

Adolescent and Adult Views and Perceptions of Families with Both Adopted and

Biological Children

AP Research

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Abstract

Previous research found that society's views and perceptions towards adoptive families are generally positive. In other words, people are accepting of adoptive families and their treatment of these families does not differ from their treatment of non-adoptive families. However, certain stigmas about adoptive families, such as adopted children having more behavioral issues, arise despite this acceptance.

A similar area of important research that has not been analyzed adequately is blended families that include both adopted and biological children. Moreover, researchers have not applied perceptions about adoptive families to blended families, nor have they done enough research about blended families in general. Through surveys with high school students and their parents, and interviews with people in blended families, this study aimed to see how previous research on perceptions of adoption compared to society's outlook on blended families.

Introduction

Nearly 13 million people in the United States are adopted (US Census Bureau, 2010). Although this is only 4% of the population, those who are not adopted often know someone who is. Of that 4%, it is unknown how many of those people grew up with siblings that were biologically related to their adoptive parents. The majority of research within the field of adoption has chosen not to focus on families that have both adopted and biological children (Fisher, 2003). This is significant as different dynamics arise within an adoptive family when it includes children that are biologically related to the parents (American Adoption, 2017). These dynamics include avoiding favoritism, birth order (adopted or biological child being born first), and physical and cultural differences. Analysis on blended families is very important because of the gap in current research. It is unclear how previous findings would differ if both biological and adopted children were a part of the families being researched.

Furthermore, adoption is not a topic commonly taught in school. If it is mentioned, it is brief and often presents adoption negatively (Fisher, 2003). Research on how often it appears in textbooks found that it was essentially non-existent in elementary through high school courses, and in college, there was a mean of 2.4 pages per textbook (Fisher, 2003). Moreover, these textbooks addressed adoption in a way that portrayed it as risky and hazardous.

Knowledge on adoptive families outside of schools is limited as well. The National Foster Care Adoption Attitudes Survey (2013) administered by the nonprofit Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption found that 57% of participants viewed the foster and adoption system negatively, and 46% expressed a belief that adopted children have more problems with behavior and self-control (Harris, 2013). The survey demonstrates that negative opinions about adoption

and adoptive children continue today. However, it is unclear how society views blended families and if society's perceptions would differ from those it has for purely adoptive families.

Therefore, this study aimed to understand specifically how adolescent and adult views of blended families compared to perceptions of families with only adopted children. The study aimed to achieve this by analysis of interviews with people who grew up in blended families and were conducted to compare to perceptions found through surveys.

Literature Review

Why People Choose to Adopt

In order to understand adoption, it is essential to understand why people adopt beforehand. Infertility is the top reason couples adopt, as 69% of couples stated that they adopted because they were unable to have a biological child. Following infertility, altruism is the second most common reason, as 27% of couples stated their reason for adoption was religious or humanitarian (Berry et al., 1996).

In addition, in today's society, perceptions of adoption are changing as the number of same-sex couples adopting is increasing; an estimated two million same-sex couples are interested in adopting (US Census Bureau, 2011). This increase in adoption by same-sex couples can be attributed to the rising cost of surrogacy, which can cost up to \$150,000 in the US or wanting to improve a child's life (Jennings et al., 2014).

Knowledge of Adoption

In addition to understanding why couples adopt, it is necessary to take into account how knowledgeable people are of adoption before examining their perceptions. Research commissioned by Adopt Change, an Australian non profit adoption organization (2015) found

that 39% of Australians surveyed had heard about adoption in general, insinuating that adoption is not a widespread topic. However, of those who had heard about adoption, attributed this to the media, citing television shows and celebrities as sources of circulation which shows that education through schools is not prominent.

