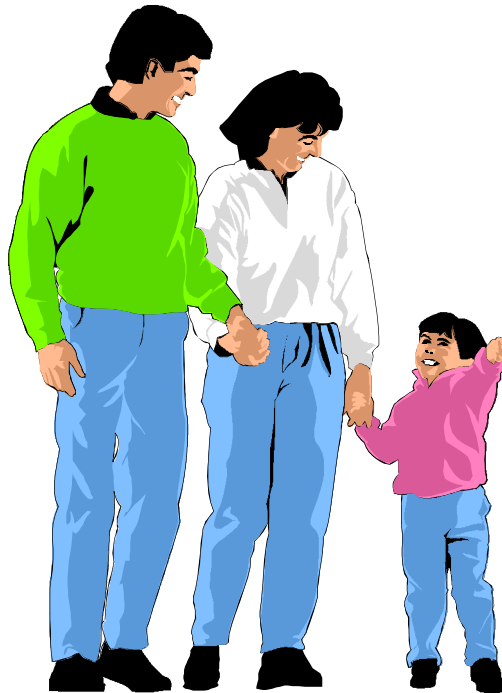


ADOPTION



Superior courts in Alaska granted 542 adoptions in 1997. That is a 14.3 percent increase from the 474 superior court adoptions granted during 1996. In addition, 142 cultural adoptions and 88 out of state adoptions were recorded. Not all adoptions involve children. Of the 772 total adoptions in 1997, 27 involved the adoption of adults 18 years of age and over. The total number of adoptions resulted in an adoption rate of 1.3 adoptions per 1,000 population.

In 1990, under the Indian Child Welfare Act 25 USC 1903(4), Alaska began issuing substitute birth certificates for cultural adoptions of Native children. Under the Bureau of Vital Statistics' regulations, a substitute birth certificate may be issued when a Native child is culturally adopted into a family where at least one of the adoptive parents is Native. The 142 cultural adoptions which occurred in 1997 represented a 24.9 percent decrease from 189 in 1996. There were 88 children born in Alaska who were adopted out of state during 1997, representing a 12.9 percent decrease from the 101 out-of-state adoptions in 1996. Table 4.1 below lists numbers of adoptions by type and year for 1993 through 1997.

TABLE 4.1 ADOPTIONS BY TYPE, ALASKA, 1993-1997

YEAR	TYPE OF ADOPTION				
	ALASKA			OUT OF STATE	TOTAL
	COURTS	CULTURAL	SUBTOTAL		
1993	608	219	827	138	965
1994	558	182	740	113	853
1995	548	206	754	110	864
1996	474	189	663	101	764
1997	542	142	684	88	772

TABLE 4.2A ADOPTIONS BY CENSUS AREA WHERE DECREE WAS GRANTED AND BY AGE OF ADOPTEE, ALASKA, 1997

CENSUS AREA WHERE ADOPTION DECREE WAS GRANTED	AGE OF ADOPTEE					TOTAL
	<1 YEAR	1-4 YEARS	5-9 YEARS	10-17 YEARS	18+ YEARS	
ALEUTIANS WEST		1				1
ANCHORAGE	38	102	107	63	6	316
BETHEL	25	5	5	3		38
DILLINGHAM	5	2				7
FAIRBANKS NSB	11	27	38	17	8	101
JUNEAU BOROUGH	5	4	5	5	1	20
KENAI PENINSULA	1	8	10	9	2	30
KETCHIKAN	2	4	10	1	5	22
KODIAK ISLAND	1	6	2	1		10
LAKE-PENINSULA	1					1
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA	3	6	6	4		19
NOME	10	7	8	2		27
NORTH SLOPE	3	3	2	3		11
NORTHWEST ARCTIC	7	6	10	5		28
SITKA BOROUGH	2	3	1	1		7
VALDEZ-CORDOVA		2				2
WADE HAMPTON	19	7	3	1		30
WRANGELL-PETERSBG	1	2		1		4
YUKON-KOYUKUK	5	2	2	1		10
OUTSIDE ALASKA	5	12	31	35	5	88
TOTAL	144	209	240	152	27	772

Tables 4.2A and 4.2C show adoptions by the age of the adoptee; Tables 4.2B and 4.2D show adoptions by the race of the adoptee. In these tables, race of the adoptee is determined by the race of the natural mother. For those in which the race of the adoptee is unknown, all but one were born outside of Alaska. (For more information on determining the race of the child by the race of the mother, see Appendix E.)

