

What is the National Survey of Adoptive Parents?

The 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents (NSAP), an offshoot of the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH), generated the first-ever large, nationally representative dataset describing adopted children aged 0-17 years, as well as their adoptive families (excluding stepparent adoptions). The original NSCH sample was obtained through random-digit-dialing; respondents who indicated that their child was adopted were invited to participate in the NSAP follow-up interview. Telephone interviews were conducted with 2,089 eligible respondents between April 2007 and July 2008. The 2007 NSAP was sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, in conjunction with the Administration for Children and Families and the National Center for Health Statistics.

What does the 2007 NSAP offer family researchers?

The 2007 NSAP dataset is the most comprehensive resource on adoptive families currently available. Parents provided detailed information about their adopted children on topics including:

- Demographic characteristics, including age, sex, national origin, and race/ethnicity
- Child well-being, including school performance, delinquency, drug and alcohol use, and mental health
- Children's relationships with their adoptive parents and siblings
- Contact with birth families
- History of abuse or neglect prior to adoption
- Participation in adoption support groups, adoption counseling, and mentoring programs

Additionally, the NSAP collected a wealth of information about adoptive parents and families:

- Demographic characteristics, including age, sex, and household income
- Family structure, including parents' marital status and presence of other biological and/or adopted children in the household
- Parents' motivations for adopting and for choosing specific adoption types
- Transracial adoptions, and parents' strategies for cultural socialization, such as moving to a diverse neighborhood or celebrating holidays associated with their child's racial or ethnic background
- Parents' access to and satisfaction with post-adoption services, including adoption subsidies, Medicaid, adoption support groups, family counseling, childcare assistance, respite care, and adoption classes
- Parents' participation in recruitment of adoptive families

Using the 2007 NSAP

The 2007 NSAP page of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website provides extensive documentation, including a Methodology Report, Data Dictionary, Guidelines for Data Users, the survey instrument, and a list of frequencies for each variable in the public-use file. Researchers should take note of the complex survey design when performing analyses; instructions regarding survey weights are available in the Guidelines for Data Users.

How do I access the data?

Public-use files are available in SAS format and can be downloaded from the website of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). To protect respondents' confidentiality, the public-use NSAP files cannot be linked with the public-use NSCH files. Researchers who want to access the linked NSCH-NSAP data must submit a research proposal to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Once the proposal is approved, the researcher may be required to travel to a Research Data Center operated by either the NCHS or the U.S. Census Bureau; additional fees apply. For further information about developing a proposal and accessing the linked NSCH-NSAP data, see the [NCHS Research Data Center](#) website.

Where can I learn more about the 2007 NSAP?

For general information about the survey and a summary of findings, visit the project page maintained by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/09/NSAP/index.shtml>. More detailed methodological information, including the NSAP Data Dictionary, Methodology Report, and Guidelines for Data Users, is available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). For a more in-depth compilation of findings drawn from the linked 2007 NSCH-NSAP data, see [Adoption USA: A Chartbook Based on the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents](#). Specific questions regarding the 2007 National Survey of Adoptive Parents may be directed to Matthew Bramlett at MBramlett@cdc.gov.