



# Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange

2013-2014 Annual Report





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Dear Pennsylvanians:

Welcome to the 2013-14 Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange report. The Department of Human Services (DHS) has compiled data on demographics of adoptees and adoptive families; training, recruiting and outreach efforts for adoption services workers and stakeholders; resources for families; and the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network's (SWAN's) Helpline. We hope you'll find this informative and that it inspires you to help a child in need.

Pennsylvania's children and youth all should have permanent, supportive families.

Families in and outside the commonwealth can learn about the children looking for forever homes at the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange's website. Administered by DHS, the website features a photo album and profiles of Pennsylvania's prospective adoptees, so families can learn more about each one of these remarkable children.

Pennsylvania has become a national leader in our approach to adoption by letting the experts – the youth who want to be adopted – speak from their hearts about how being adopted would enrich their lives. SWAN's #MeetTheKids campaign has brought the issue of adoption into people's homes, showing Pennsylvanians that we have wonderful children and youth right here in the commonwealth who need love and permanent homes. Visit SWAN today at [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org).

I want to recognize foster and adoptive parents, partnering organizations, and DHS staff who work tirelessly to offer a better life to Pennsylvania's children looking for adoption or foster care. Together, you are making Pennsylvania a better place for our most valuable resource – our children.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf  
Governor



Dear Fellow Pennsylvanians:

The Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) has helped facilitate more than 38,200 adoptions since it began in 1992. That's more than the population of Easton or Chester or Greene County.

Each one of those 38,200 represents a family whose life is richer because they considered adopting a child looking for a home.

SWAN and the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange work with county children and youth agencies and SWAN affiliate agencies to bridge the gap between waiting children and approved adoptive families.

Pennsylvania is strengthening its web of kinship care, whenever possible by placing children with relatives, godparents or others who have positive relationships with them. The result is less time children need to wait for stable, loving homes.

Please help us to continue to improving the lives of these deserving children who need families and love. If you would like information about becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please visit [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org).

Sincerely,

Ted Dallas, Secretary  
Department of Human Services





## Introduction

### **Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network, SWAN**

The Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network works to find permanent homes for children in Pennsylvania's foster care system. The network is recognized nationally for its accomplishments in helping these children find families.

SWAN helps implement the permanency process by coordinating the work of the various professionals who help foster children find permanent homes. The network is led by the Department of Human Services (DHS), and is composed of: a prime contractor; county children and youth agencies; public and private child welfare agencies; organizations; advocates; attorneys; family court; foster, kinship, permanent legal custodianship and adoptive parents; and others who recognize that all children need and deserve permanent loving homes.

### **Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange, PAE**

The Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange, established in 1979, has played a key role in the commonwealth's adoption system for the past 35 years. PAE provides adoption matching services for children:

- Who are legally free for 90 days and have no report of intent to adopt filed; and
- For whom termination of parental rights is being pursued

Services provided by PAE include: registering children and families in the database so electronic matching can be performed, referring potential matches to the child's and the family's agencies, and providing training for workers and families at SWAN/Independent Living quarterly meetings and conferences.

The children served by PAE often face challenges such as: a history of abuse and neglect, a history of multiple placements, drug and alcohol exposure, special education needs, emotional disturbance, intellectual

disability, special medical care, physical disability, or runaway history. These children often face more than one of these challenges.

The data contained in this report reflects information about the children and families served by PAE from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. Pennsylvania had 1,766 adoptions finalized in calendar year 2013. Of these finalizations, 1,509 were children registered with PAE. Pennsylvania had 1,795 adoptions finalized in calendar year 2014. Of these finalizations, 1,006 were children registered with PAE. Not all children who are adopted require PAE's services.

### **Registering Children and Families**

PAE accepts the registration of waiting children from Pennsylvania's county children and youth agencies and from private adoption agencies. PAE also accepts registrations from agency-approved adoptive families, regardless of the state where the adoptive family lives. This policy helps Pennsylvania meet the Adoption and Safe Family Act requirements to eliminate all geographic boundaries that may hinder permanency for a child. SWAN policy requires that all waiting families who receive family profiles paid by the prime contractor be registered with PAE to maximize the opportunity for these waiting children to find a family. Database searches for waiting children and families are also conducted regularly to maximize placement opportunities.

### **Referrals for Waiting Children**

PAE makes referrals for potential matches for Pennsylvania's waiting children with registered families. Using demographic and behavioral characteristics, computer-suggested matches between registered children and families are forwarded to their respective agencies. Telephone and internet inquiries received from families or adoption caseworkers about specific children or families are also forwarded to the appropriate agency for potential matching considerations.



### Training and Recruitment at SWAN/ Independent Living Quarterly Meetings and Conferences

PAE provides education and training to permanency professionals at SWAN/Independent Living quarterly meetings and the SWAN/Independent Living Annual Permanency Conference. PAE's training and recruitment initiatives include:

- Providing monthly reviews of waiting children with SWAN county contacts and quarterly reviews of all recruitment efforts with the child's county caseworker;
- Providing semi-annual on-site reviews of all children with a goal of adoption;
- Assisting agencies to develop recruitment tools such as posters and child biographies with high-quality photos;
- Assisting with computer searches for suggested matches;
- Providing children's posters for local community recruitment;
- Contributing articles to the SWAN/Independent Living (IL) Network News and the Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association's newsletter;
- Showcasing waiting children on the PAE website, [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org);
- Providing photo-listing books of Pennsylvania's waiting children to more than 160 agencies;
- Facilitating television filming of waiting children on local stations;
- Facilitating matching events at the

summer and winter SWAN/IL statewide meetings; and

- Assisting agencies with local recruitment efforts.

### **Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry, PAIR**

On October 27, 2010, Senate Bill 1360 was signed into law. This amendment to the Adoption Act, known as Act 101 of 2010, went into effect on April 25, 2011. Act 101 of 2010 will have far-reaching effects on the ability of adoptees to maintain lifelong connections with their biological families. It will also allow them access to information when appropriate authorizations are on file that may not have been readily available in the past. Act 101 of 2010 established the Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry (PAIR), a statewide information registry for records and documents associated with all adoptions finalized or registered in Pennsylvania. The PAIR allows adoptees and birth parents to register information about themselves so adoptees can better understand their own past and its potential impact on their lives and the lives of their descendants. DHS developed procedures and forms for birth parents and adoptees to register with the PAIR and allows them to specify if identifying or non-identifying information may be released.

The PAIR expands the registration and search capabilities of those impacted by adoption. Siblings, if both are over 21, may register and search for each other. Descendants of deceased adoptees may register and search.





For children under 18 years old, an adoptive parent or legal guardian may search on behalf of the adoptee. All agencies involved in the finalization of a child are required to register medical and social information with the PAIR.

**2013 PAIR Statistical Information**  
(Jan. 1, 2013 - Dec. 31, 2013):

- 80 new birth parents registered with PAIR;
- 93 new adoptees registered and inquired about PAIR;
- 33 birth family requests were registered with PAIR;
- 164 adoptee requests were registered with PAIR;
- 1,771 adoptees were registered by agencies with PAIR.

**2014 PAIR Statistical Information**  
(Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014):

- 79 new birth parents registered with PAIR;
- 113 new adoptees registered and inquired about PAIR;
- 41 birth family requests were registered with PAIR;
- 237 adoptee requests were registered with PAIR;
- 1,681 adoptees were registered by agencies with PAIR.

**Resource Family Registry, RFR**

The department is required to maintain a Resource Family Registry (RFR) in which all foster, formal kinship, and adoptive parent applicants must be registered. Support for the RFR is provided by the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network’s prime contract with Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries in partnership with Family Design Resources. A total of 64,875 applicants have been registered with the RFR. Of that total, 14,747 applied for adoption, 37,161 applied for foster care, and 16,235 applied for formal kinship care. The “Office of Children, Youth and Families Bulletin #00-03-03, Kinship Care Policy,” defines formal Kinship Care as: The full-time nurturing and protection of a child who is separated from his parents and placed

in the home of a caregiver who has an existing relationship with the child and/or the child’s family. The existing relationship involves one of the following characteristics:

- Relative of the child through blood or marriage;
- Godparent of the child as recognized by an organized church;
- Member of the child’s tribal organization; or
- Significant positive relationship with the child or the child’s family.

As we continued to promote the concept of resource families in Pennsylvania, we see a trend that foster parents are the primary adopters of children in their care who become available for adoption.

**SWAN Helpline 1-800-585-7926 (SWAN)**

The toll-free SWAN Helpline, 1-800-585-7926, began in 1996 to respond to inquiries about adoption. Today, the SWAN Helpline is a central pathway for SWAN’s outreach efforts to families, often serving as the first point of contact for inquiring parents and potential adoptive and foster families. The SWAN Helpline averaged 253 calls per week in 2013 and 248 calls per week in 2014, with higher volumes during media campaigns. Calls are fielded by a team of information and permanency referral specialists. In addition to answering incoming calls, the specialists also make follow-up calls to families who have requested additional support in the permanency process, provide callers with informational SWAN Family Packets, and make referrals to other agencies.

**2013 Statistical Information**  
(Jan. 1, 2013 - Dec. 31, 2013)

- Total Calls – 13,369
- Incoming Calls – 6,802;
- Outgoing Calls – 6,567;
- SWAN Family Packets mailed to callers – 3,125;
- Referrals made to other agencies – 495.

**2014 Statistical Information**  
(Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014)

- Total Calls – 12,943
- Incoming Calls – 6,804;



- Outgoing Calls – 6,139;
- SWAN Family Packets mailed to callers – 2,100;
- Referrals made to other agencies – 1,891.

### **Pennsylvania's Seamless System Facilitated by PAE and SWAN Helpline**

In Pennsylvania's Seamless System, PAE and the SWAN Helpline work together with county children and youth agencies and SWAN affiliate agencies to bridge the gap between waiting children and waiting, approved adoptive families. Qualified families who would like to learn more about a waiting child can contact the SWAN Helpline and may receive additional information about a child who is posted to the [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org) website.

PAE coordinators work directly with the child's caseworker to get additional details about the child and review that information with the family. If the family remains interested in that child, PAE then notifies the child's worker.

County caseworkers and SWAN affiliate agencies are also critical to the success of Pennsylvania's Seamless System, as they routinely update information about the availability and status of children and families. Current information is key to keep the process moving and to assure that in-depth information on each child is available to approved families.

