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Pragmatic to Sentimental Adoption? Child Adoption in the United States, 1880-1930

Chiaki Moriguchi

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Research Project **PRIMCED**
Institute of Economic Research
Hitotsubashi University
2-1 Naka, Kunitatchi Tokyo, 186-8601 Japan
http://www.ier.hit-u.ac.jp/primced/e-index.html

Hitotsubashi University

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

CHIAKI MORIGUCHI*

chiaki@ier.hit-u.ac.jp
Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University

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Abstract

Child 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, the modern form of adoption was a U.S. innovation in the mid-nineteenth century that had profound implications for the welfare of both adopted children and adoptive parents. Due to the lack of quantitative data, however, we know little about the extent and nature of child adoption in the historical U.S. How widely was adoption practiced before its widespread social acceptance? Who adopted children, and what motivated them to adopt? In this study, using U.S. federal census microdata (IPUMS) in 1880-1930 and 2000, I first document the prevalence of adoption and the characteristics of adoptive households and trace their changes over the twentieth century. I then investigate the commonly held hypothesis that adoption evolved from "pragmatic" to "sentimental" adoption during the early twentieth century, as adoptive parents began to demand children not for their labor value but for the utility of parenting itself. My empirical analysis indicates that, in 1880-1930, farm households were more likely to adopt children for pragmatic reasons, while households with greater socio-economic status were more likely to practice sentimental adoption.

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1. Motivation

Adopting a child, 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, making it a leading adoption nation in the world (Moriguchi 2012). However, even in America, it was not until the 1940s that adoption gained cultural and moral legitimacy. In fact, recent studies by social and cultural historians, such as Carp (1998, 2002), Berebitsky (2000), Melosh (2002), and Herman (2008), have revealed the complex dynamics that have 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 birth 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? 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 an 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 unique 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 with 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 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 (aged 12 to 15), especially boys, were often placed under indenture contracts, while younger children were more likely to be "adopted". In reality, however, most 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 modern adoption law that enabled a permanent transfer of parental rights was enacted in Massachusetts in 1851, and 24 states passed similar laws by 1880 (Witmer et al. (1963), p.30; Carp (2000), p.6). Second, despite the name, many "orphan train" children were not true 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 did not 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 (2008), p.23). Historical studies suggest that, throughout the 19th century, adopting an unrelated infant and raising the child "as their very own" remained uncommon due to both hereditary concerns and high infant mortality. People often feared adopting infants of unknown parentage and not of their own "flesh and blood" (Romanofsky (1979), p.73). 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).

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

[2] A typical adoption form set the terms and conditions (for 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] The legal cost of adoption was $10-25 in 1904, equivalent to $200-500 in 2000 using CPI or $800-2,000 using unskilled wage.

According to the literature, towards the end of the 19th century, parents in general began to value children for more emotional than economic reasons (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); Goldin and Katz (2008)). Reflecting these changes, adoption, too, evolved from "pragmatic" to "sentimental" adoption, in which parents adopted a child to complete a family and to experience 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.[4] The major improvements in infant formula (powdered milk) in the 1920s, which enabled the adoption of young infants, further increased the demand for adoption.[5] At the same time, child welfare reform in the Progressive Era (1900-1918) led to the 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 encouraged unmarried 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 in 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 a married couples with higher socioeconomic status and no biological children (Carpe (2002), p.202).[6] By the early 1930s, adoption from the agencies was often described as "white man's luxury" (Romanofsky (1969), p.176). It was not until the late 1940s, however, 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

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[4] See, for example, *New York Times* articles, "Bringing Homeless Child to the Childless Home," September 6, 1912, and "More Homes Seek children Now Than Children Homes," May 8, 1928.

[5] 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 (2009), pp.12-15).

[6] At the same time, adoption agencies carefully screened children and excluded children with disability or questionable heredity as "unadoptable" (Berebitsky (2000), p.134).

states enacted new adoption laws that mandated a social investigation of prospective adoptive parents prior to court approval (Schapiro (1956), p.18).

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 of all ages looking for adoptive homes. It was not until the 1920s that the demand for adoptable healthy infants began to surpass supply. In terms of parental motives, it had evolved from "altruistic" adoption, in which parents adopted orphaned or abandoned children to provide a 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 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 more likely to practice informal adoption "by tradition" (Carp (1998), pp.32-36; Askeland (2006), pp.10-13; Berebistaky (2000), pp.9-10).

In this paper, I compile a unique dataset of adopted children and their families using U.S. federal census data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) in 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 (Ruggles et al. (2008)). [7] Although adopted children were assigned an independent category (separately from biological children and stepchildren) for the first time in the 2000 census questionnaire,[8] using detailed family relationship codes one can also identify adopted (or step) children in the 1880-1930 censuses. To my best knowledge, these data have never been used for studying adoption. The merits of using IPUMS data are multitude. First, they provide a nationally representative sample of the U.S. population in every decade (except for 1890 for which census manuscripts were lost), and the sample size is large enough to contain 600 to 1,700 adopted children in each census year. Second, because family relationships are self-reported by the head of household, unlike court records or agency records, adopted children in IPUMS data include 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 a modern counterpoint to the historical data, which allows us to compare adoption practices in this country across a century. There are major limitations, however. Most critically, because households were never explicitly asked to identify adopted children and such information was voluntary, the data understate the number of adopted children and provide only lower bound estimates.[9] Second, for the same reason, trends in the data may reflect changes in the norms associated with adoption or a household's willingness to identify adopted children. Third, we know the age of children at the time of census, but we do not know when they were adopted. Lastly, we cannot distinguish unrelated adoption from related adoption. In particular, related adoption includes stepparent adoption, and in recent decades approximately half of adopted children are adopted stepchildren (Moriguchi (2012)), which creates a serious problem in the 2000 data. Fortunately, as I discuss later, this problem seems to be minor in the 1880-1930 data.

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[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.

[8] 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.

[9] The census instructions to enumerators in 1900-1930 read: "*Relationship to head of family.* – Designate the head of the family, whether husband or father, widow, or unmarried person of either sex, by the word 'head'; for other members of a family write wife, father, mother, son, daughter, grandson, daughter-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, boarder, lodger, servant, etc., according to the particular relationship which the person bears to the head of the family."

4. Trends in Descriptive Statistics

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

How common was adoption in the late 19th century? Did adoption become more popular in the early 20th century in response to decreased stigma and a growing social acceptance? **Table 1** reports the estimated numbers of 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, a child is defined as any person under 18 (aged 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 Table 1 even though foster child is reported (not as "child" but) as co-resident nonrelatives in IPUMS.[10] It must be noted that the child type in IPUMS is defined in relation to the *head* of the household, while the relationship between a child and a spouse of the household head is not directly identified. As a result, a household head (typically male) is likely to report his child as a biological child even if his wife is a stepmother of the child. Thus, stepchildren in our data likely exclude those children who have a biological father and a stepmother. Similarly, adopted children in our data may include adopted stepchildren, as a household head adopting his stepchild may report the child as adopted. Because our definitions of biological and adopted children overlap with "stepchildren" in its common usage of the term, for comparison, I keep stepchildren (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 explicitly identified as "adopted," compared to 2.2% in 2000. Although 0.26% may seem small, given that these are lower bound estimates and 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 no positive trend in the share of adopted children from 1880 to 1930 among whites. This could be that the literature's emphasis

[10] Foster children refer to children who are temporarily cared for by foster parents while their birth parents are unable to perform parental duties. Unlike adoptive parents, foster parents do not assume parental rights. Before the 1930s, however, these two concepts were not well differentiated. For example, historical documents commonly and routinely refer to adoptive parents as "foster parents" and adopted children in a probationary period before legal approval as "foster children."

on rising demand for agency adoption has been misplaced or that such increase was offset by a decline in other types of adoption. Alternatively, the flat time trend could be a reflection of respondents' increasing tendency to report an adopted child simply as a child. 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.[11] For all years, adoption was more common among blacks than whites, and the difference grew between 1880 and 1930. In 2000, too, black children were more likely to be adopted than their white counterparts, but the difference was not as large (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).[12] With respect to stepchildren, due to low divorce rates, they historically constituted a much lower percentage of all children than today for whites (less than 1.5% in 1880-1930 versus 5.3% in 2000) and a 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 probably due to the lack of state-subsidized paid foster care prior to the 1930s, although a number of child welfare agencies paid board to foster parents as early as the 1890s (Askeland (2006), p.33; Berebitsky (2000), p.181).

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

To explore whether adoptive parents became less diverse a population between 1880 and 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 a 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

[11] According to Steven Ruggles, the smaller numbers of adopted and step children in 1920 for all races can be attributed to differences in coding procedures as the 1920 sample was one of the earliest IPUMS samples.
[12] Among Asian adopted children in 2000, 73.0% had a white household head and 26.3% had an Asian household head.

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 was less that 0.2% for whites and 1-3% for blacks in 1880-1930, compared to 5.3% for whites and 33.4% for blacks in 2000. The dramatically smaller numbers in 1880-1930 indicate strong social stigma against unmarried 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 household, more likely to live in a widowed single-parent household, and much more likely to live in a household with a never-married parent.[13] (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, that 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

[13] 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.

2000, too, most step children lived in a married two-parent household.[14] 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 and 2000

Because the marital status of the 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 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 the household head.[15] 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

[14] 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).
[15] 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.

is an indication of infertility,[16] 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.

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

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 with a negative slope.[17] 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 declined 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.

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. 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

[16] Having no biological children under age 18 does not imply having no biological children of any age.
[17] The negative slope is due to children leaving a household before reaching 18. It is not a result of increasing parental mortality, as I observe a similar negative slope even in the sample of all households as opposed to married two-parent households.

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 and 2000

In **Tables 4-7**, for selected census years, 1880, 1910, 1930, and 2000, I present the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of adopted children and their parents and compare their means against those of biological children and their parents. 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 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 have been 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 a higher age.[18] 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.

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

[18] 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.

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 surnames 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 labor force participation (i.e., have a gainful occupation), available for children of age 10 and above. Due to small sample sizes, however, the difference between adoptive and biological children is not statistically significant in most cases. More generally, 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 the labor force participation rate declined from 15% to 4% from 1880 to 1930.

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 biological siblings, and were more likely to have been born out of state. Further, there was 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 also *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.

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 the mother to remarry to support a family.

5. Determinants of the Demand for Adoption: A Theoretical Framework

These descriptive statistics show that adopted children and adoptive parents were systematically and consistently different from their biological (and step) counterparts in 1880-1930. However, except for a few notable trends, there were no dramatic changes in the characteristics of adopted children or adoptive parents between 1880 and 1930. 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? Or was sentimental adoption already a dominant form as early as 1880? One of the major challenges is to differentiate the three distinct motivations for adoption in the data. Before proceeding to a 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, typically a married couple, can produce a child not only through birth but also through adoption. In this framework, a couple 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. When adopting a child, parents can choose the age of the child entering the household, x, and the sex of the child, y.[19] By contrast, when bearing a child, x is always zero and y is a random variable. Parents are assumed to take care of a child until the legal age of emancipation, z. A couple has imperfect control over producing a biological child 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* from each child (of sex y) from age x to z through experiencing parenthood, companionship, and emotional bonding with the child: $S(x,y)=\int_{t=x}^{z} s(t,y)dt$. Second, parents derive *labor value* from each child’s contribution to the

[19] 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)).

market or home production from age x to z, defined by $L(x,y)=\int_{t=x}^{z} l(t,y)dt$. Parents also incur time costs from bearing and rearing a child, defined by $C(x,y)=\int_{t=x}^{z} c(t,y)dt$. The husband and wife choose to allocate their times between market production and home production given their market wages and non-labor income.

The instantaneous sentimental value, $s(t,y)$, which parents derive from a child of age t and sex y, is assumed to be decreasing in age and higher if the child is female.[20] Furthermore, I assume that parents derive greater sentimental value from a biological child than an adopted child for given age and sex: $s^B(t,y)=s^A(t,y)+\alpha$. The parameter α captures parental tastes for a biological (as opposed to adopted) child due, for example, to genetic similarity, which partially reflects social stigma attached to adoption. I assume that the instantaneous labor value, $l(t,y)$, is an increasing function of age and is effectively zero when t is small. I also assume that male and female children are equally productive at any given age but that they are imperfect substitutes; namely, boys are more productive in market production while girls are more productive in home production (Caldwell (2005)). Thus, the labor value of a male (relative to female) child within a household should depend on the household's gender composition. For given age and sex, biological and adopted children are assumed to be equally valuable in terms of their labor: $l^B(t,y)=l^A(t,y)$. Finally, I assume that the instantaneous cost of raising a child, $c(t,y)$, is invariant in sex y, but falls with age t as infants and younger children demand higher parental attention. There is no cost of educational investment in this model. The cost of having an adopted newborn is assumed to be lower than the cost of having a biological newborn because adoptive mothers don't give birth: $c^B(0,y)=c^A(0,y)+\kappa$. The pregnancy and delivery costs, κ, can be very large, given the extremely high risks of maternal mortality and morbidity prior to 1930.[21] As a result, the time cost for raising a biological child is always higher than that for an adopted child: $C^A(x,y)<C^B(x,y)$ for all (x,y). The values of $S(x,y)$, $L(x,y)$, $C(x,y)$, γ, α, and κ are assumed to vary across households depending on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of parents, such as age, education, and occupation.

Although simple, the model captures the economic logic of pragmatic and sentimental adoptions. On one hand, those couples that have a high appreciation of children's labor value

[20] This assumption is based on parents' revealed preferences; see footnote 4.
[21] Albanesi and Olivetti (2009), pp.6-8.

relative to sentimental value may strictly prefer adoption due to its lower time cost, and they would choose to adopt an older child (pragmatic adoption). On the other hand, those couples who derive utility primarily from emotional value and place high premium α on biological children would be unlikely to adopt any children as long as they could 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 a third major motive for child adoption not captured in the above model, i.e., altruism. Unlike pragmatic or sentimental adoption whose primary beneficiaries are adoptive parents, in altruistic adoption, a couple adopts to help a child whose biological parents fell on hard times. Altruistic adoption is hence a more passive form of the demand than the above two, induced typically by the presence of orphaned or abandoned children, 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.[22]

In terms of testable predictions, we should expect that, compared to sentimental adoption, the age difference between the child and mother is smaller in pragmatic adoption and greater in altruistic adoption. Adopted children are more likely to be female in sentimental adoption (controlling for the sex of older siblings), while no female preference should be observed in pragmatic or altruistic adoption. Adopted children are more likely to be adopted legally in sentimental adoption and therefore share the same surname with their adoptive parents (to be raised "as their own") than in 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 a biological child should not reduce the likelihood of altruistic adoption, or may even increase the likelihood if experienced mothers are more inclined to take care of unfortunate children.

