

National Quality Improvement Center

QIC•AG

Adoption & Guardianship
Support and Preservation

A Program funded through a five-year cooperative agreement with
Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau in partnership with:
Spaulding for Children
The University of Texas at Austin,
The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Updated 3/10/16

ALL SITE QUARTERLY MEETING

- Welcome to the 2nd All Site Quarterly Meeting
- Roll call
- Review of agenda
- Learning opportunity will NOT be recorded but PPT will be available on the QIC-AG share files.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

The integration of International and Private Domestic Adoptions into our System of Care



Intercountry Adoption: What Should You Know?

Stefanie Eye

Senior Advisor, Office of Children's Issues

Symtech Corp. Consultant

EyeSB@state.gov, 703-635-4937



U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs

ICA Differences

- Pre-adoption training and preparation
- Information about the child's background
- Home Study and Placing Agencies
- No prior contact
- Final adoption may happen overseas
- Lack of awareness/availability of post-adoption supports
- Differences in language and culture



Who Are the Children?

How many adoptions?

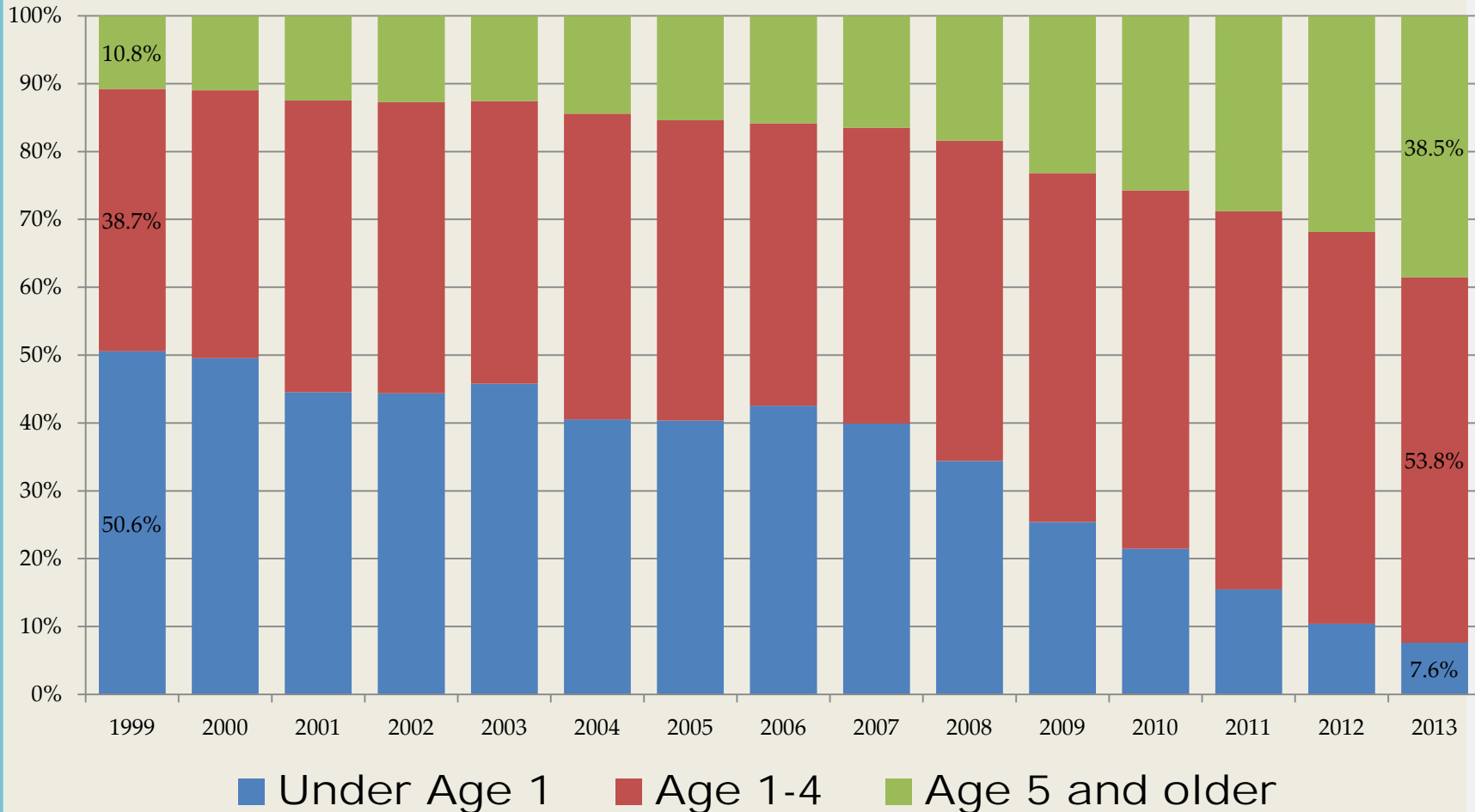
- Since FY 2000, more than 250,000 children from 100 countries
- 6,441 children adopted internationally in FY 2014

Where are they from?

