially and other adopted children, the only categories of disability that differed statistically between these two groups were hearing and cognitive disabilities.

Characteristics of the households in which the children live and characteristics of their adoptive parents are shown in Table 11. A higher percentage of transracially adopted children lived with married parents—77 percent compared with 71 percent of their other adopted counterparts. The next largest group of children lived with their mother who did not have a spouse present—18 percent of the transracially adopted children and 22 percent of the other adopted children.

Transracially adopted children lived in households with relatively higher income than their same-race counterparts. While 44 percent of them lived in households with at least \$100,000 in income, this was true for 30 percent of other adopted children. Household size was a little larger for transracially adopted children, at 4.9 people, compared with 4.8 for other adopted children. Household poverty rates for the two groups showed the same contrast, with 8 percent of transracially adopted children living in a household in poverty, compared with 17 percent of other adopted children.

A higher percentage of transracially adopted children than same-race adopted children lived with parents who had advanced educational levels. Fifty-four percent of transracially adopted children lived with a parent who had at least a Bachelor's degree, compared with 33

⁵⁸ The Indian Child Welfare Act (PL 95-608) was passed in 1978 to govern the placement of American Indian children, since a relatively high number were placed outside of reservations.

⁵⁹ Mary Eschelbach Hansen and Rita J. Simon. "Transracial Placement in Adoptions with Public Agency Involvement: What Can We Learn from the AFCARS Data?" *Adoption Quarterly*, 2004, Vol. 8:2, pp. 45–55.

⁶⁰ See McRoy and Griffin, 2012, and Jacobson et al., 2012, for more details about the history of transracial adoption within the United States. Ruth McRoy and Amy Griffin. "Transracial Adoption Policies and Practices," *Adoption and Fostering*, 2012, Vol. 36, Nos. 3&4, pp. 38–49. Also Laura Argys and Brian Duncan. "Economic Incentives and Foster Care Adoption," *Demography*, 2013, Vol 50, No. 3, pp. 933–954.

Cardell K. Jacobson, Leila Nielsen, and Andrea Hardeman. "Family Trends and Transracial Adoption in the United States," *Adoption Quarterly*, 2012, Vol. 15, pp. 73–87.

⁶¹ Hiromi Ishizawa, Catherine T. Kenney, Kazuyo Kubo, and Gillian Stevens. "Constructing Interracial Families Through Intercountry Adoption," *Social Science Quarterly*, 2006, Vol. 87, No. 5., pp. 1207–1224.

⁶² Amanda L. Baden, Lisa M. Treweeke, and Muninder K. Ahluwalia. "Reclaiming Culture: Reculturation of Transracial and International Adoptees," *Journal of Counseling and Development*, 2012, Vol. 90, pp. 387–399.

⁶³ Black transracially and other adopted children are not statistically different.

⁶⁴ The percentage of transracially and other adopted children with at least one disability are not statistically different.

Table 10.

Characteristics of Transracially Adopted Children Under 18: 2009–2011(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic of child	Transracially adopted children				Other adopted children			
	Number	Margin of error ¹	Percent	Margin of error ¹	Number	Margin of error ¹	Percent	Margin of error ¹
Total children.	437,665	10,804	100.0	X	1,119,041	13,264	100.0	X
Age of Child								
0–2 years.	35,580	2,077	8.1	0.4	101,508	3,415	9.1	0.3
3–5 years.	79,280	3,207	18.1	0.6	153,470	4,759	13.7	0.4
6–8 years.	85,315	3,293	19.5	0.6	189,549	4,192	16.9	0.3
9–11 years.	86,811	3,746	19.8	0.6	211,387	4,981	18.9	0.4
12–14 years.	83,819	2,937	19.2	0.6	229,532	5,143	20.5	0.3
15–17 years.	66,860	2,501	15.3	0.5	233,595	4,602	20.9	0.4
Race and Hispanic Origin of Child								
White alone.	30,613	2,277	7.0	0.5	731,479	10,271	65.4	0.6
Black or African American alone.	67,125	3,500	15.3	0.7	175,010	6,027	15.6	0.5
American Indian and Alaska Native alone.	9,881	1,054	2.3	0.2	9,701	1,033	0.9	0.1
Asian or Pacific Islander alone.	123,946	4,189	28.3	1.3	34,004	1,762	3.0	0.2
Some other race alone.	4,095	591	0.9	0.1	1,490	620	0.1	0.1
Two or more races.	70,384	3,266	16.1	0.6	5,897	722	0.5	0.1
White-Black.	41,649	2,331	9.5	0.4	983	388	0.1	0.0
White-American Indian and Alaska Native.	6,727	970	1.5	0.2	2,255	380	0.2	0.0
White-Asian.	10,085	1,059	2.3	0.2	824	286	0.1	0.0
White-Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.	1,410	422	0.3	0.1	120	118	0.0	0.0
White-Some other race.	780	208	0.2	0.0	13	20	0.0	0.0
Other multiple races.	9,733	1,102	2.2	0.2	1,702	444	0.2	0.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race).	131,621	5,206	30.1	0.8	161,460	5,944	14.4	0.5
Child Hispanic, householder non-Hispanic, or child non-Hispanic, householder Hispanic.	157,275	5,775	35.9	0.9	X	X	X	X
Foreign born.	159,829	5,300	36.5	0.8	103,031	3,941	9.2	0.3
Disability Status								
Aged 5 and over.	350,425	8,836	80.1	0.6	918,102	11,509	82.0	0.4
At least one disability.	42,333	2,300	9.7	0.5	110,418	3,872	9.9	0.3
Hearing disability.	5,399	712	1.2	0.2	10,605	1,124	0.9	0.1
Vision disability.	5,202	694	1.2	0.2	12,548	1,031	1.1	0.1
Cognitive disability ²	33,821	1,978	7.7	0.4	92,463	3,387	8.3	0.3
Ambulatory disability.	4,383	546	1.0	0.1	10,749	1,084	1.0	0.1
Self-care disability.	6,463	692	1.5	0.2	16,923	1,344	1.5	0.1
Independent living.	4,352	576	1.0	0.1	11,297	871	1.0	0.1
Multiple disabilities ³	11,186	932	2.6	0.2	27,642	1,533	2.5	0.1

