

GALLUP®



10 Key Findings

KIDSAVE-GALLUP STUDY 2023



KEY FINDINGS FROM KIDSAVE-GALLUP REPORT, 2023

**Americans' Views of U.S. Foster Care,
Elevating Black Americans' Perspectives and Experiences**



1

MENTORING AS A GATEWAY TO ADOPTION.

Adults who connect with a child through mentoring program (other than through foster care or adoption) have **seven** times greater odds of adopting.

- Black (40%) and Hispanic adults (26%) are significantly more likely than White (18%) adults to say knowing they could volunteer with a child of the same racial or ethnic background would make them more or much more likely to participate in a mentoring program.
- Black adults are more likely than adults of other racial and ethnic backgrounds to have participated in a mentoring program.

2

PERCEIVED TRAUMA IS A BARRIER FOR MANY.

Many Americans express significant fear about the prospect of connecting with a child who has experienced trauma or loss, as well as the possibility the child could later be removed from their adoptive home.

THE UNKNOWN IS A BARRIER FOR MANY FAMILIES.

The unknowns that present an obstacle to potential caregivers are unfamiliarity with the foster system in general, the uncertainty of getting to know a child who has faced removal from their biological family, and the unclear level of involvement of the child's biological family.

3

4

THOSE WHO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SYSTEM HAVE MORE POSITIVE FEELINGS.

Americans who know more about the foster care system are 3.6 times more likely to rate their general feelings toward the U.S foster care system positively.

5

THE POSSIBILITY THE CHILD HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES

for the wrong reasons is a barrier to adopting.



6

KNOWLEDGE OF ELIGIBILITY AND THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM IS LOW. Nearly two-thirds of all adults (63%) know little or nothing about the U.S. foster care system and 68% of Americans don't even know if they're eligible to foster a child.

7

NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS OF THE FOSTER SYSTEM ARE COMMON. About a third of Black, Hispanic, and white adults rate their feelings towards the system as neutral or somewhat negative. And, media may negatively influenced and shaped people's perceptions of the foster care system.

8

BLACK AND HISPANIC ADULTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SEE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION AS A MAJOR BARRIER to being a foster care provider.

9

SYSTEMIC EFFECTS OF INCOME INEQUALITY AND A NATIONWIDE HOUSING SHORTAGE may both have an impact on Americans' ability to provide foster care or adopt from foster care - even if they are willing and interested.

10

BLACK AMERICANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT ADOPTING AND PROVIDING FOSTER CARE. 34% of Black Americans have thought a lot about providing foster care, with 26% considering adopting from foster care compared to the national averages of 25% and 18% who thought about fostering or adopting respectively.

Learn more about The EMBRACE Project and read the latest findings at embrace.kidsave.org