## Outreach Initiatives

### **Media Campaign 2013**

In 2013, DHS ran a targeted statewide recruitment television campaign, a targeted radio campaign, and print and online advertisements to increase awareness about the need for foster and adoptive families. The targeted television media campaign aired on network television and cable in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh media markets from April 15 through May 20, 2013. Starting July 22, 2013, the new media campaign #MeetTheKids began airing on network television and cable, rotating every two weeks through the months of July, August, and September 2013 in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg markets. #MeetTheKids offers potential foster and adoptive parents the opportunity to hear from youth waiting for homes. The #MeetTheKids campaign features 12 real kids from Pennsylvania who are waiting for adoption – waiting for someone to show them what a real family is. These kids were given iPods and asked to help film each other. They shared why they want a family and what having a family would mean to them. Of the 12 youth featured in the campaign, six have been matched with permanent families or have had their adoptions finalized.

A statewide online radio campaign, through Pandora Radio ran April 29 to June 3, 2013 and July 8 to September 20, 2013. Facebook and Google advertisements ran February 25 to September 30, 2013 statewide as well.

In celebration of National Foster Care Month, print advertisements ran to promote foster care and adoption awareness. Print advertisements targeting African American and gay communities ran in five newspapers or magazines including: Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia Tribune, Pittsburgh Courier, and in Out In Pittsburgh and G-Philly. The advertisements ran the entire month of May 2013.

In addition to the media campaign, OCYF's media contracts include subcontracts with three television stations: WHTM in Harrisburg, KDKA in Pittsburgh, and WBRE in Wilkes-Barre. All three stations run waiting child segments and their reporters participate in unique child interviews that feature the interests of the child. The sponsorships ran from July 1 through September 30, 2013.



### Media Campaign 2014

Because of the success of our first media campaign, #MeetTheKids in 2013, DHS decided to keep up the momentum with another media campaign. The 2014 campaign featured 12 additional youth from Pennsylvania's foster care system. The youth were again interviewed by each other and filmed by the production crew and each other. The youth were also joined by a family who adopted older youth to describe what it takes to be an adoptive parent. Of the 12 youth featured in the campaign, four have been matched.

A statewide online radio campaign, through Pandora Radio ran July 21, 2014 to September 30, 2014. Facebook and Google advertisements ran July 7, 2014 to September 30, 2014 statewide as well.

In celebration of National Foster Care Month, print advertisements ran to promote foster care and adoption awareness. Print advertisements targeting African American and gay communities ran in five newspapers or magazines including: Philadelphia Gay News, Philadelphia Tribune, Pittsburgh Courier, Out In Pittsburgh, and G-Philly. The advertisements ran the entire month of May 2014.

In addition to the media campaign, OCYF's media contracts include subcontracts with three television stations: WHTM in Harrisburg, KDKA in Pittsburgh, and WBRE in Wilkes-Barre. All three stations run waiting child segments and their reporters participate in unique child interviews that feature the interests of the child. The sponsorships ran from July 1 through September 30, 2014.

### National Adoption Month

In November 2013, in recognition of National Adoption Month, DHS issued 25 mini-grants to private and public agencies across Pennsylvania to support local foster care and adoption awareness events. Various events and celebrations were held, including such things as adoption finalization ceremonies, matching events, skating party, movie nights, recognition ceremonies, festivals, and sporting events. To qualify, agencies had to submit a proposal for review and approval. DHS issued 39 mini-grants in November 2014.

### Website: [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org)

The Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange's website was created in 1999 to assist in matching waiting children with prospective, approved adoptive families. Administered by DHS, the website helps eliminate geographic boundaries as it recruits families who live outside Pennsylvania. It is one of the most visited sites that DHS operates.

The most popular feature of the website is the photo album of Pennsylvania's waiting children, which features photographs and personal stories about the children and serves as a powerful recruitment tool. The website also features:

- Information on how to become a foster parent;
- Information on how to become an adoptive parent;
- Information about the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network;
- Information about the Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange;
- Access to a variety of forms;
- Information about post-permanency services; and
- Frequently asked questions.

The website offers links to additional services and support group organizations, including:

- Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association;
- National adoption organizations;
- Medical and health related links;
- Search and reunion services;
- Organizations serving families and children with challenges; and
- Additional photo listing websites.

### *2013 Statistical Information:*

- Total website visits – 643,550;
- Photo album visits – 294,506;
- Average site visits per day – 1,813;
- Busiest day for site visits – Tuesday;
- Busiest time for site visits – 2-3 p.m.;
- Most downloaded form – Act 101 Bulletin.



*2014 Statistical Information:*

- Total website visits – 697,495;
- Photo album visits – 218,828;
- Average site visits per day – 1,905;
- Busiest day for site visits – Mondays and Thursdays;
- Busiest time for site visits – 9-10 p.m.;
- Most downloaded form – Act 101 Bulletin.



**Waiting Child**

KDKA’s Waiting Child segment began in 1982 as a child-specific recruitment tool for children in the Pittsburgh area. Lynne Hayes-Freeland, a news anchor with CBS affiliate KDKA, engages

the featured child in a chosen activity and films the child doing what he or she does best – being a kid. The segments are shown in conjunction with commercials from SWAN and Wendy’s®. Families interested in adoption are encouraged to contact the SWAN Helpline, visit [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org), or to call Three Rivers Adoption Council at (412) 471-8722. The segment airs on the 6 p.m. news every other Tuesday, at noon the next day and again on the Lynne Hayes-Freeland Show, which airs on Saturdays and Sundays.

*2013 Statistical Information:*

- 10 children were featured on the Waiting Child segment. Of these children, three now have a family identified;
- Waiting Child has a 65 percent success rate for finding families for children in western Pennsylvania;
- Since the start of the program in 1982, 557 children were interviewed, and 363 children were matched and found permanent homes.

*2014 Statistical Information:*

- 14 children were featured on the Waiting Child segment. Of these children, four now

have a family identified;

- Waiting Child has a 65 percent success rate for finding families for children in western Pennsylvania;
- Since the start of the program in 1982, 571 children were interviewed, and 364 children were matched and found permanent homes.



**Val’s Kids**

Val’s Kids was established by SWAN in 2000 to recruit more central Pennsylvania families for specific waiting children, often teenagers. Children are taken to a favorite location (mall, sports

arena, a local park, etc.) and videotaped doing a fun activity. Valerie Pritchett, a news anchor/reporter for WHTM ABC27, a Harrisburg affiliate, talks to the children and their caseworkers about their needs, interests, what they are looking for in a family, and how long they have been waiting for permanency. Pritchett provides information on how to inquire about these waiting children through the website, [www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org) and through the SWAN Helpline at 1-800-585-SWAN. The show airs on ABC27 at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and again at 6 p.m. Sundays.

*2013 Statistical Information:*

- 13 children were featured on Val’s Kids;
- Val’s Kids had a 39 percent overall success rate in finding families for waiting children in central Pennsylvania;
- Since the start of the program in 2000, 293 children were interviewed;
  - Adoptions were finalized for 90 of these children; and
  - 28 of these children were matched with adoptive families.

*2014 Statistical Information:*

- 13 children were featured on Val’s Kids. Of these children, two have a family identified;



- Val’s Kids had a 32 percent overall success rate in finding families for waiting children in central Pennsylvania;
- Since the start of the program in 2000, 306 children were interviewed;
  - Adoptions were finalized for 98 of these children; and
  - 24 of these children were matched with adoptive families.
- Since the start of the program in 2007, 85 children were interviewed in 73 segments;
  - 21 children were adopted; and
  - Nine were matched and placed with permanent families.
- A Little Love had a 35 percent overall success rate in finding families for waiting children in northeast Pennsylvania.

### **A Little Love**

On February 14, 2007, WBRE-TV 28, an NBC affiliate, aired the first segment of “A Little Love” in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. A Little Love is the third waiting-child segment funded through SWAN to help recruit families to adopt children in foster care and provide workers with an additional recruitment tool for the children with whom they work.

A Little Love focuses on the featured children’s desires and ambitions. The host, Monica Madeja, works closely with her community and the children’s caseworkers to decide on an exciting activity or event for the children to participate. Madeja takes the children’s desires and ambitions and turns them into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Some activities and events done with the children include: helping a veterinarian perform a minor surgery on a cat, attending minor league baseball and hockey games, pampering at a day spa, getting guitar and singing lessons, spending the day at a water park, and attending a magic show. Madeja also talks with the children and their caseworkers about the children’s interests and what type of families they hope to become a part of. Families interested in adopting a child featured on A Little Love or who want to learn more about adoption are encouraged to contact the SWAN Helpline at 1-800-585-SWAN. A Little Love airs on Wednesdays on the 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. news.

### *2014 Statistical Information*

- Eight children were aired on the A Little Love segment. Of those, two children were matched and placed with families. Six have yet to have families identified;
- Since the start of the program in 2007, 93 children were interviewed in 90 segments;
  - 24 children were adopted; and
  - 16 were matched and placed with permanent families.
- A Little Love has a 26 percent overall success rate in finding families for waiting children in northeast Pennsylvania.

### *2013 Statistical Information*

- Nine children were aired on the A Little Love segment. Of those, two children were matched and placed with families. Seven have yet to have families identified;



## Key Findings - 2013

### Children Served

- 2,741 children were served (Chart 1, page 15)
- 1,181 new child registrations were received (Chart 1, page 15)
- 764 of the 2,741 children, or 27.8 percent, were age 13 to 18 (Chart 3, page 17)
- 876 of the 2,741 children, or 32 percent, were placed in adoptive homes (Chart 1, page 15)
- 1,509 of the 2,741 children, or 55 percent, were finalized for adoption (Chart 1, page 15)

