National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Adoption Follow-Up Study: Findings Report

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Overview

For children living in foster care, adoption is an important permanency outcome when reunification with their biological family is not advisable. Living in a safe and stable adoptive family can promote children's well-being; but without safety and stability, children's well-being can suffer. In some cases, children or youth who have exited foster care through adoption no longer reside with the adoptive parent, a situation referred to as "post adoption instability." Research on post adoption instability is critical to help the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), child welfare agencies, and researchers better understand the rates and types of instability, as well as the child, family, and agency characteristics that promote or hinder stability for adopted children.

National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Adoption Follow-Up Study (referred to as the *NSCAW Adoption Study*) gathered information on 383 adoptees (15-36 years old) who exited foster care to adoption and were also former participants in a prior longitudinal study, NSCAW. Analyses examined secondary data available through NSCAW along with data from new *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys[1] of adoptees and their adoptive parents. Study analyses explored the prevalence of post adoption formal and informal instability, risk or protective factors associated with instability experiences (including the quality of current adoptive parent–adoptee relationships), services and supports received, and perceived barriers and facilitators to these services.

Primary Research Questions

- To what extent have adopted NSCAW participants experienced post adoption formal and informal instability?

- What are the risk and protective factors for post adoption instability at the individual child, parent, and family levels?

- What is the quality of current parent-child relationships among children who exited foster care to permanency through adoption?

- What support services are accessible to adopted youth/young adults and adoptive parents experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) post adoption instability?

- What are the facilitators and barriers to accessing support services for adoptive families?

Purpose

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* examines the extent to which children who exit foster care to adoption experience instability as well as risk and protective factors for several types of formal (e.g., foster care reentry) and informal (e.g., child runs away or experiences homelessness) instability. This study also

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[1] The new *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys were conducted from June 2021-March 2022, several years after the last wave of NSCAW I and NSCAW II data collection. The last wave of NSCAW I data collection occurred between 2005-2007. The last wave of NSCAW II data collection occurred between 2011 and 2012.

seeks to understand those services and supports received by families who have adopted children who exited foster care.

Method

Adoptees and adoptive parents completed online surveys or surveys by telephone to describe their experiences with post adoption instability, the context surrounding post adoption instability events, their current parent-child relationships, and information about needed services and supports. Analyses examined secondary data available through NSCAW I and II along with data from these new *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys of adoptees and their adoptive parents.

Key Findings

- **Prevalence of Post Adoption Instability** - Almost 10% of adoptees experienced formal post adoption instability. Approximately 8% experienced foster care reentry after adoption and 2% the termination of the adoptive parents' parental rights or the child's emancipation prior to the age of 18 years. Thirty percent of participants experienced informal instability after adoption. The most common informal instability events included a child running away (18% of all adoptees), leaving home prior to the age of 18 years (17%), living with a nonrelative adult instead of the adoptive parent (9%), and a period of homelessness (8%).

- **Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Instability** - Findings revealed factors associated with both formal and informal post adoption instability, including less nurturing adoptive family relationships during childhood and the presence of child behavior problems early in the adoptive relationship. Findings also showed factors only associated with informal stability, including older child age at the time of adoption, child sex assigned at birth (being female), and less parent-child closeness prior to the adoption. However, when accounting for the influence of all other potential risk/protective factors, only less nurturing adoptive family relationships continued to show a significant association with both formal and informal post adoption instability.

- **Current Adoptive Parent-Adoptee Relationships** – Most *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptees and adoptive parents described close current relationships with each other and a strong sense of the adoptee's belonging to the family. This was true even for many who experienced formal or informal instability. For example, while 25% of adoptive parents whose child experienced formal post adoption instability described currently feeling "not close at all" to their child, more than half described currently feeling "extremely" or "very" close.

- **Services and Supports** – *NSCAW Adoption Study* participants more commonly reported services needed than services received. This is consistent with prior studies. When asked about the types of services needed, participants most often reported needing children's mental health services. More than 60% of all adoptees or adoptive parents reported having received children's mental health services. Participants received other services, such as educational supports, less than 50% of the time. When asked about barriers to receiving services, adoptive parents described a general lack of assistance, support, or information received from the child welfare agency. Adoptee participants mostly commonly reported service barriers to be an unsupportive family or a lack of understanding from their family about their needs.

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the results of a study designed to examine the prevalence of instability for children who exit foster care to adoption. The *National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Adoption Follow-Up Study* (referred to as *NSCAW Adoption Study)* explores the extent to which children who exit foster care to adoption experience instability as well as the risk or protective factors associated with instability. This study also seeks to understand the services and supports received by adoptive families. This study represents one of two primary data collection efforts undertaken as part of the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF's) *Understanding Postadoption and Guardianship Instability for Children and Youth Who Exit Foster Care* (PAGI) project.

Overview

For children living in foster care, adoption is an important permanency outcome when reunification with their biological family is not advisable. Living in a safe and stable adoptive family can promote children's well-being; but without safety and stability, children's well-being can suffer. In some cases, children or youth who have exited foster care through adoption no longer reside with their adoptive parent, a situation referred to as "post adoption instability." Post adoption instability includes formal events, such as foster care reentry, that are likely known to the child welfare system. Post adoption instability may also include informal events such as a child experiencing homelessness, running away, or temporarily living with relatives or other friends. These events are less likely to be known to the child welfare system and have not been adequately captured by prior research that relies on administrative data. Consequently, the extent of both formal and informal post adoption instability among children who have exited foster care to adoption remains uncertain. Research on post adoption instability is critical to help the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), child welfare agencies, and researchers better understand the rates and types of instability, as well as the child, family, and agency characteristics that promote or hinder stability for adopted children.

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* gathered information on 383 adoptees (15-36 years old) who exited foster care to adoption and were also former participants in the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW). Adoptees and adoptive parents completed online surveys or surveys by telephone to describe their experiences with post adoption instability, the context surrounding post adoption instability events, their current parent-child relationships, and information about needed services and supports. Analyses examined secondary data available through NSCAW along with data from these new *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys[2] of adoptees and their adoptive parents. Study analyses explored the prevalence of post adoption formal and informal instability, risk or protective factors associated with instability experiences (including the quality of current adoptive parent-adoptee relationships), services and supports received, and perceived barriers and facilitators to these services.

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[2] The new *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys were conducted from June 2021-March 2022, several years after the last wave of NSCAW I and NSCAW II data collection. The last wave of NSCAW I data collection occurred between 2005-2007. The last wave of NSCAW II data collection occurred between 2011 and 2012.

Key Findings

Almost 10% of adoptees experienced formal post adoption instability. Approximately 8% experienced foster care reentry after adoption and 2% the termination of the adoptive parents' parental rights or the child's emancipation prior to the age of 18 years. Thirty percent of adoptees experienced informal instability after adoption. The most common informal instability events included a child running away (18% of all adoptees), leaving home prior to the age of 18 years (17 %), living with a nonrelative adult instead of the adoptive parent (9%), or experiencing a period of homelessness (8%). Despite this, it is important to note that most adoptees did not experience either formal or informal post adoption instability.

Findings revealed risk or protective factors associated with both formal and informal post adoption instability. Less nurturing adoptive family relationships during childhood and the presence of child behavior problems early in the adoptive relationship were associated with both formal and informal instability. However, when accounting for the influence of all other potential risk or protective factors, only less nurturing adoptive family relationships continued to show a significant association with both formal and informal post adoption instability. Additional risk or protective factors were associated with informal instability, including older child age at the time of adoption, child gender (being female), and less parent-child closeness prior to the adoption. When accounting for the influence of other factors, child behavior problems early in the adoptive relationship along with less nurturing adoptive family relationships continued to show a significant association with informal instability. This study found no associations between either formal or informal post adoption instability and adoptee or parent race or ethnicity, adoptive parent age or kinship relationship to the adoptee, level of maltreatment harm experienced by the adoptee prior to adoption, or parents' motivations to adopt.

Most *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptees and adoptive parents reported having close current relationships with each other and a strong sense of the adoptee's belonging to the family. This was true even for some who experienced formal or informal instability. More than half (56%) of adoptees who experienced formal instability and 45% of adoptees who experienced informal instability described a strong sense of belonging. Additionally, although 25% of adoptive parents whose child experienced formal post adoption instability described currently feeling "not close at all" to their child, more than half described currently feeling "extremely" or "very" close.

Adoptees and adoptive parents described services needed and received during childhood. Participants reported children's mental health services as most frequently needed and received. More than 60% of all adoptees or adoptive parents reported that they or their child received children's mental health services. Forty-six percent of all adoptees received educational supports. Adoptees and their families received other services, such as child welfare system adoption supports, less than 50% of the time. Among the *NSCAW Adoption Study* participants who reported post adoption instability, most (75-79%) received at least one type of service following their child's adoption.

This study also asked participants open-ended questions about facilitators and barriers to accessing services for adoptive families and adopted children. In response to these questions, adoptive parents described the primary barrier to services as a general lack of assistance, support, or information received from the child welfare agency. Adoptive parents described the most common facilitator to be agency or provider support. Adoptees indicated that family members could either facilitate or serve as a

barrier to accessing services. Adoptees most commonly reported unsupportive family members or their families' lack of understanding about their needs as barriers to services. However, adoptees also reported having a supportive family as the most common facilitator to services.

Conclusions

Research consistently shows that most children and youth who exit foster care through adoption do not later experience post adoption instability. This prior research typically relies on administrative data to estimate formal post adoption instability (i.e., foster care reentry or the termination of adoptive parental rights). In contrast, this study relied on adoptive parent and adoptee self-reports. Using this different approach, the *NSCSW Adoption Study* estimates that approximately 10% of children may experience formal post adoption instability. This estimate falls within the range reported by other studies using administrative data.

Limiting the measurement of post adoption instability to formal events may not fully capture the breadth of instability events experienced by adoptees and their families. The self-report nature of the *NSCAW Adoption Study* importantly supports the estimation of informal post adoption instability events. Thirty percent of adoptees and/or their adoptive parents reported informal post adoption instability experiences. While child welfare agencies may have records of adoptees' foster care reentry, informal post adoption events such as homelessness or running away are likely under reported or not reported at all to agency staff. *NSCAW Adoption Study* findings suggest that adopted children may experience far more post adoption instability than may be known to the child welfare system.

Study results also illustrate the importance of building close, nurturing relationships between adoptees and their adoptive families. These close relationships may protect against post adoption instability. Additionally, study results show that certain children may be more vulnerable to post adoption instability, particularly children adopted over 2 years of age and children with emotional or behavioral health problems. These findings are consistent with prior research and draw attention to the importance of providing support services to adoptive families both before and after adoption finalization. Qualitative findings from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* point to the importance of both family and provider support to facilitating access to services. In addition, because participants often described needing mental health services, study findings illustrate the importance of agencies in helping families recognize children's mental health needs and understanding what types of mental health services may be available within their communities.

Implications for the Child Welfare System

The frequency of post adoption instability experiences revealed by the current study signal opportunities for child welfare agencies to provide additional support to adoptive families. The *NSCAW Adoption Study* has several implications for the child welfare system, including:

- Families' knowledge of, and better access to available post adoption services and supports may help prevent post adoption instability experiences.

- Improvements in the quality of adoptee-adoptive parent relationships, support for nurturing family relationships, and facilitation of an adoptee's sense of family belonging may help to prevent post adoption instability.

▪ More pre and post adoption supports appear particularly important for families finalizing adoptions for older children (particularly those adopted over 2 years of age) or those with known emotional or behavioral health problems.

▪ Post adoption instability may occur many years after a child's adoption is finalized, when child welfare agencies may no longer be in contact with adoptive families. For this reason, it may be helpful for agencies to stay in touch with families long after adoption finalization.

Ultimately, the ability of child welfare agency staff to accept the current state of adoptees and adoptive families without judgment and understand the context around families' instability experiences will be critical to effectively engaging adoptees and their adoptive families in services and supports.

1. Background

For children living in foster care, adoption is an important permanency outcome when reunification with their biological family is not advisable. Living in a safe and stable adoptive family can promote children's well-being, but without safety and stability, children's well-being can suffer (Jonson-Reid et al., 2012; Rolock et al., 2017). In some cases, children or youth who have exited foster care through adoption no longer reside with the adoptive parent, a situation referred to as "post adoption instability." Research on post adoption instability is critical to help the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), child welfare agencies, and researchers better understand the rates and types of instability and the child, family, and agency characteristics that promote or hinder stability for adopted children.

However, research on post adoption instability is hampered by varying definitions of instability and challenges to tracking instability. Some research defines instability as limited to when a child reenters foster care after adoption. Other research defines instability more broadly to include events such as a child running away from their adoptive parents' home. Knowing when instability has occurred is also challenging. Many child welfare agencies are not well positioned to track outcomes for children after they have been adopted (see the Contact after Adoption or Guardianship Study [Contact After Adoption or Guardianship: Child Welfare Agency and Family Interactions | The Administration for Children and Families (hhs.gov)]). These issues make it difficult to estimate how often post adoption instability occurs.

The Understanding Post Adoption and Guardianship Instability for Children and Youth Who Exit Foster Care (PAGI) project, funded by the Administration for Children and Families, is conducted by RTI International, Case Western Reserve University, and East Carolina University. The project studies risk and protective factors at the individual, family, and agency levels related to instability. The project also studies child welfare agency post-permanency family contacts and support services.

To better understand this important topic, in 2017 ACF launched the Understanding Post Adoption and Guardianship Instability for Children and Youth Who Exit Foster Care (PAGI) project. The *National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Adoption Follow-Up Study* (referred to as the *NSCAW Adoption Study* from here forward in this report) is one component of this larger project. This study examines the extent to which children who exit foster care to adoption experience instability (prevalence) and risk and protective factors for several types of formal and informal instability. This study also seeks to understand those services and supports received by families who have adopted children who exited foster care.

1.1   Previous Literature on Post Adoption Instability

This section summarizes the research literature surrounding post adoption instability, including gaps in what is known about instability. We begin with a summary of the prevalence of instability, then discuss the risk and protective factors associated with instability. We then discuss the literature on services and supports available to adoptive families and conclude with the definitions used by this study team for various types of instability.

1.1.1   Prevalence of Post Adoption Instability

The most consistent finding from over two decades of adoption instability research is that most children and youth who exit foster care through adoption do not later reenter foster care (i.e., formal post adoption instability). Some proportion of adopted children do experience instability, but estimates of the prevalence vary. Estimates of the prevalence of adoption dissolutions, or formal legal terminations of adoptions, range from 1% to 10% (Bergeron & Pennington, 2013; Child Welfare Information Gateway [CWIG], 2012; Jones & LaLiberte, 2010). Prevalence rates of post adoption instability where adopted children no longer reside with their adoptive parents range from 2% to 15% (Rolock et al., 2017; White, 2016). Studies with large samples of U.S. children and youth who leave foster care to adoption estimate the cumulative rate of any post adoption instability event occurring over a long period of time (e.g., 10 years) to be 5% to 20%.

Several limitations to the existing research hamper our understanding of the prevalence of post adoption instability. Most empirical studies of post adoption instability have relatively small sample sizes. Many studies have short observation windows or varying time periods within which to observe post adoption outcomes. Post adoption instability rates are directly influenced by time since adoption, so studies with longer post adoption observation windows will find higher instability rates. Many prior studies also do not include groups of children representing all children adopted through the child welfare system. Longitudinal studies provide our best estimates of prevalence rates and have observed that instability may occur many years after adoption finalization (Rolock & White, 2016; Rolock et al., 2019; Sattler & Font, 2021). Yet longitudinal studies often rely exclusively on administrative data and assess only foster care reentry (i.e., formal instability). These studies do not capture less formal instability events, such as homelessness, running away, or temporarily living with relatives or other friends. These events are not typically captured in administrative data systems.

1.1.2   Risk and Protective Factors Associated With Instability

Research has found that certain child, caregiver, and family characteristics relate to higher or lower rates of post adoption instability (referred to as risk and protective factors, respectively) (CWIG, 2012; Faulkner & Madden, 2012; Jones & LaLiberte, 2010; Rolock et al., 2017; White, 2016). For example, risk factors include older child age at adoption, child behavior problems, severe maltreatment, caregiver mental health difficulties, diminished caregiver commitment, unrealistic caregiver expectations, and low family cohesion (White et al., 2018). Protective factors include youth involvement in the decision to adopt, a kinship relationship between the adoptive parent and child, a caregiver's sense of family duty, services from child welfare agencies, and supports from family or friends (Cody et al., 2017, Mariscal et al., 2015; White et al., 2018). Furthermore, the demographic characteristics of the adoptee and their parent(s), including race, ethnicity, sex, and age, and the parent's marital or partner status, may impact child instability (White et al., 2018). For example, a parent having a partner or being married can be a protective factor. Other characteristics of the parent or child, such as race, ethnicity, and sex, show mixed, or unclear, results in the research.

Several other child, caregiver, and family characteristics may be associated with instability events, but there is too little consistent research on these characteristics to draw conclusions. For example, little to no research examines the association between instability and parent and youth motivations to engage in and sustain an adoptive relationship, or how these motivations may shift over time. In addition, there

is a dearth of information about the risk and protective factors that youth, or young adults, identify as associated with instability after a finalized adoption.

1.1.3   Services and Support Accessible to Adoptive Families

Child welfare agencies provide a variety of services for families who have adopted children from foster care. These include financial subsidies; health insurance (e.g., Medicaid); mental health services; educational support; support groups; parent training; respite care; developmental assessment; informational programs (e.g., seminars, information and referral services); recreational activities (e.g., camps, heritage events); and openness, search, and reunion services (CWIG, 2013). The delivery of certain needed services for as long as those services are needed is associated with better family outcomes (Berry et al., 2007; Reilly & Platz, 2004; Rosenthal et al., 1991; White, 2016). Conversely, unmet needs reported by adoptive families are associated with worse post adoption outcomes and higher risk for post adoption instability (Egbert, 2015; Reilly & Platz, 2004).

Despite the variety of potential services families can receive from child welfare agencies, most studies find that 50% or fewer of adoptive families use post adoption services (Dhami, Mandel, & Sothmann, 2007; Hartinger-Saunders, Trouteaud, & Matos Johnson, 2014). The two most common barriers to accessing agency services are families not knowing where to go for services and lacking information about what services are available (Barth & Miller, 2000; Festinger, 2002; Groze, 1996; Reilly & Platz, 2003; Rolock, 2015; Rolock & Perez, 2016; Rolock et al., 2017).

In addition to formal services received through the child welfare system, families may also benefit from informal supports. These include supports received from extended family and friends, peer groups, faith communities, support groups, social clubs, neighborhoods, and other nongovernmental social groups or networks. Receiving informal social support is often associated with positive post adoption outcomes, such as closer relationships between adoptive parents and children (Egbert, 2015; Mariscal et al., 2015) and higher post adoption family functioning (Leung et al., 2005). However, the impact of informal supports may vary by who is providing the support. Based on a survey of adoptive caregivers, Leung and Erich (2002) found that greater support from spouses or partners was related to higher family functioning but greater support from relatives was associated with lower family functioning (as measured by the Family Health Subscale of the Self-Report Family Functioning Scale; Green, Kolevzon, & Vosler, 1985; Leung & Erich, 2002). Very little is known about the impact of informal supports on post adoption instability (White, 2016).

1.1.4   Definitions of Post Adoption Instability Events

For the *NSCAW Adoption Study*, we define "post adoption instability" broadly as situations in which children who exit foster care to adoptive homes no longer reside with their adoptive parent(s). Specifically, post adoption instability can include both formal and informal instability and other interruptions in case, defined as follows:

> **Post Adoption Instability:**
>
> A child or youth has exited foster care through an adoption and no longer resides with the adoptive parent. The post adoption period includes the time after an adoption is finalized but before the child turns 18 years of age.

Formal instability

- A legal termination of the adoption relationship, including termination of parental rights or emancipation

- Foster care reentry

Informal instability

- Child runs away

- Child experiences some period of homelessness

- Child spends time in a transitional living program

- Child lives temporarily with a grandparent[3]

- Child lives temporarily with another relative or other caregiver

- Child leaves home prior to age of 18 years[4]

Other interruptions in care

- Residential treatment or group home

- Juvenile detention

Post adoption instability may not always be a negative event. For instance, if a child goes to live with her grandmother, it may be because it is the best choice for that family, and for that child, at that time. Furthermore, a child may enter foster care explicitly to access high-end services (e.g., residential treatment) that his parents cannot afford. In both examples, parental relationships may stay intact during these episodes, and the child may return to the care and custody of their adoptive parents after treatment or at the end of an extended stay with extended family. Because the literature has not examined informal instability events in a nuanced way, it is unclear which child and family characteristics relate to various types of instability.

1.2   NSCAW Adoption Study Goals and Objectives

Given the research gaps identified by previous literature on post adoption instability, the *NSCAW Adoption Study* is designed to address prior study limitations and inform child welfare policies and practices intended to support adopted children and their families.

The study draws on two rich longitudinal datasets, the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) I and NSCAW II, to examine instability events among a subsample of NSCAW I and II child participants who exited foster care to adoption. Data on pre adoption child and family characteristics from the existing NSCAW I and II datasets are combined with newly collected data from surveys with adopted youth, young adults, and adults, and with adoptive parents several years after the adoption occurred. These new surveys conducted for the purposes of the *NSCAW Adoption Study* assess post adoption instability, current parent-child relationships, motivations to sustain the adoptive relationship, and services and supports needed and received.

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[3] In research, surveys have found that grandparents are one of the most common relative caregivers. As such, we report this relationship separately from other relative caregivers.
[4] Only defined as post adoption instability when the child leaves home prior to the age of 18 years for reasons *other than* joining the military, attending college or an educational program, getting married, or moving in with a partner.

Study findings are intended to provide information on the prevalence of post adoption instability, the risk and protective factors associated with post adoption instability, the quality of parent-child adoptive relationships, and services and supports received by adoptive families. Ultimately, findings from this study are intended to increase the child welfare field's knowledge of instability and inform future research and technical assistance around promoting permanency for children and youth after adoption.

1.2.1   Research Questions

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* research questions are outlined in **Table 1**. Some of the research questions initially planned for the study could not be addressed because of data and sample size limitations (see **Appendix A** for more information, including the original set of research questions). This report summarizes the methods and key findings in response to these research questions from the *NSCAW Adoption Study*.

Table 1.   Research Questions

Prevalence	
RQ1	To what extent have adopted NSCAW participants experienced post adoption formal and informal instability?
Risk and Protective Factors	
RQ2	What are the risk and protective factors for post adoption instability at the individual child, parent, and family levels?
RQ3	What is the quality of current parent-child relationships among children who exited foster care to permanency through adoption?
Services and Supports	
RQ4	What support services are accessible to adopted youth/young adults and adoptive parents experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) post adoption instability?
RQ5	What are the facilitators and barriers to accessing support services for adoptive families?

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2. Methods

2.1 Study Design

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* includes (a) a new data collection effort with former NSCAW I or II participants and (b) secondary data collected previously from the NSCAW I and II datasets. During the NSCAW I and II data collection process, participants provided permission to be contacted in the future about new research opportunities. This section of the report provides background information about the NSCAW I and II studies (***Section 2.1.1***) and a summary of the *NSCAW Adoption Study* design (***Section 2.1.2***), sample selection (***Section 2.1.3***), and final sample available for analysis (***Section 2.1.4***).

2.1.1 National Surveys of Children and Adolescent Well-Being

NSCAW I and II are longitudinal surveys of children and families who were subject to Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation.[5] The NSCAW study samples include children who remain living at home with biological families after a CPS investigation and those who are placed out-of-home. The NSCAW data include information about children's pre and post adoption experiences, including risk and protective factors related to instability.

The NSCAW I cohort includes 6,228 children, ages birth to 14 (at the time of sampling), who had contact with the child welfare system within a 15-month period that began in October 1999. In addition to the baseline survey, four waves of data collection are available, occurring approximately 12–18 months apart; the last wave of data collection (Wave 5) occurred between 2005 and 2007. Data collection included surveys with caseworkers, caregivers, children, and teachers.

The NSCAW II cohort includes 5,800 children, ages birth to 17.5 years (at the time of sampling), who had contact with the child welfare system beginning in 2007. In addition to the baseline survey, 2 waves of data collection are available (18 months and 3 years after baseline); the last wave of data collection (Wave 3) occurred between 2011 and 2012. Data collection included surveys with caseworkers, caregivers, and children.

Key characteristics of NSCAW I and II relevant to the current study are described in ***Table 2***.

Table 2.   **NSCAW I and II Study Characteristics**

Characteristics	NSCAW I	NSCAW II
Dates of last NSCAW survey	Aug 2005–Dec 2007	June 2011–Dec 2012
Timing of last data collection wave	5–7 years after the maltreatment investigation	3 years after the maltreatment investigation
Number of waves of original data collection	5	3
Anticipated current age of children (as of 4/1/2020)	18–37 years	15–29 years

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[5] National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) | The Administration for Children and Families (hhs.gov)

2.1.2   Overview of Study Design

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* conducted new surveys with the families of children who were identified as adopted prior to the end of the original NSCAW I or II study period. The study team identified a sample of eligible NSCAW I and II adopted children, or adoptees.[6] Then, the study team conducted tracing and locating efforts to identify updated contact information for the adoptees (who were now youth, young adults, or adults) and their adoptive parent. Those with valid contact information were offered an opportunity to complete either a web or telephone survey. Sometimes both the adoptee and the adoptive parent completed a survey and sometimes only one or the other participated.

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys assessed the occurrence of both formal and informal instability events during childhood, risk and protective factors associated with instability, post adoption services and support, and perceptions of adoptive relationships. New survey responses were combined with existing secondary data available within the NSCAW I and II datasets to answer the proposed research questions. The RTI International Institutional Review Board reviewed and approved study protocols. In addition, the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) reviewed and approved the study (OMB Control Number: 0970-0555; expiration date: 12/31/2022). The study also received a federal Certificate of Confidentiality (authorized by the Public Health Service Act Section 301(d), 42 U.S.C Section 241 (d), 1988) which authorized the study team to protect the privacy of participants.

2.1.3   Sample Selection

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* team used an iterative process for sample selection and determining case eligibility. A "case" in this context refers to an adoptee sample member from NSCAW I or II, or their adoptive parent, or both the adoptee and their parent. The *NSCAW Adoption Study* sample selection process identified eligible adoptee and adoptive parent cases both prior to and during data collection.

First, the study team identified NSCAW I and II adoptee cases who met preliminary eligibility criteria for inclusion in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* sample. Preliminary eligibility criteria included those who:

- Had a history of foster care placement (prior to adoption),

- Achieved adoption status prior to the end of NSCAW I or II, and

- Were at least 15 years or older as of 4/1/2020.

Cases excluded from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* sample at this preliminary stage included:

- Cases where the adoptee or adoptive parent during the NSCAW I or II data collection asked not to be recontacted for future research.

A total of 944 adoptee cases met these preliminary criteria. The study team conducted case reviews for all 944 adoptee cases to determine eligibility of the sample member and their adoptive parent to complete an adoptee or adoptive parent survey. Twenty adoptees with cognitive disabilities were

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[6] Please note that this report uses the term "adoptees" or "adoptee" to describe the NSCAW I/II child cases that were selected for participation in the *NSCAW Adoption Study*. These cases are the adopted children of the selected adoptive parents. At the time of the *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys, these "adoptees" were youth and adults between 15 and 36 years of age.

excluded from participating in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptee survey (see **Table 3**). The study team defined cognitive disabilities according to NSCAW I or II standardized measures that indicated the sampled youth/adult would not have capacity to consent for a new study survey. For these cases, only the adoptive parents were selected to be approached for a survey as part of the *NSCAW Adoption Study*. The study team identified another 138 adoptive parent and 85 adoptee cases ineligible to participate in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* (see **Table 3** and associated footnote). The study team conducted tracing and locating efforts with the remaining 806 adoptive parent cases and 839 adoptee cases to identify accurate contact information for potential survey participants.

Tracing and locating efforts identified some adoptee and adoptive parent cases as deceased (see **Table 3**). Tracing and locating efforts also failed to locate any address or telephone number for some cases. Data collection efforts also identified other cases that should not have been eligible for the study (e.g., a child adopted by a stepparent). Overall, tracing, locating, and data collection efforts identified 706 adoptive parents and 803 adoptee cases eligible to be approached about completing an *NSCAW Adoption Study* survey.

Table 3 shows final case eligibility status by sample type (adoptive parent or adoptee) and the number of cases identified as ineligible through case review, because of a child's cognitive disability, decreased, or deemed ineligible from information gathered through tracing and data collection sample verification efforts.[7]

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[7] The study team used a verification process to ensure that they were collecting data from the correct former NSCAW participant. For web survey participants, this verification process consisted of asking them to provide their date of birth. If the date provided did not match NSCAW records, the participant was not asked to participate in the study. Study team members routinely reviewed web survey cases. If the team discovered typos (e.g., reversed month and date in a date of birth), a team member recontacted that participant to complete the survey. To verify telephone survey participants, interviewers confirmed that the participant date of birth matched the NSCAW records. If it did not, they confirmed that the participant's address matched the NSCAW records. If both did not match, interviewers confirmed that the participant remembered participating in the original NSCAW study. If the respondent could not be verified through any of these procedures, the case was determined to be ineligible.

Table 3.   NSCAW I/II Adoption Case Eligibility

Status	Adoptive Parent	Adoptee
NSCAW I and II cases identified as having a history of foster care placement, "Ever Adopted,"[a] and >15 years as of 4/1/2020	—	**944**
Ineligible by case review[b]	138	85
Ineligible because of cognitive disability[c]	Not applicable	20
Cases Advancing to Field for Tracing and Locating	**806**	**839**
Ineligible, deceased[d]	95	9
Ineligible, other[e]	5	27
Total Cases Eligible for the *NSCAW Adoption Study* Survey	**706**	**803**
From NSCAW I	546	627
From NSCAW II	160	176

[a] Eligible adoption cases from NSCAW I and II were identified by a derived variable in both the NSCAW I and NSCAW II datasets. This variable ("ever adopted") is based on caregiver report that the current caregiver is an adoptive mother or father. If that information is missing, the derived adoption variable includes the caregiver or child instrument general variables from the case initiation database. This includes information from data collected during the sampling process from the designated NSCAW study child welfare agency liaison. Information from the agency liaison is then confirmed during the caregiver or child surveys. In the case of NSCAW II, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System files are available through Wave 2 to indicate that the child exited foster care to permanency through adoption.

[b] Identified as ineligible during project team case review. Reasons for ineligibility included sealed adoption cases (no contact information available for the parent or child), cases with no foster care placement history (e.g., adopted by a stepparent), and cases with no completed adoptive parent survey during NSCAW I/II (and where there was no available information to use for contacting an adoptive parent for survey).

[c] Secondary data from NSCAW I/II indicated the presence of a serious cognitive impairment during childhood that would prevent the sampled youth/adult from having the capacity to consent for a new study survey. This included youth or adults whose standardized scores on both the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test and Woodcock Johnson Tests of Academic Achievement were < 70 at the last available NSCAW I/II survey; or those reported to have "mental retardation" or "Down Syndrome" by a caregiver in the last available NSCAW I/II survey by a caregiver. Only adoptive parents were contacted for these cases.

[d] Tracing and locating efforts indicated the sample individual was deceased. Cases of a deceased adoptive parent were still eligible for the parent survey; in these cases, interviewers attempted to identify another living adoptive parent. The number included in this row indicates deceased parents where no other parent respondent was identified to participate.

[e] Tracing and locating efforts provided information that the adoptee was ineligible to participate in the study (e.g., no identified NSCAW case at contact address) or data collection efforts indicated that the adoptee was ineligible (e.g., stepchild identified through preliminary survey responses). Cases were also determined to be ineligible for data collection when the study team could not identify at least one piece of contact information associated with that case (i.e., address or telephone number).

2.1.4   *Final Analytic Sample*

The final analytic sample includes eligible *NSCAW Adoption Study* cases where there was a completed or partially completed adoptive parent survey, completed or partially completed adoptee survey, or a completed or partially completed adoptive parent and adoptee survey.

Table 4 shows the final case status for the 706 eligible adoptive parent and 803 eligible adoptee cases. The final case status describes the final state of cases at the end of the *NSCAW Adoption Study* data collection period. A lower proportion of adoptees completed or partially completed the survey

compared to adoptive parents (25.66% and 41.79%, respectively). This difference was the result of the higher proportion of adoptees who were not able to be contacted, rather than a higher rate of refusal or non-survey (see **Table 4** for details).

Table 4.   Final Case Status of all Eligible Cases

Final Case Status	Adoptive Parent (N = 706)	Adoptee (N = 803)
Partially Completed Survey [a]	1.00% (7 cases)	0.63% (5 cases)
Completed Survey[b]	40.79% (288 cases)	25.03% (201 cases)
Unable to Contact[c]	26.49% (187 cases)	48.81% (392 cases)
Refusal or Passive Refusal[d]	17.56% (124 cases)	14.32% (115 cases)
Other non-survey[e]	14.16% (100 cases)	11.21% (90 cases)

[a] A partial survey was defined as a survey where the respondent, at minimum, provided a response to the first item within the post adoption instability module (regarding the prevalence of foster care reentry after adoption). Surveys completed by participants that did not complete this item were not included in study analyses.

[b] A complete survey was defined as a survey where the participant provided a response to each item assessing the prevalence of post adoption instability events.

[c] The participant was never reached by phone, email, or in-person tracing and locating efforts. Contact information available (i.e., address, telephone, or email) was never confirmed.

[d] A passive refusal is defined as a situation where the parent of a youth <18 years of age did not give consent for child to participate, or the parent of child <18 years of age was never successfully contacted and so the child was ineligible for the study.

[e] This includes participants who were contacted by the study team, and did not refuse to participate, but never completed the telephone or web survey. This also includes participants who started to complete the survey but did not finish enough items to meet the criteria for either a partial or complete survey.

Despite the differing amount of time that has passed since the last follow-up waves for NSCAW I compared to NSCAW II, few to no differences in final case status were observed across sample members from the two cohorts. For example, the study team was unable to contact 27.11% of adoptive parents from NSCAW I and 24.38% of adoptive parents from NSCAW II. The study team was unable to contact 46.73% of adoptees from NSCAW I and 56.25% of adoptees from NSCAW II.

In total, 295 adoptive parents and 206 adoptees completed or partially completed surveys for this new study (see **Table 5** for sample sizes and response rates). By parent or adoptee self-report or both, these surveys collectively provide information about 383 adopted persons who were also NSCAW I/II participants. Because both the adoptive parent and adoptee surveys included parallel modules to assess post adoption instability, the final analytic sample size for research questions on the core outcome of interest, post adoption instability, is 383. Although this final analytic sample size of 383 will be used to examine the prevalence or post adoption instability, not all research questions use the final analytic sample size. For some research questions, only data from completed adoptive parent or adoptee surveys are used. This is explained in greater detail in **Section 2.4.2 Statistical Analysis Strategies**.

Table 5.   Number of Completed/Partially Completed Surveys and Response Rates

Status	Total Number or Proportion of Adoptive Parent Cases	Total Number or Proportion of Adoptee Cases	Total Number or Proportion of Cases with a Completed Adoptee or Adoptive Parent Survey (or Both)
Total Eligible	706	803	853
Total with a Completed or Partially Completed Survey	295	206	383
Response Rate	41.79%	25.65%	44.90%

2.1.5   *Characteristics of Participants Who Did and Did Not Complete Surveys*

The study team conducted analyses to determine potential biases in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* full analytic sample for the purpose of estimating post adoption instability (RQ1, the primary RQ). On the one hand, if completed cases showed significantly higher risks for post adoption instability than not-completed cases, post adoption instability prevalence rates resulting from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* might have an upward bias (i.e., be inaccurately high). If, on the other hand, completed cases showed significantly lower risks for post adoption instability than not-completed cases, estimated post adoption instability prevalence rates might have a downward bias (i.e., be inaccurately low).

