

## Child Welfare Snapshot

# Transracial Adoption from Foster Care in the U.S.

As the number of adoptions has increased over time, the growth in transracial adoptions has outpaced the growth in same race adoptions. Between 2005-2007 and 2017-2019, the number of transracial adoptions increased by 58% while the number of same race adoptions increased by 24%. Transracial adoptions grew by 5 points, from 23% to 28% of all adoptions\*

\*Adoptions with missing or insufficient race information were not factored in calculating the change in the proportion of transracial and same race adoptions.

**Figure 1. The number of foster care adoptions in the U.S. increased 22% from 2005-2007 to 2017-2019.**

### U.S. Adoption Trend: 3-year Totals



#### Number of states that showed growth

More than 5% increase: **36 States**  
 Between -5% and 5% growth: **4 States**  
 More than 5% reduction: **11 States**

### Top five States in adoption growth

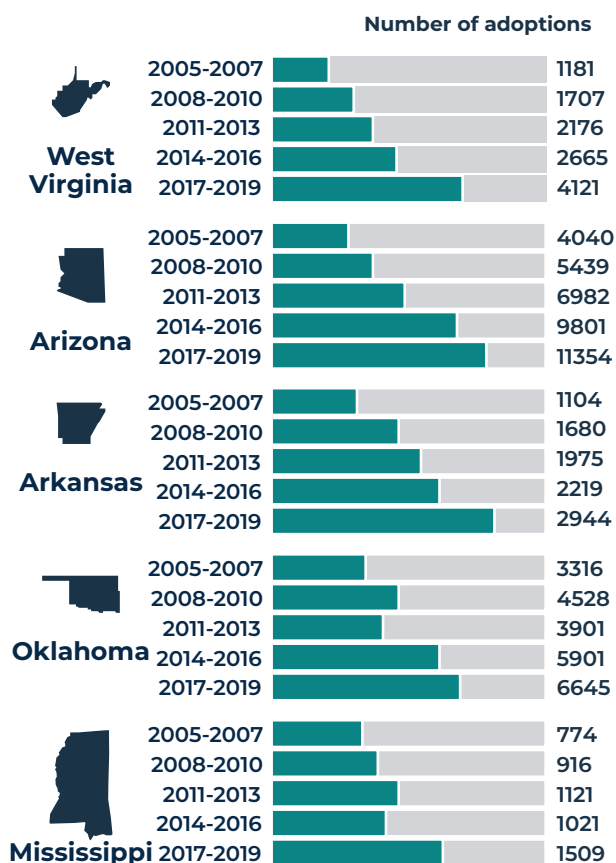


Figure 2. The proportion of transracial adoptions increased in most states between 2005-2007 and 2017-2019.