[22] See Ainsworth (1996) and Akresh (2008) for studying the demand and supply of child fostering in Africa.

Furthermore, we expect pragmatic adoption to be positively associated with factors that increase children's labor value relative to sentimental value. Farming is an important proxy in the following analysis because not only were children highly valued in farm labor (Caldwell (2005), pp.725-7), but also child labor laws were not enforced in the agricultural sector (Ogburn (1912)). Another important factor is the presence of domestic employees (i.e., servant, housekeeper, maid, and cook) and other adult members in the household. As these employees provide labor towards home production, they should reduce children's labor value, particularly for children of the same gender, and thus are substitutes for pragmatic adoption. By the same logic, a working mother would increase the labor value of girls at home and thus the demand for the pragmatic adoption of girls.

We expect sentimental adoption to be positively correlated with factors that reduce parental premium α on biological children over adopted children. Arguably, city couples with better education or higher socio-economic status are less conservative, place more confidence in the "power of environment" than in eugenics, and have lower α.[23] If this is the case, we expect literacy (the proxy for education), prestigious occupations (e.g., managerial and professional), metropolitan 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 at least one child under age 18, I estimate the propensity of a household to adopt in several specifications. The results are reported separately for white households (see **Tables 8 and 9**) and for black households (see **Tables 10 and 11**). 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.[24] All marginal effects are expressed in

[23] Sophie Van Senden Theis, a leading adoption professional and researcher, quoted in "More Homes Seek children Now Than Children Homes," *New York Times,* May 8, 1927.
[24] For indicator variables, marginal effects are for discrete change from 0 to 1 evaluated at sample means.

percentage point. In **Table 8**, in a baseline model, column (1), I include a set of household characteristics, year fixed effects, and region fixed effects. In column (2), I add finer household composition variables and occupational categories, and use division fixed effects. In column (3), I restrict the sample to households with a mother aged 15-45. In column (4), as a proxy for household wealth, I include house ownership, but drop all observations in 1880, for which this variable is unavailable.

To estimate the degree of substitution between biological and adopted children, in columns (1)-(5), I include the indicator variables for the number of biological children (under age 18) in the household (the omitted category is having no biological child). To interpret these variables as a proxy for marital fecundity, however, has several problems, even after controlling for mother's age. First, for older adoptive mothers, who may have biological children older than 18, these variables would systematically underreport their total fertility (i.e., right-censored). Second, the number of biological children is endogenous to adoption: a lower of number of biological children can be a result, rather than a cause, of adoption. Third, for sentimental adoption, anticipated, as opposed to realized, fertility (e.g., difficulty in conceiving in the first few years of marriage) should matter. To address these issues, I use alternative measures of fertility in the estimations presented in **Table 9**. The column (5) restates the baseline model from the previous table. In columns (6) and (7), to capture the fertility of mother at an early childbearing age, I use the number of biological children *when mother was age 25 and 30* and restrict the sample to households with mothers aged 25-35 and aged 30-40, respectively. To take advantage of additional fertility information available only in 1900 and 1910, I restrict the sample to these years in columns (8)-(11). Column (8) shows the same baseline model as column (5) using the 1900-1910 data. In column (9), I add the number of *children ever born* to mother (i.e., total fertility). Column (10) adds the number of *child losses* to mother (defined by the number of children ever born minus the number of surviving children to mother). Column (11) drops the number of biological children in the household. Although not reported, results are robust to the inclusion of more detailed geographical or occupational variables, and remain unchanged when I control for state adoption laws.

The main findings for white households are as follows: (1) The number of biological children in households has large, negative, and declining marginal effects on the propensity to adopt in all specifications (see columns (1)-(4)), and these effects are robust to the inclusion of total fertility in columns (8)-(10). When alternative fertility measures (early fertility and total fertility) are used, however, the marginal effect of having an additional biological child on adoption becomes relatively constant (see columns (6), (7), and (9)-(11)). As expected, the loss of biological child(ren) increases the likelihood of adoption. These results strongly establish that adopted children and biological children are substitutes, but also suggest that the demand for adoption does not decline too quickly with mother's fertility. (2) Step children and young relatives (under the age of 18) in the same household are negatively associated with adoption and thus substitutes. By contrast, foster children (including boarders under 18 living without their birth parent) and adopted children are complements. (3) Having boarders in the household is negatively associated with adoption, while having domestic servants has little effect. (4) Living in a metropolitan (or urban) area reduces the likelihood of adoption by a large margin. Even after controlling for father's age and geographic location, house ownership is positively associated with adoption. (5) The literacy of the father has a negative effect, while the literacy of the mother has a positive effect on adoption. (6) Working fathers and mothers (i.e., having a regular gainful occupation) are both positively associated with adoption. (7) Conditional on working, a higher socioeconomic index (Duncan's index based on occupational income and prestige) of father is negatively associated with the propensity to adopt. In terms of occupation, white farmers are substantially more likely to adopt, while professionals (including managers) and white-collar workers are less likely to adopt.

For black households, the main results can be summarized as follows. (1) With respect to the fertility variables, the results for blacks are qualitatively very similar to those for whites, establishing that biological and adopted children are substitutes. (2) Unlike in white households, foster children are not positively associated with adoption. Stepchildren and young relatives are substitutes for adopted children. (3) Unlike whites, the numbers of boarders and domestic servants are both positively associated with the likelihood of adoption. (4) Living in a metropolitan (but not necessarily urban) area is negatively associated with adoption. House ownership increases the likelihood of adoption. (5) The literacy of father has a negative effect, while the literacy of the mother has a positive effect on adoption. (6) Working fathers (but not mothers) are positively associated with adoption. (7) For black fathers, a higher socioeconomic index is positively associated with the propensity to adopt. Both professional and farmer fathers are substantially more likely to adopt.

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

To examine whether the determinants for the demand for adoption changed from 1880 to 1930, I divide the data into two periods, 1880-1900 and 1910-1930, and run the same logit regressions. **Table 12** reports the results for white households, and **Table 13** for black households in three specifications. For whites, the marginal effect of additional biological child in reducing the propensity to adopt declines *faster* in 1910-1930 than in 1880-1900. For example, in column (1), relative to not having any biological child, having one reduces the propensity to adopt by 3.0 percentage points in 1910-1930 compared to 2.8 percentage points in 1880-1900, while having two reduces the propensity only by 1.8 percentage points in 1910-1930 compared to 2.2 percentage points in 1880-1900. The more pronounced effect of having just one biological child may indicate that marital infertility becomes a more important reason to adopt in the later period. I also find that, among whites, foster children and adopted children became complements only in the later decades and that adoptive households are more likely to have domestic servants in the earlier decades. White farmer fathers exhibit a high propensity to adopt throughout the period, but the magnitude of this effect declines substantially in the later decades. By contrast, farmer mothers become more likely to adopt in the later period, but this effect is quantitatively unimportant since the fraction of white working mothers remains very small (4.6% in 1930). Despite the emphasis in the literature, I find no evidence that urban-living managers and professionals became more active in adopting towards the later decades.

For black households, although to a lesser extent, the marginal effect of an additional biological child on adoption also falls more steeply in the later period. Among black fathers, both farmers and professionals became highly and positively associated with adoption in the later decades. The rising proportion of farmers and professionals in the black population in 1880-1930 partly explains the increasing propensity to adopt among black households.

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

To better understand the parental motives for adoption, I classify adoptive households by the characteristics of children and estimate the propensity to adopt using multinomial logit regressions. I consider three models in the following analysis, each of which is an attempt to differentiate sentimental adoption from pragmatic adoption.

In the first model, a household chooses from three outcomes: (a) no adoption, (b) adoption of a girl, and (c) adoption of a boy. Because some households have multiple adopted children, I use the sex of the oldest adopted child to classify the adoptive households into these categories. According to the historical literature and theoretical predictions, we should observe more sentimental adoption in the outcome (b) of adopting a girl than in the outcome (c) of adopting a boy, while altruistic adoption is equally likely in (b) and (c). Thus we should expect that households with the outcome (b) are more likely to exhibit the characteristics predicted by sentimental adoption, while the characteristics of households with the outcome (c) are more in line with the predictions of pragmatic adoption. I report the results for three specifications. (The results for white households are reported in **Table 14**, and the results for black households are reported in **Table 17**). In column (1), a baseline model, I include a set of gender-specific indicator variables that capture the presence of a male or female biological child who is older than the oldest adopted child, the presence of a male or female foster child (not reported), the presence of a male or female relative under age 18, the presence of a male or female adult relative, and the presence of a male or female domestic and non-domestic employee.[25] Column (2) repeats the same specification but restricts the sample to households with mothers aged 15-45. In column (3), I add house ownership and drop observations in 1880. 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 of "no adoption." When RRR for variables x is greater than 1, this means that x increases the relative likelihood of a given outcome over the base outcome. For each specification, I test whether RRRs are different across the outcomes (b) and (c).

In the second model, a household has a choice over 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 child(ren) and at least one biological child who is older than the (oldest) adopted child. Assuming that the oldest adopted child was adopted at age 0, this gives a lower bound estimate of households that adopted *after* having a biological child. According to the theoretical predictions, the category (b) should contain sentimental adoption and pragmatic adoption, while the category (c) should

[25] The results are qualitatively the same when I use the numbers of the above household members instead of the indicator variables.

consist largely of pragmatic and altruistic adoption. I report the results for three specifications where column (1) presents a baseline model, column (2) restricts the sample to mother of age 15-45, and column (3) includes house ownership and drops 1880 data. The results for white and black households are reported in **Tables 15 and 18,** respectively.

In the third model, I assume that a household has a choice over three outcomes: (a) no adoption, (b) formal adoption, and (c) informal adoption. Because I do not observe formal adoption in the data, I use the child and parents having the same surname as a proxy for formal (i.e., legal) adoption.[26] Namely, I classify adoptive households that have at least one adopted child who shares the same surname with both parents into (b) and the rest of adoptive households into (c). According to the theoretical predictions, the category (b) should consist primarily of sentimental adoption, while the category (c) should contain both pragmatic and altruistic adoption. Again, I report the results for three specifications: in column (1), I include a set of household characteristics and the number of biological children older than the oldest adopted child; in column (2), I restrict the age of mother to 15-45; and in column (3) I add house ownership. The results for white households are reported in **Table 16**, and the results for black households are reported in **Table 19**.

I summarize the results from the three multinomial logit models for white and black households in **Tables 20 and 21**, respectively. For each model, setting the base outcome as "no adoption," the theory predicts that, compared to the outcome (c), the outcome (b) should be associated more with sentimental adoption than with pragmatic adoption (although it is difficult to separate them from altruistic adoption). Even though the dependent variable used in each model (the sex of the adopted child, the presence of older biological children, and the surname difference) is a noisy proxy, if the same household characteristics are consistently associated with the outcome (b) across *all* three models, I have more confidence in linking these characteristics to sentimental adoption.

According to the lower panel of **Table 20**, the most robust finding for white households is that farmers (both fathers and mothers) are consistently and strongly associated with the outcome (c) in all models: they are more likely to adopt a boy in the presence of older biological children and keep different surnames. Together with the fact that child labor was

[26] It should be noted that the informal adoption of a child of paternal relatives would also result in the same surname adoption.

valued in farming, this finding lends support to the theoretical prediction that farmers are more likely to adopt from pragmatic reasons. By contrast, literate and professional fathers with house ownership are more likely to formally adopt a girl in the absence of biological children. This result is consistent with the prediction that households with higher socioeconomic status are more likely to practice sentimental adoption. Unfortunately, for black households, the results are much more mixed and largely inconclusive. For example, the lower panel of **Table 21** shows that farmer fathers are more likely to adopt a boy in the presence of older children of their own, but at the same time, they are more likely to adopt formally. By contrast, black farmer mothers are much more likely to adopt a girl than a boy and keep different surnames. If farming mothers have an increased demand for female labor at home, this can be an indication of pragmatic adoption.

From the results of the first model, a few important observations follow. First, as shown in the upper panel of **Table 20**, for white households, there is evidence that adoptive parents actively *select* the sex of a child when adopting. That is, parents with a biological son are more likely to adopt a girl than a boy, while parents with a biological daughter are more likely to adopt a boy. Similarly, couples living with a nephew are more likely to adopt a girl than a boy, while couples with a niece are more likely to adopt a boy than a girl. These results support a demand-side theory and are consistent with both sentimental adoption and pragmatic adoption (if there is gender-specific division of labor). The same observations do not hold for black households, however. As the upper panel of **Table 21** shows, black parents with a biological child are more likely to adopt a boy than a girl regardless of the sex of the child, and black couples with a young relative are more likely to adopt a child of the same sex. These results may suggest that adoptions among black households are more supply driven and thus altruistically motivated. Finally, for both white and black households, I find that adopted children and both domestic and nondomestic employees of the same sex are strong substitutes. (For blacks, adopted children and adult relatives of the same sex in the same household are also substitutes.) These observations are hard to reconcile with sentimental adoption and provide further evidence for the labor value of adopted children.

7. Conclusion

In this paper, using the 1880-1930 federal census microdata, I studied adopted children and their households before adoption became a widely accepted practice in the U.S. I first estimated the prevalence of adoption using the nationally representative samples and found that, at the very least, 0.3% of white children and 1.0% of black children in U.S. households were adopted in 1930. In other words, there was a sizable population of adopted children even before the rise of adoption in the 1940s. Who adopted children and why did they adopt? To investigate parental motivations, I developed a simple theory of adoption demand and tested the hypothesis that adoption evolved from "pragmatic" to "sentimental" adoption as adoptive parents began to demand children not for their labor value but for the utility of parenting itself.

The empirical analysis firmly established that adopted children and biological children are substitutes. For both white and black households, I also found substantial evidence that parents were motivated to adopt children for pragmatic reasons throughout 1880-1930. In particular, white farmers were major players in pragmatic adoption in the early decades. Towards 1930, however, both farmers' propensity to adopt and the population of farmers in the U.S. fell sharply, which might have resulted in the decline in pragmatic adoption among whites. There is some evidence that the age at adoption decreased and that marital infertility became a more important reason to adopt in the later decades, suggesting an increase in sentimental adoption. I also found that, among whites, literate, wealthy, and professional fathers are more likely to practice sentimental adoption, but did not find positive time trends among these demographic groups. For black households, the results are much more mixed and difficult to interpret. Black farmers and professionals exhibited a higher propensity to adopt in the later period, resulting in rising adoption rates among blacks. Finally, there is some evidence that, compared to whites, altruism played a more important role in adoption among black households.

