

Adoption and Adult Outcomes in the Early 20th Century

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Orphan train sponsored by the Children's Aid Society

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- How does being raised in a non-traditional family influence adult outcomes?
- The answer helps us better understand child development, nature versus nurture, and the economics of the family
- We take a historical perspective on this question with a focus on adopted children in the early 20th century when the nature of adoption was changing
- We build a longitudinal dataset of adoptees and their siblings by linking across censuses
- This allows us to assess how adopted children fare relative to the general population and relative to non-adopted siblings

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Our new longitudinal dataset of adopted children and their siblings helps us investigate several questions about early-20th century adoption:

- Which types of families adopted children?
- How were those children treated by their adoptive households?
- How did those childhood experiences translate into long run outcomes?

Answers to these questions help us get at bigger issues of the economics of the family and the consequences of the shift from pragmatic to sentimental adoption in the US.

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Preview of Results

- As children, adopted individuals were less likely to attend school, less likely to be literate, and more likely to be idle
- These differences persisted into adulthood with adopted individuals having lower overall educational attainments and lower incomes
- Family formation patterns of adopted individuals also differed: they tended to have higher rates of marriage and larger household sizes
- These effects were somewhat larger in situations where adoption was more likely to be pragmatic rather than sentimental

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Modern Adoption

- Modern studies tell us that there are negative consequences associated with being raised by non-biological parents
- Clinical studies suggest higher rates of behavioral, schooling, and drug problems among adopted and stepchildren
- Survey data reveals lower food expenditures and health investments in non-biological children
- Longitudinal studies show lower educational attainments for these children
- Some evidence that these worse outcomes are due to selection rather than differential treatment
- We want to extend these studies to the early twentieth century

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Changing Institutions, Attitudes and Economies

- The early 20th century saw a variety of changes that fundamentally affected adoption and the economics of the family
- Families and jobs were moving from farms to cities changing the costs and benefits of children
- Attitudes to and laws governing child labor and compulsory schooling were changing
- Rates of infant and child mortality were declining dramatically
- The legal institutions related to adoption changed dramatically from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s
- Overall, it is a chance to witness the shift from pragmatic to sentimental adoption

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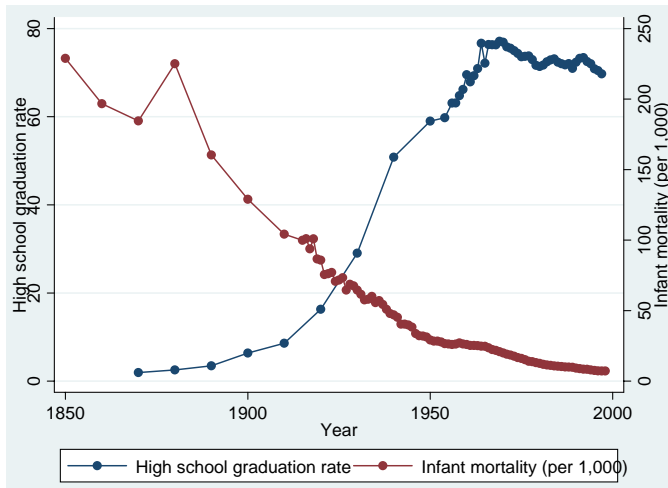
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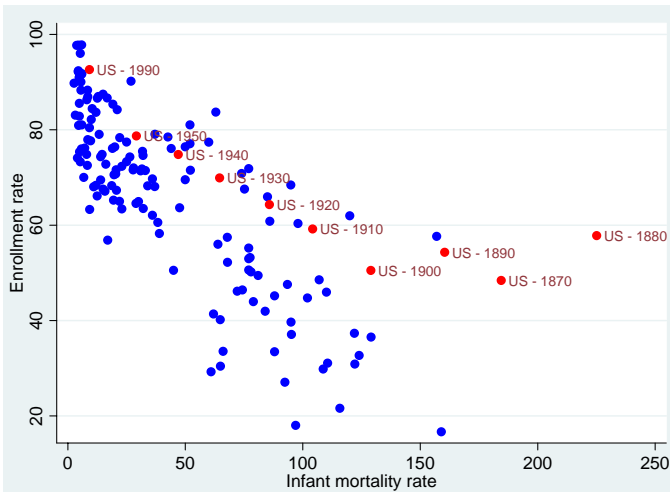
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Adoption in Mid 19th Century

