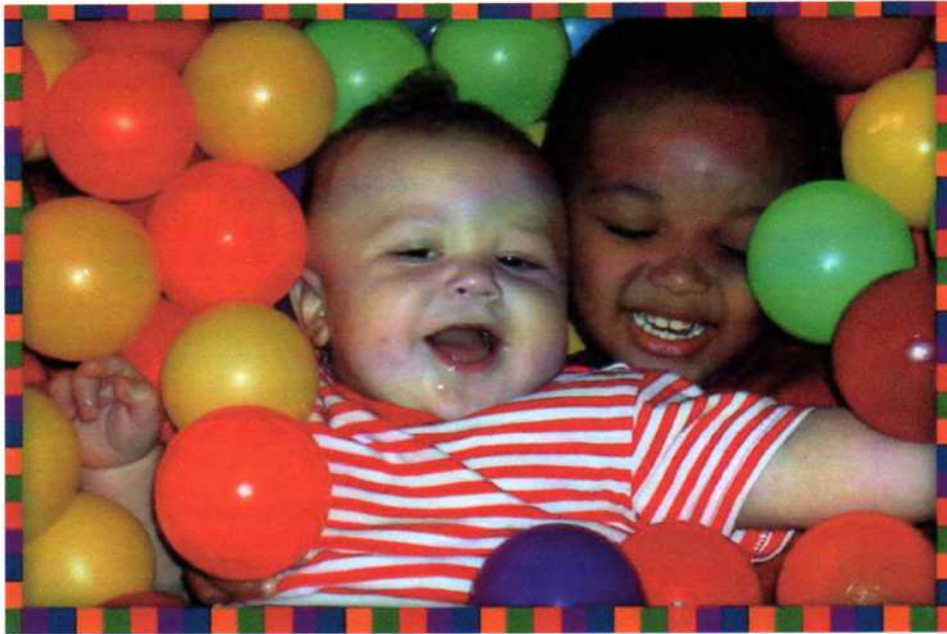




Transitions' Newsletter



Our Survey Results!

Thank you very much for participating in last year's survey!

We have gathered and compiled the results, and found some very interesting information. We are happy to present the results to you here, based upon your answers to our survey:

62% of potential birth mothers go through with an adoption.

48% of the time, a social worker is the first person to talk with a woman about adoption.

77% of survey responders and **21%** are 19-21. saw the same number of adoptions in 2004 and 2005.

80% of responders see zero to five adoptions per year.

38% of birthmothers are aged 22-25. **24%** of birth mothers are 16-18,



92% of the time birth mothers want to see their baby after birth.

76% of the time birth mothers choose to have an open adoption.

73% of responders said that birthfathers are involved zero to twenty-five percent of the time.

Transitions Adoption Agency

Director: Debra Fox

Counselor:
Whitney Huston

Social Workers:
Debbie Meloni
Cathy McNally

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Transitions' Philosophy

We believe that all birth mothers regardless of the color of their skin, their background, or circumstances, should have access to the adoption process if that is their desire. We believe that all birth mothers deserve respect, privacy and counseling that is non-judgmental. We maintain strict confidentiality in all matters pertaining to adoption.

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A Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,,

When a birth mother who recently placed her baby for adoption asked us to help her investigate obtaining a protection from abuse order against her boyfriend, she had questions that went beyond adoption. By the same token, when a prospective adoptive mother told us she was curious about the possibility of breast feeding her adopted child, and wanted to know where to turn, we realized our adoption expertise alone could not help her answer these questions. Every day birth mothers, adoptive parents, and social workers struggle with issues that can be difficult to navigate. That is one of the reasons we decided to create a website for our agency. We wanted to direct people to a user-

friendly site that could help them find answers to some of the issues they were contending with.

Our website is "Transitionsadoption.com" and we hope that all of you who receive this newsletter will pay us a visit, if only to see the resources we have put together on our links site. You will see that we can link you to everything from domestic violence programs, to medical insurance assistance, to shelters, women's health centers and drug addiction assistance.

We know that the social workers we come into contact with are aware of many of these resources, but we hope that they can view our website as a single trusted place where much of what they need is at their fingertips. And, if it isn't, we would welcome them to suggest areas that need development, or share with us sites that they have

found particularly useful.

Recently we placed for adoption a child born with spina bifida. The adoptive mother was able to use our website to quickly provide her with the number of a person who could help her find a physical therapist for her child.

