

WAITING FAMILIES, WAITING CHILDREN



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Prepared for:

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Children and Families
Adoption Services Section

By:

Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.
100 Commercial Street
Suite 300
Portland, ME 04101

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Introduction

This report is designed to assist the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in identifying where it needs to focus its recruitment and retention efforts for prospective adoptive parents to ensure that all of its children achieve permanency. In pursuing that purpose, the report explores the following questions:

- Who are the families who are currently waiting to adopt?
- Are these prospective families different from those who have adopted?
- What types of children are the waiting families willing to adopt?
- Are the preferences of the waiting families different than the preferences of those families who have already adopted?
- How do the preferences of waiting families compare with the children available for adoption?

Part 1 explores the first two questions above. It examines trends in the number of both waiting and adopting families and in the characteristics of those families. In addition to their demographic characteristics, the amount of time families have been waiting to adopt is also explored. Timeliness is important in the retention of prospective adoptive families, because delays can lead them to become discouraged or disillusioned with the adoption process.

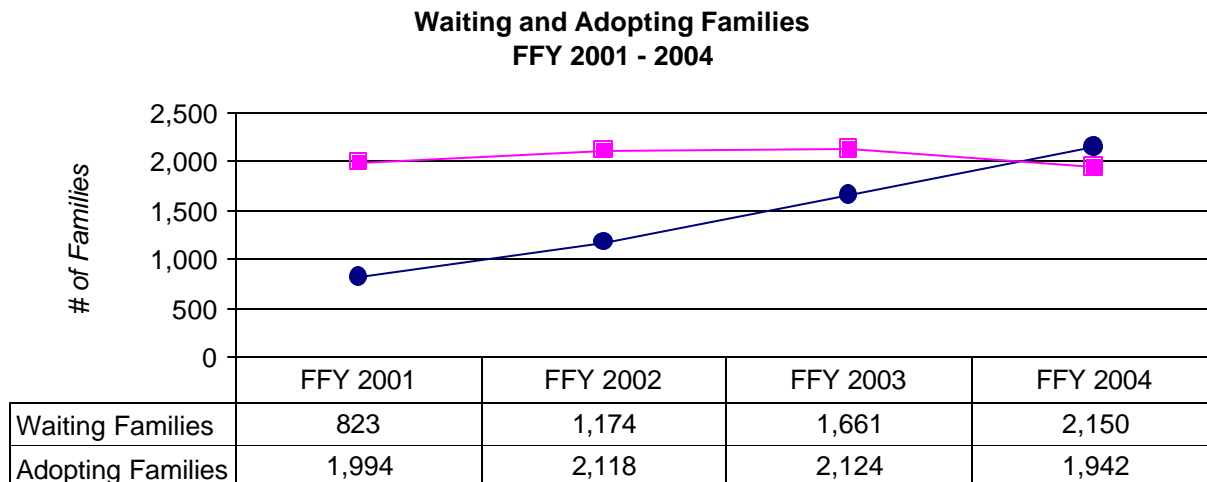
Part 2 compares the children available for adoption with the types of children prospective families want to adopt. The specific focus is on those children who are traditionally difficult to place: older children, African American children and children with special health needs. The comparison is intended to identify areas where the preferences among waiting families will make it especially challenging to achieve permanency for certain children.

A summary of the findings and the implications for recruitment of prospective adoptive families are included in Part 3.

Part 1: Ohio's Prospective Adopting Families¹

TRENDS AMONG WAITING AND ADOPTING FAMILIES

At the end of federal fiscal year 2004, there were 2,150 waiting families, an increase of 29 percent from the end of FFY 2003 and of 161 percent since the end of FFY 2001. On its face, an increase in waiting families would seem like a positive trend, but it is only positive if it translates into increases in the number of families actually adopting children. As the figure below shows, the number of families actually adopting children has remained fairly steady over the past four years, despite the fact that the number of families waiting at the end of each year has risen dramatically.



Given that increases in the number of waiting families have not translated into increases in the number of families adopting, it would appear that increasingly smaller percentages of the recruited families are actually adopting children, producing a growing backlog in the pool of waiting families. In fact, approximately one-half of all the families waiting at the end of each of the above fiscal years had been waiting longer than one year, meaning both that the number of families recruited each year is increasing (from 396 in 2001, to 565 in 2002, to 807 in 2003 and to 926 in 2004), and that the backlog of waiting parents is growing at roughly the same rate.

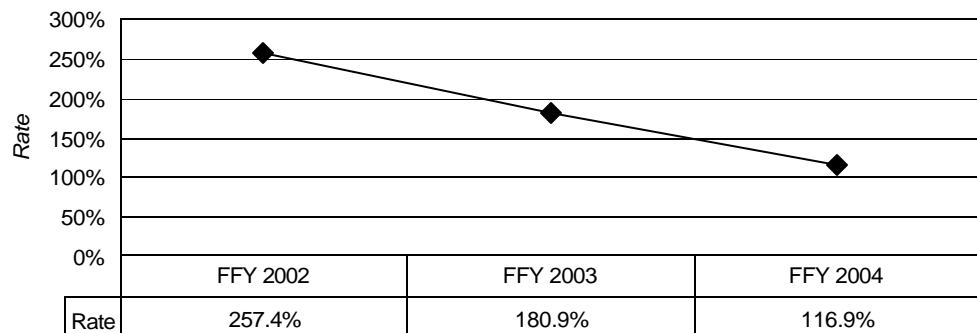
¹ For the purposes of this report, “adopting families” includes families who have adopted and families with a child in their home in an adoptive placement.

