

CURRENT ADOPTION LANDSCAPE



ADOPTION RATIO IMBALANCE

There are far more families hoping to adopt than there are children placed for adoption. Recent estimates are around 75 waiting families to every 1 child placed for adoption.



EXPECTANT PARENTS ARE NOT TYPICALLY TEEN/FIRST TIME MOMS

Many pregnant people considering adoption are in their 20s and 30s, and they may have other children they are either struggling to parent or they may not have custody.

COSTS ARE RISING

The financial commitment involved in domestic adoption is substantial, with the average between \$45,000-\$50,000.



CRISIS SITUATIONS ARE COMMON

Many pregnant people considering adoption are experiencing various life crises such as homelessness, unemployment, financial instability, lack of social and emotional supports, etc., and the pregnancy the result of rape/sexual assault. We also see expectant parents experience mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder and, schizophrenia.



SUBSTANCE USE IS COMMON

Many pregnant people considering adoption may be experiencing substance use disorder. We commonly see use of tobacco, methamphetamines, cocaine, marijuana and fentanyl. Additionally, we often see prescription medication used for treating drug addiction, as it is not recommended for a woman who is addicted stop using while pregnant.



OPEN ADOPTION IS COMMON

Many birth parents prefer to receive regular pictures and updates, while others request yearly or more visits. Closed adoptions have become a rarity in an age of easy information access and prevalent DNA testing. Research also shows the positive impact of open adoption on adoptees, so it is currently recommended by adoption professionals. Families seeking only closed or semi-open adoptions will wait longer.

WAIT TIMES WILL DEPEND ON FAMILY MAKEUP, BUDGET AND PREFERENCES

Most Purl families will match or adopt within 9-15 months of being home-study approved and active with Purl, but wait times will vary considerably based on family makeup, budget, and adoption preferences (openness to drug exposures and mental illness). Families who are gender specific, have low budgets or are very limited on race, amount of substance exposure or mental health history they are open to will wait the longest to adopt.



SOME FAMILIES WAIT LONGER THAN OTHERS

Diverse families (where one or both of the parents are diverse) and married couples without children usually match the fastest. Families with biological children tend to wait longer than families with adopted children. Same-sex couples can be very successful in domestic adoption, depending on the adoption professionals they choose to work with. Single people tend to have much longer wait times.



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