Society's Perceptions of Families with Adopted Children

In 2006, Dougherty, a doctor of psychology (PsyD), conducted a study that revisited public perceptions of adoptive families since Kirk's 1953 study. It carried out Kirk's study following the exact protocol in order to obtain a modern data set of public perceptions of adoption. Compared to Kirk's data, key findings from the recent study include: physical resemblance was not as important as previously concluded, adopted kids are perceived to have more behavioral problems than those not adopted, people expressed a desire to learn how to be supportive and treat adopted families how they want to be treated, and adopted families are seen as different, but accepted by society. What can be drawn from this study is that adopted families are generally viewed positively, but there are still negative perceptions that arise. However, it is important to note that this data was derived from a sample size of 22, which makes it difficult to generalize the information.

Moreover, Frye (2010) surveyed perceptions of college-level students and also found that adoption is viewed positively as 95% of the 514 participants agreed that adopted children are accepted. Additionally, over a quarter of participants felt that adopted children express more behavioral problems than those not adopted.

Similarly, Adopt Change (2015) also found that in general, public perception of adoption is positive. Over 80% of those surveyed expressed acceptance of adoptive families. Similar to

Dougherty (2006), Frye (2010), and Harris (2013) they found that 43% of participants perceived adopted children as riskier and more prone to behavioral issues opposed to those not adopted.

PhD specialists in adoption research Keyes et al. (2008) conducted a study to determine whether clinically relevant behavioral and emotional problems appear more in adopted children opposed to those who are non-adopted. While adoptees scored only slightly higher than non-adoptees regarding quantitative measures, being adopted doubled the likelihood of contacting a mental health professional. Conclusively, adopted children do not necessarily cause more trouble, but perceptions that they do may be probable reasons for why they are so commonly taken in to a clinic to be diagnosed.

How Adopted Families View Themselves

Recent studies have been carried out to investigate modern perceptions of adoption such as Reinoso et. al (2013) who conducted a study examining how children and parents in adoptive families view themselves. The study consisted mostly of international adoptions where the adoptee was of a different race than their adoptive parents. Despite previous studies such as Meir's (1999) finding that adopted families are often the subject of discrimination due to differences in physical resemblances, the participants in the Reinoso et al., (2013) study reported no issues with this matter, rather, the main issue that arose was that many of the children stated that they wished to not look or be different from their parents.

Dynamics of Adoption

When a family that already has biological children decides to adopt a child, the family dynamic changes greatly, especially if the child is of another ethnicity than their adoptive parents. Heijkoop, Semon Dubas & van Aken (2009) from the European Journal of

Developmental Psychology (2009) found through interviews that resemblance between parents and children suggests kinship. Findings from this study suggested that father's investment in children primarily results from physical resemblance, while mother's investment stems from resemblances in personality, both of which are considered genetic (Myers, 2013). Specifically, an adopted child being taken in by a family that already has biological children, may face difficulties in adjusting properly as they may feel out of place due to not resembling their family (Reinoso, 2013).

In summary, previous research has found that society is generally accepting of adopted families, but still draw misconceptions about them. In addition, research suggests that family ties are formed mainly off of genetic factors, but lacks to extend perceptions to blended families.

Current Study

Many studies on adoption have been carried out, but there is little existing research concerning families with both adopted and biological children (Fisher, 2003). Furthermore, research regarding societal perceptions was not found regarding blended families. The goal of this study was to identify possible stigmas when the dynamic changes. These stigmas could include viewing such families negatively, such as perceiving their adopted children as causing more behavioral problems or treating them differently than other families. It also included how physical resemblance ranked in terms of importance and hypothesized that it would be important as research suggests genetics suggest kinship (Heijkoop, Semon Dubas & van Aken, 2009). Research has shown that people generally approve of families with adopted children, but fails to support whether this extends to families with adopted *and* biological children.

Also, as Dougherty's (2006) sample size was small, the aim was to conduct a similar study with a larger and broader sample size. Also, previous research has focused on adults and college students, but this study's focus was centered around adults and adolescents. Therefore, this study consisted of two parts. The first consisted of narratives on what growing up in blended family is like, while the second focused on perceptions held by adolescents and adults. In particular, the second investigated whether adolescent and adult perceptions of adoptive families changed when those families also included biological children.