X Not applicable.

¹ These questions were asked only of people aged 5 and over.² The question asks if the person has difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.³ This includes children aged 5 to 17 with any combination of two or more of any of the disabilities.

Note: Due to rounding, some margin of errors round to zero, even though they are not actually zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

Table 11.

Characteristics of the Adoptive Parent of Adopted Children Under 18: 2009–2011(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic	Transracially adopted children				Other adopted children			
	Number	Margin of error ¹	Percent	Margin of error ¹	Number	Margin of error ¹	Percent	Margin of error ¹
Total children	437,665	10,836	100.0	X	1,846,418	13,304	100.0	X
Living Arrangement of the Adoptive Parent								
Married couple households	338,851	8,986	77.4	0.8	797,356	11,329	71.3	0.6
Male adoptive parent—no spouse present	21,582	1,951	4.9	0.4	79,953	3,585	7.1	0.3
With an unmarried partner	7,961	1,036	1.8	0.2	27,868	2,005	2.5	0.2
No unmarried partner present	13,621	1,513	3.1	0.3	52,085	2,945	4.7	0.3
Married—spouse absent	1,881	677	0.4	0.2	10,500	1,567	0.9	0.1
Divorced or widowed	7,713	948	1.8	0.2	24,611	1,914	2.2	0.2
Separated	1,553	475	0.4	0.1	5,950	1,134	0.5	0.1
Never married	2,474	604	0.6	0.1	11,024	1,243	1.0	0.1
Female adoptive parent—no spouse present	77,232	3,346	17.6	0.7	241,732	6,756	21.6	0.5
With an unmarried partner	12,305	1,501	2.8	0.3	31,795	2,203	2.8	0.2
No unmarried partner present	64,927	3,017	14.8	0.6	209,937	6,625	18.8	0.5
Married—spouse absent	2,659	548	0.6	0.1	14,018	1,619	1.3	0.1
Divorced or widowed	30,657	1,708	7.0	0.4	90,518	3,758	8.1	0.3
Separated	6,684	858	1.5	0.2	29,550	2,242	2.6	0.2
Never married	24,927	1,845	5.7	0.4	75,851	3,675	6.8	0.3
Household Income (in 2011 dollars)								
\$0 or less	1,459	419	0.3	0.1	9,176	1,539	0.8	0.1
\$1–\$14,999	13,739	2,033	3.1	0.4	79,588	3,947	7.1	0.3
\$15,000–\$24,999	15,998	1,616	3.7	0.4	88,776	3,856	7.9	0.3
\$25,000–\$34,999	22,993	1,687	5.3	0.4	92,891	4,720	8.3	0.4
\$35,000–\$49,999	37,633	2,345	8.6	0.5	138,330	4,912	12.4	0.4
\$50,000–\$74,999	80,939	4,366	18.5	0.8	214,130	5,153	19.1	0.5
\$75,000–\$99,999	72,937	2,938	16.7	0.6	165,902	4,463	14.8	0.4
\$100,000–\$149,999	99,196	3,869	22.7	0.7	182,454	5,518	16.3	0.4
\$150,000–\$199,999	41,487	2,251	9.5	0.5	73,019	2,839	6.5	0.2
\$200,000 or more	51,284	2,658	11.7	0.6	74,775	3,284	6.7	0.3
Median household income in 2011 dollars	\$90,189	1,456	X	X	\$67,053	684	X	X
Average household size	4.92	0.05	X	X	4.77	0.03	X	X
In poverty	35,212	2,775	8.0	0.6	184,480	6,541	16.5	0.5
Educational Attainment of the Adoptive Parent								
Less than high school	15,012	1,548	3.4	0.3	130,105	4,697	11.6	0.4
High school graduate	57,536	3,109	13.1	0.6	251,885	6,934	22.5	0.6
Some college	127,422	4,471	29.1	0.8	365,454	7,010	32.7	0.5
Bachelor's degree	120,862	4,616	27.6	0.7	218,030	5,621	19.5	0.5
Graduate or professional school degree	116,833	4,109	26.7	0.7	153,567	4,720	13.7	0.4
Labor Force Participation of the Adoptive Parent								
In labor force	370,960	9,638	84.8	0.6	915,023	11,154	81.8	0.4
Employed	352,399	9,317	80.5	0.8	849,147	10,385	75.9	0.5
Unemployed	18,561	2,117	4.2	0.5	65,752	3,201	5.9	0.3
Not in labor force	66,705	3,148	15.2	0.6	204,018	5,805	18.2	0.4
Tenure of the Adoptive Parent								
Owns home	372,418	9,557	85.1	0.8	811,831	12,021	72.5	0.7
Rents home ²	65,247	3,980	14.9	0.8	307,210	8,566	27.5	0.7

