

Parents and Professionals Identify Post Adoption Service Needs in New York State

**NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children
February 2010**

*No one understands what we face as adoptive parents.
We are often ridiculed and treated as the "bad guy"
rather than our child receiving the much needed help.*

Introduction

Post adoption services are for families who have adopted a child – privately, internationally or from foster care. Most children who are adopted do very well. However, some children have emotional, behavioral, medical, and learning problems as a result of the prior abuse and/or neglect they have suffered. Problems can be short-term or they can be on-going. Parents with children who are experiencing problems seek help to improve family dynamics and their child’s well-being and sometimes so that their child can live safely at home. Services can include support for parents over the telephone, a support group, respite, information & referral, or counseling by an adoption specialist. A survey was undertaken by the NYS Citizens’ Coalition for Children (NYSCCC) to help determine the post adoption service needs of families in New York State (NYS) in December 2009/January 2010. This report includes information on current programs in NYS, research on post adoption service needs of families, the survey results, and recommendations for future services.

Background

Currently, NYS is funding 13 post adoption programs serving 20 counties in NYS using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds with the funding ending in December 2010. However, many NYS families are not served by these programs because they are either not TANF eligible or in a geographic area served by these programs.

For families who can access these services, the programs have been shown to be helpful. Avery (2004) reports in an evaluation study of 2,000 children in more than 1,000 adoptive families served by 13 post adoption services grantee agencies in NYS, 80% of the families who participated in the survey “indicated that they were better off after receiving post-adoption services. Furthermore, 30% of them had a child at risk of out of home placement at the time they first called for post-adoption services. Of these families, 73% indicated that the child was able to remain in the home as a result of the help and support they received from the agencies.” Seventy-three percent of those responding to the survey equaled 33 families. The effectiveness of these services translates into cost savings for the State. If 33 children are put into family foster care at \$15,000 that equals a cost of \$495,000/year. If they are put into residential care at \$73,000 that equals a cost of \$2,409,000/year!

In addition to cost considerations, post adoption services can be essential in securing adoptive families for children in foster care; a lack of post adoption services can deter families from adopting (NYS CFSR p. 74 (2002) and p. 96 (2009)). “Stakeholders in the State consistently state that there are insufficient post adoption services to support adoptive families after finalization. They state that many adoptive families find the necessary services are not available in their area or there are waiting lists. Adoptive parents have identified difficulties seeking medical and mental health services and interacting with the legal system. Stakeholders knowledgeable about adoption in New York report that when asked if they would ever adopt again through the child welfare system, adoptive parents tend to be hesitant in their response. When asked why they are hesitant, the immediate response is lack of support and services.” (NYS OCFS Statewide Assessment Instrument 2007)

The notion that families are reluctant to make a lifetime commitment to a child without a promise of needed services is reflected in initial outcomes from the newly implemented resource-laden Medicaid Waiver program, Bridges to Health (B2H). A significantly higher permanency planning goal of adoption is shown (43.5% versus 25% for children in foster care in NYS as a whole) for some of the most challenging children (those who are medically fragile, developmentally disabled or seriously emotionally disturbed).

Research

Research focused on adoptive families has demonstrated a need for post adoption services. In a review of studies (Freundlich & Wright, pp. 27-29) the following services were identified as important to adoptive parents:

- *Support services, including support groups for parents, and informal contact with other families who have adopted children with special needs and help lines.*
- *Easily accessible information about services, supports, and resources.*
- *Parenting education, including practical help with children's needs.*
- *Respite care.*
- *Counseling, including assistance with children's attachment issues; guidance in responding to their adopted children's emotional, behavioral and developmental issues; assistance in dealing with the impact of adoption on their birth children; and help with life planning for their children.*
- *Crisis intervention services.*
- *Advocacy services, including assistance in negotiating the educational and mental health systems.*
- *Education assessment, special education services, and tutoring.*
- *Counseling services for their children, including group services for older children.*
- *Specialized children's services, including mental health services, outpatient drug and alcohol treatment, physical therapy, and special medical equipment.*

In the previously mentioned review (Avery, 2004) of thirteen community-based private agencies providing post adoption services in NYS, the most prevalent needs were for child behavior and emotional problems. Parents indicated in satisfaction surveys that parent support groups and parent education/training were the most used services. In keeping with this, Freundlich and Wright found in their review that parents are primarily in need of help with children's behavioral and emotional problems not their physical and developmental disabilities. Many issues don't surface until years after an adoption and therefore research has suggested that it is important to have services available on an on-going basis.

In her New York City study, "After Adoption: A Study of Placement Stability and Parents' Service Needs" (2001), Trudy Festinger writes, "It is clear that many families who adopted children from foster care feel abandoned and feel they do not know where to turn for information and support ... [they] had been accustomed to a variety of agency supports until the day they adopted. Their expressed unmet needs were many, and concerned an urgent need for informational assistance in general, as well as substantial needs in numerous substantive areas: after-school services, educational services, home assistance, clinical services, health services, housing assistance, vocational services, and legal assistance." (p.37)

In a nationwide study (McRoy, 2007) of 161 families (270 individual parents) who adopted children with special needs (child placed with family at 12-16 years, child spent years in foster care, etc.) and considered the placement successful, parents noted 38 post adoption services they received.

A study by Jeanne Howard (Dore, Chapter 1) of 1,343 families in Illinois gives an indication of the numbers of families that need post adoption services: 6% of kin, 14% of foster parent adopters and 21% of matched adopters found their child very difficult to raise. In a review of responses to open-ended questions in her study, Howard also found a varying response by type of adoption (p. 11): " kin adopters sought more information about their new roles (such as how to explain shifting relationships to the child

and how to set boundaries on the interaction between the birthparent and the child). Foster and matched parents sought preparation related to specific child problems or characteristics such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, attachment problems, and behavior management.”

There is currently no comprehensive overview of the extent of the need for services in New York State (NYS). Nor does NYS track the number of children who return to foster care after being adopted. However, as an indication of the extent of the problem, Pat O’Brien, Executive Director of You Gotta Believe (an agency that recruits families for teens), notes that a significant number of children they place with families were adopted previously and returned to foster care (personal communication, February 2009).