The impression of a growing backlog is reinforced if one crafts a simple “rate of success” measure and applies it across recent federal fiscal years. This can be done by dividing the number of parents who adopted during a given period or who had children placed in their homes as of the end of the period by the number of waiting parents at the start of the period. This is technically a ratio rather than a percentage because some of the parents who adopt during a given federal fiscal year will not have been waiting at the beginning of the year. For year-to-year comparisons, however, this method provides an easy overview of the relationship between recruitment and actual adoption.

As shown in the graph below, the result for FFY 2004 is 117 percent. While this indicates that more families actually adopted children during the year than were waiting at the start, the rate is considerably lower than that seen in each of the previous two federal fiscal years.

In fact, the rates have dropped steadily over the past three federal fiscal years. This is an indication that families are not moving to adoption to the same extent as in previous

**Rates of Success for Prospective Families
FFY 2002-2004**



years. The remainder of this part of the report explores potential reasons for that by comparing the waiting families with the families who actually adopted during the same periods.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF WAITING AND ADOPTING FAMILIES²

Exploring the demographics of prospective and actual adoptive families can serve two functions. On the one hand, it can help agencies target their recruitment efforts on the kinds of families who actually adopt. On the other hand, it can serve as a means of identifying which types of families have not been recruited into the pool of adoptive parents and who, therefore, might represent a completely unrecognized resource base.

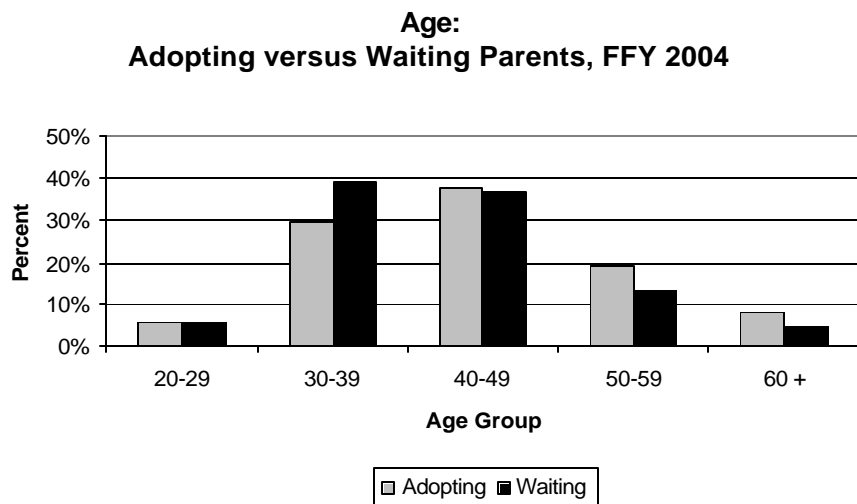
² Demographic characteristics of waiting and adopting families represent the demographics of the person listed as the primary caregiver in FACSIS.

While comparisons between waiting and adopting parents can be useful, two caveats are in order. First, there is a large amount of demographic information that is not recorded in FACSIS. For example, the age of 40 percent of the waiting parents in FFY 2004 cannot be determined. The data available on the race of parents are far better; just eight percent of these data are missing from FACSIS. This is significant because Ohio's Program Improvement Plan calls for the improvement of FACSIS data as it relates to race. However, the lack of certain information in FACSIS limits its usefulness in terms of targeted recruitment and the evaluation of recruitment efforts. Table 1 in the appendix shows the demographic information available for the FFY 2004 waiting and adopting parents and indicates the number and percent of missing or unknown data for each demographic category.

Second, many of the parents who adopt children are already familiar with the children because they have served as the children's foster parents. Yet, adoptive recruitment efforts focus on families who are not already part of the child welfare system and who would be willing to consider any of a number of different children who are waiting for adoption and whose foster parents do not intend to adopt them. This means that one should not expect the characteristics of the two groups to be precisely the same in any event, and some of the difference in the success of the adopting parents in achieving an adoption may have to do more with their foster parent status and experience than with their demographic characteristics.

Age

Nearly three-quarters of all prospective parents in FFY 2004, including both those waiting for a child and those who adopted a child during the year, were between the ages of 30 and 49. The accompanying figure compares the ages of those who adopted with those who are still waiting to adopt a child. While the two groups are fairly similar in age, the waiting parents are slightly younger than those who actually adopted.