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This Indenture, made this 2nd day of December, in the year of A.D. 1856 -
between Capt. J. H. Redick, Sup. of the one part, and
Mary Cunningham, of the other part, of the County of Pittsylvania,
State of Va. Witnesseth, That the said Capt. J. H. Redick,
by virtue of the authority in him vested as MILITARY AGENT,
aforesaid, hath put and bound, and doth by These Presents, put and bind Mary Cunningham
a free girl, of color, of the said County of Pittsylvania, and being of the age of about
years, to be Apprenticed to the said Capt. J. H. Redick, to learn the
art of a Housekeeper, and with him to dwell, and remain and serve until she the said
Mary Cunningham shall obtain the age of Eighteen years; during all
which time, she the said Mary Cunningham, faithfully shall serve and
obey, all secrets keep, and all lawful commands willingly do and perform; and shall not absent herself from
the service of her master, day or night, without his leave; but shall, in all things, as a faithful Appren-
tice, behave herself duly towards her master, and all his family, during the said term; and the said
Capt. J. H. Redick, doth hereby covenant, promise and agree to, and with the said
Mary Cunningham, and his successors in office, that she the said
Mary Cunningham will learn the said Apprentic in the County of Pittsylvania, of a
Housekeeper, which he now teach, shall and will teach and instruct, or cause to be taught and instructed
in the best manner that can, and shall and will provide and allow unto the said Apprentice, during all the said term,
competent and sufficient meat, drink, washing, helping, apparel, and all other things necessary for the said Apprentice to
have, and that she will well and truly pay to the said Mary Cunningham at
the end of the term of apprenticeship aforesaid, the sum of \$10.00 Dollars, lawful money of
Virginia; and that during the term aforesaid, the said Mary Cunningham will
instruct, or cause to be instructed, the said Mary Cunningham, in reading,
writing and arithmetic, as far as the Rule of Three.

WITNESSETH: the following signatures and seals of the parties:

J. H. Redick
Capt. J. H. Redick, U.S.
Mary Cunningham, U.S.

Changing Institutions, Attitudes and Institutions

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From "The Best Method of Disposing of Our Pauper and Vagrant Children" (C.L. Brace, 1859):

"The Emigration-plan of the Children's Aid Society, is simply to connect the supply of juvenile labor of the city with the demand from the country, and to place unfortunate, destitute, vagrant, and abandoned children at once in good families in the country."

Adoption in the Late 19th Century

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WANTED Homes for Children

A company of homeless children from the East will arrive at
TROY, MO., ON FRIDAY, FEB. 25th, 1910

These children are of various ages and of both sexes, having been thrown friendless upon the world. They come under the auspices of the Children's Aid Society of New York. They are well behaved, having come from the various orphanages. The citizens of this community are asked to assist the agent in finding good homes for them. Persons taking these children must be recommended by the local committee. They must treat the children in every way as members of the family, sending them to school, church, Sabbath school and properly clothe them until they are 17 years old. The following well-known citizens have agreed to act as a local committee to aid the agents in securing homes:

O. H. Avery E. B. Woolfolk H. F. Childers
Wm. Young G. W. Colbert

Applications must be made to, and endorsed by, the local committee.

An address will be made by the agent. Come and see the children and hear the address. Distribution will take place at the

Opera House Friday, Feb. 25, at 1:30 p. m.

B. W. TICE and MISS A. L. HILL, Agents, 105 E. 22nd St., New York City.
REV. J. W. SWAN, University Place, Nebraska, Western Agent.

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Children's Aid Society,
105 EAST 22D STREET, NEW YORK

The Society reserves the right to remove the child previous to legal adoption if at any time the circumstances of the home become such as in the judgment of the Agent are injurious to the child's future prospects.

Children are not allowed to correspond with any friends or relatives without obtaining permission to do so from the Society.

NAME OF CHILD: *Edward Hoyt* (born *Nov May 1st 1902*) AGE *8 yrs*

TO LIVE WITH FAMILY OF *J. Irving Spence*

TOWN *Valley Falls* COUNTY *Kan.* STATE *Kan.*

DATED *Jan 13 1911* *J. W. Swan*
PLACING AGENT

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MORE HOMES SEEK CHILDREN NOW THAN CHILDREN HOMES

The New Theories of Child Culture Encourage
City People to Adopt Waifs

A STEADY stream of applicants at the office of Miss Sophie Van Senden Theis, Secretary of the Child-Placing Department of the State Charities Aid Association, tells of an increasing demand for children. In recent years the supply of foster parents has grown until the problem of adoption work has become one of finding enough children for childless homes rather than that of finding enough homes for homeless children.

"There are several reasons for the increased demand," Miss Theis explains. "A good deal of publicity has lately been given to the adoption of children by wealthy people, and these

girl or, a boy in the home may be factors. Most persons desirous of adopting children prefer infants, and generally prefer girls to boys. In spite of the great vogue of child adoption, scarcity of homes for children over 6 years, especially for boys around the age of 10, remains.

The matter of choosing the persons who are to be entrusted with waifs calls for a definite child-placing technique, with the proper fitting of the child to the home as its main objective. By visiting proffered homes and interviewing prospective foster parents and examining their references, the expert is able to decide what is the wise course to take.

