

Adoption

Nevada

For the first time, the 2000 Census included a new category of relationship to the householder, “adopted son/daughter.” As a result, the Census was able to provide a profile of adopted children. In Nevada, 2.3 percent of all children under age 18 were adopted.¹

The Nevada Department of Human Resources reports that during fiscal year 2003, 276 children and youth were adopted in Nevada. The corresponding figure for 2002 was 239.²

Significant Factors

Approximately 1.6 million children, or 2.5 percent of all children in the U.S. under age 18 were adopted, according to the 2000 Census.³ About 87.0 percent of the children were native born and 12.6 were foreign born.⁴

Most people have family members or close friends who were adopted, adopted a child, or placed a child for adoption.⁵ Americans, overall, have a very favorable opinion towards adoption.⁶ They are, however, divided over what is best for a teenage mom. The 1997 Benchmark Adoption Survey found that 39 percent of respondents thought it was best for a teenage mother to raise the baby herself, and 37 percent thought she should put the baby up for adoption.⁷

Definition

*Adoption is a service provided for children who cannot be reared by their birth parents and who need and can benefit from new and permanent family ties established through legal adoption.*⁸

Adoption in Nevada: Fiscal Year 2003

<i>Adoptions</i>	<i>Number</i>
Eligible for subsidy*	1,747
Receiving subsidy*	1,386
Finalized adoptions**	276

*Annual month-end average.

**Year-end total.

Source: Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child & Family Services Information Management Services, 2003.