We at Transitions feel that if we simply give adoptive related information, we are not doing enough. If a birth mother has made an adoption plan, but has no place to live during her pregnancy, then we are of little help to her. We want to feel that the job we are doing is complete. We want the people we work with to know that we are on their team.

Stay well,

Debbie Fox
Director

Statistics and Figures

The National Adoption Clearing House is an amazing resource for adoption information. The graph below can be found on their website (www.naic.acf.hhs.gov), in an article that describes the trends and statistics of women who place babies for adoption in the

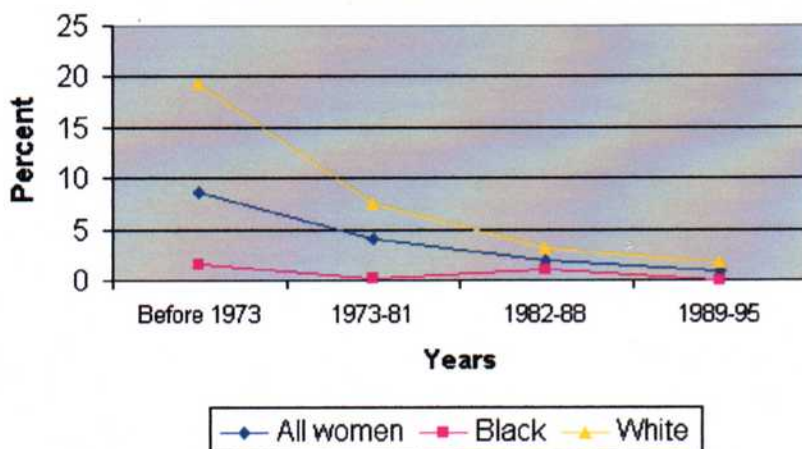
United States. This article states that approximately 1% of women who have never been married place babies for adoption. Statistics are not available for women who are married, or who were married, because they place babies even less frequently.

The chart below is very



Figure 1.
Percent of Infants Relinquished for Adoption by Never-Married Women Under 45 Years

Source: Chandra et al. (1999)



interesting. It shows adoption placement trends over a twenty year span. Black women have placed children for adoption about 1% of the time, until recently when the number has dropped to almost zero. The incidence of white women placing babies for adoption has dramatically decreased. Where thirty years ago, never married women placed 20 % of the time, now they place about 1.7% of the time.

Upcoming Conference:

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC); June 21-24, Nashville, TN, the Gaylord Opryland Resort. Call (843) 764-2905, or write: apsac@comcast.net, for more information and registration. Or, visit the website at: www.apsac.org

The Perinatal Social Work Network holds meetings every other month in Philadelphia. The programs are informative, pertinent, and interesting. The group is congenial, and each presentation earns 2 CEU's for PSWN members. For more information, call Transitions.

Book Reviews:

And Tango Makes Three; by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell (Simon & Schuster Children's, June 2005) A cute and enjoyable book, written specifically for children aged four to eight. The book is based upon the true story of two male penguins at the New York City Central Park Zoo. After the two males make an attempt to raise

and nurture a rock, an appealing zoo keeper gives them an unclaimed egg to nurture. The story is a tender and humorous story, telling a tale of a family that is a little different from others.

Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew; by Sherrie Eldridge (Dell Publishing Group, October 1999) Written by a woman who was adopted herself, this book gives insight into the mind

of an adopted child. The children tell stories of fear and hope. A highly recommended book, that helps adoptive parents anticipate the emotional state of their children. An empowering, warm, and candid book, that opens the minds of adopted children to their parents.

Quotes and Statistics

"Every child begins the world again."
~Henry David Thoreau

The information below was obtained from either the National

Adoption Information Clearinghouse (NAIC), or the 2000 Census report:

Less than 1% of infant adoptions disrupt.

A person can be adopted at any age, 2, 15, 25, etc. When you combine all adoptees (2.3%), birth parents(4.7%), and adoptive par-

ents(4.7%), you have approximately 11.7% of the population immediately impacted by adoption. This does not even include extended family and friends.



6-14 million kids in the United States have a parent who is gay or lesbian.

In 2000, 33% of lesbians, and 22% of gay men were raising children.

(All statistics and figures were gathered from the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse or the 2000 Census report.)



