Adoption and Special Guardianship Data

Adopter Characteristics

October 2024

HEADLINE SUMMARY

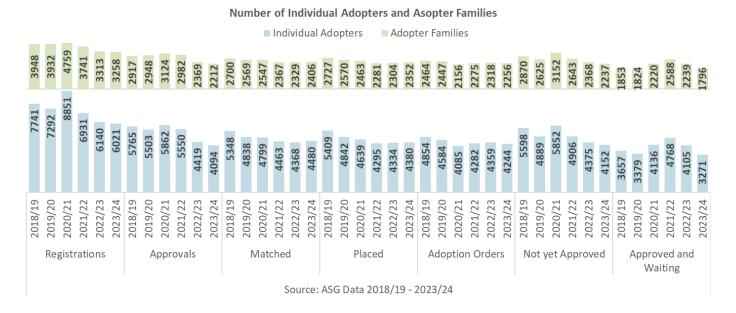
During the period 2018/19 to 2023/24 there has been:

- A decline in the number of individual adopters and adopter families at all stages of the adoption process. In 2023/24, there were **3271** individual adopters and **1796** adopter families approved and waiting.
- A decline in the number and proportion of VAA individual adopters and adopter families. In 2023/24, 21% of adopters approved and waiting were VAA adopters.
- An increase in the proportions of one person adopter families, except at the adoption order stage which has remained the same. In 2023/24, 10% of adopter families approved and waiting were one person adopter families.
- No change in the proportion of adopters recorded as having a disability, except for an increase at not yet approved. In 2023/24, **1%** of adopters approved and waiting, and **2%** of adopters not yet approved were recorded as having a disability.
- No change in the proportion of adopters identifying as male or female. In 2023/24, **49**% of adopters approved and waiting identified as male, and **50**% identified as female.
- An increase in the proportion of one person adopter families who identify as male, which is now starting to decrease. In 2023/24, 8% of one person adopters identified as male.
- No change in adopters aged 30 to 39 accounting for the largest proportion of registrations, approvals, matched, placed, and not yet approved, and adopters aged 40 to 49 accounting for the largest proportion of adoption orders, and approved and waiting. In 2023/23, **48**% of adopters approved and waiting were aged 40 to 49.
- An increase in the proportion of Ethnic Minority adopters, except at adoption orders where the proportion has remained the same. Asian or Asian British us the largest represented Ethnic Minority. In 2023/24, **18**% of adopters approved and waiting were from an Ethnic Minority, and **11**% were Asian or Asian British.
- A decrease in the proportion of adopters who are recorded as having a religion. Christian remains the largest represented religion. In 2023/24, **51%** of adopters approved and waiting were recorded as having a religion, and **37%** stated that they were Christian.
- An increase in the proportion of adopters who identify as LGBTQIA+. In 2023/24, **18%** of adopters approved and waiting identified as LGBTQIA+.
- A decrease in the proportion of two person adopters who were recorded as married. In 2023/24, 67% of adopters approved and waiting were married.
- A decrease in the proportion of adopting couples who are different sex, and an increase in adopting couples who are same sex. In 2023/24, **20**% of adopters approved and waiting were in same sex couples: **14**% identified as both male and **6**% identified as both female.
- An increase in the average time from enquiry to adoption order. In 2023/24, the average time from enquiry to adoption order for a RAA/LA adopter was **29 months**, and **35 months** for a VAA adopter.
- No change in the trend for Ethnic Minority adopters to have the longest journey to adoption. In 2023/24, Ethnic Minority adopters had been approved and waiting on average for **16 months**.

INDIVIDUAL AND ADOPTER FAMILIES

The chart below shows the number of individual adopters, and adopter families for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

The number of individual adopters and adopter families has decreased across all stages since 2018/19.



