



## Adoption Statistics

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### ⊕ **Adoption Fees and Process**

- ⊕ Adoption fees can easily exceed \$25,000 and include agency fees, placement fees, attorney fees, home study fees, travel expenses, and medical expenses.
- ⊕ Depending on the circumstances of each adoption, the adoption process can take from 3 months to over 2 years to complete

### ⊕ **Number Children in Need of Families**

- ⊕ There are more than 100 million children internationally without caregivers.
- ⊕ There are more than 119,000 children in the foster care system awaiting adoption in the U.S.

### ⊕ **Number of Adoptions in the United States**

- ⊕ More than 125,000 children are adopted annually in the United States (this includes foster care, infant, kinship, and stepchild adoptions)
- ⊕ More than 20,000 children from other countries were adopted by U.S. citizens in 2006. 80% of those children came from five countries (China 31%, Guatemala 20%, Russia 18%, South Korea 7%, Ethiopia 4%).

### ⊕ **What Happens to Children Who Are Not Adopted?**

- ⊕ Children left languishing in orphanages are often abused, neglected, and malnourished. They have slow or halted brain growth and do not develop appropriate “emotional” brain centers.
- ⊕ A child loses one month of growth and developmental milestones for every three to five months he or she lives in an orphanage
- ⊕ Children left to grow up in the foster care system (U.S.) or the orphanage system (international) are much more likely to face a lifetime of poverty, homelessness, drug addiction, and crime.

### ⊕ **Adoption Connections and Attitudes**

- ⊕ More than 90% of Americans have a favorable opinion of adoption
- ⊕ 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption (that translates into over 80 million Americans), but fewer than 2% actually adopt – citing the high costs as the reason for not adopting.
- ⊕ 2.5% of all Americans under the age of 18 are adopted.
- ⊕ 6 in 10 Americans have had a personal experience with adoption (they themselves, a family member, or a close friend was adopted, had adopted a child, or had placed child for adoption)

### ⊕ **The Gift of Adoption Fund**

- ⊕ The Gift of Adoption Fund inspires adoption by providing grants to put adoption within reach for those who are coming forward to parent the millions of children who are in need of a family.