X Not applicable.

¹ This figure, added to, or subtracted from the percent, provides the 90 percent confidence interval.² Includes those who occupy without cash payment.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

percent of other adopted children. Indeed, 27 percent of the transracially adopted children had a parent with a graduate or professional degree, while this was true for 14 percent of their other adopted counterparts. The higher household income, lower poverty rates, and higher educational attainment of parents of transracially adopted children makes sense given the higher proportion of these children who were also internationally adopted. International adoption usually costs more than domestic adoption through the foster care system, or the adoption of stepchildren, and parents who adopt internationally have been found to be better off, on average.^{65,66}

Transracially adopted children more often lived with a parent who was employed (81 percent) than did other adopted children (76 percent). A higher percentage of transracially adopted children lived in homes owned by their parent (85 percent) than did other adopted children (73 percent).

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION: TYPES OF CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLDS

How many households have adopted children and what combinations of children live in households? Of the 34.7 million households in 2010 that contained householders' children under 18, most (90 percent) contained biological children only; about 2 percent contained stepchildren only; and another 4 percent contained both biological and stepchildren (see Table 12). Another 2 percent

contained only adopted children of the householder, and an additional 2 percent contained both adopted and biological children.

Among the 1.1 million households containing the householders' adopted children under 18, 75 percent had just one adopted child, while 19 percent had two adopted children. Six percent of these households had three or more adopted children. In addition, 8 percent of households with an adopted child of the householder were three-generation households, including either a householder who had both a parent or parent-in-law and an adopted child, or a householder who had both an adopted child and a grandchild in the same household.

Table 12 shows the number of households with children of the householder that were composed of people of different races or were made up of both Hispanics and non-Hispanics. In the vast majority of these households (88 percent), all members were of the same race. Of the 1.1 million households with adopted children, 70 percent had all members of the same race. The 30 percent of households with adopted children that contained members of different races compared with 18 percent in 2000. The increase in the adoption of foreign-born children by U.S. residents played a large role in creating these households and in the increase from 2000 to 2010. Of the 33.5 million households that did not contain adopted children, 12 percent included people of different race groups. Nearly all households with children of the householder were composed of either all Hispanic or all non-Hispanic members (93 percent); 170,000 households with adopted children contained both Hispanics and non-Hispanics, representing 15 percent

of households with adopted children.

SUMMARY

This report has provided a portrait of adopted children and stepchildren. While these data are cross-sectional and do not show the specific circumstances that lead to children living with an adoptive parent or stepparent, they do allow us to see differences in the characteristics of adopted, step, and biological children. Overall, we found that some of the characteristics of the groups reflect the way the children joined their families. For example, adopted children and stepchildren tended to be older than biological children, since it often requires some time for the adoption process to take place, or for the repartnering of parents that results in living with a stepchild. Similarly, adopted children were less likely than the other two groups to be White, non-Hispanic, reflecting the overrepresentation of these children in the foster care system, as well as among internationally adopted children. Stepchildren had the highest percentage White, non-Hispanic, which is related to the fact that Whites remarry more often than other race groups.⁶⁷ While adopted children had the highest prevalence of disability, their households also had more economic resources. Adopted children lived in households that had higher incomes, a lower percentage in poverty, a higher percentage with a parent with at least a bachelor's degree, and a higher percentage who owned their homes than stepchildren or biological children. It is possible that this difference reflects the fact that often, significant financial resources are

⁶⁵ Hiromi Ishizawa and Kazuyo Kubo. "Factors Affecting Adoption Decisions: Child and Parental Characteristics," *Journal of Family Issues*, 35:627, 2014.