- 2,040 from China
- 716 from Ethiopia
- 521 from Ukraine
- 464 from Haiti
- 370 from South Korea
- 230 from DRC
- 201 from Uganda



Age at Adoption



Role of the State Department

- Federal government lead on ICA policy
- Central Authority - Hague Adoption Convention
- Responsible for intercountry adoption policy and bilateral relations
- Oversee the accreditation of adoption service providers placing children through ICA (Convention and orphan cases) and monitor complaints
- Report to Congress
- Engage diplomatically “to make intercountry adoption a viable option for children in all countries, when due consideration has been given to placing the child in the country of origin”
- Public information program



The State Department Does Not ...

- Advocate in individual cases.
- Play an active role in domestic child welfare cases or advise child welfare authorities.
- Conduct investigations.
- Share privacy-protected information.



Unregulated Custody Transfer

WHO: Reuters says 70% are children initially adopted through ICA
No reliable data

WHAT: Transfer of custody with no “best interests” assessment or oversight
Distinguish between UCT and Secondary Placement
May or may not involve Internet
Concerns about hosting programs

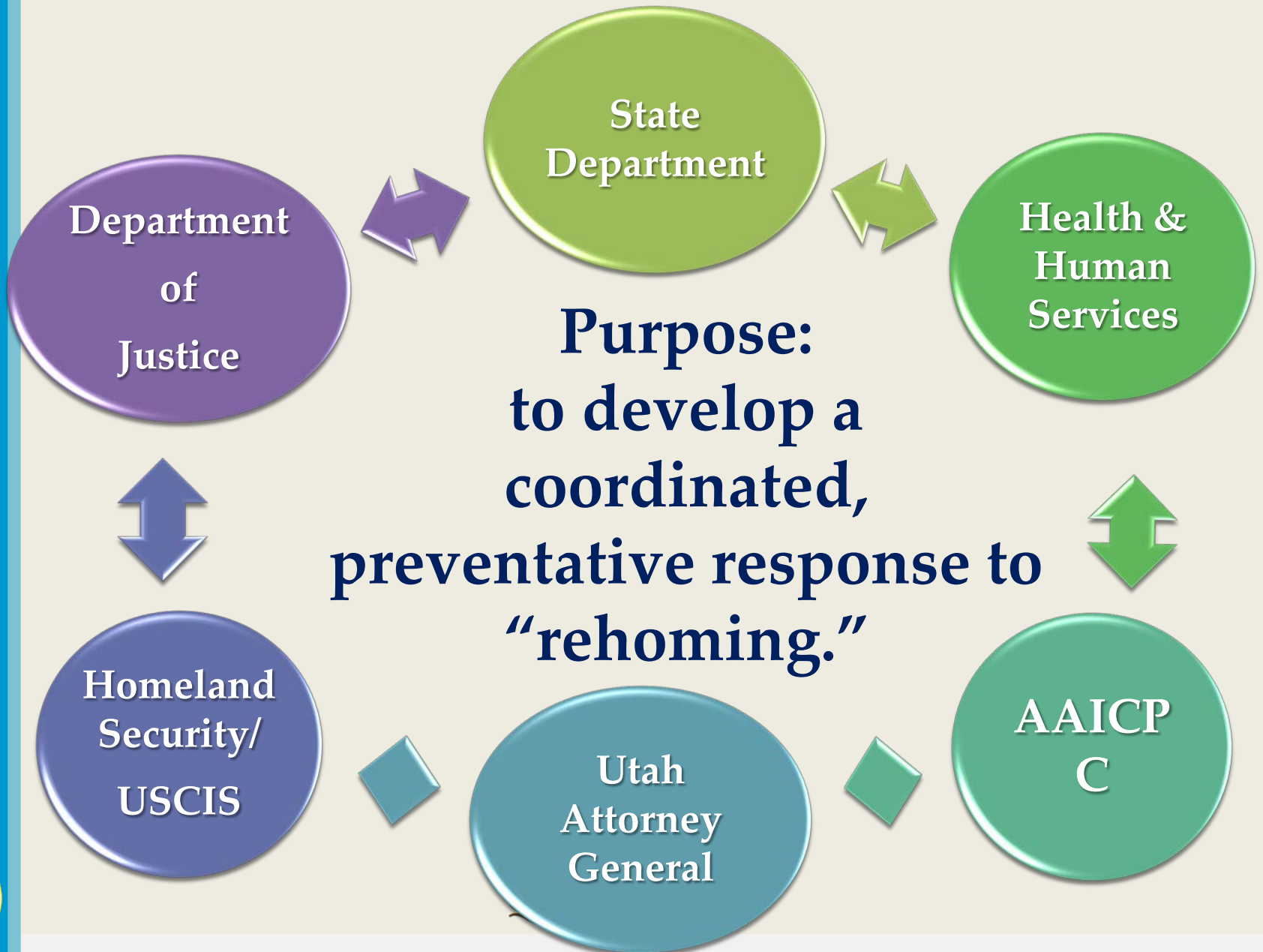
WHEN: Anywhere between 2 months and 10 years after placement

WHERE: Throughout the United States
Return to Country of Origin

WHY: Changes in demographics
Lack of preparation
Unaware of or unable to access
post-adoption supports
Fear, shame, desperation, anger