Table 6 compares the characteristics of all eligible cases—using variables matched at the case level from NSCAW I or II—for the full analytic sample (where an adoptive parent or adoptee or both completed or partially completed the survey [n = 383]) with those where neither parent nor adoptee respondent completed the survey (n = 470[8]). This analysis examines differences between the two groups in terms of risk for post adoption instability. The characteristics shown in *Table 6* were selected for analysis as they were available in the NSCAW I/II secondary data for all eligible cases and are associated with post adoption instability in the research literature.

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[8] This case count (n = 470) represents the total number of cases eligible for either an adoptive parent or adoptee survey (n = 853) minus the number of cases where one or both participants completed a survey (n = 383).

Table 6.   Characteristics of Completed[a] and Not Completed Cases

Characteristic[b]	Number and Proportion of Total Cases (all eligible) N = 853		Number and Proportion of Complete Cases (parent or adoptee response or both) n = 383		Number and Proportion of Incomplete Cases (neither parent nor adoptee response) N = 470		X^2	P-value[d]
	N	% (SE[c])	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)		
Adoptee Demographic Characteristics[e]								
Child Sex at NSCAW Baseline Survey								
• Female	418	51.00 (1.71)	200	52.22 (2.55)	252	53.62 (2.30)	2.88	0.09
• Male	435	49.00 (1.71)	183	47.78 (2.55)	218	46.38 (2.30)		
• Missing/No survey	0		0		0			
Child Race/Ethnicity at NSCAW Baseline Survey								
• Black, non-Hispanic	305	36.05 (1.65)	131	34.66 (2.45)	174	37.18 (2.24)	4.15	0.25
• White, non-Hispanic	354	41.84 (1.70)	172	45.50 (2.56)	182	38.89 (2.25)		
• Hispanic	143	16.90 (1.29)	57	15.08 (1.84)	86	18.38 (1.79)		
• Other	44	5.20 (0.76)	18	4.76 (1.10)	26	5.56 (1.06)		
• Missing/No survey	7		5		2			
Adoptive Parent Demographic Characteristics[e]								
Adoptive Parent Age at First Completed NSCAW Survey after Adoption								
• <45 years	355	49.72 (1.87)	179	52.65 (2.71)	176	47.06 (2.58)	9.60	**0.01**
• 45–65 years	333	46.64 (1.87)	156	45.88 (2.70)	177	47.33 (2.58)		
• >65 years	26	3.64 (0.70)	5	1.47 (0.65)	21	5.61 (1.19)		
• Missing/No survey	139		43		96			

a   Completed cases include those with either a completed or partially completed survey.

b   Source: NSCAW I or II secondary data for eligible adoption cases.

c   SE is the standard error of the percentage.

d   p-values are obtained from chi-square (X^2) tests of independence, which test whether there is a statistical difference between two or more categorical variables (e.g., males vs. females). P-values smaller than .05 indicate a statistically significant difference between the two groups on that characteristic. Statistically significant differences are represented by bold font.

e   Secondary data about adoptive parent or adoptee characteristics was acquired at the first available completed survey after a child's date of adoption. If there were missing data at that wave (i.e., an adoptive parent did not complete a survey at the first data collection wave after the child's adoption), data were pulled from the first available completed wave after the child's adoption date.

Survey of National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW)
Adopted Youth, Young Adults, Adults, and Adoptive Parents

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Characteristic[b]	Number and Proportion of Total Cases (all eligible) N = 853		Number and Proportion of Complete Cases (parent or adoptee response or both) n = 383		Number and Proportion of Incomplete Cases (neither parent nor adoptee response) N = 470		X[2]	P-value[d]
	N	% (SE[c])	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)		
Adoptive Parent Race/Ethnicity								
• Black, non-Hispanic	200	27.06 (1.64)	96	27.35 (2.38)	104	26.80 (2.25)	5.52	0.14
• White, non-Hispanic	401	54.26 (1.83)	201	57.26 (2.64)	200	51.55 (2.54)		
• Hispanic	92	12.45 (1.22)	34	9.69 (1.58)	58	14.95 (1.81)		
• Other	46	6.22 (0.89)	20	5.70 (1.24)	26	6.70 (1.27)		
• Missing/No survey	114		32		82			
Adopted Child's Maltreatment History[f] (at NSCAW Baseline, or Time of Maltreatment Investigation)								
Most Serious Type of Maltreatment								
• Physical Abuse	138	18.25 (1.41)	67	19.71 (2.16)	71	17.07 (1.85)	5.82	0.13
• Sexual Abuse	68	8.99 (1.04)	26	7.65 (1.44)	42	10.10 (1.48)		
• Neglect	382	50.53 (1.82)	161	47.35 (2.71)	221	53.13 (2.45)		
• Other	168	22.22 (1.51)	86	25.29 (2.36)	82	19.71 (1.95)		
• Missing/No survey	97		43		54			
Level of Harm to Child[g]								
• No/mild	265	34.91 (1.73)	105	30.52 (2.48)	160	38.55 (2.39)	5.35	**0.02**
• Moderate/severe	494	65.09 (1.73)	239	69.48 (2.48)	255	61.45 (2.39)		
• Missing/No survey	94		39		55			
Special Needs or Behavior Problems								
• Yes	253	38.82 (1.73)	115	33.92 (2.57)	138	33.74 (2.34)	0.00	0.96
• No	495	66.18 (1.73)	224	66.08 (2.57)	271	66.26 (2.34)		
• Missing/No survey	105		44		61			
Exposure to Domestic Violence								
• Yes	300	43.92 (1.90)	143	46.13 (2.83)	157	42.09 (2.56)	1.12	0.29
• No	383	56.08 (1.90)	167	53.87 (2.83)	216	57.91 (2.56)		
• Missing/No survey	170		73		97			

[f] Maltreatment history describes characteristics of the index maltreatment report that formed the basis for the child's eligibility to participate in the NSCAW I or II study. The variables come from the risk assessment module within NSCAW. This information is reported by caseworkers at the NSCAW baseline survey. The NSCAW baseline survey is completed after the close of the sampled child's maltreatment investigation.

[g] This variable reflects the caseworker's assessment of the level of harm associated with the child's index maltreatment report.

Characteristic[b]	Number and Proportion of Total Cases (all eligible) N = 853		Number and Proportion of Complete Cases (parent or adoptee response or both) n = 383		Number and Proportion of Incomplete Cases (neither parent nor adoptee response) N = 470		X²	P-value[d]
	N	% (SE[c])	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)		
Early Adoption Child Characteristics[h] (at the First Completed NSCAW Survey after Adoption)								
Child Age								
• ≤3 years	244	32.32 (1.70)	124	34.93 (2.53)	120	30.00 (2.29)	5.12	0.16
• 4–5 years	110	14.57 (1.28)	54	15.21 (1.91)	56	14.00 (1.74)		
• 6–9 years	194	25.70 (1.59)	93	26.20 (2.34)	101	25.25 (2.17)		
• 10 years and older	207	27.42 (1.62)	84	23.66 (2.26)	123	30.75 (2.31)		
• Missing/No survey	98		28		70			
Total Number of Out of Home Placement Changes Prior to Adoption								
• ≤1 placement change	405	48.91 (1.74)	167	44.89 (2.58)	238	52.19 (2.34)	5.92	0.05
• 2–3 placement changes	306	36.96 (1.68)	154	41.40 (2.56)	152	33.33 (2.21)		
• ≥4 placement changes	117	14.13 (1.21)	51	13.71 (1.78)	66	14.47 (1.65)		
• Missing/No survey	25		11		14			
Behavioral Health Problem[i] (by parent report on the CBCL)								
• Yes	204	26.91 (1.61)	91	25.49 (2.31)	113	28.18 (2.25)	0.69	0.40
• No	554	73.09 (1.61)	266	74.51 (2.31)	288	71.82 (2.25)		
• Missing/No survey	95		26		69			
Early Adoption Parent Characteristics[h] (at the First Completed NSCAW Survey after Adoption)								
Adoptive Parent's Relationship to Adopted Child								
• Kin	202	30.61 (1.80)	86	28.20 (2.58)	116	32.68 (2.49)	1.55	0.21
• Non-Kin	458	69.39 (1.80)	219	71.80 (2.58)	239	67.32 (2.49)		
• Missing/No survey	193		78		115			
Adoptive Parent Marital Status								
• Married	475	62.83 (1.76)	234	65.55 (2.52)	241	60.40 (2.45)	2.14	0.14
• Not Married	281	37.17 (1.76)	123	34.45 (2.52)	158	39.60 (2.45)		
• Missing/No survey	97		26		71			

[h] Data on the "early adoption" characteristics of children and parents are taken from the first available completed NSCAW survey after the child's date of adoption (as derived within the NSCAW datasets). This could reflect characteristics only a few months after the child's adoption or more than a year after the child's adoption. This varies by child and depends on the timing of the completed NSCAW survey wave in relation to the child's date of adoption.

[i] Child behavior problems were measured by adoptive parent report on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL; Achenbach, 1991). Child with Total Problem Scores (TPS) in the clinically significant range, 1.5 standard deviations above the norm (CBCL TPS >= 64) were defined as a child having a behavior problem.

Characteristic[b]	Number and Proportion of Total Cases (all eligible) N = 853		Number and Proportion of Complete Cases (parent and/or adoptee response or both) n = 383		Number and Proportion of Incomplete Cases (neither parent nor adoptee response) N = 470		X²	P-value[d]
	N	% (SE[c])	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)		
Adoptive Parent Physical Limitations[j]								
• Yes	134	18.04 (1.41)	57	16.15 (1.96)	77	19.74 (2.02)	1.62	0.20
• No	609	81.96 (1.41)	296	83.85 (1.96)	313	80.26 (2.02)		
• Missing/No survey	110		30		80			
Adoptive Parent Mental Health Problems[k]								
• Yes	47	6.33 (0.89)	19	5.38 (1.20)	28	7.18 (1.31)	1.01	0.31
• No	696	93.67 (0.89)	334	94.62 (1.20)	362	92.82 (1.31)		
• Missing/No survey	110		30		80			

[j] Adoptive parent physical limitations were measured by the Short Form-12 (SF-12, Ware, Kosinski, & Keller, 1996), Physical Health Component (PHC). Standardized scores 1.5 standard deviations below the norm (PHC scores <= 35) were considered to reflect the presence of physical health limitations.

[k] Adoptive parent mental health problems were measured by the Short Form-12 (SF-12, Ware, Kosinski, & Keller, 1996), Mental Health Component (MHC). Standardized scores 1.5 standard deviations below the norm (MHC scores <= 35) were considered to reflect the presence of mental health problems.

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As illustrated in **Table 6**, the *NSCAW Adoption Study* completed and not completed cases are very similar. Of the 15 characteristics compared, only 2 show a statistically significant difference (see **Table 6**): (1) adoptive parent age shortly after adoption and (2) maltreatment level of harm to child (reported by caseworker at the NSCAW I/II baseline data collection). Specifically, completed cases tended to involve adoptive parents who were younger at the time of their child's adoption than the parents associated with not completed cases (X^2 = 9.60; p = .02). Additionally, completed cases were described by caseworker report in NSCAW I/II as more likely to have had moderate/severe harm associated with the child's maltreatment report than not completed cases (X^2 = 5.35; p = .01).

However, these differences would likely have only limited impact on instability. According to previous research, although more severe harm may be associated with higher risk for post adoption instability, findings around the impact of parent age on post adoption instability are inconclusive (White et al., 2018). With so few observed differences between completed and not completed cases, the *NSCAW Adoption Study* final analytic sample appears to lack substantial bias and is likely a well-suited platform for assessing the prevalence of post adoption instability.

2.2   NSCAW Secondary Data and *NSCAW Adoption Study* Survey Instruments

To answer the research questions of interest, secondary data from the NSCAW I or II datasets were merged with newly collected data from two *NSCAW Adoption Study* survey instruments (one for adoptive parents and one for adoptees). The NSCAW I and II secondary data include information about the adoption history and risk and protective factors related to instability. The study team identified risk and protective factors from the research literature. Measures of relevant risk and protective factors at the child, parent, and family levels were acquired through the NSCAW I and II secondary data and through the new primary data collection effort. More detailed descriptions of the information used from the NSCAW I/II secondary datasets and from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* survey instruments are provided below.

2.2.1   *Use of NSCAW I/II Secondary Data*

The NSCAW I and II datasets are archived at National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect. Both datasets include information on child, parent, and family characteristics both before and after adoption.

The study team selected relevant NSCAW I and II variables that (1) could address the research questions of interest, (2) were available in both the NSCAW I and NSCAW II datasets, and (3) had comparable item wording and response options across the two datasets. The study team then merged the selected variables at the case level with data from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys for the 383 cases included in the final analytic sample (with a completed adoptive parent or adoptee survey or both). Selected variables from the NSCAW I and II datasets include the following:

▪ Child sex and race/ethnicity (at NSCAW baseline)

▪ Child NSCAW baseline maltreatment characteristics (type, severity, exposure to domestic violence)

▪ Foster care placement history (i.e., number of placement changes) prior to adoption

▪ Child special health care needs at the time of the child's NSCAW baseline maltreatment investigation

- Child date of adoption

- Child age at adoption

- Child kinship relationship to the adoptive parent

- Adoptive parent age (during early adoption period[9]) and race/ethnicity

- Adoptive parent marital status (during early adoption period)

- Adoptive parent physical and mental health status (during early adoption period)

- Child emotional or behavioral health problems (during early adoption period)

Child date of adoption and age at adoption represent complex variables derived by the study team from the NSCAW I and II secondary datasets. Because more than one variable captures this information in the NSCAW datasets, these derived variables pull information from either caseworker or caregiver report across multiple waves of data collection and several instrument modules. **Appendix B** describes the derivation process for these two variables.

2.2.2   NSCAW Adoption Study Survey Instruments

This study used two instruments for the new data collection effort: *the Survey of NSCAW Adopted Youth, Young Adults, and Adults* (Adoptee Instrument) and the *Survey of NSCAW Adoptive Parents* (Parent Instrument). Copies of these instruments are included in **Appendix C** (Adoptee Instrument) and **Appendix D** (Parent Instrument). Generally, these study instruments measured post adoption instability and the context surrounding instability events. **Table 7** describes the types of post adoption instability assessed (in both the Adoptee and Parent Instruments) and associated instrument item wording.

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[9]Data on the "early adoption" characteristics of children and parents are taken from the first available completed NSCAW survey after the child's date of adoption (as derived within the NSCAW datasets). This could reflect characteristics only a few months after the child's adoption or more than a year after the child's adoption. This varies by child and depends on the timing of the completed NSCAW survey wave in relation to the child's date of adoption.

Table 7.   Post Adoption Instability Experiences Assessed and Definitions Provided to Participants

Type of Instability Assessed[a]	Instrument Definitions Provided to Study Participants
Formal Instability	
Termination of parental rights or child's emancipation	*Parental rights were terminated after adoption was finalized, or child was legally emancipated with a court order before they turned 18 years old.*
Foster care reentry	*Child lived in foster care after adoption. Foster care refers to a child living with a foster parent who is not related to the child, for example, not living with their grandparent or some other relative and not living in a group home.*
Informal Instability	
Child runs away	*Child ran away from home after adoption. Running away is defined in the following way: a minor leaving home for over 24 hours or going missing for more than 24 hours and their parent not knowing where they are.*
Child experiences some period of homelessness	*Child spend one or more nights homeless without adoptive parent, for example, living inside a car, in an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or couch surfing.*
Child spends time in a transitional living program	*Child lived in a transitional housing program without adoptive parent. Transitional housing is a temporary accommodation before permanent housing.*
Child lives temporarily with a grandparent[b]	*Child lived without adoptive parent in a grandparent's home.*
Child lives temporarily with another relative[b]	*Child lived without adoptive parent in another relative's home. This includes relatives related to the child by birth or adoption. Please do not include a grandparent's home.*
Child lives temporarily with another adult caregiver[b]	*Child lived without adoptive parent at another adult's home, for example, an older friend's home, with a friend's family or parent(s), with a boyfriend, girlfriend, or romantic partner's parent(s), or in a neighbor's home*
Child leaves home prior to age of 18 years[c]	*How old was the child when they left home for the first time to live someplace else? Why did the child leave home the first time?*
Other Interruptions in Care	
Residential treatment or group home	*Child lived in a group home or a residential treatment center. A group home is a residence intended to serve as an alternative to a family foster home. Homes normally house 4 to 12 youth, offering the use of community resources, including employment, health care, education, and recreational opportunities. A residential treatment center is a 24-hour inpatient facility that provides a range of therapeutic and support services for children by a team of professionals.*
Juvenile detention	*Child spent at least one night in juvenile detention or was taken into custody for an illegal or delinquent offense.*

[a] Each question about post adoption instability reminded the respondent: "We are only interested in learning whether there were times when [CHILD/you] did not live with [parents] after [his/her/their/your] adoption was finalized, but before [he/she/they/you] turned 18."

[b] Positive ("yes") responses to these items were only coded as "informal instability" if one of the following reasons was provided by the respondent: parents did not feel safe at home, child needed help with emotions or behaviors, child needed help to manage drinking or drug use, parents could not afford services, parent asked child to leave, child did not feel gender or sexual identity was accepted, child did not feel racial/ethnic identity was accepted, child did not feel safe at home.

[c] Positive ("yes") responses to these items were only coded as "informal instability" if one of the following reasons was provided by the parent or child respondent: child was asked to leave home by the parent, child preferred to live with biological family, child needed group home or residential treatment services, child didn't feel gender or sexual identity was accepted, child didn't feel racial/ethnic identity was accepted.

If a participant endorsed "yes" to any of the post adoption instability experiences described in **Table 7**, the participant answered several follow-up questions. These questions asked participants to describe the child's age at the time of the instability experience, whether contact continued between the adoptive family members and the adoptee after the instability experience, the family context during the time of the instability experience, whether services were received during this time, and whether the child ever returned to live with the adoptive family.

In addition to post adoption instability, both *NSCAW Adoption Study* survey instruments also measured (see **Appendices C** and **D**):

- Demographic characteristics

- Adoptee's current living situation

- Adoption history

- Current relationships with biological and adoptive family members

- Parent's adoption motivations

- Parent's reflections on the adoption experience (parent instrument only)

- Perceptions of closeness between the adoptive parent and adoptee

- Perceptions of family cohesion and functioning during childhood

- Adoptee's current health and mental health status (adoptee instrument only)

- Adoptee's history of health and mental health problems during childhood (parent instrument only)

- Current social support (adoptee instrument only)

- Perceptions of family cohesion and functioning during childhood (parent instrument only)

- Parenting stress/burden (parent instrument only)

- Post adoption services and support

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* relies on the retrospective reporting of adoptive parents and adoptees about their adoption histories and experiences with post adoption instability. *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys were conducted in 2021 and 2022, several years after the adoptee's adoption. The passage of time may have changed perceptions of the context surrounding the instability events or presented challenges to participants' accurately recalling event details. For this reason, both the adoptive parent and adoptee surveys included items asking about post adoption instability.

2.3   Data Collection Procedures

Data collection occurred over the course of an 8-month period, beginning on June 16, 2021, and ending on March 7, 2022. This section describes the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on study data collection (**Section 2.3.1**) and the study's data collection procedures, including tracing and locating of eligible study participants (**Section 2.3.2**); mailings sent to eligible participants (**Section 2.3.3**); and web and telephone survey methods (**Section 2.3.4**).

2.3.1   COVID-19 Considerations

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* data collection period overlapped with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The study team originally planned to initiate in-person tracing and locating efforts after 2 months of mail and telephone outreach. However, concerns over risks of spreading the COVID-19 virus prohibited in-person tracing and locating efforts during the beginning of the data collection period. Consequently, for the first 5 months of data collection, the study team prioritized sample member locating activities that did not require any in-person contact, such as repeated mailings and telephone outreach. In-person tracing and locating efforts occurred during the last 3 months of data collection. Since the study conducted less in-person tracing and locating than originally planned, the COVID-19 pandemic may have negatively impacted the study team's ability to locate eligible participants.

2.3.2   Tracing and Locating Eligible Study Participants

Data collection began with tracing and locating the former NSCAW I and II participants identified as eligible for the *NSCAW Adoption Study.* The study team conducted many tracing and locating strategies to gather contact information for eligible study participants. These included database searches; telephone, mail, and email outreach; outreach to the secondary contacts provided by the NSCAW I and II participants; and in-person visits to addresses identified through prior locating efforts. Each of these strategies is described in more detail below.

First, study team members confirmed the contact information for all eligible parent and adoptee participants through a series of database searches (e.g., LexisNexis). Using candidate physical addresses obtained from these searches, study team members sent eligible participants a letter in the mail requesting that they provide updated contact information to the study team (e.g., telephone number, email address). This letter reminded participants of their past participation in the original NSCAW study and described the *NSCAW Adoption Study* opportunity. This mailing also included a prepaid postcard and a toll-free number for eligible sample members to confirm or provide updates to their contact information.

If the database searches did not identify any address for eligible participants, study team members contacted eligible participants by telephone and asked for their mail and email addresses. The *NSCAW Adoption Study* team also made telephone calls to secondary contacts (family and friends) of eligible participants if they were unable to reach participants. This strategy was possible because, during their participation in previous waves of NSCAW I and II data collection, all participants provided contact information for secondary contacts to aid with future tracing and locating efforts.

Additional locating was done throughout the data collection process. Telephone interviewers attempted to contact all cases with a valid telephone number. If the interviewer completed a survey with one family member respondent (parent or adoptee), they requested contact information for the other family member who had not yet participated in the study.

The study team could not reach more than half of eligible participants by telephone or mail. For these participants, the study team initiated in-person locating efforts. All in-person locating activities took place outdoors and consisted of doorstep interactions with current residents, neighbors, and landlords to generate new leads for locating eligible participants. Tracing and locating efforts identified 1–9 possible addresses for each adoptive parent participant (2 on average) and 1–11 possible addresses for

each adoptee participant (2 on average). For respondents with multiple candidate addresses, the study team defined one primary address. This primary address included the best validated address among all possible for each individual respondent. This meant that the primary address was confirmed by a primary or secondary contact, found by a database search, or identified from a previous NSCAW data collection wave. The study team prioritized the location of this primary address for in-person tracing and locating efforts. If secondary addresses were in geographic proximity to primary addresses, study team members visited these secondary addresses in person. If, however, secondary addresses were not clustered around an adequate number of respondent primary addresses, study team members did not visit these secondary addresses in person.

Once an eligible participant was located, study team staff encouraged the participant to complete the web survey or call in to participate in the telephone survey.

2.3.3   Mailings to Participants

In addition to the letter requesting participants to update their contact information, all eligible participants also received a lead letter mailing, which explained the purpose of the study and asked for eligible participants' cooperation. Letters to adoptive parents directly referenced the study's focus on adoption. Letters to adoptees did not reference adoption to avoid disclosing adoption status to adoptees who might not be aware of their adoption. This lead letter mailing included:

- a letter describing the study,

- a fact sheet about the study's participation requirements,

- an informed consent statement (see **Section 2.3.4** for more information), and

- a list of service and support resources.

Participants who refused to complete the survey by telephone were sent a "refusal" mailing asking if they would be willing to complete a web survey. Participants who did not respond to telephone call attempts or in-person home visits received an "unable to contact" mailing. In addition to information describing the study opportunity, these two mailings each included a web address to complete the survey along with a QR code containing the web survey link.

In total, each address received a minimum of two mailings (contact information update request and lead letter) and a maximum of 11 mailings (contact information update request, lead letter, and up to 9 unable to contact or refusal letters). Two of the nonresponse mailings were sent via FedEx rather than through the U.S. Postal Service as a strategy to increase response rates.

2.3.4   Web and Telephone Survey Methods

All eligible adult participants received an *NSCAW Adoption Study* consent statement by mail. This statement included assurances that the research team will protect the privacy of respondents, that participation is voluntary, and that participants may withdraw their consent at any time without any negative consequences.

Eligible adoptive parents and adoptee participants 18 years or older could complete the survey by web or by telephone. As requested by the Institutional Review Board, eligible adoptees between 15 and 17

years of age could only complete the survey by telephone. Eligible parent participants provided consent for their child 15-17 years old to participate; the minor youth provided assent only after parent consent was given. Web survey participants read and signed the consent statement electronically, prior to completing the survey. Telephone survey participants had the consent or assent statement read to them prior to the administration of survey items.

Most participants completed the surveys by web; 74% of adoptive parents and 86% of adoptees chose to complete the web survey. The remainder completed the survey by telephone. On average, the adoptive parent web surveys took 42 minutes to complete and the adoptive parent telephone surveys took 76 minutes to complete. The adoptee web surveys took an average of 30 minutes to complete; the adoptee telephone survey took an average of 71 minutes to complete.

Participants who completed a web or telephone survey received a $30 Amazon gift card for their time.

2.4   Analysis

This section of the report describes power calculations in support of planned analyses (*Section 2.4.1*), available data sources and their use in analysis (*Section 2.4.2*), methods for coding open-ended survey responses (*Section 2.4.3*), and the strategies planned for statistical analysis (*Section 2.4.4)*. All analyses are designed to provide responses to the five *NSCAW Adoption Study* research questions (RQs) focused on prevalence of instability (RQ1), risk and protective factors for instability (RQ2 and 3), and services and supports accessible to families (RQ4 and 5).

This study is intended to present an internally valid description of the extent of instability, and risk factors for instability, among children adopted after living in foster care. It is not intended to promote statistical generalization to other populations of children, youth, and young adults.

2.4.1   Power Calculations

Power analysis calculations estimate the required sample sizes for obtaining minimum detectable effect size for the types of planned analyses. The primary focus for the power analysis is the two primary research questions (RQ1 and RQ2), which focus on estimating the prevalence of both formal and informal instability events (RQ1) and the factors associated with this instability (RQ2). The study team conducted all power analyses using PASS 14 (2015), assuming 0.8 power and a Type I error rate of $\alpha = .05$, as is typical for social science research studies (Cohen, 1992).

Power analysis requires a best guess of the prevalence of instability prior to estimating the sample size required to achieve a desired level of statistical power (e.g., 0.80). Based on prior research, the project team anticipated that approximately 5%–20% of the NSCAW adoptee sample will experience instability (either formal or informal). Because some research questions propose to examine formal and informal instability separately, the project team also considered power to examine differences in these types of instability. Based on the literature, the project team expected that formal instability will occur in approximately 10% of all adoption cases when followed 10 years post adoption. However, there is no direct empirically based estimate of the prevalence of informal instability. Drawing on indirect guesses from the literature and prior experience, the project team estimated that informal instability would occur in approximately 5% of the NSCAW I/II adoptee sample and used this estimate as the best guess for the power analysis.

Consistent with Cohen's (1992) method for estimating power, analyses show that 250 adoption cases should support the estimation of either formal or informal instability with an acceptable margin of error. The margin of error expresses the amount of error surrounding a given estimate. To estimate the occurrence of instability in the adoptee group, with a sample size of 250, the size of the 95% confidence interval would include a margin of error equal to ±3% to ±4%. For statistical tests designed to examine risk or protective factors for instability that occur among ~10% of adoption cases, the study team should be able to detect medium effect sizes for predictors of instability with a sample size of 250 cases. Effect sizes describe how strong the relationship between two factors may be (i.e., child sex and formal post adoption instability). For models designed to predict instability events among 5% or less of adoption cases, the study will require a sample size more comparable to 500 cases to detect medium effects.

Study instruments assessed instability events identically within both the adoptive parent and adoptee surveys. Consequently, data on both formal and informal instability events are available for 383 adoption cases. Considering power analysis results, this final analytic sample size is sufficient to estimate the occurrence of both formal and informal instability. The sample size will also support predictions of risk and protective factors for instability that occurs among 10% or more of the adoption cases. However, this sample size will be limited to detect medium effect sizes within predictive models estimating instability events that occur among less than 5% of the adoption cases.

2.4.2   Use of Data Sources in Analysis

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* includes multiple data sources that support analysis of the study's five RQs:(1) information gathered from secondary analysis of NSCAW I and NSCAW II data and (2) the two surveys with NSCAW adoptive parent and adoptee participants. Only RQ2 requires the use of the NSCAW I and II secondary data to examine risk and protective factors associated with post adoption instability. All other RQs utilize data from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys of adoptive parents and adoptees.

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* also includes three possible samples: (1) the full analytic sample (N = 383), where cases include a completed or partially completed survey by either an adoptee or adoptive parent or both, (2) the parent participant sample (N=295) of parent-completed surveys, and (3) the adoptee participant sample (N=206) of adoptee-completed surveys. Due to the structure and content of the study surveys and data sources, each of these samples are used to answer different research questions. For RQ3 and RQ5, the relevant survey items were asked differently for parent and adoptee participants. As such, results for RQ3 and RQ5 are analyzed separately for the adoptive parent and adoptee samples. However, the relevant survey items for RQs 1, 2, and 4 were identical across the parent and adoptee surveys; therefore, the full analytic sample (N = 383) is used to address RQs 1, 2, and 4, because it offers the greatest statistical power.

Several items within the adoptive parent survey and the adoptee survey are structured to be identical. This includes all the items that assess post adoption instability and several items assessing risk and protective factors for post adoption instability. When responses to these survey items are available only from one participant or another, the study team used the available response for analysis (allowing one respondent's data to replace the other's missing response). When responses are available from both an adoptive parent and adoptee, the study team derived decision rules and hierarchies for using one or

both respondents' data. These decision rules and their rationale are described in the **Section 3: Findings** supporting text, derived variable definitions, and table footnotes.

2.4.3   Coding Open-Ended Survey Responses

RQ5 investigates participants' perceptions of the facilitators and barriers to accessing support services for adoptive families. To answer this RQ, both adoptive parent and adoptee participants were asked open-ended questions in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys about facilitators and barriers to accessing services.

The open-ended responses were coded by two study team members, or coders. Each coder reviewed the open-ended data files and developed their own response categories. Then, the two coders met to discuss the categories developed and identify any differences. Although there was agreement on the categories, minor differences included naming conventions and whether a response should be included in a particular category. Ultimately, the senior coder made the final judgment call on the responses that were discussed. Then, the agreed-upon response categories were counted to identify the most common barriers and facilitators reported by participants. Any responses that were unclear or where the participant may have misunderstood the question were coded as missing.

2.4.4   Strategies for Statistical Analysis

Most of the research questions for this study require descriptive analyses. This includes research questions about the prevalence of formal and informal post adoption instability (RQ1), the quality of current parent-child relationships (RQ3), and supports and services accessible to families (RQ4; see **Table 8**). Descriptive analyses in this report include univariate methods to estimate proportions and their associated standard errors. Standard errors estimate the magnitude of uncertainty there is in prevalence estimates and are related to margins of error. The study team estimated group differences related to RQs 1, 3, and 4 through crosstabulations using chi-square tests of independence for two-way frequency tables between two categorical variables (e.g., males and females) and t-tests for group mean differences on continuous variables (e.g., Protective Factors Scale subscale scores).

The research question that examines the relationship between risk and protective factors and post adoption instability (RQ2) requires both descriptive analysis and the use of regression models (specifically, the study team used logistic regression models). Chi-square (X^2) and t-tests are used to estimate whether risk and protective factors for post adoption instability differ by instability status. These test the influence of individual risk and protective factors on instability that are not adjusted by the effects of other variables. Logistic regression models are used to estimate the influence of all risk and protective factors together, adjusting for the influence of multiple variables. These logistic regression models represent adjusted estimates of the risk and protective factor influence on instability, controlling for the influence of all other risk and protective factors in the model. In the logistic regression models, the instability indicators served as outcome variables, with risk and protective factors as predictor variables. First, the study team assessed risk and protective factors for collinearity. Collinearity happens when predictors are strongly statistically related to each other. Collinearity reduces the statistical power of a regression model to detect the influence of individual predictors. If two variables were strongly related to each other (i.e., highly correlated), only one variable was included in the final regression model to reduce collinearity. Then, the team estimated both unadjusted (i.e., one predictor at a time) and adjusted risk and protective factor effects. The coefficients from the logistic

regression were transformed to odds ratios (ORs) to demonstrate unadjusted and adjusted effect sizes for the risk and protective factors. The ORs provide information about the likelihood that an instability event will occur, given the risk or protective factor. The regression models used full information maximum likelihood (FIML) to deal with missing data in the predictors (Enders, 2022).

Table 8 summarizes the analytic approach for each RQ along with the data sources, study sample used for analysis, and the section of the report where RQ findings are summarized.

Table 8.   Summary of Research Questions, Data Sources, Samples, and Analytic Approaches

Research Question	Data Source	Sample and Sample Size used in Analysis	Analytic Approach	Results Section
RQ1: To what extent have adopted NSCAW participants experienced post adoption formal and informal instability?	*NSCAW Adoption Study* Survey Instruments	Full Analytic Sample[a]	Proportions	*3.2.1*
RQ2: What are the risk and protective factors for post adoption instability at the individual child, parent, and family levels?	*NSCAW Adoption Study* Survey Instruments and NSCAW I/II secondary data	Full Analytic Sample[a]	Proportions, Crosstabulation, Logistic regression	*3.3.1*
RQ3: What is the quality of current parent-child relationships among children who exited foster care to permanency through adoption?	*NSCAW Adoption Study* Survey Instruments	Parent Participant Sample[b] and Adoptee Participant Sample[c]	Proportions	*3.3.2*
RQ4: What support services are accessible to adopted youth/young adults and adoptive parents experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) post adoption instability?	*NSCAW Adoption Study* Survey Instruments	Full Analytic Sample[a]	Proportions, Crosstabulation	*3.4.1*
RQ5: What are the facilitators and barriers to accessing support services for adoptive families?	*NSCAW Adoption Study* Survey Instruments	Parent Participant Sample[b] and Adoptee Participant Sample[c]	Qualitative summary of participants' open-ended responses	*3.4.2*

[a] Cases in which a survey was completed by an adoptive parent or adoptee or both (N = 383).

[b] Cases in which a survey was completed by the adoptive parent (n = 295).

[c] Cases in which a survey was completed by the adoptee (n = 206).

3. Findings

This section of the report describes findings from the *NSCAW Adoption Study*, including sample demographic characteristics and responses to the five research questions focused on prevalence (RQ1), risk and protective factors (RQ2 and RQ3), and services and supports (RQ4 and RQ5). Results include information gathered from secondary analysis of NSCAW I and NSCAW II data and the primary data surveys with NSCAW adoptive parent and adoptee participants.

Wherever possible, findings represent the full analytic sample (N = 383) relying on adoptive parent report, adoptee report, or both adoptive parent and adoptee report (RQs 1, 2, and 4). For cases where both parent and matched adoptee data are available, table footnotes describe the study team's logic for prioritizing one type of participant's response over the other when reporting study findings. For RQ3 and RQ5, relevant survey questions were asked differently for parent and adoptee participants. As such, combined results across the parent and adoptee samples for these RQs are not possible. These results for RQ3 and RQ5 are presented separately for the adoptee and parent samples.

Throughout the tables of results in *Section 3*, a capital N signifies the full set of participants who completed each survey; a lower-case n signifies a subset of participants who offered responses to a specific item or item series. When interpreting results tables, it is also important to note that not all survey participants completed every survey section. Therefore, the subsamples (n) reported in the tables below vary slightly depending on the underlying subsample of interest for each survey question and the degree of missing data. The characteristics of the subsamples are indicated in the titles and the footnotes of the tables.