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Table 1. The Number of Adopted, Step, and Foster Children Under Age 18 in All Households by Race 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, 1900 2.5% sample, 1910 1.4% sample, 1920 1% sample, 1930 1% sample, and 2000 1% 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 coresident nonrelatives but included in children in this table.
(2) Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.
(3) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.
(4) N/A means that estimates are not available because the sample size is too small.

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: 1900 (2.5% Sample)	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: 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: 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: 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: 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	
As %	97.15%	0.51%	0.34%	0.71%	1.29%	0.00%	0.01%	100.0%	0.85%	60.0%
Black Households										
No. of HHs	652,411	5,085	2,593	15,265	26,229	100	0	701,683	7,778	
As %	92.98%	0.72%	0.37%	2.18%	3.74%	0.01%	0.00%	100.0%	1.11%	65.4%
Total										
No. of HHs	5,843,709	32,424	20,542	53,155	95,246	100	300	6,045,476	53,366	
As %	96.66%	0.54%	0.34%	0.88%	1.58%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.88%	60.8%

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	
As %	97.40%	0.46%	0.19%	0.97%	0.96%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.66%	70.0%
Black Households										
No. of HHs	778,360	8,360	3,600	26,440	21,280	80	120	838,240	12,160	
As %	92.86%	1.00%	0.43%	3.15%	2.54%	0.01%	0.01%	100.0%	1.45%	68.8%
Total										
No. of HHs	8,422,920	44,840	18,720	102,880	96,720	280	400	8,686,760	64,240	
As %	96.96%	0.52%	0.22%	1.18%	1.11%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.74%	69.8%

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	
As %	97.18%	0.50%	0.15%	1.17%	0.98%	0.01%	0.00%	100.0%	0.66%	75.7%
Black Households										
No. of HHs	894,298	13,063	4,991	36,515	24,341	489	84	973,781	18,627	
As %	91.84%	1.34%	0.51%	3.75%	2.50%	0.05%	0.01%	100.0%	1.91%	70.1%
Total										
No. of HHs	10,247,290	61,060	19,602	149,369	119,087	1,086	300	10,597,794	82,048	
As %	96.69%	0.58%	0.18%	1.41%	1.12%	0.01%	0.00%	100.0%	0.77%	74.4%

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	
As %	97.95%	0.20%	0.10%	0.91%	0.83%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.31%	65.1%
Black Households										
No. of HHs	968,742	9,085	3,735	30,672	18,975	202	200	1,031,611	13,222	
As %	93.91%	0.88%	0.36%	2.97%	1.84%	0.02%	0.02%	100.0%	1.28%	68.7%
Total										
No. of HHs	12,266,374	32,295	15,646	135,633	115,155	606	301	12,566,010	48,848	
As %	97.62%	0.26%	0.12%	1.08%	0.92%	0.00%	0.00%	100.0%	0.39%	66.1%

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	
As %	97.03%	0.40%	0.14%	1.31%	1.10%	0.01%	0.00%	100.0%	0.55%	73.0%
Black Households										
No. of HHs	980,205	17,574	6,060	43,531	20,200	404	505	1,068,479	24,543	
As %	91.74%	1.64%	0.57%	4.07%	1.89%	0.04%	0.05%	100.0%	2.30%	71.6%
Total										
No. of HHs	13,934,970	71,508	24,745	218,766	167,458	1,111	1,111	14,419,669	98,475	
As %	96.64%	0.50%	0.17%	1.52%	1.16%	0.01%	0.01%	100.0%	0.68%	72.6%

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	
As %	88.21%	2.01%	1.82%	3.69%	4.13%	0.06%	0.07%	100.0%	3.97%	50.6%
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	
As %	84.16%	2.27%	1.97%	4.86%	6.53%	0.10%	0.12%	100.0%	4.45%	50.9%
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	
As %	87.87%	2.03%	1.83%	3.79%	4.33%	0.07%	0.08%	100.0%	4.01%	50.6%

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. 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.
White Biological Children	18.8%	154,125	49.0%	154,125	89.6%	154,125	87.3%	154,125
White Adopted Children	11.7% ***	480	56.3% ***	480	92.1% **	480	92.1% ***	480
White Step Children	11.5% ***	1,743	55.5% ***	1,743	86.2% ***	1,743	85.4% **	1,743
Black Biological Children	4.7%	22,237	46.4%	22,237	22.5%	22,237	16.6%	22,237
Black Adopted Children	16.4% ***	98	31.6% ***	98	32.7% **	98	23.5%	98
Black Step Children	3.8%	706	37.7% ***	706	15.9% ***	706	11.5% ***	706

Source: IPUMS 1800 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) Only children in a household with two married parents are included. Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.
(3) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.
(4) Significantly different from the mean of biological children of the same race at 10% level *; at 5% level **; at 1% level ***.

Table 5. 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.
White Biological Children	34.6%	348,032	38.7%	348,032	92.85%	348,026	91.8%	348,026
White Adopted Children	26.6% ***	1,079	41.9% **	1,079	92.59%	1,079	92.9%	1,079
White Step Children	31.4% ***	5,220	35.6% ***	5,220	89.56% ***	5,220	89.6% ***	5,220
Black Biological Children	10.5%	45,728	62.5%	45,728	61.73%	45,728	61.9%	45,728
Black Adopted Children	14.6% **	375	60.6%	375	59.47%	375	55.4% **	375
Black Step Children	13.0% ***	1,896	51.8% ***	1,896	52.31% ***	1,896	54.2% ***	1,896

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) Only children in a household with two married parents are included. Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.
(3) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.
(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 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.
White Biological Children	46.3%	317,566	29.7%	317,566	94.9%	317,566	94.9%	317,566
White Adopted Children	40.8% ***	830	27.6%	830	96.1% *	830	95.9%	830
White Step Children	48.3% ***	5,110	24.1% ***	5,110	92.6% ***	5,110	93.6% ***	5,110
Black Biological Children	26.7%	29,315	54.5%	29,315	77.8%	29,315	85.5%	29,315
Black Adopted Children	26.0%	285	60.0% *	285	71.6% **	285	74.0% ***	285
Black Step Children	29.3% *	1,094	49.3% ***	1,094	73.5% ***	1,094	84.1%	1,094

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) Only children in a household with two married parents are included. Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.
(3) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.
(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 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.	% Same Surname with No 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.		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.
White Biological Children	73.4%	240,498	2.1%	382,417	30.8%	382,417	28.1%	382,417
White Adopted Children	70.4% ***	6,081	2.4% **	9,757	34.9% ***	9,757	29.5% ***	9,757
White Step Children	61.9% ***	14,450	1.6% ***	23,978	17.4% ***	23,978	11.6% ***	23,978
Black Biological Children	83.4%	23,307	0.4%	33,470	18.3%	33,470	19.1%	33,470
Black Adopted Children	80.5% **	907	1.1% **	1,329	25.6% ***	1,329	24.5% ***	1,329
Black Step Children	78.2% ***	2,105	0.5%	3,218	11.9% ***	3,218	9.7% ***	3,218
Asian Biological Children	96.0%	14,067	0.3%	19,808	46.5%	19,808	39.5%	19,808
Asian Adopted Children	88.0% ***	701	1.6% ***	1,090	56.0% ***	1,090	49.5% ***	1,090
Asian Step Children	92.5% **	240	0.3%	373	33.0% ***	373	27.3% ***	373

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) Only children in a household with two married parents are included. Children with ambiguously identified mother or father are excluded.
(3) Alaska, Hawaii, and Oversea military installations are excluded to ensure consistency across all years.
(4) Significantly different from the mean of biological children of the same race at 10% level *; at 5% level **; at 1% level ***.

Table 8. Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1880-1930: White Households

Marginal Effects Calculated at Mean Values (in Percentage Point)

Sample	(1) All	(2) All	(3) Mom age 15-45	(4) No 1880
Mean Propensity to Adopt (in %)	0.146	0.143	0.125	0.132
Father's Age	0.009***	0.009***	0.008***	0.007***
	[36.39]	[35.41]	[30.37]	[26.02]
Mother's Age	0.011***	0.011***	0.020***	0.010***
	[39.22]	[39.23]	[38.06]	[36.56]
I[1 Bio. Child]	-2.910***	-2.887***	-1.895***	-2.816***
	[-151.21]	[-150.69]	[-136.86]	[-138.19]
I[2 Bio. Children]	-1.970***	-1.953***	-1.662***	-1.873***
	[-171.81]	[-171.31]	[-147.23]	[-158.94]
I[3 Bio. Children]	-0.883***	-0.873***	-0.761***	-0.806***
	[-215.58]	[-214.81]	[-173.80]	[-199.42]
I[4 or More Bio. Children]	-2.457***	-2.451***	-2.508***	-2.097***
	[-168.15]	[-167.67]	[-141.99]	[-156.83]
No. of Step Children	-1.168***	-1.145***	-0.955***	-1.048***
	[-183.18]	[-182.75]	[-151.06]	[-168.36]
No. of Foster Children	0.029***	0.033***	0.036***	0.039***
	[13.69]	[16.32]	[18.26]	[25.65]
No. of Relatives Under 18	-0.018***	-0.017***	-0.017***	-0.014***
	[-13.57]	[-13.62]	[-11.30]	[-10.65]
No. of Adult Relatives	0.039***	0.037***	0.038***	0.035***
	[47.08]	[44.73]	[50.29]	[41.87]
No. of Nonrelatives	0.010***	0.016***	0.006**	0.025***
	[32.51]	[8.45]	[2.12]	[26.69]
No. of Boarders		-0.010***	-0.004	-0.022***
		[-4.82]	[-1.30]	[-19.82]
No. of Domestic Employees		0.005***	0.005	-0.005***
		[2.77]	[1.61]	[-4.64]
I[House Ownership]				0.031***
				[36.59]
I[Metropolitan Area]	-0.039***	-0.030***	-0.022***	-0.029***
	[-34.55]	[-26.16]	[-18.26]	[-25.52]
I[Urban Area]	-0.062***	-0.037***	-0.030***	-0.030***
	[-57.28]	[-31.26]	[-25.25]	[-25.59]
I[Father Literate]	-0.046***	-0.049***	-0.061***	-0.057***
	[-18.77]	[-20.14]	[-21.41]	[-21.32]
I[Mother Literate]	0.025***	0.022***	0.022***	0.007***
	[15.25]	[13.39]	[12.23]	[3.66]
I[Father Working]	0.032***			
	[13.59]			
Father's SEI/10	-0.005***			
	[-22.81]			
I[Father Farmer]		0.062***	0.063***	0.043***
		[18.23]	[14.05]	[13.45]
I[Father Professional]		-0.007**	-0.009***	-0.017***
		[-2.56]	[-2.60]	[-6.55]
I[Father White-collar]		-0.029***	-0.032***	-0.033***
		[-11.15]	[-10.33]	[-13.76]
I[Father Blue-collar]		0.010***	0.007*	-0.001
		[3.40]	[1.95]	[-0.40]
I[Father Unskilled]		-0.004	-0.003	-0.007**
		[-1.17]	[-0.92]	[-2.51]
I[Mother Working]	0.016***			
	[4.16]			
Mother's SEI/10	-0.012***			
	[-13.14]			
I[Mother Farmer]		0.021**	0.024**	0.023***
		[2.23]	[2.39]	[2.62]
I[Mother Professional]		-0.055***	-0.058***	-0.045***
		[-16.91]	[-20.30]	[-13.50]
I[Mother White-collar]		-0.027***	-0.046***	-0.030***
		[-8.47]	[-18.75]	[-10.62]
I[Mother Blue-collar]		-0.019***	-0.024***	-0.008**
		[-5.17]	[-7.26]	[-2.09]
I[Mother Unskilled]		0.060***	0.054***	0.056***
		[8.94]	[7.97]	[8.95]
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Region or Division Fixed Effects	Region	Division	Division	Division
No. of Households	632330	632330	625250	578752
No. of Adoptive Households	3838	3838	3253	3381
Pseudo R-squared	0.642	0.643	0.591	0.656
Log Likelihood	-819386	-816383	-613766	-695764

*** 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.
In the indicator variables for the number of bio. children, the omitted category is "no bio. child." SEI/10 is Duncan's socioeconomic index normalized to take value 0-10. In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "no gainful occupation."
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: father/mother native and father/mother born out of state.