TABLE 4.2B ADOPTIONS BY CENSUS AREA WHERE DECREE WAS GRANTED AND BY RACE OF ADOPTEE, ALASKA, 1997

CENSUS AREA WHERE ADOPTION DECREE WAS GRANTED	RACE OF ADOPTEE					TOTAL
	WHITE	NATIVE	BLACK	ASIAN/PI	UNK	
ALEUTIANS WEST		1				1
ANCHORAGE	178	65	21	13	39	316
BETHEL		38				38
DILLINGHAM	1	6				7
FAIRBANKS NSB	77	7	2	5	10	101
JUNEAU BOROUGH	13	2		2	3	20
KENAI PENINSULA	17	8			5	30
KETCHIKAN	7	10		2	3	22
KODIAK ISLAND	9			1		10
LAKE-PENINSULA		1				1
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA	13	3	1		2	19
NOME		27				27
NORTH SLOPE		10			1	11
NORTHWEST ARCTIC	1	27				28
SITKA BOROUGH		3			4	7
VALDEZ-CORDOVA	1	1				2
WADE HAMPTON		30				30
WRANGELL-PETERSBG	2	1			1	4
YUKON-KOYUKUK		10				10
OUTSIDE ALASKA	74	11	2	1		88
TOTAL	393	261	26	24	68	772

TABLE 4.2C ADOPTIONS BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION WHERE DECREE WAS GRANTED AND BY AGE OF ADOPTEE, ALASKA, 1997

NRC WHERE ADOPTION DECREE WAS GRANTED	AGE OF ADOPTEE					TOTAL
	<1 YEAR	1-4 YEARS	5-9 YEARS	10-17 YEARS	18+ YEARS	
AHTNA INC		1				1
ALEUT CORP.		1				1
ARCTIC SLOPE CORP.	3	3	2	3		11
BERING STRAITS CORP	10	7	8	2		27
BRISTOL BAY CORP.	6	2				8
CALISTA CORP.	44	12	8	4		68
CHUGACH NATIVES INC		1		1		2
COOK INLET REG CORP	42	116	123	75	8	364
DOYON LTD	16	29	40	18	8	111
KONIAG INC.	1	6	2	1		10
NANA REGIONAL CORP.	7	6	10	5		28
SEALASKA CORP.	10	13	16	8	6	53
OUTSIDE ALASKA	5	12	31	35	5	88
TOTAL	144	209	240	152	27	772

TABLE 4.2D ADOPTIONS BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION WHERE DECREE WAS GRANTED, AND BY RACE OF ADOPTEE, ALASKA, 1997

NRC WHERE ADOPTION DECREE WAS GRANTED	RACE OF ADOPTEE					TOTAL
	WHITE	NATIVE	BLACK	ASIAN/PI	UNK	
AHTNA INC		1				1
ALEUT CORP.		1				1
ARCTIC SLOPE CORP.		10			1	11
BERING STRAITS CORP		27				27
BRISTOL BAY CORP.	1	7				8
CALISTA CORP.		68				68
CHUGACH NATIVES INC	2					2
COOK INLET REG CORP	207	76	22	13	46	364
DOYON LTD	77	17	2	5	10	111
KONIAG INC.	9			1		10
NANA REGIONAL CORP.	1	27				28
SEALASKA CORP.	22	16		4	11	53
OUTSIDE ALASKA	74	11	2	1		88
TOTAL	393	261	26	24	68	772

Adoptions may occur under several different circumstances. A child may be adopted by the spouse of a natural parent; a child may be adopted into a two-parent family; or a child may be adopted by a single parent. Of the 772 adoptions granted during 1997, 42.2% of the children were adopted by the spouse of a natural parent, 47.4% of the children were adopted by two parents, and 10.4% were adopted by single parents.

Table 4.3A shows races of natural and adoptive parents and the birth place of the child when the adopting parent is married to a natural parent. Table 4.3B shows races of adopting parents when neither parent is the natural parent. In those cases where either the mother or father is indicated by "NONE," the child was adopted by a single parent.

TABLE 4.3A ADOPTIONS BY RACES OF PARENTS (WHEN ADOPTIVE PARENT IS MARRIED TO NATURAL PARENT) AND BY CHILD'S PLACE OF BIRTH, ALASKA, 1997

RACE OF PARENTS		CHILD'S PLACE OF BIRTH			TOTAL
NATURAL	ADOPTIVE	ALASKA	USA	FOREIGN	
WHITE	WHITE	141	83	9	233
	NATIVE	4	1		5
	BLACK	5	3		8
	ASIAN	1	2		3
	UNKN	23			23
	TOTAL	174	89	9	272
NATIVE	WHITE	12	2		14
	NATIVE	17			17
	UNKN	1	1		2
	TOTAL	30	3		33
BLACK	WHITE	1	3		4
	BLACK	3	2		5
	TOTAL	4	5		9
ASIAN	WHITE	3	2	1	6
	NATIVE		1		1
	ASIAN	1			1
	TOTAL	4	3	1	8
UNKN	WHITE		1		1
	UNKN		3		3
	TOTAL		4		4
TOTAL		212	104	10	326