Study One

Methods

Participants

Interviews were conducted with people in families with both adopted and biological children. Adults were selected for the interviews because they had already gone through childhood and had more experiences to share.

Ten adults were interviewed for this portion of the research. Of the six females and four males, seven were forty to fifty years old, two were thirty to forty and one was fifty to sixty. Eight were Caucasian, one was Hispanic, and one identified as Other. The aim was to devote equal focus to the adopted and biological sibling so, four biological and six adopted siblings were selected.

Measures

As previous research hasn't been conducted on this topic, questions were formulated specifically for this study and were intended to be used to compare with survey responses (see Table 1 & 2). For example, a question regarding treatment from parents, friends, and others was

included to see how it compared to a question on the survey asking about how much attention the participant perceived the adopted or biological child to receive.

Procedure

Interviews consisted of questions regarding participants' home environment and treatment from family, friends, and peers to see how it compared to what survey takers in study two thought. Also, a question concerning misconceptions was included and if they were discussed, the interviewee was asked what they thought would be the best way to prevent them in order make children in these types of families feel most comfortable. 4 interviews were conducted over the phone and 6 through email depending on what the participant chose.

Results

Common themes that were identified included: adoption was viewed positively, treatment was equal, blended families experienced misconceptions, and education was expressed as the best way to prevent these misconceptions. 90% of the interviewees had positive experiences to share, and 100% felt that adoption was accepted in the environment in which they grew up and that being apart of a blended family did not drastically change their upbringing from that of a traditional family. The one participant who did not report a positive experience attributed this to not having a very close relationship with their adopted sister. 100% of participants felt that society was accepting of their family's situation. All participants reported that treatment from family, friends, and peers tended to be equal and if not, was unintentional. For example, one adopted participant said her parents may have given her more attention due to the fact that she was adopted by celebrating her adoption day, but otherwise reported that chores and such were equal. 60% of the participants brought up educating about adoption as the key point in making children growing up in these families feel as comfortable as possible.

Study Two

Methods

Participants

120 AP Psychology students and 54 adults participated in study two. Psychology students were selected as the target group because adoption was a part of their curriculum. Therefore, these students had all been exposed to the same amount of adoption information through school textbooks. Students were compensated with extra credit for their participation. Parents of the students were asked to take the survey to gain insight on how adult views compared.

63% of students and 72% of adults were females, while 37% of students and 28% of adults were male. 50% of students were juniors and 50% were seniors. 54% of adults were 50-60 years old, 37% were 40-50, 6% were 30-40, and 4% were 60+. 53% of students were Caucasian, 18% were Hispanic/Latino, 8% were Asian/Island Pacifier and 20% were Other. 63% of adults were Caucasian, 17% were Hispanic/Latino, 13% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 8% were Other.

Measures

Surveys consisted of a mix of questions taken from previous studies and original questions. Questions regarding perceptions of adoption were mainly taken from Dougherty (2006), such as importance of physical resemblance, risk of behavioral problems, and overall level of acceptance. Some questions were adjusted to relate more directly to blended families. For example, if the question asked about treatment about adopted families, the question was altered to ask about treatment regarding blended families. To account for the biological

component of the surveys used in this study, questions specific to blended families were added. For example, questions regarding perceived amounts of treatment each child (adopted and biological) received were added.

Procedure

Two surveys were administered, one to students and one to adults to take. All participation was completely voluntary. The purpose of these two surveys was to explore the perceptions high school students and their parents have of blended families including the type of treatment they exhibit towards such families, what type of treatment they believe children in such a family receive from parents/peers, and general statements regarding overall perceptions.

The surveys were meant to determine how these perceptions compare and contrast to society's views of solely adoptive families. The first half consisted of multiple choice and free response where the participant was asked to explain why they answered the way they did on the multiple choice, and the second half consisted of statements that the survey taker was asked to rate using the Likert scale which ranges from strongly agree, somewhat agree, neutral, somewhat disagree and to strongly disagree.