Table 9: Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1900-1910: White Households

Marginal Effects Calculated at Mean Values (in Percentage Point)

Sample	(5) All	(6) Mom age 25-35	(7) Mom age 30-40	(8) 1900 & 1910	(9) 1900 & 1910	(10) 1900 & 1910	(11) 1900 & 1910
Mean Propensity to Adopt (in %)	0.146	0.180	0.164	0.150	0.150	0.148	0.152
Father's Age	0.009***	0.010***	0.008***	0.002***	0.002***	0.002***	0.003***
	[36.39]	[76.22]	[78.73]	[13.26]	[12.85]	[13.17]	[36.64]
Mother's Age	0.011***	-0.008***	-0.019***	0.002***	0.002***	0.002***	0.010***
	[39.22]	[-41.22]	[-97.48]	[16.44]	[13.93]	[14.74]	[92.79]
I[1 Bio. Child]	-2.910***			-2.796***	-2.396***	-2.316***	
	[-151.21]			[-118.70]	[-101.45]	[-100.01]	
I[2 Bio. Children]	-1.970***			-2.032***	-1.849***	-1.767***	
	[-171.81]			[-134.26]	[-113.52]	[-111.29]	
I[3 Bio. Children]	-0.883***			-0.965***	-0.899***	-0.863***	
	[-215.58]			[-161.74]	[-140.62]	[-138.05]	
I[4 or More Bio. Children]	-2.457***			-3.100***	-2.776***	-2.609***	
	[-168.15]			[-124.83]	[-100.25]	[-97.92]	
I[1 Bio. Child at Mother Age 25 or 30]		-0.316***	-0.315***				
		[-148.14]	[-153.10]				
I[2 Bio. Children at Age 25 or 30]		-0.291***	-0.394***				
		[-153.32]	[-164.73]				
I[3 Bio. Children at Age 25 or 30]		-0.244***	-0.326***				
		[-155.01]	[-158.67]				
I[4 or More Bio. Children at Age 25 or 30]		-0.191***	-0.313***				
		[-143.95]	[-160.23]				
I[1 Child Ever Born]					-0.159***	-0.159***	-0.347***
					[-108.86]	[-109.21]	[-162.79]
I[2 Children Ever Born]					-0.134***	-0.142***	-0.450***
					[-80.96]	[-88.17]	[-183.71]
I[3 Children Ever Born]					-0.131***	-0.142***	-0.422***
					[-84.50]	[-94.79]	[-193.24]
I[4 or More Children Ever Born]					-0.205***	-0.257***	-10.185***
					[-52.97]	[-54.50]	[-210.54]
I[1 Child Loss]						0.046***	0.489***
						[24.50]	[102.02]
I[2 Child Losses]						0.038***	0.979***
						[14.31]	[71.53]
I[3 or More Child Losses]						0.051***	1.214***
						[18.18]	[69.03]
No. of Step Children	-1.168***	-0.189***	-0.225***	-1.212***	-1.136***	-1.110***	-0.048***
	[-183.18]	[-50.76]	[-74.99]	[-132.91]	[-116.24]	[-114.45]	[-17.59]
No. of Foster Children	0.029***	0.045***	0.075***	0.028***	0.029***	0.030***	0.088***
	[13.69]	[14.99]	[40.75]	[7.84]	[8.47]	[8.68]	[43.59]
No. of Relatives Under 18	-0.018***	0.009***	0.000	-0.031***	-0.030***	-0.030***	0.000
	[-13.57]	[4.23]	[0.13]	[-14.82]	[-15.41]	[-15.48]	[0.12]
No. of Adult Relatives	0.039***	0.029***	0.010***	0.030***	0.030***	0.030***	0.029***
	[47.08]	[25.66]	[11.72]	[26.33]	[26.98]	[27.17]	[37.66]
No. of Nonrelatives	0.010***	0.003***	0.004***	0.017***	0.016***	0.016***	0.015***
	[32.51]	[3.97]	[8.46]	[29.99]	[30.04]	[30.22]	[32.37]
I[House Ownership]				0.059***	0.059***	0.058***	0.045***
				[45.24]	[44.74]	[45.10]	[49.71]
I[Metropolitan Area]	-0.039***	-0.074***	-0.068***	-0.036***	-0.036***	-0.036***	-0.057***
	[-34.55]	[-43.68]	[-49.77]	[-22.42]	[-22.33]	[-22.58]	[-53.17]
I[Urban Area]	-0.062***	-0.047***	-0.058***	-0.065***	-0.063***	-0.062***	-0.033***
	[-57.28]	[-28.87]	[-43.60]	[-40.81]	[-41.47]	[-41.78]	[-32.34]
I[Father Literate]	-0.046***	-0.056***	-0.042***	-0.080***	-0.079***	-0.076***	-0.038***
	[-18.77]	[-13.24]	[-13.38]	[-21.84]	[-21.87]	[-21.45]	[-18.01]
I[Mother Literate]	0.025***	0.032***	0.042***	0.026***	0.027***	0.028***	0.019***
	[15.25]	[11.00]	[19.51]	[11.57]	[12.27]	[12.95]	[12.63]
I[Father Working]	0.032***	0.055***	0.066***	0.043***	0.043***	0.042***	0.025***
	[13.59]	[12.86]	[21.84]	[14.92]	[14.93]	[14.80]	[12.51]
I[Mother Working]	0.016***	0.118***	0.197***	-0.027***	-0.026***	-0.027***	-0.012***
	[4.16]	[16.01]	[26.11]	[-5.89]	[-5.75]	[-5.95]	[-3.70]
Father's SEI/10	-0.005***	-0.005***	-0.002***	-0.002***	-0.001***	-0.001***	-0.001***
	[-22.81]	[-16.30]	[-8.19]	[-5.83]	[-4.56]	[-4.41]	[-6.76]
Mother's SEI/10	-0.012***	0.006***	-0.012***	0.004***	0.004***	0.004***	0.007***
	[-13.14]	[4.79]	[-12.39]	[2.72]	[2.66]	[2.70]	[7.10]
Year & Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No. of Households	632330	258038	258681	332273	332273	332273	332273
No. of Adoptive Households	3838	987	1304	2296	2296	2296	2296
Pseudo R-squared	0.642	0.107	0.195	0.662	0.663	0.663	0.361
Log Likelihood	-819386	-562227	-642201	-442212	-441514	-441154	-836021

*** 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. In the indicator variables for the number of children, the omitted category is "no child." SEI/10 is Duncan's socioeconomic index normalized to take value 0-10.
Variables included in the regressions but not reported: father/mother native, father/mother born out of state, and duration of current marriage.

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

Marginal Effects Calculated at Mean Values (in Percentage Point)

Sample	(1) All	(2) All	(3) Mom age 15-45	(4) No 1880
Mean Propensity to Adopt (in %)	0.326	0.346	0.349	0.366
Father's Age	0.017***	0.015***	0.012***	0.016***
	[19.75]	[19.27]	[15.24]	[16.89]
Mother's Age	0.040***	0.038***	0.108***	0.041***
	[44.89]	[44.45]	[40.42]	[42.17]
I[1 Bio. Child]	-3.261***	-3.177***	-2.812***	-3.432***
	[-122.58]	[-122.15]	[-108.90]	[-117.16]
I[2 Bio. Children]	-2.009***	-1.951***	-1.819***	-2.040***
	[-139.97]	[-138.87]	[-115.79]	[-132.76]
I[3 Bio. Children]	-1.372***	-1.330***	-1.271***	-1.359***
	[-146.52]	[-145.33]	[-117.04]	[-137.24]
I[4 or More Bio. Children]	-8.019***	-7.959***	-8.036***	-0.07695***
	[-108.88]	[-108.91]	[-100.81]	[-107.88]
No. of Step Children	-2.492***	-2.387***	-2.263***	-2.463***
	[-128.22]	[-127.74]	[-107.03]	[-120.33]
No. of Foster Children	0.054***	0.057***	0.049***	0.001
	[7.25]	[7.53]	[4.70]	[0.09]
No. of Relatives Under 18	-0.008***	-0.010***	0.003	-0.010***
	[-3.05]	[-3.97]	[1.01]	[-3.68]
No. of Adult Relatives	0.120***	0.112***	0.094***	0.114***
	[35.85]	[34.96]	[26.91]	[32.33]
No. of Nonrelatives	0.034***	-0.064***	-0.017*	-0.084***
	[16.77]	[-6.82]	[-1.91]	[-7.68]
No. of Boarders		0.090***	0.025***	0.111***
		[9.41]	[2.75]	[9.96]
No. of Domestic Employees		0.172***	0.150***	0.161***
		[28.59]	[25.88]	[14.08]
I[House Ownership]				0.095***
				[21.87]
I[Metropolitan Area]	-0.056***	-0.057***	-0.062***	-0.071***
	[-10.30]	[-10.73]	[-11.13]	[-13.25]
I[Urban Area]	-0.018***	0.017***	0.008	0.024***
	[-3.39]	[2.98]	[1.29]	[3.86]
I[Father Literate]	-0.012***	-0.009**	-0.029***	-0.024***
	[-2.67]	[-2.07]	[-6.02]	[-5.04]
I[Mother Literate]	0.011**	0.012**	-0.010*	0.023***
	[2.26]	[2.55]	[-1.91]	[4.49]
I[Father Working]	0.099***			
	[9.21]			
Father's SEI/10	0.026***			
	[17.35]			
I[Father Farmer]		0.213***	0.404***	0.386***
		[13.98]	[16.83]	[21.68]
I[Father Professional]		0.299***	0.589***	0.512***
		[9.44]	[10.04]	[11.57]
I[Father White-collar]		0.024	0.272***	0.183***
		[1.37]	[7.46]	[7.05]
I[Father Blue-collar]		0.263***	0.589***	0.483***
		[11.06]	[12.33]	[14.54]
I[Father Unskilled]		0.079***	0.275***	0.234***
		[5.11]	[10.77]	[11.90]
I[Mother Working]	-0.016***			
	[-3.18]			
Mother's SEI/10	0.001			
	[0.67]			
I[Mother Farmer]		0.063***	0.007	0.105***
		[3.02]	[0.37]	[4.25]
I[Mother Professional]		-0.238***	-0.267***	-0.244***
		[-67.16]	[-73.78]	[-57.63]
I[Mother White-collar]		0.050***	-0.019***	0.055***
		[7.13]	[-2.82]	[7.16]
I[Mother Blue-collar]		-0.034**	-0.031**	-0.017
		[-2.31]	[-2.00]	[-1.01]
I[Mother Unskilled]		-0.038***	-0.046***	0.001
		[-7.83]	[-8.80]	[0.17]
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Region or Division Fixed Effects	Region	Division	Division	Division
No. of Households	64753	64753	61477	57718
No. of Adoptive Households	1063	1063	880	985
Pseudo R-squared	0.614	0.616	0.559	0.617
Log Likelihood	-201163	-199655	-167635	-182715

*** 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.
In the indicator variables for the number of bio. children, the omitted category is "no bio. child." SEI/10 is Duncan's socioeconomic index normalized to take value 0-10. In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "no gainful occupation."
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: father/mother native and father/mother born out of state.

Table 11. Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1900-1910: Black Households

Marginal Effects Calculated at Mean Values (in Percentage Point)

Sample	(5) All	(6) Mom age 25-35	(7) Mom age 30-40	(8) 1900 & 1910	(9) 1900 & 1910	(10) 1900 & 1910	(11) 1900 & 1910
Mean Propensity to Adopt (in %)	0.361	0.623	0.771	0.351	0.358	0.356	0.572
Father's Age	0.017***	0.028***	0.031***	0.008***	0.008***	0.008***	0.020***
	[19.75]	[41.43]	[43.54]	[18.08]	[18.58]	[18.51]	[34.22]
Mother's Age	0.040***	-0.007***	-0.101***	0.006***	0.007***	0.006***	0.037***
	[44.89]	[-5.29]	[-60.25]	[11.44]	[13.21]	[13.05]	[50.14]
I[1 Bio. Child]	-3.261***			-3.099***	-2.762***	-2.747***	
	[-122.58]			[-92.63]	[-83.50]	[-81.70]	
I[2 Bio. Children]	-2.009***			-1.954***	-1.801***	-1.789***	
	[-139.97]			[-103.66]	[-97.58]	[-94.10]	
I[3 Bio. Children]	-1.372***			-1.397***	-1.297***	-1.286***	
	[-146.52]			[-108.87]	[-104.87]	[-103.28]	
I[4 or More Bio. Children]	-8.019***			-8.300***	-7.028***	-6.887***	
	[-108.88]			[-79.05]	[-69.72]	[-65.87]	
I[1 Bio. Child at Mother Age 25 or 30]		-1.014***	-1.370***				
		[-87.62]	[-88.56]				
I[2 Bio. Children at Age 25 or 30]		-1.129***	-1.444***				
		[-95.25]	[-88.77]				
I[3 Bio. Children at Age 25 or 30]		-0.996***	-1.328***				
		[-91.88]	[-85.64]				
I[4 or More Bio. Children at Age 25 or 30]		-0.837***	-2.436***				
		[-90.17]	[-101.16]				
I[1 Child Ever Born]					-0.343***	-0.341***	-1.030***
					[-47.45]	[-47.13]	[-96.09]
I[2 Children Ever Born]					-0.310***	-0.310***	-1.121***
					[-43.02]	[-41.39]	[-102.90]
I[3 Children Ever Born]					-0.353***	-0.352***	-1.142***
					[-54.15]	[-51.44]	[-108.03]
I[4 or More Children Ever Born]					-0.730***	-0.783***	-38.655***
					[-33.54]	[-28.74]	[-111.52]
I[1 Child Loss]						0.005	1.248***
						[0.65]	[47.39]
I[2 Child Losses]						-0.023**	2.308***
						[-2.44]	[35.86]
I[3 or More Child Losses]						0.070***	2.547***
						[7.39]	[41.11]
No. of Step Children	-2.492***	-0.648***	-1.244***	-2.366***	-2.225***	-2.216***	-0.280***
	[-128.22]	[-43.59]	[-65.44]	[-89.62]	[-81.06]	[-79.97]	[-19.38]
No. of Foster Children	0.054***	0.017	-0.327***	0.006	0.005	0.005	-0.092***
	[7.25]	[0.86]	[-11.03]	[0.58]	[0.48]	[0.53]	[-6.07]
No. of Relatives Under 18	-0.008***	-0.008	0.106***	-0.024***	-0.022***	-0.022***	-0.047***
	[-3.05]	[-0.96]	[14.33]	[-6.19]	[-5.82]	[-5.85]	[-11.28]
No. of Adult Relatives	0.120***	0.122***	0.174***	0.122***	0.127***	0.127***	0.232***
	[35.85]	[18.30]	[23.17]	[27.83]	[28.44]	[28.56]	[42.50]
No. of Nonrelatives	0.034***	0.054***	0.127***	0.015***	0.017***	0.017***	0.076***
	[16.77]	[10.29]	[26.31]	[4.02]	[4.55]	[4.53]	[18.35]
I[House Ownership]				0.159***	0.161***	0.161***	0.218***
				[23.88]	[23.79]	[23.87]	[28.60]
I[Metropolitan Area]	-0.056***	0.130***	0.069***	-0.108***	-0.111***	-0.112***	-0.029***
	[-10.30]	[8.69]	[4.64]	[-17.72]	[-18.03]	[-18.21]	[-3.29]
I[Urban Area]	-0.018***	-0.244***	-0.529***	0.105***	0.109***	0.108***	0.087***
	[-3.39]	[-19.37]	[-37.17]	[14.10]	[14.23]	[14.20]	[9.84]
I[Father Literate]	-0.012***	0.069***	-0.054***	0.014***	0.014***	0.015***	-0.006
	[-2.67]	[7.94]	[-5.11]	[2.68]	[2.62]	[2.68]	[-0.87]
I[Mother Literate]	0.011**	-0.007	0.150***	0.034***	0.034***	0.036***	0.131***
	[2.26]	[-0.70]	[13.24]	[5.82]	[5.67]	[6.00]	[18.31]
I[Father Working]	0.099***	0.133***	-0.097**	0.143***	0.143***	0.141***	-0.045*
	[9.21]	[4.62]	[-2.17]	[11.77]	[11.88]	[11.69]	[-1.89]
I[Mother Working]	-0.016***	0.023**	-0.005	0.041***	0.041***	0.040***	-0.001
	[-3.18]	[2.32]	[-0.42]	[6.34]	[6.24]	[6.11]	[-0.13]
Father's SEI/10	0.026***	0.018***	0.036***	0.014***	0.013***	0.013***	0.015***
	[17.35]	[6.31]	[10.93]	[6.25]	[5.57]	[5.54]	[5.74]
Mother's SEI/10	0.001	0.075***	0.065***	0.018***	0.018***	0.018***	0.029***
	[0.67]	[17.69]	[13.78]	[7.00]	[6.84]	[6.80]	[7.42]
Year & Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No. of Households	64753	24038	27169	36917	36917	36917	36917
No. of Adoptive Households	1063	404	331	611	611	611	611
Pseudo R-squared	0.614	0.157	0.236	0.614	0.615	0.615	0.318
Log Likelihood	-201163	-145868	-151047	-110790	-110563	-110478	-196038

*** 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. In the indicator variables for the number of children, the omitted category is "no child." SEI/10 is Duncan's socioeconomic index normalized to take value 0-10.
Variables included in the regressions but not reported: father/mother native, father/mother born out of state, and duration of current marriage.