3.1   Sample Demographic Characteristics

Three distinct samples are used to answer the five RQs. The full analytic sample of 383 cases includes all eligible sample cases who had a complete[10] or partial[11] adoptive parent or adoptee survey or both. This sample is used to answer RQs 1, 2, and 4. This section first presents the demographic characteristics of this full analytic sample (N = 383; see *Section 3.1.1*). Within this full analytic sample, there is a subsample of 295 complete or partial adoptive parent surveys and a subsample of 206 complete or partial adoptee surveys. These two subsamples are used to answer RQs 3 and 5. Separate tables illustrate the demographic characteristics for the adoptee (N = 206; **Section 3.1.2**) and parent (N = 295; **Section 3.1.3**) participant subsamples.

3.1.1   Full Analytic Sample Demographic Characteristics

Table 9 shows the demographic characteristics of the full analytic sample, including all eligible cases with either a completed adoptee or parent survey or both (N = 383).

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[10]A complete survey was defined as a survey where the participant provided a response to each item assessing the prevalence of post adoption instability events.

[11]A partial survey was defined as a survey where the respondent, at minimum, provided a response to the first item within the post adoption instability module (regarding the prevalence of foster care reentry after adoption). Surveys completed by participants who did not complete this item were not included in study analyses.

As shown, the full analytic sample is evenly split by adoptee sex assigned at birth (52.74% female), and most adopted children are of non-Hispanic ethnicity (84.33%). In terms of racial identity, about half of the sample are White (51.44%). Black or African American is the second-most common race (31.33%) followed by multiple races (8.88%) and "other" (6.27%). Additional races represent less than 1% of the sample. Finally, the mean age of adoptee cases included in the full analytic sample is 23.05 years with ages ranging from 15 to 36 years old.

Table 9.   Full Analytic Sample Demographic Characteristics (N = 383)

Characteristic	N	% (SE[c])
Adoptee Sex Assigned at Birth[a]		
Male	181	47.26 (2.55)
Female	202	52.74 (2.55)
Adoptee Ethnicity[b]		
Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	58	15.14 (1.83)
Non-Hispanic	323	84.33 (1.86)
Don't know	2	0.52 (0.37)
Adoptee Race[b]		
White	197	51.44 (2.56)
Black or African American	120	31.33 (2.37)
Asian	1	0.26 (0.26)
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	0.78 (0.45)
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2	0.52 (0.37)
Other	24	6.27 (1.24)
Multiple Races	34	8.88 (1.46)
Refused	1	0.26 (0.26)
Don't know	1	0.26 (0.26)
Adoptee Current Age (in years)[b]	**Mean (SD[d])**	**Range (min-max)**
	23.05 (4.09)	15 – 36

Note: The sample size numbers for adoptee sex, race and ethnicity in this table differ slightly from those reported for the final analytic sample in **Table 4** in **Section 2**. The **Section 2** table illustrates the characteristics of completed versus not completed survey cases. For that table, we rely on NSCAW I and II secondary data since the secondary data is available for all eligible cases regardless of whether an *NSCAW Adoption Study* survey was completed. This table reflects only those who completed surveys. Here we rely first on the *NSCAW Adoption Study* survey responses. These responses are recent and represent self-report data; consequently, these responses are likely more accurate than the NSCAW secondary data.

[a] This variable was defined first by adoptee participant report and, if missing, using the available NSCAW I or II secondary data.
[b] This variable was defined first by adoptee participant report and, if missing, by parent participant report.
[c] SE is the standard error of the percentage.
[d] SD is the standard deviation of the mean.

3.1.2   *Adoptee Participant Sample Demographic Characteristics*

The adoptee participant sample consists of NSCAW adoptee participants who were adopted at some point during the NSCAW I or II data collection period and completed or partially completed surveys for

the *NSCAW Adoption Study* (N = 206). Not all adoptee participants in this sample have a matched parent participant sample member.

The characteristics of the NSCAW adoptee participant sample are shown in **Table 10**. More than half of participants reported being assigned a female sex assigned at birth (57.77%). Adoptee participants primarily described their gender identity as female (53.88%) or male (41.75%), with a few identifying as transgender (1.46%) or not identifying as male, female, or transgender (2.91%). Most adoptees reported being heterosexual (79.02%), with 6.34% lesbian or gay, and 11.22% bisexual.

The adoptee participants are primarily non-Hispanic (83.50%). In terms of race, about half of the sample are White (50.49%), 30.10% are Black or African American, and 11.17% identify as multiracial. Each other racial category represents less than 6% of the sample. Finally, the mean age of the adoptee participants is 23.67 years with ages ranging from 15 to 36 years old.

Table 10.   **Adoptee Participant Sample Demographic Characteristics (N = 206)**

Characteristic	n	% (SE[d])
Sex Assigned at Birth[a]		
Male	87	42.23 (3.45)
Female	119	57.77 (3.45)
Gender Identity[b]		
Male	86	41.75 (3.44)
Female	111	53.88 (3.48)
Transgender	3	1.46 (0.84)
Do not identify as male, female, or transgender	6	2.91 (1.17)
Sexual Identity[b]		
Straight or heterosexual	162	79.02 (2.85)
Lesbian or gay	13	6.34 (1.71)
Bisexual	23	11.22 (2.21)
Other	4	1.95 (0.97)
Don't know	3	1.46 (0.84)
Ethnicity[c]		
Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	32	15.53 (2.53)
Non-Hispanic	172	83.50 (2.59)
Don't know	2	0.97 (0.68)
Race[c]		
White	104	50.49 (0.49)
Black or African American	62	30.10 (3.20)
Asian	1	0.49 (0.49)
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	0.97 (0.68)
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	0.49 (0.49)
Other	12	5.83 (1.64)
Multiple Races	23	11.17 (2.20)
Refused	1	0.49 (0.49)
Don't know	0	0
Current Age (in years)[b]	**Mean (SD[e])**	**Range (min-max)**
	23.67 (4.22)	15 − 36

[a] This variable is defined first by adoptee participant report and, if missing, using the available NSCAW I or II secondary data.

[b] Gender and sexual identity are only available in the child instrument and were not available by parent report or in the NSCAW I or II secondary data. These characteristics are only available for the Adoptee Sample and will not be used as predictors in regression models as they cannot be portrayed for the Full Analytic Sample.

[c] This variable is defined first by adoptee participant report and if missing by parent participant report.

[d] SE is the standard error of the percentage.

[e] SD is the standard deviation of the mean.

3.1.3   Parent Participant Sample Demographic Characteristics

The parent participant sample consists of NSCAW adoptive parents whose children were adopted at some point during the NSCAW I or II data collection period and completed or partially completed surveys for the *NSCAW Adoption Study* (N = 295). Not all adoptive parent participants in this sample have a matched adoptee participant sample member.

Table 11 shows the demographic characteristics of the parent sample. Most parents are of non-Hispanic ethnicity (92.88%). In terms of race, 65.31% of parents are White, and 24.83% are Black or African American. Each other racial category is represented by less than 5% of the sample. Over half of adoptive parent participants are currently married (55.59%). Many were foster parents to the adoptee prior to their child's adoption (50.85%). Many others were the adoptee's biological relative, most commonly grandparents (15.25%) or aunts/uncles (10.51%). Finally, the mean age of the adoptive parent participants is 59.48 years with ages ranging from 33 to 86 years old.

Table 11.   Adoptive Parent Participant Sample Demographic Characteristics (N = 295)

Characteristic[a]	n	% (SE[b])
Ethnicity		
Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	21	7.12 (1.50)
Non-Hispanic	274	92.88 (1.50)
Race		
White	192	65.31 (2.78)
Black or African American	73	24.83 (2.52)
Asian	1	0.34 (0.34)
American Indian or Alaska Native	5	1.70 (0.76)
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	0.34 (0.34)
Other	12	4.08 (1.16)
Multiple Races	10	3.40 (1.06)
Current Marital Status		
Married	164	55.59 (2.90)
Separated	4	1.36 (0.67)
Divorced	57	19.32 (2.30)
Widowed	35	11.86 (1.89)
Never Married	35	11.86 (1.89)
Relationship to Child Prior to Adoption		
Foster parent	150	50.85 (2.92)
Grandparent	45	15.25 (2.10)
Aunt or uncle	31	10.51 (1.79)
Sister or brother	2	0.69 (0.48)
Other relative	3	1.02 (0.59)
Other non-relative	10	3.39 (1.06)
No prior relationship	9	3.05 (1.00)
Current Age	**Mean (SD[c])**	**Range (min-max)**
	59.48 (9.05)	33–86

[a] All characteristics reflect parent self-report to *NSCAW Adoption Study* survey items.

[b] SE is the standard error of the percentage.

[c] SD is the standard deviation of the mean.

3.2   Prevalence of Post Adoption Instability

This section provides information on the prevalence of post adoption instability events in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* sample. Consistent with the definitions described in **Section 2, Table 7**, instability events were classified as formal (official, documented separations of the child from the adoptive family, such as foster care reentry) or informal (unofficial separations where the child leaves home without a formal record of the event, such as the child running away from home). This section also describes other interruptions in care such as the child being placed in a group home or juvenile detention center. Post adoption instability events are defined as occurring after the child's adoption but before the child turns 18 years old (i.e., during childhood).

3.2.1   *RQ 1: To what extent have adopted NSCAW participants experienced post adoption formal and informal instability?*

Table 12 shows the lifetime prevalence of formal and informal post adoption instability within the full analytic sample (N = 383). Post adoption instability events described in **Table 12** include the report of any instability event by either an adoptee or adoptive parent participant or both. Table footnotes describe how instability events are measured and defined. These are not point estimates; in other words, the estimates in **Table 12** do not illustrate how many children experience post adoption instability at any specific point in time. Rather, these estimates illustrate how many adoptees ever experienced post adoption instability (before children turned 18 years old).

Results from **Table 12** indicate that most adoptive parents and adoptees did not report any instability after adoption. Specifically, 90.34% of participants did not report a formal post adoption instability event and almost 70% (69.97%) did not report an informal instability event. However, 9.66% of participants reported formal post adoption instability. Approximately 8% of study participants (8.36%) reported an adopted child's reentry into foster care after adoption and 1.93% reported the termination of the adoptive parents' parental rights or the child's emancipation prior to the age of 18 years. Thirty percent of participants reported the occurrence of informal post adoption instability. The most common informal instability events included running away (17.63% of all cases), leaving home prior to the age of 18 years (17.30%), living with a nonrelative adult instead of the adoptive parent (8.77%), and a period of homelessness (7.89%).

Other interruptions in care were also relatively common, occurring in 23.55% of cases; 15.08% of participants reported a child living in a group home or residential treatment center, and 14.32% reported a child living in a juvenile detention center at some point after adoption.

Table 12.   **Proportion of Adoptees Who Experienced Post Adoption Formal and Informal Instability (Full Analytic Sample, N = 383)**

Type of Instability Event Reported by Either Adoptive Parent or Adopted Child[a]	n[d]	# Yes	% Yes (SE[e])
Any Formal Instability	**383**	**37**	**9.66 (1.51)**
Termination of Parental Rights or emancipation	363	7	1.93 (0.72)
Foster care reentry	383	32	8.36 (1.42)
Any Informal Instability	**383**	**115**	**30.03 (2.35)**
Ran Away	380	67	17.63 (1.96)
Homeless	380	30	7.89 (1.39)
Living with grandparent[b]	370	9	2.43 (0.80)
Living with other relative[b]	375	20	5.33 (1.16)
Living with other non-relative[b]	365	32	8.77 (1.48)
Left home <18 years[c]	370	64	17.30 (1.97)
Transitional housing program	378	15	3.97 (1.01)
Any Other Interruptions in Care	**378**	**89**	**23.55 (2.19)**
Residential treatment or group home	378	57	15.08 (1.84)
Juvenile detention	377	54	14.32 (1.81)

[a] Instability events were coded "yes" if the event was reported by an adoptive parent or adoptee survey participant or both. See **Table 7** in ***Section 2*** for a definition of each instability event. The possible sample size used to determine the proportion of participants who had experienced each type of instability event varies depending on the number of participants who completed the relevant survey questions.

[b] These events were only coded as informal instability when a parent or adoptee participant (or both) indicated that the reason for living with a grandparent, other relative, or non-relative included one following: parent did not feel safe because of child's behavior, child did not feel safe at home because of other family member's behaviors, parent asked child to move out because of child's behavior, parent now longer allowed child to live at home, child did not feel accepted as a part of the family, child did not feel racial/ethnic identity was accepted, or child did not feel gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted.

[c] Leaving home under the age of 18 years was only coded as informal instability when a parent or adoptee participant (or both) indicated that the reason for leaving included one of the following: parent asked child to leave, child preferred to live with biological family member, child did not feel that their gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted, or child did not feel that their racial/ethnic identity was accepted.

[d] Not all parent or adoptee participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, the full analytic sample of 383 participants is not represented in each row of this table. This column represents the number of parents or adoptees who responded to the relevant survey item for each type of post adoption instability event.

[e] SE is the standard error of the percentage.

A total of 66.84% of adoptees did not experience either formal or informal post adoption instability. ***Table 13*** shows the co-occurrence of formal and informal post adoption instability among the full analytic sample (N = 383). This table shows that 23.50% of adoptees experienced only informal instability after adoption without ever experiencing formal instability (i.e., foster care entry, the termination of adoptive parent rights or emancipation prior to the age of 18 years), and that 3.13% of adoptees experienced only formal instability without ever experiencing informal instability.

Table 13.   **Co-Occurrence of Post Adoption Formal and Informal Instability Experiences among Adoptees (Full Analytic Sample, N = 383)**

Adoptees who Experienced an Informal Instability Event (Proportion and Number)	Adoptees who Experienced a Formal Instability Event (Proportion and Number)		
	Yes[a] % (n)	No % (n)	Total % (n)
Yes[b]	6.53 (25)	23.50 (90)	30.03 (115)
No	3.13 (12)	66.84 (256)	69.97 (268)
Total	9.66 (37)	90.34 (346)	100.00 (383)

[a]   Adoptees represented in this column experienced at least one formal instability event as reported by the adoptive parent or adoptee or both. See **Table 7** in *Section 2* for a definition of each instability event.

[b]   Adoptees represented in this row experienced at least one informal instability event as reported by the adoptive parent or adoptee or both.

3.3   Risk and Protective Factors for Instability

This section provides information on the adoptee, parent, and family context surrounding formal and informal post adoption instability events in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* sample. Results focus on risk and protective factors for post adoption instability (RQ2) and the quality of the current parent-child relationship (RQ3).

3.3.1   RQ 2: What are the risk and protective factors for post adoption instability at the individual child, parent, and family levels?

Results presented in this section first describe formal post adoption instability risk and protective factors, and then describe informal post adoption instability risk and protective factors. For each type of instability, we first examine each risk and protective factor individually to understand how each differs by instability status. Then, we examine how the risk and protective factors work together to influence instability. All findings in this section represent the full analytic sample (N = 383) and include results from descriptive crosstabulations and regression analyses.

Formal Post Adoption Instability

Table 14 shows the distribution of various potential risk or protective factors for the full analytic sample (N = 383), and for those who experienced formal instability (n = 37) and those who did not experience formal instability (n = 346). The potential risk or protective factors tested include demographic characteristics such as child sex assigned at birth, child and parent race/ethnicity, and parent age at first completed NSCAW I/II survey after adoption. The potential risk or protective factors tested also include characteristics of the child's experience prior to adoption or early in the adoptive relationship: the level of maltreatment harm that resulted in the child's contact with CPS, the child's age at adoption, the child's behavior problems in early adoption, adoptive parent's relationship to the child, perceptions of parent-child closeness prior to adoption, and the parent's motivations to adopt. A final potential risk or protective factor was the adoptee's/parent's post-permanency perceptions of family nurturing and attachment during childhood. This is measured by the Protective Factors Scale (PFS) Nurturing and

Attachment subscale (Counts et al., 2010). Table footnotes describe how each risk and protective factor was constructed or measured.

Results from **Table 14** indicate that more adoptees who experienced formal instability were reported to have behavior problems early in their adoption (44.12%) than adoptees who did not experience formal instability (23.53%; X^2 = 6.87, p = .01). Additionally, families with children who experienced formal instability had a lower average PFS (Counts et al., 2010). Nurturing and Attachment subscale score (M = 4.2) than families of children who did not experience formal instability (M = 5.4; t = -4.00, p < .001). Lower scores on this PFS subscale indicate lower perceptions of nurturing and attachment during childhood. The remaining risk and protective factors in **Table 14** did not have statistically significant differences by formal instability status.

One caveat to interpreting **Table 14** is that some of the proportions represent very few cases, particularly those describing the characteristics of adoptees who experienced formal post adoption instability. These proportions are shown to help describe the context surrounding post adoption instability events. However, as standalone estimates, these proportions (and their associated group comparison statistics) should be interpreted cautiously.

Table 14.   **Comparison of Risk and Protective Factors Among Adoptees Who Did and Did Not Experience Formal Post Adoption Instability (Full Analytic Sample, N = 383)**

Risk or Protective Factor	Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Total (N = 383)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Experienced Post Adoption Formal Instability (n = 37)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Did not Experience Post Adoption Formal Instability (n = 346)		X^2 or t-value	p-value
	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)		
Demographic Characteristics								
Child Sex Assigned at Birth[b]								
Female	200	52.22 (2.56)	23	62.16 (7.98)	177	51.16 (2.69)	1.62	0.20[c]
Male	183	47.78 (2.56)	14	37.84 (7.98)	169	48.34 (2.69)		
Child Race/Ethnicity[b]								
White, Non-Hispanic	172	45.40 (2.56)	18	48.65 (8.23)	154	45.16 (2.7)	5.16	0.16[c]
Black, Non-Hispanic	131	34.66 (2.45)	16	43.24 (8.16)	115	33.72 (2.56)		
Hispanic	57	15.08 (1.84)	1	2.7 (2.67)	56	16.42 (2.01)		
Other	18	4.76 (1.10)	2	5.41 (3.72)	16	4.69 (1.15)		
Parent Race/Ethnicity[b]								
White, Non-Hispanic	201	57.27 (2.64)	21	61.76 (8.35)	180	56.78 (2.79)	0.71	0.87[c]
Black, Non-Hispanic	96	27.35 (2.38)	9	26.47 (7.58)	87	27.44 (2.51)		
Hispanic	34	9.69 (1.58)	2	5.88 (4.04)	32	10.09 (1.69)		
Other	20	5.70 (1.24)	2	5.88 (4.04)	18	5.68 (1.3)		
Parent Age at First Completed NSCAW Survey after Adoption[b]								
≤45 years	179	52.65 (2.71)	15	50.00 (9.14)	164	52.90 (2.84)	0.09	0.76[c]
45 and older	161	47.35 (2.71)	15	50.00 (9.14)	146	47.10 (2.84)		

Note: SE is the standard error of the percentage. SD is the standard deviation of the mean.

[a] Not all parent or adoptee participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, the full analytic sample of participants is not represented in each row of this table. This column represents the number of parents or adoptees who responded to the relevant survey item.

[b] Adoptee and adoptive parent characteristics were acquired from the NSCAW I or II dataset at the first available completed survey after a child's date of adoption. If there were missing data at that wave (i.e., an adoptive parent did not complete a survey at the first data collection wave after the child's adoption), data were pulled from the first available completed wave after the child's adoption date.

[c] P-values obtained from chi-square tests of independence, which test whether there is a statistical association between post adoption formal instability and each categorical risk or protective factor. P-values smaller than .05 indicate a statistically significant association between formal instability and the risk or protective factor.

Risk or Protective Factor	Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Total (N = 383)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Experienced Post Adoption Formal Instability (n = 37)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Did not Experience Post Adoption Formal Instability (n = 346)		X² or t-value	p-value
	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)		
Pre-Permanency or Early Adoption Risk and Protective Factors								
Level of Maltreatment Harm to Child[d]								
Not moderate/severe	239	69.48 (2.49)	22	70.97 (8.16)	217	69.33 (2.61)	0.04	0.85[c]
Moderate or severe	105	30.52 (2.49)	9	29.03 (8.16)	96	30.67 (2.61)		
Child Age in Early Adoption[e]								
0–2 yrs (infant/toddlers)	62	17.37 (2.01)	2	5.88 (4.04)	60	18.58 (2.17)	3.46	0.18[c]
3–5 yrs (preschool)	118	33.05 (2.49)	13	38.24 (8.35)	105	32.51 (2.61)		
≥6 yrs (school-age)	177	49.58 (2.65)	19	55.88 (8.53)	158	48.92 (2.79)		
Child Behavior Problem (CBCL)[f] in Early Adoption[e]								
Yes	91	25.49 (2.31)	15	44.12 (8.53)	76	23.53 (2.36)	6.87	**0.01[c]**
No	266	74.51 (2.31)	19	55.88 (8.53)	247	76.47 (2.36)		
Adoptive Parent's Relationship to Child[e]								
Kin	128	34.32 (2.46)	13	36.11 (8.02)	115	34.12 (2.59)	0.06	0.81[c]
Non-kin	245	65.68 (2.46)	23	63.89 (8.02)	222	65.88 (2.59)		

[d]   This variable reflects the caseworker's assessment of the level of harm associated with the child's index maltreatment report.

This variable reflects the characteristics of the maltreatment report that formed the basis for the child's eligibility to participate in the NSCAW I or II study. The variables come from the risk assessment module within NSCAW I/II. This information is reported by caseworkers at the NSCAW baseline survey. The NSCAW baseline survey is completed after the close of the sampled child's maltreatment investigation.

[e]   Data on the "early adoption" characteristics of children and parents are taken from the first available completed NSCAW survey after the child's date of adoption (as derived within the NSCAW I/II datasets). This could reflect characteristics only a few months after the child's adoption or more than a year after the child's adoption. This varies by child and depends on the timing of the completed NSCAW survey wave in relation to the child's date of adoption.

[f]   Child behavior problems were measured in NSCAW I or II by an adoptive parent's report on the CBCL (Achenbach, 1991). Children with Total Problem Scores (TPS) in the clinically significant range, 1.5 standard deviations above the norm (CBCL TPS >= 64) were defined as having a behavior problem.

Risk or Protective Factor	Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Total (N = 383)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Experienced Post Adoption Formal Instability (n = 37)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Did not Experience Post Adoption Formal Instability (n = 346)		X^2 or t-value	p-value
	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)	n[a]	% (SE) or mean (sd)		
Adoptive Parent-Child Perceived Closeness Prior to Adoption[g]								
Extremely/Very	247	76.71 (2.36)	23	76.67 (7.73)	224	76.71 (2.48)	0	1.00[c]
Mod/Slightly/Not at all	75	23.29 (2.36)	7	23.33 (7.73)	68	23.29 (2.48)		
Parent Motivations to Adopt[h]								
Infertility	114	31.67 (2.46)	14	46.67 (9.12)	100	30.3 (2.53)	3.50	0.32[c]
Religious/Spiritual Calling	76	21.11 (2.15)	5	16.67 (6.81)	71	21.52 (2.27)		
Altruism	149	41.39 (2.60)	10	33.33 (8.62)	139	42.12 (2.72)		
Some other reason	21	5.83 (1.24)	1	3.33 (3.28)	20	6.06 (1.32)		
Post-Permanency Risk or Protective Factor								
PFS Family Nurturing and Attachment During Childhood[i]	373	5.28 (1.42)	34	4.19 (1.70)	339	5.39 (1.34)	-4.00	**<.001[j]**

[g] Both parent and adoptee participants in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* were asked to describe their level of closeness to each other before the adoption on a Likert scale that ranged from "extremely" to "not at all" close. The variable here reflects either parent or adoptee report based on a hierarchy determined by the study team. If data were available from the adoptee, this variable reflects the adoptee's perception. If the adoptee indicated they were too young to remember or if adoptee data were missing, this variable reflects parent report.

[h] Both parent and adoptee participants in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* were asked to report on the adoptive parents' motivations to adopt the child. The variable here reflects either parent or adoptee report based on a hierarchy determined by the study team. If data were available from the parent, this variable reflects the parent's report. If the parent data were missing, this variable reflects the adoptee's report. Respondents could select multiple motivations to adopt, but only one motivation is included in this variable for each participant. If either respondent chose "infertility," this was coded first, then "religious calling," and then altruism (i.e., "*I wanted to help a child in need of a permanent family*" or "*I knew [CHILD] and wanted to help him/her/them*").

[i] The Protective Factors Scale (2010) is designed for use with caregivers receiving child maltreatment prevention services. The four-item Nurturing and Attachment subscale assesses the emotional tie between parent and child, along with the positive interaction between the parent and child that develops over time. Both adoptee and adoptive parent *NSCAW Adoption Study* participants were asked to describe their family characteristics during the adoptee's childhood. If data were available from the adoptee, this variable reflects the adoptee's perception. If the adoptee data were missing, this variable reflects parent report.

[j] P-values obtained from t-tests for independent means, which tests whether there is a statistical association between post adoption formal instability and this continuous variable. A p-value smaller than .05 indicates a statistically significant association between formal instability and the PFS subscale.

Table 15 shows the logistic regression results. These results estimate the association between formal instability and each risk or protective factor, controlling for the influence of all other risk or protective factors. Only one factor continued to show a statistically significant relationship to formal instability after accounting for the influence of all other factors. Specifically, higher perceptions of nurturing and

attachment during childhood are associated with a decreased likelihood of experiencing formal instability. A one-unit increase in the PFS Nurturing and Attachment subscale score (showing a greater level of nurturing and attachment) is associated with .7 times the risk of formal instability (p < .0001). The remaining risk and protective factors did not have statistically significant differences by formal instability status.

Table 15.   Logistic Regression Results: Risk and Protective Factors Predicting Formal Instability (Full Analytic Sample, N = 383)

Risk or Protective Factor	OR[a]	Estimate[b]	SE[c]	Z[d]	p-value[e]
Child Sex Assigned at Birth: Female (ref. male)	1.13	0.12	0.40	0.30	0.77
Child Race/Ethnicity:					
Black, non-Hispanic (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	1.13	0.12	1.18	0.10	0.92
Hispanic (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	0.47	-0.76	1.23	-0.62	0.54
Other (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	0.90	-0.10	7.44	-0.01	0.99
Child Age at Adoption:					
Child age at adoption 3–5 years (ref. 0–2 years)	1.40	0.33	0.21	1.59	0.11
Child age at adoption 6 years and older (ref. 0–2 years)	1.13	0.13	0.41	0.31	0.76
Child Behavior Problem (CBCL) in Early Adoption: Yes (ref. No Behavior Problem)	1.49	0.40	0.30	1.30	0.19
Parent Race/Ethnicity:					
Black, non-Hispanic (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	0.90	-0.10	0.71	-0.14	0.89
Hispanic (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	1.01	0.01	0.60	0.01	0.99
Other (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	1.01	0.01	2.44	0.00	1.00
Parent Age at First Completed NSCAW Survey after Adoption: 45 and older (ref. ≤45 years)	1.06	0.06	0.35	0.16	0.87
Adoptive Parent's Relationship to Child: Non-Kin (ref. Kin Relationship)	1.21	0.19	0.22	0.89	0.37
Parent Motivations to Adopt:					
Infertility (ref. Altruism)	1.38	0.32	0.27	1.19	0.23
Religious or Spiritual Calling (ref. Altruism)	0.97	-0.03	0.26	-0.10	0.92
PFS Nurturing and Attachment Subscale Score	0.82	-0.20	0.07	-2.96	**<.0001**
Level of Maltreatment Harm: Mod or Severe (ref. Not mod or severe)	1.08	0.08	0.21	0.39	0.70

Note: Adoptive parent-child perceived closeness prior to adoption was dropped from the regression model as it was highly correlated and confounded with the PFS nurturing and attachment subscale score. Estimates for the other predictors were essentially the same when dropping adoptive parent-child closeness prior to adoption from the model. Target variables with names ending with ":" are categorical, and the reference level is indicated, whereas variables without ":" are continuous.

[a]   OR is the odds ratio.

[b]   Estimate is the logistic regression estimate.

[c]   SE is the standard error.

[d]   z is the value of the z-test for the value in the Estimate column.

[e]   P is the p-value for the odds ratio. P-values smaller than .05 indicate a statistically significant association between formal instability and the risk or protective factor.

Informal Post Adoption Instability

Table 16 shows the distribution of various potential risk or protective factors for the full analytic sample (N = 383), and for those who experienced informal instability (n = 115) and those who did not experience informal instability (n = 268). The potential risk or protective factors tested for informal instability are the same as those included in analyses to examine formal instability: child sex, child and parent race/Ethnicity, parent age at first completed NSCAW I/II survey after adoption, level of maltreatment harm, child age at adoption, child behavior problems in early adoption, adoptive parent relationship to child, perceptions of parent-child closeness prior to adoption, parent motivations for adoption, and perceptions of family nurturing and attachment during childhood (according to the PFS Nurturing and Attachment subscale) (Counts et al., 2010). Table footnotes describe how these variables were measured or constructed.

Results from ***Table 16*** indicate several statistically significant risk/protective factors for informal instability:

- Female adoptees are more likely to experience informal instability (60%) than male adoptees (49%; X^2 = 3.99, p < .05).

- Children adopted as infants or toddlers (0–2 years) are less likely to experience informal instability than children adopted as preschool or school-age children (X^2 = 9.71, p = .01).

- More children experiencing informal instability were reported to have behavior problems early in their adoption period (41%) than children who did not experience informal instability (19%; X^2 = 18.72, p < .0001).

- Children who experienced informal instability reported "extremely" or "very" close pre adoption relationships with their adoptive parents less often (67%) than children who did not experience post adoption informal instability (80%; X^2 = 6.33, p = .01).

- Families with children who experienced informal instability had a lower average PFS Nurturing and Attachment subscale score (M = 4.4) (Counts et al., 2010) than families of children who did not experience informal instability (M = 5.6; t = -7.33, p < .0001). Lower scores on this PFS subscale indicate lower perceptions of nurturing and attachment during childhood.

The remaining risk and protective factors in ***Table 16*** did not have statistically significant differences by informal instability status.

Table 16.   Comparison of Risk and Protective Factors Among Adopted Children Who Did and Did Not Experience Post Adoption Informal Instability (Full Analytic Sample, N = 383)

Risk or Protective Factor	Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Total (N = 383)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Experienced Post Adoption Informal Instability (n = 115)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Did not Experience Post Adoption Informal Instability (n = 268)		X^2 or t-value	p-value
	n[a]	% (SE)	n[a]	% (SE)	n[a]	% (SE)		
Demographic Characteristics								
Child Sex Assigned at Birth[b]								
Female	200	52.22 (2.56)	69	60.00 (4.57)	131	48.88 (3.06)	3.99	**0.046[c]**
Male	183	47.78 (2.56)	46	40.00 (4.57)	137	51.12 (3.06)		
Child Race/Ethnicity[b]								
White, Non-Hispanic	172	45.40 (2.56)	53	46.9 (4.7)	119	44.91 (3.06)	1.02	0.80[c]
Black, Non-Hispanic	131	34.66 (2.45)	37	32.74 (4.42)	94	35.47 (2.94)		
Hispanic	57	15.08 (1.84)	16	14.16 (3.28)	41	15.47 (2.22)		
Other	18	4.76 (1.10)	7	6.19 (2.27)	11	4.15 (1.23)		
Parent Race/Ethnicity[b]								
White, Non-Hispanic	201	57.27 (2.64)	62	59.62 (4.82)	139	56.28 (3.16)	0.77	0.86[c]
Black, Non-Hispanic	96	27.35 (2.38)	26	25 (4.25)	70	28.34 (2.87)		
Hispanic	34	9.69 (1.58)	11	10.58 (3.02)	23	9.31 (1.85)		
Other	20	5.70 (1.24)	5	4.81 (2.1)	15	6.07 (1.52)		
Parent Age at First Completed NSCAW Survey after Adoption[b]								
≤45 years	179	52.65 (2.71)	50	49.51 (4.98)	129	53.97 (3.23)	0.57	0.45[c]
45 and older	161	47.35 (2.71)	51	50.50 (4.98)	110	46.03 (3.23)		

Note: SE is the standard error of the percentage. SD is the standard deviation of the mean.

[a] Not all parent or adoptee participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, the full analytic sample of participants is not represented in each row of this table. This column represents the number of parents or adoptees who responded to the relevant survey item.

[b] Adoptee and adoptive parent or characteristics was acquired from the NSCAW I or II dataset at the first available completed survey after a child's date of adoption. If there were missing data at that wave (i.e., an adoptive parent did not complete a survey at the first data collection wave after the child's adoption), data were pulled from the first available completed wave after the child's adoption date.

[c]   P-values obtained from chi-square tests of independence, which test whether there is a statistical association between post adoption formal instability and each categorical risk or protective factor. P-values smaller than .05 indicate a statistically significant association between formal instability and the risk or protective factor.

Risk or Protective Factor	Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Total (N = 383)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Experienced Post Adoption Informal Instability (n = 115)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Did not Experience Post Adoption Informal Instability (n = 268)		X^2 or t-value	p-value
	n[a]	% (SE)	n[a]	% (SE)	n[a]	% (SE)		
Pre Permanency or Early Adoption Risk and Protective Factors								
Level of Maltreatment Harm to Child[d]								
Not moderate/severe	239	69.48 (2.49)	72	71.29 (4.51)	167	68.72 (2.98)	0.22	0.64[c]
Moderate or severe	105	30.52 (2.49)	29	28.71 (4.51)	76	31.28 (2.98)		
Child Age in Early Adoption[e]								
0–2 yrs (infant/toddlers)	62	17.37 (2.01)	10	9.52 (2.87)	52	20.63 (2.55)	9.71	**0.01[c]**
3–5 yrs (preschool)	118	33.05 (2.49)	31	29.52 (4.46)	87	34.52 (3.00)		
≥6 yrs (school-age)	177	49.58 (2.65)	64	60.95 (4.77)	113	44.84 (3.14)		
Child Behavior Problem (CBCL)[f] in Early Adoption[e]								
Yes	91	25.49 (2.31)	43	40.95 (4.81)	48	19.05 (2.48)	18.72	**<.0001[c]**
No	266	74.51 (2.31)	62	59.05 (4.81)	204	80.95 (2.48)		
Adoptive Parent's Relationship to Child[b]								
Kin	128	34.32 (2.46)	39	35.14 (4.54)	89	33.97 (2.93)	0.05	0.83[c]
Non-kin	245	65.68 (2.46)	72	64.86 (4.54)	173	66.03 (2.93)		

[d]   This variable reflects the caseworker's assessment of the level of harm associated with the child's index maltreatment report.

This variable reflects the characteristics of the maltreatment report that formed the basis for the child's eligibility to participate in the NSCAW I or II study. The variables come from the risk assessment module within NSCAW. This information is reported by caseworkers at the NSCAW baseline survey. The NSCAW baseline survey is completed after the close of the sampled child's maltreatment investigation.

[e]   Data on the "early adoption" characteristics of children and parents are taken from the first available completed NSCAW survey after the child's date of adoption (as derived within the NSCAW I/II datasets). This could reflect characteristics only a few months after the child's adoption or more than a year after the child's adoption. This varies by child and depends on the timing of the completed NSCAW survey wave in relation to the child's date of adoption.

[f]   Child behavior problems were measured in NSCAW I or II by an adoptive parent's report on the CBCL (Achenbach, 1991). Children with Total Problem Scores (TPS) in the clinically significant range, 1.5 standard deviations above the norm (CBCL TPS >= 64) were defined as having a behavior problem.