Ten states with the greatest change in proportion of transracial adoptions\*

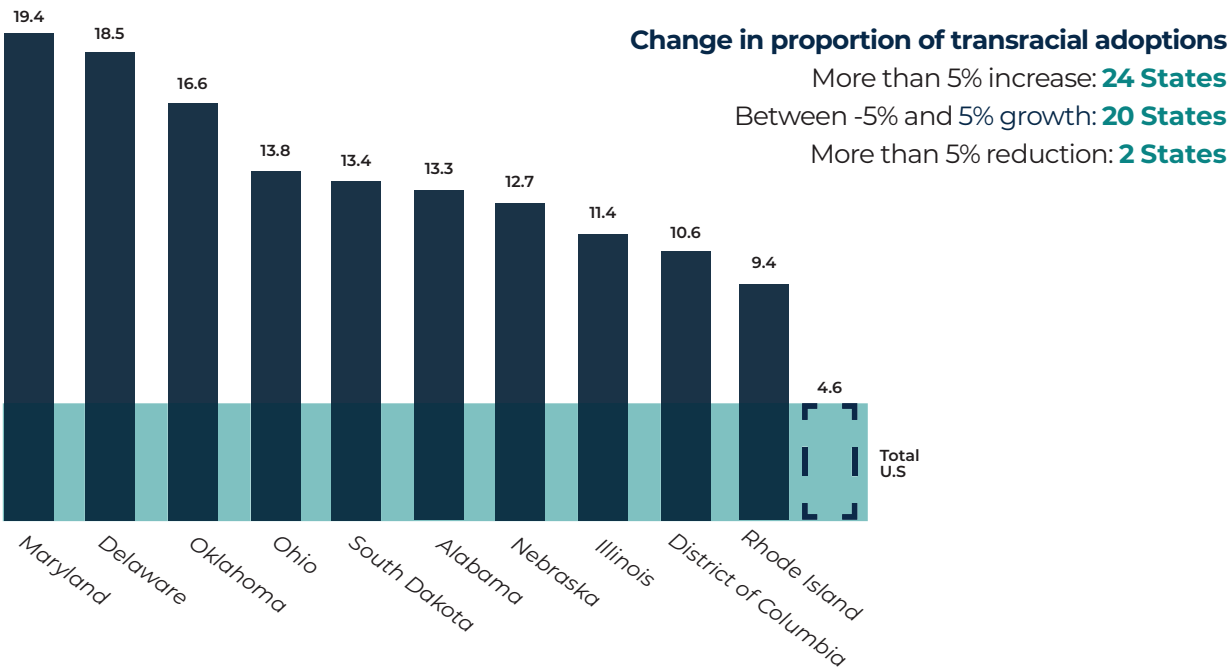
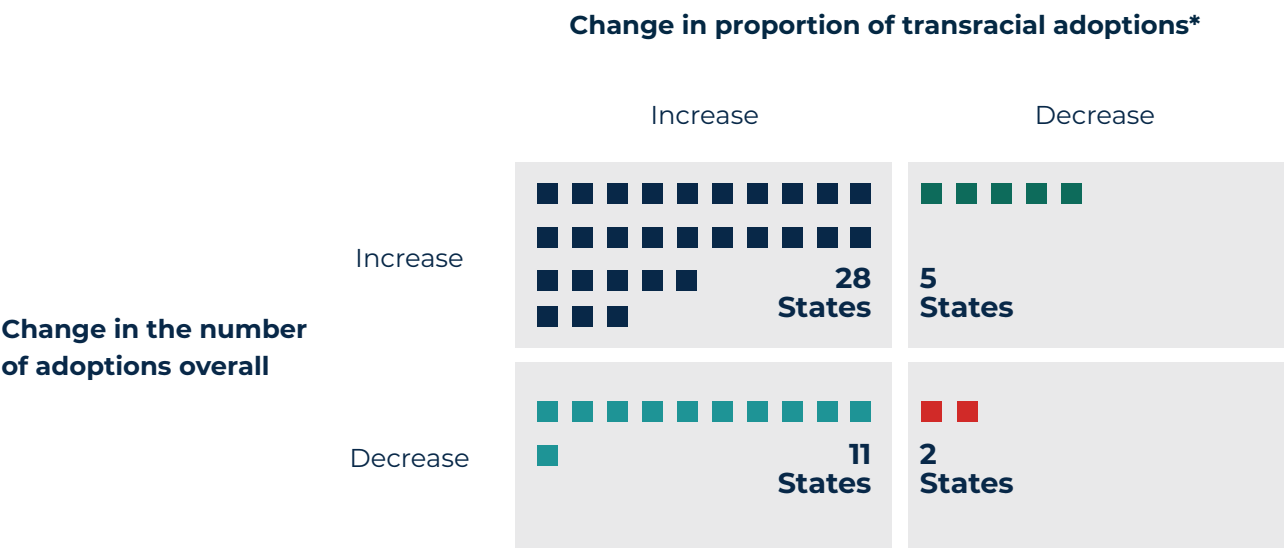
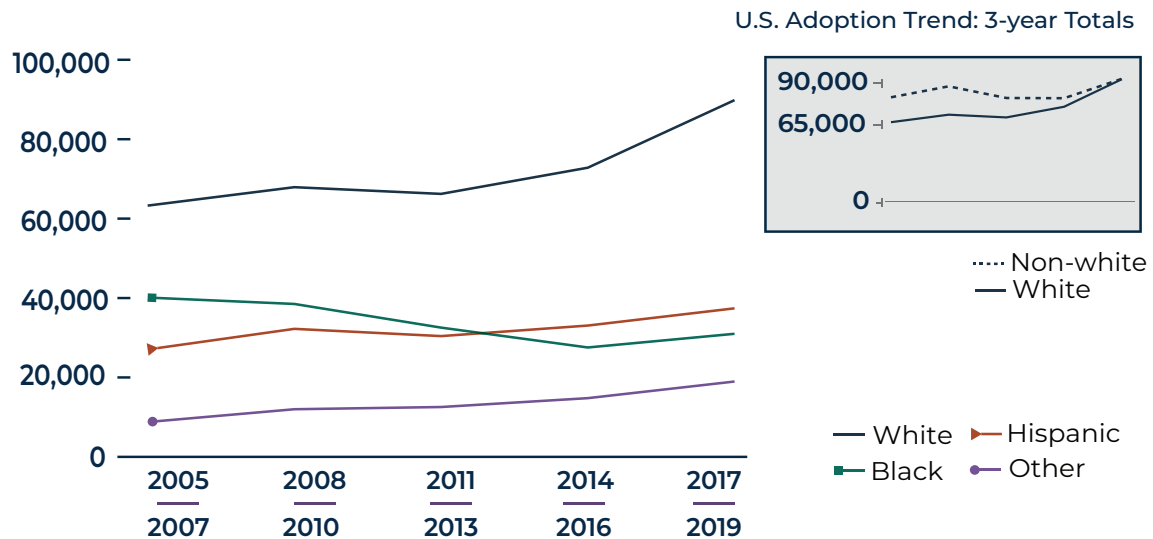