Table 12. Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1880-1900 vs. 1910-1930: White Households

Marginal Effects Calculated at Mean Values (in Percentage Point)

Sample	(1) All		(2) All		(3) Mom age 15-45	
Data Period	1880-1900	1910-1930	1880-1900	1910-1930	1880-1900	1910-1930
Mean Propensity to Adopt (in %)	0.186	0.122	0.180	0.118	0.158	0.102
Father's Age	0.010***	0.008***	0.009***	0.008***	0.007***	0.009***
	[23.32]	[27.00]	[22.01]	[26.56]	[16.87]	[25.85]
Mother's Age	0.014***	0.010***	0.014***	0.010***	0.026***	0.015***
	[29.10]	[28.45]	[30.14]	[28.16]	[31.05]	[23.04]
I[1 Bio. Child]	-2.813***	-3.006***	-2.770***	-2.983***	-1.784***	-1.963***
	[-113.75]	[-105.26]	[-113.69]	[-104.81]	[-106.16]	[-92.36]
I[2 Bio. Children]	-2.215***	-1.801***	-2.181***	-1.783***	-1.783***	-1.536***
	[-124.33]	[-121.94]	[-124.27]	[-121.63]	[-111.95]	[-100.09]
I[3 Bio. Children]	-1.202***	-0.715***	-1.180***	-0.704***	-0.996***	-0.620***
	[-147.39]	[-158.52]	[-147.33]	[-158.50]	[-124.83]	[-123.20]
I[4 or More Bio. Children]	-4.769***	-1.557***	-4.760***	-1.546***	-4.793***	-1.582***
	[-109.53]	[-128.26]	[-109.42]	[-128.01]	[-98.07]	[-103.23]
No. of Step Children	-1.568***	-0.952***	-1.526***	-0.931***	-1.246***	-0.776***
	[-127.63]	[-133.22]	[-128.05]	[-133.18]	[-107.68]	[-107.84]
No. of Foster Children	-0.088***	0.043***	-0.069***	0.047***	-0.025***	0.040***
	[-31.73]	[29.01]	[-23.94]	[30.89]	[-6.09]	[27.65]
No. of Relatives Under 18	-0.051***	-0.002	-0.050***	-0.002	-0.024***	-0.014***
	[-20.02]	[-1.56]	[-20.56]	[-1.60]	[-8.38]	[-8.33]
No. of Adult Relatives	0.036***	0.040***	0.032***	0.038***	0.029***	0.041***
	[25.52]	[40.88]	[23.48]	[39.42]	[21.79]	[49.80]
No. of Nonrelatives	0.013***	0.010***	-0.078***	0.027***	-0.106***	0.022***
	[25.33]	[23.13]	[-18.60]	[33.75]	[-26.80]	[30.51]
No. of Boarders			0.085***	-0.020***	0.105***	-0.017***
			[20.14]	[-18.68]	[26.67]	[-16.25]
No. of Domestic Employees			0.109***	-0.028***	0.126***	-0.031***
			[27.62]	[-15.87]	[29.89]	[-17.24]
I[Metropolitan Area]	-0.041***	-0.035***	-0.029***	-0.028***	-0.016***	-0.023***
	[-20.18]	[-26.37]	[-13.86]	[-21.30]	[-7.30]	[-17.18]
I[Urban Area]	-0.097***	-0.041***	-0.059***	-0.021***	-0.045***	-0.019***
	[-46.76]	[-33.63]	[-26.13]	[-16.14]	[-19.70]	[-14.60]
I[Father Literate]	-0.029***	-0.060***	-0.036***	-0.061***	-0.059***	-0.066***
	[-7.83]	[-17.02]	[-9.60]	[-17.38]	[-13.41]	[-16.41]
I[Mother Literate]	0.060***	-0.013***	0.056***	-0.016***	0.054***	-0.018***
	[25.16]	[-4.54]	[23.57]	[-5.57]	[21.57]	[-5.61]
I[Father Working]	0.054***	0.017***				
	[13.56]	[5.76]				
Father's SEI/10	-0.003***	-0.006***				
	[-7.51]	[-24.13]				
I[Father Farmer]			0.104***	0.036***	0.120***	0.022***
			[16.55]	[9.43]	[14.90]	[4.48]
I[Father Professional]			0.041***	-0.029***	0.028***	-0.030***
			[6.24]	[-10.35]	[3.69]	[-8.32]
I[Father White-collar]			-0.035***	-0.031***	-0.035***	-0.038***
			[-6.72]	[-10.94]	[-5.95]	[-11.67]
I[Father Blue-collar]			0.038***	-0.007**	0.041***	-0.017***
			[6.48]	[-2.13]	[5.73]	[-4.09]
I[Father Unskilled]			-0.008	-0.005	0.006	-0.015***
			[-1.48]	[-1.45]	[0.81]	[-3.70]
I[Mother Working]	-0.105***	0.051***				
	[-22.46]	[12.10]				
Mother's SEI/10	0.029***	-0.021***				
	[12.09]	[-28.44]				
I[Mother Farmer]			-0.081***	0.206***	-0.133***	0.362***
			[-8.88]	[8.96]	[-102.43]	[11.07]
I[Mother Professional]			0.040***	-0.070***	-0.033***	-0.058***
			[2.79]	[-37.47]	[-3.12]	[-27.07]
I[Mother White-collar]			0.016	-0.032***	-0.033***	-0.044***
			[1.25]	[-12.45]	[-2.72]	[-22.18]
I[Mother Blue-collar]			-0.120***	0.006	-0.094***	-0.008**
			[-25.07]	[1.51]	[-17.99]	[-2.26]
I[Mother Unskilled]			0.012	0.043***	0.068***	0.032***
			[0.70]	[7.44]	[3.03]	[5.75]
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Region or Division Fixed Effects	Region	Region	Division	Division	Division	Division
No. of Households	249791	382539	249791	382539	208610	321942
No. of Adoptive Households	1759	2079	1759	2079	1087	1315
Pseudo R-squared	0.615	0.666	0.618	0.667	0.557	0.622
Log Likelihood	-402519	-414090	-400203	-412234	-300929	-308927

*** 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.
In the indicator variables for the number of bio. children, the omitted category is "no bio. child." SEI/10 is Duncan's socioeconomic index normalized to take value 0-10. In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "no gainful occupation."
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: father/mother native and father/mother born out of state.

Table 13. Logit for Propensity to Adopt, 1880-1900 vs. 1910-1930: Black Households

Marginal Effects Calculated at Mean Values (in Percentage Point)

	(1)		(2)		(3)	
Sample	All		All		Mom age 15-45	
Data Period	1880-1900	1910-1930	1880-1900	1910-1930	1880-1900	1910-1930
Mean Propensity to Adopt (in %)	0.293	0.349	0.260	0.382	0.375	0.793
Father's Age	0.014***	0.014***	0.014***	0.014***	0.011***	0.011***
	[15.31]	[12.19]	[15.05]	[12.26]	[10.88]	[9.57]
Mother's Age	0.043***	0.038***	0.039***	0.035***	0.060***	0.144***
	[32.62]	[33.53]	[30.56]	[32.35]	[19.24]	[38.06]
I[1 Bio. Child]	-2.784***	-3.601***	-2.716***	-3.430***	-2.099***	-3.302***
	[-69.85]	[-98.16]	[-70.40]	[-96.60]	[-67.07]	[-83.93]
I[2 Bio. Children]	-1.874***	-2.056***	-1.813***	-1.954***	-1.490***	-1.987***
	[-77.18]	[-114.45]	[-77.28]	[-112.01]	[-67.87]	[-94.92]
I[3 Bio. Children]	-1.378***	-1.313***	-1.326***	-1.245***	-1.109***	-1.299***
	[-88.30]	[-114.59]	[-87.45]	[-112.42]	[-70.39]	[-93.62]
I[4 or More Bio. Children]	-10.412***	-6.531***	-10.267***	-6.403***	-9.357***	-6.932***
	[-51.37]	[-95.41]	[-51.18]	[-94.26]	[-50.80]	[-84.74]
No. of Step Children	-2.465***	-2.425***	-2.336***	-2.265***	-1.985***	-2.316***
	[-77.94]	[-101.33]	[-78.52]	[-99.40]	[-67.27]	[-82.75]
No. of Foster Children	0.111***	-0.007	0.131***	-0.015	0.050***	0.066***
	[11.45]	[-0.72]	[13.24]	[-1.51]	[2.63]	[6.05]
No. of Relatives Under 18	0.001	-0.016***	0.002	-0.018***	0.029***	-0.026***
	[0.39]	[-4.58]	[0.61]	[-5.34]	[8.04]	[-5.36]
No. of Adult Relatives	0.114***	0.122***	0.106***	0.116***	0.062***	0.120***
	[23.40]	[28.55]	[23.22]	[28.16]	[14.42]	[23.86]
No. of Nonrelatives	0.012***	0.052***	-0.112***	0.017**	-0.061***	0.069***
	[4.19]	[20.30]	[-6.50]	[2.06]	[-4.24]	[6.53]
No. of Boarders			0.097***	0.035***	0.005	-0.018*
			[5.36]	[4.15]	[0.32]	[-1.70]
No. of Domestic Employees			0.136***	0.230***	0.106***	0.204***
			[13.75]	[27.58]	[12.72]	[24.10]
I[Metropolitan Area]	-0.100	0.018**	-0.107***	0.036***	-0.063***	-0.010
	[.]	[2.56]	[-17.62]	[4.97]	[-10.24]	[-1.23]
I[Urban Area]	0.111***	-0.110***	0.066***	-0.020***	0.060***	-0.044***
	[15.59]	[-16.74]	[8.44]	[-2.72]	[8.42]	[-5.07]
I[Father Literate]	-0.021***	-0.007	-0.014**	-0.004	-0.027***	-0.023***
	[-3.42]	[-1.23]	[-2.45]	[-0.81]	[-5.04]	[-3.28]
I[Mother Literate]	0.078***	-0.049***	0.065***	-0.041***	0.048***	-0.101
	[10.97]	[-7.09]	[9.55]	[-6.47]	[8.14]	[.]
I[Father Working]	-0.098***	0.259***				
	[-4.53]	[64.27]				
Father's SEI/10	0.018***	0.030***				
	[7.04]	[16.78]				
I[Father Farmer]			-0.073***	0.739***	0.139***	1.000***
			[-4.67]	[43.79]	[6.25]	[31.80]
I[Father Professional]			0.013	1.265***	0.273***	1.442***
			[0.60]	[16.92]	[5.69]	[13.12]
I[Father White-collar]			-0.037**	0.397***	0.133***	0.893***
			[-2.18]	[14.00]	[3.87]	[14.20]
I[Father Blue-collar]			0.003	1.076***	0.211***	1.712***
			[0.20]	[25.68]	[5.82]	[20.47]
I[Father Unskilled]			-0.077***	0.517***	0.122***	0.756***
			[-5.32]	[27.40]	[5.09]	[22.71]
I[Mother Working]	-0.034***	0.004				
	[-4.67]	[0.63]				
Mother's SEI/10	0.009***	-0.006**				
	[2.58]	[-2.33]				
I[Mother Farmer]			-0.040*	0.230***	-0.207***	0.391***
			[-1.79]	[6.22]	[-42.20]	[8.01]
I[Mother Professional]			-0.215***	-0.234***		
			[-41.40]	[-58.06]		
I[Mother White-collar]			0.066***	0.066***	-0.006	0.001
			[5.81]	[7.57]	[-0.65]	[0.07]
I[Mother Blue-collar]			-0.056***	0.016	-0.050***	0.009
			[-2.68]	[0.80]	[-2.74]	[0.37]
I[Mother Unskilled]			-0.070***	-0.039***	-0.066***	-0.054***
			[-9.34]	[-6.83]	[-9.58]	[-7.81]
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Region or Division Fixed Effects	Region	Region	Division	Division	Division	Division
No. of Households	27991	36762	27991	36762	24313	32096
No. of Adoptive Households	382	681	382	681	278	463
Pseudo R-squared	0.61049	0.61896	0.615	0.624	0.555	0.570
Log Likelihood	-78624	-120990	-77727	-119494	-67586	-97897

*** 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.
In the indicator variables for the number of bio. children, the omitted category is "no bio. child." SEI/10 is Duncan's socioeconomic index normalized to take value 0-10. In occupation indicator variables, the omitted category is "no gainful occupation."
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: father/mother native and father/mother born out of state.

