

**FROM PRAGMATIC TO SENTIMENTAL ADOPTION?
CHILD ADOPTION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1880-1930**

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Abstract

Adoption, as an alternative to childbearing, is a widely accepted means of creating a family in the U.S. today. According to the historical literature, a modern form of adoption was a legal innovation in the mid-19th century that evolved over time and had profound implications for the welfare of adopted children and adoptive parents. Due to the lack of quantitative data, however, we know little about the extent and nature of adoption in the U.S. before WWII. How widely was adoption practiced before its widespread social acceptance? Who adopted children, and what motivated them to adopt? How did adopted children fare compared to biological children? In this paper, using microdata from the federal censuses in 1880-1930 and 2000, I document the prevalence of adoption and study the characteristics of adoptive children and their households. Among other things, I re-evaluate the commonly held hypothesis that, during the early 20th century, adoption evolved from “pragmatic” to “sentimental” adoption as adoptive parents began to demand children not for their potential labor value but for the utility of parenting itself. This paper provides the first empirical analysis of adoption in the pre-WWII U.S. using nationally representative data.

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1. Motivation

Adoption, as an alternative to childbearing, is a widely accepted means of forming a family in many western societies. In the United States, over 120,000 children are adopted every year. Although there are no definitive data, the U.S. likely adopts more children per capita than any other countries in the world (Bernal et al. (2007)). But even in America, it was not until the 1940s that adoption gained cultural and moral legitimacy. Indeed, recent work by social and cultural historians, such as Carp (1998, 2002), Berebitsky (2000), and Melosh (2002), reveals complex dynamics that changed the societal view of adoption over the last two centuries. By facilitating a permanent transfer of parental rights and duties from biological to adoptive parents, adoption has profound implications for the welfare of adopted children, adoptive parents, and relinquishing parents. How common was the practice of adoption in the U.S. before its widespread social acceptance? Who adopted children, and for what purposes did they adopt? Were adoptive families better off compared to biological families? More generally, the history of adoption should illuminate how the value of child, the utility of parenting, and the definition of family changed as the U.S. went through extraordinary social and economic transformation over the 20th century.

A major difficulty in studying adoption in the past, however, is the lack of data. Scholars have so far relied exclusively on case records of selective child welfare agencies or adoption agencies, contemporary accounts in magazines, newspapers, and letters, and occasional government publications. Quantitative data are exceedingly rare. National statistics on adoption simply do not exist before 1944 (Maza (1984)). The primary purpose of this paper is to construct a new dataset of adopted children using U.S. federal census microdata in 1880-1930 to study adoption before it became well-established practice. I also use 2000 census microdata to provide a modern benchmark for the historical data. The paper provides the first empirical analysis of adoption in the U.S. before WWII using nationally representative data. Because the 1880-1930 data period coincides with a critical period of transition as I describe below, this paper offers particularly valuable new evidence to the historical literature.

2. Historical Background, 1850-1950

During the 19th century, adoption was seen primarily as a means to save orphaned or abandoned children by providing them a better, permanent home. As most dramatically showcased in the “orphan train movement,” between 1854 and 1894, over 84,000 homeless children in New York City were transported by railroads and placed in rural homes most notably in the Midwest (Holt (1992), p.53).¹ Most families took them in as potential farm laborers or housekeepers while agreeing to provide proper

¹ The orphan train movement declined after 1899 as more states chose to restrict inter-state adoption (Pick (1924)).

care and schooling.² Early demand for adoption was thus allegedly driven by a combination of needs for labor and a sense of fulfilling moral duty in saving destitute children. Older children (age 12 to 15), especially boys, were often placed under indenture contracts, while younger children were more likely to be “adopted”. In reality, however, a majority of these children were not formally adopted for three main reasons. First, in many states, there was no statute that allowed legal creation of parent-child relations. The first adoption law that enabled permanent transfer of parental rights was enacted in Massachusetts in 1851, and 24 states passed similar laws by 1880 (Carp (2000), p.6). Second, despite the name, many “orphan train” children were not orphans but had at least one living parent, which made formal adoption difficult even in the presence of the law. Third, some families chose not to adopt legally because the process could be formidable and costly or inheritance rights didn’t matter much for them (Berebitsky (2000), pp.40-41).³ In other words, in the late 19th century, adoption was often informally practiced, and there was no clear distinction between fostering and adopting a child (Herman (2007)). Historical studies suggest that, throughout the 19th century, adopting an unrelated infant and raising the child “as their own” remained uncommon due to both hereditary concerns and high infant mortality. As adoption was motivated mainly by practical needs or altruism to help children, adoptive parents were reportedly varied and diverse, including single, divorced, or widowed women, older couples, and couples with biological children (Berebitsky (2000), p.3).

According to the literature, towards the end of the 19th century, parents in general began to value children for reasons more emotional than economic (Berebitsky (2000), pp.21-22). Labor value of children declined dramatically from 1880 to 1930, as indicated by a fall in child labor force participation rates, a rise in secondary school enrollment rates, and an increasing number of states passing child labor laws and compulsory schooling laws (Moehling (1999) and Goldin and Katz (2008)). Reflecting these changes, adoption, too, evolved from “pragmatic” to “sentimental” adoption in which parents adopted a child for completing a family and experiencing parenthood itself. With a growing perception that nurture could be more important than nature, the number of childless couples requesting for an infant, often with a preference for a girl, began to rise. The major improvements in infant formula in the 1920s that enabled the adoption of young infants further increased the demand for adoption.⁴ At the same time, child welfare reform in the Progressive Era (1900-1918) led to the

² A typical adoption form set the terms and conditions for adopting a boy as follows: “To care for him in sickness and health, to send him to school during the entire free school year until he reaches the age of 14 years, and thereafter during the winter months at least, until he reaches the age of 16 years; also to have him attend Church and Sunday School when convenient, and to retain him as a member of my family until he reaches the age of 17 years, and thereafter for the final year, until he is 18 years old, to pay the boy monthly wages in addition to his maintenance [...]” (New York Children’s Aid Society’s adoption form, undated, obtained from URL: <http://www.orphantraindepot.com/CASForm.html>).

³ Legal cost for adoption was \$10-25 in 1904, equivalent to \$200-500 in 2000 using CPI or \$800-2,000 using unskilled wage.

⁴ Although infant formula was first commercially introduced in the 1870s, its quality was far inferior to maternal milk. An important breakthrough came in the early 1920s, resulting in infant formula that matched maternal milk in nutritional content and was widely recommended by pediatricians (Albanesi and Olivetti (2007), p.10).

establishment of adoption agencies staffed with professional social workers and greater state oversight (Carp (2000), p.7). On the supply side, until the 1920s social workers generally pressed unwed mothers to keep their children, and it was only in the 1930s that they began counseling mothers to relinquish out-of-wedlock babies (Askeland (2006), p.34). Anecdotal evidence indicates that the demand for adoptable infants began to exceed the supply for the first time around the 1920s and 1930s (Gill (2002), p.175; Carpe (2002), p.160). As adoption agencies screened applicants using increasingly strict standards and elaborate matching criteria, the characteristics of adoptive parents shifted towards married couples with higher socioeconomic status and no biological children (Carpe (2002), p.202).⁵ It was only in the late 1940s that professional agencies began to charge fees for adoption placements (Berebitsky (2000), p.5). Disqualified prospective parents often turned to independent arrangements through doctors or lawyers without involving any agencies (Pfeffer (2002), pp.111-2). To protect the welfare of children, between 1917 and 1941, 34 states enacted new adoption laws that mandated a social investigation of prospective adoptive parents prior to court approval (Schapiro (1956), p.18). [Also provide a brief history of the foster care system.]

In summary, according to the historical literature, the practice of adoption in the U.S. underwent a profound shift from the 1850s to the 1930s. In terms of legal innovations, the diffusion of adoption laws after 1851 enabled adoptive parents to establish their parental rights permanently, and the revised laws provided greater state oversight and better protection of adopted children from potential abuse. In terms of demand and supply, during most of the 1880-1930 period, there was an excess supply of children at all ages looking for adoptive homes. It was not until the 1920s that the demand for adoptable healthy infants began to surpass its supply. In terms of parental motives, it had evolved from “altruistic” adoption, in which parents adopted orphaned or abandoned children to provide better home, and “pragmatic” adoption, in which parents took in unrelated children to their homes primarily for their labor value, towards “sentimental” adoption in which adoptive parents adopted unrelated children to derive utility from parenting itself. The literature thus indicates substantial changes in the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of adopted children and adoptive parents from the 1850s to the 1930s.

3. Data

The evolution of child adoption documented above is based primarily on detailed case studies of a handful of public child welfare agencies and private adoption agencies. Although these studies are enormously informative, their findings may not be representative and may suffer from potentially

⁵ At the same time, adoption agencies carefully screened children and excluded children with disability or questionable heredity as “unadoptable” (Berebitsky (2000), p.134).

serious selection bias. In fact, the evidence comes disproportionately from formal (i.e., legal) adoptions of unrelated children by white parents arranged through professional agencies. As a result, we have little data on independent adoption (adoption without involving any agencies), related adoption (adoption of children by relatives or stepparents), and informal adoption. Even more problematic, we know very little about adoption among blacks, not only because few public and private agencies served black families prior to the 1940s, but also because blacks were by tradition more likely to practice informal adoption (Carp (1998), pp.32-36; Askeland (2006), pp.10-13; Berebistaky (2000), pp.9-10).

In this paper, I compile a new dataset of adopted children using U.S. census data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) in 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 (Ruggles et al. (2008)). Although it is widely assumed that adopted children were assigned an independent category for the first time in the 2000 census questionnaire,⁶ using detailed family relationship codes, one can identify adopted children separately from biological and step children in the 1880-1930 censuses. To my knowledge, these data have never been used for the purpose of studying adoption. The merits of using IPUMS data are multitude. First, it provides a nationally representative sample of U.S. population in every decade (except for 1890 for which census manuscripts were lost), and its sample size is large enough to contain 600 to 1,700 adopted children each year.⁷ Second, because family relationships are self-reported by the head of household, unlike court records or agency records, adoption in IPUM data is comprehensive and includes formal and informal adoption, agency and non-agency adoption, and unrelated and related adoption. Furthermore, IPUMS data contain rich demographic and socio-economic information on every person residing in the same household (including not only family members but also co-resident nonrelatives such as servants). Lastly, the 2000 census data provide an ideal modern counterpoint to the historical data, which allows us to compare adoption practices in the U.S. across century. There are some major limitations, however. Most critically, we do not know children's age at adoption. Second, due to self reporting, trends in the data may reflect changes in the society's definition of adoption or household's willingness to identify adopted children. Lastly, we cannot distinguish unrelated adoption from related adoption. In particular, related adoption includes stepparent adoption, and in recent years, as much as 40% of legal adoption are stepparent adoption (Bernal et al. (2007), p.8). This creates a serious problem in the 2000 data. Fortunately, as I discuss later, this problem seems to be minor in the 1880-1930 data.

⁶ See U.S. Census Bureau (2003) for a summary report for adopted children in the 2000 census. After 2000, the census ceased to distinguish adopted children from biological children.

⁷ In the following analysis, I use IPUMS 1880 5% sample (with minority oversamples), 1900 2.5% sample (with minority oversamples), 1910 1.4% sample (with minority oversamples), 1920 1% national random sample, and 1930 1% national random sample.

4. Trends in Descriptive Statistics

4.1. Prevalence of Child Adoption, 1880-1930 & 2000

How common was adoption in the late 19th century? Did adoption become more popular in the early 20th century in response to less stigma and wider social acceptance? **Table 1** reports the estimated numbers of biological, adopted, step, and foster children in U.S. households in 1880-1930 and 2000. Alaska and Hawaii are excluded from all years to maintain consistency across years. Although I include Native Americans and Asians in the table, due to small sample size, estimates for these races are unreliable in early census years. Throughout this paper, child is defined as any person under age 18 (age 0 to 17) residing in a household whose relationship to the household head is reported as “child,” including biological, step, and adopted children. I also include foster children in the table even though foster child is reported (not as “child” but) as co-resident nonrelatives in IPUMS.⁸ It must be noted that the child type is always defined in relation to household *head*, while the relationship between a child and a spouse of the household head is not directly identified. For example, consider the case of married two-parent households with children. In 1880-1930, in virtually all such households the household head is children’s father and not mother. In these households, children are labeled “biological” if they have a biological father, regardless of their relationship to a mother. Thus, in our definition, biological children include not only children who have two birth parents but also those who have a biological father and a stepmother. Similarly, children are labeled “adopted” when they have an adoptive father even if their mother is a biological or step mother. As a result, adopted children in our definition include adopted stepchildren (as in the case of a remarried husband adopting his wife’s biological children from her previous marriage).⁹ Accordingly, step children in our definition exclude children of a biological father and a stepmother. Because our definitions of biological and adopted children overlap with “stepchildren” in its common usage of the term, for comparison, I keep step children (in *our* definition) as a child type throughout the paper.

According to **Table 1**, in 1880-1930, on average 0.26% of white children under age 18 in all households were adopted, compared to 2.2% in 2000. Although 0.26% may seem small, given the fact that even in 2000 when adoption seems ubiquitous the adopted children were only 2% of all children, it shows that adoption was surprisingly common in the earlier period. I find, however, no positive trend in the share of adopted children from 1880 to 1930 among whites. This could be that the literature’s emphasis on a rising demand for agency adoption has been misplaced or that such increase was offset

⁸ Foster children refer to children who are temporarily cared for by foster parents while their birth parents are unable to perform parental duties due to financial, medical, or emotional reasons. Unlike adoptive parents, foster parents do not assume parental rights. Historically, however, these two concepts were not well differentiated.

⁹ Note, however, that our definition of adopted children excludes those who are reported as a household head’s “adopted brother (or sister),” “adopted nephew (or niece),” and “adopted grandson (or granddaughter)” even if they are under age 18.

by a decline in other types of adoption. By contrast, for black children, the percentage of adopted children in all children rose from 0.40% in 1880 to 0.97% in 1930 except for a drop in 1920. For all years, adoption was more common among blacks than whites, and the difference grew between 1880 and 1930. In 2000, however, black children were only slightly more likely to be adopted children than the white counterparts (2.2% versus 2.8%). Although the data are limited, virtually all Asian children were biological children of the household head in 1880-1930. By contrast, 5.1% of Asian children in 2000 were adopted children due to a large number of international adoption from China, Korea, and Vietnam in recent decades (Bernal et al. (2007), pp.13-14).¹⁰ With respect to step children, due to low divorce rates, they historically constituted much lower percentage of all children than today for whites (less than 1.5% in 1880-1930 versus 5.3% in 2000) and somewhat lower percentage for blacks (around 3% in 1880-1930 versus 4.5% in 2000). Finally, compared to 2000, foster children constituted a very small share (less than 0.1%) in 1880-1930 for both whites and blacks. This is largely due to the absence of state-subsidized paid foster care prior to the 1930s, although some child welfare agencies paid board to foster parents as early as in the 1890s (Askeland (2006), p.33; Berebitsky (2000), p.181).

4.2. Marital Status of Adoptive Parents, 1880-1930 & 2000

To explore if adoptive parents became less diverse a population from 1880 to 1930, in **Table 2**, I classify biological, adopted, step, and foster children by the marital status of their household head. Because the unit of observation is child, a household with multiple children is counted multiple times in the statistics. Due to sample size, the results are reported only for white and black children in 1880-1930 and for white, black, and Asian children in 2000. Several important observations follow. First, for biological children, throughout 1880-1930, over 90% of white children and over 80% of black children lived in a married two-parent (“married, spouse present”) household. Although the share of biological children living in a divorced single-parent household climbed from 0.15% to 0.55% for whites and from 0.48% to 1.0% for blacks in 1880-1930, these numbers are extremely low compared to 10.5% for whites and 13.3% for blacks in 2000. By contrast, the share of biological children living in a widowed single-parent household in 1880-1930 (5-7% for whites and 10-12% for blacks) was substantially higher than the 2000 counterpart (1.0% for whites and 1.8% for blacks), reflecting higher mortality rates in the earlier period. In other words, unlike in 2000, step children in 1880-1930 were primarily a consequence of parental death as opposed to divorce. Second, the percentage of biological children living in a household with a never-married parent is less than 0.2% for whites and 1-3% for blacks in 1880-1930, compared to 5.3% for whites and astounding 33.4% for blacks in 2000. The dramatically

¹⁰ Among Asian adopted children in 2000, 73.0% had a white household head and 26.3% had an Asian household head.

smaller numbers in 1880-1930 indicate strong social stigma against unwed mothers and out-of-wedlock children before WWII for both races.