Figure 3. Most states had increases in the proportion of transracial adoptions and in the number of adoptions overall.



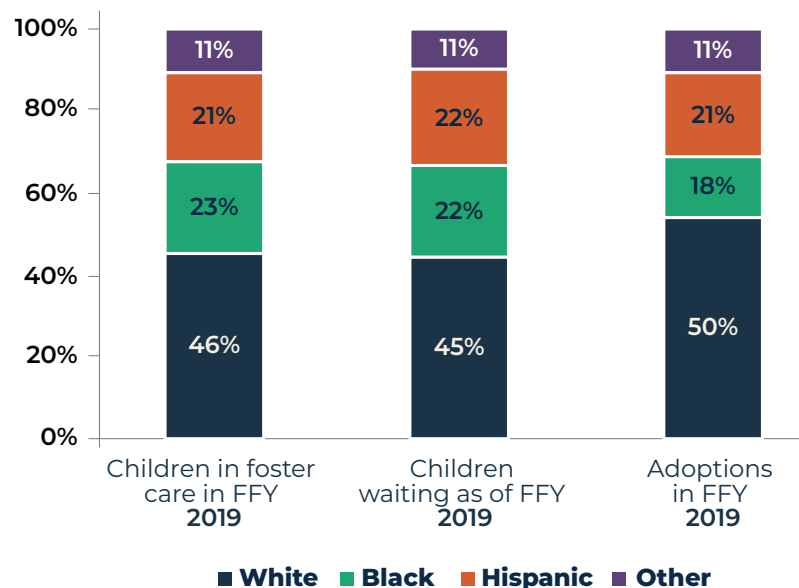
\*New York, Maine, Massachusetts, West Virginia, and Washington were not included given insufficient race/ethnicity data across the time period. Adoptions with insufficient race/ethnicity data were not included in the percentage calculations.