Risk or Protective Factor	Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Total (N = 383)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Experienced Post Adoption Informal Instability (n = 115)		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Did not Experience Post Adoption Informal Instability (n = 268)		X^2 or t-value	p-value
	n[a]	% (SE)	n[a]	% (SE)	n[a]	% (SE)		
Adoptive Parent-Child Perceived Closeness Prior to Adoption[g]								
Extremely/Very	247	76.71 (2.36)	59	67.05 (5.02)	188	80.34 (2.6)	6.33	**0.01[c]**
Mod/Slightly/Not at all	75	23.29 (2.36)	29	32.95 (5.02)	46	19.66 (2.6)		
Parent Motivations to Adopt[h]								
Infertility	114	31.67 (2.46)	34	33.01 (4.64)	80	31.13 (2.89)	2.51	0.47[c]
Religious/Spiritual Calling	76	21.11 (2.15)	17	16.5 (3.66)	59	22.96 (2.63)		
Altruism	149	41.39 (2.60)	44	42.72 (4.88)	105	40.86 (3.07)		
Some other reason	21	5.83 (1.24)	8	7.77 (2.64)	13	5.06 (1.37)		
Post-Permanency Risk or Protective Factor								
PFS Family Nurturing and Attachment During Childhood[i]	373	5.28 (1.42)	113	4.44 (1.58)	260	5.64 (1.17)	-7.33	**<.0001[j]**

[g] Both parent and adoptee participants in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* were asked to describe their level of closeness to each other before the adoption on a Likert scale that ranged from "extremely" to "not at all" close. The variable here reflects either parent or adoptee report based on a hierarchy determined by the study team. If data were available from the adoptee, this variable reflects the adoptee's perception. If the adoptee indicated they were too young to remember or if adoptee data were missing, this variable reflects parent report.

[h] Both parent and adoptee participants in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* were asked to report on the adoptive parents' motivations to adopt the child. The variable here reflects either parent or adoptee report based on a hierarchy determined by the study team. If data were available from the parent, this variable reflects the parent's report. If the parent data were missing, this variable reflects the adoptee's report. Respondents could select multiple motivations to adopt. If either respondent chose "infertility," this was coded first, then "religious calling," and then altruism (i.e., "*wanting to help a child*").

[i] The Protective Factors Scale (2010) is designed for use with caregivers receiving child maltreatment prevention services. The four-item Nurturing and Attachment subscale assesses the emotional tie between parent and child, along with the positive interaction between the parent and child that develops over time. Both adoptee and adoptive parent *NSCAW Adoption Stud*y participants were asked to describe their family characteristics during the adoptee's childhood. If data were available from the adoptee, this variable reflects the adoptee's perception. If the adoptee data were missing, this variable reflects parent report.

[j] P-values obtained from t-tests for independent means, which test whether there is a statistical association between post adoption formal instability and this continuous variable. A p-value smaller than .05 indicates a statistically significant association between formal instability and the PFS subscale.

Table 17 shows the logistic regression results. These results estimate the association between informal instability and each risk or protective factor, controlling for the influence of all other factors. When controlling for other factors, two significant factors emerged. Children who were reported to have behavior problems in the clinical range on the CBCL (Achenbach, 1991) early after their adoption are at higher risk (i.e., 1.51 times higher risk) for informal instability than those who were not reported to have behavior problems in the clinical range early after their adoption (p < .05). Additionally, higher

perceptions of nurturing and attachment during childhood are associated with less risk for informal instability. A one-unit increase in the PFS Nurturing and Attachment subscale score (showing a greater level of nurturing and attachment) is associated with .7 times the risk of informal instability (p < .001). The remaining risk or protective factors were not statistically significantly associated with informal instability status after controlling for other factors.

Table 17.   **Logistic Regression Results: Risk and Protective Factors Predicting Informal Instability (Full Analytic Sample, N = 383)**

Risk or Protective Factor	OR[a]	Estimate[b]	SE[c]	z[d]	p-value[e]
Child Sex Assigned at Birth: Female (ref. male)	1.15	0.137	0.15	0.89	0.37
Child Race/Ethnicity:					
Black, non-Hispanic (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	0.92	-0.078	0.94	-0.08	0.93
Hispanic (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	1.01	0.009	1.71	0.01	1.00
Other (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	1.45	0.371	0.61	0.61	0.54
Child Age at Adoption:					
Child age at adoption 3–5 years (ref. 0–2 years)	1.30	0.26	0.23	1.15	0.25
Child age at adoption 6 years and older (ref. 0–2 years)	1.26	0.233	0.24	0.98	0.33
Child Behavior Problem (CBCL) in Early Adoption: Yes (ref. No Behavior Problem)	1.51	0.415	0.17	2.43	**0.015**
Parent Race/Ethnicity:					
Black, non-Hispanic (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	1.00	-0.003	0.88	-0.00	1.00
Hispanic (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	0.95	-0.048	1.94	-0.03	0.98
Other (ref. White, non-Hispanic)	0.83	-0.185	0.80	-0.23	0.82
Parent Age at First Completed NSCAW Survey after Adoption:					
45 and older (ref. ≤45 years)	1.03	0.025	0.16	0.16	0.87
Adoptive Parent's Relationship to Child: Non-Kin (ref. Kin Relationship)	1.07	0.069	0.22	0.31	0.76
Parent Motivations to Adopt:					
Infertility (ref. Altruism)	0.92	-0.078	0.17	-0.46	0.65
Religious or Spiritual Calling (ref. Altruism)	0.83	-0.189	0.21	-0.91	0.37
Adoptive Parent-Child Closeness before Adoption: "Moderately/Slightly/Not at All" (ref. Extremely/Very close)	1.35	0.303	0.22	1.37	0.17
PFS Nurturing and Attachment Subscale Score	0.71	-0.337	0.06	-5.86	**<.001**
Level of Maltreatment Harm: Mod or Severe (ref. Not mod or severe)	1.15	0.136	0.15	0.94	0.35

Note: Target variables with names ending with ":" are categorical, and the refence level is indicated, while variables without ":" are continuous.

[a] OR is the odds ratio.

[b] Estimate is the logistic regression estimate.

[c]   SE is the standard error.

[d] z is the value of the z-test for the value in the Estimate column.

[e] P is the p-value associated with the odds ratio. P-values smaller than .05 indicate a statistically significant association between formal instability and the risk or protective factor.

3.3.2   RQ 3: What is the quality of current parent-child relationships among children who exited foster care to permanency through adoption?

While many components of this study focus on events that occurred during childhood, this research question focuses on the quality of the *current* adoptive parent-child relationship. Because the majority of *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptee participants are 18 and older (average adoptee age is 23.67 years), most participants' responses reflect their relationship with their adoptive parent(s) now that they are an adult. Similarly, the majority of *NSCAW Adoption Study* parent participants' responses reflect their relationship with their child who is now an adult.

Study participants were asked how close they currently feel to their parent or child (respectively) and how much contact they currently have. Adoptee participants were also asked how much they feel that they currently belong to their adoptive family. Similarly, adoptive parents were asked how much they feel that their child currently belongs in their family. Because the instrument wording and questions differ for child versus parent participants, results in this section are presented separately for child and parent participants.

Adoptee Perceptions of the Current Parent-Child Relationship

As shown in **Table 18**, most adoptees reported having close current relationships with their adoptive parents. More than 65% (66.84%) of adoptees reported feeling "extremely" or "very" close to their first parent and 55.88% reported similar levels of closeness to their second parent (if a second adoptive parent was applicable). However, 14.74% reported feeling "not at all" close to their first adoptive parent and 17.65% felt this way about their second adoptive parent.

Table 18.   **Adoptees' Perception of Current Closeness to Adoptive Parent(s) (Adoptee Participant Sample, N = 206)**

How close do you currently feel [to your adoptive parent]?	Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Report of Perceived Closeness to First Adoptive Parent (n = 190[b])		Number and Proportion of Adoptees: Report of Perceived Closeness to Second Adoptive Parent (if applicable)[a] (n=102[b])	
	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)
"Extremely" or "very close"	127	66.84 (3.42)	57	55.88 (4.94)
"Moderately" or "slightly close"	35	18.42 (2.82)	27	26.47 (4.39)
"Not at all close"	28	14.74 (2.58)	18	17.65 (3.79)

Note: SE is the standard error of the percentage.

[a] Adoptee participants were first asked how many living adoptive parents they have. If the adoptee only had one living adoptive parent, only one question about closeness was included. If the adoptee had two living adoptive parents, the adoptee participant was first asked about closeness to the first parent and then closeness to the second parent.

[b] Not all adoptee participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, this table does not represent all 206 adoptee participant sample members. This number represents the number of adoptees who responded to this survey item.

When asked about the frequency of their current contact with their adoptive parents, most adoptee participants reported having frequent contact. More than 80% (84.21%) reported contact with their first adoptive parent anywhere from one or two times per month to every day. Very few reported never having contact with their first adoptive parent (8.95%) or only having contact a few times per year (6.84%). Results were similar for contact with the adoptee's second adoptive parent; 73.53% reported having contact at least one to two times per month or more often, and 10.78% reported never having contact.

Table 19 illustrates how adoptees described their current sense of belonging to their adoptive family. Sixty-five percent of all adoptees (65.71%) reported feeling that they "completely" or "very much" belong to their adoptive family; however, 22.22% reported feeling that they belong a "moderate amount" or "a little" and 12.17% reported belonging "not at all." Even among adoptees who experienced formal post adoption instability during childhood (i.e., foster care reentry, parental rights termination, or emancipation prior to the age of majority), 55.56% reported feeling that they "completely" or "very much" belong to their adoptive families. These findings should be interpreted cautiously as they only represent 18 adoptees.

Table 19.   **Adoptees' Sense of Current Belonging to Adoptive Family by Instability Experiences (Adoptee Participant Sample, N = 206)**

Thinking about your adoptive family now, how much do you feel that you belong?	Number and Proportion of all Adopted Children (n = 189[a])		Number and Proportion of Adoptees who Experienced Formal Instability (n = 18[a])		Number and Proportion of Adoptees who Experienced Informal Instability (n = 62[a])	
	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)
"Completely" or "very much"	124	65.61 (3.46)	10	55.56 (12.05)	28	45.16 (6.37)
"A moderate amount" or a little"	42	22.22 (3.03)	3	16.67 (9.04)	19	30.65 (5.90)
"Not at all"	23	12.17 (2.38)	5	27.78 (10.87)	15	24.19 (5.48)

Note: SE is the standard error of the percentage.

[a] Not all adoptee participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, this table does not represent all 206 adoptee participant sample members. This number represents the number of adoptees who responded to this survey item.

Parent Perceptions of the Current Parent-Child Relationship

Adoptive parent participants in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* were also asked how close they currently feel to their adopted child. As shown in *Table 20*, most parents reported having close current relationships with their children. Seventy-two percent (72.85%) of adoptive parents reported feeling "extremely" or "very" close to their child. Only 8.93% reported feeling "not at all" close.

Table 20 also shows parent perceptions specifically for those whose children experienced formal and informal post adoption instability during childhood. Twenty-five percent of parents whose children experienced formal post adoption instability reported currently feeling "not close at all" to their child; however, 54.17% reported currently feeling "extremely" or "very" close to their child. This pattern was similar among parents whose children experienced informal post adoption instability: 17.72% described

currently feeling "not at all close," but 48.10% described currently feeling "extremely" or "very" close (see ***Table 20***).

Table 20.   **Adoptive Parents' Perception of Current Closeness to Adopted Child by Instability Experiences (Parent Participant Sample, N = 295)**

How close do you currently feel to [CHILD]?	Number and Proportion of Adoptive Parents (n = 291[a])		Number and Proportion of Adoptive Parents with Children who Experienced Formal Instability (n = 24[a])		Number and Proportion of Adoptive Parents with Children who Experienced Informal Instability (n = 79[a])	
	N	% (SE)	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)
"Extremely" or "very close"	212	72.85 (2.61)	13	54.17 (10.39)	38	48.10 (5.66)
"Moderately" or "slightly close"	53	18.21 (2.27)	5	20.83 (8.47)	27	34.18 (5.37)
"Not at all close"	26	8.93 (1.68)	6	25.00 (9.03)	14	17.72 (4.32)

Note: The *NSCAW Adoption Study* only surveyed one adoptive parent and so while the adoptee survey asked participants to describe closeness to both adoptive parents (if applicable), the study team does not have comparable perception ratings from both adoptive parents. SE is the standard error of the percentage.

[a] Not all adoptive parent participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, this table does not represent all 295 adoptive parent participant sample members. This number represents the number of adoptive parents who responded to this survey item.

When asked about the frequency of their current contact with their adopted children, most adoptive parent participants reported having frequent contact. More than 80% (84.07%) reported having contact with their child anywhere from one or two times per month to every day. Very few reported never having contact with their child (6.55%) or only having contact a few times per year (10.34%). Most adoptive parents of children who experienced formal instability (66.67%) and those whose children experienced informal instability (69.62%) reported staying in contact with their child one to two times per month to every day.

Adoptive parents were also asked to describe how much they feel their adopted child belongs in their family. ***Table 21*** shows these findings for all responding adoptive parent participants and for those whose children experienced either formal instability or informal instability during childhood. Eighty-nine percent (88.66%) of adoptive parents reported that their child "completely" or "very much" belongs in their family. Few reported feeling that their child belongs a "moderate amount," "a little," or "not at all" (see ***Table 21***). Even the parents of children who experienced formal or informal post adoption instability expressed a strong sense of the child belonging in their family (with 79.17% and 78.48, respectively, responding "completely" or "very much"). These findings should be interpreted cautiously as some proportions in ***Table 21*** represent very few cases.

Table 21.   **Adoptive Parents' Sense of Adoptee's Current Belonging to Adoptive Family by Instability Experiences (Parent Participant Sample, N = 295)**

How much do you feel that [CHILD] belongs in your family?	Number and Proportion of Adoptive Parents (n = 291[a])		Number and Proportion of Adoptive Parents with Children who Experienced Formal Instability (n = 24[a])		Number and Proportion of Adoptive Parents with Children who Experienced Informal Instability (n = 79[a])	
	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)	n	% (SE)
"Completely" or "very much"	258	88.66 (1.86)	19	79.17 (8.47)	62	78.48 (4.65)
"A moderate amount" or a little"	23	7.90 (1.58)	4	16.67 (7.77)	14	17.72 (4.32)
"Not at all"	10	3.44 (1.07)	1	4.17 (4.17)	3	3.80 (2.16)

Note: Not all adoptive parent participants in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* have an adopted child who participated in the study. Likewise, not every adoptee participant had a parent participate in the study. While a similar question about belonging was included in both the parent and adoptee survey, the study team cannot directly compare parent and adoptee ratings as they do not reflect comparable families. SE is the standard error of the percentage.

[a] Not all adoptive parent participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, this table does not represent all 295 adoptive parent participant sample members. This number represents the number of adoptive parents who responded to this survey item.

3.4   Services and Supports

This section provides information on services and supports received by adoptive families who participated in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* (RQs 4 and 5).

3.4.1   *RQ 4: What support services are accessible to adopted youth/young adults and adoptive parents experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) post adoption instability?*

All adoptive parent and adoptee survey participants were asked about their perceived need for services and whether services were received. Both the parent and adoptee survey instrument asked about services for the adopted child including mental health services; educational supports; support groups for adoptive families, parents, or children; drug or alcohol treatment services; and job training or independent living skills support. Only the parent instrument included items asking about adoption support services and financial assistance.

Any Services Needed or Received After Adoption

Table 22 presents the services and supports needed and received for adoptees and adoptive parents who completed the survey. Participants reported that mental health services are the most needed type of service (for 65.78% of cases). Mental health services were also the most received type of service (received by 61.80% of cases). Following mental health services, participants reported most needing educational supports (51.46%), with 46.01% of all participants having received educational support. Most adoptive parents reported that they needed financial assistance (63.57%) and most parents received this support (66.90%).

All service categories show some disparity between reports of needed services/supports and received services/supports, with more participants reporting a service/support need and fewer reporting that

they received a service/support. The greatest disparity between needed services and received services was job training or independent living skills, with 35.01% of adoptees needing this support and only 18.67% receiving it.

Table 22.   Services and Supports Needed and Received by Adoptees and Adoptive Parents (Full Analytic Sample, N = 383)

Type of Service or Support	Number and Proportion of Adoptees and Parents: Needed Service			Number and Proportion of Adoptees and Parents: Received Service[a]		
	n[b]	# Yes	% Yes (SE)	n[b]	# Yes	% Yes (SE)
Services for Adopted Child[c]						
Mental Health Services	377	248	65.78 (2.45)	377	233	61.80 (2.51)
Educational Supports	377	194	51.46 (2.58)	376	173	46.01 (2.57)
Support Group for Adoptive Families, Parents or Youth	362	108	29.83 (2.41)	361	66	18.28 (2.04)
Drug or Alcohol Treatment Services	377	40	10.61 (1.59)	375	22	5.87 (1.22)
Job training or independent living skills	377	132	35.01 (2.46)	375	70	18.67 (2.01)
Services for Adoptive Parents[d]						
Adoption Support Services from the Child Welfare System	291	108	37.11 (2.84)	289	92	31.83 (2.74)
Financial Assistance	291	185	63.57 (2.83)	290	194	66.90 (2.77)

Note: SE is the standard error of the percentage.

[a] All participants were asked what services were received regardless of their response to what services were needed.

[b] Not all parent or adoptee participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, the full analytic sample of 383 participants is not represented in each row of this table. This column represents the number of participants who responded to the relevant survey item(s) for this service type.

[c] Both adoptive parent and adoptee surveys included questions that asked about services needed and received for adopted children. A service was coded as needed or received if the parent or adoptee participant (or both) indicated that a service was needed or received.

[d]   Only the parent survey included questions about services for adoptive parents; consequently, only parent survey participants are represented for these service types.

Services Received After Experiencing Post Adoption Instability

Table 23 presents the services and supports received for adoptees and adoptive parents who experienced post adoption instability. Participants were asked about services received during the time of an adoptee's foster care reentry or informal instability event. The survey instrument did not ask participants to report on services received after termination of an adoptive parent's rights or a child's emancipation prior to the age of majority.

Most families reported receiving at least one type of service during the time their families experienced post adoption instability (75.86% of families whose children reentered foster care and 78.79% of families whose children experienced informal instability). Parent or adoptee participants most

commonly reported receiving mental health services followed by educational supports. These findings should be interpreted cautiously as some proportions in this table represent very few cases.

Table 23.   **Services Received by Families with Children Who Re-Entered Foster Care or Experienced Informal Instability After Adoption (Full Analytic Sample, N = 383)**

Type of Service Received for Adopted Child[a]	Number and Proportion of Families with Children who Reentered Foster Care After Adoption (N = 32)			Number and Proportion of Families with Children who Experienced Informal Instability After Adoption (N = 115)		
	n[b]	# Yes	% Yes (SE)	n[b]	# Yes	% Yes (SE)
Mental health services	29	20	68.97 (8.74)	99	61	61.62 (4.91)
Educational Supports	29	16	55.17 (9.40)	99	54	54.55 (5.03)
Adoption support services from the child welfare system[c]	14	6	42.86 (13.73)	57	18	31.58 (6.21)
Support group for adoptive parents or children	25	9	36.60 (9.80)	89	20	22.47 (4.45)
Drug or alcohol treatment services	29	2	6.90 (4.79)	97	14	14.43 (3.59)
Job or independent living skills training[d]	20	9	45.00 (11.41)	62	13	20.97 (5.21)
Any of these Services	29	22	75.86 (8.09)	99	78	78.79 (4.13)

Note: SE is the standard error of the percentage.

[a] Both adoptive parent and adoptee surveys included questions that asked about services received for adopted children. A service was coded as received if the parent or adoptee participant (or both) indicated that a service was received.

[b] Not all parent or adoptee participants provided answers to these questions; consequently, because of missing data, the total number of families with children who reentered foster care after adoption (N = 32) and families with children who experienced informal instability after adoption (N = 115) is not represented in each row of this table. This column represents the number of participants who responded to the relevant survey item(s) for this service type.

[c] Only the parent survey included questions about adoption support services for adoptive parents; consequently, only parent survey participants are represented for this service type.

[d] Only the adoptee survey included questions about job or independent living skills training; consequently, only adoptee survey participants are represented for this service type.

3.4.2   *RQ 5: What are the facilitators and barriers to accessing support services for adoptive families?*

In the *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys, both parent and adoptee participants were asked open-ended questions about facilitators and barriers to accessing services for adoptive families and adopted children. In their open-ended responses, adoptees and adoptive parents report both similar and different facilitators and barriers. To show these similarities and differences, this section describes findings separately by type of survey participant. Results are presented as a summary of the types of responses using categories determined by study team members (see *Section 2.4* for more detail about the response coding process). Results are also presented as direct quotes from the survey participants, as examples of themes in the data.

Overall, the findings indicate that both adoptive parents and adoptees describe the child welfare agency and family members as both facilitators and barriers to accessing services. The adoptees and adoptive

parents both report that self-advocacy is a main facilitator to accessing services, and many adoptees also report the lack of self-advocacy as a barrier. The following results tables are separated by adoptee participant responses (**Tables 24** and **25**) and adoptive parent participant responses (**Tables 26** and **27**).

Adoptee Perceptions of Service Facilitators and Barriers

Adoptees (n = 124) most often reported that the facilitators that helped them access services were parental or family support (n = 58; 47%) and self-advocacy (n = 17; 14%). Adoptees also noted the help of service providers such as agency staff (n = 5; 4%), school personnel (n = 6; 4%), or health care providers (n = 6; 4%) staff. **Table 24** shows examples of adoptee participants' quotes supporting these perceived service facilitators.

Table 24.   **Example Adoptee Responses Regarding Service Facilitators**

Type of Facilitator	Participant Quote
Parent or family support (n = 58; 47%)	*My parents advocated for me.*
	My grandparents cared a lot [and] only wanted the best for me, they did a lot of research.
	My parents listening to me.
Self-advocacy (n = 17; 14%)	*I would ask over and over.*
	I just had to do it on my own.
Agency support (n = 5; 4%) and self-advocacy	*My social worker and realizing I really needed the services that I was receiving.*
School staff support (n = 6; 4%)	*School referral*

Adoptees (n = 65) reported that the main barriers to accessing services include having an unsupportive family or a family who didn't understand that they needed help (n = 15; 23%), a lack of agency involvement or support (n = 11; 17%), and a lack of self-advocacy (not communicating their own needs or being unwilling to receive services; n = 9; 14%). **Table 25** shows examples of adoptee participants' quotes supporting these perceived service barriers.

Table 25.   **Example Adoptee Responses Regarding Service Barriers**

Type of Barrier	Participant Quote
Family, unsupportive or lack of knowledge (n = 15; 23%)	*Mother didn't think [the] problem was that severe.*
	My family didn't care about me.
	The adults who were caring for me did not realize that I needed counseling/therapy after trauma.
Lack of Agency Involvement (n = 11; 17%)	*I never had contact with an agency or anyone willing to help.*
	Something to do with [Child Welfare Agency].
	They were not offered.
	Childhood trauma made it difficult to ask for help.
	Did not tell my adoptive parents I needed them [services].

Type of Barrier	Participant Quote
Lack of self-advocacy (n = 9; 14%)	*Because I didn't open up about my issues.*
	I wasn't very open to services at a young age, so my grandparents were reluctant to reach out.
	I didn't have any resources and really didn't know much.

Adoptive Parent Perceptions of Service Facilitators and Barriers

Adoptive parents (n = 68) reported that the main facilitators to accessing services were agency or provider support (n = 23; 34%), self-advocacy (n = 15; 22%), financial support (n = 8; 12%), and having community or family supports (n = 6; 8%). *Table 26* shows examples of adoptive parent participants' quotes supporting these perceived service facilitators.

Table 26.   Example Adoptive Parent Responses Regarding Service Facilitators

Type of Facilitator	Participant Quote
Agency or provider support (n = 23; 34%); Community support (n = 6; 8%)	*The area agency/the people that work with different government programs and are aware of what is available. Also, the school system knowing what other programs available. The people out in the community who connected us with other programs.*
	A good caseworker.
	Referrals from doctors or teachers.
	I had good support from friends telling me exactly what to do.
Self-advocacy (n = 15; 22%)	*My ability to advocate.*
Self-advocacy and financial support (n = 8; 12%)	*Myself, fighting for them, I didn't have money to counseling. [I] was able to get Medicaid to get help, mental health care. Financially I could not afford it. [It] should be offered to all adopted children.*
Financial support (n = 8; 12%)	*The insurance we got for him before he turned 18.*
	My private insurance.
	Consistent assistance from the subsidy.
Family support (n = 6; 8%)	*We had good family that helped support us along the way.*

Adoptive parents (n = 162) reported that the main barrier to accessing services was a general lack of assistance, support, or lack of information provided by the child welfare agency (n = 37; 23%). This included challenges with the child welfare agency, waitlists for services, and a lack of understanding of their child's needs or being unaware of available services. Additional barriers included services being unavailable (n = 20; 12%) or not offered in their location (n = 10; 6%) or financial barriers (n = 7; 4%). *Table 27* shows examples of adoptive parent participants' quotes supporting these perceived barriers to services.

Table 27.   Example Adoptive Parent Responses Regarding Service Barriers

Type of Barrier	Participant Quote
General lack of assistance, support, or information (n = 37; 23%)	*Was not offered any assistance after adoption.*
	The agency is over worked, understaffed so the help received is minimal unless you constantly bug them.
	[Child] was depressed when his dad became ill and he never felt like he got any help.
	No one offered it. CASA and CPS just told us to take it slow and they would help. It never came!
	Unknown to me. Never offered.
	She [was] never properly diagnosed. A neurological exam may have helped us understand her behaviors.
	I wasn't aware there were any services available for parents who were dealing with children with special needs.
	The wait to see anyone took too long, then he would refuse.
No services available (n = 20; 12%)	*No such services were available in my area.*
	There are limited options in our rural area, lack of training in kids with trauma/attachment issues.
	There were no good residential mental health services available for youth.
Financial Barrier (n = 7; 4%)	*As far as financial support, I did not receive all that I should have.*
	Lack of resources.
	Expenses were cut due to kinship.

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4. Conclusion

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* gathered information on 383 children who exited foster care to adoption and were also former participants in the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW). Secondary data available through NSCAW are included in study analyses along with data from the new *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys of adoptees and their adoptive parents. The study's findings explore the prevalence of post adoption instability (RQ1), risk and protective factors associated with instability experiences (RQ2) including the quality of current adoptive parent-adoptee relationships (RQ3), services and supports received (RQ4), and perceived barriers and facilitators to these services (RQ5).

This section of the report summarizes study findings and compares them to prior research results. We also discuss the study's strengths and limitations and implications for future research and child welfare system practices.

4.1   Prevalence of Post Adoption Instability

Research consistently shows that most children and youth who exit foster care through adoption do not later experience post adoption instability. *NSCAW Adoption Study* findings align with this prior research. This study explores the prevalence of both formal and informal instability after adoption and before the child turns 18 years old. Approximately 66% of adoptees did not experience either a formal or informal post adoption instability event. Ninety percent did not experience a formal post adoption instability event. Informal post adoption instability is more common, but even then, almost 70% of adoptees did not experience any informal post adoption instability.

Almost 10% of adoptees experienced formal post adoption instability. Approximately 8% reported foster care reentry after adoption and 2% reported the termination of the adoptive parents' parental rights or the child's emancipation prior to the age of 18 years. These estimates fall within the range reported by prior research: estimates of adoption dissolutions range from 1% to 10% (Bergeron & Pennington, 2013; CWIG, 2012; Jones & LaLiberte, 2010) and adoption discontinuity from 2% to 15% (Rolock et al., 2017; Testa et al., 2015; White, 2016). Our findings are especially consistent with one of the largest long-term studies conducted to date on post adoption instability. Rolock and White (2016) used population-level data for 51,574 children in Illinois who left foster care to adoption or guardianship between 1998 and 2010 and followed their permanency outcomes until age 18, foster care exit, or December 31, 2014 (whichever came first). Their results showed that 7% reentered foster care, which is comparable to our findings of 8%.

Limiting the measurement of post adoption instability to formal events may not fully capture the breadth of instability events experienced by adoptees and their families. Of note and comparable to this study, Egbert (2015) found that 28.4% of adoptive parents reported a "post adoption crisis," separate from any out-of-home placement experience, that required the use of informal or formal supports to resolve the situation. Similarly, in a qualitative study by Rolock and Perez (2016), adoptees reported more experiences with instability than were recorded in official Child Welfare System case records. To better understand the prevalence of instability events beyond foster care reentry and the termination of parental rights, the *NSCAW Adoption Study* also considered the report of informal post adoption instability. Consistent with Egbert (2015) and Rolock and Perez (2016), the *NSCAW Adoption Study* finds

that a narrow focus on foster care reentry and termination of parental rights may underestimate the prevalence of post adoption instability experiences. Informal instability experiences are more common than formal ones, and in the current study, 30% of participants reported the occurrence of informal instability events after adoption. The most common informal instability events included a child running away (18% of all adoptees), leaving home prior to the age of 18 years (17%), living with a nonrelative adult instead of the adoptive parent (9%), and experiencing a period of homelessness (8%). As most published studies rely on administrative records to estimate post adoption instability (capturing only formal events), there are not comparable estimates in the literature documenting the prevalence of informal post adoption instability.

4.2   Risk and Protective Factors Associated With Instability

This study examines several child, parent, and family characteristics suggested in the research literature to be risk or protective factors for post adoption formal and informal instability. Findings revealed factors associated with both formal and informal post adoption instability, including less nurturing family relationships during childhood (as measured by the PFS instrument) and the presence of child behavior problems early in the adoptive relationship. Findings also showed factors only associated with informal stability, including older child age at the time of adoption, child sex assigned at birth (being female), and less parent-child closeness prior to the adoption. However, when accounting for the influence of all other potential risk/protective factors, only less nurturing family relationships continued to show a significant association with both formal and informal post adoption instability. This section of the report discusses each of these findings in detail and compares *NSCAW Adoption Study* results with prior research.

NSCAW Adoption Study findings suggest that the strongest factor associated with instability is the quality of family attachments and relationships during childhood (as measured by the PFS instrument). In fact, the quality of the family relationship remained a significant predictor of post adoption instability even when statistically controlling for many other child and parent characteristics (such as child and parent demographics, the child's maltreatment history, and child behavior problems at the time of adoption). Less nurturing family relationships were associated with greater post adoption instability, and more nurturing family relationships were associated with less post adoption instability. This is consistent with prior research involving adoptive and guardianship families (White et al., 2021). Positive family functioning is associated with positive child outcomes, and negative family functioning is associated with negative child outcomes. For example, poor adoptive parent-child attachment is a risk factor for negative family relationships and post adoption discontinuity or dissolution (Agnich et al., 2016; Bergeron & Pennington, 2013; Faulkner et al., 2017). At the same time, strong and positive attachment between a caregiver and child is identified in many studies as a protective factor for several child outcomes that are also related to post adoption instability. Specifically, strong parent-child attachment is associated with fewer child behavior problems, better parent-child communication, and higher family cohesion, functioning, and flexibility (CWIG, 2013; Groza & Ryan, 2002; Groze, 1996; Mariscal et al., 2015; Smith et al., 1998; White, 2016). This prior research suggests that building strong emotional ties and fostering positive parent-child interactions after adoption might reduce the risk for later post adoption formal or informal instability events.

Results from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* also show that adoptive parents or adoptees who describe close parent-child relationships prior to adoption are less likely to experience informal (but not formal) post adoption instability. However, this factor was not significantly associated with informal instability when controlling for other child, parent, and family characteristics. Thus, this study provides preliminary evidence of a link between parent-child closeness prior to adoption and informal instability, but more research is needed to understand the role of parent-child closeness in the context of other risk or protective factors.

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* also shows child behavior problems reported by adoptive parents early in the adoptive relationship to be significantly associated with both formal and informal post adoption instability. Child behavior problems early in the adoptive relationship continue to be significantly associated with informal post adoption instability even when controlling for other child, parent, and family characteristics. This finding is consistent with previous research. In fact, the presence of child behavior problems is one of the most well-established risk factors for instability following both adoption and guardianship (Berry et al., 2007; Liao et al., 2017; Liao & White, 2014; Rycus et al., 2006; Testa et al., 2015; White, 2016). Many adoptive families struggle to adjust to difficult child emotions and behaviors and problems in family functioning, long after adoptions and guardianships are finalized (Egbert, 2015; Faulkner & Madden, 2012; Lloyd & Barth, 2011; White et al., 2021). These struggles may then later lead to instability.

Another factor significantly associated with post adoption instability in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* is older child age at the time of adoption. Compared to those adopted at older ages, adoptee participants 2 years old or younger at time of their adoption were the least likely to experience post adoption formal and informal instability. However, differences in rates of post adoption instability by adoptees' age at adoption were only statistically significant for informal (and not formal) instability. Furthermore, in regression analyses controlling for multiple factors (including child behavior problems and participants' perceptions of family nurturing and attachment), child age no longer had a statistically significant association with rates of either formal or informal instability. These results differ from prior research which finds that younger child age at the time of adoption is consistently associated with a lower risk for instability. For example, Rolock and White (2016) found less risk of foster care reentry among children whose adoption or guardianship was finalized prior to their third birthday, compared to children whose adoption or guardianship was finalized after the age of 3. Further research suggests that caregivers who adopt or become guardians of foster children older than 3 may face more complications in building secure attachment relationships than do families who adopt very young children (Barth & Miller, 2000; Roberson, 2006), difficulties which may influence later instability. Most of the existing research in this area reflects the outcomes of children under the age of 18, while the *NSCAW Adoption Study* sample includes older youth and young adults. It may be that the protective factor of adoption at an early age may diminish over time, as children enter older adolescence and young adulthood. Additional research should explore the impact of child age at adoption on outcomes during late adolescence and young adulthood.

NSCAW Adoption Study analyses show that male adoptees are less likely to experience informal (but not formal) post adoption instability than female adoptees. However, the association between child sex and instability did not remain when controlling for other child, parent, and family characteristics. Prior research on the link between child sex assigned at birth and post adoption outcomes is similarly inconclusive. Some adoption studies report that boys are at higher risk for post adoption difficulties

(Goerge et al., 1997; Goldman & Ryan, 2011; Simmel et al., 2007). Boys are more likely to have externalizing behavior problems, such as aggression or problems with impulse control, than girls (e.g., Averett et al., 2009; Liu, 2004), which may increase boys' risk for post adoption instability. However, in a large study of Illinois youth who exited foster care to adoption or guardianship, Rolock (2015) found similar rates of post adoption and guardianship instability for boys and girls.

Beyond child sex, results from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* did not show other associations between adoptee or adoptive parent demographic characteristics and post adoption instability. Prior research shows that some adoptive parent and child demographic characteristics (such as sex, race, and family structure) are occasionally related to post adoption instability, but direct links between these demographic characteristics and instability have not been firmly established (White et al., 2018).

Rates of formal and informal post adoption instability did not differ based on whether the *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptive parent had a kin relationship to the adoptee. Previous research on the influence of a kinship relationship on adoption outcomes is mixed. Some studies suggest kinship is a protective factor for instability, but other studies find that kinship is either a risk factor for instability or has no relationship to instability (Testa et al., 2015; White et al., 2018). For example, one study found kinship adoption to be related to worse family functioning than non-kin adoption, but the same study also found that kinship caregivers might be more likely to adopt again than non-kinship caregivers (Hinterlong & Ryan, 2008). However, Testa (2005) and Testa et al. (2015) found closer genealogical relatedness to be associated with lower rates of post adoption and guardianship instability in a study of kinship caregivers and foster parents both prior to and after adoption and guardianship finalization. The influence of kinship on formal and informal instability may depend on many factors (e.g., age, race, prior relationship to the kin caregiver). Given findings from the present study and previous research, a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between kinship and instability is needed.