New York Times, 1927

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		Age	Sex	Age	Sex	Age	Sex		
404	407	Stillman, James M	Head - Y	M	W	53	5		
405	408	Callaway, John	Head w	M	M	55	27	28	
		Bellic	Wife w	F	B	58	M	28	0
		Pittsforth, William	Bound Boy	M	B	18	5		
		Callaway, Carrie	Adopted Son	M	B	13	5		
		Bird, Catharine	Bound Girl	F	M	13	5		
		Minnie	Bound Girl	F	M	12	5		
		Dorothy	Bound Girl	F	M	5	5		
406	409	Swindell, Fletcher	Head w	M	M	34	M	7	
		Lassie	Wife w	F	M	31	M	7	5 5
		William T	Son	M	M	10	5		

The Changing Nature of Adoption

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- All of these changes impact the relative likelihood of pragmatic versus sentimental adoption
- This presents a really fascinating opportunity to study how families respond to these changes
- On the extensive margin, we can examine changes in who adopts and what consequences this has for children
- On the intensive margin, we can look at how adopted children are treated relative to biological children
- Adoption during this period offers a unique view into the economics of the family

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Historical Versus Modern Data

- The early 20th century is a fascinating period of study for adoption and adult outcomes
- However, a historical study is also appealing from a data availability standpoint
- Privacy concerns severely restrict the availability of modern adoption data
- Cross-sectional data on adults rarely identify adoptees
- Longitudinal data have some serious sample size (and potentially selection) issues
- With complete historical censuses and lots of RA time, a historical longitudinal dataset can track thousands of adopted children and their siblings

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Modern Sample Sizes

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Some representative sample sizes for modern studies:

- PSID data in Case et al. (2001): 93 individuals with adoptive mothers, 130 with adoptive fathers
- National Health Survey in Warren (1992): 45 adoptees
- Hospital data in Dickson et al. (1990): 44 adoptees
- National Childhood Development Survey: 128 adoptees
- NLSY: 198 adoptees
- Colorado Adoption Project: 183 adoptees

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Historical Adoption Data Sources

- There are a few possible places to look for data on historical adoption
- Records of children's aid societies, orphanages and other institutions can help us look at the pool of potential adopted children and rates of placement
- These are a bit fragmentary, limited in scope, unrepresentative of adoption experiences, and don't give us outcomes
- Instead, we'll focus on federal census records
- IPUMS samples offer an easy way to look at adopted children in their adoptive households
- Complete census returns available through [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) offer a way to track children over time

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IPUMS Federal Census Samples

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- IPUMS provides fully cleaned and coded samples of all of the federal censuses
- From 1880 on, relation to head of household is provided in the census offering a way to identify adopted children
- One big caveat: adoption is self-reported and gets no mention in enumerator instructions
- Nonetheless, we see adopted children in each census
- Even better, we see adopted children with non-adopted siblings letting us potentially control for household characteristics

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Column 4. Relationship to head of family.-Designate the head of the family, whether husband or father, widow, or unmarried person of either sex, by the word "Head;" for other members of a family write wife, father, mother, son, daughter, grandson, daughter-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, boarder, lodger, servant, etc., according to the particular relationship which the person bears to the head of the family.

IPUMS Federal Census Samples

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Number of adopted children in IPUMS census samples

Year	Sample	Number of biological children	Number of adopted children
1880	10%	2,762,316	7,384
1890	--	--	--
1900	1%	349,204	954
1910	1%	403,692	1,330
1920	1%	457,338	782
1930	5%	2,512,650	7,232
2000	5%	3,873,515	103,051

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Distribution of married two-parent households by type of children, 1880-1930 and 2000

Year	<u>White HHs</u>		
	Biological only	Adopted only	Biological and adopted
1880	97.15%	0.51%	0.34%
1890	--	--	--
1900	97.40%	0.46%	0.19%
1910	97.18%	0.50%	0.15%
1920	97.95%	0.20%	0.10%
1930	97.03%	0.40%	0.14%
2000	88.21%	2.01%	1.82%

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Distribution of married two-parent households by type of children, 1880-1930 and 2000

Year	<u>Black HHs</u>		
	Biological only	Adopted only	Biological and adopted
1880	92.98%	0.72%	0.37%
1890	--	--	--
1900	92.86%	1.00%	0.43%
1910	91.84%	1.34%	0.51%
1920	93.91%	0.88%	0.36%
1930	91.74%	1.64%	0.57%
2000	84.16%	2.27%	1.97%

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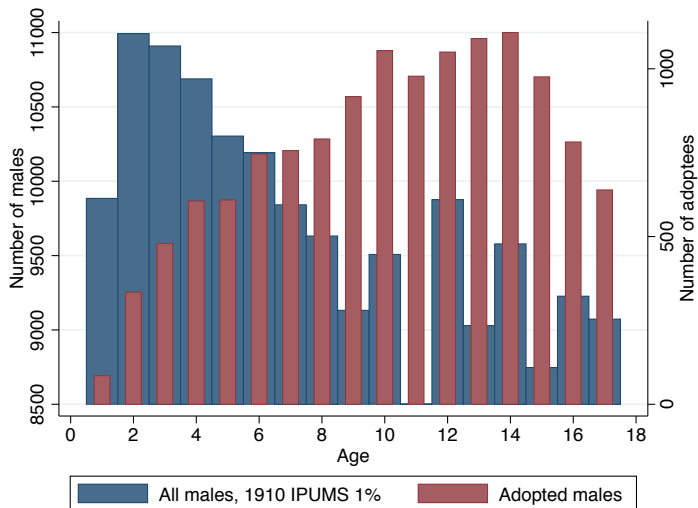
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Adoptee Age Distribution