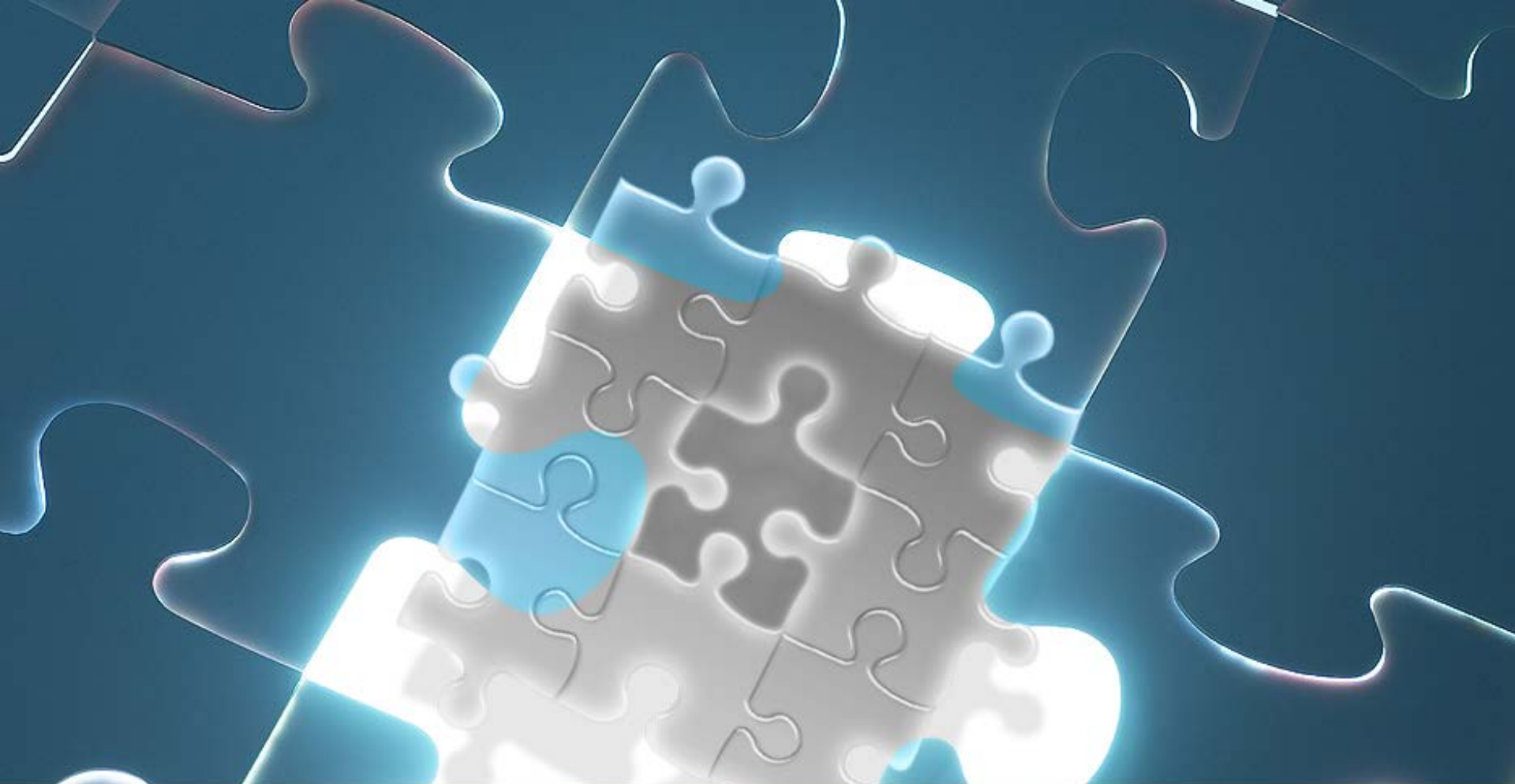
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP



U.S. Government Response

- National Working Group
- Prevention
 - ✓ Increasing pre-adoption training requirements
 - ✓ Networking and outreach to raise awareness
 - ✓ Increase information flow to adoptive families
 - ✓ Encourage resource sharing among adoption service providers
 - ✓ Funding of research and programs
 - ✓ Tracking of data
 - ✓ Increasing access to and availability of post-adoption services for ICA families
 - ✓ “Pull Back the Veil” on disruption and dissolution
 - ✓ Accountability for previous placements
- Intervention/Response
 - ✓ Developing guidance and parameters
 - ✓ Reporting mechanisms
 - ✓ Outreach to CPS and others on the front lines of the issue
 - ✓ ICPC paper trail





International Adoption: Post-Adoption Service Needs Across the Lifespan

Hollee McGinnis, MSSW
Washington University in St. Louis
March 17, 2016 QIC-AG Quarterly Meeting



Presentation Overview

- Brief overview of international adoption
- Mental health issues among adoptees
- Mental health factors
 - Pre-adoption factors
 - Institutional privation
 - Early adverse experiences
 - Post-adoption factors
 - Stress and coping with adoption related loss
 - Identity development
 - Discrimination
- Post-adoption service needs across the lifespan



Number of International Adoptions

Between 1971 and 2005 US citizens adopted over a quarter million children from overseas