Table 14. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by Sex of Child: White Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age 15-45		Test	(3) No 1880		Test
	Adopt Girl	Adopt Boy		Adopt Girl	Adopt Boy		Adopt Girl	Adopt Boy	
Father's Age	1.090***	1.098***	^^^	1.123***	1.125***		1.087***	1.095***	^^^
	[53.86]	[60.32]		[48.67]	[52.85]		[45.39]	[50.52]	
Mother's Age	1.171***	1.107***	^^^	1.259***	1.157***	^^^	1.163***	1.114***	^^^
	[91.53]	[59.92]		[54.33]	[36.71]		[77.30]	[55.47]	
I[Bio. Boy before Adoption]	1.17e-4***	0.63e-4***	^^^	0.85e-4***	0.44e-4***	^^^	0.97e-4***	0.48e-4***	^^^
	[-622.52]	[-543.45]		[-501.95]	[-434.23]		[-573.07]	[-506.36]	
I[Bio. Girl before Adoption]	0.67e-4***	1.09e-4***	^^^	0.47e-4***	0.77e-4***	^^^	0.58e-4***	0.80e-4***	^^^
	[-566.74]	[-591.14]		[-449.74]	[-474.05]		[-526.40]	[-549.73]	
I[Male Relative under 18]	1.436***	0.811***	^^^	1.559***	0.791***	^^^	1.455***	0.710***	^^^
	[11.04]	[-6.22]		[9.81]	[-5.52]		[10.94]	[-9.51]	
I[Female Relative under 18]	0.958	1.059*	^^^	0.796***	0.873***	^^^	0.980	0.911***	^^
	[-1.39]	[1.77]		[-5.33]	[-3.41]		[-0.63]	[-2.77]	
I[Male Adult Relative]	1.305***	1.132***	^^^	1.172***	1.035	^^^	1.294***	1.067**	^^^
	[11.07]	[4.70]		[5.07]	[0.97]		[10.43]	[2.41]	
I[Female Adult Relative]	1.307***	1.225***	^^^	1.024	1.088**	^^	1.233***	1.037	^^^
	[10.61]	[7.86]		[0.72]	[2.43]		[7.98]	[1.42]	
I[Male Domestic Employee]	1.207***	1.147***	^^	1.452***	1.176***	^^^	1.848***	1.554***	^^^
	[7.36]	[5.93]		[10.92]	[5.33]		[21.87]	[15.96]	
I[Female Domestic Employee]	1.010	1.172***	^^^	1.036	1.146***	^^^	0.969	1.101***	^^^
	[0.58]	[9.11]		[1.64]	[6.13]		[-1.51]	[4.82]	
I[Other Male Employee]	1.820***	1.003	^^^	2.069***	0.843***	^^^	2.060***	1.132***	^^^
	[22.15]	[0.10]		[20.60]	[-4.75]		[23.52]	[3.72]	
I[Other Female Employee]	0.683**	2.039***	^^^	1.985***	2.681***	^^^	0.985	2.936***	^^^
	[-2.40]	[10.85]		[4.66]	[14.56]		[-0.09]	[15.54]	
I[Boarder]	1.325***	0.945***	^^^	1.381***	0.957**	^^^	1.207***	0.902***	^^^
	[19.89]	[-3.83]		[16.30]	[-2.35]		[12.19]	[-6.32]	
I[House Ownership]							1.206***	1.163***	^^^
							[23.20]	[18.14]	
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.801***	0.737***	^^^	0.805***	0.719***	^^^	0.819***	0.741***	^^^
	[-23.73]	[-31.54]		[-18.13]	[-27.17]		[-19.26]	[-27.86]	
I[Urban Area]	0.828***	0.819***		0.883***	0.899***		0.835***	0.812***	^^^
	[-20.40]	[-19.91]		[-10.62]	[-8.38]		[-17.71]	[-18.84]	
I[Father Literate]	0.970*	0.749***	^^^	1.016	0.705***	^^^	0.913***	0.723***	^^^
	[-1.76]	[-18.28]		[0.65]	[-16.69]		[-4.74]	[-17.76]	
I[Mother Literate]	1.013	1.062***	^^^	1.024	0.994		0.869***	0.922***	^^^
	[0.76]	[3.91]		[1.02]	[-0.28]		[-7.62]	[-4.60]	
I[Father Working]	1.100***	1.458***	^^^	1.195***	1.295***	^	1.145***	1.480***	^^^
	[4.26]	[15.22]		[4.92]	[5.87]		[5.56]	[14.22]	
I[Father Farmer]	1.025*	1.392***	^^^	0.993	1.441***	^^^	1.004	1.337***	^^^
	[1.92]	[25.85]		[-0.41]	[22.32]		[0.26]	[20.33]	
I[Father Professional]	0.820***	0.664***	^^^	0.851***	0.557***	^^^	0.846***	0.691***	^^^
	[-7.65]	[-15.27]		[-4.87]	[-17.44]		[-5.96]	[-12.66]	
I[Father White-collar]	0.793***	0.649***	^^^	0.710***	0.582***	^^^	0.843***	0.710***	^^^
	[-11.57]	[-20.28]		[-13.66]	[-20.35]		[-7.87]	[-14.69]	
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.081***	0.911***	^^^	1.097***	0.872***	^^^	1.109***	0.969**	^^^
	[5.80]	[-6.58]		[5.54]	[-7.73]		[7.05]	[-2.03]	
I[Mother Working]	0.767***	0.705***	^	0.704***	0.808***	^^	0.783***	0.725***	
	[-5.26]	[-6.84]		[-6.13]	[-3.27]		[-4.51]	[-5.65]	
I[Mother Farmer]	2.181***	3.114***	^^^	2.790***	4.298***	^^^	2.351***	3.453***	^^^
	[9.06]	[15.09]		[10.19]	[15.51]		[9.88]	[15.54]	
I[Mother Professional]	0.472***	1.550***	^^^	0.526***	2.842***	^^^	0.624***	2.238***	^^^
	[-7.92]	[4.83]		[-4.88]	[9.44]		[-4.76]	[8.54]	
I[Mother White-collar]	0.765***	1.183***	^^^	0.803***	0.972	^^^	0.761***	1.151**	^^^
	[-5.10]	[3.01]		[-3.69]	[-0.45]		[-4.88]	[2.28]	
I[Mother Blue-collar]	0.759***	0.895*	^^^	0.954	0.732***	^^^	0.820***	1.026	^^^
	[-4.98]	[-1.86]		[-0.76]	[-4.06]		[-3.35]	[0.40]	
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	625477	625477		524983	524983		572279	572279	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	2028	1810		1229	1173		1774	1607	
Pseudo R-squared	0.697	0.697		0.712	0.712		0.709	0.709	
Log Likelihood	-770638	-770638		-478230	-478230		-652834	-652834	

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<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; 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 occupational indicators, the omitted category is "unskilled." In year indicators, the ommited category is 1880 in (1)-(2) and 1900 in (3).
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: I[Male/Female Foster Child], No. of Relatives, No. of Nonrelatives, I[Father/Mother Native], I[Father/Mather Born Out of State], Father/Mother's SEI.
"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 the Presence of Biological Children: White Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age 15-45		Test	(3) No 1880		Test
	Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.		Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.		Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.	
Father's Age	0.999***	1.149***	^^^	1.002***	1.197***	^^^	0.990***	1.154***	^^^
	[722.28]	[290.82]		[572.78]	[190.21]		[686.77]	[242.46]	
Mother's Age	0.950***	1.168***	^^^	1.046***	1.389***	^^^	0.946***	1.177***	^^^
	[667.96]	[261.10]		[314.56]	[100.74]		[627.72]	[221.34]	
No. of Adult Relatives	1.259***	1.261***		1.327***	1.343***		1.268***	1.288***	
	[60.15]	[24.64]		[64.71]	[26.17]		[59.34]	[23.90]	
No. of Boarders	1.101***	1.110***		1.077***	1.087***	^	1.082***	1.090***	^
	[57.44]	[34.37]		[29.29]	[18.03]		[47.32]	[24.52]	
No. of Domestic Employees	1.113***	1.203***	^^^	1.053***	1.146***	^^^	1.096***	1.201***	^^^
	[27.58]	[26.87]		[8.23]	[14.53]		[22.63]	[26.48]	
No. of Other Employees	1.053***	1.148***	^^^	1.062***	1.174***	^^^	1.050***	1.154***	^^^
	[8.61]	[19.08]		[7.68]	[14.48]		[8.70]	[22.21]	
I[House Ownership]							1.454***	1.313***	^^^
							[43.50]	[15.06]	
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.683***	0.777***	^^^	0.635***	0.777***	^^^	0.717***	0.797***	^^^
	[-62.02]	[-19.69]		[-56.11]	[-15.56]		[-52.53]	[-15.77]	
I[Urban Area]	0.819***	0.867***	^^^	0.805***	0.994	^^^	0.854***	0.850***	
	[-34.43]	[-11.05]		[-28.80]	[-0.39]		[-26.31]	[-11.33]	
I[Father Literate]	0.911***	0.906***		1.069***	0.897***	^^^	0.895***	0.868***	
	[-10.19]	[-5.23]		[4.79]	[-4.24]		[-11.18]	[-6.70]	
I[Mother Literate]	1.195***	1.155***	^	1.098***	1.189***	^^^	1.133***	0.964*	^^^
	[19.55]	[7.93]		[6.90]	[6.77]		[12.61]	[-1.85]	
I[Father Working]	0.791***	1.384***	^^^	0.814***	1.189***	^^^	0.800***	1.359***	^^^
	[-18.83]	[8.94]		[-9.27]	[3.22]		[-17.49]	[7.87]	
I[Father Farmer]	1.012	1.163***	^^^	1.062***	1.153***	^^^	0.923***	1.139***	^^^
	[1.61]	[9.73]		[6.33]	[7.03]		[-10.28]	[7.45]	
I[Father Professional]	1.477***	0.796***	^^^	1.524***	0.698***	^^^	1.365***	0.716***	^^^
	[48.13]	[-12.19]		[40.70]	[-15.00]		[36.42]	[-15.82]	
I[Father White-collar]	1.218***	0.788***	^^^	1.081***	0.698***	^^^	1.156***	0.829***	^^^
	[20.90]	[-10.84]		[6.31]	[-13.11]		[14.85]	[-8.02]	
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.254***	1.060***	^^^	1.267***	1.042**	^^^	1.212***	1.092***	^^^
	[30.93]	[3.76]		[25.12]	[2.15]		[24.99]	[5.21]	
I[Mother Working]	0.907***	0.688***	^^^	1.026	0.575***	^^^	0.787***	0.684***	^
	[-3.38]	[-5.33]		[0.72]	[-5.47]		[-7.65]	[-5.41]	
I[Mother Farmer]	0.969	3.551***	^^^	1.609***	5.526***	^^^	1.112*	3.628***	^^^
	[-0.60]	[13.90]		[8.46]	[13.82]		[1.94]	[14.13]	
I[Mother Professional]	2.093***	1.773***	^	1.680***	2.053***		2.536***	2.007***	^^
	[21.11]	[6.28]		[11.88]	[5.79]		[25.07]	[7.63]	
I[Mother White-collar]	1.704***	0.999	^^^	1.738***	0.477***	^^^	2.040***	0.815**	^^^
	[16.34]	[-0.01]		[13.96]	[-5.14]		[20.40]	[-2.21]	
I[Mother Blue-collar]	1.532***	0.955	^^^	1.418***	0.992	^^^	1.833***	1.076	^^^
	[12.38]	[-0.51]		[8.47]	[-0.07]		[16.46]	[0.80]	
I[1900]	0.968***	0.511***	^^^	0.937***	0.409***	^^^			
	[-4.66]	[-53.57]		[-7.10]	[-55.50]				
I[1910]	1.092***	0.507***	^^^	1.122***	0.415***	^^^	1.125***	0.994	^
	[11.97]	[-48.91]		[11.95]	[-49.02]		[22.83]	[-0.51]	
I[1920]	0.458***	0.374***	^^^	0.451***	0.302***	^^^	0.469***	0.731***	^^^
	[-84.90]	[-61.34]		[-66.11]	[-58.38]		[-101.69]	[-21.94]	
I[1930]	0.925***	0.436***	^^^	0.942***	0.451***	^^^	0.944***	0.853***	^^^
	[-10.01]	[-54.90]		[-5.92]	[-43.75]		[-10.20]	[-11.97]	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	625477	625477		524983	524983		572279	572279	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	2747	568		1603	333		2473	464	
Pseudo R-squared	0.074	0.074		0.040	0.040		0.076	0.076	
Log Likelihood	-2002352	-2002352		-1275308	-1275308		-1768807	-1768807	

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<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; 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 occupational indicators, the omitted category is "unskilled." In year indicators, the ommited category is 1880 in (1)-(2) and 1900 in (3).
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: I[Father Native], I[Mother Native], I[Father Born Out of State], I[Mother Born out of State].
"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: White Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age 15-45		Test	(3) No 1880		Test
	Adopt, Same Surame	Adopt, Different Surame		Adopt, Same Surame	Adopt, Different Surame		Adopt, Same Surame	Adopt, Different Surame	
Father's Age	1.086***	1.006***	^^^	1.118***	0.992***	^^^	1.079***	1.006***	^^^
	[1089.51]	[467.24]		[743.78]	[314.03]		[977.70]	[420.82]	
Mother's Age	1.128***	1.104***	^^^	1.241***	1.106***	^^^	1.124***	1.105***	^^^
	[980.90]	[445.28]		[417.37]	[169.29]		[896.34]	[394.46]	
No. of Bio. Children before Adoption	1.21e-3***	2.72e-6***	^^^	1.19e-3***	5.10e-6***	^^^	1.20e-3***	5.10e-6***	^^^
	[-448.05]	[-128.11]		[-353.16]	[-121.47]		[-428.52]	[-127.59]	
No. of Adult Relatives	1.120***	1.302***	^^^	1.164***	1.238***	^^^	1.129***	1.335***	^^^
	[26.18]	[30.26]		[29.99]	[19.63]		[24.93]	[31.11]	
No. of Boarders	1.048***	1.057***	^^	1.007***	1.079***	^^^	1.036***	1.029***	
	[24.36]	[13.56]		[2.71]	[16.63]		[17.37]	[6.00]	
No. of Domestic Employees	1.107***	1.061***	^^^	1.055***	1.070***		1.118***	0.997	^^^
	[17.90]	[4.20]		[8.75]	[3.19]		[19.10]	[-0.20]	
No. of Other Employees	1.061***	1.034		1.074***	1.000	^^	1.066***	1.020	
	[9.00]	[1.23]		[8.37]	[-0.01]		[10.53]	[0.64]	
I[House Ownership]							1.198***	1.020*	^^^
							[37.55]	[1.83]	
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.757***	1.140***	^^^	0.741***	1.076***	^^^	0.766***	1.198***	^^^
	[-51.86]	[10.73]		[-46.46]	[4.65]		[-44.61]	[13.99]	
I[Urban Area]	0.792***	0.956***	^^^	0.811***	1.004	^^^	0.798***	0.941***	^^^
	[-43.44]	[-3.62]		[-32.55]	[0.25]		[-38.13]	[-4.52]	
I[Father Literate]	0.847***	0.739***	^^^	0.823***	0.817***		0.814***	0.728***	^^^
	[-15.17]	[-15.68]		[-13.83]	[-7.76]		[-16.26]	[-14.91]	
I[Mother Literate]	1.024**	0.675***	^^^	0.959***	0.689***	^^^	0.910***	0.546***	^^^
	[2.18]	[-20.41]		[-2.96]	[-13.62]		[-7.52]	[-28.46]	
I[Father Working]	1.121***	1.303***	^^^	1.145***	2.663***	^^^	1.151***	1.179***	
	[8.97]	[8.86]		[6.51]	[14.26]		[10.06]	[5.32]	
I[Father Farmer]	1.166***	1.690***	^^^	1.204***	1.436***	^^^	1.123***	1.768***	^^^
	[20.75]	[31.60]		[20.45]	[17.44]		[14.06]	[31.01]	
I[Father Professional]	0.848***	0.586***	^^^	0.794***	0.409***	^^^	0.801***	0.563***	^^^
	[-21.01]	[-27.63]		[-24.60]	[-36.30]		[-25.70]	[-27.28]	
I[Father White-collar]	0.765***	0.802***	^^	0.670***	0.674***		0.760***	0.852***	^^^
	[-30.15]	[-10.15]		[-37.30]	[-14.64]		[-28.31]	[-6.88]	
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.020***	0.843***	^^^	1.006	0.775***	^^^	1.012	0.947***	^^^
	[2.76]	[-9.83]		[0.73]	[-11.95]		[1.54]	[-2.89]	
I[Mother Working]	0.975	0.505***	^^^	0.992	0.555***	^^^	0.958	0.464***	^^^
	[-0.94]	[-11.34]		[-0.27]	[-7.93]		[-1.45]	[-11.79]	
I[Mother Farmer]	1.660***	2.096***		1.923***	2.591***	^^	1.811***	2.467***	^^^
	[9.07]	[4.89]		[10.13]	[6.16]		[10.11]	[5.64]	
I[Mother Professional]	1.087**	1.120		0.943	0.499***	^^^	1.170***	1.274***	
	[2.48]	[1.37]		[-1.52]	[-5.36]		[4.25]	[2.81]	
I[Mother White-collar]	0.947*	3.517***	^^^	0.741***	4.486***	^^^	0.926**	3.654***	^^^
	[-1.78]	[18.18]		[-8.88]	[18.01]		[-2.30]	[17.61]	
I[Mother Blue-collar]	0.841***	0.871		0.766***	0.684***		0.891***	0.649***	^^^
	[-5.54]	[-1.62]		[-7.72]	[-3.69]		[-3.37]	[-4.36]	
I[1900]	0.622***	0.463***	^^^	0.573***	0.395***	^^^			
	[-59.06]	[-51.66]		[-57.50]	[-48.85]				
I[1910]	0.629***	0.223***	^^^	0.573***	0.199***	^^^	1.005	0.474***	^^^
	[-55.41]	[-89.22]		[-55.37]	[-74.25]		[0.89]	[-59.56]	
I[1920]	0.396***	0.269***	^^^	0.358***	0.218***	^^^	0.640***	0.570***	^^^
	[-97.05]	[-67.62]		[-89.95]	[-60.29]		[-60.21]	[-35.35]	
I[1930]	0.546***	0.183***	^^^	0.541***	0.179***	^^^	0.870***	0.382***	^^^
	[-70.59]	[-94.70]		[-59.66]	[-73.91]		[-23.51]	[-70.16]	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	625477	625477		524983	524983		572279	572279	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	2933	905		1930	472		2607	774	
Pseudo R-squared	0.655	0.655		0.656	0.656		0.671	0.671	
Log Likelihood	-855652	-855652		-552807	-552807		-718744	-718744	