Third, turning to adopted children, as the literature suggests, adoptive parents were more diverse than biological parents in 1880-1930. There is no clear evidence, however, that their heterogeneity declined towards 1930. Compared to biological children, for both races, adopted children were consistently less likely to live in a married two-parent households, more likely to live in a widowed single-parent household, and much more likely to live in a household with a never-married parent.¹¹ (For blacks, the differences are not always statistically significant due to smaller sample sizes.) This may suggest that adoption was relatively common among the never-married and the widowed, or alternatively, older couples were more likely to adopt who were also more likely to become widowed before their adopted children reach age 18. By sharp contrast, in 2000, reflecting adoption agencies' preferences for married couples, adopted children were more likely to live in a married two-parent household and less likely to live in a never-married household compared to biological children. Fourth, as we expect, for both races, almost all step children resided in a (re)married two-parent household in 1880-1930. They were much less likely to live in a widowed household than biological children, because step children are by definition considerably older and thus less likely to experience the death of (another) parent before they reach age 18. In 2000, too, most step children lived in a married two-parent household.¹² Finally, small sample sizes notwithstanding, compared to biological children, foster children were much less likely to live with two married parents and more likely to live with a widowed or never-married parent in 1880-1930. These trends are similar or even more pronounced in 2000. It is reassuring to note that, given that adopted children and foster children were not well distinguished in the earlier period, they exhibit similar characteristics in Table 2. It is also important to note that adopted children and step children consistently exhibit *opposite* characteristics in 1880-1930, which suggests that these two types of children are well differentiated in the historical data with no major presence of adopted stepchildren. This is not the case in 2000 where up to 40% of adopted children could be adopted stepchildren.

4.3. Composition of Children in Adoptive Households, 1880-1930 & 2000

Because the marital status of household head is highly correlated with child types, to keep our sample more homogenous across years, from now on, I focus on married two-parent households with at least one biological, adopted, or step child under age 18 (and drop all single-parent households). Switching

¹¹ In 1880-1930, roughly 80% of separated, divorced, or widowed adoptive parents were female, but surprisingly, about 50% of the never-married adoptive parents were male.

¹² A sizable share of step children in 2000 lived with a never-married household head, however: these were mostly biological children of an unmarried partner of the household head reported as "stepchildren" (U.S. Census Bureau (2003), p.3).

from child-level observations to household-level observations, in **Table 3**, I classify these households by the mix of child types within household. The race of household is defined by the race of household head.¹³ According to Table 3, in 1880-1930, about 97% of (married two-parent) households (with children) had only biological children and just over 2% had step children. The percentage of households with both adopted and step children was effectively zero in all years. As reported in the second last column, the share of adoptive households (households with at least one adopted child) for whites fluctuated between 0.3% and 0.9% in 1880-1930 without time trends, while that for blacks increased from 1.1% to 2.3% except for a drop in 1920. Most interestingly, as reported in the last column, within adoptive households, the percentage of households with adopted children only was higher in 1880-1930 (60-76% for both races) than in 2000 (51% for both races). To the extent that the absence of biological children in a married two-parent household is an indication of infertility,¹⁴ it suggests that infertility might have been an important motivation for adoption since the earlier decades. I explore this issue further in the regression analysis.

To capture not only extensive but also an intensive margin, **Table 4** reports the distribution of adoptive households by the number of adopted children in the household. Households are again restricted to married two-parent households. In 1880-1930, the average number of adopted children in white adoptive households was 1.1 (with a slight increase from 1880 to 1930) where 99% of these households had just one or two adopted children. Among black adoptive households, the average was 1.2 (with no time trends) where 99% of these households had one to three adopted children. No households had more than 5 adopted children in 1880-1930. Despite the decline in fertility and a fewer number of biological children per household in 2000, the number of adopted children in adoptive households was higher in 2000 than in 1880-1930 for both races.

4.4. Age Distributions of Adopted Children and Adoptive Mothers, 1880-1930 & 2000

Although we do not observe the age of a child at adoption, we can make some inference from comparing the age of adopted children and their mothers. For instance, if most adoptions were infant adoptions by mothers of childbearing age (age 15-45), then we expect the age distribution of adopted children (or adoptive mothers) to be similar to those of biological children (or birth mothers). **Figure 1** presents the distribution of children's age by child type and by race. Again, the sample is restricted to children under age 18 in married two-parent households. Since the distributions do not differ much across years, I pool the 1880-1930 data (in the left panel) and compare against the 2000 data (in the right panel). In 1880-1930, for both races, the age distributions of biological children are close to linear

¹³ In 1880-1930, because both inter-racial marriage and inter-racial adoption were almost nonexistent, the race of a household head and the race of his spouse or child were almost always the same. In 2000, this was not the case.

¹⁴ Having no biological children under age 18 does not imply having no biological children of any age.

with a negative slope that primarily reflects a long-run trend in declining fertility. By contrast, the age distributions of adopted children in 1880-1930 exhibit an inverse U-shape that peaks at around age 10. Since the inverse U-shape pattern is seen in each census year and even in 2000 to some extent, it cannot be attributed to long-run trends in adoption. Instead it likely indicates that adoption took place at a steady rate from age 0 up to age 10 and stopped thereafter. By contrast, the age distributions of step children in all years increased monotonically with age, as children were selected into this category with their mother's remarriage perhaps independent of children's age.

Although not reported, I also compare the distributions of children's mother's age by child type in 1880-1930 and 2000. The age distributions of biological mothers and step mothers are very similar in 1880-1930 with a peak at around age 36. This is consistent with the fact that, by our definition, step mothers were indeed biological mothers of the children who later remarried. The age distribution of adoptive mothers, by contrast, has a later peak (at around age 40) and a thicker and longer right-hand tail. In fact, as much as 25% of adopted children in 1880-1930 had mothers older than age 50. In 2000, the corresponding figure was about 15%.

Perhaps most informative, **Figure 2** presents the distribution of the age difference between a child and his or her mother by child type and by race in 1880-1930 and in 2000. While the age difference between biological or step children and their mothers were mostly (and naturally) confined to 15 to 50 years, the age gap between adopted children and their mothers ranged from 4 years to 70 years and beyond in 1880-1930. The age gap of 4-14 years implies the adoption of higher age children that is more consistent with "pragmatic" adoption. It is important to note that this portion completely disappears in 2000. [Also report the distribution of the age difference between the child and household head by child type including foster children here.] By contrast, the age gap of 50 years and above signals adoption by older couples, some of them were probably the grandparents of adopted children, that may be more consistent with "altruistic" adoption. In 2000, the distribution of the age gap between adopted children and their mothers for whites is not single-peaked, due likely to the presence of adopted stepchildren whose distribution is very different from the rest of adopted children. We can use Asian adopted children as a control group, as they consisted primarily of unrelated adoption with few related or stepparent adoption. As shown in the bottom right-hand panel, the age gaps between Asian adopted children and their mothers are largely confined to 20-50 years. This indicates that in "sentimental" adoption, mothers tend to adopt a child at childbearing age.

4.5. Characteristics of Adopted Children and Adoptive Parents, 1880-1930 & 2000

In **Tables 5-8**, for selected census years, 1880, 1910, 1930, and 2000, I present demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of adopted children and their parents and compare their means against

those of biological children. For comparison, I also report the results for step children. The sample is restricted to white and black children under age 18 living in married two-parent households in 1880-1930, and white, black, and Asian children in 2000. The number of observations is also reported in the tables.

First, I discuss the results for white children. Compared to biological children, throughout 1880-1930, white adopted children were more likely to be female, were almost always the same race with their parents (i.e., little interracial adoption), were older, had much older parents, had substantially fewer number of biological siblings (i.e., biological children under age 18 in the same household), were more likely to be foreign born, and were twice as likely to be born out of state if native. What is more, a large fraction of white adopted children had a *different* surname from their parents. Because adoptive parents would typically change the child's surname to their surname upon legal adoption, different surnames likely indicate informal adoption or adoption at higher age.¹⁵ In terms of socioeconomic characteristics, compared to biological fathers, white adoptive fathers were less likely to work (due mainly to their higher age), more likely to be a professional, more likely to employ domestic servants at home, much more likely to own a house, more likely to be a farmer, and much less likely to live in a metropolitan area. [Although the descriptive statistics suggest that white adoptive households were better off than biological households, as shown in the later analysis, once father's age and other factors are controlled, such observation does not hold.]

There are some notable time trends. First, the difference in the average ages of adoptive and biological children among whites fell from 1880 to 1930, approaching the age difference of 1.1 in 2000. This may indicate a decline in children's age at adoption. Second, consistent with the historical literature, white adoptive fathers were no more likely to be a farmer than biological fathers towards the end of the period, but were much more likely to be a professional by 1930. The percentage of adopted children with different surname from their parents declined from 53% to 24% in 1880-1930, likely indicating the rise in formal adoption.

With respect to children's education, we have three measures, literacy (i.e., can read and write), school attendance, and work status (i.e., have a regular occupation or not), available for children of age 10 and above. Due to small sample sizes, however, a difference between adoptive and biological children is not statistically significant in most cases. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that, among white children of age 10-15, their literacy rate increased from 90% to 99%, school attendance rose from 70% to over 90%, and labor force participation rate declined from 15% to 4% from 1880 to 1930.

¹⁵ Almost all married couples shared the same surname in 1880-1930. Note that informal related adoption (i.e., adoption of related children in a paternal line) may also result in adopted children having the same surname with their parents.

Turning to black adopted children, some of their characteristics were similar to those of white adopted children in 1880-1930: compared to biological children, they were more likely to be female, were older, had substantially older parents, had fewer number of biological siblings, were more likely to be born out of state, and had an even higher percentage of children with a different surname from their parents. In terms of socioeconomic characteristics, there were some differences: compared to biological fathers, black adoptive fathers were *less* likely to be a farmer in 1880, but were *more* likely to be a farmer by 1930. They were more likely to own a house, like white adoptive parents, but *more* likely to live in a metropolitan area. The percentage of adopted children with a different surname from their parents declined from 65% to 37% in 1880-1930, showing similar trends. In terms of children's education, due to even smaller sample sizes, comparisons between adoptive and biological children are inconclusive. Nonetheless, black children in general experienced major advances as their literacy rate rose from 50% to 88% and school attendance from less than 30% to 88%, while their labor force participation rate declined from over 40% to less than 20% between 1880 and 1930.

Finally, a comparison of adopted children and step children provides useful information. First, although only available in 1910, the number of mother's marriages shows that adoptive mothers were married only 1.17 times on average compared to 1.94 times for mothers of step children, further confirming that adopted children in 1880-1930 include only a limited number of adopted stepchildren. Second, by almost every socioeconomic measure, unlike adoptive households, step households were considerably worse off compared to biological households: stepparents were less likely to have a professional occupation, less likely to own a house, less likely to employ domestic servants, and less likely to be literate. This may be consistent with the fact that households were selected into step households by a death of previous household head and a subsequent decision of remarry to support a family. Furthermore, step children were less likely to be literate, less likely to attend school, and more likely to work, compared to biological children. Although this is likely driven by the fact that step children might have grown up in a less privileged household and were also substantially older, it may also indicate lower parental investment in step children.

5. Determinants of the Demand for Adoption: Theoretical Framework

The descriptive statistics shows that adopted children and adoptive parents were systematically and consistently different from their biological (and step) counterparts in 1880-1930. Except for some notable trends, there was no dramatic change in the characteristics of adopted children or adoptive parents between 1880 and 1930, however. In fact, many of the characteristics of adoptive households found in 1880-1930 are qualitatively similar to those in 2000. Did adoption evolve from "altruistic" and "pragmatic" adoption to "sentimental" adoption as the literature suggests? Was sentimental adoption a

dominant form as early as in 1880? One of the major challenges is to differentiate the three distinct motivations for adoption in the data. Before proceeding to more rigorous empirical analysis of the determinants of the demand for adoption, I develop a simple theoretical framework.

To formalize historical insights, consider an extension of the economic model of fertility (Becker (1960, 1965)) in which a household can produce a child not only through birth but also through adoption. In this framework, a household determines the numbers of biological and adopted children by maximizing their lifetime utility, defined over children and a composite consumption good, given a time budget constraint. Note that, for adopted children, a household can also choose their age at adoption, x , and sex, y , at little cost.¹⁶ A household has imperfect control over producing biological children with an exogenous level of fecundity, γ . Children are assumed to be a source of satisfaction for parents for two separate reasons. First, parents derive sentimental value, S , from each child through experiencing parenthood and emotional bonding. Second, parents derive labor value, L , from each child's (immediate or future) contribution to market or household production. Parents also incur time cost, C , from bearing and rearing a child. Parents choose to allocate their times between market production and home production given their market wages and non-labor income.

Suppose that a child joins a household at age x (for biological children, x is always 0). Sentimental value, $S(x,y)$, is assumed to be decreasing in age x , and higher if sex y is female. Furthermore, for given age and sex, I assume that parents derive greater sentimental value from biological children than adopted children: $S^B(x,y)=S^A(x,y)+\alpha$. The parameter α captures parental tastes for birth children over adopted children due, for example, to genetic concerns, which partially reflects social stigma attached to adoption. By contrast, labor value, $L(x,y)$, is assumed to be increasing in age and greater if a child is male. [This latter assumption is problematic if girls can be more productive in home production even if their market wages are lower.] For given age and sex, I assume that biological and adopted children are equally valuable in terms of their labor: $L^B(x,y)=L^A(x,y)$. Finally, I assume that the cost of raising children, $C(x,y)$, is decreasing in age x , as younger children demands higher parental attention, but invariant in sex y . The cost of raising an adopted newborn is assumed to be lower than the cost of raising a biological newborn because adoptive mothers don't have to bear a child: $C^A(0,y)<C^B(0,y)$. Therefore, the time cost for having a biological child is always higher than that for an adopted child. The values of $S(x,y)$, $L(x,y)$, α and γ , are assumed to vary across households depending on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of parents.

¹⁶ This assumption is appropriate for the 1880-1930 period when an excess supply of adoptable children allowed adoptive parents to select children according to their preferences with no adoption fee and little waiting time. The assumption is less valid in 2000 when, under a large excess demand, adoptable children were allocated by adoption agencies, often according to their preferences, and adoptive parents incurred substantial financial and time costs in adopting a child (Bernal et al. (2007)).

Although simple, the model captures the economic logic of pragmatic and sentimental adoptions. On one hand, for couples who have high appreciation of children's labor value relative to sentimental value, they may strictly prefer adoption due to its lower time cost and adopt older children (pragmatic adoption). On the other hand, those couples who derive utility primarily from sentimental value and have high α , they would not adopt children as long as they can produce their own biological children. When faced with low fecundity γ , however, some of them choose to adopt an infant and raise the child as their own (sentimental adoption), while others choose not to have any children.

Historical observations, however, suggest the third major motive for adoption not capture in the above model, i.e., altruism. Unlike pragmatic or sentimental adoption that is driven by parental demand and whose primary beneficiaries are parents, under altruistic adoption, couples adopt to help children whose biological parents fell on hard times. Altruistic adoption is hence supply-driven, and its primary beneficiaries are children. Altruistic adoption may be more common among extended families (i.e., related adoption) as adoptive parents more readily internalize the utility of extended family members, but it can occur between unrelated individuals if adoptive parents internalize the utility of adopted children.

In terms of testable predictions, we should expect that the age difference between the child and mother is smaller under pragmatic adoption and greater under altruistic adoption than under sentimental adoption. Adopted children are more likely to be male under pragmatic adoption (assuming that boys have higher labor value) and more likely to be female under sentimental adoption, while it can be either under altruistic adoption. Adopted children are more likely to be adopted legally under sentimental adoption and share the same surname with the parents (to be raised "as their own") than under pragmatic or altruistic adoption. As biological and adopted children are substitutes in both sentimental and pragmatic adoption, we expect the number of biological children in the household to be negatively correlated with the likelihood of both types of adoption. Because infertility is one of its key drivers, sentimental adoption should be strongly associated with having no biological children. By contrast, the presence of biological children should not reduce the likelihood of altruistic adoption or may even increase its likelihood.