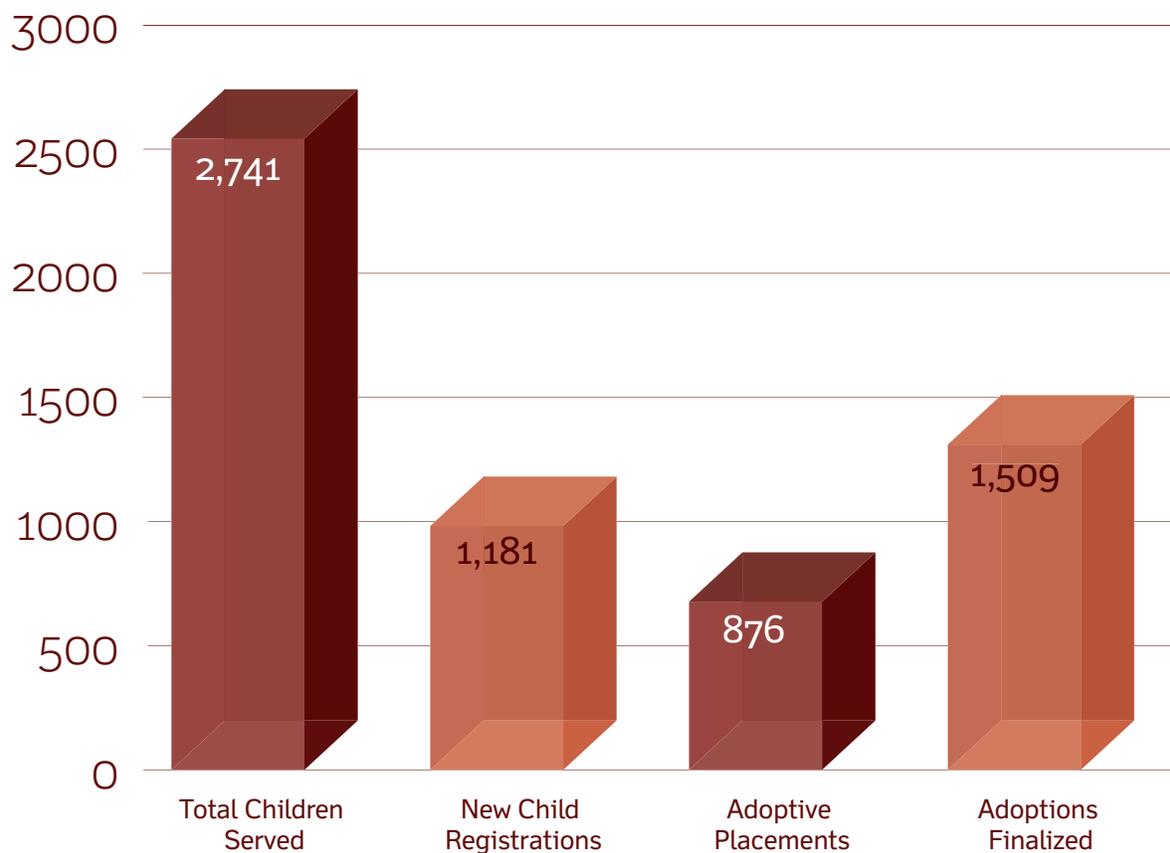
### Families Served

- 2,078 families were served (Chart 2, page 16)
- 800 families, or 38.4 percent, were active and still waiting for an adoptive placement at the close of the calendar year (Chart 2, page 16)
- 635 of the 2,078 families, or 30.5 percent, accepted an adoptive placement in 2013 (Chart 2, page 16)
- 788 new families were registered (Chart 2, page 16)





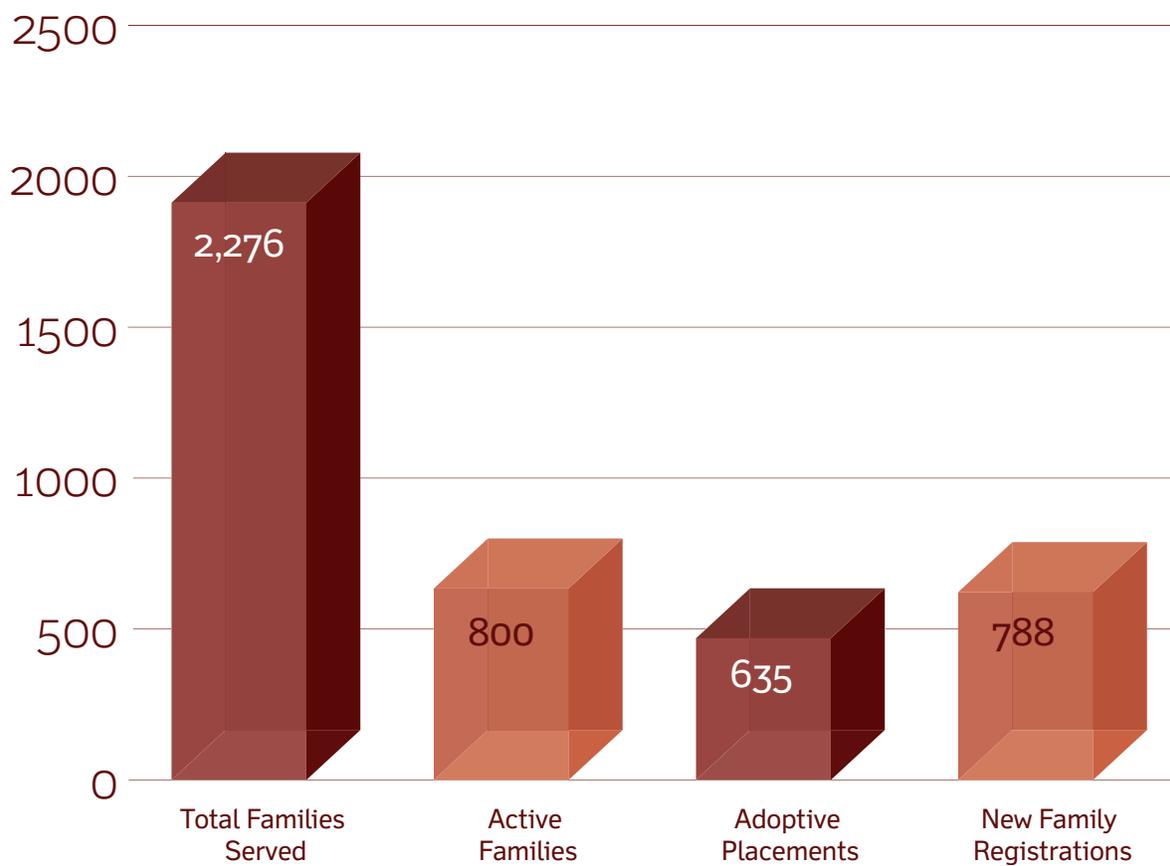
## Children Served by PAE in 2013 Total Children Served - 2,741 (Chart 1)



Note: Not all children who are available for adoption are registered with PAE. (See page 5 for registration requirements.)



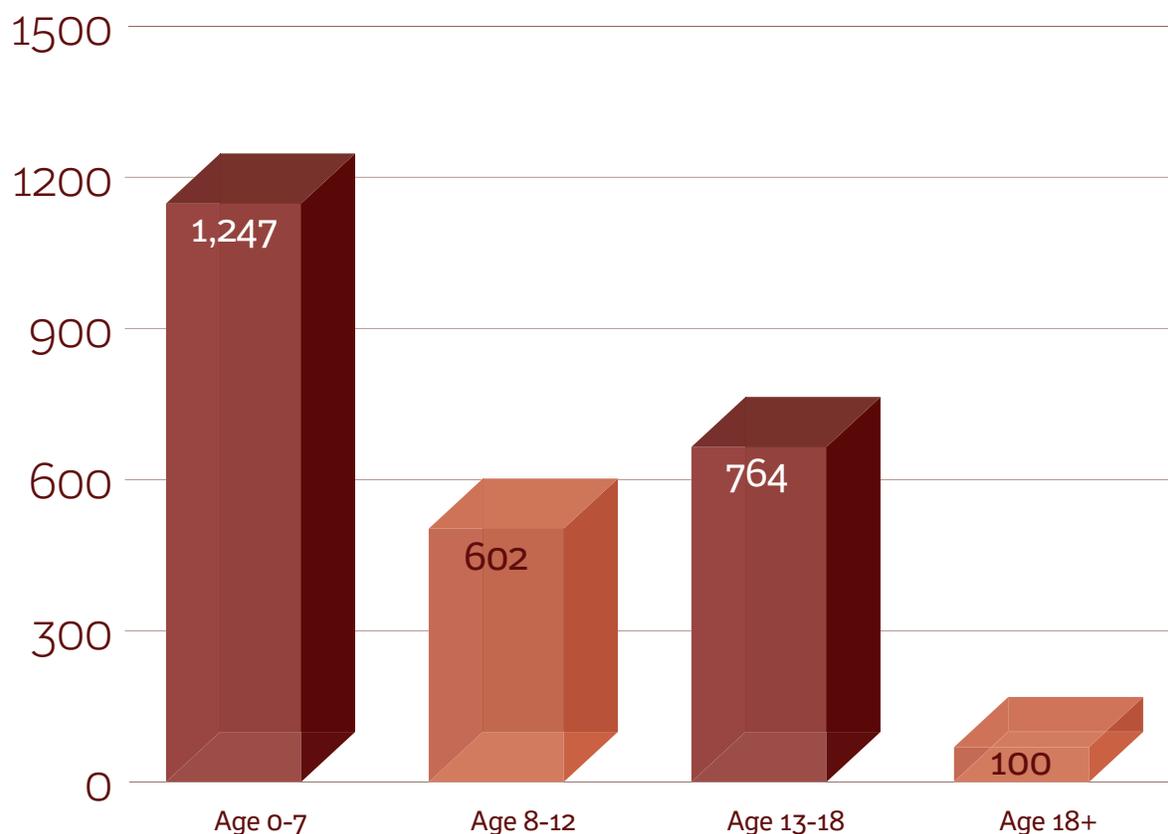
## Adoptive Families Served by PAE in 2013 Total Families Served – 2,078 (Chart 2)





## Age of Children Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 3)

- 1,247 of the 2,741 children, or 45.4 percent, were age 0 to 7
- 602 of the 2,741 children, or 22 percent, were age 8 to 12
- 764 of the 2,741 children, or 27.8 percent, were age 13 to 18
- 100 of the 2,741 children, or 3.6 percent, were over age 18