⁶⁶ Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2011). *Costs of adopting*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau, available online at <www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/s_cost/s_costs.pdf#page=4&view=Adoption-Specific-Expenses>.

⁶⁷ Matthew D. Bramlett and William D. Mosher. "Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the United States," National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Health Statistics 23:22. 2002.

Table 12.

Households by Child and Householder Relationship: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)

Characteristic	Number	Percent
Total households with children under 18¹	34,743,604	100.0
Households by Type of Child—Householder Relationship		
One relationship type.	32,585,343	93.8
Adopted children only	590,790	1.7
Stepchildren only	766,215	2.2
Biological children only	31,228,338	89.9
Two relationship types	2,129,712	6.1
Adopted and biological children.	564,602	1.6
Adopted children and stepchildren	24,994	0.1
Biological children and stepchildren	1,540,116	4.4
Three relationship types		
Biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren.	28,549	0.1
Households with adopted children.	1,143,098	3.3
One	857,457	2.5
Two.	217,544	0.6
Three or more	68,097	0.2
Households with stepchildren	2,038,503	5.9
One	1,439,836	4.1
Two.	475,731	1.4
Three or more	122,936	0.4
Three generation households ²	1,593,311	4.6
Contains adopted children.	90,413	0.3
Contains stepchildren	123,597	0.4
Racial Composition of the Household		
All household members of same race	30,473,845	87.7
Contains adopted children.	867,111	2.5
Contains stepchildren	1,953,662	5.6
Contains members of different races.	4,269,759	12.3
Contains adopted children.	341,824	1.0
Contains stepchildren	406,212	1.2
Hispanic Origin Composition of the Household		
All household members of same origin	32,217,405	92.7
Contains adopted children.	1,038,892	3.0
Contains stepchildren	2,081,164	6.0
Contains members of differing origin.	2,526,199	7.3
Contains adopted children.	170,043	0.5
Contains stepchildren	278,710	0.8

¹ These households contain at least one child of the householder who is under 18, but other children of the householder who are present may be of any age.

² Householder had both a parent/parent-in-law and a child in the household, or householder had both a child and grandchild in the household.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

required in order to finalize an adoption.

The third section of the report provided a look at specific topics for stepchildren and adopted children. Comparing ACS data with Census 2000, we found an increase in the percentage of stepfathers and stepmothers who were never married. Fifty-eight percent of the currently unmarried stepfathers and 53

percent of the currently unmarried stepmothers in ACS data had never been married, an increase from Census 2000, when 51 percent of currently unmarried stepfathers and 41 percent of currently unmarried stepmothers had never been married. Using the direct reports of the relationship between two coresident parents and the child in CPS data, we explored how often

the cohabiting partner of a biological or adoptive parent is reported as the stepparent of the child. We found that 11 percent of children living with one biological or adoptive parent who was cohabiting (but not with the child's other biological or adoptive parent) had their parent's cohabiting partner identified as their stepparent.

Finally, the report focused on two subgroups of adopted children that are often highlighted in the media: internationally adopted children and transracially adopted children. ACS data are large enough to create a profile of the relatively small group of internationally adopted children. Compared with U.S. native-born adopted children, internationally adopted children were more often Asian, and less often White, non-Hispanic, Black or Hispanic. A lower percentage of internationally adopted children aged 5 to 17 had at least one disability than native-born adopted children.

Transracially adopted children (over a third of whom were foreign born) tended to be younger than other adopted children. The largest proportion of transracially adopted children were Asian (28 percent), while another 25 percent were either Black or Black/White. Among adopted children, transracially adopted children tended to live in households with higher socioeconomic resources. Compared with U.S.-native adopted children, a higher percentage of transracially adopted children lived in households with household incomes of at least \$100,000, an owned home, or a parent with a graduate or professional degree. A lower percentage of transracially adopted children lived in poverty.

ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise indicated. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling

errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process—including overall survey design, question wording, review of interviewers' and coders' work, and statistical review of reports—to minimize these errors. The Decennial Census data is a 100 percent sample, therefore they are not subject to statistical testing.

The Current Population Survey weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf> or contact the Census Bureau's Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov>.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin.