Mental Health of Adoptees

- **Adoption Research Trends** (Palacios & Brodzinsky, 2010)
 - 1960-70s: Adoption as Pathology
 - 1970-80s: Adoption as Development
 - 1990-2000s: Adoption as recovery from early adversity
- **Clinical vs. Community-based samples**
 - Adoptees as a group are more likely to have behavior problems than non-adoptees
(Wierzicki, 1993; Juffer & Van IJzendoorn, 2005, 2007)
 - Adoptive parents are 2 to 5 times more likely to seek counseling; 4 to 7 times more likely to seek residential treatment for their children than families with biological children



Mental Health of International Adoptees

- Medical problems (Miller, 2005)
- Global developmental delay
- Greater Social-emotional problems (review Welsh, Viana, Petrill & Mathias, 2007)
- Higher levels of Behavior problems (Groza, Chenot & Holtedahl, 2004; Groza & Ryan, 2002; Merz & McCall, 2010*, Verhulst, 2000)
- Attachment
- Self-esteem
- Ethnic identity



Pre-Adoption Factors

- Institutional privation/ Older age
- Early adverse experiences (e.g. maltreatment)
- Birth region



Post-Adoption Factors

- Demographic Factors
 - Gender
 - Adolescence
- Family Factors
 - Parental warmth, cohesiveness, communication
 - Cultural socialization, satisfaction with adoption
- Psychosocial Factors
 - Stress and coping with adoption related loss
 - Identity development
 - Discrimination



Post Adoption: Identity Development

- General identity development
- Racial identity development
- Adoption identity development
- Transracial and transnational adoption identity development



"People tend to think you are really intelligent and a stereotypical nerd. I was discriminated against by Asians because I didn't speak my native tongue and discriminated against by Caucasians because of how I looked." (Gathering, p. 18)."