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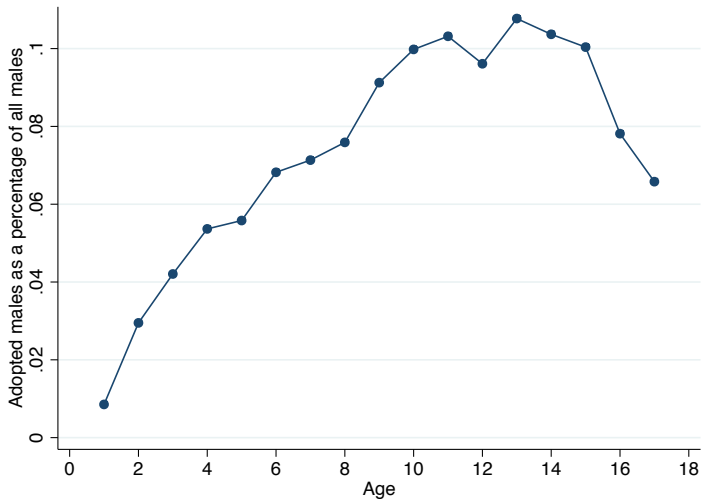
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Constructing a Longitudinal Dataset

- We'd like to see whether any childhood differences in the IPUMS data translate into differences in adult outcomes
- With the 72-year-rule, all censuses are public up to 1940
- This means we can track the same individual across multiple census, observing him as a child and as an adult
- We start by finding all adopted children in the 1910 federal census by searching a digital index of the census
- These children are then found in the 1940 federal census by searching on the basis of name, birth year and birth state
- We can also find their siblings (both biological and non-biological) in the 1940 federal census

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Complete Federal Census Counts of Adoptees

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Number of children in nontraditional households in the federal census by census year

Census year	Number of adopted individuals	Number of stepchildren	Number of boarders under the age of 18
1900	101,764	488,991	356,723
1910	128,755	666,119	324,484
1920	88,416	638,098	253,143
1930	173,485	978,652	260,087
1940	55,220	807,170	40,381

[illegible]

Adoptive Family in the 1910 Census

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65	Edinger Mary	mother-in-law	7	w	73	w			Pennsylvania
	Hafferty Patrick	Head	m	w	63	m	6		New England
	— Mary	wife	7	w	53	m	21	8	New England
	— David	son	m	w	24	s			Ohio
	— Dennis	son	m	w	24	s			Ohio
	— Margaret	daughter	7	w	23	s			Ohio
	— Thomas	son	m	w	20	s			Ohio
	— Theodore	son	m	w	14	s			Ohio
	Hafferty Dennis	adopted son	m	w	15	s			Illinois
66	Higgins Clara E.	Head	m	w	43	m	23		Ohio
	— Jennie E.	wife	7	w	42	m	23	7	Ohio

This is a reproduction of the original document, which is a form used for the 1940 U.S. Census. The form is titled "POPULATION SCHEDULE" and is part of the "SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES 1940". It is a form used to record the population of a household, including the names, ages, and other characteristics of the individuals living there. The form is divided into several sections, including "HOUSEHOLD", "POPULATION", and "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION". The "HOUSEHOLD" section contains information about the household itself, such as the name of the head of household, the address, and the date of the census. The "POPULATION" section contains information about the individuals living in the household, including their names, ages, and other characteristics. The "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION" section contains additional information about the household and its members, such as the names of the individuals living in the household at different times during the year.

The form is filled out for a household in the city of Chicago, Illinois. The head of household is listed as "Eugene J. [redacted]". The household is located at "1410 N. [redacted]". The census was taken on "April 1, 1940". The form is filled out for a household of 14 individuals, including 10 males and 4 females. The individuals are listed in the "POPULATION" section, with their names, ages, and other characteristics recorded. The "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION" section contains additional information about the household and its members, such as the names of the individuals living in the household at different times during the year.

The form is a good example of the type of data collected by the U.S. Census in 1940. It provides a detailed record of the population of a household, including the names, ages, and other characteristics of the individuals living there. This information was used to create the 1940 U.S. Census, which is a valuable source of information about the population of the United States in 1940.

Adopted Siblings as Adults in the 1940 Census

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137	305	0	2510	%	Holpin, Dennis	Head	0	M	W	45	M	56	8	8	Illinois
					—, Pearl	Wife	1	F	W	44	M	70	11	40	Pennsylvania
					—, Catherine	Daughter	2	F	W	22	S	7	11	43	New York
					—, Jean	Daughter	2	F	W	16	S	7	11	43	Ohio
					—, John	Son	2	M	W	15	S	7	11	43	Ohio
					—, Gerald	Son	2	M	W	13	S	7	11	43	Ohio
					—, Daniel	Son	2	M	W	2	S	7	11	43	Ohio
141	319	0	2500	%	Rafferty, Theodore	Head	0	M	W	44	M	70	8	8	Ohio
					—, Theresa	Wife	1	F	W	43	M	70	7	7	Pennsylvania
					Bater, Mary	Mother	3	F	W	64	AA	70	11	43	Pennsylvania