Furthermore, we expect pragmatic adoption to be positively associated with factors that raise children's labor value relative to sentimental value. Farming is an important proxy in the following analysis because not only children are valued in farm labor but also child labor laws were not enforced in the agricultural sector. Another important factor is the presence of domestic employees (i.e., servant, housekeeper, maid, cook, and nurse) in the household. As these employees provide labor to home production, they should reduce children's labor value, particularly for girls, and thus are substitutes for

pragmatic adoption. By the same logic, working mother would increase the labor value of girls and thus the demand for pragmatic adoption for girls.

We expect sentimental adoption to be positively correlated with factors that reduce parental premium α on biological children over adopted children. Arguably, urban couples with higher education or higher socio-economic status are more “open minded” and thus have greater appreciation of children’s sentimental value and lower α . If this is the case, we expect literacy (the only available proxy for education), prestigious occupations (e.g., managerial and professional), urban residence, and household wealth (proxied by the presence of domestic employees and house ownership) to be positively correlated with sentimental adoption and negatively correlated with pragmatic adoption.

6. Determinants of the Demand for Adoption: Empirical Analysis

6.1. Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1880-1930

Using the pooled 1880-1930 sample of married two-parent households with children under age 18, I estimate the propensity of a household to adopt a child in several specifications. The results are reported separately for white households (see **Table 9**) and for black households (see **Table 10**). The dependent variable is an indicator variable that takes 1 if a household has at least one adopted child and 0 otherwise. The numbers reported in the tables are marginal effects evaluated at mean values.¹⁷ All marginal effects are expressed in percentage point. In a baseline model in column (1), I include a set of basic household characteristics, year fixed effects, and region fixed effects. In column (2), I repeat the same specification but restrict the sample to households with mother of age 50 and below. In an extended model in column (3), I replace a socioeconomic index by occupational categories and include division fixed effects. Column (4) repeats the same specification with the restriction on mother’s age. In column (5), as a proxy for household wealth, I add house ownership to the baseline model, but drop all observations in 1880 for which this variable is unavailable.

To measure a degree of substitution between biological and adopted children, in columns (1)-(5), I include both the indicator variable for the presence of biological children (under age 18) and the total number of biological children (under age 18) in the household. To interpret these variables as a proxy for fertility, however, has several problems, even after controlling for mother’s age. First, for older adoptive mothers who may have grown-up biological children, these variables would systematically underreport their total fertility. Second, the number of biological children is endogenous to adoption: the fewer number of biological children can be a result, rather than a cause, of adoption (especially for pragmatic adoption). Third, for sentimental adoption, anticipated (as opposed to

¹⁷ For indicator variables, marginal effects are for discrete change from 0 to 1 evaluated also at sample means.

realized) fertility (e.g., difficulty in conceiving in the first two years of marriage) should matter. To address these issues, I compute two additional measures of fertility. In column (6), I use the number of biological children (under age 18) who are older than the first adopted child in the household.¹⁸ Because the age of adoption can be higher than 0, this variable provides an upper bound estimate of the number of biological children prior to adoption. In column (7), to capture the fertility of mother at an early childbearing age, I use the number of biological children when mother was age 30 and restrict the sample to households with mother of age 30-40.

The results are fairly robust across all specifications. Main findings for white households are as follows. (1) The presence of biological child has a very large negative effect on the propensity to adopt, while having an additional biological child has a negative but much smaller effect. (2) The presence of domestic employees (e.g., servant, housekeeper, maid) and other non-domestic employees (unspecified) in the household is positively associated with adoption. (3) Living in a metropolitan or urban area is negatively associated with the likelihood of adoption. (4) Literacy of father has a negative effect, while literacy of mother has a positive effect on adoption. (5) Higher socioeconomic index (Duncan's index based on occupational income and prestige) of father and mother are both negatively associated with the propensity to adopt. House ownership is also negatively correlated with adoption. (6) Working father (i.e., having a regular occupation) and working mother are both positively associated with adoption. (7) Farmer fathers are more likely to adopt, but professional fathers are less likely to adopt. In terms of parental motivations to adopt, the results are mixed. The findings (1) and (2) are consistent with sentimental adoption and inconsistent with pragmatic adoption, while the findings (3), (5), (6), and (7) support pragmatic adoption and reject sentimental adoption. The finding (1) is inconsistent with altruistic adoption.

For black households, main results are as follows. (1) Again, the presence of biological child has a disproportionately large and negative effect on the propensity to adopt. (2) The presence of domestic employees has no effect, but the presence of non-domestic employees has a large positive effect on adoption. (3) Living in a metropolitan (but not urban) area is negatively associated with the likelihood of adoption. (4) Literacy of father has a negative effect on adoption. (5) In contrast to white households, higher socioeconomic index of father is positively associated with the propensity to adopt. The effect of house ownership, however, is negative. (6) Working father is positively associated with adoption, while working mother is negatively associated. (7) Both farmer fathers and farmer mothers have large and positive effects on adoption. (8) Professional fathers are more likely to adopt, while professional mothers are less likely to adopt. Again, the results are mixed. The findings (1), (6), and (8) are consistent with sentimental adoption and inconsistent with pragmatic adoption, while the findings

¹⁸ If there is no adopted child, then this variable is equal to the number of all biological children.

(3), (4), and (7) are consistent with pragmatic adoption and inconsistent with sentimental adoption. In other words, the empirical evidence seems to indicate that all three types of adoption coexisted in 1880-1930 for both races. In the following analysis, I look into across-time variations and variations in the characteristics of adopted children to better identify different types of adoption.

6.2. Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1880-1900 vs. 1910-1930

To see whether the determinants for the demand for adoption changed over time, I divide the data into two periods, 1880-1900 and 1910-1930, and run the same logit regressions as in the previous section. [Results to be added.]

6.3. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1880-1930

To investigate the determinants of adoption demand further, I classify adoptive households by the characteristics of children and estimate the propensity to adopt using multinomial logit. I consider three models. In the first model, a household chooses from three outcomes: (a) no adoption, (b) adoption of a boy, and (c) adoption of a girl. Because some households have multiple adopted children, I use the sex of the first adopted child to classify the adoptive households into the outcomes (b) and (c). According to the theoretical predictions, we should observe more pragmatic adoption in the outcome (b) and more sentimental adoption in the outcome (c), while altruistic adoption is equally likely in (b) and (c). The purpose of this analysis is to see whether the characteristics of households that make the outcome (b) more likely than the outcome (c) are consistent with the predictions of pragmatic adoption. I report the results for two specifications. In column (1), in addition to a basic set of variables, I include the numbers of male and female biological children older than the first adopted child. In column (2), I repeat the same specification, but restrict the sample to households with mother of age 50 and below. The results for white households are reported in **Table 11**, and the results for black households are reported in **Table 12**. The numbers in the tables are expressed in the ratio of relative risks (RRR), which is a relative probability of choosing a given outcome over the base outcome (which is defined to be “no adoption”). When RRR for variables x is greater than 1, it means that x increases the relative likelihood of a given outcome over the base outcome. [Discuss main findings.]

In the second model, I consider the choice of household among three outcomes: (a) no adoption, (b) adoption only and no biological children, and (c) adoption in the presence of biological children. The last category consists of households that have both adopted children and biological children who are older than the first adopted child. According to the theoretical predictions, the outcome (b) should consist largely of sentimental adoption, while the outcome (c) should consist

largely of pragmatic and altruistic adoption with minimum sentimental adoption. I report the results for two specifications. In column (1), I include a basic set of variables and, in column (2), I restrict the sample by the age of mother. The results for white households are reported in **Table 13**, and the results for black households are reported in **Table 14**. [Discuss main findings.]

In the third model, I assume that a household have a choice over three outcomes: (a) no adoption, (b) formal adoption, and (c) informal adoption. Because I don't observe formal adoption in the data, I use the same surname as a proxy for formal (i.e., legal) adoption. Namely, I classify adoptive households that have at least one adopted child who shares the same surname with both parents into the category (b) and the rest of adoptive households into the category (c). According to the theoretical predictions, the outcome (b) should consist primarily of sentimental adoption, while the outcome (c) should contain both pragmatic and altruistic adoption. I report the results for two specifications. In column (1), I include a basic set of variables and the number of biological children older than the first adopted child. In column (2), I restrict the age of mother. The results for white households are reported in **Table 15**, and the results for black households are reported in **Table 16**. [Discuss main findings.]

7. Conclusion

[To be written.]

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Table 1: The Number of Biological, Adopted, Step, and Foster Children Under Age 18 in All Households in the U.S., 1880-1930 & 2000

Year	1880		1900		1910		1920		1930		2000	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
White Children	16,967,149	100.0%	23,506,920	100.0%	27,151,811	100.0%	32,191,779	100.0%	35,017,609	100.0%	52,534,200	100.0%
Biological Children	16,723,189	98.56%	23,175,920	98.59%	26,708,034	98.37%	31,773,436	98.70%	34,387,874	98.20%	48,482,900	92.29%
Adopted Children	54,667	0.32%	64,560	0.27%	76,133	0.28%	44,911	0.14%	93,324	0.27%	1,161,900	2.21%
Step Children	175,930	1.04%	257,600	1.10%	348,703	1.28%	347,394	1.08%	520,958	1.49%	2,720,400	5.18%
Foster Children	13,363	0.08%	8,840	0.04%	18,941	0.07%	26,038	0.08%	15,453	0.04%	169,000	0.35%
Black Children	2,748,164	100.0%	3,155,720	100.0%	3,479,948	100.0%	3,637,013	100.0%	3,683,975	100.0%	9,150,100	100.0%
Biological Children	2,662,991	96.90%	3,049,040	96.62%	3,331,952	95.75%	3,525,830	96.94%	3,532,172	95.88%	8,376,600	91.55%
Adopted Children	10,969	0.40%	18,280	0.58%	28,837	0.83%	19,482	0.54%	35,653	0.97%	257,300	2.81%
Step Children	71,812	2.61%	86,280	2.73%	115,822	3.33%	90,085	2.48%	112,817	3.06%	408,200	4.46%
Foster Children	2,392	0.09%	2,120	0.07%	3,337	0.10%	1,616	0.05%	3,333	0.09%	108,000	1.29%
Asian Children	N/A		16,880	100.0%	N/A		36,846	100.0%	88,072	100.0%	2,456,000	100.0%
Biological Children			16,680	98.82%			36,846	100.0%	87,971	99.89%	2,281,700	92.90%
Adopted Children			0	0.00%			0	0.00%	0	0.00%	126,100	5.13%
Step Children			200	1.18%			0	0.00%	101	0.11%	44,300	1.80%
Foster Children			0	0.00%			0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3,900	0.17%
Native American Children	N/A		N/A		93,178	100.0%	77,015	100.0%	128,371	100.0%	696,700	100.0%
Biological Children					88,350	94.82%	74,591	96.85%	122,917	95.75%	629,300	90.33%
Adopted Children					449	0.48%	202	0.26%	909	0.71%	23,700	3.40%
Step Children					4209	4.52%	2121	2.75%	4545	3.54%	35300	5.07%
Foster Children					170	0.19%	101	0.14%	0	0.00%	8400	1.33%
Total	19,715,313	100.0%	26,679,520	100.0%	30,724,937	100.0%	35,942,653	100.0%	38,918,027	100.0%	64,837,000	100.0%
Biological Children	19,386,180	98.33%	26,241,640	98.36%	30,128,336	98.06%	35,410,703	98.52%	38,130,934	97.98%	59,770,500	92.19%
Adopted Children	65,636	0.33%	82,840	0.31%	105,419	0.34%	64,595	0.18%	129,886	0.33%	1,569,000	2.42%
Step Children	247,742	1.26%	344,080	1.29%	468,734	1.53%	439,600	1.22%	638,421	1.64%	3,208,200	4.95%
Foster Children	15,755	0.08%	10,960	0.04%	22,448	0.07%	27,755	0.08%	18,786	0.05%	289,300	0.48%

Source: IPUMS 1880 5% sample with oversamples, 1900 2.5% sample with oversamples, 1910 1.4% sample with oversamples, 1920 1% national random sample, 1930 1% national random sample, and 2000 1% national random sample from Ruggles et al. (2008).

Notes:

(1) Children are defined as any person under age 18 residing in a household whose relationship to a household head is reported as "child," including biological, adopted, and step children. Foster children are reported under a separate category as part of "non-relatives" but included in children in this table.

(2) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.

(3) Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.

(4) N/A: estimates are not available due to a small sample size.

Table 2: Percent Distribution of Children by Household Head's Marital Status and by Type of Children, 1880-1930 & 2000

Year: 1880	Married, Spouse Present	Married, Spouse Absent/ Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never Married/ Single
White					
Biological Children	91.92%	1.01%	0.15%	6.71%	0.20%
Adopted Children	87.59% *	0.36% **	0.36%	9.31% **	2.37% ***
Step Children	98.87% ***	0.17% ***	0.00% ***	0.90% ***	0.06% **
Foster Children	88.05%	0.75%	0.00% ***	5.97%	5.23% ***
Black					
Biological Children	83.29%	2.18%	0.48%	10.60%	3.46%
Adopted Children	89.10% **	1.81%	0.00% ***	5.46% **	3.64%
Step Children	98.06% ***	0.28% ***	0.00% ***	0.97% ***	0.69% ***
Foster Children	79.18%	0.00% ***	0.00% ***	12.46%	8.36%

Year: 1920	Married, Spouse Present	Married, Spouse Absent/ Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never Married/ Single
White					
Biological Children	93.06%	1.09%	0.30%	5.45%	0.09%
Adopted Children	85.84% ***	1.57%	0.22%	8.76% **	3.60% ***
Step Children	98.90% ***	0.12% ***	0.03% ***	0.90% ***	0.06%
Foster Children	84.88% ***	0.78%	0.39%	10.08% **	3.88% ***
Black					
Biological Children	84.37%	2.83%	0.68%	10.99%	1.13%
Adopted Children	80.82%	3.11%	0.52%	12.96%	2.59%
Step Children	99.22% ***	0.11% ***	0.33% *	0.34% ***	0.00% ***
Foster Children	75.00%	0.00% ***	0.00% ***	18.75%	6.25%

Year: 1900	Married, Spouse Present	Married, Spouse Absent/ Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never Married/ Single
White					
Biological Children	92.22%	1.28%	0.19%	6.24%	0.07%
Adopted Children	88.23% ***	1.24%	0.25%	8.05% ***	2.23% ***
Step Children	98.85% ***	0.17% ***	0.02% ***	0.90% ***	0.06%
Foster Children	83.71% ***	1.36%	0.45%	10.41% **	4.07% ***
Black					
Biological Children	82.22%	2.89%	0.55%	12.93%	1.41%
Adopted Children	79.87%	3.06%	0.22%	13.35%	3.50% **
Step Children	98.33% ***	0.19% ***	0.00% ***	1.25% ***	0.23% ***
Foster Children	64.15% *	9.43%	0.00% ***	13.21%	13.21% **

Year: 1930	Married, Spouse Present	Married, Spouse Absent/ Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never Married/ Single
White					
Biological Children	93.27%	1.45%	0.55%	4.66%	0.06%
Adopted Children	89.83% ***	1.41%	1.30% **	5.74%	1.73% ***
Step Children	99.22% ***	0.10% ***	0.00% ***	0.68% ***	0.00% ***
Foster Children	70.59% ***	2.61%	1.96%	20.26% ***	4.58% ***
Black					
Biological Children	83.82%	3.63%	1.04%	10.76%	0.74%
Adopted Children	80.74%	3.40%	0.28% ***	13.60%	1.98% *
Step Children	98.03% ***	0.98% ***	0.00% ***	0.81% ***	0.18% ***
Foster Children	57.58% ***	6.06%	0.00% ***	36.36% ***	0.00% ***

Year: 1910	Married, Spouse Present	Married, Spouse Absent/ Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never Married/ Single
White					
Biological Children	92.87%	1.10%	0.26%	5.72%	0.05%
Adopted Children	89.49% ***	0.90%	0.30%	7.54% **	1.76% ***
Step Children	99.40% ***	0.14% ***	0.00% ***	0.44% ***	0.02%
Foster Children	86.70% ***	0.00% ***	0.38%	10.26% **	2.66% ***
Black					
Biological Children	83.92%	2.40%	0.77%	11.63%	1.28%
Adopted Children	79.17% **	3.85% *	1.51%	12.93%	2.53% *
Step Children	98.79% ***	0.45% ***	0.00% ***	0.52% ***	0.25% ***
Foster Children	64.19% ***	8.63%	0.00% ***	19.12%	8.06% *

Year: 2000	Married, Spouse Present	Married, Spouse Absent/ Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Never Married/ Single
White					
Biological Children	78.88%	4.34%	10.48%	1.04%	5.28%
Adopted Children	83.97% ***	2.79% ***	7.63% ***	1.84% ***	3.75% ***
Step Children	91.45% ***	0.89% ***	3.48% ***	0.19% ***	3.98% ***
Foster Children	67.16% ***	4.50% ***	14.79% ***	3.08% ***	10.47% ***
Black					
Biological Children	39.96%	11.59%	13.25%	1.80%	33.41%
Adopted Children	51.65% ***	8.39% ***	13.45%	5.91% ***	20.60% ***
Step Children	83.83% ***	2.13% ***	4.53% ***	0.44% ***	9.06% ***
Foster Children	40.56%	10.18%	21.67% ***	9.81% ***	17.78% ***
Asian					
Biological Children	86.81%	3.96%	4.33%	1.43%	3.47%
Adopted Children	86.44%	2.06% ***	4.44%	1.43%	5.63% ***
Step Children	89.62% *	0.68% ***	2.93% *	0.90%	5.87% **
Foster Children	76.92%	0.00% ***	15.38% *	2.56%	5.13%

Source: Same as Table 1.

