

Explore Adoption Survey Findings

To set a foundation for the *Explore Adoption* campaign, a statewide survey was conducted identifying citizens' perceptions of the Florida public adoption process. Approximately 750 Florida residents participated in the survey conducted from January 15 through January 26, 2008. Half of the participants were Floridians who had previously inquired about Florida adoption through the Daniel Memorial Adoption Information Center (DMAIC) while the other half represented a random sample of Florida residents. Below are the survey's general key findings.

Adoption Motivators

- 72 percent would be more likely to adopt if they knew the child would receive free college tuition
- 71 percent would be more likely to adopt if they knew the child would receive health care coverage
- 63 percent would be more likely to adopt if they knew they would qualify for monthly financial help from the state of Florida
- 61 percent would be much more likely to adopt if they believed it would be a positive experience for their family

Adoption Considerations

- 85 percent said they would be likely to consult with friends and family who have adopted to find out more about adoption
- 54 percent would be much more likely to adopt if they knew people who have adopted children from Florida's care and had a positive experience and the children they adopted greatly enriched their lives
- 38 percent said they learned about public adoption from friends or family who adopted
- 27 percent of the general population had considered adopting a child
 - Of those who have considered adopting a child, 57 percent are still considering adoption
 - Of those who contacted DMAIC, 62 percent are still considering adoption

Adoption Beliefs and Misperceptions

- 83 percent said they would be more likely to adopt if they knew the biological parents have no legal claim to a child once they are made available for adoption
- 62 percent believed adopting through Florida's public adoption system is much more difficult and bureaucratic than private adoption
- 59 percent believed adopting a child from Florida's public adoption system is likely to involve extensive paperwork and bureaucracy
- 49 percent believed adopting through Florida's public adoption system is likely to be more timely than private adoption
- 40 percent believed children in Florida's care have disabilities or special needs that their family may not be equipped to handle
- 40 percent were concerned about the biological parents' ability to take a child back after the adoption is finalized and believed private adoptions are more secure than Florida public adoption

- 37 percent said they were concerned state rules would be too stringent to let them adopt
- 37 percent believed private adoption is easier and quicker than Florida public adoption
- 18 percent believed the state would deem them too old to adopt