Results

Most students are exposed to adoption, as 73% of students surveyed knew someone who was adopted. However, 56% said they did not have any previous perceptions or interactions with someone in a family with both adopted and biological children, but 98% of students said they do not/would not exhibit any different treatment toward such families. 62% responded that the adopted or biological status of a child would yield equal attention from parents, 20% responded adopted children would receive more attention, and 18% responded biological (see Table 3).

Similar to the student results, most adults are exposed to adoption, as 72% knew someone who was adopted. Likewise with the responses of the adolescents, 56% said they did not have any previous perceptions or interactions with someone in a family with both adopted and biological children, and 96% of adults said they do not/would not exhibit any different treatment toward such families. 80% responded that the adopted or biological status of a child would yield equal attention from parents, 13% responded adopted, and 7% responded biological (see Table 5).

71% of students disagreed that physical resemblance is of importance, 81% believed that blended families are generally approved of, 82% thought that most people would love an adopted child the same as a biological child, and 81% perceived adopted children to cause the same amount of trouble as biological children (see Table 4).

However, questions concerning adopted children being placed with a family of the same ethnicity as them, and a woman having different feelings for her adopted child than for her biological one, had mixed results. 57% of students disagreed that it was important for a child to be placed with a family that is the same ethnicity as them, while 32% felt neutral and 12% agreed. Similarly, 50% disagreed that a woman would have different feelings for her adopted child opposed to her biological child, 30% agreed, and 20% felt neutral (see Table 4).

Similarly, 87% of adults agreed that most people would love an adopted child as much as a biological child, 85% felt that most people approve of blended families, and 75% felt that adopted children cause the same amount of trouble as biological children (see Table 6). Furthermore, the questions regarding a child being adopted by a family that is the same ethnicity as them and a woman having different feelings for her adopted and biological children yielded

mixed results as with the student responses. 48% disagreed that a child should be placed with a family that is the same ethnicity as them, 17% agreed, and 35% felt neutral. 54% disagreed that a woman would have different feelings for her children, 21% agreed, and 26% responded neutral. A difference marked between adolescents and adults is how they responded to the importance of physically resembling one's family. While 71% of adolescents disagreed that this factor is not of importance, 58% of adults felt the same way. Additionally, 23% of students were neutral opposed to 35% of parents (see Table 6).

Discussion

Conclusively, this study suggests that families with both adopted and biological children are generally viewed positively with the exception of the perception that adopted children are more likely to have behavioral problems which is consistent to what previous research has found. Generally, people do not report to exhibit different behavior towards blended families. Findings are similar to Dougherty's (2006); adoption is overall accepted and the additional factor of having biological children did not appear to have a major impact on differences in results. However, compared to Reinoso (2013) and Heijkoop, Semon Dubas & van Aken (2009), physical resemblance was of lower importance.

Study One

Generally, participants believed that society is accepting of families like their own, but still reported misconceptions that arose about their families. Additionally, several expressed that they believe this acceptance stems from a popular view that adoption is special and positive as a family is willing to take a child in. These perceived views of society lined up with their own views; all participants indicated that they felt this way about blended families.

For the most part, participants reported that treatment was equal, both from the adopted and biological side. From parents, any differences in treatment were attributed to other factors, such as adjustment, rather than differences in their children's adoptive or biological status. For example, as mentioned previously, one adopted sibling described how her parents took special consideration of her adoption day, but otherwise reported being treated the same as her non-adopted siblings. Unlike the findings of Reinoso (2013), the adopted siblings who were of a different race from their siblings did not express an interest to look like their adopted family both when growing up and currently. Of those who looked different, they said that their difference in appearance made them feel “unique” and “special,” implying that physical resemblance was not of importance.