The final ACS estimates of housing units are controlled to independent estimates of total housing. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to over or undercoverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on the ACS sample, weighting procedures, sampling error, nonsampling error, and quality measures from the ACS, see <www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/MultiyearACSAccuracyofData2011.pdf>.

Data on relationship to the householder from the 2010 Census Summary File 1 provide information at the state level and below and are available on the Internet at <factfinder2.census.gov/main.html> and on DVD. Information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions is available on the Census Bureau's Internet site at <www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf>.

For more information about the 2010 Census, including data products, call the Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282. You can also visit the Census Bureau's Question and Answer Center at <ask.census.gov> to submit your questions online.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Rose M. Kreider and Daphne A. Lofquist, Adopted Children and Stepchildren: 2010, *Current Population Reports*, P20-572, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. 2014.

Appendix Table A.

Margin of Error for Table 3a, Selected Characteristics of the Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship and Sex of Child: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic of child	Adopted children			Stepchildren			Biological children		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	16,660	9,875	10,427	19,467	12,540	13,204	43,354	26,759	27,042
Age									
Under 1 year	1,772	1,325	1,131	830	587	636	14,164	11,434	11,076
1 year	2,384	1,564	1,746	1,479	1,043	966	16,521	11,562	11,188
2 years	2,629	1,662	1,562	1,756	1,192	1,234	16,248	11,297	12,151
3 years	2,615	1,642	1,976	2,298	1,691	1,369	16,539	12,092	11,086
4 years	2,853	1,948	1,919	2,713	1,944	1,767	17,113	13,214	11,502
5 years	2,784	1,989	2,047	3,060	1,996	1,984	18,991	13,520	13,502
6 years	2,590	1,649	2,026	3,163	2,304	2,133	17,946	12,796	11,290
7 years	2,902	1,930	2,301	3,612	2,387	2,437	16,004	12,070	11,283
8 years	2,935	1,923	2,246	3,645	2,197	2,415	18,012	13,398	11,391
9 years	3,346	2,162	2,109	3,536	2,923	2,676	17,777	11,020	13,559
10 years	2,742	1,939	1,909	4,362	2,997	2,900	16,320	11,495	11,514
11 years	3,126	2,062	2,166	3,993	2,883	2,980	16,829	12,651	11,185
12 years	3,411	2,456	2,398	4,892	3,117	3,510	17,515	12,050	12,325
13 years	2,928	2,086	1,795	4,772	3,522	3,382	16,287	11,202	11,362
14 years	3,101	2,217	1,922	4,262	3,257	2,869	18,060	11,284	11,527
15 years	2,958	2,140	1,951	3,712	2,630	3,072	15,635	11,039	10,789
16 years	2,407	1,919	1,596	4,639	3,251	3,179	14,178	11,066	10,331
17 years	3,124	1,699	2,254	5,136	3,502	3,090	17,151	10,891	11,317
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White alone	12,766	7,386	8,165	15,766	9,596	10,233	47,468	27,127	27,777
Black or African American alone	7,168	4,511	4,342	7,056	3,865	5,093	26,969	15,907	16,746
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1,603	1,140	1,020	1,723	1,251	952	7,527	5,002	4,453
Asian alone	4,482	2,004	3,661	2,352	1,732	1,540	11,545	6,818	7,165
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	859	545	526	660	467	382	3,569	2,365	1,936
Some other race alone	3,188	1,934	2,202	5,593	3,174	3,442	27,687	15,373	16,274
Two or more races	3,941	2,249	2,592	4,152	2,640	2,828	23,575	12,857	14,341
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	7,298	4,122	4,946	9,832	5,964	6,378	22,845	13,653	14,704
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	10,598	6,522	6,517	13,554	8,713	8,180	32,016	17,688	19,988
Nativity and English Ability									
Native	13,721	8,576	8,693	18,650	12,075	12,425	42,006	27,223	26,602
Foreign born	6,668	3,674	4,334	3,800	2,234	2,844	17,423	11,090	11,087
Aged 5 and over	5,765	3,074	3,741	3,662	2,118	2,804	16,471	10,383	10,304
Speaks non-English language at home ¹ ..	2,716	1,499	1,829	3,102	1,942	2,355	15,169	9,473	9,852
Speaks English very well	1,974	964	1,555	2,597	9,097	1,794	11,939	9,097	7,243
Disability Status¹									
Aged 5 and over	13,697	8,503	8,763	18,938	11,982	12,490	34,855	21,591	22,123
At least one disability	4,439	3,147	2,335	4,099	3,017	2,284	14,755	12,117	8,255
Hearing disability	1,103	787	734	1,114	756	747	6,118	4,538	3,589
Vision disability	1,118	816	942	1,311	825	844	5,660	4,352	3,758
Cognitive disability ²	4,224	2,976	2,008	3,589	2,766	1,819	11,851	10,122	6,475
Ambulatory disability	1,326	875	974	1,148	833	739	5,050	4,284	3,643
Self-care disability	1,681	1,086	985	1,379	1,109	775	6,064	5,393	3,598
Independent living	1,109	856	629	1,028	714	656	3,523	3,026	2,159
Multiple disabilities ³	1,950	1,328	1,224	1,646	1,310	964	7,112	6,375	4,212
In poverty ⁴	7,308	3,962	4,877	8,376	5,650	4,814	87,639	45,865	46,506