Survey Methodology

NYSCCC developed a 10-question survey instrument (see Appendix A) after a literature review on post adoption services and posted it on SurveyGizmo, an online survey tool. It was pilot tested with 10 parent support group leaders from various counties in NYS. The survey was then distributed twice, with a request to share it widely, over a four-week period through NYSCCC’s email list of roughly 1300 foster and adoptive parents and professionals. Three hundred and sixty-eight of the first emails were opened and 289 of the follow-up email were opened. The second email was also followed by individual emails to parent group leaders and agency professionals in counties where there were no or few responses to ask for their help in distributing the survey. The survey was also posted on the NYSCCC website.

As the survey responses were collected using convenience and snowballing techniques and were not randomly selected, they are not statistically representative of all adoptive families and professionals in New York State. While the response to the survey is significant especially considering it was sent by email, it most likely has an over-representation of families who are already using services – and received the survey through their parent group or agency rather than those families who don’t know how to access services.

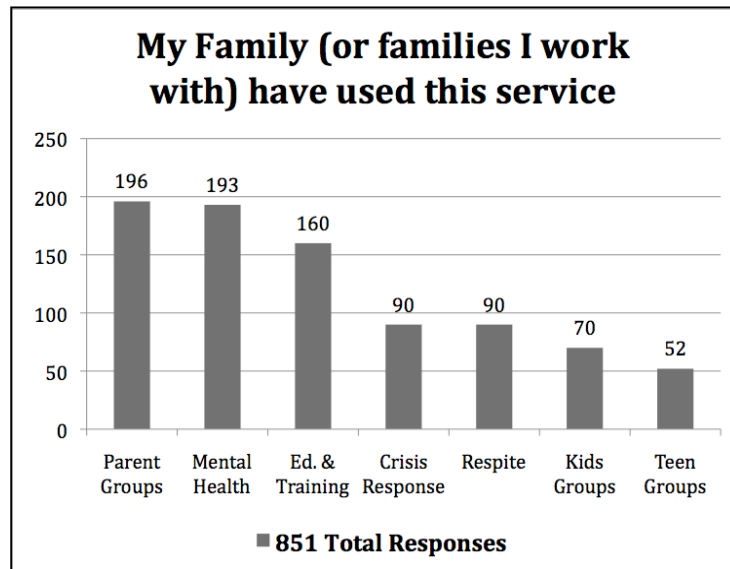
Survey Participants

The total number of participants was 451, with 69% (309) adoptive parents, 22% (101) professionals and 9% (41) both adoptive parents and professionals. Fifty-nine percent (266) of the participants had adopted a child from foster care. Surveys were received from every county in the state with the regional distribution as follows: Region 1 (36); Region 2 (28); Region 3 (94); Region 4 (123); Region 5 (86); and Region 6 (84). Region 6 (New York City) is clearly underrepresented considering the significant proportion of the State that resides there.

Survey Findings

The following are major findings from the survey and selected comments that are illustrative of the findings. See Appendix B for regional findings, Appendix C for statewide responses by type of service, and Appendix D for the number of respondents in each county. A summary report of complete survey responses and comments is posted on the NYSCCC website. Available county specific information can be obtained by contacting NYSCCC directly. Survey participants selected more than one answer in some cases and therefore totals do not add up to 100%.

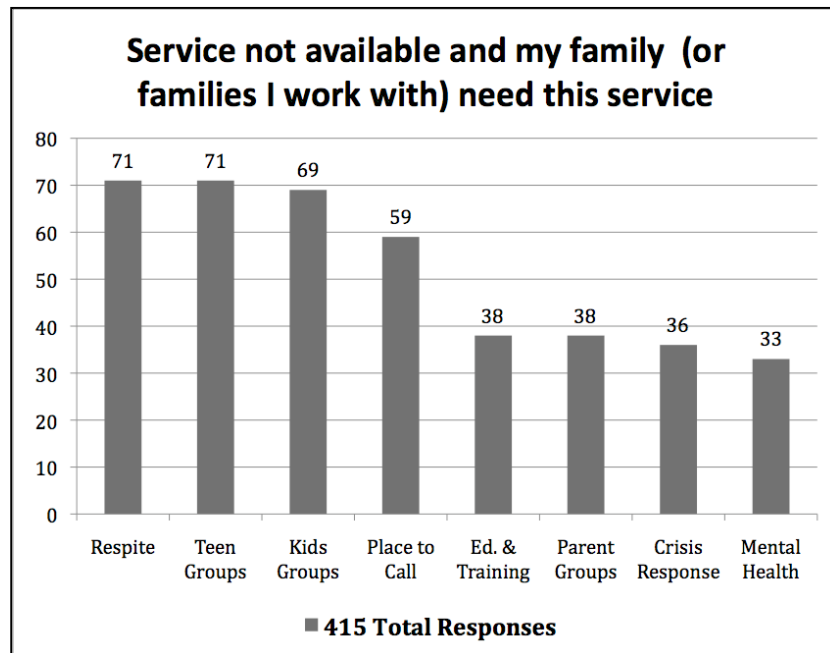
A. Commonly Used Services



It is not surprising that parent groups is listed as the number one used service because survey outreach included parent group leaders (NYSCCC has contact information for 88 foster and adoptive parent groups across the state) and they likely forwarded the survey on to their members. Additionally, parent groups, while time consuming to run, are inexpensive to organize. It should also be noted that many survey participants indicated that they (or families they have worked with) have used multiple services.