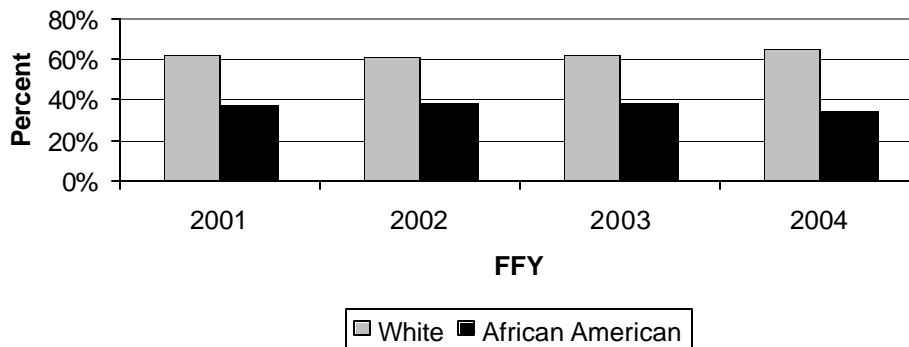


Race

In FFY 2001, 2002 and 2003, just under one-third (32%) of the families across the two groups of waiting and adopting families were African American. In FFY 2004, that

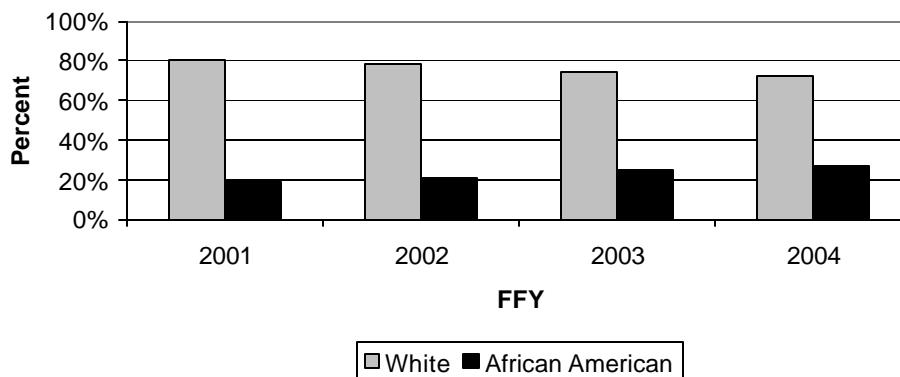
proportion fell slightly to 30 percent. This shift is due to a smaller proportion of African American families among adopting families (34% in 2004 compared with 38% in the previous three years).

Race of Adopting Families, FFY 2001-2004



Conversely, African American families comprised 27 percent of the waiting families in FFY 2004, the largest percentage over the past four years. As the following graph shows, the proportion of waiting families who are African American is increasing each year. This is also reflected in the percentages of newly recruited families who are African American. In 2001 only 22 percent of the families recruited into the pool of prospective parents were African American; by 2004 that figure had climbed to 29 percent.

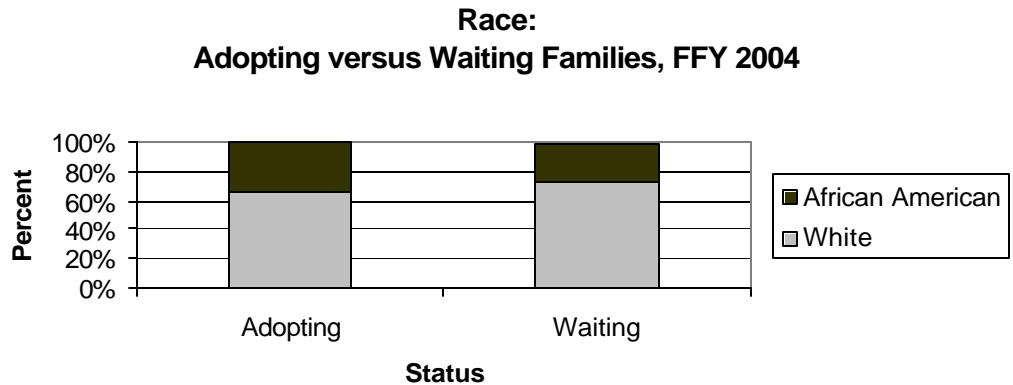
Race of Waiting Families, FFY 2001-2004



On its face, this finding could be interpreted as a positive trend in that it appears that recruitment efforts targeting African American families are effectively increasing the proportion of African American families among waiting families. As with the broader trends on waiting families, however, the problem is that this trend is not translating into a larger number of African American families adopting children. In FFY 2004,

586 African American families adopted or had a child placed with them. This is the lowest number of African American families adopting since FFY 2001.

The findings on race are somewhat contradictory. As shown in the graph below, African American families comprise a larger proportion of adopting families than they do of waiting families, suggesting that African American families do not wait as long for children.



However, as the graphs on the previous page show, there is a downward trend in the proportion of African American families adopting with an accompanying rise in the proportion of waiting African American families over the past four years. This seems to suggest that African Americans are recruited but are not adopting children as quickly. It may be, however, that these seemingly conflicting trends reflect differences between foster parents and other families who adopt. Nearly half of the African American children adopted in 2004 were adopted by their foster families. These families may not have been registered as waiting adoptive parents and therefore would not show up in the pool of waiting families. Assuming that a large proportion of these families are themselves African American, this would explain why African American families make up a larger proportion of all adopting families as compared with waiting families. The increase in the proportion of African American families waiting may be reflective of an increase in newly recruited families who would fall into the category of “stranger adoptions.” Typically, stranger adoptions do tend to take longer. The differences between foster parents and others who adopt should be explored in more detail to determine if and how they interact with race and impact trends among resource families.