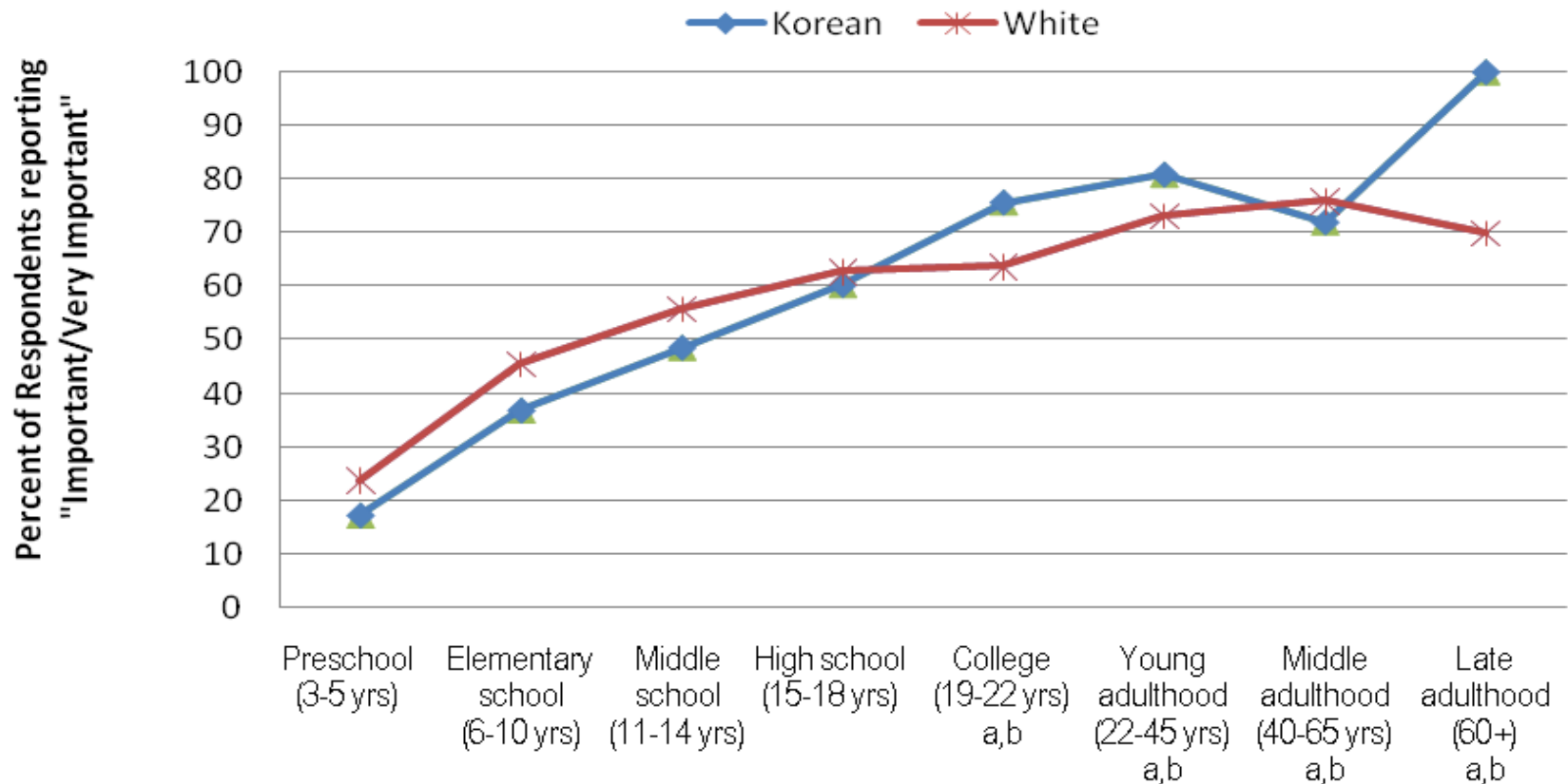


Demographics: Korean vs. White

	Korean Adoptees	White Adoptees
Characteristic	N=179	N=156
Current Gross Income **	\$44,486	\$57,558
Current age in years (Mean)***	31.1	44
Mean Years Married ***	4.3	11.6
Female	82%	83%
Bachelors degree *	44%	28%
Never Married***	44%	12%
Married / Partnered***	50%	72%
Have Children ***	26%	72%
At least one child is adopted	31%	30%
Grew up with siblings	88%	85%
One or both adoptive parents deceased	13%	49%

Post Adoption: Importance of Adoptive Identity at Different Life Stages

Fig. 1. Importance of Identity as an Adopted Person at Different Life Stages

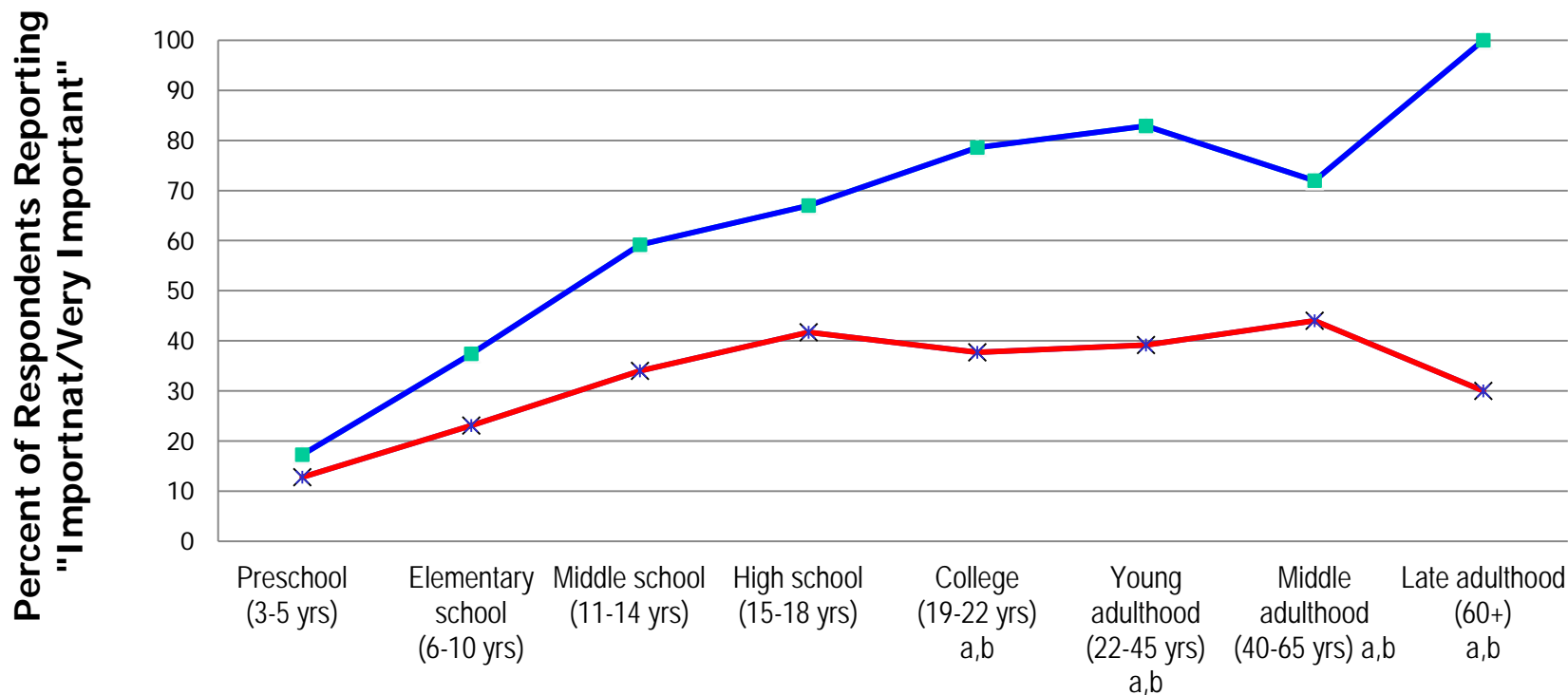


a. Use of valid percents. Whites: College (N=154); Young adulthood (N=153); Middle adulthood (N=100); Late adulthood (N=10).

b. Use of valid percents. Koreans: College (N=173); Young adulthood (N=146); Middle adulthood (N=25); Late adulthood (N=1).

Post Adoption: Importance of Racial and Ethnic Identity at Different Life Stages

Fig. 2. Importance of Racial/Ethnic Identity at Different Life Stages



a. Use of valid percents. Whites: College ($N=154$); Young adulthood ($N=153$); Middle adulthood ($N=100$); Late adulthood ($N=10$).

b. Use of valid percents. Koreans: College ($N=173$); Young adulthood ($N=146$); Middle adulthood ($N=25$); Late adulthood ($N=1$).