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<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; 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 occupational indicators, the omitted category is "unskilled." In year indicators, the ommited category is 1880 in (1)-(2) and 1900 in (3).
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: I[Father Native], I[Mother Native], I[Father Born Out of State], I[Mother Born out of State].
"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 17. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by Sex of Child: BLack Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age 15-45		Test	(3) No 1880		Test
	Adopt Girl	Adopt Boy		Adopt Girl	Adopt Boy		Adopt Girl	Adopt Boy	
Father's Age	1.067***	1.053***	^^^	1.067***	1.053***	^^^	1.052***	1.051***	
	[24.05]	[16.53]		[24.05]	[16.53]		[18.30]	[13.49]	
Mother's Age	1.293***	1.547***	^^^	1.293***	1.547***	^^^	1.117***	1.208***	^^^
	[39.87]	[54.77]		[39.87]	[54.77]		[40.40]	[56.37]	
I[Bio. Boy before Adoption]	3.46e-4***	4.26e-4***	^^^	3.46e-4***	4.26e-4***	^^^	3.83e-4***	4.60e-4***	^^^
	[-244.40]	[-220.85]		[-244.40]	[-220.85]		[-272.19]	[-250.44]	
I[Bio. Girl before Adoption]	3.04e-4***	3.74e-4***	^^^	3.04e-4***	3.74e-4***	^^^	3.38e-4***	4.39e-4***	^^^
	[-240.14]	[-216.15]		[-240.14]	[-216.15]		[-265.69]	[-246.53]	
I[Male Relative under 18]	0.981	1.238***	^^^	0.981	1.238***	^^^	0.660***	0.970	^^^
	[-0.42]	[4.36]		[-0.42]	[4.36]		[-10.44]	[-0.80]	
I[Female Relative under 18]	0.896**	0.794***	^^	0.896**	0.794***	^^	0.807***	0.877***	^^
	[-2.15]	[-5.34]		[-2.15]	[-5.34]		[-5.63]	[-3.80]	
I[Male Adult Relative]	1.176***	0.911**	^^^	1.176***	0.911**	^^^	1.008	0.843***	^^^
	[4.49]	[-2.24]		[4.49]	[-2.24]		[0.24]	[-4.89]	
I[Female Adult Relative]	2.070***	2.218***	^	2.070***	2.218***	^	1.879***	1.929***	
	[19.69]	[25.01]		[19.69]	[25.01]		[21.19]	[24.17]	
I[Male Domestic Employee]	0.485***	0.428***	^	0.485***	0.428***	^	0.788***	0.430***	^^^
	[-16.89]	[-16.23]		[-16.89]	[-16.23]		[-6.20]	[-14.36]	
I[Female Domestic Employee]	1.888***	3.099***	^^^	1.888***	3.099***	^^^	0.786***	2.192***	^^^
	[7.38]	[17.45]		[7.38]	[17.45]		[-3.15]	[10.09]	
I[Other Male Employee]	2.403***	0.409***	^^^	2.403***	0.409***	^^^	4.897***	0.790*	^^^
	[13.50]	[-5.14]		[13.50]	[-5.14]		[26.15]	[-1.89]	
I[Other Female Employee]	0.765***	1.107	^^^	0.765***	1.107	^^^	0.138***	1.626***	^^^
	[-3.55]	[1.33]		[-3.55]	[1.33]		[-12.71]	[6.62]	
I[Boarder]	0.936**	1.427***	^^^	0.936**	1.427***	^^^	1.004	1.547***	^^^
	[-2.03]	[11.63]		[-2.03]	[11.63]		[0.15]	[16.45]	
I[House Ownership]							1.327***	1.283***	^^^
							[19.62]	[15.95]	
I[Metropolitan Area]	1.028	0.721***	^^^	1.028	0.721***	^^^	0.843***	0.810***	^
	[1.24]	[-14.54]		[1.24]	[-14.54]		[-9.40]	[-11.38]	
I[Urban Area]	0.875***	0.744***	^^^	0.875***	0.744***	^^^	1.124***	0.734***	^^^
	[-6.01]	[-12.02]		[-6.01]	[-12.02]		[5.90]	[-13.75]	
I[Father Literate]	1.018	0.859***	^^^	1.018	0.859***	^^^	0.973*	0.864***	^^^
	[1.06]	[-8.62]		[1.06]	[-8.62]		[-1.77]	[-9.48]	
I[Mother Literate]	1.065***	1.247***	^^^	1.065***	1.247***	^^^	1.167***	1.161***	
	[3.31]	[11.53]		[3.31]	[11.53]		[9.11]	[8.62]	
I[Father Working]	2.520***	2.070***	^	2.520***	2.070***	^	1.113**	1.418***	^^^
	[19.05]	[15.59]		[19.05]	[15.59]		[2.15]	[6.61]	
I[Father Farmer]	1.328***	1.639***	^^^	1.328***	1.639***	^^^	1.244***	2.018***	^^^
	[14.22]	[23.21]		[14.22]	[23.21]		[11.59]	[34.43]	
I[Father Professional]	0.741***	1.973***	^^^	0.741***	1.973***	^^^	0.659***	3.355***	^^^
	[-3.64]	[6.41]		[-3.64]	[6.41]		[-5.55]	[13.37]	
I[Father White-collar]	1.182***	0.353***	^^^	1.182***	0.353***	^^^	0.748***	0.643***	^^^
	[4.71]	[-18.19]		[4.71]	[-18.19]		[-8.74]	[-10.36]	
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.189***	1.939***	^^^	1.189***	1.939***	^^^	1.197***	2.052***	^^^
	[7.08]	[21.19]		[7.08]	[21.19]		[7.68]	[24.92]	
I[Mother Working]	0.536***	0.557***		0.536***	0.557***		0.653***	0.778***	^^^
	[-22.23]	[-23.49]		[-22.23]	[-23.49]		[-17.35]	[-10.79]	
I[Mother Farmer]	1.217***	0.339***	^^^	1.217***	0.339***	^^^	0.995	0.413***	^^^
	[2.73]	[-9.59]		[2.73]	[-9.59]		[-0.08]	[-11.52]	
I[Mother Professional]	0.006***	0.026***	^^^	0.006***	0.026***	^^^	0.024***	0.164***	^^^
	[-40.48]	[-32.52]		[-40.48]	[-32.52]		[-35.94]	[-17.64]	
I[Mother White-collar]	0.950*	1.069**	^^^	0.950*	1.069**	^^^	1.077***	1.132***	^
	[-1.65]	[2.05]		[-1.65]	[2.05]		[2.67]	[4.20]	
I[Mother Blue-collar]	0.364***	0.256***	^^^	0.364***	0.256***	^^^	0.338***	0.417***	^^^
	[-24.43]	[-23.42]		[-24.43]	[-23.42]		[-27.96]	[-16.44]	
Year Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	62589	62589		54498	54498		55707	55707	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	587	476		410	331		543	442	
Pseudo R-squared	0.664	0.664		0.668	0.668		0.668	0.668	
Log Likelihood	-143364	-143364		-178891	-178891		-119204	-119204	

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<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; robust t-statistics are reported in brackets.
In occupational indicators, the omitted category is "unskilled." In year indicators, the ommited category is 1880 in (1)-(2) and 1900 in (3).
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: I[Male/Female Foster Child], No. of Relatives, No. of Nonrelatives, I[Father/Mother Native], I[Father/Mather Born Out of State], Father/Mother's SEI.
"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 18. 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 15-45		Test	(3) No 1880		Test
	Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.		Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.		Adopt Only & No Bio.	Adopt with Older Bio.	
Father's Age	1.019***	1.060***	^^^	1.004***	1.096***	^^^	1.027***	1.045***	^^^
	[544.77]	[212.11]		[381.23]	[192.42]		[524.99]	[196.66]	
Mother's Age	0.995***	1.215***	^^^	1.080***	1.749***	^^^	0.988***	1.223***	^^^
	[467.30]	[183.11]		[195.85]	[69.75]		[457.99]	[168.91]	
No. of Adult Relatives	1.427***	1.684***	^^^	1.375***	1.605***	^^^	1.451***	1.652***	^^^
	[56.51]	[41.80]		[42.47]	[34.44]		[58.15]	[39.43]	
No. of Boarders	1.183***	1.169***		1.193***	1.122***	^^^	1.171***	1.111***	^^^
	[45.76]	[23.53]		[47.71]	[11.59]		[41.61]	[11.80]	
No. of Domestic Employees	1.812***	1.779***		1.750***	1.947***	^^^	2.016***	1.853***	^
	[40.66]	[14.88]		[34.48]	[18.54]		[39.96]	[12.72]	
No. of Other Employees	2.051***	2.367***	^^^	2.171***	1.330***	^^^	2.415***	2.147***	^^
	[26.66]	[21.88]		[26.90]	[3.68]		[34.49]	[15.90]	
I[House Ownership]							1.454***	1.313***	^^^
							[43.50]	[15.06]	
I[Metropolitan Area]	1.134***	0.831***	^^^	1.228***	0.806***	^^^	1.209***	0.701***	^^^
	[9.36]	[-6.13]		[12.27]	[-6.06]		[14.11]	[-11.84]	
I[Urban Area]	1.165***	0.919***	^^^	1.007	0.789***	^^^	1.183***	0.937**	^^^
	[10.95]	[-2.64]		[0.40]	[-6.39]		[11.78]	[-2.02]	
I[Father Literate]	1.082***	0.966*	^^^	1.102***	0.847***	^^^	1.040***	0.856***	^^^
	[8.13]	[-1.78]		[8.02]	[-7.72]		[3.91]	[-8.09]	
I[Mother Literate]	1.147***	1.201***	^	1.137***	1.165***		1.090***	1.216***	^^^
	[12.94]	[8.44]		[9.96]	[6.34]		[7.90]	[8.87]	
I[Father Working]	0.787***	1.664***	^^^	0.781***	8773988***	^^^	0.783***	1.355***	^^^
	[-8.97]	[4.99]		[-6.26]	[44.87]		[-8.65]	[2.97]	
I[Father Farmer]	0.885***	1.434***	^^^	0.915***	1.417***	^^^	0.918***	1.588***	^^^
	[-12.70]	[16.56]		[-7.62]	[14.31]		[-8.33]	[19.34]	
I[Father Professional]	1.530***	1.274***	^^^	1.125***	1.357***	^^^	1.403***	1.446***	
	[20.05]	[4.20]		[4.22]	[4.76]		[15.46]	[6.22]	
I[Father White-collar]	0.871***	0.796***		0.785***	1.121*	^^^	0.816***	0.732***	^^^
	[-7.14]	[-4.00]		[-10.75]	[1.96]		[-10.21]	[-4.76]	
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.174***	1.924***	^^^	1.147***	2.011***	^^^	1.123***	2.064***	^^^
	[11.90]	[22.19]		[8.73]	[20.92]		[8.27]	[22.90]	
I[Mother Working]	1.097***	1.053**	^	1.079***	1.033		1.158***	1.133***	
	[8.55]	[2.44]		[5.73]	[1.33]		[13.03]	[5.69]	
I[Mother Farmer]	0.942	0.692***	^^^	1.010	0.875		0.781***	0.667***	
	[-1.39]	[-3.62]		[0.18]	[-1.31]		[-5.25]	[-3.96]	
I[Mother Professional]									
I[Mother White-collar]	1.103***	1.543***	^^^	1.218***	1.270***		1.039**	1.452***	^^^
	[6.10]	[13.02]		[10.01]	[6.04]		[2.32]	[10.82]	
I[Mother Blue-collar]	1.235***	0.000***	^^^	1.405***	0.000***	^^^	1.106***	0.000***	^^^
	[6.27]	[-1210.50]		[9.07]	[-1105.49]		[2.89]	[-1170.53]	
I[1900]	1.268***	1.373***		1.411***	2.026***	^^^			
	[14.74]	[9.14]		[16.84]	[16.49]				
I[1910]	1.688***	1.772***	^^	1.814***	1.770***		1.322***	1.284***	
	[31.26]	[15.66]		[28.01]	[12.15]		[26.21]	[10.66]	
I[1920]	1.082***	1.057		1.127***	1.755***	^^^	0.865***	0.792***	^^^
	[4.20]	[1.37]		[5.07]	[11.58]		[-10.89]	[-8.18]	
I[1930]	1.927***	2.296***	^^^	1.874***	2.949***	^^^	1.571***	1.778***	^^^
	[36.67]	[20.81]		[27.45]	[21.59]		[38.23]	[22.29]	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	62589	62589		54498	54498		55707	55707	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	758	162		491	121		706	151	
Pseudo R-squared	0.079	0.079		0.050	0.050		0.080	0.080	
Log Likelihood	-461820	-461820		-335653	-335653		-425070	-425070	