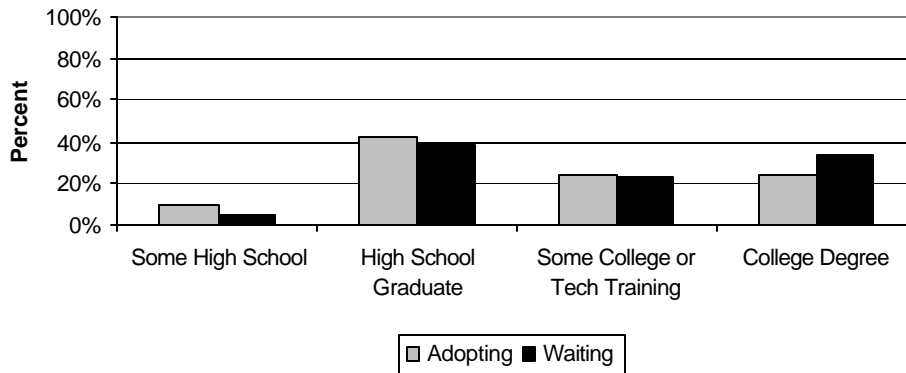
Family Structure

Adopting and waiting families are similar in terms of family structure. Both are most likely to be a married couple (71% adopting and 69% waiting). Single females comprise the second largest group in each instance (24% adopting and 26% waiting), while unmarried couples and single males combined account for only four percent of the total of waiting and adopting families.

Other Characteristics

Information on the level of educational attainment is missing for 55 percent of the relevant families. Among those for whom there are data in FACSIS, similar patterns exist among waiting and adopting families.

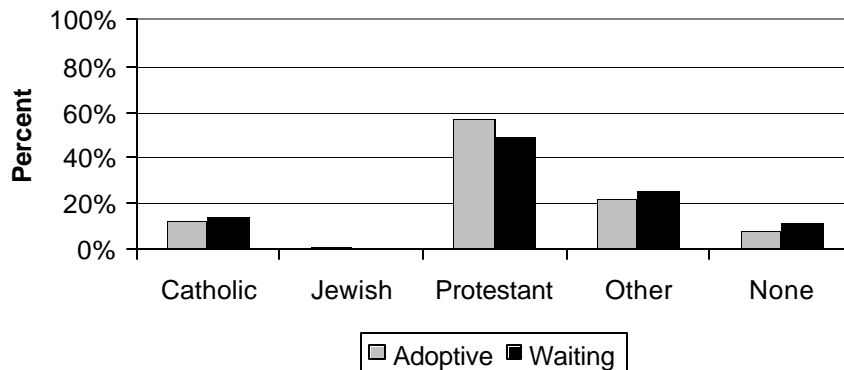
**Educational Level:
Adopting versus Waiting Families, FFY 2004**



Waiting families are slightly more educated than those who adopted in FFY 2004.

In 2004, protestant families were the most prevalent among all families in both groups. More than half of the adopting families are protestant (57%) compared with 49 percent of the waiting families. The next largest group consists of those classified under "other religion." However, data on religion were available for just 41 percent of the families.

**Religion:
Adopting versus Waiting Families, FFY 2004**



Overall, there are few differences between waiting families and families who adopted children. A majority of both groups is found between the ages of 30 and 49, although the waiting parents are slightly younger than the adoptive parents. Both groups have attained similar levels of education, with waiting families tending to be slightly more educated. Family structure and religion are similar among waiting and adoptive

parents as well. Approximately half of the families are protestant and the families tend to be married couples. Both waiting and adopting families are more likely to be white than African American. While African American families are better represented among adopting families compared with the waiting families, the proportion of adopting families who are African American is declining while the proportion of waiting families who are African American is increasing.

Length of Time Waiting

The beginning of this report noted that the number of waiting families is increasing while the number of adopting families is relatively stable. That would suggest that the families who are waiting might have been waiting longer than was the case in the past. The following table confirms that impression, although the differences are not as large as one might have thought. Families waiting at the end of FFY 2004 have been waiting slightly longer than those families waiting at the end of the prior three years. Sixty-three percent have been waiting two years or less by the end of FFY 2004 compared with 65 to 67 in previous years.

Length of Time Waiting: Approval to End of Year				
Months	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003	FFY 2004
0 to 12	39.7%	41.1%	41.8%	35.3%
13 to 24	24.7%	23.7%	24.7%	27.6%
25 to 36	13.6%	15.4%	14.1%	16.8%
37+	22.0%	19.8%	19.4%	20.3%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

In FFY 2004, just over one third of the waiting families (35%) had been waiting 12 months or less. This group represents those families most recently approved as adoptive families. Another quarter (28%) has been waiting between one and two years to adopt a child. Thirty-seven percent have been waiting more than two years.

Moving parents quickly through the adoption process serves two key purposes. Prospective parents are more likely to remain interested and engaged in the process and children are adopted more quickly. So, at the same time that it appears Ohio is successfully recruiting larger numbers of prospective adoptive families, it is important to increase efforts to retain and utilize its current resources.

Part 2: A Comparison between Children that Waiting Families Are Willing to Adopt and Available Children

While exploring changes in the number and characteristics of prospective families is important, knowing what types of children the families are willing to adopt is more critical for ensuring that they are matched to waiting children. If there is a disconnect between the preferences of prospective families and the children available for adoption, ensuring permanency for all children will be difficult.

This part of the report will explore the preferences expressed by Ohio's waiting families and will draw comparisons between those preferences and the characteristics of the children waiting for adoption. A complete breakdown of the preferences expressed by prospective adoptive families is provided in Table 2 of the Appendix. Of particular interest is the willingness to adopt children who are historically more difficult to place—older children, African American children and those with special health needs.