Notes:

- (1) Children are defined as any person under age 18 residing in a household whose relationship to a household head is reported as "child," including biological, adopted and step children. Foster children are reported under a separate category as part of "non-relatives" but included in children in this table.
- (2) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.
- (3) Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.
- (4) Significantly different from % for biological children of the same race at 1% level ***, at 5% level **, at 10% level *, using robust standard errors.

Table 3: Distribution of Married Two-Parent Households with Children by Types of Children in the Household, 1880-1930 & 2000

Year: 1880	Biological Only	Adopted Only (A)	Biological & Adopted (B)	Step Only	Biological & Step	Adopted & Step (C)	All Three (D)	Total	Adoptive HHs (A+B+C+D)	% of Adopted Only in Adoptive HHs: A/(A+B+C+D)
White Households										
No. of HHs	5,191,298	27,339	17,949	37,890	69,017	0	300	5,343,793	45,588	60.0%
As %	97.15%	0.51%	0.34%	0.71%	1.29%	0.00%	0.01%	100.0%	0.85%	
Black Households										
No. of HHs	652,411	5,085	2,593	15,265	26,229	100	0	701,683	7,778	65.4%
As %	92.98%	0.72%	0.37%	2.18%	3.74%	0.01%	0.00%	100.0%	1.11%	
Total										
No. of HHs	5,843,709	32,424	20,542	53,155	95,246	100	300	6,045,476	53,366	60.8%
As %	96.66%	0.54%	0.34%	0.88%	1.58%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.88%	

Year: 1900	Biological Only	Adopted Only (A)	Biological & Adopted (B)	Step Only	Biological & Step	Adopted & Step (C)	All Three (D)	Total	Adoptive HHs (A+B+C+D)	% of Adopted Only in Adoptive HHs: A/(A+B+C+D)
White Households										
No. of HHs	7,644,560	36,480	15,120	76,440	75,440	200	280	7,848,520	52,080	70.0%
As %	97.40%	0.46%	0.19%	0.97%	0.96%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.66%	
Black Households										
No. of HHs	778,360	8,360	3,600	26,440	21,280	80	120	838,240	12,160	68.8%
As %	92.86%	1.00%	0.43%	3.15%	2.54%	0.01%	0.01%	100.0%	1.45%	
Total										
No. of HHs	8,422,920	44,840	18,720	102,880	96,720	280	400	8,686,760	64,240	69.8%
As %	96.96%	0.52%	0.22%	1.18%	1.11%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.74%	

Year: 1910	Biological Only	Adopted Only (A)	Biological & Adopted (B)	Step Only	Biological & Step	Adopted & Step (C)	All Three (D)	Total	Adoptive HHs (A+B+C+D)	% of Adopted Only in Adoptive HHs: A/(A+B+C+D)
White Households										
No. of HHs	9,352,992	47,997	14,611	112,854	94,746	597	216	9,624,013	63,421	75.7%
As %	97.18%	0.50%	0.15%	1.17%	0.98%	0.01%	0.00%	100.0%	0.66%	
Black Households										
No. of HHs	894,298	13,063	4,991	36,515	24,341	489	84	973,781	18,627	70.1%
As %	91.84%	1.34%	0.51%	3.75%	2.50%	0.05%	0.01%	100.0%	1.91%	
Total										
No. of HHs	10,247,290	61,060	19,602	149,369	119,087	1,086	300	10,597,794	82,048	74.4%
As %	96.69%	0.58%	0.18%	1.41%	1.12%	0.01%	0.00%	100.0%	0.77%	

Year: 1920	Biological Only	Adopted Only (A)	Biological & Adopted (B)	Step Only	Biological & Step	Adopted & Step (C)	All Three (D)	Total	Adoptive HHs (A+B+C+D)	% of Adopted Only in Adoptive HHs: A/(A+B+C+D)
White Households										
No. of HHs	11,297,632	23,210	11,911	104,961	96,180	404	101	11,534,399	35,626	65.1%
As %	97.95%	0.20%	0.10%	0.91%	0.83%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.31%	
Black Households										
No. of HHs	968,742	9,085	3,735	30,672	18,975	202	200	1,031,611	13,222	68.7%
As %	93.91%	0.88%	0.36%	2.97%	1.84%	0.02%	0.02%	100.0%	1.28%	
Total										
No. of HHs	12,266,374	32,295	15,646	135,633	115,155	606	301	12,566,010	48,848	66.1%
As %	97.62%	0.26%	0.12%	1.08%	0.92%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.39%	

Year: 1930	Biological Only	Adopted Only (A)	Biological & Adopted (B)	Step Only	Biological & Step	Adopted & Step (C)	All Three (D)	Total	Adoptive HHs (A+B+C+D)	% of Adopted Only in Adoptive HHs: A/(A+B+C+D)
White Households										
No. of HHs	12,954,765	53,934	18,685	175,235	147,258	707	606	13,351,190	73,932	73.0%
As %	97.03%	0.40%	0.14%	1.31%	1.10%	0.01%	0.00%	100.0%	0.55%	
Black Households										
No. of HHs	980,205	17,574	6,060	43,531	20,200	404	505	1,068,479	24,543	71.6%
As %	91.74%	1.64%	0.57%	4.07%	1.89%	0.04%	0.05%	100.0%	2.30%	
Total										
No. of HHs	13,934,970	71,508	24,745	218,766	167,458	1,111	1,111	14,419,669	98,475	72.6%
As %	96.64%	0.50%	0.17%	1.52%	1.16%	0.01%	0.01%	100.0%	0.68%	

Year: 2000	Biological Only	Adopted Only (A)	Biological & Adopted (B)	Step Only	Biological & Step	Adopted & Step (C)	All Three (D)	Total	Adoptive HHs (A+B+C+D)	% of Adopted Only in Adoptive HHs: A/(A+B+C+D)
White Households										
No. of HHs	19,119,300	435,300	395,000	799,600	895,700	13,800	16,200	21,674,900	860,300	50.6%
As %	88.21%	2.01%	1.82%	3.69%	4.13%	0.06%	0.07%	100.0%	3.97%	
Black Households										
No. of HHs	1,667,400	44,900	39,000	96,300	129,300	2,000	2,300	1,981,200	88,200	50.9%
As %	84.16%	2.27%	1.97%	4.86%	6.53%	0.10%	0.12%	100.0%	4.45%	
Total										
No. of HHs	20,786,700	480,200	434,000	895,900	1,025,000	15,800	18,500	23,656,100	948,500	50.6%
As %	87.87%	2.03%	1.83%	3.79%	4.33%	0.07%	0.08%	100.0%	4.01%	

Source: Same as Table 1.

Notes:

- (1) Children are defined as any person under age 18 residing in a household whose relationship to a household head is reported as "child," including biological, adopted, and step children.
- (2) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.
- (3) Only households with two married parents and at least one child are included.
- (4) The race of a household is defined by the race of its household head. Only white households and black households are included.

Table 4: % Distribution of Adoptive Married Two-Parent Households by No. of Adopted Children in the Household, 1880-1930 & 2000

Year: 1880	1 Adopted Child	2 Adopted Children	3 Adopted Children	4 Adopted Children	5 Adopted Children	Over 5	Average No. of Adopted Children
White Households	94.97%	4.60%	0.22%	0.22%	0.00%	0.00%	1.06
Black Households	80.78%	15.36%	3.86%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.23
Total	92.90%	6.16%	0.75%	0.19%	0.00%	0.00%	1.08

Year: 1900	1	2	3	4	5	Over 5	Average No.
White Households	92.01%	6.84%	0.84%	0.23%	0.08%	0.00%	1.10
Black Households	84.87%	12.50%	1.64%	0.66%	0.33%	0.00%	1.19
Total	90.66%	7.91%	1.00%	0.31%	0.12%	0.00%	1.11

Year: 1910	1	2	3	4	5	Over 5	Average No.
White Households	93.18%	6.33%	0.49%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.07
Black Households	81.71%	14.59%	2.75%	0.96%	0.00%	0.00%	1.23
Total	90.58%	8.20%	1.01%	0.22%	0.00%	0.00%	1.11

Year: 1920	1	2	3	4	5	Over 5	Average No.
White Households	92.63%	7.08%	0.28%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.08
Black Households	87.79%	7.63%	3.06%	0.76%	0.76%	0.00%	1.19
Total	91.32%	7.23%	1.03%	0.21%	0.21%	0.00%	1.11

Year: 1930	1	2	3	4	5	Over 5	Average No.
White Households	88.80%	9.56%	1.37%	0.27%	0.00%	0.00%	1.13
Black Households	85.19%	11.52%	2.47%	0.82%	0.00%	0.00%	1.19
Total	87.90%	10.05%	1.64%	0.41%	0.00%	0.00%	1.15

Year: 2000	1	2	3	4	5	Over 5	Average No.
White Households	79.12%	17.39%	2.51%	0.66%	0.15%	0.16%	1.26
Black Households	81.52%	13.83%	3.51%	1.02%	0.11%	0.00%	1.24
Total	79.35%	17.06%	2.60%	0.70%	0.15%	0.15%	1.26

Source: Same as Table 1.

Notes:

(1) Children are defined as any person under age 18 residing in a household whose relationship to a household head is reported as "child," including biological, adopted, and step children.

(2) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.

(3) Only married two-parent households with at least one adopted child are included.

(4) The race of household is defined by the race of the household head. Only white households and black households are included.

Table 5: Characteristics of Children and Their Parents in Married Two-Parent Households by Type of Children in 1880

	% Child Male	No. of Obs.	% Same Race with Both Parents	No. of Obs.	Age of Child	No. of Obs.	Age of Father	No. of Obs.	Age of Mother	No. of Obs.	Age Gap between Child & Mother	No. of Obs.	No. of Father's Marriages	No. of Obs.	No. of Mother's Marriages	No. of Obs.	Duration of Parents' Marriage	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	50.9%	154,125	100.0%	154,125	7.4	154,125	41.0	154,125	35.8	154,125	28.4	154,125	N.A.		N.A.		N.A.	
White Adopted Children	44.6% ***	480	99.6% ***	480	9.2 ***	480	46.0 ***	480	41.6 ***	480	32.4 ***	480						
White Step Children	49.1%	1,743	99.7% **	1,743	11.2 ***	1,743	42.0 ***	1,743	37.3 ***	1,743	26.1 ***	1,743						
Black Biological Children	50.6%	22,237	99.5%	22,237	7.0	22,237	40.4	22,237	33.6	22,237	26.6	22,237						
Black Adopted Children	45.9%	98	95.9% *	98	8.2 ***	98	47.0 ***	98	40.9 ***	98	32.6 ***	98						
Black Step Children	51.3%	706	99.9% **	706	10.1 ***	706	40.6	706	34.6 ***	706	24.5 ***	706						

	No. of Siblings in HH	No. of Obs.	No. of Bio. Siblings in HH	No. of Obs.	No. of Children Born to Mother	No. of Obs.	% Child Native Born	No. of Obs.	% Child Born Out of State	No. of Obs.	% Both Parents Native Born	No. of Obs.	% Both Parents Born Out of State	No. of Obs.	% Same Surname with Both Parents	No. of Obs.	% Same Surname with No Parent	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	3.00	154,125	2.98	154,125	N.A.		96.9%	154,125	10.5%	149,288	65.3%	154,125	52.2%	146,722	100.0%	154,125	0.0%	154,125
White Adopted Children	0.97 ***	480	0.85 ***	480			94.8% **	480	20.6% ***	455	68.3%	480	55.2%	464	46.9% ***	480	53.1% ***	480
White Step Children	2.76 ***	1,743	1.57 ***	1,743			96.7%	1,743	17.6% ***	1,685	73.6% ***	1,743	51.5%	1,678	8.2% ***	1,743	91.7% ***	1,743
Black Biological Children	3.50	22,237	3.44	22,237			99.9%	22,237	4.3%	22,224	99.6%	22,237	20.5%	22,199	99.9%	22,237	0.0%	22,237
Black Adopted Children	1.42 ***	98	0.96 ***	98			100.0% ***	98	13.3% ***	98	100.0% ***	98	25.5%	98	33.7% ***	98	65.3% ***	98
Black Step Children	3.06 ***	706	1.60 ***	706			100.0% ***	706	6.7% **	706	99.3%	706	26.4% ***	705	27.2% ***	706	72.8% ***	706

	% Father Working	No. of Obs.	Father's Socio-economic Index	No. of Obs.	% Father Professional	No. of Obs.	% Mother Working	No. of Obs.	Mother's Socio-economic Index	No. of Obs.	% Mother Professional	No. of Obs.	% Have Domestic Employee	No. of Obs.	% Have Domestic Employee Under 18	No. of Obs.	% House Ownership	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	98.6%	154,125	21.1	151,969	9.4%	151,969	0.9%	154,125	27.5	1,464	17.5%	1,464	8.9%	154,125	2.7%	154,125	N.A.	
White Adopted Children	99.4% **	480	22.0	477	11.1%	477	1.0%	480	26.2	5	0.0% ***	5	11.0%	480	4.8% **	480		
White Step Children	98.8%	1,743	18.8 ***	1,722	6.9% ***	1,722	1.6% **	1,743	29.9	28	17.8% **	28	6.7% ***	1,743	2.1% *	1,743		
Black Biological Children	98.6%	22,237	11.9	21,920	1.1%	21,920	23.8%	22,237	7.9	5,285	0.2%	5,285	3.2%	22,237	1.1%	22,237		
Black Adopted Children	96.9%	98	12.6	95	2.1%	95	20.4%	98	10.2 **	20	0.0% ***	20	6.1%	98	0.0% ***	98		
Black Step Children	98.4%	706	10.9 ***	695	1.0%	695	27.8% **	706	7.6	196	0.0% ***	196	3.8%	706	0.3% ***	706		

	% Live in Metropolitan Area	No. of Obs.	% Live in Farming HH	No. of Obs.	% Father Literate	No. of Obs.	% Mother Literate	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Literate	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 in School	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Working	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Working on Farm	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	18.8%	154,125	49.0%	154,125	89.6%	154,125	87.3%	154,125	89.0%	43,620	73.3%	43,620	14.9%	43,620	9.8%	43,620
White Adopted Children	11.7% ***	480	56.3% ***	480	92.1% **	480	92.1% ***	480	90.2%	204	69.6%	204	13.2%	204	8.8%	204
White Step Children	11.5% ***	1,743	55.5% ***	1,743	86.2% ***	1,743	85.4% **	1,743	87.3% **	828	62.4% ***	828	18.5% ***	828	12.1% **	828
Black Biological Children	4.7%	22,237	46.4%	22,237	22.5%	22,237	16.6%	22,237	34.7%	5,822	36.2%	5,822	42.9%	5,822	35.3%	5,822
Black Adopted Children	16.4% ***	98	31.6% ***	98	32.7% **	98	23.5%	98	50.0% *	34	23.6% *	34	38.3%	34	20.6% **	34
Black Step Children	3.8%	706	37.7% ***	706	15.9% ***	706	11.5% ***	706	25.4% ***	323	33.1%	323	52.6% ***	323	40.6% *	323

Source: IPUMS 1880 5% Sample.

(1) Children are defined as any person under age 18 residing in a household whose relationship to a household head is reported as "child," including biological, adopted, and step children.

(2) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.

(3) Only children in a household with two married parents are included. Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.

