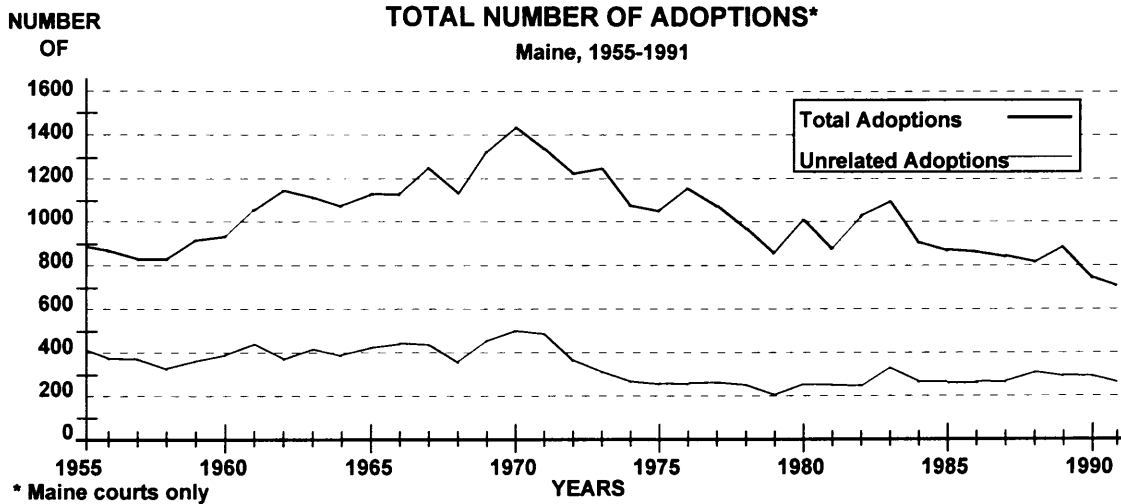


ADOPTIONS IN MAINE

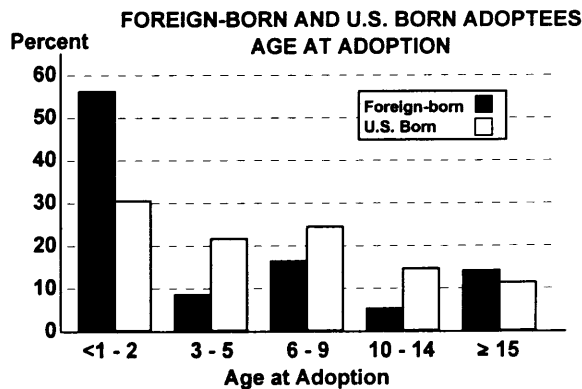
➔ In 1991, total adoptions reached a new forty-year low of 715 cases*. (This continues a downward trend started in 1971.)

➔ In 39% of these adoptions, the child was unrelated to either adoptive parent. These "unrelated adoptions" appear to be leveling off in recent years.



➔ Of the children adopted in 1991, 19% were less than 1 year old, an additional 34% were between 1 and 5 years old, 23% were between 6 and 9 years old, and 24% were 10 years old or older.

➔ Eight percent of the children adopted in Maine in 1991 were foreign-born; these children were more likely to be young with 56% of them 2 years old or younger, while only 30% of U.S. born adoptees were in this age group.



➔ More than half of Maine adoptions take place independently of any adoption agency or the Department of Human Services.

➔ Since the Adoption Reunion Registry was established in 1979, 1,000 persons (birth parents and adoptees) seeking voluntary contact with their biological families have enrolled; there have been 27 matches.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, Bureau of Health
at 35 Anthony Avenue, State House Station 11, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
The contact person is: Ellen Naor at 624-5445

For program information, please contact: the Bureau of Child and Family Services - 287-5060

John R. McKernan, Jr.
Governor



Jane Sheehan
Commissioner

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