**Figure 4. While there was an increase in adoptions for White children and children of Hispanic origin between 2005-2007 and 2017-2019, there was a decline in adoptions for Black children. Over the same period, the gap between White and non-White adoptions decreased.**



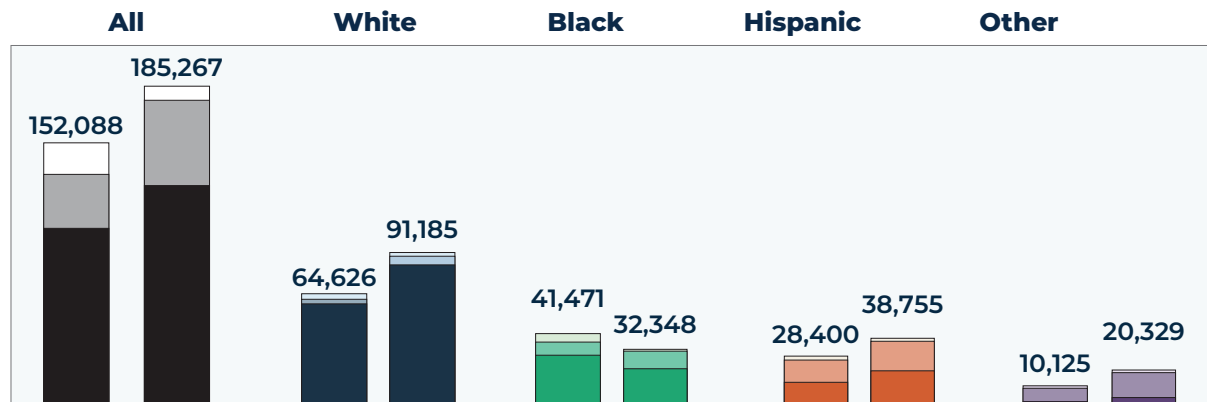
**Figure 5. Across the United States in 2017-2019, roughly half of adopted children are White.**

In the U.S., Black children comprised 23% of all children in foster care in 2019 and also 22% of all children waiting for adoption at the end of 2019. Relative to these populations, Black children were underrepresented among those that were adopted in 2019 (18%). There was no disproportionality for Hispanic children.

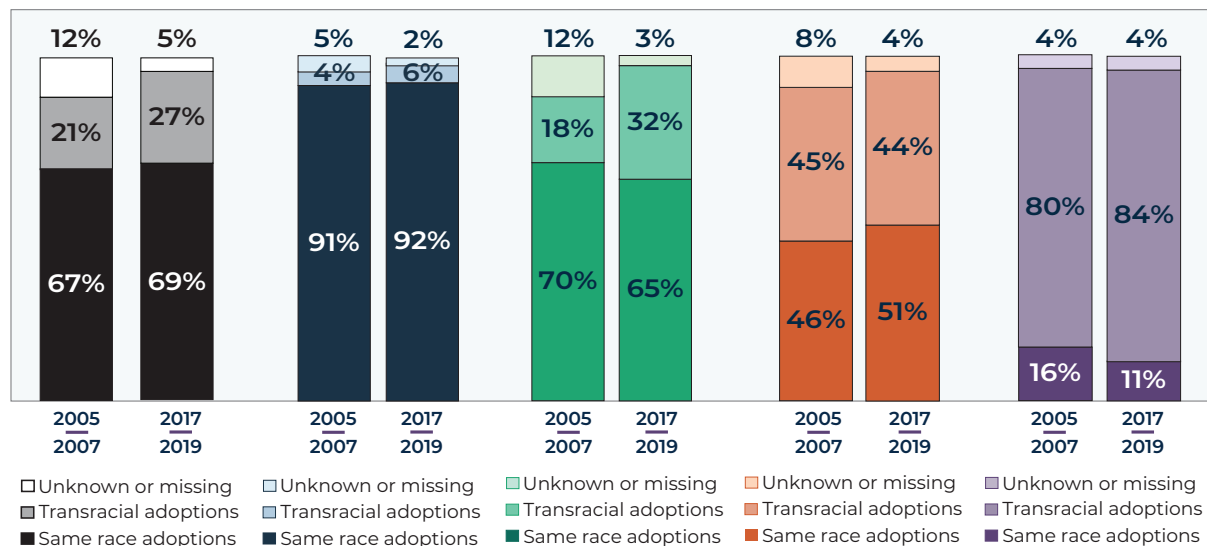


**Figure 6. As the number of adoptions increased between 2005-2007 and 2017-2019, the number and proportion of adoptions that were transracial also increased.**

The increase in proportion of transracial adoptions of Black children was mostly because of a decline in same race adoptions.