Regarding trouble, one of the participants said that their adopted sister had behavioral issues. However, while they expressed that they believe adopted children are a challenge for parents to raise, they do not believe that that is not to say that biological children are any easier. However, due to their sister being the only experience they have with an adopted person, they attributed this to their view that adopted children pose a challenge to their parents to raise. Aside from that account, the rest of the participants reported having positive/healthy relationships with their sibling while growing up and currently which they accounted to the equal attention from parents, friends, and others around them.

Comparatively, many felt that people are not educated on the topic of adoption which led to many misconceptions. For example, one participant who was Caucasian and had a Hispanic adopted mother, often ran into people incorrectly assuming that her mother was her nanny. Another account was from a Hispanic adopted sibling who often ran into problems at school

where the teacher incorrectly assumed she spoke Spanish and thus attempted to place her in Spanish-speaking classes. Another participant who was the biological sibling recounted how when people tried to guess how him and his adopted brother were related, no one would guess adoption. This participant expressed how uneducated he believed people were on the topic of adoption and that education is the key to debunking misconceptions and generating acceptance of such families. Additionally, the majority of those interviewed agreed that the best way to make children in a family with both adopted and biological children feel as comfortable as possible would be to treat them exactly the same as any other child, with love and acceptance, and teaching about adoption through school starting at an early age. One participant suggested incorporating adoption as a theme in reading books, and another said that becoming willing to openly talk about it could greatly help prevent misconceptions. Ultimately, although misconceptions often arose, none of the participants reported any discrimination for being part of an adoptive family as Meir (1999) did.

Study Two

Compared to previous research done by Adopt Change (2015), adoption was a more well-known topic as a majority of adolescents and adults knew someone who was adopted through various ways, such as familial relations, friends, school, and work. However, about half of them from each group said they had no previous perceptions or experiences with blended families. Also, like Adopt Change (2015) found, those who did, mainly attributed it to media such as celebrities, television shows, and movies. While most of the participants did not have any experience with these types of families, over 95% reported that they would not treat them any differently from any other family and over 80% agreed that these families are generally accepted

by society. Common responses regarding one's view of these families included: admiration for taking in a child that is not biologically your own, and that adoption does not change their perceptions because families are all families. Unlike previous studies, those who said they exhibited different treatment did not attribute it to disapproval, but rather wanting to behave more sensitively around such families. Conclusively, like previous research has found, adoption is accepted by society.

Conversely, another conclusion that can be deduced is that while accepted, blended families are viewed differently. While over 80% believed that most people would love adopted and biological children the same, about 30% believed that a mother would have different feelings for each of her children, implying that some people believe a biological tie colors a mother's relationship with her children differently. It is interesting to note that responses showed that love was believed to be equal, but overall feelings towards the biological and adopted child might not be. Additionally, around 7% of participants overall thought that physical resemblance was important and 15% agreed a child should be adopted by a family that is the same ethnicity as them. This finding is considerably low which clashes with Heijkoop, Semon Dubas & van Aken (2009) who found physical and personality resemblance to imply kinship. Regarding the Likert Scale questions, neutral was often chosen by participants which insinuates that they did not know enough about the statement to answer how they felt about it. Neutral responses can be an indicator of lack of knowledge which would further support that adoption is not a widely understood topic.

In respect to how participants specifically perceived blended families, around 60% of adolescents believed that each child respectively receives the same amount of attention from

parents while the rest were split on adopted or biological. Comparatively, 80% of parents believed that each child receives the same amount of attention. Reason for this could be that they have had the experience of raising a child. Both adolescents and adults showed several patterns through the open-ended questions that asked them to explain why they answered the first half of the multiple choice the way they did. Common responses for same treatment included: parents should love all their children the same, adoption insinuates that parents are willing to love a child as much as a biological one, and that it would be considered unfair to treat them any different. Common responses for the adopted child receiving more attention included: parents want to ensure they feel included and adopted children need more attention because they do not naturally feel inclined that they belong. Common responses for the biological child receiving more attention included: genetic favoritism and physical and personality similarities. While the majority of both adolescents and adults believed that treatment is equal, 40 % of adolescents perceived otherwise, which implies that these families are accepted, but viewed differently which correlates to Dougherty's (2006) findings. Compared to accounts from people in these blended families, treatment tended to be equal from parents, siblings, and others and if not was unintentional.