(4) Significantly different from the mean of biological children of the same race at 10% level *; at 5% level **; at 1% level ***.

Table 6: Characteristics of Children and Their Parents in Married Two-Parent Households by Type of Children in 1910

	% Child Male	No. of Obs.	% Same Race with Both Parents	No. of Obs.	Age of Child	No. of Obs.	Age of Father	No. of Obs.	Age of Mother	No. of Obs.	Age Gap between Child & Mother	No. of Obs.	No. of Father's Marriages	No. of Obs.	No. of Mother's Marriages	No. of Obs.	Duration of Parents' Marriage	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	50.8%	348,032	100.0%	348,032	7.7	347,695	40.7	347,695	36.0	347,695	28.3	347,695	1.08	336,391	1.04	335,537	15.0	347,695
White Adopted Children	47.7% *	1,079	99.7%	1,079	8.7 ***	1,079	46.9 ***	1,079	42.2 ***	1,079	33.5 ***	1,079	1.14 ***	1,048	1.14 ***	1,045	18.1 ***	1,079
White Step Children	50.4%	5,220	99.6% ***	5,220	11.5 ***	5,214	40.9	5,214	36.9 ***	5,214	25.5 ***	5,214	1.50 ***	5,061	1.97 ***	5,112	4.6 ***	5,214
Black Biological Children	49.5%	45,728	99.5%	45,728	7.3	45,718	40.2	45,718	34.2	45,718	26.9	45,718	1.20	43,913	1.09	43,723	14.3	45,718
Black Adopted Children	47.3%	375	99.4%	375	9.1 ***	375	46.6 ***	375	41.3 ***	375	32.2 ***	375	1.28 ***	359	1.26 ***	361	17.1 ***	375
Black Step Children	49.3%	1,896	98.9% **	1,896	10.4 ***	1,895	40.1	1,895	35.0 ***	1,895	24.7 ***	1,895	1.64 ***	1,840	1.85 ***	1,864	4.6 ***	1,895

	No. of Siblings in HH	No. of Obs.	No. of Bio. Siblings in HH	No. of Obs.	No. of Children Born to Mother	No. of Obs.	% Child Native Born	No. of Obs.	% Child Born Out of State	No. of Obs.	% Both Parents Native Born	No. of Obs.	% Both Parents Born Out of State	No. of Obs.	% Same Surname with Both Parents	No. of Obs.	% Same Surname with No Parent	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	2.71	347,701	2.70	347,701	6.19	347,695	96.9%	348,032	10.0%	336,773	67.7%	348,032	42.8%	324,689	100.0%	348,032	0.0%	348,032
White Adopted Children	0.63 ***	1,079	0.47 ***	1,079	3.33 ***	1,079	97.7% *	1,079	25.6% ***	1,042	75.0% ***	1,079	48.5% ***	1,011	75.8% ***	1,079	23.5% ***	1,079
White Step Children	2.11 ***	5,214	0.88 ***	5,214	5.72 ***	5,214	96.3% **	5,220	21.9% ***	4,963	73.4% ***	5,220	44.8% ***	4,900	37.1% ***	5,220	62.8% ***	5,220
Black Biological Children	3.38	45,718	3.34	45,718	7.57	45,718	99.9%	45,728	5.0%	45,641	99.4%	45,728	11.7%	45,647	100.0%	45,728	0.0%	45,728
Black Adopted Children	1.11 ***	375	0.58 ***	375	4.43 ***	375	100.0% ***	375	13.1% ***	375	99.9% ***	375	16.5% **	373	63.1% ***	375	36.7% ***	375
Black Step Children	2.55 ***	1,895	0.85 ***	1,895	6.78 ***	1,895	99.8%	1,896	10.4% ***	1,887	98.8% **	1,896	17.3% ***	1,884	47.2% ***	1,896	52.8% ***	1,896

	% Father Working	No. of Obs.	Father's Socio-economic Index	No. of Obs.	% Father Professional	No. of Obs.	% Mother Working	No. of Obs.	Mother's Socio-economic Index	No. of Obs.	% Mother Professional	No. of Obs.	% Have Domestic Employee	No. of Obs.	% Have Domestic Employee Under 18	No. of Obs.	% House Ownership	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	98.8%	348,026	25.02	343,332	12.4%	343,655	4.4%	348,026	21.36	15,446	8.7%	15,474	3.4%	348,032	0.7%	348,032	47.9%	347,215
White Adopted Children	96.7% ***	1,079	27.06 ***	1,041	16.2% ***	1,041	5.7% *	1,079	24.39	63	12.9%	63	3.6%	1,079	0.8%	1,079	65.7% ***	1,077
White Step Children	98.3% ***	5,220	22.24 ***	5,127	8.9% ***	5,133	8.4% ***	5,220	22.93 *	420	11.5% *	422	2.0% ***	5,220	0.2% ***	5,220	43.3% ***	5,208
Black Biological Children	99.3%	45,728	13.48	45,391	1.7%	45,401	45.4%	45,728	12.39	20,293	0.8%	20,297	0.6%	45,728	0.2%	45,728	25.8%	45,705
Black Adopted Children	99.4%	375	15.33 ***	373	4.1% **	373	48.1%	375	14.49 **	176	2.7%	176	1.3%	375	0.2%	375	37.8% ***	375
Black Step Children	99.8% ***	1,896	12.59 ***	1,891	1.5%	1,892	54.9% ***	1,896	12.22	1,020	0.7%	1,021	0.3% **	1,896	0.0% ***	1,896	21.4% ***	1,895

	% Live in Metropolitan Area	No. of Obs.	% Live in Farming HH	No. of Obs.	% Father Literate	No. of Obs.	% Mother Literate	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Literate	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 in School	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Working	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Working on Farm	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	34.6%	348,032	38.7%	348,032	92.85%	348,026	91.8%	348,026	97.2%	100,766	92.3%	100,766	13.4%	100,766	9.1%	100,766
White Adopted Children	26.6% ***	1,079	41.9% **	1,079	92.59% ***	1,079	92.9%	1,079	96.2%	399	94.2%	399	9.2% ***	399	6.2% **	399
White Step Children	31.4% ***	5,220	35.6% ***	5,220	89.56% ***	5,220	89.6% ***	5,220	94.8% ***	2,630	86.0% ***	2,630	19.5% ***	2,630	11.1% ***	2,630
Black Biological Children	10.5%	45,728	62.5%	45,728	61.73%	45,728	61.9%	45,728	67.4%	12,492	73.3%	12,492	46.0%	12,492	41.7%	12,492
Black Adopted Children	14.6% **	375	60.6%	375	59.47% ***	375	55.4% **	375	67.5%	150	78.0%	150	43.3%	150	37.8%	150
Black Step Children	13.0% ***	1,896	51.8% ***	1,896	52.31% ***	1,896	54.2% ***	1,896	63.0% **	841	68.9% ***	841	46.6%	841	40.2%	841

Source: IPUMS 1910 1.4% Sample.

(1) Children are defined as any person under age 18 residing in a household whose relationship to a household head is reported as "child," including biological, adopted, and step children.

(2) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.

(3) Only children in a household with two married parents are included. Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.

(4) Significantly different from the mean of biological children of the same race at 10% level *; at 5% level **; at 1% level ***.

Table 7: Characteristics of Children and Their Parents in Married Two-Parent Households by Type of Children in 1930

	% Child Male	No. of Obs.	% Same Race with Both Parents	No. of Obs.	Age of Child	No. of Obs.	Age of Father	No. of Obs.	Age of Mother	No. of Obs.	Age Gap between Child & Mother	No. of Obs.	No. of Father's Marriages	No. of Obs.	No. of Mother's Marriages	No. of Obs.	Duration of Parents' Marriage	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	50.9%	317,566	100.0%	317,566	8.2	317,566	40.6	317,566	36.1	317,566	27.9	317,566	N.A.		N.A.		N.A.	
White Adopted Children	48.0% *	830	99.8%	830	9.2 ***	830	45.2 ***	830	41.6 ***	830	32.3 ***	830						
White Step Children	52.7% ***	5,110	99.9% **	5,110	11.7 ***	5,110	41.4 ***	5,110	36.9 ***	5,110	25.2 ***	5,110						
Black Biological Children	50.0%	29,315	99.7%	29,315	7.9	29,315	40.4	29,315	34.6	29,315	26.7	29,315						
Black Adopted Children	47.7%	285	100.0% ***	285	9.5 ***	285	47.4 ***	285	42.0 ***	285	32.6 ***	285						
Black Step Children	51.5%	1,094	99.8%	1,094	10.8 ***	1,094	41.7 ***	1,094	34.9	1,094	24.2 ***	1,094						

	No. of Siblings in HH	No. of Obs.	No. of Bio. Siblings in HH	No. of Obs.	No. of Children Born to Mother	No. of Obs.	% Child Native Born	No. of Obs.	% Child Born Out of State	No. of Obs.	% Both Parents Native Born	No. of Obs.	% Both Parents Born Out of State	No. of Obs.	% Same Surname with Both Parents	No. of Obs.	% Same Surname with No Parent	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	2.50	317,566	2.48	317,566	N.A.		98.5%	317,566	10.2%	312,820	73.3%	317,566	37.2%	299,354	99.9%	317,566	0.0%	317,566
White Adopted Children	0.82 ***	830	0.52 ***	830			97.0% **	830	20.6% ***	806	84.3% ***	830	46.9% ***	804	75.9% ***	830	24.1% ***	830
White Step Children	2.14 ***	5,110	1.00 ***	5,110			97.6% ***	5,110	24.2% ***	4,992	74.7% **	5,110	44.9% ***	4,847	10.6% ***	5,110	89.3% ***	5,110
Black Biological Children	3.37	29,315	3.34	29,315			99.9%	29,315	9.4%	29,279	98.6%	29,315	20.7%	29,236	99.9%	29,315	0.1%	29,315
Black Adopted Children	1.04 ***	285	0.62 ***	285			99.6%	285	14.1% **	284	99.3%	285	18.3%	284	44.9% ***	285	55.1% ***	285
Black Step Children	2.26 ***	1,094	0.77 ***	1,094			99.5%	1,094	18.6% ***	1,090	98.5%	1,094	25.0% ***	1,094	7.9% ***	1,094	91.8% ***	1,094

	% Father Working	No. of Obs.	Father's Socio-economic Index	No. of Obs.	% Father Professional	No. of Obs.	% Mother Working	No. of Obs.	Mother's Socio-economic Index	No. of Obs.	% Mother Professional	No. of Obs.	% Have Domestic Employee	No. of Obs.	% Have Domestic Employee Under 18	No. of Obs.	% House Ownership	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	98.9%	317,566	27.3	314,017	13.7%	314,017	4.6%	317,566	28.9	14,527	14.8%	14,527	1.8%	317,566	0.23%	317,566	46.5%	317,444
White Adopted Children	96.4% ***	830	31.7 ***	800	20.0% ***	800	8.3% ***	830	32.4	69	17.4%	69	3.6% ***	830	0.36%	830	59.3% ***	828
White Step Children	98.8%	5,110	24.6 ***	5,047	9.7% ***	5,047	10.3% ***	5,110	30.0	528	14.8%	528	1.1% ***	5,110	0.06% ***	5,110	42.9% ***	5,101
Black Biological Children	99.3%	29,315	13.9	29,108	2.5%	29,108	20.9%	29,315	13.8	6,127	2.6%	6,127	0.1%	29,315	0.04%	29,315	22.7%	29,313
Black Adopted Children	98.6%	285	14.1	281	2.5%	281	26.7% **	285	17.4 **	76	6.6%	76	0.4%	285	0.00% ***	285	37.9% ***	285
Black Step Children	99.4%	1,094	13.4 *	1,087	1.8% *	1,087	30.7% ***	1,094	12.6 ***	336	0.6% ***	336	0.4%	1,094	0.18%	1,094	16.5% ***	1,094

	% Live in Metropolitan Area	No. of Obs.	% Live in Farming HH	No. of Obs.	% Father Literate	No. of Obs.	% Mother Literate	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Literate	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 in School	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Working	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 10-15 Working on Farm	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	46.3%	317,566	29.7%	317,566	94.9%	317,566	94.9%	317,566	99.0%	102,432	94.5%	102,432	3.1%	102,432	2.0%	102,432
White Adopted Children	40.8% ***	830	27.6%	830	96.1% *	830	95.9%	830	99.4%	327	91.4% **	327	3.4%	327	2.1%	327
White Step Children	48.3% ***	5,110	24.1% ***	5,110	92.6% ***	5,110	93.6% ***	5,110	98.8% *	2,678	93.4% **	2,678	3.9% **	2,678	1.8%	2,678
Black Biological Children	26.7%	29,315	54.5%	29,315	77.8%	29,315	85.5%	29,315	88.6%	8,803	86.8%	8,803	14.9%	8,803	13.4%	8,803
Black Adopted Children	26.0%	285	60.0% *	285	71.6% **	285	74.0% ***	285	88.4%	112	88.4%	112	17.0%	112	15.2%	112
Black Step Children	29.3% *	1,094	49.3% ***	1,094	73.5% ***	1,094	84.1%	1,094	88.4%	508	84.8%	508	19.1% **	508	16.7% *	508

Source: IPUMS 1930 1% Sample.

(1) Children are defined as any person under age 18 residing in a household whose relationship to a household head is reported as "child," including biological, adopted, and step children.

(2) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.

(3) Only children in a household with two married parents are included. Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.

(4) Significantly different from the mean of biological children of the same race at 10% level *; at 5% level **; at 1% level ***.

Table 8: Characteristics of Children and Their Parents in Married Two-Parent Households by Type of Children in 2000

	% Child Male	No. of Obs.	% Same Race with Both Parents	No. of Obs.	% Same Race with No Parent	No. of Obs.	Age of Child	No. of Obs.	Age of Father	No. of Obs.	Age of Mother	No. of Obs.	Age Gap between Child & Mother	No. of Obs.	No of Father's Marriages	No. of Obs.	Duration of Parents' Marriage	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	51.4%	382,417	97.7%	382,417	0.1%	382,417	8.3	382,417	39.0	382,417	36.7	382,417	28.4	382,417	N.A.		N.A.	
White Adopted Children	48.7% ***	9,757	97.4% **	9,757	0.3% ***	9,757	9.4 ***	9,757	42.6 ***	9,757	40.4 ***	9,757	31.0 ***	9,757				
White Step Children	50.3% ***	23,978	97.0% ***	23,978	0.1% **	23,978	11.5 ***	23,978	38.0 ***	23,978	35.6 ***	23,978	24.1 ***	23,978				
Black Biological Children	51.1%	33,470	90.6%	33,470	1.2%	33,470	8.5	33,470	38.9	33,470	36.1	33,470	27.6	33,470				
Black Adopted Children	52.3%	1,329	71.7% ***	1,329	20.5% ***	1,329	9.3 ***	1,329	46.1 ***	1,329	43.1 ***	1,329	33.8 ***	1,329				
Black Step Children	50.8%	3,218	88.3% ***	3,218	4.0% ***	3,218	11.4 ***	3,218	37.8 ***	3,218	34.9 ***	3,218	23.5 ***	3,218				
Asian Biological Children	51.9%	19,808	92.3%	19,808	1.0%	19,808	8.4	19,808	41.4	19,808	37.9	19,808	29.5	19,808				
Asian Adopted Children	39.6% ***	1,090	24.5% ***	1,090	67.3% ***	1,090	8.8 **	1,090	45.0 ***	1,090	43.0 ***	1,090	34.3 ***	1,090				
Asian Step Children	45.3% **	373	43.7% ***	373	10.7% ***	373	11.4 ***	373	39.9 ***	373	37.1 ***	373	25.6 ***	373				