4.3   Current Adoptive Parent-Adoptee Relationships

Understanding the prevalence of post adoption instability may only reveal one narrow portion of an adoptee's experience. Reflecting on findings from their large longitudinal study of adopted youth in the United Kingdom, Selwyn, Meakings, & Wijedasa (2015) note the importance of considering family relationships in addition to the presence of post adoption instability: "*The number of adoption disruptions tells us only something about where the child or young person is living. They reveal nothing about the quality of family relationships. Some young people may move out of home, but retain meaningful relationships with family members, albeit from a distance. On the other hand, children living in their adoptive home may have unfulfilled relationships, with little family cohesion*" (p. 7). For this reason, it is important to consider the quality of current adoptive parent-adoptee relationships.

Most *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptees reported having close current relationships with their adoptive parents and a strong sense of belonging to their adoptive family. Even for adoptees who experienced formal and informal post adoption instability during childhood, many reported feeling that they currently "completely" or "very much" belong to their adoptive families. This was true for more than half (56%) of adoptees who experienced formal instability and 45% of adoptees who experienced informal instability. Most *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptive parents also reported having close current relationships to their adopted child and a strong sense that their child belongs to their family. Although 25% of parents whose child experienced formal post adoption instability reported currently feeling "not

close at all" to their child, more than half reported currently feeling "extremely" or "very" close. The parents of children who experienced formal post adoption instability also continued to report a strong sense that the child belongs to their family (with 79% responding that the child "completely" or "very much" belongs).

Unlike most existing research on instability in adoptive families, the *NSCAW Adoption Study* allows for an examination of familial relationships into young adulthood. The average age of the *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptee participants is 24 years, with a range from 15 to 36 years. Therefore, when asked to describe the quality of their current parent-child relationship, most participants described this relationship as adults. While some adoptees no longer have contact with their adoptive families after experiencing instability, this was not true of all adoptees, including those who had experienced formal post adoption instability. Adoptive relationships may change over the course of an adoptee's development from childhood to adulthood. More research is needed to examine how adoptee-adoptive parent relationships evolve and change over time.

Prior research suggests that instability events are most likely to occur during adolescence. Adolescence can be a challenging time for youth with or without a history of maltreatment, child welfare involvement, or adoption. However, after an adoptee moves through this challenging developmental period into adulthood, the adoptive relationship may change. Some relationships may end, while others may remain intact, even after an instability event occurs. Other research supports this finding. For example, Festinger and Maza (2009) found that many adoptive parents continue to stay involved in their child's life despite their child's return to foster care. In a large national study from the United Kingdom, Selwyn, Meakings, & Wijedasa (2015) urge service providers to think differently about adoptive family relationships. These authors suggest that "a revolving door approach was needed for some adopted adolescents, whereby they could spend time away from their families without it being seen as a failure" (p. 362). Selwyn and colleagues suggest that the field consider that adoptive parents may be "parenting at a distance" and develop ways to support these families as they find the best ways to support their familial relationships.

More research is needed on the lived experiences of adoptees and their relationships with adoptive families. Adoptees speak about the need to better document their lived experiences—for both those who continue to have healthy adult relationships with their adoptive parents and those who do not. For example, as Gina E. Miranda Samuels (2022) discusses her experiences as a transracially adopted person, she calls for a new research agenda that seeks adoptee perspectives on adoption outcomes and considers "pathways of healing and well-being as processes that unfold developmentally across the adult life course, shaping individuals and families intergenerationally" (p. 10). Permanency represents more than a legal relationship for adoptees (Kim, 2022); adoption may also come with the loss of prior relationships and displacements to residence. Consequently, adoptive parent-adoptee relationships are complex and multifaceted. The *NSCAW Adoption Study* can shed some light on these important issues, but additional work is needed to understand the complicated relationships that exist for adoptees and their families.

4.4   Services and Supports

NSCAW Adoption Study participants described services needed and received during childhood and their perceptions about service barriers and facilitators. Service needs were more commonly reported than

services received, which is consistent with prior studies (Dhami, Mandel, & Sothmann, 2007; Hartinger-Saunders, Trouteaud, & Matos Johnson, 2014).

Participants described children's mental health services as the most commonly needed and most commonly received service. More than 60% of adoptees or adoptive parents reported having received children's mental health services. This is consistent with previous literature, which also shows that many adoptive families report children's mental health service needs. For example, in a survey of over 800 parents who adopted children out of foster care in Utah, Egbert (2015) found that 9.8% of children had significant emotional or behavioral issues and needed out-of-home placement at some point after adoption finalization. *NSCAW Adoption Study* participants described receiving other services, such as educational supports, less than 50% of the time.

Among the *NSCAW Adoption Study* participants who reported post adoption instability, most (75%–79%) received some type of service after the adoption. This indicates that those with the greatest need for services (i.e., those currently experiencing instability) were often likely to receive a service. While encouraging, this finding should not be interpreted to mean that the services received by adoptive families were necessarily helpful at preventing instability. Berry and colleagues (2007) found that 17% of Missouri adoptive families who received intensive in-home services over the course of 10 years still experienced some post adoption instability. To adequately support some adoptive families, particularly those whose children have emotional and behavioral health needs, it may be important to establish long-term relationships between service providers and families that include opportunities to allow families to discuss unmet or ongoing and changing needs. Additionally, over time, the service array offered may need to include multiple types of services to address the changing and diverse needs of both adopted children and their families.

The barriers to receiving services reported by *NSCAW Adoption Study* participants are consistent with those most commonly summarized in the literature. For example, in previous literature, most adoptive families report lacking information about how to access needed services (Barth & Miller, 2000; Festinger, 2002; Groze, 1996; Reilly & Platz, 2003; Rolock, 2015; Rolock & Perez, 2016; Rolock et al., 2017). In the current study, adoptive parent participants described the primary barrier to services as a general lack of assistance, support, or information received from the child welfare agency. Adoptive parents described the most common facilitator to be agency or provider support. Adoptees indicated that family members could either facilitate or serve as a barrier to accessing services. Adoptees most commonly reported unsupportive family members or their families' lack of understanding about their needs as barriers to services. However, adoptees also reported having a supportive family as the most common facilitator to services. Understanding the barriers and facilitators to accessing needed services can help child welfare agencies address disparities in access and possibly the underlying issues that lead to post adoption instability.

4.5   Study Strengths

The primary strength of the *NSCAW Adoption Study* is its use of adoptive parent and adoptee self-report. Prior studies of post adoption instability typically rely on administrative records, which may capture formal system reentry but fail to characterize the depth and breadth of adoptees' and families' post adoption instability experiences. Prior studies that use post adoption surveys typically obtain only parent perspectives; the simultaneous collection of information from adoptees and adoptive parents is a

significant strength of this study. Self-report instruments in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* provide information not only about foster care reentry and parental rights termination, but also about informal instability and other interruptions in care which were far more commonly reported by study participants than formal instability. Further, the study's self-report instruments help to provide important contextual information about the factors surrounding instability events, including perceptions of the adoptee-adoptive parent relationship. Understanding the context within which instability occurs is critical to identifying opportunities to intervene and support adoptees and their families, and ideally to prevent post adoption instability.

Another study strength of the *NSCAW Adoption Study* is that its sample is drawn from participants in the NSCAW, a nationally representative study of children involved in the child welfare system. Consequently, the *NSCAW Adoption Study* sample represents the breadth of children exiting foster care to adoption out of the public system, an advantage over studies including children from only one state or region, studies that focus exclusively on private adoptions, or studies that exclude children adopted by kin caregivers. Resulting prevalence estimates of post adoption instability from the *NSCAW Adoption Study* can be interpreted to reflect a diverse group of adoptee experiences.

Even though *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys occurred 8 or more years after the adoption, the study successfully examined the influence of several pre-permanency (or early adoption) characteristics on post adoption instability. These pre-permanency characteristics included information from the investigative caseworker's risk assessment at the time of the child's maltreatment investigation (i.e., level of maltreatment harm) and the adoptive parent's report of their child's behavior problems early in their adoptive relationship. Because the study participants participated in NSCAW, this information was available through the NSCAW secondary dataset. Understanding the influence of these pre-permanency characteristics on post adoption instability is important, as these factors are often documented in case files and known to the child welfare system prior to a child's adoption.

4.6   Study Limitations

The *NSCAW Adoption Study* relies on the retrospective reporting of adoptive parents and adoptees about their adoption histories and experiences with post adoption instability. The passage of time may have changed perceptions of the context surrounding the instability events or presented challenges to participants' accurately recalling event details. The study team cannot be certain whether retrospective reporting led to an increase or decrease in reports of post adoption instability events, as this has not been examined in previous literature. However, study findings regarding the prevalence of formal post adoption instability are comparable to prior research, which lends credibility to the accuracy of study estimates.

Although the study team conducted several months of tracing and locating, they were not able to contact 27% of all eligible adoptive parents and 49% of all eligible adoptees. Also, not all adoptive parents and adoptees who were located by the study team agreed to complete a survey. This resulted in a relatively small sample size, particularly for observing an uncommon event such as formal post adoption instability. The small sample size may have limited the study's power to detect significant predictors of instability events, particularly formal post adoption instability. The study team used available NSCAW secondary data to compare the pre adoption characteristics of eligible NSCAW I and II cases with at least one completed survey to eligible cases without at least one completed survey. Across

15 comparisons of characteristics shown in the literature to potentially be associated with post adoption instability, there were only 2 statistically significant differences between the two samples. Consequently, these results showed little to no evidence of final analytic sample characteristics that might bias study estimates of post adoption instability.

The small sample size did not include enough completed surveys to support examination of the influence of adoptee- or parent-only reported factors on post adoption instability. Consequently, the research team was not able to conduct analyses to examine the influence of self-reported motivations to sustain adoption relationships or expectations for the adoptive relationship on post adoption outcomes (see **Appendix A** for a list of the original *NSCAW Adoption Study* research questions). Similarly, because of the limited number of adoptees and adoptive parents from the same family who completed surveys, the study team was not able to conduct analyses to directly compare the perspectives of adoptees to those of their adoptive parent.

Finally, this study focuses only on adoptive families and does not examine outcomes for children who achieved permanency through legal guardianship. Future research should examine the extent to which the post adoption experiences described here are comparable for children who exit foster care to legal guardianship.

4.7   Potential Implications for the Child Welfare System

Most adoptive family relationships remain stable over time. Moreover, most adoptive parents and adoptees report close current relationships and positive connections with each other. This demonstrates successful transitions for most children who exit the foster care system to adoption. This success is to be celebrated.

Some families do experience post adoption instability. And, when post adoption instability events occur, they may not consistently come to the attention of the child welfare system. Most child welfare agencies are not well positioned to track outcomes for children after they have been adopted. Administrative records typically capture only foster care reentry or the formal termination of parent(s') rights. While this study shows these formal instability events occur in almost 10% of adoptive families, other less formal instability experiences are far more common, occurring in up to 30% of adoptive families. These most typically include a child running away, leaving home before the age of 18 years (for reasons other than military/school/job), experiencing homelessness, or living temporarily with other relatives or non-relative adults. The frequency of these experiences revealed by the current study signal opportunities for child welfare agencies to provide additional support to adoptive families.

Two pre adoption characteristics likely known by child welfare agencies at the time of adoption finalization, are especially important for agencies to consider: child age and existing emotional or behavioral health problems. Families adopting older children or children with a history of emotional or behavioral health problems are at a particularly high risk for experiencing post adoption instability. Child welfare agencies may need to offer families finalizing adoptions more pre and post adoption supports for older children or those whose children have known emotional or behavioral health problems.

Participating *NSCAW Adoption Study* parents and adoptees most commonly report mental health issues as their highest service need. And, while many report having received mental health services, several did not. Both adoptees and parents describe several barriers to accessing services and supports, especially

not having information about where to seek help. Families may benefit from better communication about available post adoption services and supports, both at the time of the adoption finalization and throughout a child's adolescence. Information about how to identify a child's mental health needs and locally available mental health services are especially important. Knowledge of these resources may help prevent post adoption instability experiences.

Living in a safe, nurturing, and stable adoptive family is important to promoting a child's well-being. Nurturing and positive attachments also promote stability. In this study, positive perceptions of family nurturing and attachment protected against the occurrence of post adoption instability, even when considering other risk factors such as child age and behavior problems. This study shows that considering the quality of adoptee-adoptive parent relationships may be critical to understanding the context surrounding families' experiences with post adoption instability. Post adoption instability experiences would be challenging for any child or family. However, even after experiencing post adoption instability, many *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptee and adoptive parent participants describe positive current parent-child relationships. The quality of adoptive family relationships likely changes over the course of a child's development, as do an adoptees' risks for instability. The ability of child welfare agency staff to accept the current state of adoptees and adoptive families without judgment and understand the context around families' instability experiences will be critical to effectively engaging adoptees and their adoptive families in services and supports.

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Appendix A. Original *NSCAW Adoption Study* Research Questions

The *Survey of National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Adoption Follow-Up Study* (or *NSCAW Adoption Study*) data collection methods were reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs under OMB #0970-0555. Related materials are available at the **Survey of National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) Adopted Youth, Young Adults, Adults and Adoptive Parents information collection page on RegInfo.gov**. At the time of the submission to OMB, the research team proposed 8 research questions (RQs), shown in ***Exhibit A-1***. The current report focuses on five of these 8 original research questions.

Exhibit A-1. NSCAW Adoption Study Original Research Questions

NSCAW Adoption Study Original Research Questions	
RQ 1	To what extent have adopted NSCAW participants experienced post adoption formal and informal instability?
RQ 2	What are the risk and protective factors for post adoption instability at the youth, adoptive parent, and family levels?
RQ 3*	How are youth/young adult, adult, and adoptive parent self-reported motivations to sustain the adoption relationship associated with post adoption instability?
RQ 4*	How are young adult and parent self-reported expectations or perceptions of their adoption relationship associated with both formal (e.g., foster care reentry) and informal (e.g., periods of homelessness, runaway events) post adoption instability?
RQ 5*	How is the association between youth/adoptive parent/family characteristics and instability impacted (or moderated) by youth/young adult and adoptive parent self-reported expectations, motivations, or perceptions of their adoption relationship?
RQ 6	What is the quality of current adoptive parent-child relationships among children who exited foster care to permanency through adoption?
RQ 7	What support services such as peer support groups, individual or family counseling, or academic tutoring are accessible to youth/young adults and adoptive parents experiencing (or at risk of experiencing) post adoption instability?
RQ 8	What are the facilitators and barriers to accessing support services for adoptive families?

*Research questions proposed to OMB, but not analyzed within the current report.

The final *NSCAW Adoption Study* sample included too few adoptee and adoptive parent completed interviews to support examination of the influence of adoptee-only or parent-only reported factors on post adoption instability. Consequently, the research team did not conduct analyses to examine the influence of self-reported motivations to sustain adoption relationships on post adoption instability (original RQ3), expectations for the adoptive relationship on post adoption instability (original RQ4), or

how the association between adoptee/parent characteristics on instability might be moderated by self-reported expectations, motivations or perceptions about the adoptive relationship (original RQ5).

Appendix B. NSCAW I/II Child Date of Adoption and Age at Adoption Derivation and Imputation

The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) datasets contain data from multiple participants (Caregiver, Caseworker, and Youth) across 3 (NSCAW II) to 5 (NSCAW I) Waves of data collection. When examining a construct, a researcher needs to resolve or assimilate the data from multiple variables into to a single response. For the *NSCAW Adoption Study*, the project team derived variables to represent a child NSCAW participant's date of adoption and age at adoption. Since a child could be adopted at any point across the study period, many data collection waves are relevant. Moreover, several variables capture this information in the NSCAW datasets, and each have various levels of missing data. Consequently, these derived variables pull information from either caseworker or caregiver report across multiple waves of data collection and several instrument modules. **Appendix B** describes this derivation process for both the Child Date of Adoption and Age at Adoption derived variables used in the *NSCAW Adoption Study* analyses.

NSCAW I

In NSCAW I, only participants from the Child Protective Service (CPS) sample were screened for eligibility for the *NSCAW Adoption Study*. Relative to the date of adoption, there are three modules and two participants providing dates across four Waves of data collection (see **Exhibit A.1**).

Exhibit A.1. NSCAW I Modules Containing Adoption Dates

– SCAW Participant	– Module (CAPI section)	– Variables	– Wave (s)
Services Caseworker	Adoption Module (AM)	am21bdt, am31bdt	2 & 3
	▪ Permanency Planning (PO)	▪ PO41bm, PO41bd, PO41by, PO51bm, PO51bd, PO41by	▪ 4 & 5
▪ Current Caregiver	▪ Permanency Planning (PP)	▪ PP42m, PP42y, PP52m, PP52y	▪ 4 & 5

When participants provided dates of adoption for one or more of the questions from the modules listed in the table, the hierarchy below was used to select the final date of adoption. The final date of adoption served as the basis for informing the first interview with the adoptive parent or kin provider and was used for evaluating constructs like the post adoption instability.

Logic for deriving date of adoption for NSCAW I:

1. If date of adoption was provided by the Services Caseworker in the Adoption Module at Wave 2 (variable am21bdt), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the next criteria was evaluated.

2. If the date of adoption was provided by the Services Caseworker in the Adoption Module at Wave 3 (variable am31bdt), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the next criteria was evaluated.

3. If the date of adoption was provided by the Current Caregiver in the Permanency Planning module (PP) at Wave 4 (variables PP42m, PP42y), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the next criteria was evaluated. To create a month, day, year formatted variable, the first day of the month was inserted since day was not captured.

4. If the date of adoption was provided by the Services Caseworker in the Permanency Planning module (PO) at Wave 4 (variables PO41bm, PO41bd, PO41by), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the next criteria was evaluated.

5. If the date of adoption was provided by the Current Caregiver in the Permanency Planning module (PP) at Wave 5 (variables PP52m, PP52y), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the next criteria was evaluated. Note: to create a month, day, year formatted variable, the first day of the month was inserted since day was not captured.

6. If the date of adoption was provided by the Services Caseworker in the Permanency Planning module (PO) at Wave 5 (variables PO51bm, PO51bd, PO41by), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the date of adoption was set to be missing and the process moved from deriving the date of adoption to imputing it as described in the next section.

NSCAW II

Exhibit A.2. NSCAW II Modules Containing Adoption Dates

– NSCAW Participant	– Module (CAPI section)	– Variables	– Wave (s)
▪ Services Caseworker	▪ Permanency Planning (PO)	▪ PO21BM, PO21BD, PO21BY, PO31BM, PO31BD, PO31BY	▪ 2 & 3
▪ Current Caregiver	▪ Permanency Planning (PP)	▪ PP23M, PP22Y, PP32M, PP32Y	▪ 2 & 3

When participants provided dates of adoption for one or more of the questions from the modules listed in the table, the hierarchy below was used to select the final date of adoption. The final date of adoption served as the basis for informing the first interview with the adoptive parent or kin caregiver and was used for evaluating constructs like the post-adoption instability.

Logic for deriving date of adoption for NSCAW II:

1. If the date of adoption was provided by the Services Caseworker in the Permanency Planning module (PO) at Wave 2 (variables PO21bm, PO21bd, PO21by), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the next criteria was evaluated.

2. If the date of adoption was provided by the Current Caregiver in the Permanency Planning module (PP) at Wave 2 (variables PP22m, PP22y), then date of adoption was set as that date. If

the variable had missing data, then the next criteria was evaluated. To create a month, day, year formatted variable, the first day of the month was inserted since day was not captured.

3. If the date of adoption was provided by the Services Caseworker in the Permanency Planning module (PO) at Wave 3 (variables PO31bm, PO31bd, PO31by), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the date of adoption was set to be missing and the process moved from deriving the date of adoption to imputing it as described in the next section.

4. If the date of adoption was provided by the Current Caregiver in the Permanency Planning module (PP) at Wave 3 (variables PP32m, PP32y), then date of adoption was set as that date. If the variable had missing data, then the next criteria was evaluated. Note: to create a month, day, year formatted variable, the first day of the month was inserted since day was not captured.

Imputing the Date of Adoption

Each of the NSCAW datasets contain a wave-based child adoption indicator variable. The variable is named CHDADOPT. The variable indicates that an adoption has occurred if the caregiver's relationship to the child is an adoptive parent (as reported by either the caregiver or the youth) or the case folder at Wave 5 indicated that an adoption occurred, then CHDADOPT was set to 1 (yes) for a given wave. When the date of adoption was not provided by any participant across all waves of data collection, then the adoption date was imputed based on when the CHDADOPT variable first was a 1 (yes) at a wave of data collection. The adoption date was set to be in the middle between the interview where the CHDADOPT first is a 1 (yes) and the prior wave of data collection, based on the caregiver interview completion dates. The reason for only using the caregiver interview completion date as the basis for the imputation is because most of the constructs being measured are provided by the caregiver.

Here is an example of the logic for imputing the date of adoption:

If CHDADOPT = 1 at Wave 1 and the Wave 1 caregiver interview completion date is not missing and the Wave 2 caregiver interview completion date is not missing, then the imputed adoption date is set to be the date that sits half the distance between Wave 1 and Wave 2. The rationale is that the CHDADOPT variable is an indicator for when a participant or the case file indicates that an adoption occurred. This means that even though the adoption is being reported at a wave, the actual adoption was likely to happen between that wave and the prior data collection wave.

In each of the NSCAW datasets, if the last wave of data collection (Wave 5 in NSCAW I and Wave 3 in NSCAW II) was indicated as the first wave where CHDADOPT is a 1(yes) and the caregiver interview completion date was missing for that wave, then an interview completion date was derived prior to imputing the adoption date. It was deemed necessary to derive the interview completion date so that a date of adoption could be imputed which permits the examination of post-adoption instability as reported in the primary data collection for those cases. Absent an imputed date of adoption, those cases and their experiences would not be accounted for in the examination of the data. The imputation of the last wave's interview completion date leveraged the earliest and the latest caregiver interview completion dates across all observations in the data file and then, for the missing completion dates, the imputed date was set to be half the distance between that earliest date and latest date. After the last wave's completion date was derived, then the date of adoption was set to be the date in the middle

between the Wave 4 caregiver interview complete date and the derived Wave 5 interview completion date.

Identifying the First Wave Post Adoption

Once the date of adoption was derived or imputed, the project team identified the first wave of data collection where an adoptive or kin caregiver was interviewed. The source used to identify the adoptive parent or kin caregiver was from the Current Caregiver Interview's Household Roster (HH) module. The following caregiver relationships in NSCAW I and II were identified as being acceptable adoptive or kin caregivers:

- Adoptive Mother or Father
- Adoptive Sibling
- Half-sibling
- Stepfamily member
- Aunt/Uncle
- Grandparent
- Great Grandparent
- Other Blood relative

The project team elected not to focus solely on "Adoptive Mother" and "Adoptive Father" relationships since responses to the *NSCAW Adoption Study* surveys demonstrate that adoptive kin caregivers do not consistently self-identify as adoptive parents (i.e., and instead identify as "grandparent" or "aunt"). Furthermore, in NSCAW I, no distinction was made between a caregiver's legal and functional roles. Grandmother may still identify as "grandparent" even though they are the child's legally adoptive parent.

For cases where there was an imputed or derived adoption date, the first wave following that adoption date where the participant was of one of the relationships identified in the list above, was the wave identified as the first wave post-adoption. This was not always the closest wave following the adoption date. The first wave post adoption was used to identify the NSCAW I/II wave from which to draw variables describing "early adoption" parent and child characteristics included in this *NSCAW Adoption Study* analyses.

Deriving Child Age at Adoption

The NSCAW I and II datasets do not have a variable that describes an adopted child's age at the time of their adoption. This is an important construct for the *NSCAW Adoption Study*; prior research suggests that adoption at an older age places a child at increased risk for post adoption instability. And, while the *NSCAW Adoption Study* adoptee and adoptive parent surveys included questions that asked about the child's age at the time of their adoption, this information was unavailable for non-participants and sometimes missing from completed surveys. Consequently, the *NSCAW Adoption Study* project team derived a variable named "child age at adoption" from the available NSCAW I and II data for each eligible adoptee participant. The project team used this NSCAW derived "age at adoption" variable when there was no available *NSCAW Adoption Study* data (either due to eligible participants not completing a survey or due to missing data within a completed survey).

The derived "child age at the time of adoption" is based upon the first non-missing wave of NSCAW I/II data collection where the caregiver's relationship to the child was inclusive of the list from the ***Identifying the First Wave Post Adoption*** section. The child's NSCAW derived age in years (CH#AGEY) from that data collection wave was captured as the child's approximate age at adoption. The approach was used for both the NSCAW I and NSCAW II datasets.

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Appendix C. Adoptee Instrument (online version)

Thank you for your interest in the Survey of Family Well-Being. The federal government is funding this survey of adults, young adults, youth and their parents who participated a previous study many years ago, the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW). RTI International (RTI), a not-for-profit research organization in North Carolina, is conducting this survey.

We are contacting adults, young adults, and youth, like you, who participated in NSCAW in 1999 or later. You are among over 500 adults, young adults or youth selected to be interviewed. RTI talked to you or your parent as a part of NSCAW. Now, in this new Survey of Family Well-Being, we are following up with NSCAW participants approximately 7 to 14 years after the last time you or your family were interviewed.

The next few screens will tell you more about this study and ask for your consent to participate.

[NEXT BUTTON]

What Is the Purpose of This New Study on Family Well-Being?

By doing this study, we hope to understand the experiences of families who participated in NSCAW – both from the perspective of the adults, young adults, and youth as well as your parents. People with many different backgrounds and types of families will be completing this survey. For this reason, we try to ask about lots of different possible family members, including birth or biological parents, adoptive parents, grandparents, other relatives and siblings. If you were adopted, we would like to know more about that experience. This will help develop services that may support children and families.

What Will I Be Asked to Do?

Participation is voluntary. If you decide to participate, we will ask you to complete a web or telephone survey. Your survey may last about 30 minutes. The questions will ask about places you've lived, and the services you receive now or received in the past. The questions will ask about your work and education, health, behaviors, and social support system. Additional questions will focus on things that may have happened in your life, such as experiencing homelessness and running away.

You may skip over any questions or stop your participation in this study at any time and for any reason.

We will also be asking your parent(s) to participate in a separate web or telephone survey. However, we will not share your survey responses with them, and we will not share their responses with you, as all responses are private.

[NEXT BUTTON]

What Are the Possible Risks and Discomforts?

Some questions might make you feel uneasy or feel various emotions, such as sadness. We will give you a list of resources/agencies that you can contact where there are professionals you may talk with about your feelings.

Will I Benefit from Taking Part in This Study?

You will not get any personal benefit from taking part in this study. What we learn from you may help to improve government services and programs.

Do I Have to Take Part in this Study?

You can decide to take part in the study or not. There will be no penalty and you will not lose any benefits or rights you would normally have if you choose not to participate. If you do participate, you can refuse to answer any questions.

What Will It Cost Me to Participate?

There are no costs associated with taking part in this study.

Will I Receive Anything for Taking Part in this Study?

You will receive $30 for taking part in this study.

[NEXT BUTTON]

Who Will See the Information I Give?

We keep your responses private to the extent permitted by the law. We keep your survey answers on a secure computer, and your responses have an ID number instead of your name. We do not identify you by name. We combine your answers with results from other interviews and report them together in summary form. When we write up the results from the study to share with other researchers, we will write about the combined information. You will not be identified in any published or presented materials. We do not link your name or your parent's name to the information you provide. We keep your names and other identifiers separate from your answers. We only use your name and address to contact you in the future for another interview.

All staff involved in this research signed a Privacy Pledge. In addition, RTI has obtained a federal Certificate of Confidentiality for this study to protect the identity of the research participants. This certificate prevents us from releasing any information that would identify you, even from a court order.

We keep all information private to the extent permitted by law and we never identify a single person or family in our reports. There are two important exceptions to the privacy information above to note:

1) If the interviewer or project staff think your life or health is in serious danger, they will contact someone qualified to assist you.

2) At some point in the future, a different research company may take over this study. If that happens, with your consent, we would give you and your parent's contact information to the

other company. At any future time, you will always have the choice about whether you want to participate in any new study.

[NEXT BUTTON]

How Will My Responses be Used?

Prior to using or releasing this data for future research, we will de-identify it. "De-identify" means that we will remove or code any personal information that could identify you before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that no one should be able to identify you from the information we share. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee against the re-identification of your personal data.

In addition to informing the government, the information that we gather from you during this survey may be shared with other researchers. This will not include your personal information (for example, your name and the names of your parents will never be shared), but we may share your responses, along with all the other responses. This will allow other researchers to also learn from your experiences.

We will also allow some researchers to do studies that combine your survey data with the information we collect from other sources. We will not ask for your additional informed consent for these studies. The researchers will use the data to write reports, and to better understand experiences of you, your family, and families like yours.

[NEXT BUTTON]

What If I Have Questions?

Before you decide whether to participate in the study, please ask any questions that come to mind*.* Later, if you have questions about the study, you can contact the researcher, Heather Ringeisen, toll-free at 800-334-8571 extension 26931. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, contact the RTI Office of Research Protection at 1-866-214-2043.

Research Participant Statement

I understand that my participation in this research study is voluntary. I may refuse to participate or stop participating without penalty or loss of benefits. By selecting NEXT, I acknowledge my approval to participate in the study.

> *An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. This study's number is* 0970−0555.

> *The Federal Government has issued a Certificate of Confidentiality (authorized by the Public Health Service Act Section 301(d), 42 U.S.C Section 241 (d), 1988) to the researchers who are conducting this study which authorizes us to protect the privacy of individuals who participate.*

[NEXT BUTTON]

<u>**Section A: Demographics**</u>

This first set of questions will ask some basic information about you. Remember, people with many different backgrounds and types of families will be completing this survey. For this reason, we try to ask about lots of different possible family members, including birth or biological parents, adoptive parents, foster parents, grandparents, other relatives and siblings.

REQUIRED: A1_CAGE. What is your age?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, Constraint 18-45

_____years old

Error message if R does not answer this question or answers out of range: Please enter a value between 18 and 45. If you left this question blank, **we need for you to complete this question. Your answer will help us know how to word other questions later in the interview.**

A2_CLIV. Where do you live now?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   At my birth or biological parent(s)' house, apartment or condo
2   At my adoptive parent(s)' house, apartment, or condo
3   At my own house, apartment, condo, dormitory, or military barracks
4   At another adoptive family member's house, apartment, or condo
5   At another birth or biological family member's house, apartment, or condo
6   At a foster parent(s)' house, apartment, or condo
7   At a group home or residential treatment facility
8   With friends
9   I do not have a home right now, for example, I am living inside my car, in an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or am couch surfing
10   Other
             a.   **A2_CLIV_OT**: Please specify: _____

A3_CSCH. For the next question, "school" refers to a junior high or middle school, a high school, a college or university, or a technical or vocational or GED program. "School" also refers to homeschool. Are you currently attending school?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

A4_CSCHL. What is the highest level of school you have completed?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Less than 11th grade
2   12th grade
3   GED

4   College, university, technical, or vocational school

5   Graduate or professional degree

6   Other

        a.   **A4_CSCHL_OT**: Please specify:_____

A5_CETHNIC. Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes

2   No

A6_CRACE. What is your race? Select all that apply.
Question Type: Check Boxes

1   American Indian or Alaska Native

2   Asian

3   Black or African American

4   Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

5   White

6   Other

A7_CSEX. What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Male

2   Female

3   Don't know

A8_CGENDER. How do you describe yourself?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Male

2   Female

3   Transgender

4   Do not identify as male, female, or transgender

A8a_CPRO. Which pronoun do you use to describe yourself, he, she, or they? We will refer to you by this pronoun throughout the survey.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   He

2   She

3   They

A9_CSEX. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Straight or heterosexual
2   Lesbian or gay
3   Bisexual
4   Other
5   Don't know

A10_CDOB. What is your date of birth?
Question Type: Open field

Please use the following format when providing your answer: MMDDYYYY

Section B: Adoption History

Now we would like to ask you about your overall life experience.

REQUIRED: B11_CAD. Adoption is a process where a person legally assumes the parenting of another child born to someone else. Have you ever been legally adopted?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No
Error message if R does not answer this question: **We need for you to complete this question. Your answer will help us know how to word other questions later in the interview.**

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B11a_CAD1. How many times have you been adopted?
Question Type: Open field , answer must be 1-30

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you were adopted. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF B11_CAD=1 AND B11a_CAD1>1, ELSE SKIP TO B12_CAD_AGE] You indicated you were adopted [FILL B11a_CAD1] times, however, for the remainder of the survey, focus on your last or most recent adoption.