Post- Adoption: Discrimination

- Majority of transracial adoptees (70-80 percent) have few serious behavioral and emotional problems and do not differ dramatically from same-race adoptees and non-adoptees on levels of self-esteem and social adjustment
- Recent studies on adolescent TRA adoptees indicate differences within subgroups based on levels of experience with discrimination.
- Across studies a significant portion of international transracial adoptees – ranging up to 80% - report a range of negative race-based experiences from overt racism to teasing about their appearance.
- Cultural socialization outcome studies support that race and discrimination may have serious psychological consequences for some TRA adoptees.



Experiences of Teasing/Bias

Characteristic	Korean Adoptees N=179 (%)	White Adoptees N=156 (%)
<i>Childhood Teasing do to Race/Ethnicity</i>		
Never- Hardly ever	22	92
Sometimes/ Often/ All the time	78	8
<i>Childhood Teasing do to Adoption</i>		
Never- Hardly ever	79	65
Sometimes/ Often/ All the time	21	35
<i>Extent Dating Influenced by Race/Ethnicity</i>		
Never-Hardly ever	31	62
Sometimes/ Often/All the time	69	39
<i>Extent Dating Influenced by Adoption</i>		
Never-Hardly ever	54	62
Sometimes/ Often /All the time	46	39



Sources of Discrimination

Korean Adoptees

N=179

White Adoptees

N=156

Source	Korean Adoptees		White Adoptees	
	ADOPTION Sometimes/ Fairly often/Very often	RACE/ETHNCITY Sometimes/ Fairly often/Very often	ADOPTION Sometimes/ Fairly often/Very often	RACE/ETHNCITY Sometimes/ Fairly often/Very often
	%	%	%	%
Extended family	21	33	40	6
Childhood friends	15	48	28	8
Child friend parents	11	38	24	5
Classmates	25	75	9	7
Teachers	13	39	21	8
Partner (s)	8	22	12	3
Parent partner(s)	16	30	19	6
Coworkers	11	33	10	3
Employers	7	33	8	5
Stranger	31	80	24	10



Factors Associated with Comfort with Adoptive and Racial/Ethnic Identity

Korean Adoptees

Greater Comfort with Adoption: was associated with **stronger relationships with parents and adoptive family** (most significant), higher life satisfaction, positive self-esteem, less teasing (adoption or race)

Greater Comfort with Race: was associated with **positive self-esteem** (strongest), stronger ethnic identification (MEIM), higher life satisfaction, less racial teasing. Positive parent-child relationship and family function were strongly associated with less racial teasing (not racial identity)

Differences in comfort with racial/ethnic identity also associated with:

Age: Older Korean adopted adults reported less positive relationships with adoptive parents growing up; more racial teasing; less cultural socialization; higher self-esteem than younger adult adoptees

Racial Teasing: Those who grew up in more diverse communities experienced less racial teasing; lower racial teasing was associated with higher life satisfaction, greater positive self-esteem



In their own voices

*I don't think I really considered myself to be white (although I joked often that I was Scottish) **but I did wish that I were my parents biological daughter.** I wanted to know what I would look like if I was born to my parents.*

Never having my family acknowledge that I was different made it difficult to come to terms with understanding and accepting that I really was **NOT white.** Getting older and wanting to finally acknowledge myself that I am Korean American and that's how I'm seen.

I felt like a banana most of my life. In other words, racially Chinese due to my skin. But in terms of my inner values and cultural identity I felt very much Caucasian due to my upbringing within my adoptive family. **I still feel this way.**



Experiences and services helpful/very helpful in forming transracial identity

Source	Korean Adoptees	White Adoptees
	N=179	N=156
Travel to birth country	74	45
Attend racially diverse schools	73	42
Ethnic/Racially same child care providers, teachers, adult role models	73	58
Family travel cultural significant places	72	54
Read information from internet	71	62
Live in racially diverse neighborhood	70	53
Books/articles on adoption	68	66
Cook food or dine at restaurants	68	54
Regular contact with people same race/ethnicity	67	51
Exposure to multi-cultural entertainment	64	55
Take classes learn history/culture birth country	64	30
Having siblings	63	68
Events by adult adoptees/ adult adoptee organizations	63	47
Support group for adoptees	62	50
Involve ethnically diverse religious, social groups/activities	62	40
Culture camp	61	15
Study birth language	59	43
Events by same race	55	28
Have traditional objects (dolls etc) from birth country	49	37
Having contact with birth relatives	47	72
Study marital art, traditional dance	38	31



In their own voices

*I used to wish (when I blew my birthday candles out) to wake up the next morning and be white so that I did not stick out so much in my rural communities I grew up in. **Once I went to college I found a confidence in myself by finding friends who supported me in my growth.** In my formative years I had a very supportive family and I think that planted a seed for my future respect for who I am*

Going to Korea changed my perception. I finally realized that I belonged somewhere. I remember feeling a deep sense of pride in knowing that there is a beautiful country filled with beautiful people who looked like me and that it was okay to be me even if I lived in white America. When I returned home I loathed white people. I grieved the loss of being with others who looked like me and I took it out on the white people around me.