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<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; 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 occupational indicators, the omitted category is "unskilled." In year indicators, the ommited category is 1880 in (1)-(2) and 1900 in (3).
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are I[Father Born Out of State] and I[Mother Born out of State].
"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 19. Multinomial Logit for Propensity to Adopt by Surname of Child: Black Households

Relative Risk Ratios (RRR)

Sample	(1) All		Test	(2) Mom age 15-45		Test	(3) No 1880		Test
	Adopt, Same Surame	Adopt, Different Surame		Adopt, Same Surame	Adopt, Different Surame		Adopt, Same Surame	Adopt, Different Surame	
Father's Age	1.057***	1.019***	^^^	1.057***	1.010***	^^^	1.058***	1.012***	^^^
	[534.66]	[314.68]		[543.16]	[231.14]		[481.12]	[291.79]	
Mother's Age	1.135***	1.130***		1.391***	1.053***	^^^	1.139***	1.120***	^^^
	[455.19]	[306.84]		[220.56]	[111.49]		[409.60]	[296.05]	
No. of Bio. Children before Adoption	5.31e-3***	2.24e-18***	^^^	6.94e-3***	2.15e-17***	^^^	5.57e-3***	5.38e-20***	^^^
	[-177.29]	[-2253.44]		[-141.75]	[-1979.22]		[-170.15]	[-2058.52]	
No. of Adult Relatives	1.324***	1.374***		1.306***	1.172***	^^^	1.306***	1.338***	
	[36.89]	[21.01]		[34.04]	[8.78]		[35.50]	[19.03]	
No. of Boarders	1.053***	1.139***	^^^	1.020***	1.154***	^^^	1.024***	1.132***	^^^
	[12.07]	[15.46]		[4.01]	[16.14]		[5.36]	[13.76]	
No. of Domestic Employees	1.132***	2.882***	^^^	1.232***	2.887***	^^^	1.197***	5.405***	^^^
	[3.42]	[18.37]		[5.45]	[16.85]		[3.60]	[23.64]	
No. of Other Employees	1.517***	2.337***	^^^	1.102***	1.589***	^^^	1.320***	2.621***	^^^
	[12.82]	[15.88]		[3.02]	[10.43]		[7.01]	[14.19]	
I[House Ownership]							1.289***	1.273***	^^
							[26.59]	[13.62]	
I[Metropolitan Area]	0.871***	1.201***	^^^	0.871***	1.322***	^^^	0.851***	1.167***	^^^
	[-11.58]	[8.03]		[-10.19]	[10.67]		[-14.71]	[6.69]	
I[Urban Area]	0.903***	0.852***	^^	0.820***	0.810***		0.910***	0.990	^^^
	[-8.13]	[-7.35]		[-13.97]	[-8.44]		[-7.39]	[-0.42]	
I[Father Literate]	1.020**	1.100***	^^^	0.953***	1.264***	^^^	0.948***	1.030*	^^^
	[1.99]	[5.50]		[-4.44]	[10.97]		[-5.47]	[1.65]	
I[Mother Literate]	1.177***	0.897***	^^^	1.136***	0.948**	^^^	1.174***	0.882***	^^^
	[15.30]	[-6.04]		[10.89]	[-2.42]		[14.67]	[-6.64]	
I[Father Working]	0.960	2.147***	^^^	1.807***	1.089	^^^	1.082***	1.544***	^^^
	[-1.64]	[14.60]		[17.02]	[1.58]		[2.77]	[7.59]	
I[Father Farmer]	1.460***	0.993	^^^	1.559***	0.842***	^^^	1.507***	1.223***	^^^
	[37.26]	[-0.36]		[39.65]	[-7.15]		[38.16]	[9.43]	
I[Father Professional]	1.083***	1.240***	^^^	1.029	1.118**	^	1.053**	1.259***	^^^
	[3.51]	[5.82]		[1.04]	[2.38]		[2.18]	[5.92]	
I[Father White-collar]	0.869***	0.515***	^^^	0.968*	0.455***	^^^	0.827***	0.469***	^^^
	[-7.90]	[-16.99]		[-1.66]	[-15.72]		[-10.51]	[-18.57]	
I[Father Blue-collar]	1.308***	1.085***	^^^	1.344***	1.023	^^^	1.282***	1.060**	^^^
	[20.22]	[3.22]		[20.49]	[0.77]		[17.96]	[2.19]	
I[Mother Working]	0.989	0.827***	^^^	0.941***	0.900***		1.071***	0.762***	^^^
	[-0.97]	[-8.09]		[-4.62]	[-3.59]		[5.50]	[-11.01]	
I[Mother Farmer]	0.891***	1.743***	^^^	0.996	1.638***	^^^	0.759***	2.401***	^^^
	[-2.72]	[7.47]		[-0.09]	[5.13]		[-5.76]	[11.23]	
I[Mother Professional]	0.766***	0.338***	^^^	0.463***	1.071	^^^	0.709***	0.381***	^^^
	[-8.00]	[-10.91]		[-16.37]	[0.74]		[-9.66]	[-9.40]	
I[Mother White-collar]	1.174***	1.282***	^^^	1.066***	1.247***	^^^	1.064***	1.377***	^^^
	[9.31]	[7.69]		[3.37]	[5.83]		[3.52]	[9.41]	
I[Mother Blue-collar]	0.825***	0.703***	^^	0.808***	0.876*		0.788***	0.616***	^^^
	[-7.84]	[-5.48]		[-7.75]	[-1.89]		[-9.55]	[-6.79]	
I[1900]	1.038**	0.971	^^	1.160***	1.403***	^^^			
	[2.37]	[-1.05]		[8.31]	[9.76]				
I[1910]	1.203***	0.603***	^^^	1.126***	0.714***	^^^	1.141***	0.633***	^^^
	[11.12]	[-16.38]		[6.28]	[-8.76]		[12.04]	[-21.35]	
I[1920]	0.724***	0.786***	^^	0.808***	1.154***	^^^	0.699***	0.839***	^^^
	[-17.47]	[-7.31]		[-10.18]	[3.60]		[-27.02]	[-7.47]	
I[1930]	1.206***	1.314***	^^^	1.205***	1.483***	^^^	1.183***	1.413***	^^^
	[10.11]	[8.72]		[8.85]	[10.34]		[13.22]	[16.19]	
Region Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Total No. of Households	62589	62589		54498	54498		55707	55707	
No. of HHs Selecting the Outcome	716	347		522	219		668	317	
Pseudo R-squared	0.635	0.635		0.616	0.616		0.633	0.633	
Log Likelihood	-212250	-212250		-161573	-161573		-195546	-195546	

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<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1; 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 occupational indicators, the omitted category is "unskilled." In year indicators, the ommited category is 1880 in (1)-(2) and 1900 in (3).
Variables included in the regressions but not reported are: I[Father Native], I[Mother Native], I[Father Born Out of State], I[Mother Born out of State].
"Test" columns test the null: RRR(outcome1)=RRR(outcome2); ^^^ p<0.01, ^^ p<0.05, ^ p<0.1.

Table 20. Summary of Multinomial Logit Results: White HHs

RHS Variable	The Effect of RHS Variable on: Adopting Girl (relative to Boy)	Adopt Only (relative to w/ Older Bio)	Same Name (relative to Different Name)	Consistent with Adoption Type:
Bio Boy Present before Adoption	+			P or S
Bio Girl Present before Adoption	-			
Male Relative under 18 Present	+ (opp.)			P or S
Female Relative under 18 Present	-			
Male Adult Relative Present	+			
Female Adult Relative Present	+			
Male Domestic Employee Present	+			P
Female Domestic Employee Present	-			
Other Male Employee Present	++			P
Other Female Employee Present	- -			
Father's Age	0	-	+	
Mother's Age	+	-	+	
Boarder Present	+ (opp.)	0	0	
Domestic Employee Present	0	-	0	
House Ownership	+	+	+	A or S
Metropolitan Area	+	-	- (opp.)	
Father Literate	+	+	+	S
Mother Literate	0	mixed	+	
Father Farmer	-	-	-	P
Mother Farmer	- -	- -	-	P
Father Professional	+	+ (opp.)	+	S
Mother Professional	- - (opp.)	+	0	

Table 21. Summary of Multinomial Logit Results: Black HHs

RHS Variable	The Effect of RHS Variable on: Adopting Girl (relative to Boy)	Adopt Only (relative to w/ Older Bio)	Same Name (relative to Different Name)	Consistent with Adoption Type:
Bio Boy Present before Adoption	-			A
Bio Girl Present before Adoption	-			
Male Relative under 18 Present	-			
Female Relative under 18 Present	+			
Male Adult Relative Present	+			P
Female Adult Relative Present	-			
Male Domestic Employee Present	+			P
Female Domestic Employee Present	- -			
Other Male Employee Present	++ (opp.)			P
Other Female Employee Present	- (opp.)			
Father's Age	0	-	+	
Mother's Age	-	- (opp.)	+	
Boarder Present	-	0	-	
Domestic Employee Present	0	0	- -	
House Ownership	+	+	0	
Metropolitan Area	+	+ (opp.)	- (opp.)	
Father Literate	+	+ (opp.)	-	
Mother Literate	0	0	+ (opp.)	
Father Farmer	-	- - (opp.)	+	
Mother Farmer	+ (opp.)	0	- - (opp.)	P
Father Professional	- - (opp.)	0	-	
Mother Professional	-	n/a	+	

"+" ("-") denotes positive (negative) net effect on the relative likelihood of the outcome (b) over (c).
"++" ("- -") denotes large positive (negative) net effect on the relative likelihood of the outcome (b) over (c).
"opp." means that the effects on the outcomes (b) and (c) are in opposite signs.

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

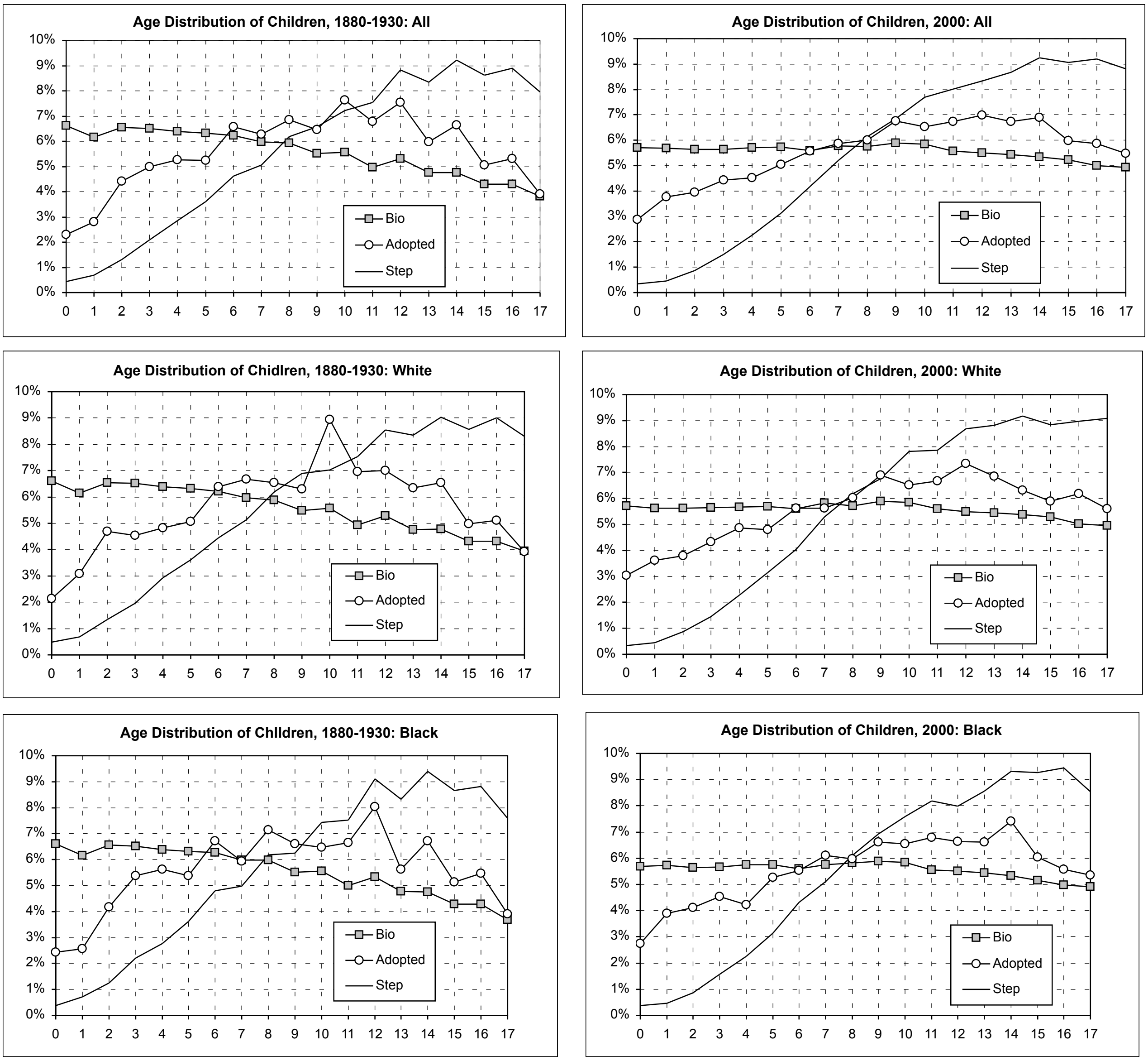

Figure 2: Distribution of the Age Difference between Child & Mother by Type and Race of Children, 1880-1930 & 2000