- *We did not discover Adoptive Families of Older Children until many years into our journey, when our son required residential school and we were just desperate for support. It's been useful to know that others have experienced the same extreme difficulties, and what they have done to cope with them. (Parent)*
- *[My] County offers on-going trainings and makes on-line courses available as well. Early Intervention has been a great source of training and support for our delayed foster baby. (Parent)*
- *As a part of the adoption agreement, my children visit with biological parents 4 times a year. [My agency] allows me to not be worried about the children interacting with the biological parents as they are supervised by a mentor. They also are very supportive and I look to them when I have a concern regarding the children. (Parent)*
- *These services are widely available in NYC, although not adoption-specific. We paid for most services privately, helped along by insurance at times, in order to find the therapists of our choosing. I don't know exactly what is available for families which have Medicaid only - would like to know in order to refer. (Parent)*
- *We received respite services thru [our local Independent Living Center] until my son was 18, This was such a great help to us. We could have used some support after that time too. (Parent)*

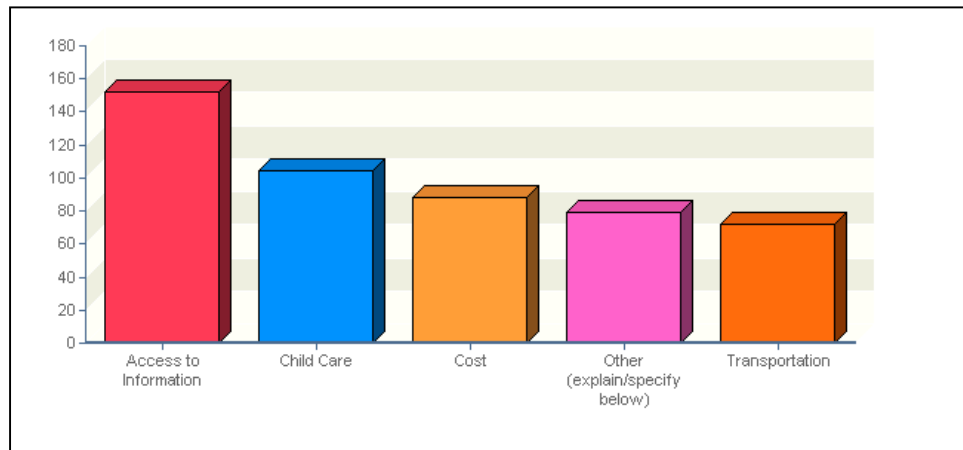
B. Services That are Needed and Not Available



The survey did not identify different types of respite and it was clear from the comments that participants had varying needs with regard to this service. Responses were fairly consistent across the regions with the exception of Region 2 where Respite and Crisis Response were identified as needed by the most participants, and need for a Place to Call was only identified by one participant.

- *I cannot find good respite help. We need people who just do respite, not a little respite as a 2nd job. I have 3 children 2 with significant needs and I need a break. If I had adequate support I would adopt 3 more. (Parent)*
- *Families need more than support groups. They are in need of individual and family counseling at reasonable cost. This issue amplifies when you have a child with multiple diagnoses MR/MH. Also, respite services for children who have just MH diagnosis. This would be for community based and free standing respite options. For children who are adopted these services need to be sensitive to the issues of attachment in adoption. (Parent/Professional, Albany)*
- *I would love to have more gap programs that address the weeks off from school. That is typically our hardest time. We also need mental health services without having to access OMH. I would also like some sort of therapy service to address 1 parent households in adoption, and dealing with siblings that have special needs. (Parent)*
- *It is difficult to hire a 'babysitter' for a 14 year old and an 11 year old who appear 'normal' but have poor impulse control, anger management issues and fear issues that render them unsafe left alone. I need someone who comes qualified, not who I have to train. I also have an 11 year old 'healthy' adopted child who gets the short end of the stick too often. I also need trained educational advocates. The school system DOES NOT UNDERSTAND attachment issues. (Parent)*
- *A network of connected services with adoption specialists who understand the unique challenges our families face. A resource access point specific to post-adoption support. (Professional)*

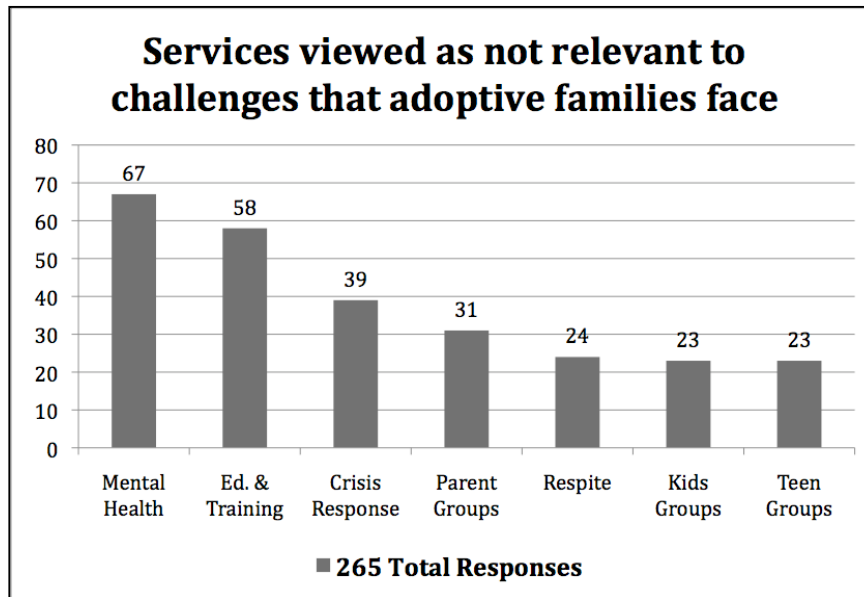
C. Barriers to Accessing Services



The most significant barriers noted by participants (495 total) were access to information (31%), child care (21%), cost (18%) and transportation (15%). When looking at the data on a regional basis, barriers were listed in the same order of significance with the exception of Region 5, which had access to information, transportation, cost and child care in that order. In fact when asked about specific types of services, participants noted that they did not know about the availability of multiple services (1,257 responses) in their county suggesting that access to information is a significant barrier. Many participants listed other barriers as well. Some of these included: time; fear of having children taken away if services are sought; lack of communication between departments within the county; and poor quality of services.

- *It would be very useful to have easy access to a list of services and providers dealing with adoption (perhaps at the court procedure when adoption is finalized) and at family services and at the public schools. It was very hard to find a mental health provider to help us with the unique challenges of dealing with an international adoption. (Parent)*
- *There is just no "one place" to look for adoption help. I've tried to find therapists who specialize in adoption issues. They do not exist in the public sector and most of the private ones don't accept any insurance. There is no one to call for respite or crisis help in the Bronx that I know of. (Parent and Professional)*
- *Many Adoptive Parents are unaware of the Post Adoption Services available. Professionals may also be unaware of what type of services are provided and there seems to be no centralized place where to obtain detailed information. Spanish speaking services are also needed. (Professional)*
- *Childcare for kids with reactive attachment disorder. My husband and I are desperate for some respite/time for us as well as ability to have someone who know how to manage a RAD child so that we can go for support groups etc. (Parent)*
- *Many families are isolated, can't get to meetings, there is no care at meetings or they can't afford services. (Professional)*

D. Services That Are Available But Viewed as Not Relevant to Challenges Faced by Adoptive Families



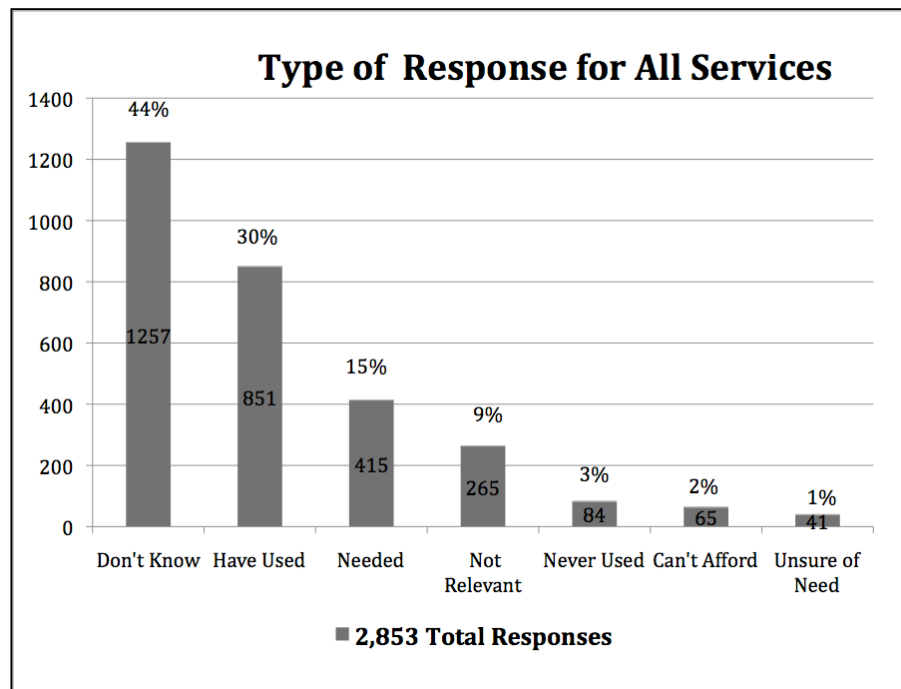
For the State as a whole, mental health services and education (many parents seek education to remediate behavioral/mental health issues at home) were the top services that weren't meeting families' needs. While families are using mental health services (see A: Commonly Used Services), quality of the service appears to be a bigger issue than cost. This is reflected in many of the comments as well.

With regard to services not being relevant to challenges faced by adoptive families, regional differences were notable: Region 6 (New York City) indicted education as the top available service that was not relevant to challenges that adoptive families face (mental health services were fourth following teen groups and crisis services). Region 5 (Spring Valley) had equal responses for education and mental health services as the top available services that weren't relevant to challenges that adoptive families face.

- *Very few mental health professionals have an expertise in adoption. While we offer a great deal of professional training, most say they don't have time/can't afford to lose a day of work, or that their knowledge of psycho-developmental issues and/or loss and grief adequately equip them to assist adoptive families. Our adoptive families vehemently disagree. (Professional)*
- *My kids were adopted older, and the number of mental health providers who accept Medicaid is very small. The number of professionals who accept Medicaid AND are experienced with adoption issues are almost non-existent. (Parent)*
- *We didn't need just "normal" parent education, we needed info on children with severe behavior problems (mostly of the oppositional type, mixed in with PTSD and panic attacks). We couldn't locate any group which provided this on an on-going basis. (Parent)*

- *Adoption specific parent training and education are rare to be offered. In [my county] where I live there are offerings, but they are limited to a few service providers. Support groups offer a range of educational resources in addition to their core functions but are not specific to family or children's needs by definition. (Parent)*
- *We've used [crisis services] and it is not at all what you would expect. We called and were informed of certain times to call or else the police would need to respond. How embarrassing. We cannot predict when the outbursts are going to happen, where they are going to happen, and how long they will last. It's bad enough to have to deal with them, but to be embarrassed to leave my home and wonder what everyone must think is not the help we want. (Parent)*

E. Summary



By combining all responses together, some conclusions can be cautiously drawn. Participants across the State are using services now to support their families. Although there is also evidence that more services are needed and that some of the services currently provided are not relevant to challenges that families are facing.

The significantly large percentage (44%) of "Don't Know if Service Available" responses indicates that many participants are unaware of services that may already exist in their community. It is quite possible that some needs could be met with currently available services, especially those provided by other systems such as the Office of Mental Health or the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

And lastly, although cost of services is a factor, it is relatively minor compared to other concerns. However, it should be noted that many comments made by participants express concern about the quality of services (especially mental health) provided through Medicaid.

Recommendations

The volume of responses to this online survey as well as the information gathered clearly indicate that post adoption services are needed across New York State for adoptive families formed through foster care, internationally and domestically (private). And significantly, the findings of this survey reinforce what is already known through research and experience about the needs of adoptive families in NYS. It is recommended that NYS through the Office of Children and Family Services and in collaboration with the Office of Mental Health take the following steps to address these needs:

1. **Develop a central or regionally-based offices staffed by trained, adoptive parents where families can find information regarding services.** Outreach would be needed to share information about the hotline/website with all adoptive families. At a minimum, for those families who have adopted from foster care, the contact information could be printed on adoption subsidy checks.
2. **Provide more training for mental health and service providers on adoption specific issues.** The lack of knowledge about adoption issues seems to be particularly acute with providers who accept Medicaid. Expansion of the Adoption Competence Training course at Hunter College or others should be explored.
3. **Explore alliances with other nationally-known mental health centers for adoption.** These centers could provide telephone support services for families and/or therapists for a fee. Families could receive support for their specific situation and therapists could consult on their work with families.
4. **Strengthen support groups across the State.** Funds should be provided for child care for parent groups and for the development of groups for youth. Information for education of parents in groups should be available through the central/regionally-based offices (see #1 above) and coordination with the Center for the Development of Human Services (CDHS).
5. **Explore grants for respite across the state.** Coordinate with NACAC on the national respite project funded through AdoptUsKids and gather additional information to find out what works (Respite projects are being funded through an AdoptUsKids' mini-grant in NYS now).

References

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NYSCCC Post Adoption Services Survey

Page One

Please answer the NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children's brief survey about the availability of post adoption services in your county. Advocating for these services is NYSCCC's most important advocacy issue this year. We want to know what families need in your county!

Questions marked with a * require an answer

1. Are you an adoptive parent, an adoption professional, or both?

(Required)

Adoptive Parent

Adoption Professional

Both

2. What New York State county do you live or work in?

(Required)

Page Two Services

Please tell us about the availability of the following Post Adoption Services in the NYS county you live or work in.

Check all boxes that apply for each question & Use optional textbox for additional comments or explanations.

3. Is there a place to call for information about post adoption services in your county?
(Required)

- Yes
- No, information hotline needed
- No need
- Don't know if information hotline available

Information hotline other (optional)

4. Tell us about the adoption support groups in your county.

	Parent Groups	Kids Groups	Teen Groups
My family (or families I work with) have used this service			
Available but I've never used			
Available services don't meet adoptive family needs			
Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services			
Not available and my family (or families I work with) need this service			
Not available, unsure/unaware of need			
Don't know if service is available			

Support group other (optional)

Page Three Services Contd.

5. Is ongoing parent education and training available in your county?
(Required)

- My family (or families I work with) have used this service
- Available but I've never used this type of service
- Available services not relevant to challenges that face adoptive families
- Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services
- Not available and my family (or families) I work with need this service
- Not available, unsure/unaware of need
- Don't know if service available

Education and training other (optional)

6. Are mental health services available in your county?
(Required)

- My family (or families I work with) have used this service
- Available but I've never used this type of service
- Available services not relevant to challenges that face adoptive families
- Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services
- Not available and my family (or families I work with) need this service
- Not available, unsure/unaware of need
- Don't know if service available

Mental health services other (optional)

Page Four Services Contd.

7. Are respite services available in your county?
(Required)

- My family (or families I work with) have used this service
- Available but I've never used this type of service
- Available services not relevant to challenges that face adoptive families
- Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services
- Not available and my family (or families) I work with need this service
- Not available, unsure/unaware of need
- Don't know if service available

Respite other (optional)

Are crisis response services available in your county?
(Required)

- My family (or families I work with) have used this service
- Available but I've never used this type of service
- Available services not relevant to challenges that face adoptive families
- Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services
- Not available and my family (or families I work with) need this services
- Not available, unsure/unaware of need
- Don't know if service available

Crisis response other (optional)

Page Five Comments

8. Tell us about any barriers you have experienced in accessing existing services in your community.

- Transportation
- Child Care
- Cost
- Access to Information
- Other (explain/specify below)

Service barrier other & comments

9. Tell us about needed post adoption services that are missing in your community.

10. Have you ever adopted a child from foster care? (Required)

- Yes
- No

Problems with Accessing Services and Services Used All of New York State

of Respondents 451

Don't Know if Service is Available

Place to Call	228
Crisis Response	172
Respite Svcs	162
Education	161
Kid Groups	158
Teen Groups	152
parent Groups	129
Mental Health Svcs	95

Total Don't Know Responses: 1,257

Service Not Available and my family (or families I work with) need this service

Total Respite Needed	71
Total Teen Grp needed	71
Total Kid G needed	69
Total I&R needed	59
Total Ed Needed	38
Total PG Needed	38
Total Crisis Needed	36
Total MH Needed	33

Total Not Available and Needed Responses: 415

Services viewed as not relevant to challenges that adoptive families face

Total MH Not Relevant	67
Total Ed Not Relevant	58
Total Crisis Not Relevant	39
Total PG Doesn't Meet Needs	31
Total Respite Not Relevant	24
Total Kids Doesn't Meet Needs	23
Total Teen Doesn't Meet Needs	23

Total Avail Svcs Not Relevant Responses: 265

Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services

Total MH Can't Afford	24
Total PG Can't Afford	12
Total Respite Can't Afford	9
Total Kid Can't Afford	7
Total Teen Can't Afford	7
Total Ed Can't Afford	4
Total Crisis Can't Afford	2

Total Available but Can't Afford Responses: 65

My Family or Families I work with have used this service

Total PG Used	196
Total MH Used	193
Total Ed Used	160
Total Respite Used	90
Total Crisis Used	90
Total Kids Grp Used	70
Total Teen Grp Used	52

Total Used Responses: 851

Total Access to Info Barrier	152
Total Child Care Barrier	104
Total Cost Barrier	88
Total Transportation Barrier	72
Total Other Barrier	79

Total Barrier Responses: 495

Problems with Accessing Services and Services Used Buffalo Region

Region **1**

of Respondents **36**

Don't Know if Service is Available

Place to Call	12
Teen Groups	12
Kid Groups	12
Education	8
Crisis Response	8
parent Groups	8
Respite Svcs	3
Mental Health Svcs	3

Total Don't Know Responses: 66

Service Not Available and my family (or families I work with) need this service

Total Teen Grp needed	7
Total Kid G needed	6
Total Respite Needed	6
Total I&R needed	4
Total MH Needed	4
Total Ed Needed	3
Total PG Needed	3
Total Crisis Needed	1

Total Not Available and Needed Responses: 34

Services viewed as not relevant to challenges that adoptive families face

Total MH Not Relevant	4
Total Teen Doesn't Meet Needs	4
Total Respite Not Relevant	3
Total Kids Doesn't Meet Needs	3
Total PG Doesn't Meet Needs	2
Total Crisis Not Relevant	2
Total Ed Not Relevant	2

Total Avail Servcs Not Relevant Responses: 20

Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services

Total MH Can't Afford	1
Total Respite Can't Afford	1
Total PG Can't Afford	0
Total Teen Can't Afford	0
Total Ed Can't Afford	0
Total Crisis Can't Afford	0
Total Kid Can't Afford	0

Total Available but Can't Afford Responses: 2

My Family (or families I work with) have used this service

Total MH Used	20
Total PG Used	19
Total Ed Used	18
Total Respite Used	8
Total Crisis Used	8
Total Kids Grp Used	7
Total Teen Grp Used	3

Total Used Responses: 83

Total Access to Info Barrier	14
Total Child Care Barrier	9
Total Cost Barrier	9
Total Transportation Barrier	5
Total Other Barrier	5

Total Barrier Responses: 42

Problems with Accessing Services and Services Used Rochester Region

of Respondents 28

Region 2

Don't Know if Service is Available

Place to Call	16
Education	14
Teen Groups	13
Kid Groups	12
parent Groups	11
Crisis Response	10
Respite Svcs	9
Mental Health Svcs	5

Total Don't Know Responses: 90

Service Not Available and my family (or families I work with) need this service

Total Respite Needed	5
Total Crisis Needed	4
Total Kid G needed	3
Total Teen Grp needed	3
Total PG Needed	2
Total MH Needed	1
Total I&R needed	1
Total Ed Needed	0

Total Not Available and Needed Responses: 19

Services viewed as not relevant to challenges that adoptive families face

Total MH Not Relevant	6
Total Ed Not Relevant	3
Total PG Doesn't Meet Needs	3
Total Crisis Not Relevant	2
Total Kids Doesn't Meet Needs	2
Total Teen Doesn't Meet Needs	1
Total Respite Not Relevant	0

Total Avail Servcs Not Relevant Responses: 17

Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services

Total PG Can't Afford	4
Total Teen Can't Afford	3
Total MH Can't Afford	2
Total Kid Can't Afford	2
Total Respite Can't Afford	0
Total Ed Can't Afford	0
Total Crisis Can't Afford	0

Total Available but Can't Afford Responses: 11

My Family (or families I work with) have used this service

Total PG Used	11
Total Ed Used	11
Total MH Used	9
Total Teen Grp Used	3
Total Respite Used	2
Total Crisis Used	2
Total Kids Grp Used	1

Total Used Responses: 39

Total Access to Info Barrier	8
Total Cost Barrier	6
Total Child Care Barrier	5
Total Transportation Barrier	4
Total Other Barrier	4

Total Barrier Responses: 27

Region 3

Don't Know if Service is Available

Place to Call	47
Crisis Response	37
Kid Groups	33
Teen Groups	31
Education	31
Respite Svcs	30
parent Groups	26
Mental Health Svcs	16

Total Don't Know Responses: 251**Service Not Available and my family (or families I work with) need this service**

Total Kid G needed	20
Total Teen Grp needed	19
Total Respite Needed	19
Total I&R needed	17
Total PG Needed	12
Total Crisis Needed	12
Total MH Needed	11
Total Ed Needed	6

Total Not Available and Needed Responses: 116**Services viewed as not relevant to challenges that adoptive families face**

Total MH Not Relevant	22
Total Ed Not Relevant	16
Total PG Doesn't Meet Needs	13
Total Crisis Not Relevant	12
Total Respite Not Relevant	7
Total Kids Doesn't Meet Needs	5
Total Teen Doesn't Meet Needs	3

Total Avail Svcs Not Relevant Responses: 78**Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services**

Total MH Can't Afford	8
Total PG Can't Afford	3
Total Respite Can't Afford	1
Total Kid Can't Afford	1
Total Ed Can't Afford	0
Total Crisis Can't Afford	0
Total Teen Can't Afford	0

Total Available but Can't Afford Responses: 13**My Family (or families I work with) have used this service**

Total MH Used	38
Total Ed Used	35
Total PG Used	31
Total Respite Used	16
Total Crisis Used	16
Total Kids Grp Used	7
Total Teen Grp Used	7

Total Used Responses: 150

Total Access to Info Barrier	38
Total Child Care Barrier	33
Total Cost Barrier	24
Total Transportation Barrier	18
Total Other Barrier	26

Total Barrier Responses: 139

Problems with Accessing Services and Services Used Albany Region

of Respondents 123

Region 4

Don't Know if Service is Available

Place to Call	70
Crisis Response	46
Teen Groups	46
Kid Groups	46
Education	45
Respite Svcs	45
parent Groups	42
Mental Health Svcs	27

Total Don't Know Responses: 360

Service Not Available and my family (or families I work with) need this service

Total Kid G needed	20
Total Teen Grp needed	19
Total Respite Needed	17
Total Ed Needed	15
Total I&R needed	14
Total PG Needed	13
Total Crisis Needed	11
Total MH Needed	8

Total Not Available and Needed Responses: 117

Services viewed as not relevant to challenges that adoptive families face

Total MH Not Relevant	15
Total Ed Not Relevant	10
Total Crisis Not Relevant	8
Total Respite Not Relevant	7
Total PG Doesn't Meet Needs	5
Total Teen Doesn't Meet Needs	4
Total Kids Doesn't Meet Needs	5

Total Avail Servcs Not Relevant Responses: 54

Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services

Total MH Can't Afford	4
Total PG Can't Afford	4
Total Respite Can't Afford	4
Total Teen Can't Afford	3
Total Ed Can't Afford	3
Total Crisis Can't Afford	2
Total Kid Can't Afford	1

Total Available but Can't Afford Responses: 21

My Family (or families I work with) have used this service

Total MH Used	46
Total PG Used	41
Total Ed Used	37
Total Respite Used	29
Total Kids Grp Used	17
Total Crisis Used	29
Total Teen Grp Used	8

Total Used Responses: 207

Total Access to Info Barrier	30
Total Child Care Barrier	29
Total Cost Barrier	24
Total Transportation Barrier	21
Total Other Barrier	19

Total Barrier Responses: 123

Problems with Accessing Services and Services Used Spring Valley Region

Region 5

Don't Know if Service is Available

Place to Call	40
Respite Svcs	34
Crisis Response	34
Education	32
Kid Groups	29
Teen Groups	28
parent Groups	23
Mental Health Svcs	21

Total Don't Know Responses: 241

Service Not Available and my family (or families I work with) need this service

Total Respite Needed	15
Total I&R needed	10
Total Teen Grp needed	9
Total Kid G needed	7
Total Ed Needed	7
Total MH Needed	5
Total Crisis Needed	3
Total PG Needed	2

Total Not Available and Needed Responses: 58

Services viewed as not relevant to challenges that adoptive families face

Total Ed Not Relevant	13
Total MH Not Relevant	13
Total Crisis Not Relevant	7
Total Respite Not Relevant	5
Total Kids Doesn't Meet Needs	2
Total PG Doesn't Meet Needs	1
Total Teen Doesn't Meet Needs	1

Total Avail Servcs Not Relevant Responses: 42

Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services

Total MH Can't Afford	7
Total Respite Can't Afford	2
Total PG Can't Afford	0
Total Kid Can't Afford	0
Total Teen Can't Afford	0
Total Ed Can't Afford	0
Total Crisis Can't Afford	0

Total Available but Can't Afford Responses: 9

My Family (or families I work with) have used this service

Total PG Used	47
Total MH Used	37
Total Ed Used	34
Total Kids Grp Used	23
Total Respite Used	18
Total Crisis Used	18
Total Teen Grp Used	16

Total Used Responses: 193

Total Access to Info Barrier	25
Total Transportation Barrier	16
Total Cost Barrier	12
Total Child Care Barrier	11
Total Other Barrier	17

Total Barrier Responses: 81

Problems with Accessing Services and Services Used New York City Region

of Respondents **84**Region **6****Don't Know if Service is Available**

Place to Call	43
Respite Svcs	41
Crisis Response	37
Education	31
Kid Groups	26
Mental Health Svcs	23
Teen Groups	22
parent Groups	19

Total Don't Know Responses: 242**Service Not Available and my family (or families I work with) need this service**

Total Teen Grp needed	14
Total Kid G needed	13
Total I&R needed	13
Total Respite Needed	9
Total Ed Needed	7
Total PG Needed	6
Total Crisis Needed	5
Total MH Needed	4

Total Not Available and Needed Responses: 71**Services viewed as not relevant to challenges that adoptive families face**

Total Ed Not Relevant	14
Total Teen Doesn't Meet Needs	9
Total Crisis Not Relevant	8
Total MH Not Relevant	7
Total PG Doesn't Meet Needs	7
Total Kids Doesn't Meet Needs	7
Total Respite Not Relevant	2

Total Avail Servcs Not Relevant Responses: 54**Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services**

Total Kid Can't Afford	3
Total MH Can't Afford	2
Total PG Can't Afford	1
Total Respite Can't Afford	1
Total Teen Can't Afford	1
Total Ed Can't Afford	1
Total Crisis Can't Afford	0

Total Available but Can't Afford Responses: 9**My Family (or families I work with) have used this service**

Total PG Used	47
Total MH Used	43
Total Ed Used	25
Total Respite Used	17
Total Crisis Used	17
Total Kids Grp Used	15
Total Teen Grp Used	15

Total Used Responses: 179

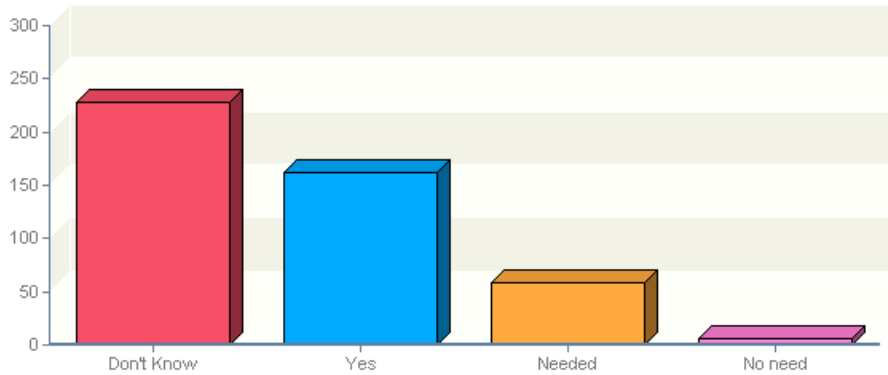
Total Access to Info Barrier	37
Total Child Care Barrier	17
Total Cost Barrier	13
Total Transportation Barrier	8
Total Other Barrier	8

Total Barrier Responses: 83

Appendix C

Statewide Responses by Type of Service

3. Is there a place to call for information about post adoption services in your county?

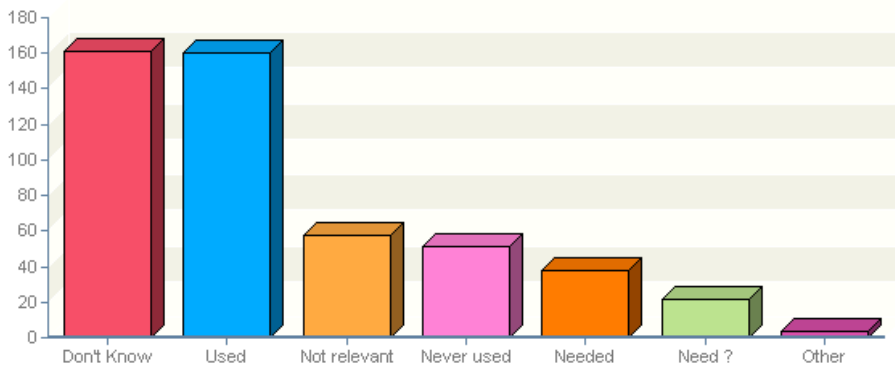


Don't know:	228	50.55%
Yes:	162	35.92%
Needed:	59	13.08%
No need:	6	1.33%

4. Tell us about the adoption support groups in your county.

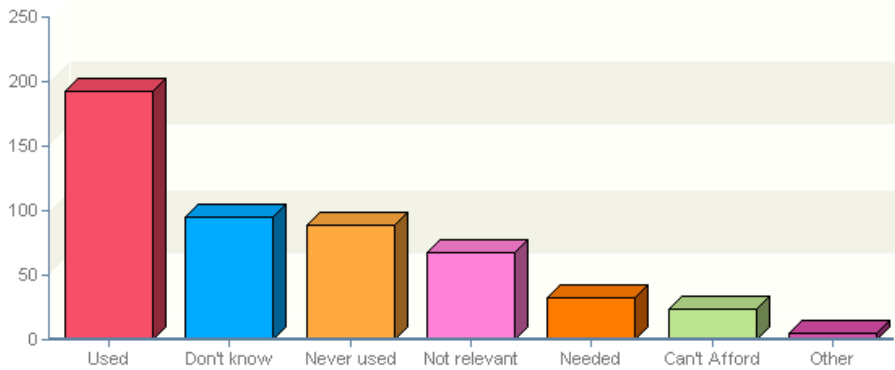
Item	Parent Groups	Kid Groups	Teen Groups	Total
My family (or families I work with) have used this service	61.6% 196	22.0% 70	16.4% 52	318
Available but I've never used	42.7% 67	31.8% 50	25.5% 40	157
Available services don't meet adoptive family needs	40.3% 31	29.9% 23	29.9% 23	77
Available but my family (or families I work with) can't afford services	46.2% 12	26.9% 7	26.9% 7	26
Not available and my family (or families I work with) need this service	21.3% 38	38.8% 69	39.9% 71	178
Not available, unsure/unaware of need	28.1% 34	38.0% 46	33.9% 41	121
Don't know if service is available	29.4% 129	36.0% 158	34.6% 152	439

5. Is ongoing parent education and training available in your county?



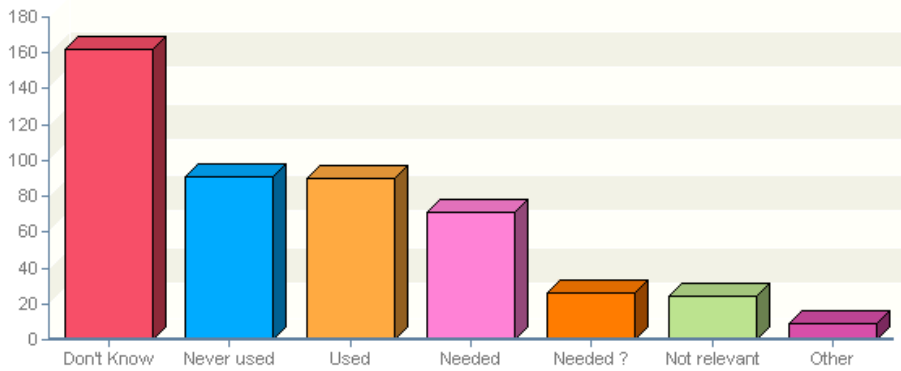
Don't know:	161	35.70%
Used:	160	35.48%
Not relevant:	58	12.86%
Never used:	51	11.31%
Needed:	38	8.43%
Need ?:	22	4.88%
Can't afford:	4	0.89%

6. Are mental health services available in your county?



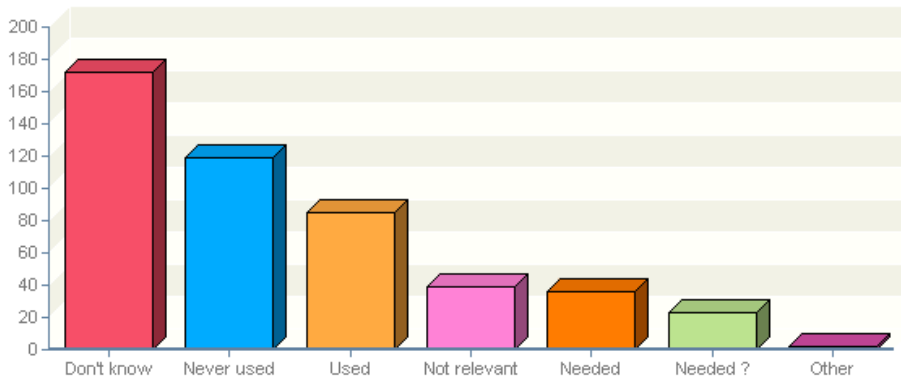
Used:	193	42.79%
Don't know:	95	21.06%
Never used:	89	19.73%
Not relevant:	67	14.86%
Needed:	33	7.32%
Can't Afford:	24	5.32%
Needed ?:	5	1.11%

7. Are respite services available in your county?



Don't know;	162	35.92%
Never used:	91	20.18%
Used:	90	19.96%
Needed:	71	15.74%
Needed ?	26	5.76%
Not relevant:	24	5.32%
Can't afford	9	2.00%

8. Are crisis response services available in your county?



Don't know:	172	38.14%
Never used:	119	26.39%
Used:	85	18.85%
Not relevant:	39	8.65%
Needed:	36	7.98%
Needed ?:	23	5.10%
Can't Afford:	2	0.44%

Appendix D

Number of Survey Respondents per County

<u>County</u>	<u># of respondents</u>	
1. New York	52	11.53%
2. Albany	31	6.87%
3. Onondaga	26	5.76%
4. Saratoga	23	5.10%
5. Erie	20	4.43%
6. Monroe	18	3.99%
7. Nassau	17	3.77%
8. Orange	16	3.55%
9. Westchester	16	3.55%
10. Madison	15	3.33%
11. Schenectady	15	3.33%
12. suffolk	15	3.33%
13. Dutchess	14	3.10%
14. Kings	14	3.10%
15. Otsego	11	2.44%
16. Rensselaer	11	2.44%
17. Cattaraugus	10	2.22%
18. Cayuga	9	2.00%
19. Bronx	8	1.77%
20. Queens	8	1.77%
21. Clinton	7	1.55%
22. Oswego	7	1.55%
23. Tompkins	7	1.55%
24. Broome	6	1.33%
25. Jefferson	6	1.33%
26. Columbia	5	1.11%
27. Oneida	5	1.11%
28. Montgomery	4	0.89%
29. Schoharie	4	0.89%
30. St. Lawrence	4	0.89%
31. Ulster	4	0.89%
32. Washington	4	0.89%
33. Allegany	3	0.67%
34. Essex	3	0.67%
35. Greene	3	0.67%
36. Ontario	3	0.67%
37. Chemung	2	0.44%
38. Cortland	2	0.44%
39. Herkimer	2	0.44%
40. Livingston	2	0.44%
41. Niagara	2	0.44%
42. Richmond	2	0.44%
43. Rockland	2	0.44%
44. Saint Lawrence	2	0.44%
45. Seneca	2	0.44%
46. Chautauqua	1	0.22%
47. Chenango	1	0.22%
48. Fulton	1	0.22%
49. genesee	1	0.22%
50. Putnam	1	0.22%
51. Steuben	1	0.22%
52. Sullivan	1	0.22%
53. Tioga	1	0.22%
54. Warren	1	0.22%