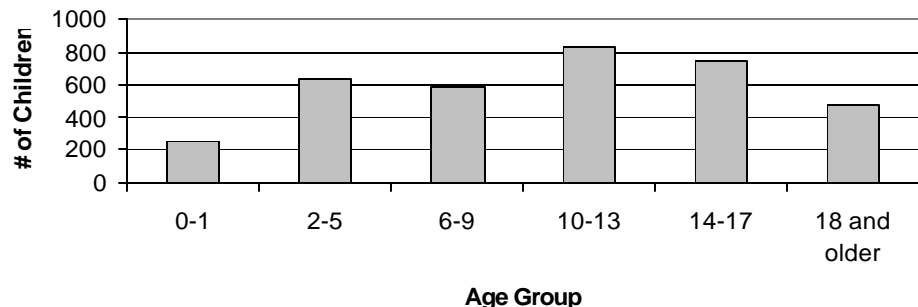
OLDER CHILDREN

At the close of FFY 2004, there were 3,049 children ages zero to 17 waiting for adoption. Of those, over half (52% or 1,579 children) were over the age of nine.³

Thirty-nine percent of the waiting families are willing to adopt a child over the age of nine. This means that there are 835 waiting families to adopt 1,579 older children.

As with the comparisons between waiting families and adopting families, there are some caveats to be attended to before drawing any firm conclusions. First, it appears to be the case that some of the families for whom FACSIS records a maximum acceptable age of zero actually may have not specified a maximum age limit. In

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption at the End of FFY 2004

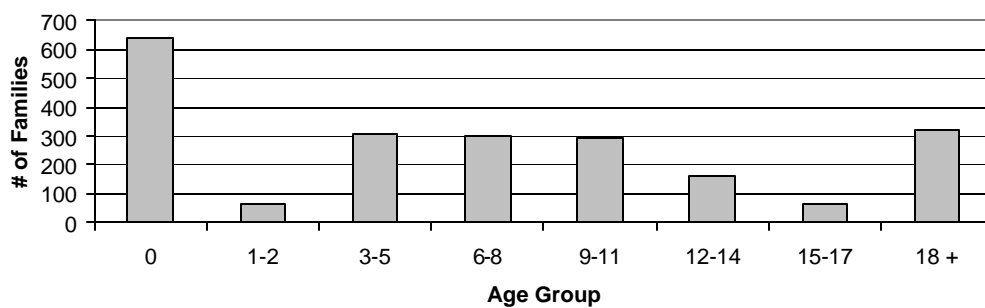


³ This percentage is based on 3,047 children. The age of two of the waiting children in FFY 2004 is unknown.

other words, when FACSIS shows that the family wants only children who are under the age of one, it may be that the family has specified it wants an infant but it may also be that the family has simply not specified a preferred age. Since this is the largest single category, it is possible (but at this point unknowable) that a significantly larger number of families are available for older children than the FACSIS data suggest.

The second caveat is also familiar. Because most children are adopted by their foster parents, having a smaller number of waiting families than of waiting children is not necessarily a problem. However, in 2004 only about one-quarter of all the children adopted over the age of nine were adopted by their foster parents. This means that there remains a shortfall in waiting families for this group equal to between 20 and 25 percent of the waiting children.

Maximum Age of Child Acceptable to Waiting Families, FFY 2004



Generally, proportionately fewer families are willing to adopt older children than are willing to adopt younger children. Recognizing that many prospective families would prefer to adopt young children and the challenges this brings to public children services agencies, ODJFS has offered incentives over the past few years to encourage efforts towards the adoption of older children.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN

There are 1,492 African American children under the age of 18 waiting for adoption at the end of FFY 2004. They make up just about half (49%) of all of the waiting children. Among the 2,150 families waiting to adopt, 40 percent indicated that they would adopt an African American child. Taken this way, there are 860 waiting families who specifically indicated their willingness to adopt one or more of the 1,492 African American children waiting for adoption.

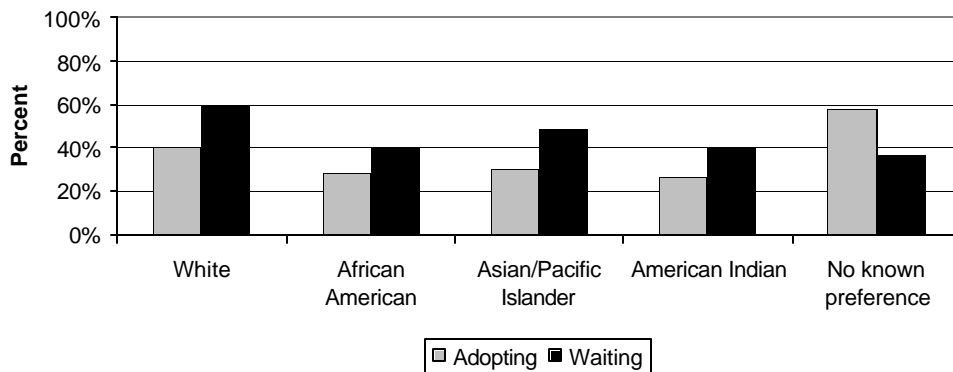
This gap is not as great when those families with no known racial preferences are considered as well. Thirty-seven percent of the waiting families, or 796 families, fall into this category. Adding together those who specifically said they would adopt an

African American child and those with no expressed racial preferences, it appears that there are a sufficient number of families for the African American children available for adoption. However, it is not likely that all those with no racial preferences recorded in FACSIS would adopt an African American child.