Compared to Dougherty (2006) and Frye (2010), the majority of participants did not perceive adopted children to be riskier or cause more troublesome, However, about 20% of all total participants did which supports that this is still a perception that exists. One participant mentioned behavioral issues regarding their adoptive sister, but generally both adopted and biological participants who were interviewed described their relationship with their sibling as positive while growing up and currently. What can be drawn from this is that while adopted

children may be at a higher risk for developing disorders or behavioral issues, this may be due to the way society perceives them to behave, causing them to be taken to a clinic for diagnosis more often than non adopted children. Adopted children face more adjustment issues, but this should not inhibit people from adopting; rather, it should bring awareness to educating the public properly on adoption so that misconceptions do not arise and will allow a child to adjust as easily as possible.

Further Implications/Future Application

For future research on the topic of blended families, several sub-topics, such as the effect of media portrayal and impact of a child being of a different ethnicity, could be explored. While this study lightly touched on the second sub-topic, it did not include enough participants to make any conclusions. Additionally, it would be interesting to see how results would vary if this survey was administered in a community with different values and age ranges than it was given in. Politics, religion, and age are factors that could produce very different outcomes, and would be of interest for future research. Lastly, only one of the participants was from a family with only adopted children. Future research could explore how this population's views may differ from that of participants who only have biological siblings or are in a blended family.

In regard to application of this research, it can be used to bring attention to the topic of adoption and how society needs to better understand it. It can particularly be useful to teachers, to prevent them from creating a repeat of the embarrassment the Hispanic adopted sibling experienced when she was assumed to speak Spanish. It is also key to make adoption an open topic in order to prevent perceptions from forming as this study found those perceptions to be

false. If people are willing to talk about adoption and learn about it from an early age, then it will become a more widespread topic that people are knowledgeable on.

Limitations

As the target group was only AP Psychology students and their parents, it is difficult to extend the results to overall views of adults and adolescents. Different variables that could account for the results collected could include that the students surveyed all had generally similar values and were all in an AP course. Additionally, participants could have answered in a way that was not completely truthful in order to appear impartial. Also, only adults were interviewed, so their upbringing probably differed from a child today growing up in blended family because of cultural and historical differences in their environments while growing up.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to determine if the addition of biological children would change how adoptive families are viewed specifically regarding the amount of trouble adopted children are perceived to cause, the importance of physical resemblance, and the perception of attention received by each child respectively. Using surveys and interviews, it found that societal perceptions are very similar to those of families with just adopted children, but differ in that a large percentage of the participants thought that different treatment would ensue regarding the biological and adopted child, adopted children are perceived by 20% of people to be more troublesome, and physical resemblance was not important among adults or adolescents. This study concluded that blended families are accepted, but viewed differently and often misconceptualized, the status of being adopted or biological to one's parents is not necessarily the most influential factor in how well a child adjusts or develops, and education and openness to

talk about adoption is key to debunking people's misconceptions. Ultimately, this research on blended families found that adoption is viewed positively and still carries some negative stigmas, but certainly does not lack a way to debunk them, with increasing education on the topic being the ideal route.

