



November 20, 2021 – 22nd Annual National Adoption Day Fact Sheet

Los Angeles Foster care and adoption statistics*:

- Virtual adoptions scheduled for today: **158 children (105 families)**
 - 31% of the children being adopted today are 10 years or older
 - 57% are sibling groups (35 groups of two or more siblings)
 - 63% of the children are being adopted by relatives and 37% of the children are being adopted by non-relatives
 - Age range:
 - 0-2 8%
 - 3-5 32%
 - 6-9 29%
 - 10-14 27%
 - 15+ 4%
 - Number of Los Angeles children receiving child welfare services: 32,963
 - 3,722 of these are youth age 18 and older in extended foster care (AB12) (11.3%)
 - Number of Los Angeles children in out-of-home care: 21,165
 - Number of Los Angeles children waiting to be adopted: 2,429 (freed children)
 - 632 of those “waiting” children have yet to be matched with an adoptive family
 - In 2020, there were 1,721 adoptions from foster care in Los Angeles
 - Of those, 62% were relative adoptions and 38% were non-relative adoptions
 - In 2020, 895 children “aged out” of foster care without a permanent family
- *Source: L.A. County DCFS Fact Sheet, Child Welfare Services – September 2021 (Data from CWS/CMS)

California Foster care and adoption statistics

- 60,778 children in out-of-home care (on 7/1/20)*
 - 14,436 waiting to be adopted**
 - 5,241 foster care adoptions finalized*
 - 3,037 youth aged out/emancipated from foster care (in the 12-month period 7/1/19 – 6/30/20)*
- *Source: Center for Social Services Research, School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley
- **Source: U.S. Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, AFCARS Report No. 27: Preliminary FY 2019 Estimates as of June 23, 2020

National Foster care and adoption statistics*

- 424,000 children in out-of-home foster care
 - 122,200 waiting to be adopted
 - Of those, 41% are over the age of 8 and 21% are teenagers
 - 66,000 adoptions finalized (the largest number since AFCARS began reporting in 1995)
 - 20,445 (or 8%) youth aged out of foster care without permanent families
- *Source: U.S. Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, AFCARS Report No. 27: Preliminary FY 2019 Estimates as of June 23, 2020

National Adoption Day (NAD) statistics*

- Number of children adopted on 2019 NAD: 5,200
 - Total number of children adopted on NAD since 2000: 80,000
 - Number of participating cities/counties 2019 NAD: 430
 - Due to COVID-19, many participating cities are holding virtual adoption events again this year. So far, 38 NAD events across 17 states are scheduled including in California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, and West Virginia. Visit www.nationaladoptionday.org.
- *Source: Alliance for Children’s Rights

National Adoption Day Los Angeles Virtual Press Event on Saturday, November 20 @ 8:15 am (PST) will be streamed online via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2D3UYcmzBs>



About National Adoption Day

Today is the **22nd annual** National Adoption Day. A coalition of national partners – the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Freddie Mac Foundation, Congressional Coalition on Adoption, and Children’s Action Network – founded National Adoption Day to raise public awareness of the thousands of children in foster care in the United States waiting to be adopted and to celebrate all loving families that adopt.

The first National Adoption Day was inspired by the innovative efforts of Michael Nash, former presiding judge of Los Angeles’ Juvenile Court, in collaboration with the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Public Counsel, and the Department of Children and Family Services to open the court on Saturdays and engage the volunteer efforts of *pro bono* attorneys to finalize large numbers of backlogged adoptions. Based on Los Angeles’ “Adoption Saturday” model, on November 18, 2000, the Alliance and its national partners organized the first-ever National Adoption Day, when *nine* cities opened their courts on the Saturday before Thanksgiving to finalize 1,100 foster care adoptions. As this grassroots effort took hold, the number of participating cities grew quickly, from 17 in 2001 to 340 in 2009 to 400 in 2018; as did the number of adoptions, from 1,500 in 2001 to 4,835 in 2009 to 5,200 in 2019. By 2007, National Adoption Day was celebrated for the first time in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Today, judges, social workers, attorneys, adoption advocates, and policymakers collaborate to plan these annual, one-day events in over 400 cities across the country and to date, the dreams of over **80,000** children in foster care have come true as part of National Adoption Day. Visit www.nationaladoptionday.org

Los Angeles “Adoption Day” Program

The Los Angeles “Adoption Day” program is a collaborative effort of the Los Angeles Juvenile Court, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Public Counsel, and hundreds of *pro bono* attorneys to finalize large numbers of adoptions of children from Los Angeles foster care. The Los Angeles Adoption Days are normally held four times throughout the year. Over **41,000** adoptions have been finalized since the inception of this program in 1997.

National Adoption Month

November is also National Adoption Month. This year’s National Adoption Month theme, **“Every Conversation Matters,”** brings attention to the needs of teens who are less likely to be adopted, often because of their age, and are much more likely to age out of foster care without strong or stable family support. Currently, 12% of youth in California foster care are “aging out” of the system without the support of a permanent family, leaving them at risk of homelessness, unemployment and other negative outcomes. Visit www.childwelfare.gov for resources to support opportunities for young people to effectively share their voice and perspective.

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