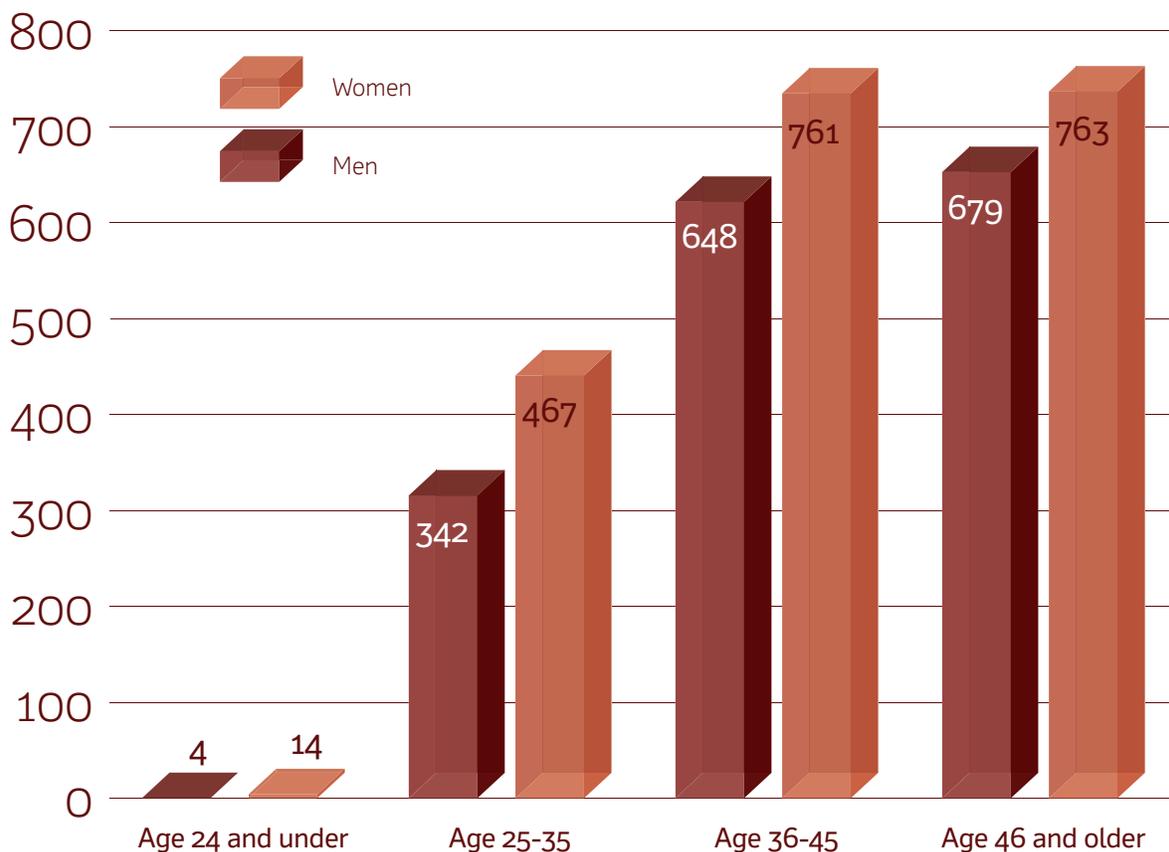


Note: Of the 1,247 children age 0 to 7, nearly all have an adoptive family identified for them. Twenty-eight children are of unknown age.



## Age and Gender of Prospective Adopters Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 4)

- 1,673 men were prospective adopters
  - Four men were age 24 and under, representing 0.2 percent of the total
  - 342 men were age 25 to 35, representing 20.4 percent of the total
  - 648 men were age 36 to 45, representing 38.7 percent of the total
  - 679 men were age 46 and older, representing 40.5 percent of the total
- 2,005 women were prospective adopters
  - 14 women were age 24 and under, representing 0.6 percent of the total
  - 467 women were age 25 to 35, representing 23.2 percent of the total
  - 761 women were age 36 to 45, representing 38 percent of the total
  - 763 women were age 46 and older, representing 38.1 percent of the total

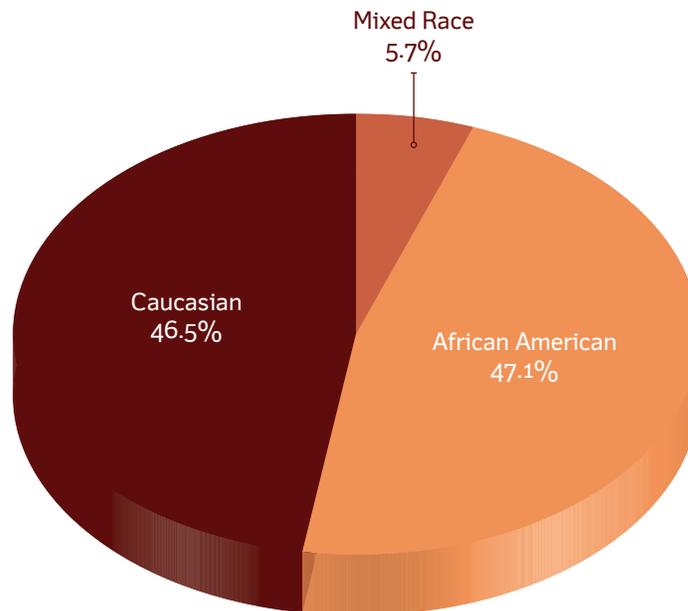




## Race/Ethnicity of Children Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 5)

2,741 children were served

- 1,293 children, or 47.1 percent, are African American
- 1,276 children, or 46.5 percent, are Caucasian
- 158 children, or 5.7 percent, are mixed race
- Nine children, or 0.3 percent, are Asian
- Three children, or 0.1 percent, are Native American
- Two children, or 0.07 percent, are Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander



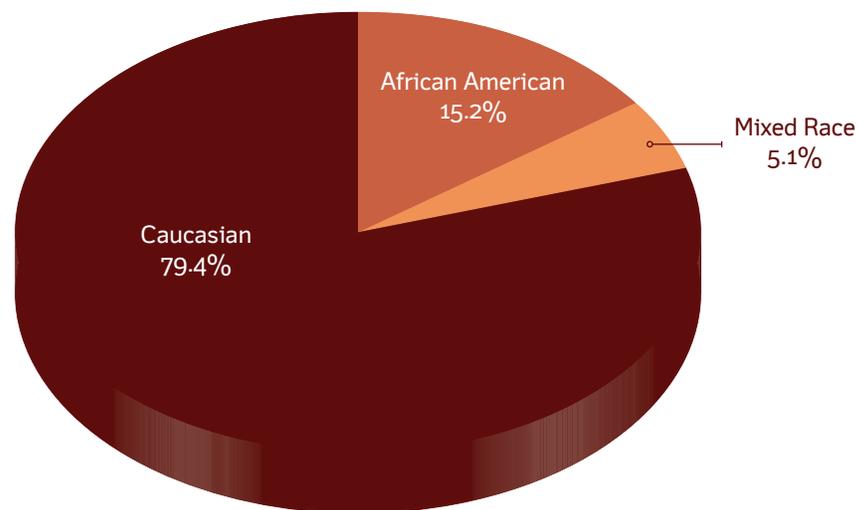
Note: Hispanic children are not included in the pie chart because this characteristic is collected as a component of ethnicity and is not a part of race. Nine Asian children, three Native American children and two Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children are not included in the pie chart above because they represent less than 1 percent of the children served.



## Race/Ethnicity of Adoptive Families Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 6)

2,078 adoptive families were served in 2013

- 1,651 of the families, or 79.4 percent, are Caucasian
- 316 of the families, or 15.2 percent, are African American
- 107 of the families, or 5.1 percent, are of mixed race
- Three families, or 0.1 percent, are Native American
- One of the families, or 0.04 percent, is Asian

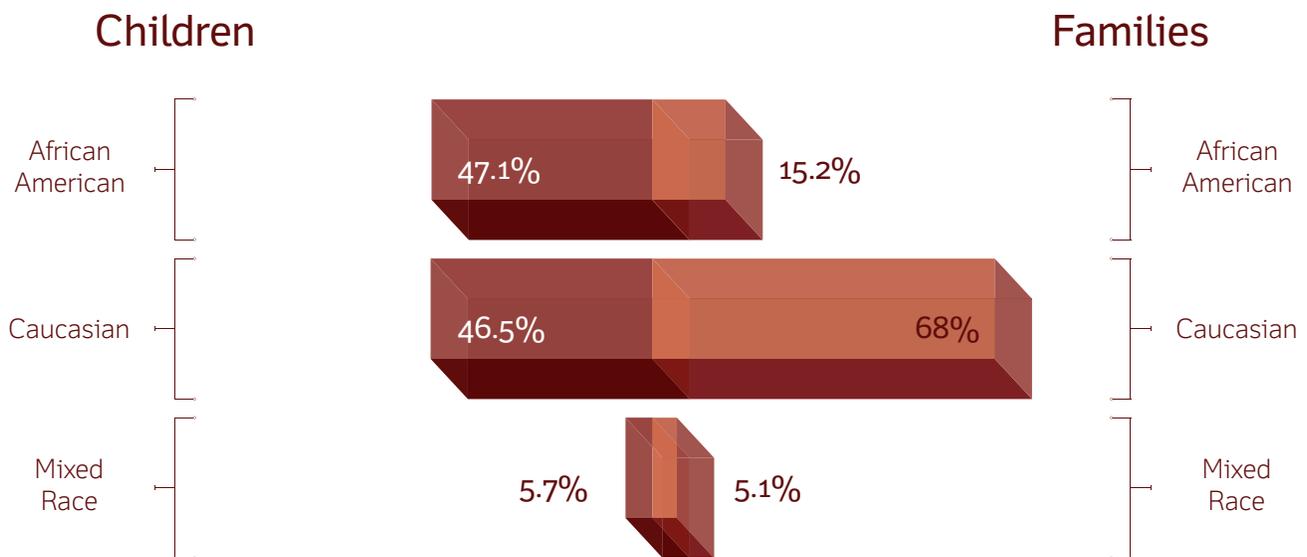


Note: Hispanic families are not included in the pie chart because this characteristic is collected as a component of ethnicity and is not a part of race. One Asian family and three Native American families are not included in the pie chart above because they represent less than 1 percent of the families served.



## Comparison of the Race/Ethnicity of Families and the Race/Ethnicity of Children Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 7)

- 1,293 children, or 47.1 percent, are African American
- 316 families, or 15.2 percent, are African American
- 1,276 children, or 46.5 percent, are Caucasian
- 1,651 families, or 79.4 percent, are Caucasian
- 158 children, or 5.7 percent, are of mixed race
- 107 families, or 5.1 percent, are of mixed race
- Nine children, or 0.3 percent, are Asian
- One family, or 0.04 percent, is Asian
- Three children, or 0.1 percent, are Native American
- Three families, or 0.1 percent are Native American
- Two children, or 0.07 percent, are Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- No family is Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

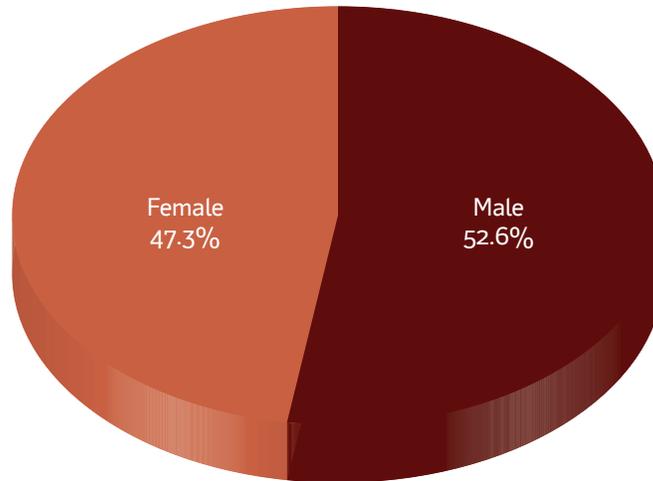


Note: Nine Asian children, three Native American children, two Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children and three Native American families are not included in the chart above because they represent less than 1 percent of the children and families served.