One way to estimate the extent to which waiting families are actually willing to adopt African American children is to examine those families who have already adopted. Information drawn from FACSIS indicates that fewer of the families who have adopted said they would accept an African American child, compared with the waiting families, but 58 percent of the adopting families had no known racial preferences recorded in FACSIS, compared to 37 percent of the waiting families.

Again, to determine what the relationship between waiting families and waiting children should be, it is necessary to take into account those children who are adopted by foster parents. These foster parents are not necessarily all registered as adoptive resources and are therefore not counted here among waiting families. In 2004 there were 532 African American children adopted by foster parents, nearly 47 percent of all those adopted. In other words, there is a pool of families who adopt African American children who are not counted among the waiting families. While this significantly reduces the gap between the number of waiting families and the number of waiting children, a gap remains, unless one is to assume that families expressing no preference are in fact willing to adopt African American children. It should also be noted that relatively fewer waiting families express a preference for African American children, compared to the proportion of those children in the waiting population, and that may be the most significant fact of all.

**Acceptable Race:
Adopting versus Waiting Families, FFY 2004**



CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS

Some of the most difficult to place children are those with health needs that fall into three categories: emotional, mental and physical/medical. Among the waiting children (age zero to 17) in FFY 2004, 13 percent (412 children) have special mental

Mental Assessment	Number of Children	Percent
None	2637	86%
Moderate	350	11%
Severe	62	2%
<i>Total</i>	<i>3049</i>	<i>100%</i>

health needs according to FACSIS. The majority of the waiting families (87% or 1195 families) indicate their willingness to accept a child with special mental health needs (85% would accept a child with moderate needs and 2% would accept a child with severe needs). The only apparent gap between the needs of the available children and the waiting families is the number of families willing to adopt a child with mental health needs classified as severe. There are 62 such children and 24 waiting families willing to adopt a child with severe mental health issues.

More of the waiting children are determined to have emotional issues than mental health issues. Twenty-seven percent, or 818 of the available children have special emotional needs recorded in FACSIS. Similar to the situation with severe mental health needs, 180 children have been assessed as having severe emotional issues, yet there are just 29 waiting families willing to adopt such a child. Over 1,200 waiting families expressed a willingness to adopt a child with moderate emotional needs, of which there are 638.

Emotional Assessment	Number of Children	Percent
None	2231	73%
Moderate	638	21%
Severe	180	6%
<i>Total</i>	<i>3049</i>	<i>100%</i>

Physical Assessment	Number of Children	Percent
None	2818	92%
Moderate	178	6%
Severe	53	2%
<i>Total</i>	<i>3049</i>	<i>100%</i>

Most of the waiting children (92%) in FFY 2004 have no special physical needs. Among the eight percent that do, 178 have needs considered moderate and 53 have severe needs. Again, the problem exists for those with severe needs. Just two percent, or 22 of the waiting families, expressed a willingness to

accept a child with severe physical needs. One thousand one hundred and forty waiting parents would adopt a child with moderate physical needs.

Given the number of children with special health needs and the number of waiting families willing to accept such children, it would appear that *moderate* special needs are not a major barrier to adoption. To confirm this, simplified success rates similar to those discussed earlier were calculated for each of the special health needs populations. As before, the rates are calculated by dividing the number of children placed or adopted in FFY 2004 by the number waiting at the beginning of the year.

Rates of Success for Children with Moderate Special Health Needs

Assessment	Number of Children Waiting at End of FFY 2003	Number of Children Adopted or Placed in FFY 2004	Rate of Success
Mental	376	536	143%
Emotional	681	493	72%
Physical	173	212	123%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1230</i>	<i>1241</i>	<i>101%</i>

The rates show that children with moderate mental and physical needs are being adopted at a rate of more than 100 percent. In fact, these rates are better than the rates of success for children with no mental or physical needs (97% for those with *no* mental health needs and 91% for children with *no* physical needs). However, children with moderate emotional needs are adopted at a lesser rate (72%) than children without special emotional needs (104%). As noted above, there is a shortfall in the number of families willing to adopt a child with special health needs of any type, if that need is considered to be severe.

Part 3: Implications for Recruitment

WHO ARE CURRENTLY OHIO'S PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES?

Based on the findings of this report, counties have been most successful in recruiting prospective adoptive families in these demographic groups:

- Parents between the ages of 30 and 49
- Married couples and single women
- Protestants or those affiliated with a religion other than Catholicism or Judaism
- Those with a high school or higher educational attainment
- White families

WHICH SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION ARE UNDER-REPRESENTED AND MAY PROVIDE A NEW SOURCE FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES?

From examining the demographic characteristics of waiting families, the following families are under-represented among the resources:

- Younger families (i.e., persons under the age of 30)
- Older families (i.e., over age 49)
- Single males and unmarried couples
- African American families
- Catholic and Jewish families

FOR WHICH CHILDREN ARE ADDITIONAL FAMILIES NEEDED?

Based upon the types of children that families expressed a willingness to adopt and the children who are available for adoption, additional families are needed who will adopt:

- Older children
- African American children
- Children with "severe" mental, emotional and physical needs
- Children with "moderate" emotional needs

RECOMMENDATIONS

If the progress in recruiting prospective families is to lead to progress in actually getting children adopted, both ODJFS and the local public children's services agencies need to undertake several steps.