	No. of Siblings in HH	No. of Obs.	No. of Bio. Siblings in HH	No. of Obs.	No. of Children Born to Mother	No. of Obs.	% Child Native Born	No. of Obs.	% Child Born Out of State	No. of Obs.	% Both Parents Native Born	No. of Obs.	% Both Parents Born Out of State	No. of Obs.	% Same Surname with Both Parent	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	1.39	382,417	1.32	382,417	N.A.		95.7%	382,417	15.5%	365,992	79.6%	382,417	24.9%	304,440	N.A.	
White Adopted Children	1.31 ***	9,757	0.72 ***	9,757			91.2% ***	9,757	24.6% ***	8,901	86.6% ***	9,757	28.5% ***	8,451		
White Step Children	1.48 ***	23,978	0.76 ***	23,978			96.1% ***	23,978	24.4% ***	23,033	87.1% ***	23,978	21.8% ***	20,880		
Black Biological Children	1.48	33,470	1.37	33,470			95.5%	33,470	15.8%	31,971	80.5%	33,470	23.3%	26,932		
Black Adopted Children	1.50	1,329	0.75 ***	1,329			96.1%	1,329	21.5% ***	1,277	87.7% ***	1,329	31.6% ***	1,165		
Black Step Children	1.65 ***	3,218	0.85 ***	3,218			96.1%	3,218	23.2% ***	3,092	88.8% ***	3,218	21.8% *	2,858		
Asian Biological Children	1.37	19,808	1.34	19,808			75.5%	19,808	21.2%	14,956	5.4%	19,808	38.0%	1,075		
Asian Adopted Children	1.12	1,090	0.55 ***	1,090			21.5% ***	1,090	26.1% *	234	67.2% ***	1,090	38.9%	732		
Asian Step Children	1.50 *	373	0.97 ***	373			61.9% ***	373	45.5% ***	231	20.4% ***	373	48.7% *	76		

	% Father Employed	No. of Obs.	Father's Socio-economic Index	No. of Obs.	% Father Professional	No. of Obs.	% Mother Employed	No. of Obs.	Mother's Socio-economic Index	No. of Obs.	% Mother Professional	No. of Obs.	Average Total HH Income	No. of Obs.	% Have Domestic Employee	No. of Obs.	% House Ownership	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	89.6%	342,614	44.4	375,360	40.5%	375,360	61.0%	382,417	47.5	311,995	41.4%	311,995	73,419	382,417	N.A.		78.6%	382,417
White Adopted Children	88.2% ***	9,757	47.8 ***	9,438	45.8% ***	9,438	61.3% ***	9,757	49.3 ***	7,917	45.9% ***	7,917	81,596 ***	9,757			84.3% ***	9,757
White Step Children	89.5%	23,978	38.9 ***	23,552	30.5% ***	23,552	66.7% ***	23,978	43.0 ***	21,455	31.1% ***	21,455	62,932 ***	23,978			72.1% ***	23,978
Black Biological Children	80.5%	33,470	36.3	31,851	26.8%	31,851	68.5%	33,470	43.1	29,694	33.3%	29,694	55,681	33,470			60.8%	33,470
Black Adopted Children	73.8% ***	1,329	39.9 ***	1,207	33.8% ***	1,207	62.3% ***	1,329	45.7 ***	1,055	42.1% ***	1,055	62,643 ***	1,329			76.4% ***	1,329
Black Step Children	81.0%	3,218	33.4 ***	3,057	20.9% ***	3,057	69.5%	3,218	40.2 ***	2,965	25.9% ***	2,965	50,265 ***	3,218			55.3% ***	3,218
Asian Biological Children	81.7%	19,808	48.6	18,860	49.2%	18,860	54.9%	19,808	44.9	14,566	40.9%	14,566	70,730	19,808			63.2%	19,808
Asian Adopted Children	89.2% ***	1,090	55.5 ***	1,053	60.2% ***	1,053	67.5% ***	1,090	52.5 ***	917	55.2% ***	917	94,143 ***	1,090			86.8% ***	1,090
Asian Step Children	88.2% ***	373	44.5 ***	366	39.3% ***	366	61.7% ***	373	42.5 *	327	31.5% ***	327	66,836	373			63.8%	373

	% Live in Metropolitan Area	No. of Obs.	% Live in Farming HH	No. of Obs.	% Father College Graduate or Higher	No. of Obs.	% Mother College Graduate or Higher	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 5-17 with Disability	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 12-17 in School	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 12-17 in Private School	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 16-17 in Labor Force	No. of Obs.	% Child Age 16-17 Having Worked	No. of Obs.
White Biological Children	73.4%	240,498	2.1%	382,417	30.8%	382,417	28.1%	382,417	4.2%	273,293	98.2%	119,849	12.2%	119,849	39.5%	37,765	57.0%	37,765
White Adopted Children	70.4% ***	6,081	2.4% **	9,757	34.9% ***	9,757	29.5% ***	9,757	11.0% ***	7,933	97.8% *	3,718	14.9% ***	3,718	40.3%	1,107	58.1%	1,107
White Step Children	61.9% ***	14,450	1.6% ***	23,978	17.4% ***	23,978	11.6% ***	23,978	7.3% ***	22,669	97.8% ***	12,848	6.3% ***	12,848	47.5% **	4,373	61.3% ***	4,373
Black Biological Children	83.4%	23,307	0.4%	33,470	18.3%	33,470	19.1%	33,470	4.6%	24,424	98.4%	10,771	6.1%	10,771	31.1%	3,447	43.8%	3,447
Black Adopted Children	80.5% **	907	1.1% **	1,329	25.6% ***	1,329	24.5% ***	1,329	13.8% ***	1,084	98.2%	488	9.8% ***	488	30.3%	145	45.5%	145
Black Step Children	78.2% ***	2,105	0.5%	3,218	11.9% ***	3,218	9.7% ***	3,218	6.2% ***	3,049	98.7%	1,671	4.0% ***	1,671	34.8% *	538	43.7%	538
Asian Biological Children	96.0%	14,067	0.3%	19,808	46.5%	19,808	39.5%	19,808	2.2%	14,333	98.7%	6,389	9.3%	6,389	22.8%	2,081	35.1%	2,081
Asian Adopted Children	88.0% ***	701	1.6% ***	1,090	56.0% ***	1,090	49.5% ***	1,090	7.1% ***	775	97.1% *	420	16.0% ***	420	36.7% ***	134	60.5% ***	134
Asian Step Children	92.5% **	240	0.3%	373	33.0% ***	373	27.3% ***	373	4.0% *	352	96.5% *	200	10.5%	200	26.1%	69	53.6% ***	69

Source: IPUMS 2000 1% Sample.

- (1) Children are defined as any person under age 18 residing in a household whose relationship to a household head is reported as "child," including biological, adopted, and step children.
- (2) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.
- (3) Only children in a household with two married parents are included. Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.
- (4) Significantly different from the mean of biological children of the same race at 10% level *; at 5% level **; at 1% level ***.

Table 9: Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1880-1930: White Households

Marginal Effects Calculated at Mean Values (in Percentage Point)

Sample	(1) All	(2) Mom age<=50	(3) All	(4) Mom age<=50	(5) No 1880	(6) All	(7) Mom age 30-40
Mean Propensity to Adopt (in %)	0.160	0.147	0.156	0.142	0.147	0.065	0.165
Father's Age	0.004*** [37.77]	0.004*** [36.99]	0.004*** [35.08]	0.004*** [34.38]	0.003*** [27.62]	0.003*** [445.14]	0.009*** [82.64]
Mother's Age	0.004*** [32.12]	0.004*** [36.17]	0.004*** [31.84]	0.004*** [36.16]	0.003*** [27.97]	0.005*** [60.72]	-0.019*** [-97.33]
I[Bio. Child Present]	-97.724*** [-1956]	-96.796*** [-1207]	-97.750*** [-1943]	-96.813*** [-1315]	-97.858*** [-1899]		
No. of Bio. Children	-0.057*** [-133.7]	-0.055*** [-128.7]	-0.058*** [-138.4]	-0.056*** [-132.3]	-0.051*** [-117.0]		
I[Bio. Child Present Before Adoption]						-99.448*** [-3948]	
No. of Bio. Children Before Adoption						-0.041*** [-142.9]	
I[Bio. Child Present at Mother Age 30]							-1.184*** [-73.56]
No. of Bio. Children at Mother Age 30							-0.075*** [-83.74]
No. of Non-child Family Members	-0.001*** [-3.002]	-0.001** [-2.432]	-0.002*** [-4.715]	-0.002*** [-4.341]	-0.002*** [-4.933]	0.000* [1.873]	-0.028*** [-47.75]
I[Domestic Employee Present]	0.059*** [22.94]	0.052*** [20.98]	0.047*** [19.58]	0.040*** [17.41]	0.074*** [24.99]	0.021*** [14.49]	-0.012*** [-6.511]
I[Nondomestic Employee Present]	0.149*** [26.56]	0.147*** [26.61]	0.101*** [21.49]	0.097*** [21.43]	0.164*** [26.02]	0.046*** [15.76]	0.083*** [18.25]
I[House Ownership]					-0.0469*** [-47.97]		
I[Metropolitan Area]	-0.072*** [-62.92]	-0.066*** [-58.86]	-0.032*** [-23.96]	-0.030*** [-22.79]	-0.063*** [-53.31]	-0.027*** [-42.06]	-0.092*** [-73.35]
I[Urban Area]			-0.039*** [-28.67]	-0.033*** [-24.83]			
I[Father Literate]	-0.055*** [-19.51]	-0.055*** [-18.67]	-0.056*** [-20.22]	-0.056*** [-19.51]	-0.067*** [-21.58]	-0.008*** [-5.805]	-0.049*** [-14.94]
I[Mother Literate]	0.027*** [14.18]	0.025*** [12.65]	0.024*** [12.82]	0.021*** [10.99]	0.009*** [4.061]	0.002 [1.323]	0.042*** [19.47]
Father's SEI/10	-0.009*** [-35.33]	-0.010*** [-37.77]			-0.009*** [-33.17]	-0.005*** [-34.90]	-0.004*** [-18.50]
I[Father Working]	0.045*** [17.80]	0.036*** [12.50]	-0.005 [-1.370]	-0.018*** [-4.151]	0.032*** [11.81]	0.018*** [13.66]	0.072*** [25.47]
I[Father Farmer]			0.075*** [36.91]	0.079*** [38.52]			
I[Father Professional]			-0.004** [-2.057]	-0.006*** [-3.197]			
I[Father White-collar]			-0.030*** [-15.01]	-0.026*** [-13.31]			
I[Father Blue-collar]			0.016*** [9.347]	0.017*** [9.949]			
Mother's SEI/10	-0.014*** [-11.92]	-0.019*** [-18.06]			-0.016*** [-13.54]	-0.001 [-1.239]	-0.011*** [-11.58]
I[Mother Working]	0.020*** [4.471]	0.042*** [8.928]	0.065*** [8.924]	0.078*** [10.78]	0.032*** [7.035]	-0.010*** [-4.645]	0.194*** [26.07]
I[Mother Farmer]			-0.026*** [-2.974]	-0.015* [-1.759]			
I[Mother Professional]			-0.090*** [-23.62]	-0.100*** [-22.22]			
I[Mother White-collar]			-0.063*** [-14.77]	-0.058*** [-14.78]			
I[Mother Blue-collar]			-0.060*** [-13.33]	-0.067*** [-18.25]			
I[Father Native]	-0.026*** [-13.54]	-0.020*** [-10.79]	-0.032*** [-16.84]	-0.026*** [-14.37]	-0.016*** [-8.775]	-0.010*** [-10.95]	0.005** [2.432]
I[Mother Native]	-0.002 [-1.220]	0.001 [0.0617]	-0.007*** [-3.829]	-0.005*** [-2.704]	-0.008*** [-4.123]	-0.003*** [-3.217]	0.042*** [23.58]
I[Father Born Out of State]	0.018*** [13.34]	0.022*** [17.03]	0.018*** [13.72]	0.022*** [17.06]	0.015*** [11.18]	0.015*** [20.86]	0.023*** [17.67]
I[Mother Born Out of State]	0.005*** [4.033]	0.001 [0.395]	0.004*** [2.875]	-0.001 [-0.670]	0.010*** [7.333]	-0.002*** [-3.225]	0.038*** [29.73]
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Division Fixed Effects	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
No. of Households	632330	588055	632330	588055	578752	632330	258681
No. of Adoptive Households	3838	2956	3838	2956	3381	3838	1304
Pseudo R-squared	0.647	0.608	0.649	0.610	0.661	0.808	0.195
Log Likelihood	-806895	-712901	-802637	-708742	-685011	-440557	-642674

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.

Marginal effect for age is computed at mean age and includes linear and quadratic terms.

I[,] is an indicator variable that takes 1 if condition [,] holds. "SEI/10" is Duncan's socioeconomic index normalized to take value 0-10.

In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "unskilled."

Table 10: Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1880-1930: Black Households

Marginal Effects Calculated at Mean Values (in Percentage Point)

Sample	(1) All	(2) Mom age<=50	(3) All	(4) Mom age<=50	(5) No 1880	(6) All	(7) Mom age 30-40
Mean Propensity to Adopt (in %)	0.464	0.507	0.444	0.484	0.489	0.163	0.818
Father's Age	0.015*** [33.24]	0.015*** [29.44]	0.014*** [32.18]	0.014*** [28.53]	0.014*** [27.66]	0.008*** [32.72]	0.033*** [43.12]
Mother's Age	0.014*** [28.43]	0.026*** [37.57]	0.013*** [27.60]	0.024*** [36.77]	0.016*** [28.47]	0.009*** [35.79]	-0.108*** [-59.95]
I[Bio. Child Present]	-95.251*** [-631.0]	-94.559*** [-583.7]	-95.375*** [-630.7]	-94.703*** [-581.8]	-95.134*** [-614.5]		
No. of Bio. Children	-0.136*** [-77.61]	-0.151*** [-73.49]	-0.135*** [-78.86]	-0.150*** [-73.45]	-0.137*** [-71.43]		
I[Bio. Child Present Before Adoption]						-96.261*** [-437.0]	
No. of Bio. Children Before Adoption						-0.109*** [-95.55]	
I[Bio. Child Present at Mother Age 30]							-6.315*** [-53.63]
No. of Bio. Children at Mother Age 30							-0.293*** [-52.15]
No. of Non-child Family Members	-0.003 [-1.558]	0.013*** [6.332]	-0.006*** [-3.553]	0.009*** [4.417]	-0.007*** [-3.356]	0.007*** [8.938]	-0.041*** [-11.72]
I[Domestic Employee Present]	-0.018 [-0.798]	0.028 [1.069]	-0.020 [-0.907]	0.034 [1.338]	-0.190*** [-10.14]	0.015 [1.234]	0.181*** [4.622]
I[Nondomestic Employee Present]	0.837*** [14.49]	0.769*** [12.32]	0.824*** [14.49]	0.773*** [12.53]	0.274*** [5.404]	0.316*** [11.29]	1.148*** [10.34]
I[House Ownership]					-0.120*** [-19.69]		
I[Metropolitan Area]	-0.077*** [-10.96]	-0.092*** [-11.86]	-0.078*** [-10.88]	-0.091*** [-11.53]	-0.121*** [-17.35]	-0.059*** [-19.87]	-0.191*** [-16.98]
I[Urban Area]			0.035*** [4.326]	0.008 [0.864]			
I[Father Literate]	-0.017*** [-2.674]	-0.047*** [-6.593]	-0.013** [-2.110]	-0.042*** [-6.268]	-0.039*** [-5.926]	0.004 [1.503]	-0.083*** [-7.324]
I[Mother Literate]	0.015** [2.300]	0.0030 [0.394]	0.016** [2.513]	0.003 [0.468]	0.029*** [4.134]	0 [0.0194]	0.140*** [11.70]
Father's SEI/10	0.034*** [16.52]	0.041*** [18.80]			0.030*** [13.97]	0.004*** [4.226]	0.015*** [4.399]
I[Father Working]	0.154*** [10.65]	0.307*** [23.84]	0.111*** [7.058]	0.276*** [20.24]	0.278*** [24.93]	0.072*** [12.89]	0.02 [0.485]
I[Father Farmer]			0.183*** [28.48]	0.190*** [25.94]			
I[Father Professional]			0.226*** [10.10]	0.314*** [11.90]			
I[Father White-collar]			-0.060*** [-4.978]	-0.030** [-2.132]			
I[Father Blue-collar]			0.213*** [18.56]	0.280*** [21.21]			
Mother's SEI/10	0.004 [1.437]	0.003 [0.936]			-0.016*** [-5.041]	0.011*** [9.649]	0.066*** [12.50]
I[Mother Working]	-0.020*** [-3.039]	-0.042*** [-5.664]	-0.049*** [-7.318]	-0.079*** [-10.52]	0.041*** [5.227]	-0.016*** [-5.333]	-0.013 [-1.107]
I[Mother Farmer]			0.142*** [4.333]	0.260*** [6.269]			
I[Mother Professional]			-0.326*** [-68.30]	-0.384*** [-84.13]			
I[Mother White-collar]			0.136*** [10.17]	0.157*** [10.29]			
I[Mother Blue-collar]			-0.001 [-0.0499]	0.011 [0.394]			
I[Father Native]	0.386*** [64.72]	0.405*** [53.94]	0.378*** [72.97]	0.395*** [58.53]	0.414*** [65.47]	0.119*** [50.07]	0.290*** [6.750]
I[Mother Native]	-0.574*** [-6.334]	-0.679*** [-6.743]	-0.623*** [-7.057]	-0.682*** [-6.902]	-0.907*** [-7.068]	0.071*** [15.83]	0.514*** [15.91]
I[Father Born Out of State]	-0.075*** [-12.16]	-0.071*** [-9.714]	-0.043*** [-6.657]	-0.036*** [-4.799]	-0.034*** [-4.978]	-0.045*** [-18.06]	-0.189*** [-17.46]
I[Mother Born Out of State]	-0.010 [-1.432]	-0.003 [-0.423]	0.009 [1.287]	0.015* [1.826]	-0.048*** [-6.612]	0.007** [2.208]	-0.063*** [-5.332]
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Division Fixed Effects	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
No. of Households	64753	61274	64753	61274	57718	64753	24038
No. of Adoptive Households	1063	866	1063	866	985	1063	404
Pseudo R-squared	0.623	0.588	0.626	0.591	0.624	0.784	0.231
Log Likelihood	-196328	-179926	-194855	-178488	-179275	-112596	-152003

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.