TABLE 4.3B ADOPTIONS BY RACES OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS (WHEN NEITHER PARENT IS THE NATURAL PARENT) AND CHILD'S PLACE OF BIRTH, ALASKA, 1997

RACE OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS		CHILD'S PLACE OF BIRTH			TOTAL
MOTHER	FATHER	ALASKA	USA	FOREIGN	
WHITE	WHITE	87	46	46	179
	NATIVE	18		1	19
	BLACK	7		1	8
	ASIAN	1		1	2
	NONE	12	6	11	29
	TOTAL	125	52	60	237
NATIVE	WHITE	14	1		15
	NATIVE	107	1		108
	BLACK	2			2
	ASIAN	1			1
	NONE	35			35
	TOTAL	159	2		161
BLACK	BLACK	5	1		6
	NONE	8	3		11
	TOTAL	13	4		17
ASIAN	WHITE			3	3
	ASIAN	2	1	4	7
	TOTAL	2	1	7	10
UNKN	UNKN	16	1		17
	NONE	2			2
	TOTAL	18	1		19
NONE	BLACK	1			1
	ASIAN	1			1
	TOTAL	2			2
TOTAL		319	60	67	446

TABLE 4.3C ADOPTIONS BY RACES OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS (WHEN NEITHER PARENT IS THE NATURAL PARENT) AND CHILD'S RACE, ALASKA, 1997¹

RACE OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS		RACE OF ADOPTEE					TOTAL
MOTHER	FATHER	WHITE	NATIVE	BLACK	ASIAN/PI	UNK	
WHITE	WHITE	96	30	1	8	44	179
	NATIVE	1	17			1	19
	BLACK	1	5	1		1	8
	ASIAN				1	1	2
	NONE	13	4	1	2	9	29
	TOTAL	111	56	3	11	56	237
NATIVE	WHITE	2	13				15
	NATIVE		108				108
	BLACK	1	1				2
	ASIAN		1				1
	NONE		35				35
	TOTAL	3	158				161
BLACK	BLACK			6			6
	NONE		2	8		1	11
	TOTAL		2	14		1	17
ASIAN	WHITE					3	3
	ASIAN		1		3	3	7
	TOTAL		1		3	6	10
UNKN	UNKN	8	8		1		17
	NONE	1	1				2
	TOTAL	9	9		1		19
NONE	BLACK		1				1
	ASIAN				1		1
	TOTAL		1		1		2
TOTAL		123	227	17	16	63	446

1 If natural father or natural mother is Native, child's race is Native; otherwise child's race is the same as the natural mother.

TABLE 4.4A ADOPTIONS BY CENSUS AREA WHERE ADOPTION DECREE WAS GRANTED, AND BY PARENT ADOPTING CHILD, ALASKA, 1997

CENSUS AREA WHERE DECREE WAS GRANTED	MOTHER AND FATHER	ADOPTING PARENT MARRIED TO NATURAL PARENT	SINGLE PARENT	TOTAL
ALEUTIANS WEST	1			1
ANCHORAGE	152	124	40	316
BETHEL	35	1	2	38
DILLINGHAM	5	1	1	7
FAIRBANKS NSB	33	66	2	101
JUNEAU BOROUGH	7	12	1	20
KENAI PENINSULA	9	20	1	30
KETCHIKAN	10	11	1	22
KODIAK ISLAND	3	7		10
LAKE-PENINSULA	1			1
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA	8	11		19
NOME	20	2	5	27
NORTH SLOPE	9		2	11
NORTHWEST ARCTIC	17	4	7	28
SITKA BOROUGH	4	1	2	7
VALDEZ-CORDOVA		1	1	2
WADE HAMPTON	22		8	30
WRANGELL-PETERSBG	3		1	4
YUKON-KOYUKUK	5	3	2	10
OUTSIDE ALASKA	22	62	4	88
TOTAL	366	326	80	772

TABLE 4.4B ADOPTIONS BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION WHERE DECREE WAS GRANTED, AND BY PARENT ADOPTING CHILD, ALASKA, 1997

NRC WHERE DECREE WAS GRANTED	MOTHER AND FATHER	ADOPTING PARENT MARRIED TO NATURAL PARENT	SINGLE PARENT	TOTAL
AHTNA INC			1	1
ALEUT CORP.	1			1
ARCTIC SLOPE CORP.	9		2	11
BERING STRAITS CORP	20	2	5	27
BRISTOL BAY CORP.	6	1	1	8
CALISTA CORP.	57	1	10	68
CHUGACH NATIVES INC		2		2
COOK INLET REG CORP	169	154	41	364
DOYON LTD	38	69	4	111
KONIAG INC.	3	7		10
NANA REGIONAL CORP.	17	4	7	28
SEALASKA CORP.	24	24	5	53
OUTSIDE ALASKA	22	62	4	88
TOTAL	366	326	80	772