¹ These questions were asked only of people aged 5 and over.

² The question asks if the person has difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.

³ This includes children with any combination of two or more of the disabilities listed above.

⁴ Household poverty level.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

Appendix Table B.

Margin of Error for Table 3b, Percent Distribution of Selected Characteristics of Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship and Sex of Child: 2009–2011

(In percent. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic of child	Adopted children			Stepchildren			Biological children		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Age									
Under 1 year	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 year.	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
2 years.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 years.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
4 years.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
5 years.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
6 years.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
7 years.	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
8 years.	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
9 years.	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
10 years.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
11 years.	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
12 years.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
13 years.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
14 years.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 years.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
16 years.	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
17 years.	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Race and Hispanic Origin									
White alone	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black or African American alone	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native alone. . .	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian alone	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Some other race alone	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1
Two or more races	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic or Latino (of any race).	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino.	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1
Nativity and English Ability									
Native	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Foreign born	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Aged 5 and over	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Speaks non-English language at home ¹ . .	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.6	0.3	0.4	0.3
Speaks English very well	2.4	3.7	2.7	1.9	2.6	2.0	0.4	0.6	0.6
Disability Status¹									
Aged 5 and over	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
At least one disability.	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0
Hearing disability	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vision disability.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cognitive disability ²	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ambulatory disability	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Self-care disability	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Independent living	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Multiple disabilities ³	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
In poverty ⁴	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2

X Not applicable.

¹ These questions were asked only of people aged 5 and over.

² The question asks if the person has difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating.

³ This includes children with any combination of 2 or more of the disabilities listed above.

⁴ Household poverty level.

Note: Due to rounding, some margin of errors round to zero, even though they are not actually zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

Appendix Table C.

Margin of Error for Table 4, Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship, Age, and Selected Characteristics of the Householder: 2009–2011
(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristic of householder	Adopted children			Stepchildren			Biological children		
	Under 18 years		18 years and over	Under 18 years		18 years and over	Under 18 years		18 years and over
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number
Total	16,660	X	8,179	19,467	X	12,603	43,354	X	53,387
Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder									
White alone	15,659	0.4	7,437	15,890	0.4	9,519	49,845	0.1	49,108
Black or African American alone	6,295	0.4	3,046	7,162	0.3	5,972	29,174	0.0	23,632
American Indian and Alaska Native alone.	1,306	0.1	866	2,031	0.1	1,150	8,515	0.0	5,774
Asian alone	2,100	0.1	1,409	2,302	0.1	1,610	11,690	0.0	12,387
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	787	0.1	428	797	0.0	438	4,907	0.0	2,314
Some other race alone	3,464	0.2	1,428	4,651	0.2	3,142	27,888	0.0	14,873
Two or more races	1,913	0.1	814	2,483	0.1	1,499	16,484	0.0	8,401
Hispanic or Latino (of any race).	6,167	0.4	3,213	8,128	0.3	5,580	29,572	0.0	21,358
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino.	14,462	0.5	6,622	14,148	0.4	8,720	44,004	0.1	41,964
Child and Householder Race/Origin Difference									
Different race ¹	9,232	0.5	3,653	7,642	0.3	4,187	29,016	0.0	12,425
Different Hispanic origin ²	5,775	0.3	1,996	6,383	0.3	3,504	23,878	0.0	7,591
Living Arrangement of the Householder									
Married couple households	14,498	0.5	6,917	15,808	0.3	12,082	93,947	0.2	39,066
Male householder—no spouse present.	3,953	0.3	2,324	8,587	0.3	4,503	34,968	0.1	18,092
With an unmarried partner.	2,335	0.2	848	7,813	0.3	2,888	17,922	0.0	4,490
No unmarried partner present	3,358	0.2	2,160	3,230	0.1	3,315	22,807	0.0	16,987
Married—spouse absent	1,589	0.1	964	1,886	0.1	1,736	9,708	0.0	6,180
Divorced or widowed	2,194	0.1	1,891	1,860	0.1	2,322	15,071	0.0	14,778
Separated	1,230	0.1	651	883	0.0	923	8,016	0.0	4,952
Never married	1,423	0.1	671	1,994	0.1	985	11,775	0.0	3,762
Female householder—no spouse present.	7,638	0.4	3,614	4,289	0.2	2,762	75,247	0.1	38,203
With an unmarried partner.	2,476	0.2	1,144	3,907	0.2	1,658	26,771	0.0	8,337
No unmarried partner present	7,411	0.4	3,732	2,533	0.1	2,092	66,403	0.1	37,601
Married—spouse absent	1,844	0.1	1,002	1,394	0.1	794	15,483	0.0	8,012
Divorced or widowed	4,119	0.3	3,231	1,085	0.0	1,481	35,384	0.1	30,635
Separated	2,440	0.2	1,380	925	0.0	853	24,672	0.0	12,462
Never married	4,364	0.3	1,567	17,912	0.1	746	8,627,165	0.1	14,911
Average Age of Householder (in years)	0.1	X	0.2	0.1	X	0.1	0.0	X	0.0
Average Age Difference (in years)									
Between householder and child	0.1	X	0.1	0.1	X	0.1	0.0	X	0.0
Between spouse ³ of householder and child.	0.1	X	0.1	0.0	X	0.1	0.0	X	0.0
Between partner ⁴ of householder and child.	0.3	X	0.9	0.1	X	0.3	0.0	X	0.1