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B12_CAD_AGE. How old were you when you were adopted? Your best guess is fine.
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 number characters , Constraint 0-45
_____years old

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B13_CAD. How long did you know your adoptive parent(s) <u>before the adoption process started</u>?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   I didn't know my adoptive parent(s) before the adoption process started
2   Less than 6 months
3   6 months to 1 year
4   More than 1 year to 3 years
5   More than 3 years
6   All my life or as long as I can remember

[IF B11_CAD=1 AND B13_CAD>1 ELSE SKIP TO B13b_CSIB]
B13a_CCLOSE. How close did you feel to your adoptive parent(s) <u>before the adoption process started</u>?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close
6   I was too young to remember

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B13b_CSIB. Do you have other birth or biological siblings who were adopted by the same family as you?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF B11_CAD=1 AND B13_CAD>1, ELSE SKIP TO B14_COPEN] B13c_CREL.
What was your relationship to your adoptive parent(s) before your adoption?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Birth or biological grandparent(s)
2   Another birth or biological relative, like an aunt, uncle, or cousin
3   Non-relative foster parent(s)
4   Other
        a.   **B13c_CREL_OT**: Please specify:_____

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B14_COPEN.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: Open adoption is when adoptive parents allow contact between birth or biological parents and child. Is your adoption an "open adoption"?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: Open adoption is when adoptive parents allow contact between birth and biological parents and child. Was your adoption an "open adoption"?**

1   Yes
2   No
3   Don't know

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B15_CCO_MO.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: Do you have contact with your birth or biological mother?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: When you were a child, did you have contact with your birth or biological mother?**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF B15_CCO_MO=1, ELSE SKIP TO B15a_CCO_FAT] B16_CSUPMO.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: How supportive are your adoptive parents of your contact with your birth or biological mother?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: How supportive were your adoptive parents of your contact with your birth or biological mother?**

1   Very supportive
2   Supportive
3   Not very supportive
4   We never discussed contact with my birth or biological mother

---

[IF B15_CCO_MO=1, ELSE SKIP TO B15a_CCO_FAT] B17_CCO_MO_S.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: How satisfied are you with the ongoing contact you have with your birth or biological mother?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: How satisfied were you with the ongoing contact you had with your birth or biological mother as a child?**

1   Very satisfied
2   Satisfied
3   Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
4   Dissatisfied
5   Very dissatisfied

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B15a_CCO_FAT.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: Do you have contact with your birth or biological father?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: When you were a child, did you have contact with your birth or biological father?**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF B15a_CCO_FAT=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B16a_CC_FATS.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: How supportive are your adoptive parents of your contact with your birth or biological father?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: How supportive were your adoptive parents of your contact with your birth or biological father?**

1   Very supportive
2   Supportive
3   Not very supportive
4   We never discussed contact with my birth or biological father

---

[IF B15a_CCO_FAT=1, ELSE SKIP TO B18_CAGE_STO] B17a_CC_FATS.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: How satisfied are you with the ongoing contact you have with your birth or biological father?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: How satisfied were you with the ongoing contact you had with your birth or biological father as a child?**

1   Very satisfied
2   Satisfied
3   Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
4   Dissatisfied
5   Very dissatisfied

[IF A2__CLIV≠1 or A2__CLIV≠2 , ELSE SKIP TO B20_CLIV] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **B18_CAGE_STO. How old were you when you stopped living with your [adoptive] parent(s)?**

Question Type: Open field, limit 2 number characters Constraint 0-45
_____years old

[IF A2__CLIV≠1 or A2__CLIV≠2, ELSE SKIP TO B20_CLIV] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **B19_CS. Why did you stop living with your [adoptive] parent(s)? Please answer Yes or No for each option. Answer "Yes" if it was one of the main reasons you left home.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
B19a_CS1_A	To get a job, to join the military, or to attend school, college, or another educational program	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
B19b_CS1_B	To get married or move in with a boyfriend, girlfriend, or significant other	1	2
B19c_CS1_C	My [adoptive] parent(s) asked me to leave their home, apartment, or condo	1	2
B19d_CS1_D **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[To move in with my birth or biological family]	1	2
B19e_CS1_E	To move in with another [adoptive] family member	1	2
B19f_CS1_F	To get group home or residential services to manage emotions, behaviors, drug, and/or alcohol problems	1	2
B19g_CS1_G	My gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted by my [adoptive] parent(s)	1	2
B19h_CS1_H	My racial or ethnic identity was not accepted by my [adoptive] parents	1	2
B19i_CS1_I	Other	1	2

B19i_CS1_OT: Please specify:_____

B19i_CS1_J: Please give a brief description of what was going on when you left home.
Open field, limit 200 characters

B20_CLIV. Who lives with you now? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
B20a_CLIV_A	Birth or biological mother	1	2
B20b_CLIV_B	Birth or biological father	1	2
B20c_CLIV_C	Adoptive mother	1	2
B20d_CLIV_D	Adoptive father	1	2
B20e_CLIV_E	Adoptive sister or brother	1	2
B20f_CLIV_F	Birth or biological sister or brother	1	2
B20g_CLIV_G	Spouse	1	2
B20h_CLIV_H	My own child(ren)	1	2
B20i_CLIV_I	Boyfriend, girlfriend, or other romantic partner	1	2
B20j_CLIV_J	Other relative	1	2
B20k_CLIV_K	Other non-relative	1	2

B20j_CLIV_OT: Please specify:_____

B20k_CLIV_OT: Please specify:_____

Section C: Post Adoption Instability Experiences

INTROC1: Next, we want to ask you about some life experiences.

C21_CLIFE.
Question Type: Open field, limit 50 characters

> **[A1_CAGE<18] Think about important events in your life <u>up to this point</u>. What is one event in your life that you remember well? Please provide a brief description, for example, had a special birthday or met your best friend.**

> **[A1_CAGE>=18] Think about important events in your life <u>before you turned 18</u>. What is one event in your life <u>before you turned 18</u> that you remember well? Please provide a brief description, for example, started high school, learned to drive, or met my first boyfriend, girlfriend, or romantic partner.**

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO INTROC2] C21_CLIFEAF.
Question Type: Open field, limit 50 characters

> **[A1_CAGE<18] Now, think about important events in your life that happened after your adoption. What is one event in your life <u>after your adoption</u> that you remember well? Please provide a brief description, for example, started a new school, left foster care, or learned to drive.**

> **[A1_CAGE>=18] Now, think about important events in your life that happened after your adoption, but before you turned 18. What is one event in your life <u>after your adoption, but before you turned 18</u> that you remember well? Please provide a brief description, for example, started a new school, left foster care, or learned to drive.**

INTROC2:

[IF B11_CAD=1 AND A1_CAGE<18] We are interested in learning whether there were times when you did not live with your adoptive parent(s) <u>after your adoption</u>. We will ask you separately about times you may have left your adoptive home to live in foster care, a group home or residential treatment center, juvenile detention, or to live with other relatives. We realize that you may have lived in many of these places before coming to live with your adoptive parent(s). Or, you may have lived in these places while living with your parent(s) before your adoption was finalized. For this interview, we are only interested in learning about whether there were times when you did not live with your parents <u>after your adoption was finalized.</u>

[IF B11_CAD=1 AND A1_CAGE>=18] We are interested in learning whether there were times when you did not live with your adoptive parent(s) <u>after your adoption, but before you turned 18</u>. We will ask you separately about times you may have left your adoptive home to live in foster care, a group home or residential treatment center, juvenile detention, or to live with other relatives. We realize that you

may have lived in many of these places before coming to live with your adoptive parent(s). Or, you may have lived in these places while living with your parent(s) before your adoption was finalized. For this interview, we are only interested in learning about whether there were times when you did not live with your parents after your adoption was finalized and before you turned 18 years old.

[IF B11_CAD=2 AND A1_CAGE<18] We are interested in learning whether there were times during your childhood when you did not live with your parent(s). We will ask you separately about times you may have left your home to live in foster care, a group home or residential treatment center, juvenile detention, or to live with other relatives.

[IF B11_CAD=2 AND A1_CAGE>=18] We are interested in learning whether there were times during your childhood when you did not live with your parent(s). We will ask you separately about times you may have left your home to live in foster care, a group home or residential treatment center, juvenile detention, or to live with other relatives. For this interview, we are only interested in learning about whether there were times when you did not live with your parents before you turned 18 years old.

C22_CFO1. *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption"* **First, we want to ask you about time in foster care. Here, foster care refers to a child living with a foster parent who is not related to the child, for example, not living with their grandparent or some other relative and not living in a group home. [After your adoption], did you ever spend time in foster care?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C22_CFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C29_CGR1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption"* **C23_CFO2. With how many different foster families have you lived [after your adoption]?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____families

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you spent time in foster care. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C22_CFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C29_CGR1] *IF C23_CFO2>1, insert "first" and *IF B11_CAD_1, insert "adoptive"* **C24_CFO3. How old were you when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to live with a foster family?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those
times that happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C22_CFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C29_CGR1] *IF C23_CFO2>1, insert "first" and *IF B11_CAD=1, insert
"adoptive"** **C24a_CFO4. How long did you live with this [first] foster family after you moved from
your [adoptive] parent(s)' home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters

1   Less than 2 months
2   2 to 6 months
3   More than 6 months to 1 year
4   More than 1 year to 3 years
5   More than 3 years to 5 years
6   More than 5 years

[IF C22_CFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C29_CGR1] *IF C23_CFO2>1, insert "first" and *IF B11_CAD=1, insert
"adoptive"** **C25_CFO5. When you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a foster
family, did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or Not Applicable for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C25a_CFO5_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C25b_ CFO5_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3
C25c_ CFO5_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3
C25d_ CFO5_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C25e_ CFO5_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C22_CFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C29_CGR1] *IF C23_CFO2>1, insert "first" and *IF B11_CAD=1, insert
"adoptive"** **C26_CFO6. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive]
family when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a foster family. Which of the
following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C26a_CFO6_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2
C26b_ CFO6_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C26c_ CFO6_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C26d_ CFO6_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C26e_ CFO6_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2
C26f_ CFO6_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C26g_ CFO6_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use	1	2
C26h_ CFO6_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C26i_ CFO6_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted		
C26j_ CFO6_J	Other	1	2

C26j_CFO6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C22_CFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C29_CGR1] *IF C23_CFO2>1, insert "first" and *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C27_CFO7. During the time when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a foster family, did you <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C27a_CFO7_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C27b_ CFO7_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
C27c_ CFO7_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C27d_ CFO7_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C27e_ CFO7_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C27f_ CFO7_F	Other	1	2

C27f_CFO7_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C22_CFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C24b_CFO10] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"*
C28_CFO8. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C28_CFO8=2, ELSE SKIP TOC24b_CFO10] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert*
*"adoptive"** **C28a_CFO9. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your**
[adoptive] family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C22_CFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C29_CGR1] *IF C23_CFO2>1, insert "first" and *IF B11_CAD=1, insert*
*"adoptive"** **C24b_CFO10. How much <u>total time</u> did you spend in foster care after you [first] moved**
from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters

1   Less than 2 months
2   2 to 6 months
3   More than 6 months to 1 year
4   More than 1 year to 3 years
5   More than 3 years to 5 years
6   More than 5 years

C29_CGR1
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive" and IF*
> *B13c_CREL=1, use "another"** **[<u>After your adoption</u>], did you ever live <u>without</u> your [adoptive]**
> **parent(s) in a [another] grandparent's home?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive" and IF*
> *B13c_CREL=1, use "another"** **[<u>After your adoption</u>], did you ever live <u>without</u> your [adoptive]**
> **parent(s) in a [another] grandparent's home? Please think only about those times that**
> **happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.**

1   Yes
2   No

**[IF C29_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_CAN1] C29a_CGR2. Was
this grandparent your…?**

Question Type: Radio Button

1   Adoptive grandparent
2   Birth or biological grandparent

[IF C29_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_CAN1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **C30_CGR3. How many
times have you gone to live <u>without</u> your [adoptive] parent(s) in a grandparent's home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you lived in a grandparent's home.
Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C29_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_CAN1] *IF C30_CGR3>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert
"adoptive"** **C30a_CGR4. How old were you when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)'
home to live with a grandparent?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those
        times that happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C29_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_CAN1] *IF C30_CGR3>1, insert "first"** **C31_CGR5. When you [first]
went to stay at this grandparent's home, did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or
Not applicable for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C31a_CGR5_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C31b_ CGR5_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3
C31c_ CGR5_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3
C31d_ CGR5_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C31e_ CGR5_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C29_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_CAN1] *IF C30_ CGR3>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C32_CGR6. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive] family when you [first] went to live in this grandparent's home <u>without</u> your [adoptive] parents. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C32a_CGR6_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2
C32b_ CGR6_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C32c_ CGR6_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2
C32d_ CGR6_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C32e_ CGR6_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2
C32f_ CGR6_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C32g_ CGR6_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use		
C32h_ CGR6_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C32i_ CGR6_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted		
C32j_ CGR6_J	Other	1	2

C32j_CGR6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C29_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_CAN1] *IF C30__ CGR3>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C33_CGR7. During the time when you [first] went to live in this grandparent's home without your [adoptive] parent(s), did you <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C33a_ CGR7_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C33b_ CGR7_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
C33c_ CGR7_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C33d_ CGR7_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C33e_ CGR7_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C33f_ CGR7_F	Other	1	2

C33f_CGR7_OT: Please specify:__

[IF C29_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_CAN1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert*
"adoptive"* **C34_CGR8. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C34_CGR8=2, ELSE SKIP TO C35_CAN1]
IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C34a_CGR9. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your**
[adoptive] family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C35_CAN1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive" and IF B13c_CREL=2 or IF C29_ CGR1=1, use "another"** **[After your adoption], did you ever live <u>without</u> your [adoptive] parent(s) in [a/another] relative's home? Please do not include your grandparent's home.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive" and IF B13c_CREL=2 or IF C29_ CGR1=1, use "another"** **[After your adoption], did you ever live <u>without</u> your [adoptive] parent(s) in a [another] relative's home? Please do not include your grandparent's home. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.]**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C35_CAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C43_CAX1]
C36_CAN2. Who was this relative?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Adoptive aunt, uncle, or cousin
2   Birth or biological aunt, uncle, or cousin
3   Birth or biological sister or brother
4   Adoptive sister or brother
5   Birth or biological parent
6   Another relative

                  a.   **C36_CAN2_OTH**: Please specify:_____

[IF C35_CAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C43_CAX1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert*
*"adoptive"** **C37_CAN3. How many times have you gone to live <u>without</u> your
[adoptive] parent(s) in a relative's home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you lived in a relative's home. Please
enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C35_CAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C43_CAX1] *IF*
C37_CAN3>1, insert "the first time" otherwise use "when" and IF
*B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **C38_CAN4. How old were you [the first
time/when] you moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a relative's home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those
        times that happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C35_CAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C43_CAX1] *IF C37_CAN3>1, insert "first"** **C39_CAN5. When you [first]
went to stay at a relative's home, did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or Not
applicable for each option.**

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C39a_CAN5_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C39b_ CAN5_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3
C39c_ CAN5_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C39d_ CAN5_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C39e_ CAN5_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C35_CAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C43_CAX1] *IF C37_ CAN3>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C40_CAN6. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive] family when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a relative's home. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.** *Question Type: Radio Button Grid*

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C40a_CAN6_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2
C40b_ CAN6_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C40c_ CAN6_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2
C40d_ CAN6_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C40e_ CAN6_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2
C40f_ CAN6_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C40g_ CAN6_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use	1	2
C40h_ CAN6_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C40i_ CAN6_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted	1	2
C40j_ CAN6_J	Other	1	2

C40j_CAN6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C35_CAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C43_CAX1] *IF C37_ CAN3>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C41_CAN7. During the time when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a relative's home, did you <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C41a_ CAN7_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C41b_ CAN7_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
C41c_ CAN7_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C41d_ CAN7_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C41e_ CAN7_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C41f_ CAN7_F	Other	1	2

C41f_CAN7_OT: Please specify:____

[IF C35_CAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C43_CAX1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C42_CAN8. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C42_CAN8=2, ELSE SKIP TO C43_CAX1]
IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive" **C42a_CAN9. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C43_CAX1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"* **[After your adoption], did you ever live <u>without</u> your [adoptive] parent(s) at another adult's home, for example, an older friend's home, with a friend's family or parent(s), with a boyfriend or girlfriend or romantic partner's parent(s), or in a neighbor's home?**

[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"* **[After your adoption]**, did you ever live <u>without</u> your [adoptive] parent(s) at another adult's home, for example, an older friend's home, with a friend's family or parent(s), with a boyfriend or girlfriend or romantic partner's parent(s), or in a neighbor's home? Please think only about those times that happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C43_CAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C50_CRU1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C44_CAX2. How many times have you gone to live at another adult's home <u>without</u> your [adoptive] parent(s)?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you lived in another adult's home. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C43_CAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C50_CRU1] *IF C44_CAX2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C45_CAX3. How old were you when you [first] went to live in another adult's home <u>without</u> your [adoptive] parent(s)?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C43_CAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C50_CRU1] *IF C44_CAX2>1, insert "first"* **C46_CAX4. When you [first] went to live at another adult's home, did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or Not applicable for each option.**

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C46a_CAX4_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C46b_ CAX4_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3
C46c_ CAX4_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3
C46d_ CAX4_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C46e_ CAX4_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C43_CAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C50_CRU1] *IF C44_CAX2>1, insert "first" and *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C47_CAX5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive] family when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to another adult's home. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C47a_CAX5_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2
C47b_ CAX5_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C47c_ CAX5_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2
C47d_ CAX5_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C47e_ CAX5_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2
C47f_ CAX5_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C47g_ CAX5_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use	1	2
C47h_ CAX5_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C47i_ CAX5_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted	1	2
C47j_ CAX5_J	Other	1	2

C47j_CAX5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C43_CAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C50_CRU1] *IF C44_CAX2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C48_CAX6. During the time when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to another adult's home, did you receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C48a_CAX6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C48b_ CAX6_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
C48c_ CAX6_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C48d_ CAX6_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C48e_ CAX6_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C48f_ CAX6_F	Other	1	2

C48f_CAX6_OT: Please specify:____

[IF C43_CAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C50_CRU1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C49_CAX7. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C49_CAX7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C50_CRU1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C49a_CAX8. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C50_CRU1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF **A8a_CPRO=1**, insert "he", else if **A8a_CPRO=2** insert "she", else insert "they". If **A8a_CPRO in (1, 2)**, insert "was", else insert "were". IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"* **Running away is defined in the following way: a minor leaving home for over 24 hours or going missing for more than 24 hours and their parent or guardian not knowing where [he/she/they] [was/were]. [After your adoption], did you ever run away from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** * IF **A8a_CPRO=1**, insert "he", else if **A8a_CPRO=2** insert "she", else insert "they". If **A8a_CPRO in (1,2)**, insert "was", else insert "were". IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"* **Running away is defined in the following way: a minor leaving**

home for over 24 hours or going missing for more than 24 hours and their parent or guardian not knowing where [he/she/they] [was/were]. [After your adoption], did you ever run away from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home? Please think only about those times that happened before you turned 18 years old.

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C50_CRU1=1 ELSE SKIP TO C57_CHO1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"* **C51_CRU2. [After your adoption], how many times have you run away from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you have run away from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home before. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C50_CRU1=1 ELSE SKIP TO C57_CHO1] *IF C51_CRU2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C52_CRU3. How old were you [the first time/when] you ran away from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened before you turned 18 years old.

[IF C50_CRU1=1 ELSE SKIP TO C57_CHO1] *IF C51_CRU2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C53_CRU4. When you [first] ran away from your [adoptive] parent(s), did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or Not applicable for each option.**

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C53a_CRU4_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C53b_ CRU4_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3
C53c_ CRU4_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3
C53d_ CRU4_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C53e_ CRU4_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C50_CRU1=1 ELSE SKIP TO C57_CHO1] *IF C51_CRU2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C54_CRU5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive]**

family when you [first] ran away. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C54a_ CRU5_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2
C54b_ CRU5_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C54c_ CRU5_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2
C54d_ CRU5_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C54e_ CRU5_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2
C54f_ CRU5_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C54g_ CRU5_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use	1	2
C54h_ CRU5_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C54i_ CRU5_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted		
C54j_ CRU5_J	Other	1	2

C54j_CRU5_OT: Please specify: _____

[IF C50_CRU1=1 ELSE SKIP TO C57_CHO1] *IF C51_CRU2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **C55_CRU6. During the time when you [first] ran away from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home, did you receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C55a_CRU6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C55b_ CRU6_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C55c_ CRU6_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C55d_ CRU6_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C55e_ CRU6_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C55f_ CRU6_F	Other	1	2

C55f_CRU6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C50_CRU1=1 ELSE SKIP TO C57_CHO1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **C56_CRU7. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C56_CRU7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C57_CHO1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **C56a_CRU8. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C57_CHO1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"** **[After your adoption], was there ever a time when you spent one or more nights homeless without your [adoptive] parent(s), for example, living inside a car, an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or couch surfing?**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"** **[After your adoption], was there ever a time when you spent one or more nights homeless without your [adoptive] parent(s), for example, living inside a car, an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or couch surfing? Please think only about those times that happened before you turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C57_CHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C64_CJU1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C58_CHO2. How many separate times have you spent one or more nights homeless without your [adoptive] parent(s)?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you have spent one or more nights homeless before. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C57_CHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C64_CJU1] *IF C58_CHO2>1, insert "the first time" otherwise insert "when" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C59_CHO3. How old were you [the first time/when] you spent a night homeless without your [adoptive] parent(s)?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C57_CHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C64_CJU1] *IF C58_CHO2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C60_CHO4. When you [first] spent one or more nights homeless without your [adoptive] parent(s), did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or Not applicable for each option.**

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C60a_CHO4_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C60b_ CHO4_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3
C60c_ CHO4_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3
C60d_ CHO4_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C60e_ CHO4_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C57_CHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C64_CJU1] *IF C58_CHO2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C61_CHO5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive] family when you [first] became homeless. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C61a_CHO5_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C61b_ CHO5_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C61c_ CHO5_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2
C61d_ CHO5_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C61e_ CHO5_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2
C61f_ CHO5_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C61g_ CHO5_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use		
C61h_ CHO5_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C61i_ CHO5_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted		
C61j_CHO5_J	Other	1	2

C61j_CHO5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C57_CHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C64_CJU1] *IF C58_CHO2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C62_CHO6. During the time when you [first] spent one or more nights homeless without your [adoptive] parents(s), did you <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C62a_ CHO6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C62b_ CHO6_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
C62c_ CHO6_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C62d_ CHO6_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C62e_ CHO6_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C62f_ CHO6_F	Other	1	2

C62f_CHO6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C57_CHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C64_CJU1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"*
C63_CHO7. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C63_CHO7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C64_CJU1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert*
*"adoptive"** **C63a_CHO8. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your**
[adoptive] family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C64_CJU1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and adoptive"** **[After your**
> **adoption]**, **did you ever spend at least one night in juvenile detention or have you ever**
> **been taken into custody for an illegal or delinquent offense?**
>
> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and adoptive"** **[After your**
> **adoption]**, **did you ever spend at least one night in juvenile detention or have you ever**
> **been taken into custody for an illegal or delinquent offense? Please think only about those**
> **times that happened** **before you turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C64_CJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C71_CTR1] C65a_CDE1. How many times have you spent at least one
night in detention?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-99

_____times

[IF C64_CJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C71_CTR1] C65b_CCU1. How many times have you been taken into
custody?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-30

_____times

[IF C64_CJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C71_CTR1] *IF C65a_CDE1>1 or C65b_CCU1>1, insert "the first time"* **C66_CJU2. How old were you [the first time] when you spent at least one night in detention or were taken into custody?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C64_CJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C71_CTR1] *IF C65a_CDE1>1 or C65b_CCU1>1, insert "first"* **C67_C_JU3. When you [first] spent at least one night in detention or were taken into custody, did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or Not applicable for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C67a_CJU3_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C67b_ CJU3_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3
C67c_ CJU3_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3
C67d_ CJU3_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C67e_ CJU3_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C64_CJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C71_CTR1] *IF C65a_CDE1>1 or C65b_CCU1>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C68_CJU4. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive] family when you [first] spent at least one night in detention or were taken into custody. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C68a_CJU4_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2
C68b_ CJU4_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C68c_ CJU4_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2
C68d_ CJU4_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C68e_ CJU4_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C68f_ CJU4_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C68g_ CJU4_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use		
C68h_ CJU4_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C68i_ CJU4_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted		
C68j_ CJU4_J	Other	1	2

C68j_CJU4_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C64_CJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C71_CTR1] *IF C65a_CDE1>1 or C65b_CCU1>1, insert "first"* **C69_CJU5. During the time when you [first] spent at least one night in detention or were taken into custody, did you <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C69a_ CJU5_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C69b_ CJU5_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
C69c_ CJU5_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C69d_ CJU5_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C69e_ CJU5_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C69f_ CJU5_F	Other	1	2

C69f_CJU5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C64_CJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C71_CTR1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C70_CJU6. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C70_CJU6=2, ELSE SKIP TO C71_CTR1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C70a_CJU7. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your**

[adoptive] family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C71_CTR1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"*
> **Transitional housing is a temporary accommodation before permanent housing. [After your adoption], did you ever live in a transitional housing program without your [adoptive] parent(s)?**
>
> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption" and "adoptive"*
> **Transitional housing is a temporary accommodation before permanent housing. [After your adoption], did you ever live in a transitional housing program without your [adoptive] parent(s)? Please think only about those times that happened before you turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C71_CTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C78_CGR1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C72_CTR2. How many times have you gone to live in a transitional housing program without your [adoptive] parent(s)?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you lived in transitional housing program before. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C71_CTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C78_CGR1] *IF C72_CTR2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C73_CTR3. How old were you when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to live in a transitional housing program?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraints 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened before you turned 18 years old.

[IF C71_CTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C78_CGR1] *IF C72_CTR2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C74_CTR4. When you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to live in a**

transitional housing program, did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or Not applicable for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C74a_CTR4_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C74b_ CTR4_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3
C74c_ CTR4_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3
C74d_ CTR4_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C74e_ CTR4_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C71_CTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C78_CGR1] *IF C72_ CTR2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C75_CTR5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive] family when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a transitional housing program. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C75a_CTR5_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2
C75b_ CTR5_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C75c_ CTR5_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2
C75d_ CTR5_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C75e_ CTR5_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2
C75f_ CTR5_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C75g_ CTR5_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use		
C75h_ CTR5_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C75i_ CTR5_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted		
C75j_ CTR5_J	Other	1	2

C75j_CTR5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C71_CTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C78_CGR1] *IF C72_ CTR2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C76_CTR6. During the time when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a transitional housing program, did you <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C76a_CTR6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C76b_ CTR6_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
C76c_ CTR6_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C76d_ CTR6_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C76e_ CTR6_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C76f_ CTR6_F	Other	1	2

C76f_CTR6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C71_CTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C78_CGR1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"*
C77_CTR7. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C77_CTR7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C78_CGR1] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C77a_CTR8. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C78_CGR1.
Question Type: Radio Button
        [IF A1_CAGE<18]: *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption"* **A group home is a residence intended to serve as an alternative to a family foster home. Homes normally house 4 to 12 youth, offering the use of community resources, including employment, health care, education, and recreational opportunities. A residential treatment center is a 24-hour inpatient facility that provides a range of therapeutic and support services for children by a**

team of professionals. [After your adoption], did you ever live in a group home or a residential treatment center?

[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption"* **A group home is a residence intended to serve as an alternative to a family foster home. Homes normally house 4 to 12 youth, offering the use of community resources, including employment, health care, education, and recreational opportunities. A residential treatment center is a 24-hour inpatient facility that provides a range of therapeutic and support services for children by a team of professionals. [After your adoption], did you ever live in a group home or a residential treatment center? Please think only about those times that happened before you turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C78_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C85_CH018] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "after you were adopted"*
C79_CGR2. How many separate times have you lived in a group home or a residential treatment center [after you were adopted]?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us you lived in a group home or residential treatment center before. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C78_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C85_CH018] *IF C79_CGR2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C80_CGR3. How old were you when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a group home or residential treatment center?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened underline before you turned 18 years old.

[IF C78_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C85_CH018] *IF C79_CGR2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C81_CGR4. When you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a group home or residential treatment center, did you still have contact with…? Please answer Yes, No, or Not applicable for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C81a_CGR4_A	Your adoptive parent(s)	1	2	3
C81b_ CGR4_B	Your adoptive sibling(s)	1	2	3

Variable	Description	Yes	No	Not applicable
C81c_ CGR4_C	Your birth or biological parent(s)	1	2	3
C81d_ CGR4_D	Your birth or biological sibling(s)	1	2	3
C81e_ CGR4_E	Other relatives	1	2	3

[IF C78_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C85_CH018] *IF C79_CGR2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C82_CGR5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your [adoptive] family when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a group home or residential treatment center. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C82a_CGR5_A	You did not feel accepted by your [adoptive] family	1	2
C82b_ CGR5_B	You did not feel safe in your home because of violence or abuse	1	2
C82c_ CGR5_C	You did not feel safe in your home because of another family member's mental health, drug, or alcohol problems	1	2
C82d_ CGR5_D	Your [adoptive] parent(s) did not allow you to live at home, for example, they locked you out or threw you out of their home	1	2
C82e_ CGR5_E	Your [adoptive] parent(s) or another family member did not feel safe in the home because of your behavior, for example, you were harming your parent, sibling, or pet	1	2
C82f_ CGR5_F	You needed help to manage your emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C82g_ CGR5_G	You needed help to manage your drinking or drug use		
C82h_ CGR5_H	Your gender identity or sexual orientation was not accepted	1	2
C82i_ CGR5_I	Your racial or ethnic identity was not accepted		
C82j_ CGR5_J	Other	1	2

C82j_CGR5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C78_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C85_CH018] *IF C79_CGR2>1, insert "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **C83_CGR6. During the time when you [first] moved from your [adoptive] parent(s)' home to a group home or residential treatment center, did you <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C83a_ CGR6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C83b_ CGR6_B	Educational supports, for example, individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
C83c_ CGR6_C **(Only show if B11_CAD=1)**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
C83d_ CGR6_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C83e_ CGR6_E	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
C83f_ CGR6_F	Other	1	2

C83f_CGR6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C78_CGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C85_CH018] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert*
*"adoptive"** **C84_CGR7. Did you ever return to live with your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C84_CGR7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C85_CH018] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert*
*"adoptive"** **C84a_CGR8. Did you continue to keep in contact with anyone from your [adoptive] family?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TO C85a_CHO12]
C85_CHO18. After you turned 18 years old, did you ever spend at least one night homeless,
for example, living inside your car, an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or couch
surfing?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE<18 or IF C85_CHO18=1, ELSE SKIP TO C86_CJU18]
C85a_CHO12. During the past 12 months, have you spent at least one night homeless, for

**example, living inside your car, an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or couch
    surfing?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TO C86a_CJU12]
**C86_CJU18. <u>After you turned 18 years old</u>, did you <u>ever</u> spend at least one night in detention,
jail, or prison?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE<18 or IF C86_CJU18=1, ELSE SKIP TO C87_CTR18]
**C86a_CJU12. <u>During the past 12 months</u>, have you spent at least one night in detention,
jail, or prison?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TO C87a_CTR12]
**C87_CTR18. <u>After you turned 18 years old</u>, did you <u>ever</u> live in a transitional housing
program?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE<18 or IF C87_CTR18=1, ELSE SKIP TO C88_CGR18]
**C87a_CTR12. <u>During the past 12 months</u>, have you lived in a transitional housing
program?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TO C88a_CGR12]
**C88_CGR18. <u>After you turned 18 years old</u>, did you <u>ever</u> live in a group home or a residential
treatment center?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE<18 or IF C88_CGR18=1, ELSE SKIP TO C89_CYRET]
C88a_CGR12. During the past 12 months, have you lived in a group home or a residential treatment center?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C28_CFO8=1 OR C34_CGR8=1 OR
C42_CAN8=1 OR C49_CAX7=1 OR
C56_CRU7=1 OR C63_CHO7=1 OR C70_CJU6=1 OR
C77_CTR7=1 OR
C84_CGR7 =1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION D] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert*
"adoptive" * **C89_CYRET. When we asked you about things that may have happened in your life, such as running away or going to live somewhere without your [adoptive] parent(s), you told us that you returned to live with your [adoptive] family. Tell us more about why you returned to live with your [adoptive] family.**
Question Type: Open field, limit 200 characters

Section D: Post Adoption Services and Support

The next questions will ask you about services and supports that you may have needed or received.

D90_CSER.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption"* **[After your adoption], did you feel that you needed any of the following services, regardless of whether they were offered to you? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "and after your adoption"* **Before you turned 18 [and after your adoption], did you feel that you needed any of the following services, regardless of whether they were offered to you? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**

Variable	Description	Yes	No
D90a_CSER_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
D90b_CSER_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
D90c_CSER_C Show only if B11_CAD=1	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
D90d_CSER_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
D90e_CSER_E	Healthcare services, for example from a pediatrician or primary care physician	1	2
D90f_CSER_F	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
D90g_CSER_G	Other	1	2

D90g_CSER_OT: Please specify:_____

D91_CSER2.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "After your adoption"* **[After your adoption], did you ever receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "and after your adoption"* **Before you turned 18 [and after your adoption], did you ever receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**

Variable	Description	Yes	No
D91a_CSER2_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
D91b_ CSER2_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help with changing schools	1	2
D91c_ CSER2_C **Show only if B11_CAD=1**	[Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with others who were adopted or moved from an adoptive home]	1	2
D91d_ CSER2_D	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
D91e_ CSER2_E	Healthcare services, for example from a pediatrician or primary care physician	1	2
D91f_ CSER2_F	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
D91g_ CSER2_G	Other	1	2

D91g_CSER2_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF ANY D91a_CSER2_A – D91g_CSER2_G=1, ELSE SKIP TO D93_CSER4] D92_CSER3. How helpful was/were the service(s) overall?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Very helpful
2   Helpful
3   Not helpful

D93_CSER4. Were there any other services you would have liked to have received?
Question Type: Radio Button
1   Yes
2   No

[IF D93_CSER4=1, ELSE SKIP TO D94_CSER2] D93_CSER4_OTH. Please describe them here:
Question Type: Open field, limit 100 characters

[IF "yes" to service need in D90_CSER and "no" to service receipt in D91_CSER2] D94_CSER2. Why do you think you did not get the services you needed?
Question Type: Open field, limit 100 characters

[IF "yes" to service need in D90_DSER and "yes" to service receipt in D91_CSER2] D95_CSER6. What do you think helped you get the services you needed?
Question Type: Open field, limit 100 characters

[IF B11_CAD =1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION E] D96_CTERM. Was your adoption ever terminated or legally ended by a court order?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes, my adoptive parent(s)' rights were terminated
2   Yes, I was legally emancipated with a court order before I turned 18 years old
3   No, my adoptive parent(s)' rights were not terminated, instead we just ended our relationship on our own
4   No

[IF D96_CTERM=1, 2, OR 3, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION E]. D97_CTERM2. When was your adoption terminated? Please provide an approximate date.

Please use the following format when providing your answer: MMDDYYYY

<u>**Section E: Family Relationships**</u>

These next questions are about your family relationships.

E96_CFR1. How many living [adoptive] parents do you have?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , limit responses to =<6

_____parents

Error message if answer is out of bounds: **Your answer is out of bounds. Please only include biological, foster, and/or adoptive parents in your response.**

[IF E96_CFR1<>0,_Else go to E103_CFR12]. *IF E96_CFR1>1, include "First, think about one of your [adoptive] parents."* **E97_CFR2. [First, think about one of your [adoptive] parents.] How close do you currently feel to this [adoptive] parent?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

E98_CFR3. Thinking about this same parent, about how often do you see or have contact with them?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Never
2   A few times a year
3   Once or twice a month
4   About once a week
5   Several times a week
6   Every day

[IF A1_CAGE>=18 AND B12_CAD_AGE<18, ELSE SKIP TO E99a_CFR5] *IF E96_CFR1>1, use "first" and IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **E99_CFR4. During your childhood, before you turned 18 years old, how close did you feel to your [first] [adoptive] parent?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

IF E96_CFR1>1, use "first" and IF B11_CAD =1, insert "adoptive" **E99a_CFR5. Is this [first] [adoptive] parent Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

IF E96_CFR1>1, use "first" and IF B11_CAD =1, insert "adoptive" **E99b_CFR6. What is this [first] [adoptive] parent's race? Select all that apply.**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   American Indian or Alaska Native
2   Asian
3   Black or African American
4   Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5   White
6   Other

[IF E96_CFR1>1, ELSE SKIP TO E103_CFR12] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **E100_CFR7. Now think about your other [adoptive] parent. How close do you currently feel to your second [adoptive] parent?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

[IF E96_CFR1>1, ELSE SKIP TO E103_CFR12] E101_CFR8. Thinking about this same parent, about how often do you see or have contact with them?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Never
2   A few times a year
3   Once or twice a month
4   About once a week
5   Several times a week
6   Every day

[IF E96_CFR1>1 AND A1_CAGE>=18 AND B12_CAD_AGE<18, ELSE SKIP TO E102a_CFR10] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **E102_CFR9. During your childhood, <u>before you turned 18 years old</u>, how close did you feel to your second [adoptive] parent?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

[IF E96_CFR1>1, ELSE SKIP TO E103_CFR12] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **E102a_CFR10. Is this second [adoptive] parent Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF E96_CFR1>1, ELSE SKIP TO E103_CFR12] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **E102b_CFR11. What is this second [adoptive] parent's race? Select all that apply.**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   American Indian or Alaska Native
2   Asian
3   Black or African American
4   Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5   White
6   Other

[IF B11_CAD=1 AND IF E96_CFR1>=1, ELSE SKIP TO E104_CFR13] E103_CFR12. Thinking about your adoptive family now, how much do you feel that you belong?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Completely
2   Very much
3   A moderate amount
4   A little
5   Not at all

E104_CRF13. Thinking about the next five years, how hopeful are you about your future?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely hopeful
2   Very hopeful
3   Moderately hopeful
4   Slightly hopeful
5   Not at all hopeful

[IF E96_CFR1<>0,_Else go to E106_CFR15] *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **E105_CFR14. How supportive are your [adoptive] parents of your future plans?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely supportive
2   Very supportive
3   Moderately supportive
4   Slightly supportive
5   Not at all supportive

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO Section G] E106_CFR15. Do you know the identity of at least one of your birth or biological parents?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF E106_CFR15=1, ELSE SKIP TO E114_CFR24] E106a_CFR16. How many birth or biological parents' identities do you know?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   1
2   2

[IF E106_CFR15=1, ELSE SKIP TO E114_CFR24] *IF E106a_CFR16=2, use [first] and introduction text below:] [For these next set of questions first think about the birth or biological parent that you feel the closest to.]* **E107_CFR17. [For these next set of questions first think about the birth or biological parent that you feel the closest to.]**
How close do you currently feel to your [first] birth or biological parent?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

[IF E106_CFR15=1, ELSE SKIP TO E114_CFR24] E108_CFR18. Thinking of this same birth or biological parent, about how often do you see or have contact with them?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Never
2   A few times a year
3   Once or twice a month
4   About once a week
5   Several times a week
6   Every day

[IF A1_CAGE>=18 AND IF E106_CFR15=1, ELSE SKIP TO E110_CFR20] *IF E106a_CFR16>1, use "first"*
E109_CFR19. During your childhood, <u>before your turned 18 years old</u>, how close did you feel to your [first] birth or biological parent?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

[IF E106_CFR15=1 AND IF E106a_CFR16>1, ELSE SKIP TO E114_CFR24] E110_CFR20. Do you know your second birth or biological parent?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF E110_CFR20=1, ELSE SKIP TO E114_CFR24] E111_CFR21. How close do you currently feel to your second birth or biological parent?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

[IF E106_CFR15=1 AND E106a_CFR16>1, ELSE SKIP TO E114_CFR24] E112_CFR22. Thinking of this same parent, about how often do you see or have contact with them?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Never
2   A few times a year
3   Once or twice a month
4   About once a week
5   Several times a week
6   Every day

[IF A1_AGE>=18 AND E106a_CFR16>1, ELSE SKIP TO E114_CFR24] E113_CFR23. During your childhood, <u>before you turned 18 years old,</u> how close did you feel to your second birth or biological parent?

Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION G] E114_CFR24.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: Do you have any birth or biological sibling(s) who do not live with you now?**
>
> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: <u>Before you turned 18</u>, did you have any birth or biological sibling(s) who did not live with you?**

1   Yes
2   No
3   Don't know

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION G] E115_CFR25.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]: Do you have any adoptive sibling(s) who do not live with you now?**
>
> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: <u>Before you turned 18</u>, did you have any adoptive sibling(s) who did not live with you?**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION G] E116_CFR26. Are there any other members of your birth or biological family such as aunts, uncles, or cousins, who do not live with you, but with whom you keep in touch?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF B11_CAD=1 AND E106_CFR15=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION F] E117_CFR27. Thinking about your birth or biological family now, how much do you feel that you belong?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Completely
2   Very much
3   A moderate amount
4   A little
5   Not at all

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE skip to Section G] Section F: Adoption Motivation and Experience

Now we would like to understand more about your adoption experience.

F118_CDEC. Now think back to the time when you were adopted. At that time, were you involved in the decision about being adopted?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No, I was too young to understand what was going on
3   No, but I wanted to be a part of this family
4   No, and I did not want to be a part of this family

[IF F118_CDEC=1, ELSE SKIP TO F120_CYA] F119_CWAD. Did you want to be adopted by this family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF F119_CWAD=1 OR F118_CDEC=3, ELSE SKIP TO F121_CYA1] F120_CYA. Why did you want to be adopted by this family? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
F120a_CYA_A	To have a stable family	1	2
F120b_ CYA _B	To have long-term family relationships	1	2
F120c_ CYA _C	To have someone that loves and cares about me	1	2
F120d_ CYA _D	To have someone I can count on	1	2
F120e_ CYA _E	To have a home	1	2
F120f_ CYA _F	To have a stable school and neighborhood	1	2
F120g_ CYA _G	To be able to go to college	1	2
F120h_ CYA _H	To have siblings	1	2
F120i_ CYA _I	Other reason	1	2

F120i_CYA_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF F119_CWAD=2 OR F118_CDEC=4, ELSE SKIP TO F122_CAWARE] F121_CYA1. What are some reasons you did <u>not</u> want to be adopted by this family? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
F121a_CYA1_A	I wanted to go back to my birth or biological family	1	2
F121b_ CYA1_B	I wanted to go back to my neighborhood	1	2
F121c_ CYA1_C	I wanted to go back to my cultural roots	1	2
F121d_ CYA1_D	This family was not a good fit	1	2
F121e_ CYA1_E	Other reason	1	2

F121e_CYA1_OT: Please specify:_____

F122_CAWARE. Are you aware of a court proceeding that made your adoption legal?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No
3   Don't know

[IF F122_CAWARE=1, ELSE SKIP TO F124_CTALK] F123_CINV. Were you involved with the court proceedings?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No
3   I cannot remember

F124_CTALK. Did anyone talk with you about being adopted by this family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No
3   I cannot remember

[IF F124_CTALK=1, ELSE SKIP TO F125_CYA2] F124a_CT2. Who talked to you about you being adopted by this family? Please select all that apply.
Question Type: check boxes

1   Birth or biological parent
2   Adoptive parent
3   Caseworker
4   Someone else
       a.   **F124a_CT2_OT**: Please specify:_____

F125_CYA2. Thinking about why you were adopted, do you think that any of these reasons were part of your parent(s)' decision to adopt you? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
F125a_ CYA2_A	My adoptive parent(s) loved me	1	2
F125b_ CYA2_B	I was already part of our family as a relative or foster child	1	2
F125c_ CYA2_C	My adoptive parent(s) were unable to have a birth or biological child	1	2
F125d_ CYA2_D	My adoptive parent(s) wanted to expand their family	1	2
F125e_ CYA2_E	My adoptive parent(s) wanted a sibling for their other child(ren)	1	2
F125f_ CYA2_F	My adoptive parent(s) had already adopted my sibling(s)	1	2
F125g_ CYA2_G	My adoptive parent(s) knew me before the adoption and wanted to help me	1	2
F125h_ CYA2_H	My adoptive parent(s), or someone close to them, had previously been adopted	1	2
F125i_ CYA2_I	My adoptive parent(s) wanted to help a child in need of a permanent family	1	2
F125j_ CYA2_J	Other	1	2

F125j_CYA2_OT: Please specify:_____

Section G: Perceptions of Childhood Family Cohesion and Functioning

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive* **For the next set of statements, think of your experiences now** <u>during your childhood</u>**. Please think about all members of your [adoptive] family when answering these questions. Select how often each statement is true for your [adoptive] family.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive* **For the next set of statements, think of your experiences** <u>during your childhood</u> <u>before you turned 18</u>**. Please think about all members of your [adoptive] family when answering these questions. Select how often each statement was true for your [adoptive] family.**

G126_CFC1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **In my [adoptive] family, we talk about problems.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **In my [adoptive] family, we talked about problems.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G127_CFC2.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **When we argue, my [adoptive] family listens to "both sides of the story."**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **When we argued, my [adoptive] family listened to "both sides of the story."**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G128_CFC3
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **In my [adoptive] family, we take time to listen to each other.**
>
> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **In my [adoptive] family, we took time to listen to each other.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G129__CFC4
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **My [adoptive] family pulls together when things are stressful.**
>
> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **My [adoptive] family pulled together when things were stressful.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G130_CFC5
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **My [adoptive] family is able to solve our problems.**
>
> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **My [adoptive] family was able to solve our problems.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

[IF A1_CAGE<18]: *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **For the next set of statements, think of your experiences now** <u>during your childhood</u>. **Please think about the [adoptive] parent to whom you feel the closest. Please indicate how often each of the following is true for you.**

[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **For the next set of statements, think of your experiences** <u>during your childhood before you turned 18</u>. **Please think about the [adoptive] parent to whom you felt the closest. Please indicate how often each of the following was true for you.**

G131_CFC6
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **I am happy when I am with my [adoptive] parent.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **I was happy when I was with my [adoptive] parent.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G132_CFC7
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **My [adoptive] parent and I are very close to each other.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **My [adoptive] parent and I were very close to each other.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G133_CFC8
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **My [adoptive] parent is a comfort to me when I am upset.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **My [adoptive] parent was a comfort to me when I was upset.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G134_CFC9
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A1_CAGE<18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **I spend time with my [adoptive] parent doing what he/she/they likes to do.**

> **[IF A1_CAGE>=18]:** *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"** **I spent time with my [adoptive] parent doing what he/she/they likes to do.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G135_CFC10
Question Type: Radio Button

[IF A1_CAGE<18]: *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **How warm is your relationship with your [adoptive] parent?**

[IF A1_CAGE>=18]: *IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoptive"* **How warm was your relationship with your [adoptive] parent?**

1   Not at all warm
2   Slightly warm
3   Moderately warm
4   Very warm
5   Extremely warm

[IF B11_CAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION H] G136_CFC11. If you knew everything about your adoptive family that you now know, would you want to be adopted by this family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Definitely not
2   Probably not
3   Maybe
4   Probably
5   Definitely

[IF B11_CAD=1 AND D96_CTERM=3 or 4, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION H]
G137_CFC12
Question Type: Radio Button

[IF A1_CAGE<18 AND D96_CTERM=3 or 4]: How often do you think about ending your adoption?

[IF A1_CAGE>=18 AND D96_CTERM=3 or 4]: Before you were 18, how often did you think about ending your adoption?

1   Never
2   Rarely
3   Sometimes
4   Usually
5   Always

Section H: Health and Mental Health Status

The next questions ask about your health.

H138_CME1. In general, would you say your health is…?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Excellent
2   Very good
3   Good
4   Fair
5   Poor

H139_CME2. Do you think you have a problem with your own mental health? Please include any emotional, behavioral, learning, or attention problems.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

H140_CME3. Do you think you have a problem with your own drug or alcohol use? Please include any alcohol or drug abuse problems.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TOCOVID_INTRO] H141_CME4. During your childhood, <u>before you turned 18 years old,</u> did you have a problem with your own mental health? Please include any emotional, behavioral, learning, or attention problems.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A1_CAGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TOCOVID_INTRO] H142_CME5. During your childhood, before you turned 18 years old, did you have a problem with your own drug or alcohol use? Please include any alcohol or drug abuse problems.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

Now I have a few questions about your personal experiences with COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

H143_CCO1. How much has COVID-19 changed your family income or employment situation?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   No change.
2   Mild. There has been a small change, but I can still meet my basic needs and pay bills.
3   Moderate. I have had to make cuts, but I can still meet my basic needs and pay my bills.
4   Severe. I am unable to meet my basic needs or pay my bills.

H144_CCO2. How much has COVID-19 changed your access to extended family and non-family social supports?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   No change.
2   Mild. I continue my visits with social distancing, regular phone calls, video calls, or social media contacts.
3   Moderate. I have lost in-person and remote contact with a few people, but not all of my supports.
4   Severe. I have lost all in-person and remote contact with my supports.

H145_CCO3. How much stress have you experienced due to COVID-19?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   None.
2   Mild. I worry occasionally or experience minor stress-related symptoms, such as feeling a little anxious, sad, or angry; or having mild trouble sleeping
3   Moderate. I worry frequently or experience moderate stress-related symptoms, such as feeling moderately anxious, sad, or angry; or having moderate or occasional trouble sleeping
4   Severe. I worry all the time or experience severe stress-related symptoms, such as feeling extremely anxious, sad or angry; or having severe or frequent trouble sleeping

H146__CCO4. How much stress or disagreement is there in your family due to COVID-19?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   None.
2   Mild. My family members are occasionally short-tempered with one another; but there is no physical violence.
3   Moderate. My family members are frequently short-tempered with one another; or children in my home get in physical fights with one another.
4   Severe. My family members are frequently short-tempered with one another; or adults in my home throw things at one another, knock over furniture, hit or harm one another.

Section I: Support

Think of people you can go to if you want to talk to someone about something personal - for instance, if you had something on your mind that was worrying you or making you feel down.

I147_CT1. Currently, how many people do you feel you can go to if you want to talk about something personal?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   No one
2   1
3   2
4   3
5   4
6   5 or more

[IF I147_CT1> 1, ELSE SKIP TO I149_CSOU] I148_CT2. Who are the people you can talk to about something personal related to you? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
I148a_CT2_A	Adoptive parent	1	2
I148b_ CT2_B	Birth or biological parent	1	2
I148c_ CT2_C	Foster parent	1	2
I148d_ CT2_D	Other adoptive relative	1	2
I148e_ CT2_E	Other birth or biological relative	1	2
I148f_CT2_F	Spouse or partner	1	2
I148g_ CT2_G	Mentor or other community member such as a caseworker or social worker, teacher, or coach	1	2
I148h_ CT2_H	Friend, peer, or coworker	1	2
I148i_ CT2_I	Therapist, counselor, or doctor	1	2
I148j_ CT2_J	Lawyer or court-appointed special advocate, such as CASA	1	2
I148k_ CT2_K	Other	1	2

I148k_CT2_OT: Please specify:_____

I149_CSOU. When you run into challenges, who is your primary source of support or help?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Adoptive parent or guardian
2   Birth or biological parent
3   Foster parent
4   Another adoptive relative

5   Another birth or biological relative

6   Spouse or partner

7   Mentor or other community member such as a caseworker or social worker, teacher, or coach

8   Friend, peer, or coworker

9   Therapist, counselor, or doctor

10   Lawyer or court-appointed special advocate, such as CASA

11   Other

        a.   **I149_CSOU_OT**: Please specify:_____

Section J: Open-Ended Question

This is our last question.

IF B11_CAD=1, insert "adoption" **J150_CELSE. Is there anything else about your [adoption] experience that you would like to share?**

Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

J150_CELSETX. [IF J150_CELSE =1, ELSE SKIP TO END] What would you like to share?

Question Type: Open field, limit 250 characters

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Appendix D. Adoptive Parent Instrument (online version)

Thank you for your interest in the Survey of Family Well-Being. The federal government is funding this national survey of children and young adults who were adopted from the child welfare system and their adoptive parents. RTI International (RTI), a not-for-profit research organization in North Carolina, is conducting this survey.

We are contacting the parents of adults, young adults, and youth who were involved with child welfare agencies during childhood throughout the United States beginning in 1999 or later. Your child is among over 500 youth, young adults or adults selected to be interviewed. RTI talked to you or your child, [CHILD], as a part of a previous study many years ago, the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW). Now, in this new Survey of Family Well-Being, we are following up with NSCAW participants approximately 7 to 14 years after the last time you or your child were interviewed for NSCAW.

This survey should be completed by [CHILD]'s adoptive parent or an adult who raised [CHILD]. If your child is under 18 years of age, we must have permission from a parent or legal guardian before we contact youth. At that point, your child may choose whether to participate in the study.

The next few screens will tell you more about this study and ask for your consent to participate.

[NEXT BUTTON]

What Is the Purpose of This New Study on Family Well-Being?

By doing this study, we hope to understand the experiences of families who have adopted children after involvement with the child welfare system – both from the perspective of the youth, young adults, and adults, as well as their adoptive parents. We would like to learn more about families' experiences with adoption. This will help develop services that may support adopted children and their families. We hope that child welfare agencies will use this information to make improvements and better support families.

What Will I Be Asked to Do?

Participation is voluntary. If you decide to participate, we will ask you to complete a web-based survey. Your interview may last about 30 minutes. The questions will ask about your child's adoption and places your child may have lived, and the services you and your child may have received. The questions will ask about your social support system. Additional questions will focus on things that may have happened in your child's life, such as experiencing homelessness and running away.

You may skip over any questions or stop your participation in this study at any time and for any reason.

If you and your child agree for him/her to participate in a separate web-based survey, we will conduct that survey with your child. However, we will not share your survey responses with them, and we will not share their responses with you, as all responses are private.

If your child is a minor still living with you, we will ask you for your permission to do a phone interview with him/her. Please assure that if [CHILD] wants to participate in the study, that he/she completes the phone interview in a private place and that he/she cannot be overhead by anybody.

[NEXT BUTTON]

What Are the Possible Risks and Discomforts?

Some questions might make you feel uneasy or feel various emotions, such as sadness. We will give you a list of resources/agencies that you can contact where there are professionals with whom you may talk with about your feelings.

Will I Benefit from Taking Part in This Study?

You will not get any personal benefit from taking part in this study. What we learn from you may help to improve services and programs for adoptive families.

Do I Have to Take Part in this Study?

You can decide to take part in the study or not. There will be no penalty and you will not lose any benefits or rights you would normally have if you choose not to participate. If you do participate, you can refuse to answer any questions.

What Will It Cost Me to Participate?

There are no costs associated with taking part in this study.

Will I Receive Anything for Taking Part in this Study?

You will receive $30 for taking part in this study.

[NEXT BUTTON]

Who Will See the Information I Give?

We keep your responses private to the extent permitted by the law. We keep your survey answers on a secure computer, and your responses have an ID number instead of your name. We do not identify you by name. We combine your answers with results from other interviews and report them together in summary form. When we write up the results from the study to share with other researchers, we will write about the combined information. You will not be identified in any published or presented materials. We do not link your name or your child's name to the information you provide. We keep your names and other identifiers separate from your answers. We only use your name and address to contact you in the future for another interview.

All staff involved in this research signed a Privacy Pledge. In addition, RTI has obtained a federal Certificate of Confidentiality for this study to protect the identity of the research participants. This certificate prevents us from releasing any information that would identify you or your child, even from a court order.

There is one important exception to note. At some point in the future, a different research company may take over this study. If that happens, we would give your contact information to the other company. At any future time, you and your child will always have the choice about whether you want to participate in any new study.

How Will My Responses be Used?

Prior to using or releasing this data for future research, we will de-identify it. "De-identify" means that we will remove or code any personal information that could identify you or your child before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that no one can identify you from the information we share. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee against the re-identification of your personal data.

In addition to informing the government, the information that we gather from you and your child during this survey may be shared with other researchers. This will not include your personal information (for example, your name and the name of your child will never be shared), but we may share your responses, along with all of the other responses. This will allow other researchers to also learn from your experiences.

We will also allow some researchers to do studies that combine your survey data with the information we collect from other sources. We will not ask for your additional informed consent for these studies. The researchers will use the data to write reports, and to better understand experiences of you, your family, and families like yours.

[NEXT BUTTON]

What If I Have Questions?

Before you decide whether or not to participate in the study, please ask any questions that come to mind. Later, if you have questions about the study, you can contact the researcher, Heather Ringeisen, toll-free at 800-334-8571 extension 26931. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, contact the RTI Office of Research Protection at 1-866-214-2043.

Research Participant Statement

I understand that my participation in this research study is voluntary. I may refuse to participate or stop participating without penalty or loss of benefits. By selecting NEXT, I acknowledge my approval to participate in the study.

> *An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. This study's number is* 0970–0555.

> *The Federal Government has issued a Certificate of Confidentiality (authorized by the Public Health Service Act Section 301(d), 42 U.S.C Section 241 (d), 1988) to the researchers who are conducting this study which authorizes us to protect the privacy of individuals who participate.*

[NEXT BUTTON]

Section A: Demographics

This first set of questions will ask some basic information about you and your adopted child, [CHILD].

A1_PAGE. What is your age?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, answer 1-99

____years old

A1a_PETHNIC. Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?
Question Type: Radio Button

3   Yes
4   No

A1b_PRACE. What is your race? Select all that apply.
Question Type: Check Boxes

7   American Indian or Alaska Native
8   Asian
9   Black or African American
10   Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
11   White
12   Other

In this survey, we'd like to ask some questions about your adopted child, [CHILD].

REQUIRED: A2_PC_AGE. How old is [CHILD]?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 number characters
____years old

Error message if R does not answer this question: **We need for you to complete this question. Your answer will help us know how to word other questions later in the interview.**

A2a_PC_ETH. Is [CHILD] Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?
Question Type: Radio Button
1   Yes
2   No

A2b_PC_RACE. What is [CHILD]'s race? Select all that apply.
Question Type: Check Boxes
1   American Indian or Alaska Native
2   Asian
3   Black or African American
4   Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5   White
6   Other

A2c_PC_PRO. Which pronoun does [CHILD] use to describe themselves, he, she, or they? We will refer to [CHILD] using this pronoun throughout the survey.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   He
2   She
3   They

REQUIRED: A3_PRE. What is your relationship to [CHILD]?
Question Type: Radio Button, Required question, Response options 5 & 6 not visible to respondent

1   Adoptive mother
2   Adoptive father
3   Birth or biological grandmother
4   Birth or biological grandfather
5   (DEACTIVATED)
6   (DEACTIVATED)
7   Other relative
     a.   **A3_PRE_OT:** Please specify: _____
8   Other non-relative
     a.   **A3_PRE _OT:** Please specify: _____

Error message if R does not answer this question: **This information is critical in determining your eligibility to participate in this study. In order to move forward with this interview, we need a response for this question.**

[IF (A3_PRE ≠ 5 OR A3_PRE ≠ 6), ELSE GO TO B14] A4_PCLI. Where does [CHILD] live now?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   At our family's house, apartment, or condo
2   At [his/her/their] own house, apartment, condo, dormitory, or military barracks
3   At another adoptive family member's house, apartment, or condo
4   At a birth or biological family member's house, apartment, or condo
5   With friends
6   At a foster parent's house, apartment, or condo
7   At a group home or residential treatment facility
8   At a prison, jail, or juvenile detention center
9   Does not have a home right now, for example, [he/she/they] [is/are] living inside [his/her/their] car, in an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or [is/are] couch surfing
10   I don't know where [he/she/they] [live/lives]
11   Other
     a.   **A4_PCLI_OT**: Please specify: _____

[IF A4_PCHLI>1, ELSE SKIP TO A8_PV] A5_PCLEFT. How old was [CHILD] when [he/she/they] left your home for the first time to live someplace else?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters
_____years old

[IF A4_PCLI>1, ELSE SKIP TO A8_PV] A6_PY. Why did [CHILD] leave your home the first time? Please answer Yes or No for each option. Answer Yes if it was one of the main reasons.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
A6a_PY_A	For a job, to join the military, or to attend school, college, or another educational program	1	2
A6a_PY_B	To get married or move in with a boyfriend, girlfriend, or significant other	1	2
A6a_PY_C	We asked [him/her/them] to leave our home, apartment, or condo	1	2
A6a_PY_D	[He/she/they] preferred to live with [his/her/their] birth or biological family	1	2
A6a_PY_E	[He/she/they] preferred to live with another adoptive family member	1	2
A6a_PY_F	[He/she/they] needed group home or residential services to manage emotions, behaviors, drugs, and/or alcohol problems	1	2
A6a_PY_G	[He/she/they] didn't feel that [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
A6a_PY_H	[He/she/they] didn't feel that [his/her/their] racial or ethnic identity was accepted	1	2
A6a_PY_I	Other	1	2

A6i_PY_OT: Please specify:_____

A6j_PY_J Please give a brief description of what was going on when [CHILD] left home.
Question Type: Open field, limit 200 characters

A8_PV. Who else lives with you now? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
A8a_PV_A	Spouse, romantic partner, or significant other	1	2
A8b_PV_B	[CHILD]'s birth or biological mother	1	2
A8c_PV_C	[CHILD]'s birth or biological father	1	2
A8d_PV_D	[CHILD]'s adoptive mother	1	2
A8e_PV_E	[CHILD]'s adoptive father	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
A8f_PV_F	[CHILD]'s own child(ren)	1	2
A8g_PV_G	Another adopted son(s)	1	2
A8h_PV_H	Birth or biological son(s)	1	2
A8i_PV_I	Another adopted daughter(s)	1	2
A8j_PV_J	Birth or biological daughter(s)	1	2
A8k_PV_K	Other relative	1	2
A8l_PV_L	Other non-relative	1	2

A8k_PV_OT: Please specify:_____

A8l_PV_OT: Please specify:_____

A9_PSTAT. Are you currently…?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Married
2   Separated
3   Divorced
4   Widowed
5   Never married

[IF A9_PSTAT=2 OR A9_PSTAT=3, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION B] A10_PC_DIV. How old was [CHILD] at the time of your divorce or separation?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters
____years old

Section B: Adoption History

Now I would like to ask you about your overall experience with [CHILD].

REQUIRED: B11_PAD. Adoption is a process where a person legally assumes the parenting of another child born to someone else. Have you legally adopted [CHILD], that is, have you signed court papers to complete [CHILD]'s adoption process?
Question Type: Radio Button, Required question

1   Yes
2   No

Error message if R does not answer this question: **This information is critical in determining your eligibility to participate in this study. In order to move forward with this interview, we need a response for this question.**

[IF A9_PSTAT=1 ANDB11_PAD≠1, ELSE SKIP TO B13_PYEARS] B12_PAD_SPOUSE. Has your spouse legally adopted [CHILD], that is, have they signed court papers to complete [CHILD]'s adoption process?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

B13_PYEARS.
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters

> **[IF A4_ PCLI=1] How many years have you lived with [CHILD]?**

> **[IF A4_PCLI≠1] How many years did you live with [CHILD]?**

____years

[IF A3_PRE=1 OR A3_ PRE=2 OR B11_PAD=1 OR B12_PAD_SPOUSE=1, ELSE SKIP TO CICHILD_ADD prelogic] B14_POLD. How old was [CHILD] at the time of their adoption?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters
____years old

B15_PPRE_RE. Before [his/her/their] adoption, what was your relationship to [CHILD]?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Grandparent
2   Aunt or uncle
3   Sister or brother
4   Stepmother or stepfather
5   Other relative
6   Other non-relative
7   Foster parent
8   I had no prior relationship to [him/her/them]

[IF A3_PRE=1 OR A3_PRE=2 OR B11_PAD=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION C] B16_PLONG. How long did you know [CHILD] <u>before the adoption process started</u>?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   I did not know [him/her/them] before the adoption process started
2   Less than 6 months
3   6 months to 1 year
4   More than 1 year to 3 years
5   More than 3 years
6   All [his/her/their] life

[IF B16_PLONG≠1, ELSE SKIP TOB18_POT_SIB] B17_PCLOSE. How close did you feel to [CHILD] <u>before the adoption process started</u>?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

B18_POT_SIB. Did you adopt other birth or biological siblings of [CHILD]?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

B19_POPEN. Open adoption is when adoptive parents allow contact between birth or biological parents and child. Is [CHILD]'s adoption an "open adoption"?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF B19_POPEN=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION C] B20_P.

> **[IF A2_ PC_AGE<18]: With whom does your child have contact? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**

> **[IF A2_ PC_AGE>=18]: When [CHILD] was a child, with whom did [he/she/they] have contact? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**

Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
B20a_B20_P_A	Birth or biological mother	1	2
B20b_B20_P_B	Birth or biological father	1	2
B20c_B20_P_C	Other birth or biological relatives	1	2

[IF B20a_B20_P_A=1, ELSE SKIP TO B21b_PSUPFAT] B20d_PSUPMO.

> **[IF A2_ PC_AGE<18]: How supportive are you of the contact between [CHILD] and [his/her/their] birth or biological mother?**

> **[IF A2_ PC_AGE>=18]: Before [he/she/they] turned 18, how supportive were you of the contact between [CHILD] and [his/her/their] birth or biological mother?**

Question Type: Radio Button

1   Very supportive
2   Supportive
3   Not very supportive
4   We never discussed contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological mother

[IF B20d_PSUPMOT=1 OR B20d_PSUPMO=2, ELSE SKIP TO B21a_PSUPMO] B21_PSUPMOY.

> **[IF A2_ PC_AGE<18]: Tell us more about why you are supportive about [CHILD]'s contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological mother.**

> **[IF A2_ PC_AGE>=18]: Tell us more about why you were supportive about [CHILD]'s contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological mother.**

Question Type: Open field, limit 200 characters

[IF B20d_PSUPMO=3, ELSE SKIP TO B21b_PSUPFAT] B21a_PSUPMO.

> **[IF A2_ PC_AGE<18]: Tell us more about why you are not supportive about [CHILD]'s contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological mother.**

> **[IF A2_ PC_AGE>=18]: Tell us more about why you were not supportive about [CHILD]'s contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological mother.**

Question Type: Open field, limit 200 characters

[IF B20b_ B20_C_B=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION C] B21b_PSUPFAT.

[IF A2_ PC_AGE<18]: How supportive are you of the contact between [CHILD] and [his/her/their] birth or biological father?

[IF A2_ PC_AGE>=18]: Before [he/she/they] turned 18, how supportive were you of the contact between [CHILD] and [his/her/their] birth or biological father?

Question Type: Radio Button

1   Very supportive
2   Supportive
3   Not very supportive
4   We never discussed contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological father

[IF B21b_PSUPFAT=1 OR B21b_PSUPFAT=2, ELSE SKIP TO B22a_PSUPFA] B22_PSUPFAT.

[IF A2_ PC_AGE<18]: Tell us more about why you are supportive about [CHILD]'s contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological father.

[IF A2_ PC_AGE>=18]: Tell us more about why you were supportive about [CHILD]'s contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological father.

Question Type: Open field, limit 200 characters

[IF B21b_PSUPFAT=3, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION C] B22a_PSUPFA.

[IF A2_ PC_AGE<18]: Tell us more about why you are not supportive about [CHILD]'s contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological father.

[IF A2_ PC_AGE>=18]: Tell us more about why you were not supportive about [CHILD]'s contact with [his/her/their] birth or biological father.

Question Type: Open field, limit 200 characters

Section C: Post Adoption Instability Experiences

[IF A2_PC_AGE<18] Next, we want to ask about some life experiences after [CHILD]'s adoption. We are interested in learning whether there were times when [he/she/they] did not live with you <u>after [his/her/their] adoption</u>.

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18] Next, we want to ask about some life experiences after [CHILD]'s adoption. We are interested in learning whether there were times when [he/she/they] did not live with you <u>after [his/her/their] adoption, but before [he/she/they] turned 18</u>.

C22_PLIFE
Question Type: Open field, limit 50 characters

[IF A2_ PC_AGE<18]: First, think about important events in your life that happened after [CHILD]'s adoption. What is one event in your life <u>after [his/her/their] adoption</u> that you remember well? Please provide a brief description, for example, first day of school or bought a new house.

[IF A2_ PC_AGE>=18]: First, think about important events in your life before [CHILD] turned 18. What is one event in your life <u>before [he/she/they] turned 18</u> that you remember well? Please provide a brief description, for example, moved to a new home, started a new job, or bought a new car.

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18, ELSE GO TO C25] C23_PLIFEAF. Now, think about important events in your life that happened after [CHILD]'s adoption, but before [he/she/they] turned 18. What is one event in your life <u>after [his/her/their] adoption, but before [he/she/they] turned 18</u> that you remember well? Please provide a brief description, for example, first day of school or their first birthday as part of your family.

Question Type: Open field, limit 50 characters

C25.

[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: Now, we want to ask about times when [CHILD] may have stopped living with you. We will ask you separately about times [he/she/they] may have left your home to live in foster care, a group home or residential treatment center, juvenile detention, or to live with other relatives. We realize that your child may have lived in many of these places before coming to live with you or before [his/her/their] adoption was finalized. But, for this survey, we are only interested in learning whether there were times when [CHILD] did not live with you <u>after [his/her/their] adoption was finalized</u>.

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: Now, we want to ask about times when [CHILD] may have stopped living with you. We will ask you separately about times [he/she/they] may have left your home to live in foster care, a group home or residential treatment center, juvenile detention, or to live with other relatives. We realize that your child may have lived in many of these places before coming to live with you or before you or before [his/her/their] adoption was finalized. But, for this survey, we are only

interested in learning whether there were times when [CHILD] did not live with you <u>after [his/her/their] adoption was finalized, but before [he/she/they] turned 18</u>.

C25_PFO1. First, we want to ask you about time in foster care. Here, foster care refers to a child living with a foster parent who is not related to the child, for example, not living with their grandparent or some other relative and not living in a group home. <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did [he/she/they] live in foster care?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C25_PFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_PGR1] C26_PFO2. How many different foster families has [CHILD] lived with after [his/her/their] adoption?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, answer must be 1-99

_____families

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us [CHILD] spent time in foster care. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C25_PFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_PGR1] *IF C26_PFO2>1, insert "first"* **C27_PFO3. How old was [CHILD] when [he/she/they] [first] moved from your home to live with a foster family?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C25_PFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_PGR1] *IF C26_PFO2>1, insert "first"* **C28_PFO4. How long did [CHILD] live with this [first] foster family after [he/she/they] moved from your home?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Less than 2 months
2   2 to 6 months
3   More than 6 months to 1 year
4   More than 1 year to 3 years
5   More than 3 years to 5 years
6   More than 5 years

[IF C25_PFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_PGR1] *IF C26_PFO2>1, insert "first"* **C30_PF5. When [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a foster family, did you still have contact with [him/her/them]?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C25_PFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_PGR1] *IF C26_PFO2>1, insert "first"* **C31_PFO6. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to live with a foster family. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C31a_PFO6_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C31b_PFO6_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C31c_PFO6_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2
C31d_PFO6_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C31e_PFO6_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C31f_PFO6_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C31g_PFO6_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2
C31h_PFO6_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C31i_PFO6_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C31j_PFO6_J	Other	1	2

C31j_PFO6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C25_PFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_PGR1] *IF C26_PFOS2>1, insert "first"* **C32_PFO7. During the time when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to live with a foster family, did you, your family, or [CHILD] <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C32a_PFO7_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C32b_PFO7_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C32c_ PFO7_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
C32d_PFO7_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C32e_PFO7_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C32f_PFO7_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2
C32g_PFO7_G	Other	1	2

C32g_PFO7_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C25_PFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_PGR1] C33_PFO8. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C33_PFO8=2, ELSE SKIP TO C29_PFO10] C34_PFO9. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C25_PFO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C35_PGR1] C29_PFO10. How much total time did [CHILD] spend in foster care after [he/she/they] moved from your home? If [he/she/they] [has/have] lived with more than one foster family, consider the total amount of time [he/she/they] [has/have] spent in foster care after [his/her/their] adoption.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Less than 2 months
2   2 to 6 months
3   More than 6 months to 1 year
4   More than 1 year to 3 years
5   More than 3 years to 5 years
6   More than 5 years

C35_PGR1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]** *IF A3_PRE=3 OR A3_PRE=4, insert "another" , else fill "a"* * **After [CHILD]'s adoption, did [he/she/they] ever live <u>without</u> you in [a/another] grandparent's home?**
>
> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]** *IF A3_PRE=3 OR A3_PRE=4, insert "another" , else fill "a"* * **After [CHILD]'s adoption, did [he/she/they] ever live <u>without</u> you in [a/another] grandparent's home? Please think only about the times before [he/she/they] turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C35_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C44_PAN1] C36_PGR2. Was this grandparent the [CHILD]'s adoptive grandparent or birth or biological grandparent?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Adoptive grandparent
2   Birth or biological grandparent

[IF C35_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C44_PAN1] C37_PGR3. How many times has [CHILD] gone to live <u>without</u> you in a grandparent's home?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us [CHILD] went to live in a grandparent's home without you. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C35_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C44_PAN1] *IF C37_PGR3>1, insert "the first time", otherwise use "when"* **C38_PGR4. How old was [CHILD] [the first time/when] [he/she/they] left your home to live in a grandparent's home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C35_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C44_PAN1] *IF C37_PGR3>1, insert "first"* **C39_PGR5. When [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a grandparent's home, did you still have contact with [him/her/them]?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C35_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C44_PAN1] *IF C37_PGR3>1, insert "first"* **C40_PGR6. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] [first] went to live in a grandparent's home <u>without</u> you. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C40a_PGR6_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C40b_ PGR6_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C40c_PGR6_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2
C40d_PGR6_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C40e_PGR6_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C40f_PGR6_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C40g_PGR6_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2
C40h_PGR6_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C40i_PGR6_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C40j_PGR6_J	Other	1	2

C40j_PGR6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C35_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C44_PAN1] *IF C37_PGR3>1, insert "first"* **C41_PGR7. During the time when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a grandparent's home, did you, your family, or [CHILD] <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C41a_PGR7_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C41b_PGR7_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C41c_PGR7_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
C41d_PGR7_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C41e_PGR7_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C41f_PGR7_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2
C41g_PGR7_G	Other	1	2

C41g_PGR7_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C35_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C44_PAN1] C42_PGR8. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C42_PGR8=2, ELSE SKIP TO C44_PAN1] C43_PGR9. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C44_PAN1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]:** *IF A3_PRE = 7, insert "another" , else fill "a"* **After [CHILD]'s adoption**, did [he/she/they] ever live **without** you in [a/another] relative's home? This includes relatives related to the child by birth or adoption. Please do not include [CHILD]'s grandparent's home.