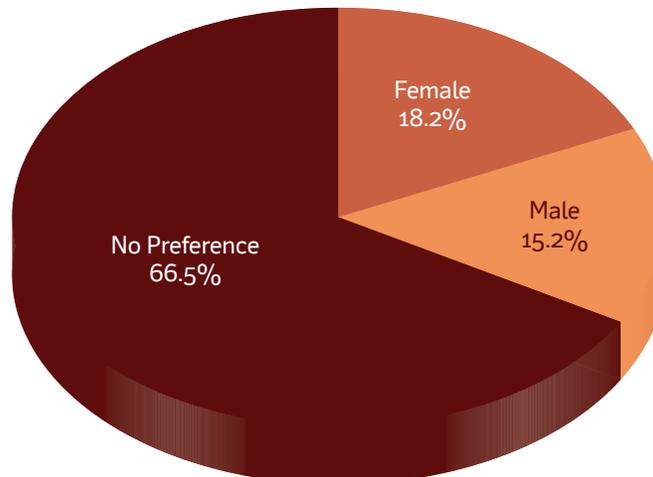
## Gender of Children Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 8)

- 1,444 children were male, representing 52.6 percent of the total
- 1,297 children were female, representing 47.3 percent of the total



## Gender Preferences of Adoptive Families Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 9)

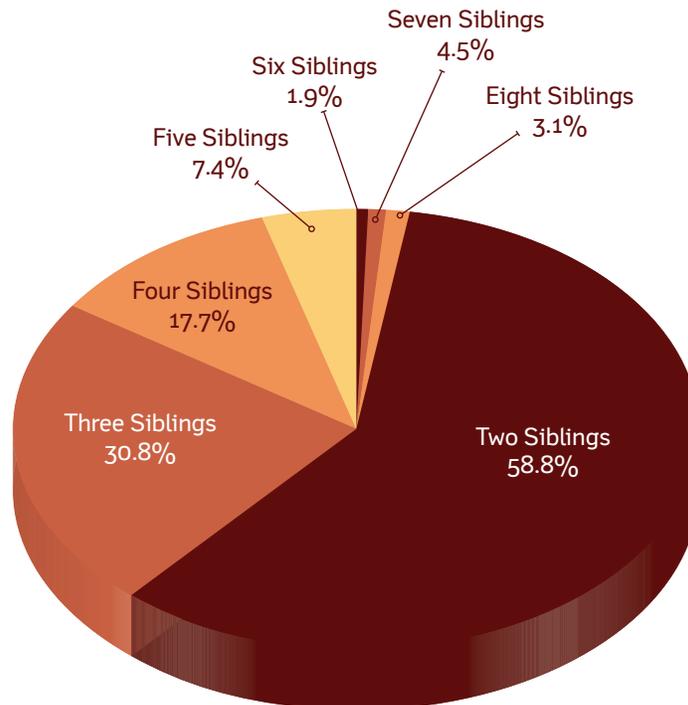
- 1,382 families, or 66.5 percent, did not have a gender preference
- 379 families, or 18.2 percent, preferred females
- 317 families, or 15.2 percent, preferred males





## Size of Sibling Groups Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 10)

- Of the 2,741 children served, 651 or 23.7 percent, belonged to a sibling group
- Of the 651 children served who were part of a sibling group:
  - 383 children, or 58.8 percent, belonged to a sibling group of two
  - 150 children, or 23 percent, belonged to a sibling group of three
  - 72 children, or 11 percent, belonged to a sibling group of four
  - 28 children, or 4.3 percent, belonged to a sibling group of five
  - Five children, or 0.7 percent, belonged to a sibling group of six
  - Six children, or 0.9 percent, belonged to a sibling group of seven
  - Seven children, or 1 percent, belonged to a sibling group of eight or more

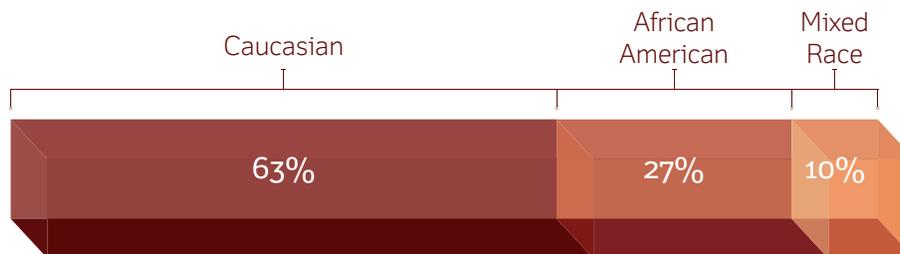


Note: All members of a sibling group do not necessarily receive PAE services.



## Race/Ethnicity of Sibling Groups Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 11)

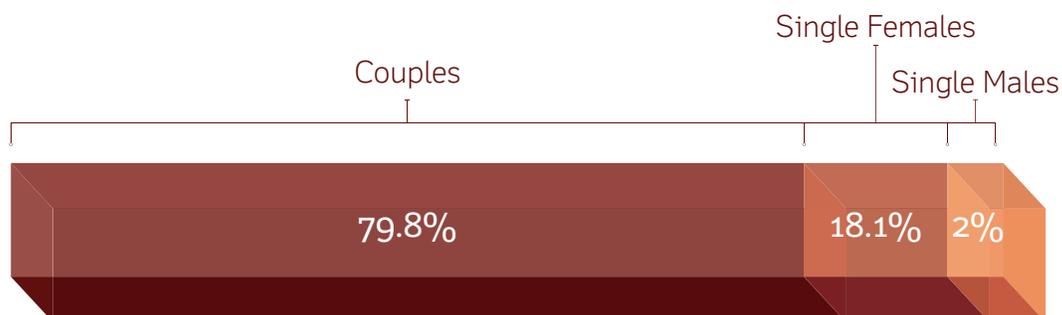
- The 651 children belong to 458 unique sibling groups:
  - 183 sibling groups, or 40 percent, are African American
  - 237 sibling groups, or 51.7 percent, are Caucasian
  - 37 sibling groups, or 8 percent, are mixed race
  - One sibling group, or 0.2 percent, is Native American



Note: Hispanic children are not included in the pie chart because this characteristic is collected as a component of ethnicity and is not a part of race. One Native American child is not included in the chart above because they represent less than 1 percent of the children served in a sibling group.

## Marital Status of Adoptive Families Served by PAE in 2013 (Chart 12)

- Of the 2,078, adoptive families served:
  - 1,659 families were couples, representing 79.8 percent of the total
  - 377 families were single females, representing 18.1 percent of the total
  - 42 families were single males, representing 2 percent of the total





## Key Findings - 2014

### Children Served

- 2,415 children were served (Chart 1, page 25)
- 1,119 new child registrations were received (Chart 1, page 25)
- 544 of the 2,415 children, or 22.5 percent, were age 13 to 18 (Chart 3, page 27)
- 651 of the 2,415 children, or 27 percent, were placed in adoptive homes (Chart 1, page 25)
- 1,006 of the 2,415 children, or 41.6 percent, were finalized for adoption (Chart 1, page 25)

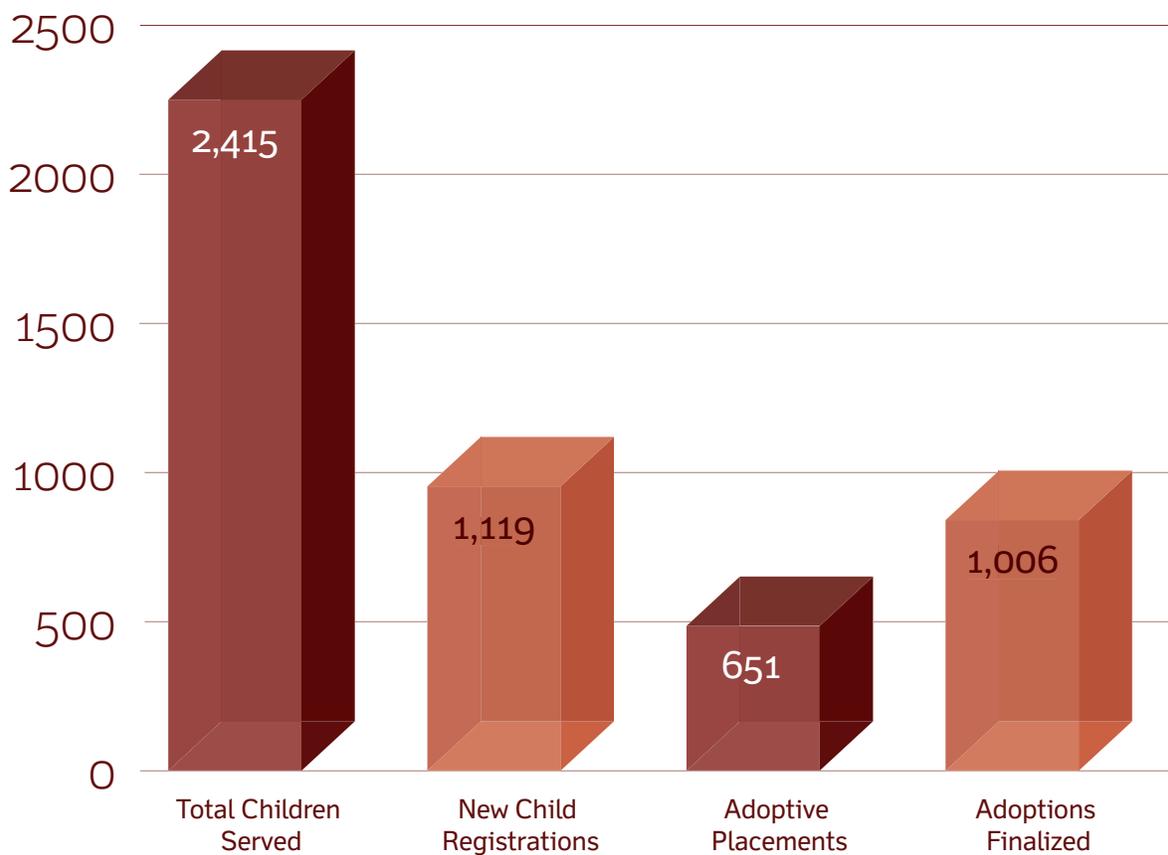
### Families Served

- 2,096 families were served (Chart 2, page 26)
- 799 families, or 38.1 percent, were active and still waiting for an adoptive placement at the close of the calendar year (Chart 2, page 26)
- 600 of the 2,096 families, or 28.6 percent, accepted an adoptive placement in 2014 (Chart 2, page 26)
- 856 new families were registered (Chart 2, page 26)





