

## Important Findings – new NCEA Study

In 2021 Gift of Adoption partnered with the National Council for Adoption (NCEA) to conduct a survey of 4,200 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 motivations to 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 as 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 20 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 (75% in fact) completed in the last decade, the adoptive family and the birth family maintain contact.
- While the number of Intercountry adoptions continue to decline, the percent of children with special needs adopted internationally has risen significantly in the past 15 years. In 2000 7.3% of intercountry adoptions were of children with special needs. In 2018 this percentage had increased to 79%.



- A large percentage of adoptees receive therapeutic services following the adoptive placement and/or had either an individualized education plan (IEP) or accommodations in school.
- Parents described the adoption process as challenging but rewarding. From the perspective of their lived 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: NCEA Profiles in Adoption: A Survey of Adoptive Parents and Secondary Data Analysis of Federal Adoption File. Ryan Hanlon, PhD and Matthew Quade, 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 demographic of today's adoptive parents. We look forward to sharing those 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, ensuring 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 scan the QR code below or visit: [adoptioncouncil.org/research/profiles-in-adoption/](https://adoptioncouncil.org/research/profiles-in-adoption/).



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

*A publication for Gift of Adoption Investor Board members. Please pass along to others who may be interested in this cause. Send comments and feedback to [devereux@giftofadoption.org](mailto:devereux@giftofadoption.org)*