X Not applicable.

¹ Child and householder do not report the same group, where race groups are: White alone, Black alone, American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone, Some Other Race alone, or either the child or householder reports multiple race groups.² Child is Hispanic and householder is not Hispanic, or vice versa.³ For households containing a spouse of householder.⁴ For households containing an unmarried partner of the householder.

Note: Due to rounding, some margin of errors round to zero, even though they are not actually zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

Appendix Table D.

Margin of Error for Table 5, Householder's Children Under 18 by Type of Relationship and Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Householder: 2009–2011

 (For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Characteristics of the householder	Adopted children			Stepchildren			Biological children		
	Under 18 years		18 years and over	Under 18 years		18 years and over	Under 18 years		18 years and over
	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent	Number
Total	16,660	X	8,179	19,467	X	12,603	43,354	X	53,387
Household Income (in 2011 dollars)									
\$0 or less	1,625	0.1	618	1,232	0.1	656	14,726	0.0	4,525
\$1–\$9,999	3,225	0.2	1,097	3,391	0.1	1,204	33,346	0.1	9,393
\$10,000–\$14,999	3,304	0.2	1,255	3,064	0.1	1,236	28,591	0.0	9,010
\$15,000–\$24,999	4,085	0.3	2,043	4,674	0.2	2,398	46,591	0.1	15,553
\$25,000–\$34,999	5,283	0.3	1,953	7,152	0.3	3,099	40,007	0.1	14,335
\$35,000–\$49,999	5,776	0.4	3,130	8,002	0.3	4,756	42,149	0.1	22,686
\$50,000–\$74,999	7,000	0.4	3,503	8,425	0.3	6,017	38,283	0.1	28,382
\$75,000–\$99,999	5,495	0.3	3,412	7,988	0.3	5,616	46,803	0.1	27,385
\$100,000–\$149,999	6,746	0.4	3,650	7,123	0.3	6,006	45,673	0.1	24,290
\$150,000–\$199,999	3,831	0.2	2,281	4,406	0.2	4,103	23,899	0.0	17,272
\$200,000 or more	3,800	0.2	1,957	3,257	0.1	2,942	23,097	0.0	15,301
Median household income	589	X	1,085	484	X	755	208	X	171
Average household size	0.03	X	0.05	0.02	X	0.03	0.00	X	0.01
Educational Attainment of the Householder									
Less than high school	4,697	0.3	3,231	6,834	0.3	4,665	54,459	0.1	29,428
High school graduate	7,841	0.4	4,269	9,997	0.4	7,692	61,590	0.1	32,358
Some college	8,167	0.4	4,466	13,513	0.4	7,142	58,126	0.1	30,682
Bachelor's degree	7,529	0.4	3,452	7,387	0.3	4,717	53,904	0.1	22,499
Graduate or professional school degree	6,833	0.4	2,553	4,339	0.2	3,043	47,197	0.1	17,127
Labor Force Participation of the Householder									
In labor force	14,613	0.4	7,065	18,371	0.2	11,477	70,252	0.1	45,934
Employed	13,874	0.4	6,694	18,173	0.3	11,389	75,338	0.1	45,407
Unemployed	4,037	0.3	1,620	5,877	0.2	3,012	34,635	0.1	12,524
Not in labor force	6,822	0.4	4,070	5,903	0.2	5,186	60,289	0.1	35,839
Tenure									
Owns home	16,011	0.6	7,731	14,401	0.4	11,169	118,000	0.2	48,008
Rents home ¹	9,563	0.6	3,382	14,108	0.4	6,902	124,721	0.2	39,944

X Not applicable.