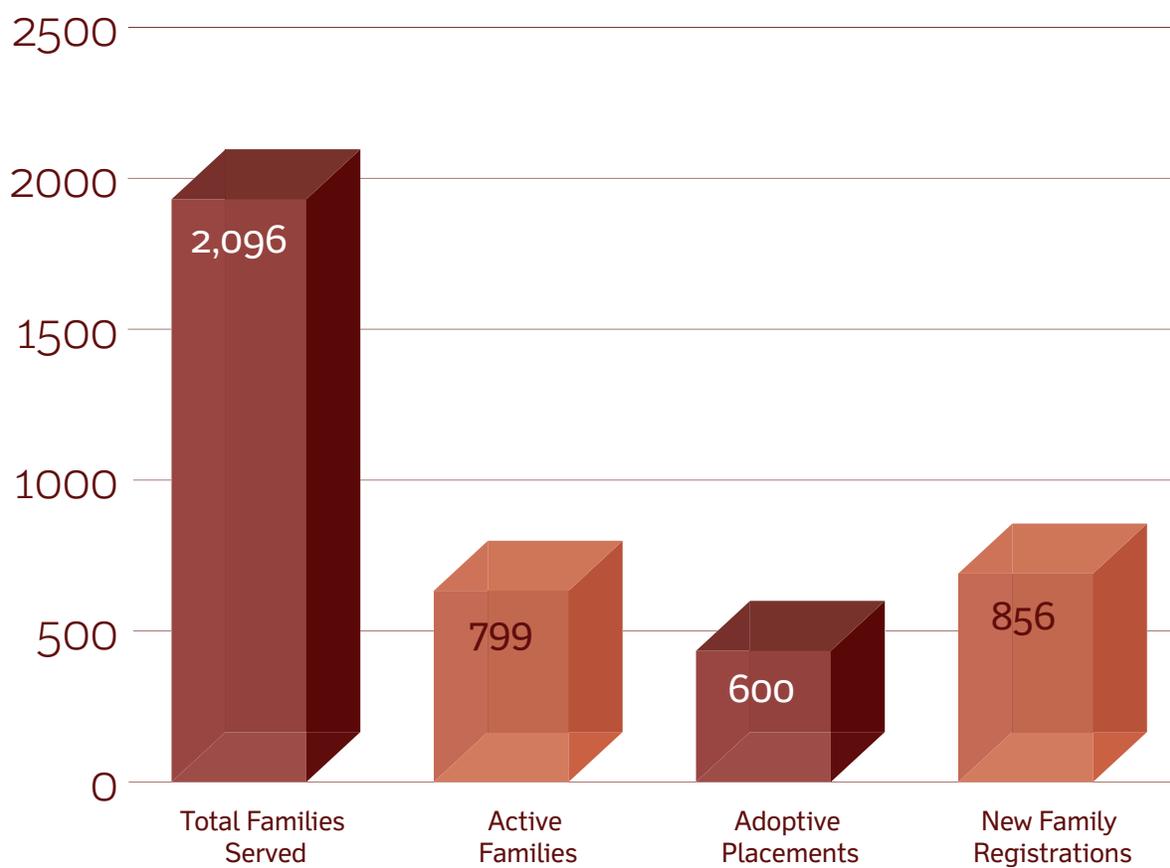
## Children Served by PAE in 2014 Total Children Served - 2,741 (Chart 1)



Note: Not all children who are available for adoption are registered with PAE. (See page 5 for registration requirements.)



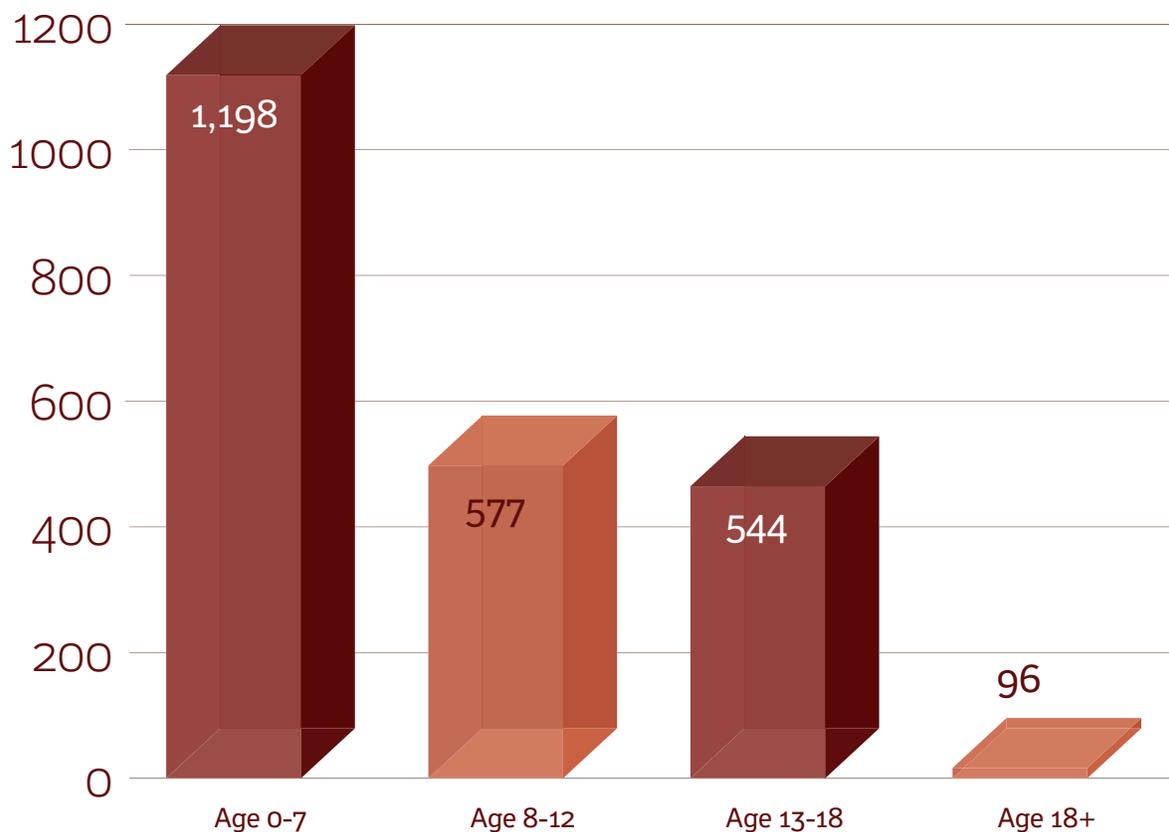
## Adoptive Families Served by PAE in 2014 Total Families Served – 2,078 (Chart 2)





## Age of Children Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 3)

- 1,198 of the 2,415 children, or 49.6 percent, were age 0 to 7
- 577 of the 2,415 children, or 23.8 percent, were age 8 to 12
- 544 of the 2,415 children, or 22.5 percent, were age 13 to 18
- 96 of the 2,415 children, or 4 percent, were over age 18

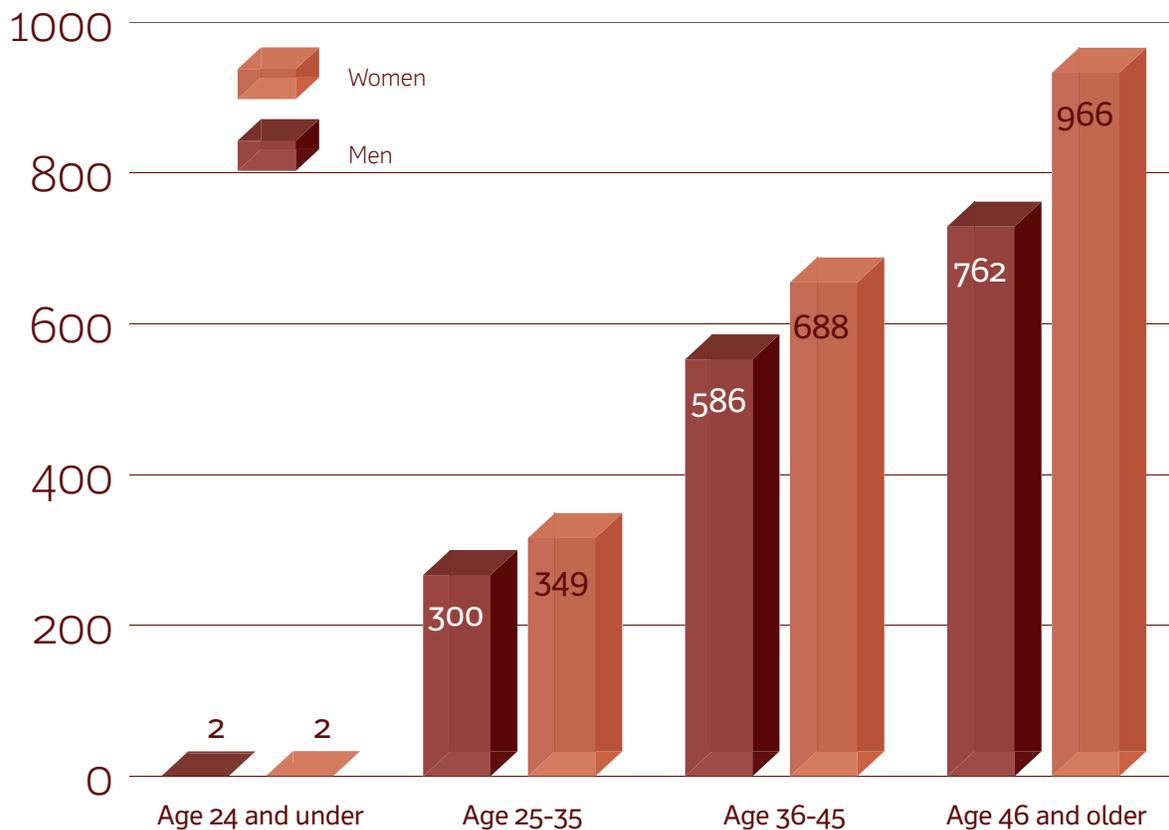


Note: Of the 1,198 children age 0 to 7, nearly all have an adoptive family identified for them.