Recommendation 1: ODJFS should continue to offer incentives to public children services agencies for the adoption of older children.

Even taking into account the children who are likely to be adopted by foster parents, there is a large gap between the number of families willing to adopt older children and the number of older children available for adoption. Significant progress has been made in the last year or so in getting older children adopted and the incentives appear to be a major factor in that progress.

Recommendation 2: ODJFS should identify and disseminate "promising practices" used to recruit families for older children, African American children and those with severe health needs.

There are public children services agencies that have been particularly successful in matching families with difficult to place children. Other agencies can adopt or adapt the successful strategies for use with their own children.

Recommendation 3: As SACWIS is developed, ODJFS should ensure that it is designed in a way that allows data to be used to inform recruitment efforts and to evaluate the effectiveness those efforts.

Specifically, requiring certain demographic information is collected consistently will greatly improve Ohio's ability to use data to inform decision-making. Data integrity issues can compromise even the best efforts to use data.

Recommendation 4: PCSAs need to ensure that families applying to be adoptive parents understand what types of children are available and where there is the greatest need.

The strategies used to recruit families appear to be working. There has been a steady increase in the number of prospective families over the last four years. However, there has not been a similar growth in actual adoptions. One possible reason for this is that the waiting families may be looking for types of children for whom few homes are needed.

Recommendation 5: As the number of waiting families increases, PCSAs need to ensure they have the resources available not only to

get those families approved and trained but also to get them matched with waiting children.

Some of this effort should be devoted to the families who have been waiting longest and who may become discouraged and drop out of the waiting families pool. Part of the effort, however, should also be devoted to families newly recruited because their interest is likely to be at its highest point.

Recommendation 6: PCSAs should develop new strategies or modify existing ones to recruit under-represented groups.

There are clearly segments of the population who are not represented among Ohio's current prospective adoptive families, and many of the families who are represented are not actually adopting the children who are available. Broadening the range of characteristics in the prospective adoptive family pool may provide a means of increasing adoptions by waiting families.

Table 1: Characteristics of Waiting and Adopting Families, FFY 2004

Characteristic	Adopted During Year		Placement at End of Year		Waiting 0-12 Months ⁴		Waiting 13-24 Months		Waiting 25-36 Months		Waiting 37+ Months	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Age												
< 20	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0
20-29	35	2.6	26	4.5	30	4.0	25	4.2	17	4.7	6	1.4
30-39	232	17.1	91	15.6	185	24.4	152	25.6	87	24.0	115	26.3
40-49	305	22.5	107	18.3	145	19.1	139	23.4	91	25.1	135	30.9
50-59	162	11.9	48	8.2	48	6.3	42	7.1	38	10.5	57	13.0
60 +	66	4.9	20	3.4	23	3.0	21	3.5	12	3.3	11	2.5
Unknown	558	41.1	292	50.0	327	43.1	214	36.1	116	32.0	113	25.9
Race												
White	843	62.1	287	49.1	507	66.9	392	66.1	265	73.2	331	75.7
African American	382	28.1	204	34.9	199	26.3	183	30.9	86	23.8	82	18.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	0.2	0	0.0	4	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.3	2	0.5
American Indian	4	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.5	1	0.2	0	0.0	5	1.1
Unknown	126	9.3	93	15.9	44	5.8	17	2.9	10	2.8	17	3.9
Education												
Grade School	4	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6	0	0.0
Middle School	6	0.4	1	0.2	2	0.3	4	0.7	2	0.6	6	1.4
Some High School	49	3.6	16	2.7	12	1.6	18	3.0	6	1.7	7	1.6
High School Graduate	250	18.4	68	11.6	123	16.2	114	19.2	74	20.4	115	26.3
Technical Training	28	2.1	9	1.5	13	1.7	14	2.4	8	2.2	17	3.9
Some College	95	7.0	44	7.5	61	8.0	62	10.5	31	8.6	44	10.1
Associate Degree	16	1.2	6	1.0	25	3.3	11	1.9	17	4.7	21	4.8
College Degree	115	8.5	40	6.8	101	13.3	81	13.7	47	13.0	75	17.2
Unknown	795	58.5	400	68.5	421	55.5	289	48.7	175	48.3	152	34.8

⁴ Number of months listed are months from approval to the end of federal fiscal year 2004.