When I became more involved with other Korean adoptees after visiting my birth country and as my faith became deeper, I came to a deeper realization that I was meant to be raised by my parents here and share these two worlds. I am proud of who I am. I will not say that I do not face adversity as a minority woman but those experiences have made me who I am.



Initial Post Adoption Service Needs

- Integrating child into the family and forming secure attachments
- Supporting recovery from deprivation, abuse, and other early traumas



Life-Long Post Adoption Service Needs

- Supporting curiosity about and connections with birth family
- Supporting adoptive identity
 - Helping cope with adoption-related loss
- Supporting racial/ethnic/cultural identity
 - Travel birth country
 - Attend racially diverse schools
 - Having adult role models of the same race
 - Live in racially diverse neighborhoods
 - Cook food or dine in restaurants
 - Events / support groups for adoptees



Thank You!

Holley McGinnis, MSSW

holleem@gmail.com

Adoption Resources

"Beyond Culture Camp: Promoting Healthy Identity Formation in Adoption."
Donaldson Adoption Institute:

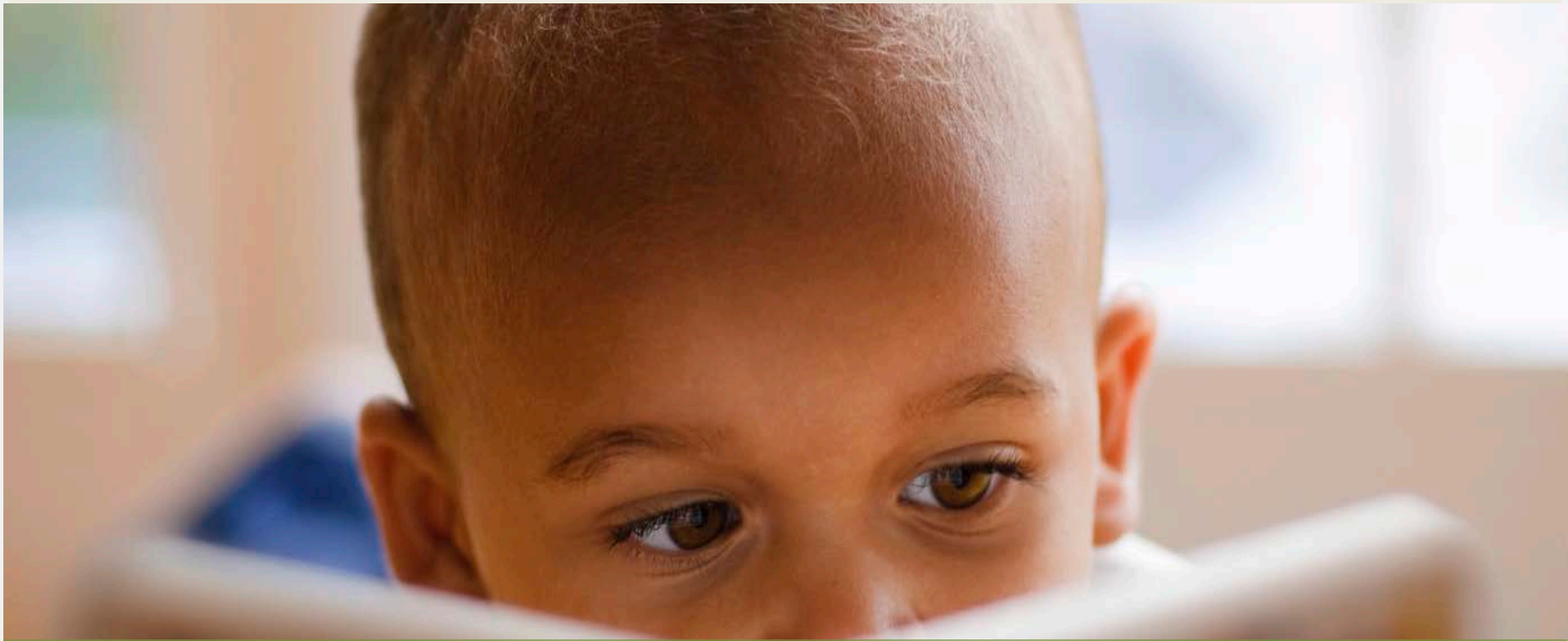
http://adoptioninstitute.org/old/publications/2009_11_BeyondCultureCamp.pdf

"A Changing World: Shaping Best Practices Through Understanding of the New Realities of Intercountry Adoption." Donaldson Adoption Institute:

http://adoptioninstitute.org/old/publications/2013_10_AChangingWorld.pdf

"A Need to Know: Enhancing Adoption Competence Among Mental Health Professionals". Donaldson Adoption Institute:

http://adoptioninstitute.org/old/publications/2013_08_ANeedToKnow.pdf



Changes to Adoption in WI

Ron Hermes, BPOHC Director

(608) 422-6932

ron.hermes@wisconsin.gov



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

RECENT CHANGES TO ADOPTION IN WI

- Reasons for Changes
- Types of Changes
 - Legislative
 - Administrative
 - Data Collection
- What are we hoping to accomplish?