## Age and Gender of Prospective Adopters Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 4)

- 1,650 men were prospective adopters
  - Two men were age 24 and under, representing 0.1 percent of the total
  - 300 men were age 25 to 35, representing 18.1 percent of the total
  - 586 men were age 36 to 45, representing 35.5 percent of the total
  - 762 men were age 46 and older, representing 46.1 percent of the total
- 2,005 women were prospective adopters
  - Two women were age 24 and under, representing 0.09 percent of the total
  - 349 women were age 25 to 35, representing 17.4 percent of the total
  - 688 women were age 36 to 45, representing 34.3 percent of the total
  - 966 women were age 46 and older, representing 48.1 percent of the total

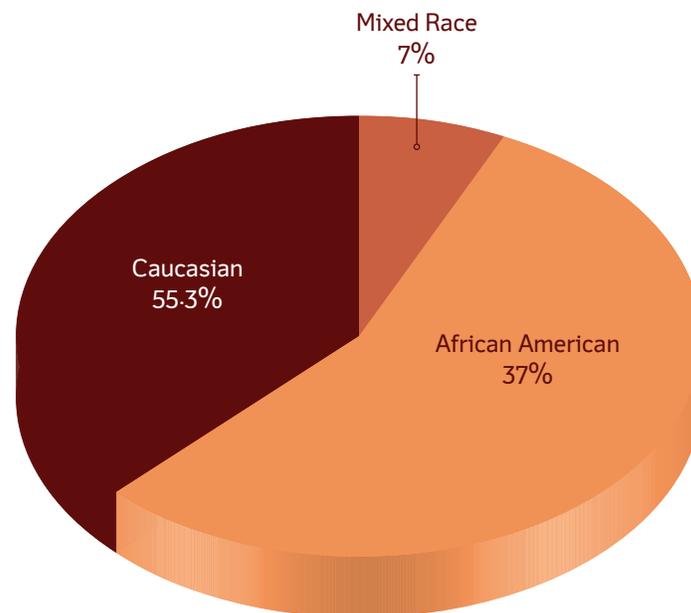




## Race/Ethnicity of Children Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 5)

2,415 children were served

- 894 children, or 37 percent, are African American
- 1,337 children, or 55.3 percent, are Caucasian
- 169 children, or 7 percent, are mixed race
- Nine children, or 0.3 percent, are Asian
- Four children, or 0.1 percent, are Native American
- Two children, or 0.08 percent, are Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander



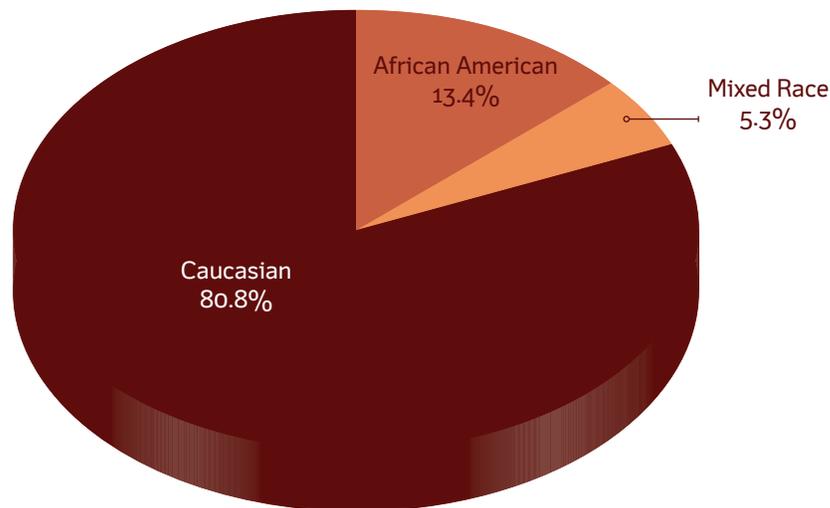
Note: Hispanic children are not included in the pie chart because this characteristic is collected as a component of ethnicity and is not a part of race. Nine Asian children, four Native American children and two Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children constitute the other race and are not included in the pie chart above because they represent less than 1 percent of the children served.



## Race/Ethnicity of Adoptive Families Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 6)

2,096 adoptive families were served in 2013

- 1,694 of the families, or 80.8 percent, are Caucasian
- 281 of the families, or 13.4 percent, are African American
- 112 of the families, or 5.3 percent, are of mixed race
- Four families, or 0.1 percent, are Native American
- One family, or 0.04 percent, are Asian
- One family, or 0.04 percent, are Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

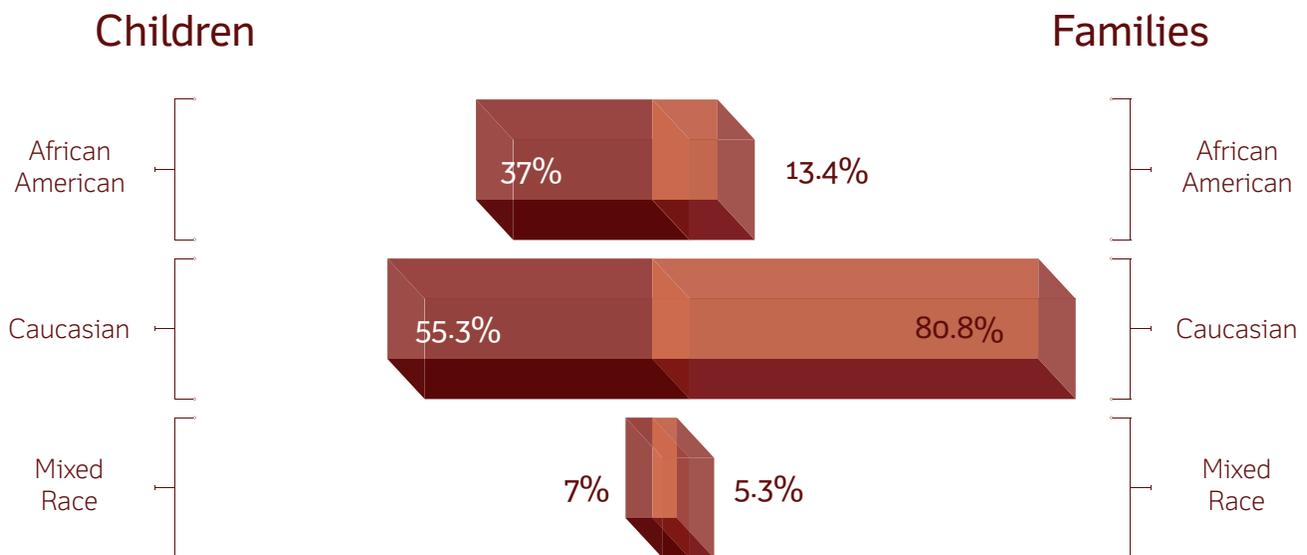


Note: Three families did not provide race. Hispanic families are not included in the pie chart because this characteristic is collected as a component of ethnicity and is not a part of race. Four Native American families, one Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander family and one Asian family constitute other race. Other race and unknown race are not included in the pie chart above because they represent less than 1 percent of the families served.



## Comparison of the Race/Ethnicity of Families and the Race/Ethnicity of Children Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 7)

- 894 children, or 37 percent, are African American
- 281 families, or 13.4 percent, are African American
- 1,337 children, or 55.3 percent, are Caucasian
- 1,694 families, or 80.8 percent, are Caucasian
- 169 children, or 7 percent, are of mixed race
- 112 families, or 5.3 percent, are of mixed race
- Nine children, or 0.3 percent, are Asian
- One family, or 0.04 percent, is Asian
- Four children, or 0.1 percent, are Native American
- Four families, or 0.1 percent, are Native American
- Two children, or 0.08 percent is Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- One family, or 0.04 percent, is Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

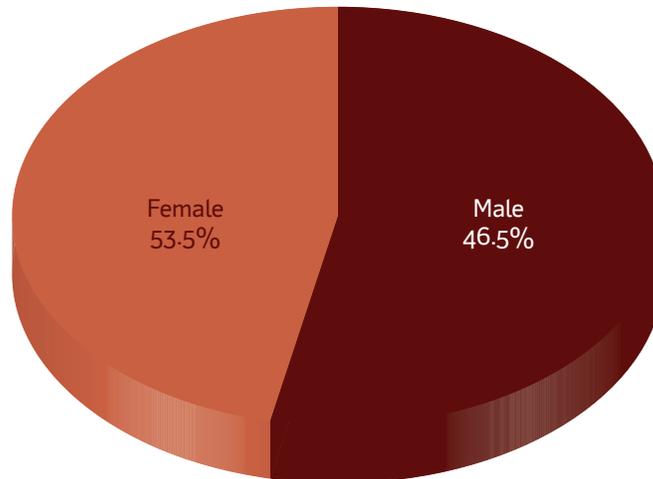


Note: Nine Asian children, four Native American children, two Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children, one Asian family, four Native American families and one Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander family are not included in the chart above because they represent less than 1 percent of the children and families served.