Marginal effect for age is computed at mean age and includes linear and quadratic terms.

I[,] is an indicator variable that takes 1 if condition [.] holds. "SEI/10" is Duncan's socioeconomic index normalized to take value 0-10.

In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "unskilled."

Table 11. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by Sex of Child: White Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1)		Test	(2)		Test
	All	Adopt Girl		Mom age=<50	Adopt Girl	
Father's Age	1.174*** [791.18]	1.162*** [778.53]	^^^	1.200*** [621.79]	1.198*** [524.32]	
Mother's Age	1.296*** [694.17]	1.381*** [673.69]	^^^	1.396*** [437.88]	1.536*** [378.16]	^^^
No. of Bio. Boys before Adoption	0.005*** [-352.16]	0.008*** [-391.84]	^^^	0.008*** [-290.29]	0.015*** [-324.04]	^^^
No. of Bio. Girls before Adoption	0.008*** [-351.45]	0.004*** [-378.28]	^^^	0.015*** [-289.63]	0.008*** [-313.46]	^^^
No. of Non-child Family Members	0.823*** [-75.93]	0.771*** [-106.67]	^^^	0.826*** [-62.74]	0.766*** [-89.89]	^^^
I[Domestic Employee Present]	1.097*** [8.79]	1.000 [0.00]	^^^	1.042*** [3.57]	0.949*** [-4.65]	^^^
I[Nondomestic Employee Present]	1.055** [3.02]	1.735*** [32.36]	^^^	0.942** [-2.92]	1.900*** [36.06]	^^^
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.693*** [-48.47]	0.755*** [-42.45]	^^^	0.642*** [-51.07]	0.700*** [-48.05]	^^^
I[Urban Area]	0.773*** [-34.08]	0.786*** [-37.31]	^	0.760*** [-32.24]	0.783*** [-34.24]	^^^
I[Father Literate]	0.671*** [-34.98]	0.879*** [-10.16]	^^^	0.631*** [-34.12]	0.856*** [-9.66]	^^^
I[Mother Literate]	1.124*** [9.70]	1.066*** [5.19]	^^^	1.057*** [3.80]	1.006 [0.39]	^^^
I[Father Working]	1.003 [0.17]	0.797*** [-15.38]	^^^	1.044 [1.74]	0.823*** [-9.83]	^^^
I[Father Farmer]	1.555*** [48.35]	1.156*** [15.73]	^^^	1.717*** [51.61]	1.134*** [11.93]	^^^
I[Father Professional]	0.847*** [-15.37]	1.235*** [21.55]	^^^	0.916*** [-7.25]	1.134*** [11.42]	^^^
I[Father White-collar]	0.726*** [-25.17]	1.010 [0.89]	^^^	0.708*** [-23.68]	0.931*** [-5.63]	^^^
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.089*** [8.95]	1.347*** [33.04]	^^^	1.140*** [12.18]	1.331*** [28.18]	^^^
I[Mother Working]	1.163*** [4.52]	1.269*** [6.86]	^^^	1.260*** [6.64]	1.446*** [9.97]	^^^
I[Mother Farmer]	1.118 [1.87]	1.026 [0.40]		1.230*** [3.40]	1.126 [1.74]	
I[Mother Professional]	1.516*** [9.66]	0.785*** [-5.45]	^^^	1.361*** [6.86]	0.525*** [-12.45]	^^^
I[Mother White-collar]	1.674*** [13.13]	1.288*** [6.43]	^^^	1.553*** [10.59]	1.151*** [3.33]	^^^
I[Mother Blue-collar]	1.113* [2.55]	1.065 [1.51]		1.056 [1.27]	0.870** [-3.19]	^^^
I[Father Native]	0.904*** [-11.23]	1.088*** [9.96]	^^^	0.940*** [-6.15]	1.118*** [11.43]	^^^
I[Mother Native]	0.984 [-1.69]	1.109*** [11.54]	^^^	0.956*** [-4.22]	1.145*** [12.95]	^^^
I[Father Born Out of State]	1.076*** [11.07]	1.204*** [28.68]	^^^	1.141*** [18.29]	1.277*** [33.94]	^^^
I[Mother Born Out of State]	1.038*** [5.74]	1.132*** [19.20]	^^^	1.114*** [15.16]	1.139*** [18.11]	^^
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	623230	623230		579495	579495	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	1800	2013		1412	1521	
Pseudo R-squared	0.4782	0.4782		0.4441	0.4441	
Log Likelihood	-1318915	-1318915		-1111300	-1111300	

Base outcome is no adoption. The sex of adopted child is the sex of the first adopted child.

Statistical significance for RRR is based on the null: RRR=1.

*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.

RRR for age is computed at mean age and includes linear and quadratic terms.

I[.] is an indicator variable that takes 1 if condition [.] holds.

In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "unskilled."

"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 12. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by Sex of Child: Black Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1)		Test	(2)		Test
	All	Adopt Girl		Mom age=<50	Adopt Girl	
Father's Age	1.102*** [385.41]	1.119*** [551.94]	^^^	1.109*** [359.48]	1.115*** [455.45]	
Mother's Age	1.378*** [315.62]	1.269*** [388.83]	^^^	1.775*** [208.16]	1.531*** [265.74]	^^^
No. of Bio. Boys before Adoption	0.017*** [-153.98]	0.014*** [-168.67]	^^^	0.025*** [-140.72]	0.021*** [-153.95]	^^^
No. of Bio. Girls before Adoption	0.013*** [-163.01]	0.011*** [-183.12]	^^^	0.018*** [-148.32]	0.017*** [-172.03]	
No. of Non-child Family Members	0.857*** [-38.18]	0.863*** [-36.95]		0.913*** [-20.75]	0.874*** [-29.16]	^^^
I[Domestic Employee Present]	1.038 [1.03]	0.805*** [-5.82]	^^^	1.212*** [5.40]	0.808*** [-5.48]	^^^
I[Nondomestic Employee Present]	1.596*** [9.26]	3.328*** [28.45]	^^^	1.489*** [6.79]	3.574*** [31.66]	^^^
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.936*** [-4.03]	1.109*** [6.87]	^^^	0.847*** [-9.11]	1.114*** [6.84]	^^^
I[Urban Area]	0.765*** [-15.26]	1.060*** [3.94]	^^^	0.720*** [-17.15]	0.928*** [-4.68]	^^^
I[Father Literate]	0.944*** [-4.70]	1.091*** [7.64]	^^^	0.904*** [-7.56]	1.077*** [5.92]	^^^
I[Mother Literate]	1.113*** [8.20]	1.146*** [11.38]	^	1.177*** [11.42]	1.093*** [6.83]	^^^
I[Father Working]	0.954 [-1.11]	0.957 [-1.41]		1.346*** [5.39]	1.205*** [4.80]	^
I[Father Farmer]	1.529*** [31.78]	1.159*** [12.44]	^^^	1.501*** [28.44]	1.228*** [15.86]	^^^
I[Father Professional]	1.368*** [11.23]	0.989 [-0.48]	^^^	1.334*** [9.23]	1.169*** [6.49]	^^^
I[Father White-collar]	0.562*** [-18.61]	0.778*** [-11.48]	^^^	0.409*** [-23.16]	0.842*** [-7.45]	^^^
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.325*** [15.03]	1.078*** [4.78]	^^^	1.404*** [17.22]	1.135*** [7.50]	^^^
I[Mother Working]	0.998 [-0.15]	1.001 [0.06]		0.883*** [-7.76]	1.009 [0.55]	^^^
I[Mother Farmer]	0.866* [-2.41]	1.529*** [8.29]	^^^	0.843* [-2.17]	1.605*** [8.69]	^^^
I[Mother Professional]	1.277*** [4.84]	0.820*** [-3.39]	^^^	1.041 [0.69]	0.743*** [-4.96]	^^^
I[Mother White-collar]	1.296*** [11.89]	1.415*** [17.29]	^^^	1.357*** [12.90]	1.481*** [18.43]	^^^
I[Mother Blue-collar]	0.933 [-1.27]	1.118** [2.86]	^^^	0.740*** [-4.88]	1.031 [0.73]	^^^
I[Father Native]	0.709*** [-3.61]	3.691*** [11.16]	^^^	0.363*** [-14.65]	5.280*** [13.68]	^^^
I[Mother Native]	1.078 [0.74]	0.458*** [-8.46]	^^^	2.588*** [9.24]	0.311*** [-13.69]	^^^
I[Father Born Out of State]	0.788*** [-16.34]	0.849*** [-12.17]	^^^	0.717*** [-20.20]	0.862*** [-10.44]	^^^
I[Mother Born Out of State]	1.057*** [3.79]	0.979 [-1.52]	^^^	1.169*** [9.66]	0.955** [-2.99]	^^^
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	61995	61995		58633	58633	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	468	577		380	469	
Pseudo R-squared	0.4944	0.4944		0.4726	0.4726	
Log Likelihood	-292272	-292272		-254469	-254469	

Base outcome is no adoption. The sex of adopted child is the sex of the first adopted child.

Statistical significance for RRR is based on the null: RRR=1.

*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.

RRR for age is computed at mean age and includes linear and quadratic terms.

I[.] is an indicator variable that takes 1 if condition [.] holds.

In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "unskilled."

"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 13. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by the Presence of Biological Children: White Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age=<50		Test
	Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.		Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.	
Father's Age	1.014*** [727.50]	1.146*** [288.78]	^^^	1.016*** [597.45]	1.169*** [241.09]	^^^
Mother's Age	0.958*** [-671.39]	1.170*** [258.39]	^^^	1.029*** [408.58]	1.219*** [166.22]	^^^
No. of Non-child Family Members	0.585*** [-174.93]	0.996 [-1.18]	^^^	0.636*** [-112.36]	0.969*** [-6.75]	^^^
I[Domestic Employee Present]	1.411*** [40.49]	1.460*** [21.51]	^	1.330*** [28.96]	1.418*** [17.89]	^^^
I[Nondomestic Employee Present]	1.391*** [22.00]	1.785*** [21.71]	^^^	1.349*** [17.45]	1.846*** [21.39]	^^^
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.693*** [-60.56]	0.797*** [-17.80]	^^^	0.606*** [-70.70]	0.769*** [-18.35]	^^^
I[Urban Area]	0.878*** [-22.33]	0.862*** [-11.42]	^^^	0.894*** [-16.64]	0.922*** [-5.54]	^
I[Father Literate]	0.923*** [-8.68]	0.900*** [-5.58]	^^^	0.979 [-1.77]	0.892*** [-5.32]	^^^
I[Mother Literate]	1.212*** [20.86]	1.153*** [7.84]	^^	1.098*** [8.03]	1.166*** [7.31]	^^
I[Father Working]	0.820*** [-15.51]	1.386*** [8.99]	^^^	0.742*** [-16.60]	1.226*** [4.64]	^^^
I[Father Farmer]	1.078*** [10.30]	1.137*** [8.25]	^^^	1.077*** [8.56]	1.192*** [10.09]	^^^
I[Father Professional]	1.502*** [49.50]	0.794*** [-12.15]	^^^	1.560*** [47.29]	0.768*** [-12.44]	^^^
I[Father White-collar]	1.244*** [23.01]	0.797*** [-10.31]	^^^	1.123*** [10.38]	0.810*** [-8.77]	^^^
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.286*** [34.11]	1.059*** [3.69]	^^^	1.323*** [32.88]	1.063*** [3.55]	^^^
I[Mother Working]	0.853*** [-5.33]	0.689*** [-5.32]	^^^	0.936* [-2.01]	0.818** [-2.80]	^
I[Mother Farmer]	1.066 [1.18]	3.561*** [13.93]	^^^	1.450*** [6.74]	3.892*** [14.72]	^^^
I[Mother Professional]	2.202*** [21.93]	1.866*** [6.85]	^	1.879*** [15.65]	1.228* [2.04]	^^^
I[Mother White-collar]	1.884*** [18.89]	1.120 [1.31]	^^^	1.743*** [14.97]	1.147 [1.56]	^^^
I[Mother Blue-collar]	1.588*** [13.03]	0.966 [-0.38]	^^^	1.665*** [13.37]	0.616*** [-4.80]	^^^
I[Father Native]	1.221*** [21.86]	0.906*** [-6.58]	^^^	1.324*** [26.29]	0.970 [-1.84]	^^^
I[Mother Native]	1.315*** [28.71]	1.098*** [5.77]	^^^	1.271*** [21.64]	1.132*** [6.70]	^^^
I[Father Born Out of State]	1.121*** [20.26]	1.290*** [21.15]	^^^	1.249*** [35.19]	1.431*** [27.15]	^^^
I[Mother Born Out of State]	1.176*** [29.89]	0.997 [-0.22]	^^^	1.282*** [40.98]	0.929*** [-5.52]	^^^
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	622713	622713		579000	579000	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	2730	566		1988	450	
Pseudo R-squared	0.08797	0.08797		0.0491	0.0491	
Log Likelihood	-1962175	-1962175		-1568291	-1568291	

Base outcome is no adoption. The outcome "adopt with no older bio" is defined as having no biological children older than the first adopted child in the household.

Statistical significance for RRR is based on the null: RRR=1.

*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.

RRR for age is computed at mean age and includes linear and quadratic terms.

I[.] is an indicator variable that takes 1 if condition [.] holds.

In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "unskilled."

"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2).