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Appendices

Table 1

Study One - Adopted Sibling Interview Questions

1. What is your gender?
2. What is your age range?
 - a. 0-10
 - b. 10-20
 - c. 20-30
 - d. 30-40
 - e. 40-50
 - f. 50-60
 - g. 60+
3. What is your race/ethnicity?
 - a. White
 - b. Hispanic or Latino
 - c. Black or African American
 - d. Native American
 - e. Asian / Pacific Islander
 - f. Other
4. What do you think people's general view of families that have both biological and adopted children is?
5. What is your view about families with both biological and adopted children?
6. Describe your environment growing up. Did you feel that your parents treated you any different? Siblings? Friends?
7. What is your relationship like with your siblings?
8. When were you told you were adopted?
9. Do you remember what reaction you had when you found out your parents were going to have a biological child or that you had a sibling that was biologically related to your parents?
10. Did you ever try to find your birth parents and if so, what was that process like?
11. Did you ever feel detached or isolated from the rest of your family? How did you deal with this?

12. What do you think can be done to make children in a family with both adopted and biological kids feel as comfortable as possible? (Ex: Types of parenting that allow for the best kind of environment to grow up in)
13. Anything else you want to tell me?
14. If you know anyone who is in a family with both adopted and biological children and you think would be willing to be interviewed, I'd really appreciate their contact information!

Table 2*Study One - Biological Sibling Interview Questions*

1. What is your gender?
2. What is your age range?
 - a. 0-10
 - b. 10-20
 - c. 20-30
 - d. 30-40
 - e. 40-50
 - f. 50-60
 - g. 60+
3. What is your race/ethnicity?
 - a. White
 - b. Hispanic or Latino
 - c. Black or African American
 - d. Native American
 - e. Asian / Pacific Islander
 - f. Other
4. What do you think people's general view of families that have both biological and adopted children is?
5. What is your view about families with both biological and adopted children?
6. Describe your environment growing up. Did you feel that your parents treated you any different? Siblings? Friends?
7. What is your relationship like with your siblings (adopted or biological)?
8. What do you think can be done to make children in a mixed family feel as comfortable as possible? (Ex: Types of parenting that allow for the best kind of environment to grow up in)
9. Anything else you want to tell me?
10. If you know anyone who is in a family with both adopted and biological children and you think would be willing to be interviewed, I'd really appreciate their contact information!

Table 3

Study One: Students - Multiple choice with explanation

Variable	Number (N)	%	Most Frequent Response
<i>Do you know someone who is adopted?:</i> Yes No	88 32	73% 27%	Yes
<i>Do you have any pre-existing knowledge or perceptions about what a family with both adopted and biological siblings is like?:</i> Yes No	53 67	44% 56%	No
<i>Which child, adopted or biological, do you think receives the most attention from the parents?:</i> Adopted Biological Same amount of attention	24 22 74	20% 18% 62%	Same amount of attention
<i>Do you treat a family or behave around a family with adopted children any differently than a family without adopted children?:</i> No Yes	117 3	98% 2%	No

Table 4

Study One: Students - Likert Scale

Variable	Number (N)	Percentage (%)	Most Frequent Response
<p><i>It is important that a child is placed with a family that is the same race or ethnicity as them. How do you feel about this statement?:</i></p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Somewhat Agree</p> <p>Neutral</p> <p>Somewhat Disagree</p> <p>Strongly Disagree</p>	<p>1</p> <p>13</p> <p>38</p> <p>30</p> <p>38</p>	<p>1%</p> <p>11%</p> <p>32%</p> <p>25%</p> <p>32%</p>	<p>Neutral & Strongly Disagree</p>
<p><i>It is important to physically resemble your family. How do you feel about this statement?:</i></p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Somewhat Agree</p> <p>Neutral</p> <p>Somewhat Disagree</p> <p>Strongly Disagree</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6</p> <p>28</p> <p>38</p> <p>47</p>	<p>1%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>23%</p> <p>32%</p> <p>39%</p>	<p>Strongly Disagree</p>
<p><i>It is sometimes suggested that a woman may not have quite the same feelings for a child she has adopted as she would for one she has given birth to. How do you feel about this idea?:</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>3%</p>	<p>Somewhat Agree</p>