Table 1: Characteristics of Waiting and Adopting Families, FFY 2004

Characteristic	Adopted During Year		Placement at End of Year		Waiting 0-12 Months ⁴		Waiting 13-24 Months		Waiting 25-36 Months		Waiting 37+ Months	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Family Structure												
Married Couple	790	58.2	293	50.2	480	63.3	346	58.3	234	64.6	268	61.3
Unmarried Couple	22	1.6	11	1.9	18	2.4	19	3.2	4	1.1	5	1.1
Single Female	250	18.4	116	19.9	179	23.6	159	26.8	93	25.7	77	17.6
Single Male	21	1.5	14	2.4	10	1.3	13	2.2	11	3.0	8	1.8
Unknown	275	20.3	150	25.7	71	9.4	56	9.4	20	5.5	79	18.1
Religion												
Catholic	70	5.2	18	3.1	40	5.3	33	5.6	27	7.5	39	8.9
Jewish	3	0.2	2	0.3	2	0.3	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Protestant	303	22.3	93	15.9	130	17.2	134	22.6	79	21.8	134	30.7
Other	119	8.8	35	6.0	79	10.4	78	13.2	34	9.4	56	12.8
None	35	2.6	21	3.6	30	4.0	26	4.4	32	8.8	24	5.5
Unknown	828	61.0	415	71.1	477	62.9	321	54.1	190	52.5	183	41.9
Ethnicity												
Hispanic	14	1.0	7	1.2	12	1.6	9	1.5	6	1.7	7	1.6
Non-Hispanic	1,054	77.6	422	72.3	651	85.9	519	87.5	335	92.5	350	80.1
Unknown	290	21.4	155	26.5	95	12.5	65	11.0	21	5.8	80	18.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,358</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>584</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>758</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>593</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>362</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>437</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Table 2: Acceptable Characteristics of Waiting and Adopting Families, FFY 2004

Statewide

Characteristics	Adopted During Year		Placed at End of Year		Waiting 0-12 Months ⁵		Waiting 13-24 Months		Waiting 25-36 Months		Waiting 37+ Months	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Race												
White	560	22.5	220	20.5	416	24.2	347	25.2	222	26.9	307	31.9
African American	380	15.3	178	16.6	293	17.0	250	18.2	147	17.8	178	18.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	411	16.5	175	16.3	389	22.6	301	21.9	173	21.0	195	20.3
American Indian	363	14.6	149	13.9	311	18.1	252	18.3	147	17.8	165	17.2
Unknown	770	31.0	350	32.6	312	18.1	227	16.5	135	16.4	117	12.2
<i>Total⁶</i>	<i>2,484</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1072</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1721</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>1377</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>824</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>962</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Maximum Age												
0 ⁷	645	47.5	258	44.2	250	33.0	191	32.2	113	31.2	89	20.4
1-2	31	2.3	11	1.9	12	1.6	20	3.4	10	2.8	23	5.3
3-5	125	9.2	35	6.0	85	11.2	72	12.1	57	15.7	94	21.5
6-8	104	7.7	35	6.0	104	13.7	92	15.5	46	12.7	57	13.0
9-11	83	6.1	31	5.3	97	12.8	83	14.0	44	12.2	68	15.6
12-14	60	4.4	42	7.2	60	7.9	46	7.8	21	5.8	33	7.6
15-17	19	1.4	15	2.6	23	3.0	8	1.3	13	3.6	19	4.3
18 +	291	21.4	157	26.9	127	16.8	81	13.7	58	16.0	54	12.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,358</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>584</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>758</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>593</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>362</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>437</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Gender												
Female	83	6.1	39	6.7	59	7.8	45	7.6	29	8.0	58	13.3
Male	83	6.1	36	6.2	40	5.3	30	5.1	19	5.2	27	6.2
Either	557	41.0	254	43.5	406	53.6	327	55.1	198	54.7	264	60.4
Unknown	635	46.8	255	43.7	253	33.4	191	32.2	116	32.0	88	20.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,358</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>584</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>758</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>593</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>362</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>437</i>	<i>100.0</i>

⁵ Number of months listed are months from approval to the end of federal fiscal year 2004.

⁶ More than one racial preference can be recorded in FACSIS, therefore the total in each category may be greater than the total number of resource families.

⁷ The category for age "0" may contain responses both from resource families who indicate that they would only be interested in adopting a newborn child and from people who did not express any age preference at all.

Table 2: Acceptable Characteristics of Waiting and Adopting Families, FFY 2004

Statewide

Characteristics	Adopted During Year		Placed at End of Year		Waiting 0-12 Months ⁵		Waiting 13-24 Months		Waiting 25-36 Months		Waiting 37+ Months	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Emotional Assessment												
None	48	3.5	9	1.5	44	5.8	31	5.2	15	4.1	33	7.6
Moderate	455	33.5	152	26.0	412	54.4	335	56.5	209	57.7	273	62.5
Severe	15	1.1	8	1.4	6	0.8	9	1.5	10	2.8	4	0.9
Unknown	840	61.9	415	71.1	296	39.1	218	36.8	128	35.4	127	29.1
Total	1,358	100.0	584	100.0	758	100.0	593	100.0	362	100.0	437	100.0
Mental Assessment												
None	67	4.9	10	1.7	59	7.8	42	7.1	28	7.7	60	13.7
Moderate	439	32.3	155	26.5	397	52.4	325	54.8	198	54.7	251	57.4
Severe	12	0.9	5	0.9	7	0.9	8	1.3	8	2.2	1	0.2
Unknown	840	61.9	414	70.9	295	38.9	218	36.8	128	35.4	125	28.6
Total	1,358	100.0	584	100.0	758	100.0	593	100.0	362	100.0	437	100.0
Physical Assessment												
None	85	6.3	13	2.2	64	8.4	68	11.5	36	9.9	59	13.5
Moderate	422	31.1	151	25.9	393	51.8	304	51.3	191	52.8	252	57.7
Severe	17	1.3	5	0.9	6	0.8	3	0.5	7	1.9	6	1.4
Unknown	834	61.4	415	71.1	295	38.9	218	36.8	128	35.4	120	27.5
Total	1,358	100.0	584	100.0	758	100.0	593	100.0	362	100.0	437	100.0