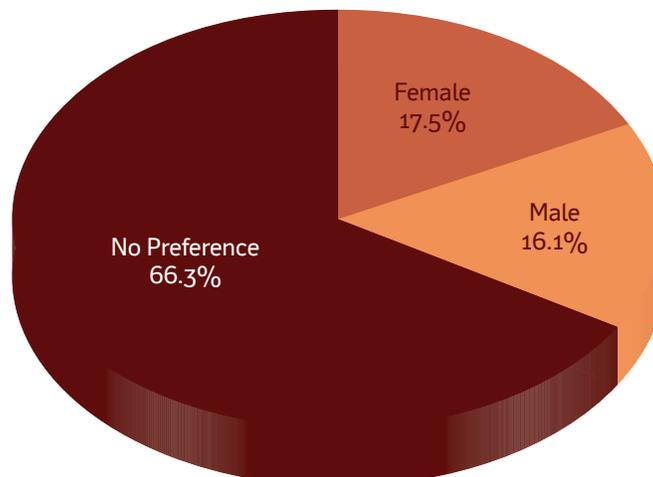
## Gender of Children Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 8)

- 1,293 children were male, representing 53.5 percent of the total
- 1,122 children were female, representing 46.5 percent of the total



## Gender Preferences of Adoptive Families Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 9)

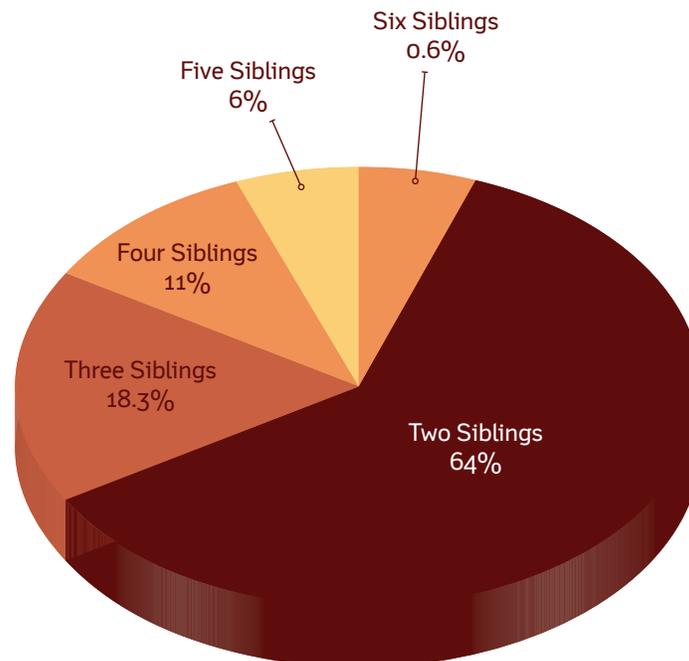
- 1,391 families, or 66.3 percent, did not have a gender preference
- 367 families, or 17.5 percent, preferred females
- 338 families, or 16.1 percent, preferred males





## Size of Sibling Groups Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 10)

- Of the 2,415 children served, 732 or 30.3 percent, belonged to a sibling group
- Of the 732 children served who were part of a sibling group
  - 468 children, or 64 percent, belonged to a sibling group of two
  - 134 children, or 18.3 percent, belonged to a sibling group of three
  - 81 children, or 11 percent, belonged to a sibling group of four
  - 44 children, or 6 percent, belonged to a sibling group of five
  - Five children, or 0.6 percent, belonged to a sibling group of six

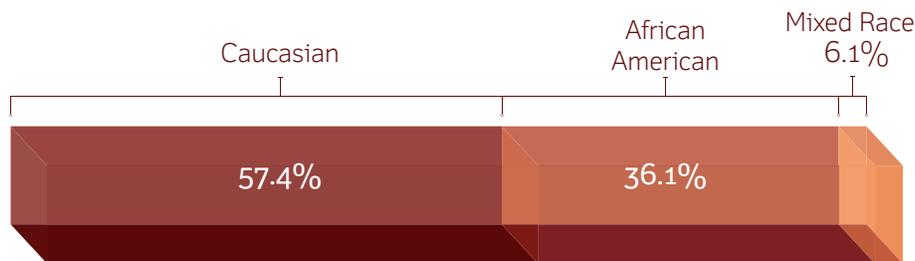


Note: All members of a sibling group do not necessarily receive PAE services.



## Race/Ethnicity of Sibling Groups Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 11)

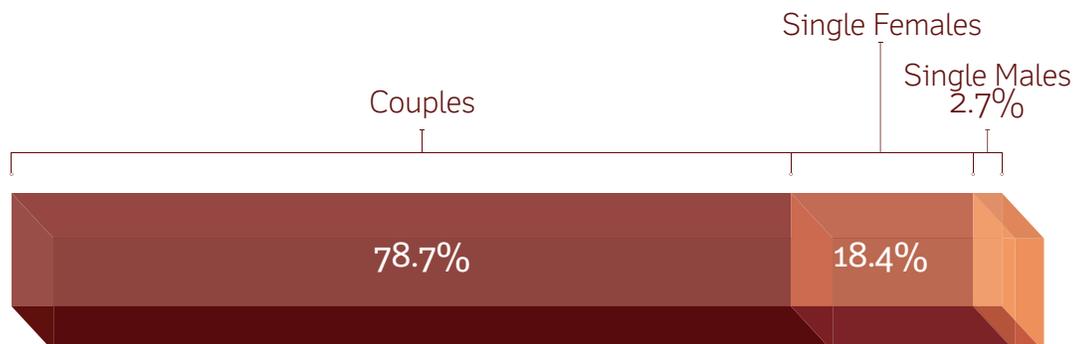
- The 732 children belong to 520 unique sibling groups:
  - 188 sibling groups, or 36.1 percent, are African American
  - 299 sibling groups, or 57.4 percent, are Caucasian
  - 32 sibling groups, or 6.1 percent, are mixed race
  - One sibling group, or 0.1 percent, is Native American



Note: Hispanic children are not included in the pie chart because this characteristic is collected as a component of ethnicity and is not a part of race. One Native American child is not included in the chart above because they represent less than 1 percent of the children served in a sibling group.

## Marital Status of Adoptive Families Served by PAE in 2014 (Chart 12)

- Of the 2,096 adoptive families served:
  - 1,651 families were couples, representing 78.7 percent of the total
  - 387 families were single females, representing 18.4 percent of the total
  - 58 families were single males, representing 2.7 percent of the total





# Directory of Services

## Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families

### HEADQUARTERS

#### **Office of Children, Youth and Families**

Department of Human Services  
P.O. Box 2675  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675  
(717) 787-4756

[www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

### REGIONAL OFFICES

#### SOUTHEAST REGION

**Office of Children, Youth and Families**  
801 Market St.  
Suite 612  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
(215) 560-2249  
(215) 560-2823

#### CENTRAL REGION

**Office of Children, Youth and Families**  
Hilltop Building  
2nd Floor, 3 Ginko Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 772-7702

#### NORTHEAST REGION

**Office of Children, Youth and Families**  
100 Lackawanna Ave.,  
Room 301, 3rd Floor  
Scranton, PA 18503  
(570) 963-4376

#### WESTERN REGION

**Office of Children, Youth and Families**  
11 Stanwix St.  
Room 260  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
(412) 565-2339

### STATEWIDE ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY NETWORK

#### **Prime Contractor for SWAN**

Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries /  
Family Design Resources  
P.O. Box 4560  
471 JPLwick Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17111  
1-888-793-2512  
[www.diakon-swan.org](http://www.diakon-swan.org)

#### **Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange**

P.O. Box 4469  
Harrisburg, PA 17111  
1-800-227-0225  
[www.adoptpakids.org](http://www.adoptpakids.org)

#### **SWAN Helpline**

1-800-585-SWAN (7926)

### LOCAL AGENCY CONTACTS

For a list of County Children and Youth agencies, follow this link :  
[www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countychildrenandyouthdirectory/index.htm](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countychildrenandyouthdirectory/index.htm)  
(From here select 'County Children and Youth Agencies' and then the Submit Search button).

For a list of SWAN Adoption Agency Affiliates, follow this link:  
[www.diakon-swan.org/swan/contacts/affiliate/](http://www.diakon-swan.org/swan/contacts/affiliate/)



## Websites

Government	
<p>Administration for Children and Families Department of Health and Human Services <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov">www.acf.hhs.gov</a></p> <p>Commonwealth of Pennsylvania <a href="http://www.pa.gov">www.pa.gov</a></p> <p>The Department of Human Services <a href="http://www.dhs.pa.gov">www.dhs.pa.gov</a></p> <p>DHS Forms and Publications <a href="http://www.dhs.pa.gov/findaform/index.htm">www.dhs.pa.gov/findaform/index.htm</a></p>	<p>Child Welfare Information Gateway <a href="http://www.childwelfare.gov">www.childwelfare.gov</a></p> <p>U.S. Department of State <a href="http://www.state.gov">www.state.gov</a></p> <p>Pennsylvania Code Online <a href="http://www.pacode.com">www.pacode.com</a></p> <p>Pennsylvania General Assembly <a href="http://www.legis.state.pa.us">www.legis.state.pa.us</a></p>
Children and Youth Services	
<p>Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators <a href="http://www.pcy.org">www.pcy.org</a></p>	<p>Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association <a href="http://www.psrfa.org">www.psrfa.org</a></p>
Child Welfare Resources	
<p>American Humane Association <a href="http://www.pcy.org">www.pcy.org</a></p>	<p>Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association <a href="http://www.psrfa.org">www.psrfa.org</a></p>
Parenting and Family Resources	
<p>Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance <a href="http://www.pa-fsa.org">www.pa-fsa.org</a></p> <p>The National Fatherhood Initiative <a href="http://www.fatherhood.org">www.fatherhood.org</a></p> <p>Wide Smiles <a href="http://www.widesmiles2.org">www.widesmiles2.org</a></p>	<p>Families Thru International Adoption <a href="http://www.ftia.org">www.ftia.org</a></p> <p>Parent to Parent <a href="http://www.parenttoparent.org">www.parenttoparent.org</a></p> <p>The Juvenile Law Center <a href="http://www.jlc.org">www.jlc.org</a></p>
Adoption Resources	
<p>Adopt Us Kids <a href="http://www.adoptuskids.org">www.adoptuskids.org</a></p> <p>Adoption Knowledge Affiliates <a href="http://www.adoptionknowledge.org">www.adoptionknowledge.org</a></p> <p>Dave Thomas Foundation <a href="http://www.davethomasfoundation.org">www.davethomasfoundation.org</a></p> <p>Joint Council on International Children's Services <a href="http://www.jointcouncil.org">www.jointcouncil.org</a></p> <p>North American Council on Adoptable Children <a href="http://www.nacac.org">www.nacac.org</a></p> <p>Three Rivers Adoption Council <a href="http://www.3riversadopt.org">www.3riversadopt.org</a></p>	<p>Adoption.com <a href="http://www.adoption.com">www.adoption.com</a></p> <p>American Academy of Adoption Attorneys <a href="http://www.adoptionattorneys.org">www.adoptionattorneys.org</a></p> <p>Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute <a href="http://www.ccaainstitute.org/">http://www.ccaainstitute.org/</a></p> <p>National Adoption Center <a href="http://www.adopt.org">www.adopt.org</a></p> <p>Spaulding for Children <a href="http://www.spaulding.org">www.spaulding.org</a></p> <p>Together as Adoptive Parents <a href="http://www.taplink.org">www.taplink.org</a></p>



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES