

Exploring Family Coherence and Adaptability Among Adoptive Families

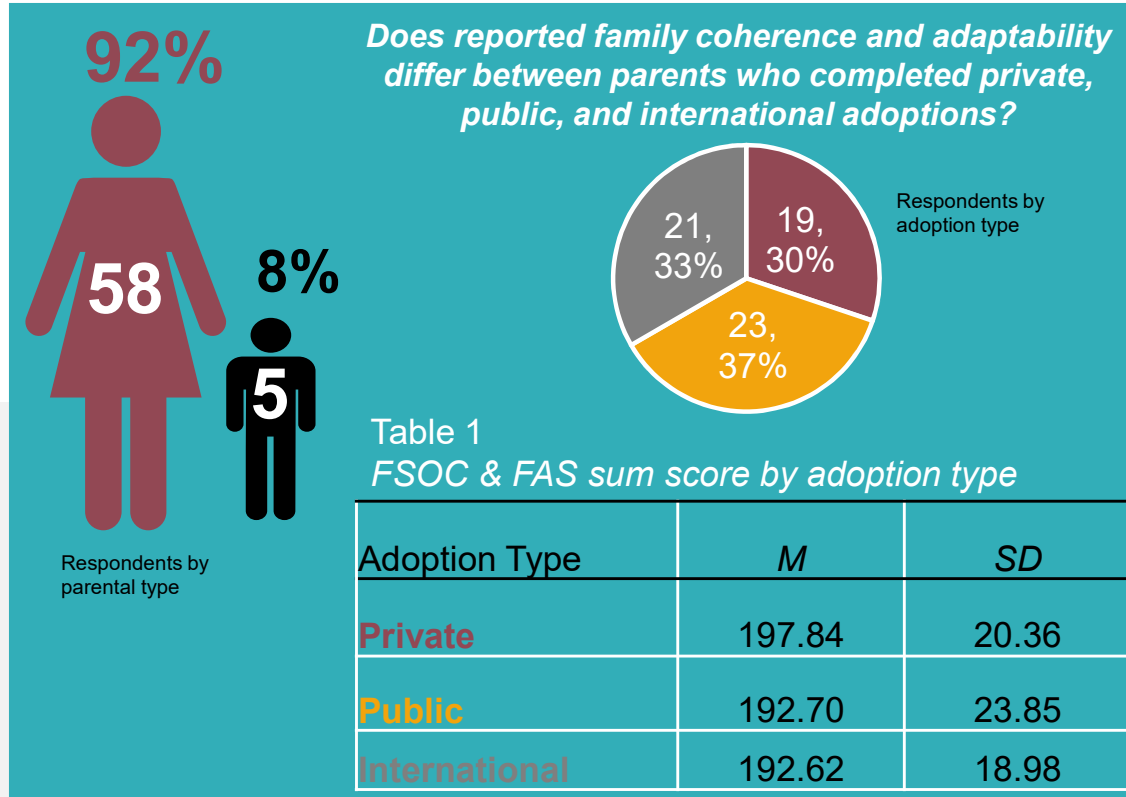
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Background

- There is little research on the role that the adoptive family environment plays in the outcomes of children beyond preadoptive risks (Ji et al., 2010).
- Ji et al. (2010) recognized family coherence as an important postadoptive factor.
- Crea et al. (2013) noted the need for additional postadoption services for families and suggested focusing on family dynamics and environment.
- Both higher family cohesion and adaptability mediated children from foster care's ADHD symptoms (Crea et al., 2013).

Methods

- Qualtrics online survey was distributed via Facebook.
- The survey utilized FSOC and FAS measures, developed by Antonovsky and Sourani (1988).
- The Family Sense of Coherence (FSOC) scale measures the family's confidence in meeting challenges.
- The Family Adaptation Scale (FAS) measures how satisfied the family is with its adaption to internal and external environments.
- The total sum score for both measures range from 36 to 252.
- Higher scores indicate higher cohesion and adaptability. Both have high Cronbach's α FSOC ($\alpha = .92$) and FAS ($\alpha = .87$; Corcoran & Fischer, 2013).



Analysis and Preliminary Results

- A one-way independent ANOVA was run to assess any difference in FSOC and FAS sum score by adoption type.
- Independent variable was type of adoption for child #1 (private, public, and international)
- Dependent variable was the sum score of the FSOC and FAS measures.
- Adoption type had no significant effect on sum scores, $F(2, 60) = .49, p = .61$.
- Per Table 1, the sample showed relatively high cohesion and adaptability based on mean sum scores for all three groups.

Conclusions

- FSOC and FAS sum scores did not differ by adoption type.
- These results suggest family cohesion and adaptability do not vary by adoption type.
- Results should be interpreted with caution as they may be reflective of other demographic characteristics of this sample, which is not representative of the entire population of U.S. adoptive families.

References

- Antonovsky, A., & Sourani, T. (1988). Family sense of coherence and family adaptation. *Journal of Marriage and the Family, 50*(2), 79-92.
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