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2	Ditch Digger	Waty line W.A.A	GW 988	Y9 2	0	0	7/0
					0	0	7/0
	Stenographer	Long &	PW 236	8 V	52	1020	7/0
					0	0	7/0
					0	0	7/0
	Polisher	Machine Lena M	PW 436	30	52	1664	7/0
	Beauty Operator	Beauty Lady	DA 700	89	52	0	Yas
					0	0	7/0
	IP 10	W.A.A	P.W. 601	10	1	1	7/0

The Linked Dataset

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- Once this linking process is complete, we have longitudinal data on both adoptees and their siblings
- Childhood household characteristics: location, parents' occupations, parents' literacy, family structure, farm status
- Childhood individual characteristics: birth order, school attendance, literacy, occupation
- Adult characteristics: occupation, income, years of schooling, family structure, children ever born, children surviving

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Characteristics of children in 1910 by adoption status and linking outcome

Variable	Adopted children successfully linked to 1940 census	Adopted children who could not be linked	IPUMS 1% sample of the 1910 census
Age	12.38 (6.23)	12.08 (6.43)	9.14 (5.81)
White (1=yes)	0.71 (0.46)	0.59 (0.49)	0.87 (0.33)
Number of household members	7.00 (2.80)	7.22 (2.94)	6.97 (19.09)
Percentage of county that is urban	0.33 (0.32)	0.30 (0.32)	0.41 (0.36)
Child has moved across states (1=yes)	0.19 (0.39)	0.18 (0.39)	0.11 (0.31)
Mother has moved across states (1=yes)	0.23 (0.42)	0.21 (0.41)	0.28 (0.45)
Father has moved across states (1=yes)	0.24 (0.43)	0.22 (0.42)	0.31 (0.46)
Number of observations	2,511	12,518	194,987

Notes: Standard deviations given in parentheses. Urban percentage is defined as the percentage of individuals in a county designated as living in an urban area in the IPUMS 1% sample. All samples are restricted to males. The IPUMS 1% sample is restricted to children under the age of 20. Individuals are defined as moving across states if the state of residence in 1910 is different than the birth state given in the census.

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Characteristics of children in 1910 by adoption status and linking outcome

Variable	Adopted children successfully linked to 1940 census	Adopted children who could not be linked	IPUMS 1% sample of the 1910 census
<u>Percentage living in:</u>			
New England	6.22	4.77	6.08
Middle Atlantic	11.79	11.13	19.00
East North Central	15.83	12.18	18.35
West North Central	15.27	11.81	12.78
South Atlantic	21.08	25.62	15.10
East South Central	10.26	13.13	10.56
West South Central	11.59	15.01	11.42
Mountain	4.08	3.26	2.73
Pacific	3.88	3.08	3.93
Number of observations	2,511	12,518	194,987

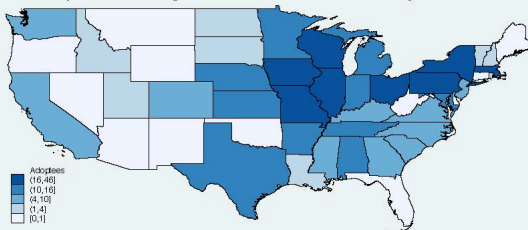
Notes: Standard deviations given in parentheses. Urban percentage is defined as the percentage of individuals in a county designated as living in an urban area in the IPUMS 1% sample. All samples are restricted to males. The IPUMS 1% sample is restricted to children under the age of 20. Individuals are defined as moving across states if the state of residence in 1910 is different than the birth state given in the census.

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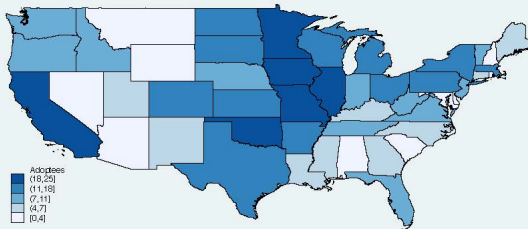
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Adoptees moving between birth and 1910 by birth state



Adoptees moving between birth and 1910 by 1910 location



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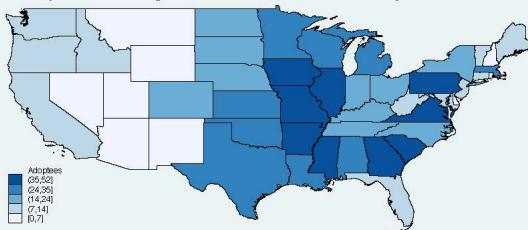
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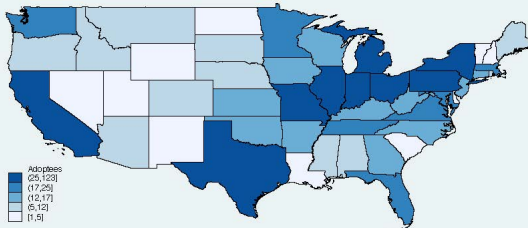
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Adoptees moving between 1910 and 1940 by 1910 location