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]:** *IF A3_PRE= 7, insert "another" , else fill "a"* **After [CHILD]'s adoption**, did [he/she/they] ever live **without** you in [a/another] relative's home? This includes relatives related to the child by birth or adoption. Please do not include [CHILD]'s grandparent's home. **Please think only about those times that happened before your child turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C44_PAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C53_PAX1] C45_PAN2. Who was this relative?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Adoptive aunt, uncle, or cousin
2   Birth or biological aunt, uncle, or cousin
3   Birth or biological sister or brother
4   Adoptive sister or brother
5   Birth or biological parent
6   Another relative
          a. **C45_PAN2_OTH**: Please specify:_____

[IF C44_PAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C53_PAX1] C46_PAN3. How many times has [CHILD] gone to live <u>without</u> you to live in this relative's home?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters   , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us [CHILD] went to live in a relative's home without you. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C44_PAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C53_PAX1] *IF C46_PAN3>1, insert "the first time" otherwise use "when"* **C47_PAN4. How old was [CHILD] [the first time/when] [he/she/they] moved from your home to this relative's home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C44_PAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C53_PAX1] *IF C46_PAN3>1, insert "first"* **C48_PAN5. When [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to this relative's home, did you still have contact with [him/her/them]?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C44_PAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C53_PAX1] *IF C46_PAN3>1, insert "first"* **C49_PAN6. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to this relative's home. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C49a_PAN6_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C49b_PAN6_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C49c_PAN6_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2
C49d_PAN6_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C49e_PAN6_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C49f_PAN6_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C49g_PAN6_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2
C49h_PAN6_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C49i_PAN6_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C49j_PAN6_J	Other	1	2

C49j_PAN6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C44_PAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C53_PAX1] *IF C46_PAN3>1, insert "first"* **C50_PAN7. During the time when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to this relative's home, did you, your family, or [CHILD] underline receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C50a_PAN7_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C50bPAN7_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C50c_PAN7_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
C50d_PAN7_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C50e_PAN7_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C50f_PAN7_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2
C50g_PAN7_G	Other	1	2

C50g_PAN7_OT: Please specify:____

[IF C44_PAN1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C53_PAX1] C51_PAN8. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C51_PAN8=2, ELSE SKIP TO C53_PAX1] C52_PAN9. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C53_PAX1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]:** <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did [he/she/they] ever live <u>without</u> you at another adult's home, for example, an older friend's home, with a friend's family or parent(s), with a boyfriend, girlfriend, or romantic partner's parent(s), or in a neighbor's home?

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]:** <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did [he/she/they] ever live <u>without</u> you at another adult's home, for example, an older friend's home, with a friend's family or parent(s), with a boyfriend, girlfriend, or romantic partner's parent(s), or in a neighbor's home? Please think only about the times before your child turned 18 years old.

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C53_PAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C61_PRU1] C54_PAX2. How many times has [CHILD] gone to live at another adult's home <u>without</u> you?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters   , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us [CHILD] went to live in another adult's home without you. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C53_PAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C61_PRU1] *IF C54_PAX2>1 insert "first"* **C55_PAX3. How old was [CHILD] when [he/she/they] [first] went to live in another adult's home <u>without</u> you?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters   , Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C53_PAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C61_PRU1] *IF C54_PAX2>1 insert "first"* **C56_PAX4. When [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to another adult's home <u>without</u> you, did you still have contact with [him/her/them]?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C53_PAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C61_PRU1] *IF C54_PAX2>1 insert "first"* **C57_PAX5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to another's adult's home <u>without</u> you. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C57a_PAX5_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C57b_PAX5_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C57c_PAX5_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C57d_PAX5_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C57e_PAX5_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C57f_PAX5_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C57g_PAX5_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2
C57h_PAX5_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C57i_PAX5_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C57j_PAX5_J	Other	1	2

C57j_PAX5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C53_PAX1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C61_PRU1] *IF C54_PAX2>1 insert "first"* **C58_PAX6. During the time when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to another adult's home, did you, your family, or [CHILD] receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C58a_PAX6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C58b_PAX6_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C58c_PAX6_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
C58d_PAX6_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C58e_PAX6_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C58f_PAX6_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2
C58g_PAX6_G	Other	1	2

C58g_PAX6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C53_PAX=1, ELSE SKIP TO C61_PRU1] C59_PAX7. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C59_PAX7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C61_PRU1] C60_PAX8. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C61_PRU1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: Running away is defined in the following way: a minor leaving home for over 24 hours or going missing for more than 24 hours and their parent or guardian not knowing where [he/she/they] [was/were]. After [CHILD]'s adoption, did [he/she/they] ever run away from your home?**
>
> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: Running away is defined in the following way: a minor leaving home for over 24 hours or going missing for more than 24 hours and their parent or guardian not knowing where [he/she/they] [was/were]. After [CHILD]'s adoption, did [he/she/they] ever run away from your home? Please think only about the times before [he/she/they] turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C61_PRU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C69_PHO1] C62_PRU2. After [CHILD]'s adoption, how many times has [he/she/they] run away from your home?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters   , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us [CHILD] had run away from your home. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C61_PRU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C69_PHO1] *IF C62_PRU2>1, insert "the first time" otherwise use "when"* **C63_PRU3. How old was [CHILD] [the first time/when] [he/she/they] ran away from your home?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C61_PRU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C69_PHO1] *IF C62_PRU2>1, insert "first"* **C64_PRU4. When [CHILD] [first] ran away from your home, did you still have contact with [him/her/them]?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C61_PRU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C69_PHO1] *IF C62_PRU2>1, insert "for the first time"* **C65_PRU5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] ran away [for the first time]. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C65a_PRU5_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C65b_PRU5_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C65c_PRU5_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2
C65d_PRU5_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C65e_PRU5_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C65f_PRU5_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C65g_PRU5_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2
C65h_PRU5_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C65i_PRU5_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C65j_PRU5_J	Other	1	2

C65j_PRU5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C61_PRU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C69_PHO1] *IF C62_PRU2>1, insert "first"* **C66_PRU6. During the time when [CHILD] [first] ran away, did you, your family, or [CHILD] receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C66a_PRU6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C66b_PRU6_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C66c_PRU6_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
C66d_PRU6_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C66e_PRU6_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C66f_PRU6_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2
C66g_PRU_G	Other	1	2

C66g_PRU6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C61_PRU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C69_PHO1] C67_PRU7. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C67_PRU7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C69_PHO1] C68_PRU8. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C69_PHO1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]:** <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, **was there ever a time when [he/she/they] spent one or more nights homeless without you, for example, living inside a car, in an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or couch surfing?**
>
> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]:** <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, **was there ever a time when [he/she/they] spent one or more nights homeless without you, for example, living inside a car, in an abandoned building, on the street, in a park, in a shelter, or couch surfing? Please think only about the times that happened before [he/she/they] turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C69_PHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C77_PJU1] C70_PHO2. To the best of your knowledge, how many separate times has [CHILD] spent one or more nights homeless without you?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us [CHILD] spent one or more nights homeless without you. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C69_PHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C77_PJU1] *IF C70_PHO2>1, insert "the first time" otherwise use "when"* **C71_PHO3. How old was [CHILD] [the first time/when] [he/she/they] spent a night homeless without you?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those
        times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C69_PHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C77_PJU1] *IF C70_PHO2>1, insert "first"* **C72_PHO4. When [CHILD] [first] spent a night homeless without you, did you still have contact with [him/her/them]?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C69_PHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C C77_PJU1] *IF C70_PHO2>1, insert "for the first time"* **C73_PHO5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] became homeless [for the first time]. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C73a_PHO5_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C73b_ PHO5_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C73c_PHO5_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2
C73d_PHO5_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C73e_PHO5_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C73f_PHO5_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C73g_PHO5_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2
C73h_PHO5_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C73i_PHO5_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C73j_PHO5_J	Other	1	2

C73j_PHO5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C69_PHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C77_PJU1] *IF C70_PHO2>1, insert "first"* **C74_PHO6. During the time when [CHILD] [first] became homeless, did you, your family, or [CHILD] receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C74a_PHO6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C74b_PHO6_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C74c_PHO6_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C74d_PHO6_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C74e_PHO6_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C74f_PHO6_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2
C74g_PHO6_G	Other	1	2

C74g_PHO6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C69_PHO1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C77_PJU1] C75_PHO7. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C75_PHO7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C77_PJU1] C76_PHO8. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C77_PJU1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did [he/she/they] ever spend at least one night in juvenile detention or [was/were] [he/she/they] ever taken into custody for an illegal or delinquent offense?**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did [he/she/they] ever spend at least one night in juvenile detention or [was/were] [he/she/they] ever taken into custody for an illegal or delinquent offense? Please think only about the times that happened before [he/she/they] turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C77_PJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C86_PTR1] C78_PDE1. How many times has [CHILD] spent at least one night in detention?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, answers must be 0-99

_____times

[IF C77_PJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C86_PTR1] C79_PCU1. How many times has [CHILD] been taken into custody?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answers must be 0-99

_____times

[IF C77_PJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C86_PTR1] *IF C78_PDE1>1 or C79_PCU1>1 or (C78_PDE1=1 and C79_PCU1=1), insert "the first time" otherwise use "when"* **C80_PJU2. How old was [CHILD] [the first time/when] [he/she/they] spent at least one night in detention or was taken into custody?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters, Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C77_PJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C86_PTR1] *IF C78_PDE1>1 or C79_PCU1>1 or (C78_PDE1=1 and C79_PCU1=1), insert "first"* **C81_PJU3. When [CHILD] [first] spent at least one night in detention or was taken into custody, did you still have contact with [him/her/them]?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C77_PJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C86_PTR1] *IF C78_PDE1>1 or C79_PDE1>1 or (C78_PDE1=1 and C79_PCU1=1), insert "first"* **C82_PJU4. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] [first] spent at least one night in detention or was taken into custody. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C82a_PJU4_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C82b_ PJU4_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C82c_ PJUV_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2
C82d_ PJUV_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C82e_ PJU4_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C82f_ PJU4_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C82g_ PJU4_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C82h_ PJU4_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C82i_ PJU4_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C82j_ PJU4_J	Other	1	2

C82j_PJU4_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C77_PJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C86_PTR1] *IF C78_PDE1>1 or C79_PDE1>1 or (C78_PDE1=1 and C79_PCU1=1), insert "first"* **C83_PJU5. During the [first] time when [CHILD] spent at least one night in detention or was taken into custody, did you, your family, or [CHILD] <u>receive </u>any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C83a_PJU5_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C83b_ PJU5_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C83c_ PJU5_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
C83d_ PJU5_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C83e_ PJU5_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C83f_ PJU5_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2
C83g_ PJU5_G	Other	1	2

C83g_PJU5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C77_PJU1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C86_PTR1] C84_PJU6. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C84_PJU6=2, ELSE SKIP TO C86_PTR1] C85_PJU7. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C86_PTR1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: Transitional housing is a temporary accommodation before permanent housing. <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did [he/she/they] ever live in a transitional housing program without you?**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: Transitional housing is a temporary accommodation before permanent housing. <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did [he/she/they] ever live in a transitional housing program without you? Please think only about the times before [he/she/they] turned 18 years old.**

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C86_PTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C94_PGR1] C87_PTR2. How many times has [CHILD] gone to live in a transitional housing program without you?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us [CHILD] had gone to live in a transitional housing program without you. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C86_PTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C94_PGR1] *IF C87_P_TR2>1, insert "first"* **C88_PTR3. How old was [CHILD] when [he/she/they] [first] moved from your home to live in a transitional housing program?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters   , Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C86_PTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C94_PGR1] *IF C87_PTR2>1, insert "first"* **C89_PTR4. When [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a transitional housing program, did you still have contact with your child?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C86_PTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C94_PGR1] *IF C87_PTR2>1, insert "first"* **C90_PTR5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a transitional housing program. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C90a_PTR5_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C90b_ PTR5_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C90c_ PTR5_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2
C90d_ PTR5_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C90e_ PTR5_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C90f_ PTR5_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C90g_ PTR5_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2
C90h_ PTR5_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C90i_ PTR5_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C90j_ PTR5_J	Other	1	2

C90j_PTR5_OT: Please specify:____

[IF C86_PTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C94_PGR1] *IF C87_PTR2>1, insert "first"* **C91_PTR6. During the time when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a transitional housing program, did you, your family, or [CHILD]** <u>receive</u> **any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C91a_PTR6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C91b_ PTR6_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C91c_ PTR6_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
C91d_ PTR6_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C91e_ PTR6_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C91f_ PTR6_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2
C91g_ PTR6_G	Other	1	2

C91g_PTR6_OT: Please specify:__

[IF C86_PTR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C94_PGR1] C92_PTR7. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C92_PTR7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C94_PGR1] C93_PTR8. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

C94_PGR1.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: A group home is a residence intended to serve as an alternative to a family foster home. Homes normally house 4 to 12 youth, offering the use of community resources, including employment, health care, education, and recreational opportunities. A residential treatment center is a 24-hour inpatient facility that provides a range of therapeutic and support services for children by a team of professionals. After [CHILD]'s adoption, [has/have] [he/she/they] ever lived in a group home or a residential treatment center?**

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: A group home is a residence intended to serve as an alternative to a family foster home. Homes normally house 4 to 12 youth, offering the use of community resources, including employment, health care, education, and recreational opportunities. A residential treatment center is a 24-hour inpatient facility that provides a range of therapeutic and support services for children by a team of professionals. <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption,</u> [has/have] [he/she/they] ever lived in a group home or a residential treatment center? Please think only about the times before [he/she/they] turned 18 years old.

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C94_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C102_PTELL] C95_PGR2. How many separate times has [CHILD] lived in a group home or residential treatment center after [his/her/their] adoption? Please include any stay that lasted more than 1 night. Do not include time spent in a juvenile detention facility.
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , answer must be 1-99

_____times

Error message if answer is out of bounds: You previously told us [CHILD] lived in a group home or residential treatment center. Please enter a valid response to continue.

[IF C94_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C102_PTELL] *IF C95_PGR2>1, insert "first"* **C96_PGR3. How old was [CHILD] when [he/she/they] [first] moved from your home to a group home or residential treatment center?**
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters , Constraint 0-18

_____years old

Error message if answer is out of bounds: Please enter a valid response. Please think only about those times that happened <u>before [CHILD] turned 18 years old</u>.

[IF C94_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C102_PTELL] *IF C95_PGR2>1, insert "first"* **C97_PGR4. When [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a group home or residential treatment center, did you still have contact with [him/her/them]?**
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C94_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C102_PTELL] *IF C95_PGR2>1, insert "first"* **C98_PGR5. Next, we would like to understand what was going on in your family when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a group home or residential treatment center. Which of the following describes your family situation at that time? Please answer Yes or No for each option.**
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C98a_PGR5_A	We did not feel safe at home because of [CHILD]'s behavior, for example, [he/she/they] [was/were] harming me or my spouse, siblings, or pets	1	2
C98b_ PGR5_B	[He/she/they] needed help to manage emotions or behaviors, such as school problems, not following rules, being disruptive to family life, or having suicidal thoughts	1	2
C98c_ PGR5_C	[He/she/they] needed help to manage drinking or drug use	1	2
C98d_ PGR5_D	We could not afford services [he/she/they] needed	1	2
C98e_ PGR5_E	We told [him/her/them] that [he/she/they] could not live with us anymore because of [his/her/their] behavior	1	2
C98f_ PGR5_F	[He/she/they] did not feel accepted as part of our family	1	2
C98g_ PGR5_G	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] ethnic or racial identity was accepted	1	2
C98h_ PGR5_H	[He/she/they] did not feel safe at home because there were other family member difficulties, such as mental health or drug or alcohol problems	1	2
C98i_ PGR5_I	[He/she/they] did not feel [his/her/their] gender identity or sexual orientation was accepted	1	2
C98j_ PGR5_J	Other	1	2

C98j_PGR5_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C94_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C102_PTELL] *IF C95_PGR2>1, insert "first"* **C99_PGR6. During the time when [CHILD] [first] moved from your home to a group home or residential treatment center, did you, your family, or [CHILD] underline receive any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.** *Question Type: Radio Button Grid*

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C99a_PGR6_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
C99b_ PGR6_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
C99c_ PGR6_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
C99d_ PGR6_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
C99e_ PGR6_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
C99f_ PGR6_F	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for [CHILD]. This includes receiving an adoption subsidy.	1	2

Variable	Description	Yes	No
C99g_ PGR6_G	Other	1	2

C99g_PGR6_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF C94_PGR1=1, ELSE SKIP TO C102_PTELL] C100_PGR7. Did [CHILD] ever return to live with your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C100_PGR7=2, ELSE SKIP TO C102_PTELL] C101_PGR8. Did [CHILD] keep in contact with anyone from your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF C34_PFO9=1 OR C43_PGR9=1 OR C52_PAN9=1 OR C60_PAX8=1 or C68_PRU8=1 OR C76_PHO8=1 OR C85_PJU7=1 OR C93_PTR8=1 OR C101_PGR8=1, ELSE SKIP TO C103_PTELL2] C102_PTELL. When we asked you about things that may have happened in [CHILD]'s life, you mentioned that [he/she/they] stopped living with you at some point but that [he/she/they] kept in contact with someone from your family. Tell us more about this contact with [him/her/them].
Question Type: Open field, limit 200 characters

[IF C33_PFO8=1 OR C42_PGR8=1 OR C51_PAN8=1 OR C59_PAX7=1 OR C67_PRU7=1 OR C75_PHO7=1 OR C84_PJU6=1 OR C92_PTR7=1 OR C100_PGR7=1, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION D] C103_PTELL2. When we asked you about things that may have happened in [CHILD]'s life, you mentioned that [he/she/they] stopped living with you at some point but that [he/she/they] returned to live with you. Tell us more about why [CHILD] returned to live with you.
Question Type: Open field, limit 200 characters

Section D: Post Adoption Services and Support

The next questions are about services and supports that you or [CHILD] may have needed or received.

D104_PSER.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]:** <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did you feel that you, your family, or [CHILD] <u>needed</u> any of the following services, regardless of whether they were offered to you? Please answer Yes or No for each option.

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]:** <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption but before [he/she/they] turned 18</u>, did you feel that you, your family, or [CHILD] <u>needed</u> any of the following services, regardless of whether they were offered to you? Please answer Yes or No for each option.

Variable	Description	Yes	No
D104a_PSER_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
D104b_ PSER _B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
D104c_ PSER _C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
D104d_ PSER _D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
D104e_ PSER _E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
D104f_ PSER _F	Healthcare services, for example from a pediatrician or primary care physician	1	2
D104g_ PSER _G	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for your child, such as an adoption subsidy	1	2
D104h_ PSER _H	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
D104i_ PSER _I	Other	1	2

D104i_PSER_OT: Please specify:_____

D105_PSER2
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]:** <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption</u>, did you, your family, or [CHILD] <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: <u>After [CHILD]'s adoption but before [he/she/they] turned 18</u>, did you, your family, or [CHILD] <u>receive</u> any of the following services? Please answer Yes or No for each option.

Variable	Description	Yes	No
D105a_PSER2_A	Mental health services, for example, individual, group, or family therapy, inpatient care, or home-based services	1	2
D105b_ PSER2_B	Educational supports, for example, Individualized Education Plan, 504 plan, special education classes, tutoring, or support to help [CHILD] with changing schools	1	2
D105c_ PSER2_C	Adoption support services from the child welfare system	1	2
D105d_ PSER2_D	Support group, in-person, online, or by phone with other adoptive parents or children	1	2
D105e_ PSER2_E	Drug or alcohol treatment services	1	2
D105f_ PSER2_F	Healthcare services, for example from a pediatrician or primary care physician	1	2
D105g_ PSER2_G	Financial assistance from an agency or program to provide care or support for your child, such as an adoption subsidy	1	2
D105h_ PSER2_H	Job training or support with independent living or other life skills	1	2
D105i_ PSER2_I	Other	1	2

D105i_PSER2_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF D105g_PSER2_G=1, ELSE SKIP TO D106_PSER3] D105j_PFIN. How helpful did you find the financial assistance, or amount of the adoption subsidy, in meeting [CHILD]'s needs?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Very helpful
2   Helpful
3   Not helpful

[IF ANY D105a_PSER2_A – D105i_PSER2_I=1, ELSE SKIP TO D107_PSER4] D106_PSER3. How helpful were the services overall?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Very helpful
2   Helpful
3   Not helpful

D107_PSER4. Were there any other services you would have liked to have received? If so, describe them here.
Question Type: Open field, limit 100 characters

[IF "yes" to service need in D104_PSER and "no" to service receipt in D105_PSER2, ELSE SKIP TO D109_PSER6] D108_PSER5. Why do you think you did not get the services you, your family, or [CHILD] needed?
Question Type: Open field, limit 100 characters

[IF "yes" to service need in D104_PSER and "yes" to service receipt in D105_PSER2, ELSE SKIP TO D110_PHE1] D109_PSER6. What do you think helped you, your family, or [CHILD] get the services you needed?
Question Type: Open field, limit 100 characters

The next section is about help or support for you.

D110_PHE1. After the adoption, who helped or supported you? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
D110a_PHE1_A	My relatives	1	2
D110b_ PHE1_B	My adoptive child's relatives	1	2
D110c_ PHE1_C	Friends, neighbors, coworkers, or faith or church members	1	2
D110d_ PHE1_D	In-person or online adoptive parents' group	1	2
D110e_ PHE1_E	My counselor or therapist	1	2
D110f_ PHE1_F	Caseworker or adoption agency staff	1	2
D110g_ PHE1_G	Other	1	2

D110g_PHE1_OT: Please specify:_____

D114_PCASE. After the adoption, did a caseworker from the child welfare agency ever visit your home?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

D117_PTERM. Was [CHILD]'s adoption ever terminated or legally ended by a court order?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes, my parental rights were terminated
2   Yes, my child was legally emancipated with a court order before [he/she/they] turned 18 years old
3   No, my parental rights were not terminated, instead we just ended our relationship on our own
4   No

[IF D117_PTERM=1, D117_PTERM=2, or D117_PTERM=3, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION E]. D118_PTERM2. When was the adoption terminated? Please provide an approximate date.

MM/DD/YYYY

Section E: Family Relationships

These next questions are about your current relationship with [CHILD].

E119_PFR1. How close do you currently feel to [CHILD]?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

E120_PFR2. About how often do you see or have contact with [CHILD]?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Never
2   A few times a year
3   Once or twice a month
4   About once a week
5   Several times a week
6   Every day

E121_PFR3. How much do you feel that [CHILD] belongs in your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Completely
2   Very much
3   A moderate amount
4   A little
5   Not at all

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TO E123_PFR5] E122_PFR4. During [CHILD]'S childhood, before [he/she/they] turned 18, how close did you feel to [him/her/them]?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely close
2   Very close
3   Moderately close
4   Slightly close
5   Not at all close

E123_PFR5. Does [CHILD] know that [he/she/they] [is/are] adopted?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF E123_PFR5=1, ELSE SKIP TO Section F]. E124_PFR6. As children grow up, their questions about adoption often change. What sort of questions has [CHILD] asked you about [his/her/their] birth or biological parents or family over the years? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
E124a_PFR6_A	Questions about [his/her/their] birth or biological mother	1	2
E124b_PFR6_B	Questions about [his/her/their] birth or biological father	1	2
E124c_PFR6_C	Questions about [his/her/their] birth or biological siblings or other birth or biological family members	1	2
E124d_PFR6_D	Questions about why [his/her/their] birth or biological parents could not take care of [him/her/them]	1	2

E125_PFR7.

[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: How often do you encourage [CHILD] to talk about [his/her/their] adoption?

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: Before [CHILD] turned 18 years old, how often did you encourage [he/she/them] to talk about [his/her/their] adoption?

Question Type: Radio Button

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

E127_PFR8.

[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: Do you think [CHILD] ever worries about being adopted?

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: Before [CHILD] turned 18 years old, do you think [he/she/they] worried about being adopted?

Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

E128_PFR9. Has [CHILD] ever been bullied <u>because</u> [he/she/they] was adopted?

Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

Section F. Adoption Motivation/Experience

[IF A3_ PRE=1 OR A3_PRE=2 OR B11_PAD≠2, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION G]. Now we would like to understand more about your adoption experience.

F136_PAM1. There are many reasons why people decide to adopt a child. What are some reasons why you chose adoption? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
F136a_PAM1_A	I loved [CHILD]	1	2
F136b_ PAM1_B	[CHILD] was already part of our family as a relative or foster child	1	2
F136c_ PAM1_C	My spouse, romantic partner, or significant other and I were unable to have a birth or biological child	1	2
F136d_ PAM1_D	I wanted to expand our family	1	2
F136e_ PAM1_E	I felt called to adopt [CHILD] for religious or spiritual reasons	1	2
F136f_ PAM1_F	I wanted a sibling for my birth or biological child(ren)	1	2
F136g_ PAM1_G	I already adopted [CHILD]'s sibling(s)	1	2
F136h_ PAM1_H	I knew [CHILD] and wanted to help [him/her/them]	1	2
F136i_ PAM1_I	I, or someone close to me, had previously been adopted	1	2
F136j_ PAM1_J	I wanted to help a child in need of a permanent family	1	2
F136k_ PAM1_K	My family would be aided financially by an adoption subsidy	1	2
F136l_ PAM1_L	Other reason	1	2

F136l_PAM1_OT: Please specify:_____

F137_PAM2. Looking back, how well do you think [CHILD] matched the perception you had about [him/her/them] at the start of their adoption process?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Poor match
2   Reasonable match
3   Good match

F138_PAM3. Did you receive training in preparation for the adoption?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF F138_PAM3=1, ELSE SKIP TO F141_PAM6] F139_PAM4. What kind of training did you receive in preparation for their adoption?
Question Type: Open field, limit 100 characters

[IF F138_PAM3=1, ELSE SKIP TO F141_PAM6] F140_PAM5. About how many hours of training did you receive in preparation for their adoption?
Question Type: Open field, limit 2 numeric characters
_____hours

F141_PAM6. Looking back, how well prepared do you think you were to adopt [CHILD]?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Not at all prepared
2   Somewhat prepared
3   Very well prepared

F142_PAM7. How concerned were you about your readiness to be an adoptive parent to [CHILD] when you first heard details about [his/her/their] child welfare case and history?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   I had major concerns
2   I had some concerns
3   I did not have any concerns

[IF F142_PAM7=1 OR F142_PAM7=2, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION G] F143_PAM8. Did you talk to the child welfare agency staff or adoption specialist about your concerns before the adoption process?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes, I was open and truthful about any concerns
2   Yes, but I downplayed my concerns
3   No, I did not discuss my concerns

Section G: Perceptions of Family Cohesion and Functioning During Childhood

[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: For the next set of statements, think of your experiences with [CHILD]. Please think about all members of your family when answering these questions. Select how often each statement is true for your family.

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: For the next set of statements, think of your experiences with [CHILD] during [his/her/their] childhood, <u>before [he/she/they] turned 18 years old</u>. Please think about all members of your family when answering these questions. Select how often each statement was true for your family.

G145_PFC1.
Question Type: Radio Button

[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: In my family, we talk about problems.

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: In my family, we talked about problems.

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G146_PFC2.
Question Type: Radio Button

[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: When we argue, my family listens to "both sides of the story".

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: When we argued, my family listened to "both sides of the story".

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G147_PFC3.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: In my family, we take time to listen to each other.**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: In my family, we took time to listen to each other.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G148_PFC4.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: My family pulls together when things are stressful.**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: My family pulled together when things were stressful.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G149_PFC5.
Question Type: Radio Button
> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: My family is able to solve our problems**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: My family was able to solve our problems.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: For the next set of statements, think of your experiences with [CHILD]. Please indicate how often each of the following is true for you when you are with [him/her/them].

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: For the next set of statements, think of your experiences with [CHILD] during [his/her/their] childhood, <u>before [he/she/they] turned 18</u>. Please indicate how often each of the following was true for you when you were with [him/her/them].

G150_PFC6.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: I am happy being with my child.**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: I was happy being with my child.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G151_PFC7.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: My child and I are very close to each other.**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: My child and I were very close to each other.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G152_PFC8.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: I am able to soothe my child when [he/she/they] [is/are] upset.**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: I was able to soothe my child when [he/she/they] [was/were] upset.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G153_PFC9.
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18]: I spend time with my child doing what [he/she/they] [likes/like] to do.**

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18]: I spent time with my child doing what [he/she/they] liked to do.**

1   Never
2   Very rarely
3   Rarely
4   About half of the time
5   Frequently
6   Very frequently
7   Always

G154_PFC10. Overall, how would you rate the impact of [CHILD]'s adoption on your family?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Extremely negative
2   Moderately negative
3   Slightly negative
4   Neither positive nor negative
5   Slightly positive
6   Moderately positive
7   Extremely positive

G155_PFC11. If you knew everything about [CHILD] before the adoption that you now know, do you think you would still have adopted [him/her/them]?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Definitely not
2   Probably not
3   Maybe
4   Probably
5   Definitely

[IF D117_PTERM=4, ELSE SKIP TO SECTION H] G156_PFC12. How often do you think about ending [CHILD]'s adoption?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Never
2   Rarely
3   Sometimes
4   Usually
5   Always

Section H: Child Mental Health Status and Parenting Stress and Burden

The next questions ask about your health and parenting experience.

H157_PME1. Overall, how would you say [CHILD]'s current health is?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Excellent
2   Very good
3   Good
4   Fair
5   Poor

H158_PME2. Do you think [CHILD] has a current problem with [his/her/their] mental health? Please include any emotional, behavioral, learning, or attention problems.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

H159_PME3. Do you think [CHILD] has a current problem with [his/her/their] drug or alcohol use? Please include any alcohol or drug abuse problems.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

H160_PME4. Do you think [CHILD] has a current problem with attachment or trouble allowing [himself/herself/themselves] to be loved?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TO H164_PME7] H161_PME5. During [CHILD]'s childhood, did [he/she/they] have a problem with [his/her/their] mental health? Please include any emotional, behavioral, learning, or attention problems.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18, ELSE SKIP TO H164_PME7] H162_PME6. During [CHILD]'s childhood, did [he/she/they] have a problem with [his/her/their] drug or alcohol use? Please include any alcohol or drug abuse problem.
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

H164_PME7
Question Type: Radio Button

> **[IF A2_PC_AGE<18] How difficult is it to be the parent of [CHILD]?**
>
> **[IF A2_PC_AGE>=18] How difficult was it to be the parent of [CHILD]?**

1   Not at all difficult
2   A little difficult
3   Difficult
4   Very difficult
5   Extremely difficult

[IF H164_PME7=2, 3, 4, or 5, ELSE SKIP TO H168_PCO1] H166_PME8. Please select the kind of difficulties you experienced with [CHILD]. Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
H166a_PME8_A	Defiance or not following family rules	1	2
H166b_ PME8_B	Verbal aggression	1	2
H166c_ PME8_C	Physical aggression	1	2
H166d_ PME8_D	Running away	1	2
H166e_ PME8_E	Threatening to or harming [himself/herself/themselves]	1	2
H166f_ PME8_F	Academic or behavioral problems in school	1	2
H166g_ PME8_G	Difficulties making friends	1	2
H166h_ PME8_H	Committing a crime	1	2
H166i_ PME8_I	Alcohol or drug misuse	1	2
H166j_ PME8_J	Sexualized behaviors	1	2
H166k_ PME8_K	Depression or anxiety	1	2
H166l_ PME8_L	Sleep problems or night terrors	1	2
H166m_ PME8_M	Other	1	2

H166m_PME8_OT: Please specify:_____

[IF H164_PME7=2, 3, 4, or 5, ELSE SKIP TO H168_PCO1] H167_PME9. In what ways did the difficulties you had with [CHILD] affect you? Please answer Yes or No for each option.
Question Type: Radio Button Grid

Variable	Description	Yes	No
H167a_PME9_A	Did not affect me	1	2
H167b_PME9_B	Mental health problems	1	2
H167c_PME9_C	Physical health problems	1	2
H167d_PME9_D	Problems with social life	1	2
H167e_PME9_E	Relationship problems with my spouse or partner	1	2
H167f_PME9_F	Financial difficulties	1	2
H167g_PME9_G	Employment difficulties	1	2
H167h_ PME9_H	Other	1	2

H167h_PME9_OT: Please specify:_____

Now I have a few questions about your personal experiences with COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

H168_PCO1. How much has COVID-19 changed your family income or employment situation?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   No change
2   Mild. There has been a small change, but I can still meet my basic needs and pay bills.
3   Moderate. I have had to make cuts, but I can still meet my basic needs and pay my bills.
4   Severe. I am unable to meet my basic needs or pay my bills.

H169_PCO2. How much has COVID-19 changed your access to extended family and non-family social supports?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   No change
2   Mild. I continue my visits with social distancing, regular phone calls, video calls, or social media contacts.
3   Moderate. I have lost in-person and remote contact with a few people, but not all of my supports.
4   Severe. I have lost all in-person and remote contact with my supports.

H170_PCO3. How much stress have you experienced due to COVID-19?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   None.
2   Mild. I worry occasionally or experience minor stress-related symptoms such as feeling a little anxious, sad, or angry; or having mild trouble sleeping.
3   Moderate. I worry frequently or experience moderate stress-related symptoms such as feeling moderately anxious, sad, or angry; or having moderately or occasional trouble sleeping.

4   Severe. I worry all the time or experience severe stress-related symptoms such as feeling
        extremely anxious, sad, or angry; or having severe or frequently trouble sleeping.

H171_PCO4. How much stress or disagreement is there in your family due to COVID-19?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   None.
2   Mild. My family members are occasionally short-tempered with one another but there is no
        physical violence.
3   Moderate. My family members are frequently short-tempered with one another, or children in my
        home get in physical fights with one another.
4   Severe. My family members are frequently short-tempered with one another or adults in my
        home throw things at one another, knock over furniture, hit, or harm one another.

Section I

I172_PELSE. Is there anything else about your adoption experience that you would like to share?
Question Type: Radio Button

1   Yes
2   No

[IF YES] What would you like to share?
Question Type: Open field, limit 250 characters

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