While half of all adoptions in the U.S. in 2017-2019 were of non-White children, half of these adoptions were transracial adoptions. Only 6% of adoptions of White children were transracial adoptions



#### Endnotes

- The data used in this publication, [Datasets 130,136,142,148,152,164,168,177,190,193,201,216,226,240,241, AFCARS Adoption FY2005-2019; Datasets 131,137,143,149,153,163,167,176,187,192,200,215,225,235,239, AFCARS Foster care FY2005-2019], were obtained from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect and have been used in accordance with its Terms of Use Agreement license. The Administration on Children, Youth and Families, the Children's Bureau, the original dataset collection personnel or funding source, NDACAN, Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.
- All years are the Federal Fiscal Year as reported by AFCARS.
- Data includes public adoptions from all 50 states and Washington D.C. Puerto Rico was not included given the lack of adoption data reported in recent years.
- States were determined to have insufficient race information when 15% or more adoptions had insufficient race information/missing within the 2005-2007 or the 2017-2019 year bands.
- The decrease in adoptions of Black children between 2005-2007 and 2017-2019 is partially explained by an increase in adoptions of children who are Black and more than one race or Black and of Hispanic origin.
- Transracial is defined using the transracial variable provided in the AFCARS files by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN). That variable identifies as transracial children who do not have the same race as any adoptive parent.
- Other races and ethnicities consist of more than one race, American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian Pacific Islander.
- Non-White consists of more than one race, American Indian, Asian, Hawaiian Pacific Islander, and Hispanic origin.
- To download an electronic copy of this document and for related reports, visit: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/mepa-transracial-adoption>

## Adoptions and Transracial Adoptions by State, 2005-2007 and 2017-2019

State	All adoptions 2005-2007	All adoptions 2017-2019	Transracial adoptions 2005-2007	Transracial adoptions 2017-2019
Alabama	1,071	1,942	120	456
Alaska	638	1,106	258	487
Arizona	4,040	11,354	1,128	3,137
Arkansas	1,104	2,944	181	650
California	22,571	19,599	6,119	5,640
Colorado	2,953	2,753	925	924
Connecticut	1,674	1,612	347	375
Delaware	290	353	55	131
District of Columbia	618	255	32	39
Florida	8,970	12,680	1,596	2,932
Georgia	3,408	4,423	532	1,007
Hawaii	1,069	542	538	273
Idaho	506	825	154	217
Illinois	4,757	5,278	685	1,359
Indiana	3,450	6,314	596	1,247
Iowa	2,993	3,273	677	800
Kansas	1,927	2,805	376	744
Kentucky	2,311	3,497	367	648
Louisiana	1,347	2,566	104	432
Maine	967	1,122	76	168
Maryland	1,382	956	109	248
Massachusetts	2,500	2,481	735	611
Michigan	8,090	6,109	1,502	1,642
Minnesota	1,935	3,566	543	1,220
Mississippi	774	1,509	89	189
Missouri	3,486	5,027	509	762
Montana	756	1,053	200	271
Nebraska	1,250	1,662	211	513
Nevada	1,250	2,273	362	760
New Hampshire	400	594	55	76
New Jersey	4,381	3,306	902	966
New Mexico	982	944	331	272
New York	8,679	5,107	0	1,424
North Carolina	3,958	4,403	784	1,147
North Dakota	404	528	138	213
Ohio	5,642	4,702	946	1,509
Oklahoma	3,316	6,645	1,030	3,174
Oregon	3,141	2,142	707	468
Pennsylvania	5,880	7,488	1,189	1,948
Rhode Island	714	688	243	299
South Carolina	1271	1,451	212	356
South Dakota	419	568	160	288
Tennessee	3,322	3,674	487	705
Texas	10,607	17,214	2,982	4,769
Utah	1,289	2,118	412	477
Vermont	517	798	35	99
Virginia	1,715	2,393	465	749
Washington	3,716	4,146	340	1,432
West Virginia	1,181	4,121	36	439
Wisconsin	2,274	2,086	714	786
Wyoming	193	272	36	58