REASONS FOR RECENT CHANGES

Growing concerns discontinuity

- Public CW seeing more children adopted domestically, internationally, and through our Special Needs program seeking OHC placement
- Reuters article series
 - WI Children Involved
- Federal Legislation HR 4980





LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

2013 ACT 314

- Modified existing law related:
 - Advertising for Adoptions
 - Amends definition of “Advertise” to include use of any computerized communication system
 - Prohibits advertising for purpose of taking a child into permanent physical custody
 - Limits Parental Delegation to 1 year.
- Creates Class A misdemeanor for causing a child to be sent out of WI or brought into WI for the purpose of permanently transferring physical custody to a person who is not a relative.
- Created legislative study on adoptions disruption and dissolution.
- Link:
<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/acts/2013/314.pdf>

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION & DISSOLUTION

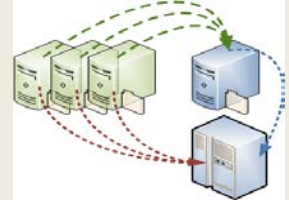
- Created Four Pieces of Legislation, awaiting Gov. signature
 - AB 39: Jurisdiction and Venue in Adoption Proceedings and Investigation of Suitability of a Home for Adoption of a Child.
 - Extends jurisdiction and venue to allow adoption or adoptive placement in county where TPR filed/granted.
 - Requires all counties and licensed adoption agencies to use a standardized qualitative assessment system for the home study that is approved by DCF.
 - SAFE tool will be required
 - AB 40: requires 25 hours of pre-adoption preparation training, at least 6 hours in person, specific training on: trauma, sexual abuse, attachment and abuse/neglect.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADOPTION DISRUPTION & DISSOLUTION

- Continued...
 - AB 41: Birth certification will be granted to an International adoptee that acquires U.S. citizenship under [8 USC 1431](#). Upon request, DHS must issue a birth certificate to the child.
 - AB 42 Requires a statement as to whether a child has been adopted in certain CHIPS/JIPS/DEL petitions and an annual report to the Gov. and Legislature on children who enter out-of-home care after they have been adopted or placed under a guardianship.
- <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study/2014/1189>

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

- Modifying data elements in eWiSACWIS to require information collection when children are in OHC
 - Previously adopted or had a guardian
 - Type of adoption/guardianship
 - Agency Involved
 - DOB at the time of adoption/guardianship
- Requested information from all existing Child Placing Agencies about the adoptions they facilitated in the last six years.
 - Information included:
 - Child: Type of adoption, DOB, Date of Adoption, Age at finalization, Whether the child was adopted with Siblings, known Discontinuity, Special Needs, Qualified for AA, Race, Gender, Ethnicity, & ICWA Status.
 - Adoptive Parent(s): Relationship Status, WI Region, Income, DOB, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, & Educational Status.



THE DATA SO FAR

Private Child Placing Agency Adoptions by Type and Year (2010-2015)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Year Unknown	Total
Agency Infant	4	4	5	4	3	7			27
Domestic	201	212	197	199	228	195	1	30	1263
Independent	3	3	3	1	2	2			14
International	175	193	135	97	131	98		15	846
Post-Placement Only		1		1					2
Relative	5	1	1		1				8
Grand Total	388	414	341	302	365	302	1	45	2160

Child Ethnicity by Year (2007-2015) For International Adoptions

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Year Unknown	Total
International								
African American/Black	23	28	22	15	8	8	2	106
Asian Indian	2	6		1				9
Caucasian		1	1	1		2		5
Chinese	59	41	39	22	42	47	3	253
Eastern European	8	9	7	13	13	7	5	62
Filipino	5	2		3	5	2	1	18
Hispanic/Latino	2	7	2	1	3	1		16
Korean	15	19	22	7	12	9	2	86
Other	33	40	28	16	30	9		157
Other Southeast Asian			1					1
Other Spanish/Hispanic		10			2	1		13
Russian	16	14	5	6	5	2		49
Thai		3			2			5
No Response	12	13	8	12	9	10	2	66

WHAT ARE WE HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH?

- An informed understanding of the needs of adoptive parents and children.
- A system that is responsive to those needs both before and after finalization occurs.
- A system that provides proper preparation to those seeking to adopt.
- A system that provides adopted children with the information and paperwork they need to be successful adults.

QUESTIONS



ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- Introduction of the Center Evaluators
- Upcoming meetings:
 - ❖ SIM meeting in Detroit: 4/28-4/29
 - ❖ Professional Consortium Meeting in Washington DC: 9/15-9/16
- QIC-AG Overview and Site Profiles

SITE DISCUSSION



- Name one item that your site has benefited from participating in the QIC-AG.
- Name one barrier that your site has encountered in working with the QIC-AG.
- Name one thing that you/your site would like to gain from participation in the QIC-AG.

THE REMAINDER OF YEAR TWO AT A GLANCE

- IDIP and Cost Plans
- Installation
- Implementation
- Dissemination
- Sustainability



LEARNING OPPORTUNITY AT THE JUNE QUARTERLY ALL SITE MEETING

Make this into a slide that allows you to vote:

Please mark the topic that you would like for the next learning opportunity:

Sustainability: How to develop and implement a program to ensure sustainability

The importance of kinship care competencies: How effective is your system in working with relative caregivers who want to offer permanence for a child

Other, please specify

QUESTIONS

Additional Information on the QIC-AG
can be found at:

www.qic-ag.org



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