Adoptees moving between 1910 and 1940 by 1940 location



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Characteristics of adult adoptees and adoptee siblings in 1940

Variable	Adoptees	Siblings of adoptees	IPUMS 1% sample of the 1940 census
White (1=yes)	0.71 (0.46)	0.76 (0.43)	0.90 (0.29)
Number of household members	4.85 (3.00)	4.84 (2.95)	4.27 (2.34)
Percentage of county that is urban	0.52 (0.33)	0.51 (0.33)	0.56 (0.33)
Moved across states (1=yes)	0.39 (0.49)	0.42 (0.49)	0.29 (0.46)
Years of schooling	7.97 (3.35)	8.71 (3.23)	8.77 (3.65)
Annual income (1940 dollars)	842.58 (949.17)	838.54 (1003.76)	830.88 (928.29)
Hours worked in past week	44.97 (16.42)	45.10 (15.69)	36.01 (22.47)
Weeks worked in past year	41.66 (16.40)	39.77 (18.07)	39.70 (17.71)
Married (1=yes)	0.85 (0.36)	0.72 (0.45)	0.66 (0.47)
Number of observations	2,511	818	367,425

Notes: Standard deviations given in parentheses. Urban percentage is defined as the percentage of individuals in the county designated as living in an urban area in the IPUMS 1% sample. All samples are restricted to males. The IPUMS 1% sample is restricted to men between the ages of 20 and 59. Individuals are defined as moving across states if the state of residence in 1910 is different than the birth state given in the census.

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Empirical Approach with Cross-Sectional Data

- The IPUMS data provide an opportunity to compare adopted children to the general population of children
- Since IPUMS samples households rather than individuals we can also compare adopted children to non-adopted children in the same household
- Potential dependent variables: literacy, school attendance, labor force participation
- Controls: age and race of individual; age, race, nativity, literacy, and occupation of parents; sibling composition; home ownership, urban and farm indicators; state-year fixed effects
- Also use HH fixed effects to look at within-HH variation in blended HHs

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Literacy and school attendance: white males age 10-17, 1900-1930

Dependent variable:	Literate (1=yes)		Attending School (1=yes)	
HH fixed effects:	no	yes	no	yes
Adopted (1=yes)	-0.015*** (0.006)	-0.010 (0.020)	-0.056*** (0.012)	-0.092* (0.053)
Age	0.028*** (0.002)	0.025*** (0.002)	0.334*** (0.004)	0.358*** (0.005)
Age squared	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.015*** (0.0001)	-0.015*** (0.0002)
Birth order	-0.0001 (0.0005)	-0.0039*** (0.001)	0.015*** (0.0009)	0.034*** (0.0026)
Mean probability	0.9256	0.926	0.834	0.834
No. of observations	286,511	286,848	286,511	286,848
Adjusted R-squared	0.153	0.008	0.215	0.271

OLS results controlling for age, race, nativity, literacy and occupation of parents; sibling composition; house ownership; urban and farm indicators; state-year fixed effects. Standard errors given in parentheses.

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School attendance and labor force participation: white males age 10-17, 1900-1930

Dependent variable:	In school and not in LF	In school and in LF	Not in school and in LF	Not in school and not in LF
HH fixed effects:	no	no	no	no
Adopted (1=yes)	-0.055*** (0.012)	-0.002 (0.004)	0.013** (0.006)	0.043*** (0.011)
Age	0.331*** (0.004)	0.003* (0.002)	-0.169*** (0.002)	-0.164*** (0.003)
Birth order	0.017*** (0.001)	-0.002*** (0.001)	-0.005*** (0.001)	-0.010*** (0.001)
Mean probability	0.808	0.026	0.058	0.108
No. of observations	286,511	286,511	286,511	286,511
Adjusted R-squared	0.227	0.075	0.157	0.096

OLS results controlling for age, race, nativity, literacy and occupation of parents; sibling composition; house ownership; urban and farm indicators; state-year fixed effects. Standard errors given in parentheses.

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School attendance and labor force participation: white males age 10-17, 1900-1930

Dependent variable:	In school and not in LF	In school and in LF	Not in school and in LF	Not in school and not in LF
HH fixed effects:	yes	yes	yes	yes
Adopted (1=yes)	-0.108** (0.055)	0.016 (0.023)	-0.048 (0.040)	0.140*** (0.046)
Age	0.356*** (0.006)	0.002 (0.002)	-0.193*** (0.004)	-0.166*** (0.005)
Birth order	0.036*** (0.003)	-0.002 (0.001)	-0.018*** (0.002)	-0.016*** (0.002)
Mean probability	0.808	0.0261	0.058	0.108
No. of observations	286,848	286,848	286,848	286,848
Adjusted R-squared	0.286	0.011	0.147	0.106

OLS results controlling for age, race, nativity, literacy and occupation of parents; sibling composition; house ownership; urban and farm indicators; state-year fixed effects. Standard errors given in parentheses.

