

Korean adoption/adoptees statistics 1953-2004

Number of international adoptions from Korea, 1953-2004

Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.	Year	No.
		1960	638	1970	1,932	1980	4,144	1990	2,962	2000	2,360
		1961	660	1971	2,725	1981	4,628	1991	2,197	2001	2,436
		1962	254	1972	3,490	1982	6,434	1992	2,045	2002	2,365
1953	4	1963	442	1973	4,688	1983	7,263	1993	2,290	2003	2,287
1954	8	1964	462	1974	5,302	1984	7,924	1994	2,262	2004	2,258
1955	59	1965	451	1975	5,077	1985	8,837	1995	2,180		
1956	671	1966	494	1976	6,597	1986	8,680	1996	2,080		
1957	486	1967	626	1977	6,159	1987	7,947	1997	2,057		
1958	930	1968	949	1978	5,917	1988	6,463	1998	2,443		
1959	741	1969	1,190	1979	4,148	1989	4,191	1999	2,409		
Total	2,899		6,166		46,035		66,511		22,925		156,242

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Family background and category of overseas adopted Koreans, 1958-2004

Years	Abandoned	Family problem	Unwed mother	Total
1958-60	1,675	630	227	2,532
1961-70	4,013	1,958	1,304	7,275
1971-80	17,260	13,360	17,627	48,247
1981-90	6,769	11,399	47,153	65,321
1991-2000	225	1,444	20,460	22,129
2001	1	1	2,434	2,436
2002	1	-	2,364	2,365
2003	2	2	2,283	2,287
2004	-	1	2,257	2,258
Total	29,946	28,795	96,109	154,850
Years	Male	Mixed	Handicapped	Total
1958-60	734	1,159	1,588	2,532
1961-70	2,254	2,659	2,064	7,275
1971-80	17,320	n.a.	4,598	48,247
1981-90	30,460	n.a.	16,378	65,321
1991-2000	12,009	n.a.	8,987	22,129
2001	1,364	n.a.	743	2,436
2002	1,379	n.a.	827	2,365
2003	1,367	n.a.	649	2,287
2004	1,385	n.a.	705	2,258
Total	68,272	3,818	36,539	154,850

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Destination by country of overseas adopted Koreans, 1953-2004

Main countries 1953-2004	Number	Other countries 1960-84	Number
United States 1953-2004	104,319	New Zealand 1964-84	559
France 1968-2004	11,090	Japan 1962-82	226
Sweden 1957-2004	8,953	Okinawa 1970-72	94
Denmark 1965-2004	8,571	Buland 1970	47
Norway 1955-2004	6,080	Ireland 1968-75	12
Netherlands 1969-2003	4,099	Poland 1970	7
Belgium 1969-95	3,697	Spain 1968	5
Australia 1969-2004	3,147	China 1967-68	4
Germany 1965-96	2,352	Guam 1971-72	3
Canada 1967-2004	1,841	India 1960-64	3
Switzerland 1968-97	1,111	Paraguay 1969	2
Luxembourg 1984-2004	492	Ethiopia 1961	1
Italy 1965-81	382	Finland 1984	1
England 1958-81	72	Hong Kong 1973	1
Other countries 1956-95	66	Tunisia 1969	1
		Turkey 1969	1
Total	156,272		967

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Other statistics on biological parents and adoptees 1965-2002

Status of biological mother 1975-97

Source: Holt

Age

	-20 y	21-25 y	26-30 y	31 y-
1975-79	11,9%	30,3%	21,4%	30%
1980-84	18,7%	39,8%	20,8%	17,6%
1985-89	23,8%	34,9%	20,4%	18%
1990-94	37%	33,2%	15,6%	13%
1995-97	46,9%	27,7%	11,1%	12,7%

Marital status

	Unmarried	Married	Other
1975-79	59,4%	24,5%	10,8%
1980-84	64%	22,2%	11,3%
1985-89	63,8%	23,5%	11,1%
1990-94	73,6%	18,4%	7,2%
1995-97	78,9%	14%	5,5%

Educational level

	Middle school	High school	College
1975-79	65,3%	22,1%	2,5%

1980-84	64%	27,8%	2,4%
1985-89	57,1%	34,6%	3,2%
1990-94	43,3%	50%	4,2%
1995-97	42,6%	50,5%	5,2%

Profession

	Unemployed	Student	Service	Other
1975-79	40,4%	2,6%	10,2%	40,3%
1980-84	44,7%	3,3%	10,8%	37,6%
1985-89	45%	5,2%	10,3%	35,4%
1990-94	37,6%	9,9%	11,8%	39%
1995-97	40,7%	17,6%	9,9%	30%

Status of biological mother 1996-2001

Source: Holt

Marital status and age

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Unm mother	80,1%	80,1%	87,1%	93%	87,2%	97,2%
Teenager	59,6%	61,6%	60,5%	63,8%	61,2%	64,9%

Reasons for abandonment 1965

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

Poverty	53,4%
Handicap	18,5%
Family problem	11,4%
Neglect	6,7%
Illegitimacy	5,5%
Prostitution	4,5%

Reasons for adoption requests 2002

Source: Holt

Unplanned pregnancy	1520=87,5%
Extramariital relationship	129=7,4%
Financial poverty	55=3,2%
Family break-up	16=0,9%
Death	9=0,5%
Disability	3=0,2%
Other	6=0,3%

Children relinquished to the adoption agencies for international adoption 1981-86

Source: National Medical Center

Sex

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Male	24,5%	29,5%	34,3%	34,1%	34,4%	40%
Female	75,5%	70,5%	65,7%	65,9%	65,6%	60%

Age at admission

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
1 d-1 m	59,2%	69,9%	66,1%	68,8%	71%	76,7%
2 m-6 m	13%	5,8%	12,9%	11,1%	9,1%	3,8%
7 m-1 y	1,5%	3,3%	3,3%	2,6%	1,6%	1,7%
2 y-3 y	13,4%	11,1%	7,8%	6,8%	7,5%	7,3%
4 y-6 y	10,6%	8,2%	8,5%	10,2%	8,2%	9,6%
6 y-	2,2%	1,7%	1,3%	0,4%	0,4%	0,9%

Family background

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Unm mother	37,7%	47,8%	46%	55,6%	44,3%	51,8%
Unm father	1,7%	-	0,5%	0,4%	1,8%	0,9%
Foundling	5,2%	5,1%	7,5%	9,4%	8,9%	5%
Other	15,2%	8,7%	9%	11,5%	20,8%	5,2%

Adult adoptees visiting the adoption agencies 1993-2001

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare

1993 1236

1994 1374

1995 1283

1996 1837

1997 1857

1998 1971

1999 2124

2000 2629

2001 2760