¹ Includes those who occupy without cash payment.

Note: Due to rounding, some margin of errors round to zero, even though they are not actually zero.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.

Appendix Table E.

Margin of Error for Table 7, Selected Characteristics of Children Living in a Stepfamily:¹ 2012

(For more information about ASEC, including the source and accuracy statement, see the technical documentation accessible at www.census.gov/apsd/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf)

Characteristics	Children living in a step-family, total	Lives with married parents					Lives with unmarried parent(s)		
		Total ²	Biological mother and stepfather, total		Biological father and stepmother, total		Total ⁴	Lives with two unmarried parents, ³ total	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total (numbers in thousands)	174	164	140	X	77	X	60	52	X
Age of Child									
Less than 6	58	50	42	0.01	24	0.03	28	26	0.06
6 to 11 years	101	94	81	0.02	42	0.04	38	34	0.07
12 to 17 years	130	125	106	0.03	61	0.05	37	30	0.06
Presence of Siblings⁵									
At least 1 sibling present	161	152	129	0.02	72	0.03	56	48	0.05
Stepsibling	133	125	104	0.03	64	0.04	45	41	0.07
Race of Child									
White alone	153	145	124	0.02	67	0.06	48	43	0.04
White alone, non-Hispanic	134	128	108	0.03	62	0.07	39	35	0.07
Black alone	79	70	60	0.02	34	0.05	36	31	0.06
Asian alone	31	29	24	0.01	16	0.02	11	7	0.02
All remaining single races and all race combinations	55	51	43	0.01	26	0.04	21	14	0.03
Hispanic (of any race)	94	78	78	0.02	32	0.04	38	34	0.06
Median Household Income in 2011 dollars⁶	613	620	612	X	643	X	560	597	X
Parents' Labor Force Participation									
One parent present	29	X	X	X	X	X	120	X	X
Mother and father in labor force	138	131	111	0.02	65	0.04	45	45	0.06
Father in labor force, mother not in labor force	87	84	73	0.02	36	0.04	22	22	0.05
Mother in labor force, father not in labor force	41	40	35	0.01	16	0.02	11	11	0.03
Father not in labor force, mother not in labor force	35	33	30	0.01	14	0.02	12	12	0.03
Tenure									
Owns home	133	127	107	0.03	62	0.04	39	34	0.07
Rents home ⁷	113	104	90	0.03	46	0.04	45	40	0.07

X Not applicable.

¹ This table includes children who live with at least 1 stepparent.

² Includes 179,000 children who live with 2 stepparents and 17,000 children who live with 1 adoptive and 1 stepparent.

³ Includes 348,000 children living with 1 biological or adoptive parent and 1 stepparent, and 33,000 living with 2 stepparents.

⁴ Includes 63,000 children who live with 1 stepparent who is cohabiting, and 57,000 children who live with 1 stepparent who is not cohabiting.

⁵ Includes siblings of any age.

⁶ Median is based on the weighted distribution of children, rather than households.

⁷ Includes those who occupy without cash payment.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2012.

Appendix Table F.

Margin of Error for Table 8, Householder's Adopted Children Under 18 by Place of Birth and Age: 2009–2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Nativity and place of birth	Total adopted children of householder	Under 18 years					18 years and over		
		Total	Under 6	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 17	Total	18 to 24	25 and over
Total¹	4,080	3,574	1,304	2,009	1,175	812	1,259	1,135	633
Europe ²	1,641	1,493	433	975	731	433	469	445	202
Russia	1,303	1,205	412	787	543	350	336	333	54
Asia ²	2,638	2,363	888	1,333	874	569	823	678	455
China	1,653	1,645	744	981	655	353	107	107	72
Korea	1,298	1,049	298	579	389	385	633	515	368
Africa	686	690	421	425	141	136	90	72	58
Latin America ²	1,689	1,389	720	729	420	391	746	613	380
Central America ²	1,320	1,160	666	640	295	243	460	359	286
Guatemala	1,181	1,086	657	630	266	169	266	232	105
Mexico	280	189	38	109	90	105	211	100	201
South America ²	746	473	130	200	218	271	533	447	249
Northern America	150	74	21	45	32	29	130	83	98

¹ Includes 421 children born in Oceania, which are not shown separately.

² Includes areas not shown separately.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2011 American Community Survey.