Strongly Agree	32	27%	
Somewhat Agree	24	20%	
Neutral	31	26%	
Somewhat Disagree	29	24%	
Strongly Disagree			
<hr/>			
<i>People in general approve of families with both adopted and biological children. How do you feel about this statement?:</i>	57	48%	Strongly Agree
Strongly Agree	40	33%	
Somewhat Agree	21	18%	
Neutral	1	1%	
Somewhat Disagree	1	1%	
Strongly Disagree			
<hr/>			
<i>Most people would love an adopted child as much as one who is not. How do you feel about this statement?:</i>	60	50%	Strongly Agree
Strongly Agree	38	32%	
Somewhat Agree	16	13%	
Neutral	6	5%	
Somewhat Disagree	0	0%	
Strongly Disagree			

<p><i>Most parents find that at one time or another they have trouble with the way their children behave. Some people believe that parents of children who are adopted can expect more trouble than parents of biological children. How do you feel about this idea?:</i></p> <p>Less trouble Same amount of trouble More trouble</p>	<p>3 90 27</p>	<p>3% 75% 23%</p>	<p>Same amount of trouble</p>
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Table 5

Study Two: Parent - Multiple Choice with Explanation

Variable	Number (N)	%	Most Frequent Response
<i>Do you know someone who is adopted?:</i> Yes No	39 15	72% 28%	Yes
<i>Do you have any pre-existing knowledge or perceptions about what a family with both adopted and biological siblings is like?:</i> Yes No	25 29	46% 54%	No
<i>Which child, adopted or biological, do you think receives the most attention from the parents?:</i> Adopted Biological Same amount of attention	7 4 43	13% 7% 80%	Same amount of attention
<i>Do you treat a family or behave around a family with adopted children any differently than a family without adopted children?:</i> No Yes	52 2	96% 4%	No

Table 6

Study Two: Parent - Likert Scale

Variable	Number (N)	Percentage (%)	Most Frequent Response
<p><i>It is important that a child is placed with a family that is the same race or ethnicity as them. How do you feel about this statement?:</i></p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Somewhat Agree</p> <p>Neutral</p> <p>Somewhat Disagree</p> <p>Strongly Disagree</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7</p> <p>19</p> <p>8</p> <p>18</p>	<p>4%</p> <p>13%</p> <p>35%</p> <p>15%</p> <p>33%</p>	Neutral
<p><i>It is important to physically resemble your family. How do you feel about this statement?:</i></p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Somewhat Agree</p> <p>Neutral</p> <p>Somewhat Disagree</p> <p>Strongly Disagree</p>	<p>0</p> <p>4</p> <p>19</p> <p>9</p> <p>22</p>	<p>0%</p> <p>7%</p> <p>35%</p> <p>17%</p> <p>41%</p>	Strongly Disagree
<p><i>It is sometimes suggested that a woman may not have quite the same feelings for a child she has adopted as she would for one she has given birth to. How do you feel about this idea?:</i></p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Somewhat Agree</p> <p>Neutral</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10</p> <p>14</p> <p>10</p>	<p>2%</p> <p>19%</p> <p>26%</p> <p>19%</p>	Strongly Disagree

Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree	19	35%	
<i>People in general approve of families with both adopted and biological children. How do you feel about this statement?:</i>			
Strongly Agree	32	59%	Strongly Agree
Somewhat Agree	14	26%	
Neutral	5	9%	
Somewhat Disagree	3	6%	
Strongly Disagree	0	0%	
<i>Most people would love an adopted child as much as one who is not. How do you feel about this statement?:</i>			
Strongly Agree	34	63%	Strongly Agree
Somewhat Agree	13	24%	
Neutral	6	11%	
Somewhat Disagree	1	2%	
Strongly Disagree	0	0%	
<i>Most parents find that at one time or another they have trouble with the way their children behave. Some people believe that parents of children who are adopted can expect more trouble than parents of biological children. How do you feel about this idea?:</i>			
Less trouble	1	2%	Same amount of trouble
Same amount of trouble	44	81%	
More trouble	9	17%	