"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 14. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by the Presence of Biological Children: Black Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age=<50		Test
	Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.		Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.	
Father's Age	1.025*** [529.68]	1.068*** [206.66]	^^^	1.010*** [429.58]	1.077*** [200.24]	^^^
Mother's Age	1.004*** [444.66]	1.204*** [184.21]	^^^	1.087*** [250.60]	1.533*** [113.32]	^^^
No. of Non-child Family Members	0.725*** [-76.24]	1.042*** [7.56]	^^^	0.811*** [-42.90]	1.085*** [14.10]	^^^
I[Domestic Employee Present]	3.096*** [41.87]	1.632*** [6.82]	^^^	3.344*** [44.16]	1.902*** [8.89]	^^^
I[Nondomestic Employee Present]	2.091*** [18.60]	3.663*** [21.72]	^^^	2.577*** [23.52]	2.938*** [14.74]	^^^
I[Metropolitan Area]	1.216*** [14.77]	0.869*** [-4.70]	^^^	1.231*** [13.86]	0.814*** [-6.49]	^^^
I[Urban Area]	1.216*** [13.99]	0.975 [-0.81]	^^^	1.097*** [5.82]	0.816*** [-6.25]	^^^
I[Father Literate]	1.081*** [7.90]	0.983 [-0.86]	^^^	1.112*** [9.39]	0.834*** [-8.81]	^^^
I[Mother Literate]	1.183*** [15.79]	1.223*** [9.19]	^^^	1.253*** [18.64]	1.217*** [8.40]	^^^
I[Father Working]	0.764*** [-9.88]	1.695*** [5.17]	^^^	0.699*** [-10.86]	0.460*** [179.45]	^^^
I[Father Farmer]	0.955*** [-4.68]	1.388*** [14.99]	^^^	0.934*** [-6.29]	1.372*** [13.61]	^^^
I[Father Professional]	1.499*** [18.70]	1.390*** [5.75]	^^^	1.451*** [15.73]	1.802*** [10.15]	^^^
I[Father White-collar]	0.881*** [-6.45]	0.847** [-2.94]	^^^	0.707*** [-15.39]	1.105 [1.77]	^^^
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.165*** [11.12]	1.970*** [23.04]	^^^	1.117*** [7.36]	2.454*** [29.86]	^^^
I[Mother Working]	1.079*** [6.70]	1.084*** [3.68]	^^^	1.051*** [3.86]	1.005 [0.22]	^^^
I[Mother Farmer]	1.002 [0.05]	0.687*** [-3.69]	^^^	0.887* [-2.31]	0.833 [-1.78]	^^^
I[Mother Professional]	1.610*** [11.86]	8.08e-16*** [-1079.89]	^^^	1.525*** [9.31]	5.27e-16*** [-999.53]	^^^
I[Mother White-collar]	1.158*** [8.79]	1.490*** [11.74]	^^^	1.278*** [13.15]	1.650*** [13.93]	^^^
I[Mother Blue-collar]	1.264*** [6.73]	1.13e-15*** [-1239.48]	^^^	1.186*** [4.36]	9.15e-16*** [-1166.84]	^^^
I[Father Native]	1.332*** [3.70]	842193.3*** [140.95]	^^^	0.926 [-0.99]	845766.8*** [155.13]	^^^
I[Mother Native]	0.773*** [-3.52]	729567.5*** [148.85]	^^^	0.997 [-0.04]	709007.2*** [161.14]	^^^
I[Father Born Out of State]	0.797*** [-21.41]	0.799*** [-10.96]	^^^	0.852*** [-13.40]	0.784*** [-10.53]	^^^
I[Mother Born Out of State]	0.990 [-0.91]	1.249*** [10.86]	^^^	1.053*** [4.18]	1.265*** [10.07]	^^^
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	61853	61853		57784	57784	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	743	160		576	136	
Pseudo R-squared	0.0860	0.0860		0.0534	0.0534	
Log Likelihood	-450956	-450956		-381959	-381959	

Base outcome is no adoption. The outcome "adopt with no older bio" is defined as having no biological children older than the first adopted child in the household.

Statistical significance for RRR is based on the null: RRR=1.

*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.

RRR for age is computed at mean age and includes linear and quadratic terms.

I[,] is an indicator variable that takes 1 if condition [,] holds.

In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "unskilled."

"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 15. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by Surname of Child: White Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age=<50		Test
	Adopt, Same Surname	Adopt, Different Surname		Adopt, Same Surname	Adopt, Different Surname	
Father's Age	1.088*** [1080.93]	1.007*** [468.14]	^^^	1.104*** [883.83]	0.999*** [-363.35]	^^^
Mother's Age	1.128*** [977.12]	1.108*** [443.80]	^^^	1.212*** [586.45]	1.100*** [234.90]	^^^
No. of Bio. Children before Adoption	0.001*** [-440.56]	2.64e-06*** [-128.32]	^^^	0.001*** [-383.99]	4.19e-06*** [-123.49]	^^^
No. of Non-child Family Members	0.909*** [-42.47]	1.060*** [14.02]	^^^	0.926*** [-30.60]	1.047*** [8.39]	^^^
I[Domestic Employee Present]	1.167*** [17.21]	1.132*** [7.07]	^	1.128*** [12.69]	1.022 [1.09]	^^^
I[Nondomestic Employee Present]	1.330*** [16.63]	1.198*** [5.59]	^^^	1.332*** [15.78]	1.179*** [4.31]	^^^
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.771*** [-48.44]	1.152*** [11.48]	^^^	0.740*** [-51.46]	1.006 [0.44]	^^^
I[Urban Area]	0.801*** [-41.48]	0.947*** [-4.36]	^^^	0.811*** [-35.85]	1.008 [0.53]	^^^
I[Father Literate]	0.841*** [-15.57]	0.733*** [-16.14]	^^^	0.829*** [-14.67]	0.645*** [-19.42]	^^^
I[Mother Literate]	1.020 [1.77]	0.666*** [-21.05]	^^^	0.951*** [-4.01]	0.667*** [-17.52]	^^^
I[Father Working]	1.112*** [8.25]	1.363*** [10.22]	^^^	1.129*** [7.23]	1.787*** [12.12]	^^^
I[Father Farmer]	1.182*** [22.40]	1.742*** [33.34]	^^^	1.246*** [26.74]	1.663*** [26.19]	^^^
I[Father Professional]	0.854*** [-19.92]	0.594*** [-26.43]	^^^	0.827*** [-21.99]	0.582*** [-24.53]	^^^
I[Father White-collar]	0.765*** [-29.93]	0.847*** [-7.59]	^^^	0.714*** [-33.97]	0.881*** [-5.09]	^^^
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.027*** [3.67]	0.874*** [-7.67]	^^^	1.027*** [3.33]	0.845*** [-8.45]	^^^
I[Mother Working]	0.936* [-2.34]	0.336*** [-16.24]	^^^	1.034 [1.07]	0.449*** [-11.47]	^^^
I[Mother Farmer]	1.771*** [10.20]	3.356*** [7.90]	^^^	2.018*** [11.85]	3.754*** [8.68]	^^^
I[Mother Professional]	1.142*** [3.86]	1.716*** [6.19]	^^^	0.891** [-3.07]	1.042 [0.41]	^^^
I[Mother White-collar]	1.024 [0.76]	5.916*** [23.62]	^^^	0.933* [-1.98]	5.613*** [21.80]	^^^
I[Mother Blue-collar]	0.874*** [-4.17]	1.350*** [3.32]	^^^	0.768*** [-7.62]	1.007 [0.08]	^^^
I[Father Native]	0.868*** [-21.52]	1.005 [0.33]	^^^	0.885*** [-16.98]	1.058*** [3.45]	^^^
I[Mother Native]	0.979** [-3.00]	0.911*** [-6.29]	^^^	0.972*** [-3.60]	0.909*** [-5.40]	^^^
I[Father Born Out of State]	1.200*** [34.75]	1.016 [1.21]	^^^	1.274*** [42.59]	1.047** [2.97]	^^^
I[Mother Born Out of State]	1.063*** [11.31]	0.993 [-0.54]	^^^	1.053*** [8.85]	1.129*** [7.79]	^^^
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	623230	623230		579495	579495	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	2918	895		2348	585	
Pseudo R-squared	0.6548	0.6548		0.6434	0.6434	
Log Likelihood	-851039	-851039		-690419	-690419	

Base outcome is no adoption. The outcome "adopt, same surname" is defined as having at least one adopted child who has the same surname with both parents.

Statistical significance for RRR is based on the null: RRR=1.

*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.

RRR for age is computed at mean age and includes linear and quadratic terms.

I[.] is an indicator variable that takes 1 if condition [.] holds.

In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "unskilled."

"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^ p<0.01, ^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 16. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by Surname of Child: Black Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age=<50		Test
	Adopt, Same Surname	Adopt, Different Surname		Adopt, Same Surname	Adopt, Different Surname	
Father's Age	1.064*** [533.07]	1.014*** [305.93]	^^^	1.057*** [534.28]	1.007*** [245.10]	^^^
Mother's Age	1.132*** [462.55]	1.134*** [299.80]		1.344*** [323.20]	1.151*** [147.39]	^^^
No. of Bio. Children before Adoption	0.006*** [-173.94]	1.19e-19*** [-2487.89]	^^^	0.007*** [-153.85]	2.96e-18*** [-2299.93]	^^^
No. of Non-child Family Members	0.941*** [-17.67]	0.968*** [-4.56]	^^^	0.980*** [-5.83]	0.968*** [-3.63]	
I[Domestic Employee Present]	0.916* [-2.38]	3.080*** [20.55]	^^^	0.998 [-0.04]	3.226*** [21.18]	^^^
I[Nondomestic Employee Present]	1.852*** [13.15]	4.131*** [18.54]	^^^	1.667*** [10.89]	2.813*** [12.81]	^^^
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.913*** [-7.59]	1.216*** [8.50]	^^^	0.888*** [-9.64]	1.254*** [9.30]	^^^
I[Urban Area]	0.918*** [-6.78]	0.911*** [-4.25]		0.835*** [-13.88]	0.849*** [-7.01]	
I[Father Literate]	1.018 [1.78]	1.098*** [5.33]	^^^	0.955*** [-4.49]	1.117*** [5.72]	^^^
I[Mother Literate]	1.203*** [17.18]	0.931*** [-3.86]	^^^	1.209*** [16.99]	0.876*** [-6.61]	^^^
I[Father Working]	0.954 [-1.91]	2.216*** [14.76]	^^^	1.410*** [13.02]	1.985*** [10.69]	^^^
I[Father Farmer]	1.483*** [38.41]	1.002 [0.10]	^^^	1.490*** [37.38]	1.013 [0.60]	^^^
I[Father Professional]	1.094*** [4.01]	1.262*** [6.28]	^^^	1.199*** [7.86]	1.242*** [5.34]	
I[Father White-collar]	0.860*** [-8.54]	0.540*** [-15.42]	^^^	0.886*** [-6.45]	0.482*** [-15.19]	^^^
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.298*** [19.47]	1.060* [2.32]	^^^	1.387*** [23.60]	1.136*** [4.80]	^^^
I[Mother Working]	0.979 [-1.78]	0.838*** [-7.50]	^^^	0.922*** [-6.57]	0.692*** [-13.52]	^^^
I[Mother Farmer]	0.929 [-1.74]	1.739*** [7.37]	^^^	1.102* [2.35]	1.358*** [3.29]	^^
I[Mother Professional]	0.821*** [-6.05]	0.336*** [-10.48]	^^^	0.672*** [-10.63]	0.630*** [-4.41]	
I[Mother White-collar]	1.194*** [10.23]	1.256*** [6.98]		1.242*** [12.16]	1.542*** [12.01]	^^^
I[Mother Blue-collar]	0.825*** [-7.86]	0.478*** [-11.03]	^^^	0.750*** [-10.53]	0.789*** [-3.41]	
I[Father Native]	1.396*** [7.19]	1.981*** [5.80]	^^	1.216*** [3.94]	2.157*** [6.35]	^^^
I[Mother Native]	0.711*** [-8.27]	1.739*** [4.30]	^^^	0.718*** [-6.92]	1.572*** [3.73]	^^^
I[Father Born Out of State]	0.819*** [-19.28]	0.969 [-1.20]	^^^	0.808*** [-18.89]	1.128*** [4.13]	^^^
I[Mother Born Out of State]	1.043*** [3.97]	0.915** [-3.13]	^^^	1.066*** [5.54]	0.787*** [-7.42]	^^^
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	60950	60950		57784	57784	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	706	339		595	254	
Pseudo R-squared	0.6333	0.6333		0.6175	0.6175	
Log Likelihood	-209910	-209910		-182157	-182157	

Base outcome is no adoption. The outcome "adopt, same surname" is defined as having at least one adopted child who has the same surname with both parents.

Statistical significance for RRR is based on the null: RRR=1.

*** p<0.001, ** p<0.01, * p<0.05; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.

RRR for age is computed at mean age and includes linear and quadratic terms.

I[.] is an indicator variable that takes 1 if condition [.] holds.

In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "unskilled."

"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Figure 1: Distribution of the Age of Children by Type and Race of Children, 1880-1930 & 2000

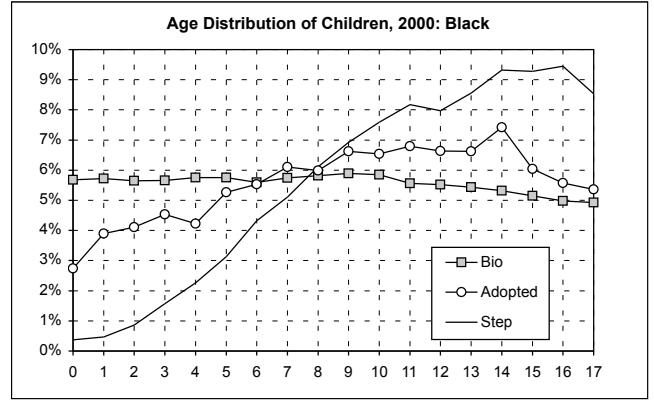
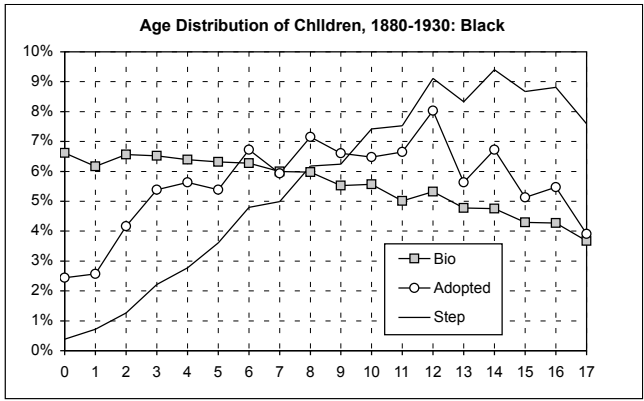
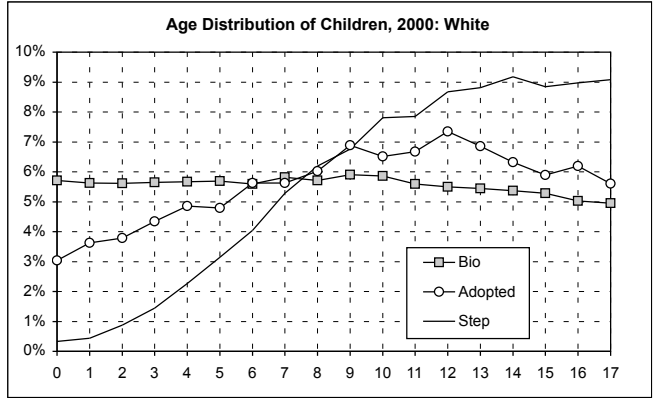
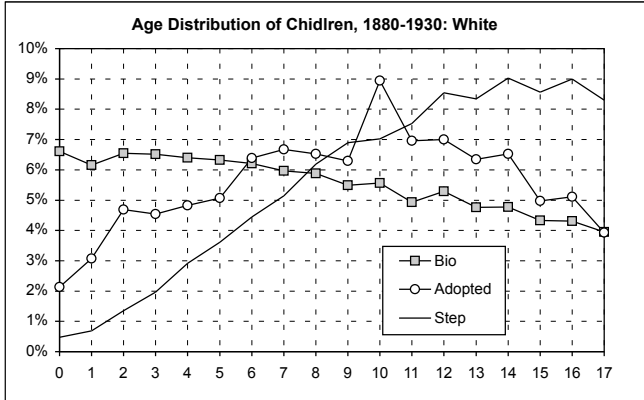
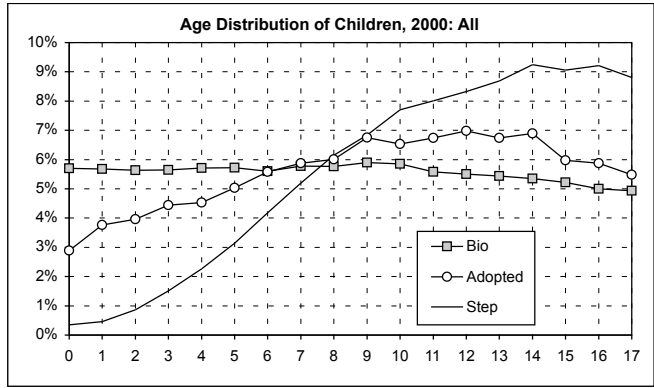
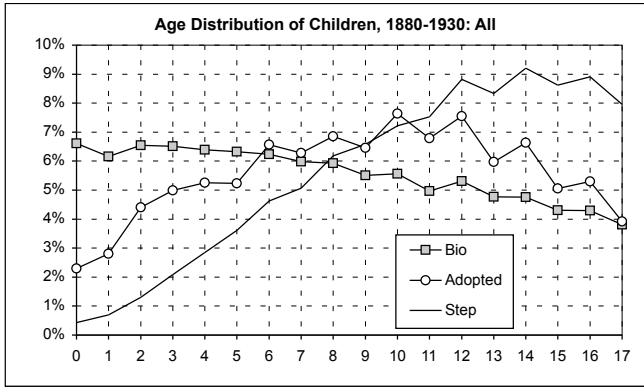


Figure 2: Distribution of the Age Difference between Child & Mother by Type and Race of Children, 1880-1930 & 2000