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Empirical Approach with Longitudinal Data

- The linked sample includes only adoptees and their siblings
- This is sufficient to do household fixed effects regressions comparable to the cross-sectional data
- To compare both adoptees and siblings to the general population, we merge the linked data with the IPUMS 1% 1940 sample (restricted to males 20-59)
- Regressions will be similar to the cross-sectional data, but with different outcomes and no childhood household controls
- Dependent variables: years of education, annual income, marital status, household size

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Schooling and income for adult white males, 1940

Dependent variable:	<u>Years of schooling</u>		<u>Log of annual income</u>	
HH fixed effects:	no	yes	no	yes
Adopted (1=yes)	-0.48*** (0.09)	-0.56 (0.35)	-0.14*** (0.02)	0.01 (0.13)
Adoptee sibling (1=yes)	0.08 (0.14)		-0.08 (0.05)	
Urban county in 1940 (1=yes)	0.94*** (0.07)	0.91** (0.40)	0.48*** (0.03)	0.48 (0.29)
Age in 1940	-0.07*** (0.01)	-0.18 (0.23)	0.15*** (0.003)	0.14 (0.11)
Age in 1940 squared	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.001 (0.003)	-0.002*** (0.0000)	-0.002 (0.001)
Moved across states (1=yes)	0.62*** (0.10)	0.35 (0.38)	0.15*** (0.02)	0.05 (0.23)
Number of observations	289,769	2,150	207,888	1,479
Adjusted R-squared	0.11	0.35	0.18	0.25

OLS results with standard errors clustered by residence state given in parentheses. All regressions include residence state fixed effects. Samples for the weeks worked and hours worked regressions are restricted to individuals reporting positive values. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%

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Family formation of adult white males, 1940

Dependent variable: HH fixed effects:	<u>Number of household</u> members		<u>Married (1=yes)</u>		<u>Moved across states</u> (1=yes)	
	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes
Adopted (1=yes)	0.76*** (0.08)	0.11 (0.36)	0.05*** (0.01)	0.10*** (0.04)	0.05*** (0.02)	-0.03 (0.03)
Adoptee sibling (1=yes)	0.63*** (0.12)		-0.06*** (0.02)		0.09*** (0.02)	
Urban county in 1940 (1=yes)	-0.38*** (0.03)	0.71 (0.57)	-0.01* (0.005)	0.001 (0.09)	0.09*** (0.01)	0.24*** (0.08)
Age in 1940	-0.05*** (0.01)	0.26 (0.23)	0.10*** (0.002)	0.07 (0.05)	0.01*** (0.002)	-0.03 (0.04)
Age in 1940 squared	0.0005*** (0.0001)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.001*** (0.00002)	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.0001*** (0.00002)	0.0004 (0.0004)
Moved across states (1=yes)	-0.36*** (0.04)	0.09 (0.47)	0.01*** (0.004)	-0.02 (0.06)		
Number of observations	289,821	2,202	289,821	2,202	289,821	2,202
Adjusted R-squared	0.04	-0.01	0.19	-0.14	0.16	0.40

OLS results with standard errors clustered by residence state given in parentheses. All regressions include residence state fixed effects. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%

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- Adoptees look different than the general population and, along certain dimensions, their non-adopted siblings
- These differences can be driven by four very different mechanisms:
 - Selection in terms of who gets adopted
 - Selection in terms of who adopts
 - The effects of being adopted
 - Differential treatment after adoption
- Ideally, we would like to assess which of these mechanisms are driving our results

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- Controlling for observable characteristics helps address some of the selection into adoption issues
- Household characteristics and household fixed effects help control for who adopts
- We're particularly interested in getting at the differential treatment component
- One approach: identify situations where adoption is more likely to be sentimental and see if within-family effects decrease

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- There are a few observable characteristics of households that may be correlated with the likelihood of sentimental adoption
 - Rural or farm status
 - Presence of biological children
 - Whether the mother has lost children
 - Gender mix of children
 - Shared last name
- Including an interaction term between a measure of adoption motivations and the adopted dummy gives us a way to directly test whether pragmatic motivations translate into differential treatment of children

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Schooling and labor force participation for white males age 10-17, 1900-1930

Dependent variable: HH fixed effects:	Literate yes	In school yes	In labor force yes	Not in school	In school and in labor force yes
				and in labor force yes	
Adopted (1=yes)	-0.0018 (0.0294)	-0.0591 (0.0782)	-0.1536** (0.0637)	-0.1341** (0.0590)	-0.0194 (0.0335)
Adopted x same surname	0.0806* (0.0443)	0.0484 (0.1178)	0.1597* (0.0960)	0.0366 (0.0889)	0.1231** (0.0505)
Adopted x farm	-0.0968** (0.0431)	-0.1411 (0.1146)	0.2156** (0.0934)	0.2227** (0.0865)	-0.0071 (0.0491)
Birth Order	-0.0039*** (0.0010)	0.0341*** (0.0026)	-0.0194*** (0.0022)	-0.0176*** (0.0020)	-0.0018 (0.0011)
Age	0.0251*** (0.0020)	0.3584*** (0.0054)	-0.1907*** (0.0044)	-0.1927*** (0.0041)	0.0020 (0.0023)
Age Squared	-0.0009*** (0.0001)	-0.0152*** (0.0002)	0.0082*** (0.0002)	0.0081*** (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)
No. of Observations	286,848	286,848	286,848	286,848	286,848
R-squared	0.0078	0.2713	0.0587	0.0746	0.0107

