



November 22, 2025 – 26th National Adoption Day Fact Sheet

Los Angeles Foster care and adoption statistics*:

- Adoptions scheduled for today: **144 children (97 families)**
 - 36% of the children being adopted today are 10 years or older
 - 56% are sibling groups (33 groups of two or more siblings)
- Age range:
 - 0-2 10%
 - 3-5 26%
 - 6-9 28%
 - 10-14 26%
 - 15+ 10%
- 17,988 Los Angeles children receiving child welfare services / Adoption Caseload 3,691
 - 2,400 (or 13.3%) of these are youth ages 18 - 21 in extended foster care program
- 11,689 of these children are in out-of-home foster care
- 1,911 of these children are legally freed with plan of adoption
 - About 200 of those “waiting” children and youth have yet to be matched with an adoptive family
- 2,395 adoptions from foster care in Los Angeles in 2024 (up 3% from 2023)
*Source: L.A. County DCFS Fact Sheet, Child Welfare Services – September 2025 (Data from CWS/CMS); AIS Data as of 8/1/25.

California Foster care and adoption statistics*

- 38,490 children are in out-of-home foster care
- 10,913 of these with permanency plan for adoption
 - Of those, 21% are ages 11 – 17 years
- 6,576 of these are legally free for adoption
- 6,422 of these (or 17%) are in extended foster care (age 18 – 21)
- 6,090 (30%) foster care adoptions finalized
- 2,438 children (or 12%) aged out/emancipated from foster care
*Source: U.S. Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, AFCARS Dashboard, Preliminary FFY 2024 Estimates as of September 5, 2025 – No. 32

National Foster care and adoption statistics*

- 328,947 children in out-of-home foster care
- 70,421 of these with permanency plan for adoption (21%)
 - Of those, 32% are ages 11 – 17 years
- 49,994 of these are legally free for adoption
- 26,105 (8%) are in extended foster care (age 18 – 21)
- 46,935 (27%) adoptions finalized
- 15,379 (or 9%) youth aged out/emancipated from foster care
*Source: U.S. Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth and Families, AFCARS Dashboard, Preliminary FFY 2024 Estimates as of September 5, 2025 - No. 32

National Adoption Day (NAD) statistics*

- Total number of children adopted on NAD since 2000: over 90,000
- Number of children adopted on 20th anniversary NAD (2019): 5,200
- Number of NAD participating cities/counties annually: over 400
- This year, 62 jurisdictions in 27 states registered their events on the National Adoption Day website, and the NAD coalition anticipates over 400 events across the country will take place. Visit www.nationaladoptionday.org.
*Source: Alliance for Children’s Rights, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

National Adoption Day Los Angeles **video/news release** on Saturday, November 22 @ 12:00 pm (PST). The video will available on the Superior Court of Los Angeles County’s YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtFdtVOpK45CjOvNPKOdaLw>



About National Adoption Day

Today is the **26th annual** National Adoption Day. A coalition of national partners – the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Freddie Mac Foundation, Congressional Coalition on Adoption, and Children’s Action Network – founded National Adoption Day to raise public awareness of the thousands of children in foster care in the United States waiting to be adopted and to celebrate all loving families that adopt.

The first National Adoption Day was inspired by the innovative efforts of Michael Nash, former presiding judge of Los Angeles’ Juvenile Court, in collaboration with the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Public Counsel, and the Department of Children and Family Services to open the court on Saturdays and engage the volunteer efforts of *pro bono* attorneys to finalize large numbers of backlogged adoptions. Based on Los Angeles’ “Adoption Saturday” model, on November 18, 2000, the Alliance and its national coalition partners the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, and Children’s Action Network organized the first-ever National Adoption Day, when *nine* cities opened their courts on the Saturday before Thanksgiving to finalize 1,100 foster care adoptions. As this grassroots effort took hold, the number of participating cities grew quickly, from 17 in 2001 to 340 in 2009 to 400 in 2018; as did the number of adoptions, from 1,500 in 2001 to 4,835 in 2009 to 5,200 in 2019. By 2007, National Adoption Day was celebrated for the first time in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Today, judges, social workers, attorneys, adoption advocates, and policymakers collaborate to plan these annual, one-day events in over 400 cities across the country and to date, the dreams of over **90,000** children in foster care have come true as part of National Adoption Day. Visit www.nationaladoptionday.org

Los Angeles “Adoption Day” Program

The Los Angeles “Adoption Day” program is a collaborative effort of the Los Angeles Juvenile Court, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Alliance for Children’s Rights, Public Counsel, and hundreds of *pro bono* attorneys to finalize large numbers of adoptions of children from the Los Angeles foster care system. The Los Angeles Adoption Days are normally held four times throughout the year. Over **46,000** adoptions have been finalized since the inception of this program in 1997.

National Adoption Month

November is also National Adoption Month. This year’s National Adoption Month theme, “*Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds*,” highlights the importance of child welfare professionals helping young people build and sustain lifelong networks of support and community to provide a sense of belonging and relational permanency. Each year, about 20,000 young people leave foster care in the United States (over 2,400 in Los Angeles) without the support of a permanent family and, consequently are at increased risk of poor educational outcomes, experiencing homelessness, and being unemployed. Finding permanency for all youth, so they don’t face aging out of the system alone, is an urgent local, state, and national priority. www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam.

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