

Expert Findings - new NCFA Study

In 2022 Gift of Adoption partnered with the National Council for Adoption (NCFA) to conduct a survey of 1,000 adoptive parents. This was the largest survey ever conducted of adoptive parents and aimed to gather updated data on adoption demographics, special needs adoptions, and satisfaction in adopt.

Participation in this survey was central to Gift of Adoption staying abreast of current trends in adoption and remaining a leader in the field. We share the results with you, our valued partners, because we share the goal of placing children into forever families. We believe staying informed will help us improve and strengthen our ability to serve so many children and families as possible.

Part One of the Profiles in Adoption survey was recently published and confirmed what many in the adoption community were feeling - that adoption has changed a lot in the last ten years. Key takeaways included:

- The cost of adoption has increased, most dramatically in private domestic adoptions where the average cost of the adoption process has doubled. More than half of families adopting privately or internationally viewed the cost of the adoption process as a barrier, even after completing the process.

- In the vast majority of private domestic adoptions (79% in fact) completed in the last decade, the adoptive family and the birth family maintain contact.
- While the number of internationally adoptees continues to decline, the percent of children with special needs adopted internationally has risen significantly in the past 10 years. In 2022 10% of internationally adoptees were of children with special needs. In 2012 this percentage had increased to 19%.



- A large percentage of adoptions receive therapeutic services following the adoption placement and/or both father and individualized education plan (IEP) or accommodations in school.
- Parents described the adoption process as challenging but rewarding. From the perspective of their first experience, adoptive parents reported they would still make the same decision to adopt their child. In fact, adoption satisfaction rates were quite high across all types of adoption.

Source: NCFA Profiles in Adoption: A Survey of Adoptive Parents and Secondary Care Analysis of National Adoption File. Ryan Harkin, PhD and Matthew Quake, PhD

Results from parts Two and Three of the study are coming soon and will address opportunities and challenges to meet the needs of adopted individuals and their families post-adoption as well as a closer look at the demographics of today's adoptive parents. We look forward to sharing these findings with you soon.

Gift of Adoption remains committed to helping families address the financial piece of adoption by providing grants that cover the final fees, so caring adoptions are completed and children come home. We thank you for being an essential partner in this work.

To learn more and read the full report visit the [NCFA website](https://www.ncfa.org/adoption-in-adoption/) or visit adoption@ncfa.org.



Gift of Adoption provides adoption assistance grants to complete the adoption of vulnerable children - giving them a permanent family and the chance to thrive.

A contribution to Gift of Adoption, Inc. (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit) from providing to others who may be interested in this issue. Send comments and feedback to donor@adoption.org