OLS results with standard errors clustered by residence state given in parentheses. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%

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Effects of adoption status on schooling, dependent variable is years of educational attainment, white males only

Household type	Lived on farm in 1910	Lived in a rural area in 1910	Adoptee had older brothers	Adoptee had older siblings	Mother had lost a child	Same surname as adoptive parents
Mean value for household type	0.379	0.428	0.273	0.559	0.491	0.121
Standard deviation for household type	(0.485)	(0.495)	(0.446)	(0.497)	(0.500)	(0.326)
Adopted (1=yes)	-0.227 (0.413)	-0.142 (0.418)	0.112 (0.471)	-0.061 (0.628)	-0.446 (0.526)	-0.632 (0.518)
Adopted x household type	-0.487 (0.757)	-0.336 (0.623)	-1.264 (0.852)	-0.517 (0.731)	0.198 (0.762)	0.659 (0.655)
Number of observations	1361	2222	1361	1361	1273	2233

OLS results with standard errors clustered by residence state given in parentheses.

Regressions include family fixed effects and control for living in an urban area in 1940, moving across states by 1940, and a quadratic in age. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%

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Effects of adoption status on adult earnings, dependent variable is log income, white males only

	Lived on farm in 1910	Lived in a rural area in 1910	Adoptee had older brothers	Adoptee had older siblings	Mother had lost a child	Same surname as adoptive parents
Household type						
Mean value for household type	0.379	0.428	0.273	0.559	0.491	0.121
Standard deviation for household type	(0.485)	(0.495)	(0.446)	(0.497)	(0.500)	(0.326)
Adopted (1=yes)	0.083 (0.194)	-0.014 (0.178)	0.089 (0.189)	0.025 (0.263)	-0.009 (0.220)	0.066 (0.257)
Adopted x household type	-0.355 (0.482)	-0.002 (0.332)	-0.233 (0.290)	-0.045 (0.308)	-0.077 (0.297)	-0.135 (0.299)
Number of observations	998	1583	998	998	932	1589

OLS results with standard errors clustered by residence state given in parentheses.

Regressions include family fixed effects and control for living in an urban area in 1940, moving across states by 1940, and a quadratic in age. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%

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Effects of adoption on marital status in 1940, dependent variable is married (1=yes), white only

	Lived on farm in 1910	Lived in a rural area in 1910	Adoptee had older brothers	Adoptee had older siblings	Mother had lost a child	Same surname as adoptive parents
Household type						
Mean value for household type	0.379	0.428	0.273	0.559	0.491	0.121
Standard deviation for household type	(0.485)	(0.495)	(0.446)	(0.497)	(0.500)	(0.326)
Adopted (1=yes)	0.023 (0.052)	0.008 (0.051)	0.013 (0.073)	0.058 (0.091)	0.030 (0.074)	0.012 (0.069)
Adopted x household type	-0.074 (0.118)	-0.048 (0.096)	-0.030 (0.109)	-0.095 (0.120)	-0.068 (0.092)	-0.023 (0.096)
Number of observations	1388	2274	1388	1388	1300	3184

OLS results with standard errors clustered by residence state given in parentheses.

Regressions include family fixed effects and control for living in an urban area in 1940, moving across states by 1940, and a quadratic in age. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%

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Effects of adoption status on adult household size, dependent variable is number of household members in 1940, white only

Household type	Lived on farm in 1910	Lived in a rural area in 1910	Adoptee had older brothers	Adoptee had older siblings	Mother had lost a child	Same surname as adoptive parents
Mean value for household type	0.379	0.428	0.273	0.559	0.491	0.121
Standard deviation for household type	(0.485)	(0.495)	(0.446)	(0.497)	(0.500)	(0.326)
Adopted (1=yes)	-0.067 (0.640)	0.149 (0.442)	-0.034 (0.630)	0.166 (0.813)	-0.041 (0.571)	0.286 (0.837)
Adopted x household type	0.669 (1.063)	-0.144 (0.798)	0.429 (0.995)	-0.061 (1.096)	0.567 (0.938)	-0.353 (0.964)
Number of observations	1388	2274	1388	1388	1300	2286

OLS results with standard errors clustered by residence state given in parentheses.

Regressions include family fixed effects and control for living in an urban area in 1940, moving across states by 1940, and a quadratic in age. * significant at 10%, ** significant at 5%, *** significant at 1%

Moving Forward

- These preliminary results suggest that outcomes for adopted children did differ from those of children raised by biological parents
- Some of these differences persist even within families
- The within-family differences are sensitive to the type of family that raised the adopted child
- The task now is to put together additional data to refine and expand on these results:
 - Better utilize occupation info (occupational mobility, alternative measures of SES)
 - Exploit migration information
 - Refine measures of household type
 - Utilize 1920 and 1930 census records with automated linking

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