In 2023/24 there were:

- **6021** individual adopter registrations; **3258** adopter families, a **22% (1720n)** decrease in the number of individual adopters, and a **17% (690n)** decrease in the number of adopter families 2018/19
- **4094** individual adopter approvals; **2212** adopter families, a **29% (1671n)** decrease in the number of individual adopters and a **24% (705n)** decrease in the number of adopter families from to 2018/19
- **4480** individual adopters matched; **2406** adopter families, a **16% (868n)** decrease in the number of individual adopters and a **11% (294n)** decrease in the number of adopter families from to 2018/19
- **4380** individual adopters with a child placed; **2352** adopter families, a **19% (1029n)** decrease in the number of individual adopters and a **14% (375n)** decrease in the number of adopter families from to 2018/19
- 4244 individual adopters who had an adoption order granted; 2256 adopter families, a 13% (610n) decrease in the number of individual adopters and a 8% (208n) decrease in the number of adopter families from 2018/19
- **4152** individual adopters not yet approved; **2237** adopter families, a **26%** (**1446n**) decrease in the number of individual adopters and a **22%** (**633n**) decrease in the number of adopter families from 2018/19
- **3271** individual adopters approved and waiting; **1796** adopter families, a **11%** *(386n)* decrease in the number of individual adopters and a **3%** *(57n)* decrease in the number of adopter families from 2018/19

For context there were 2580 children waiting with a Placement Order (PO), a decrease of 8% (220n) from 2018/19

The two charts below show the number of individual adopters, and adopter families for RAAs/LAs and VAA, and the proportion of VAA adopters for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

RAA/LA and VAA Individual Adopters Split

RAA/LA Adopter Families

VOX 2019/20

SELS

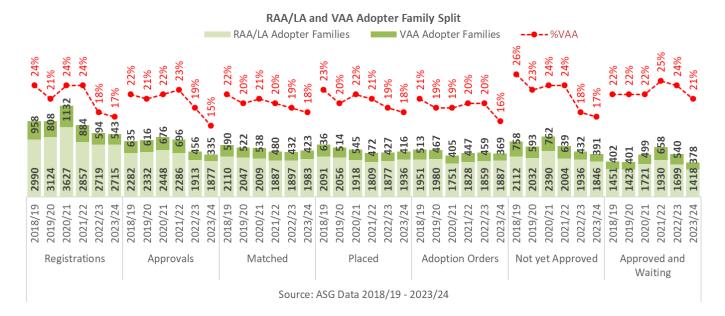
1477

SOS 219/20

SOS 2019/20

SOS 2

The proportion of VAA adopters has decreased across all stages since 208/19.

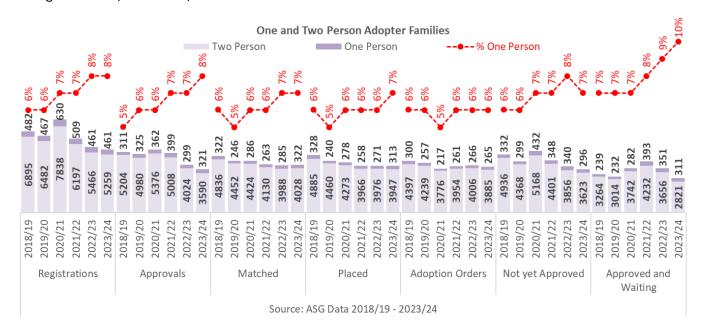


In 2023/24 VAA adopter families accounted for:

- 17% adopter registrations, a decrease of 7 percentage points from 2018/19
- 15% adopter approvals, a decrease of 7 percentage points from 2018/19
- 18% adopters matched, a decrease of 4 percentage points from 2018/19
- 18% adopters with a child placed, a decrease of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 16% adopters who had an adoption order granted, a decrease of 5 percentage point from 2018/19
- 17% adopters not yet approved, a decrease of 9 percentage points from 2018/19
- 21% adopters approved and waiting, a decrease of 1 percentage point from 2018/19

ONE AND TWO PERSON ADOPTER FAMILIES

The chart below shows the numbers of one and two person adopters, and the proportion of one person adopter families for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.



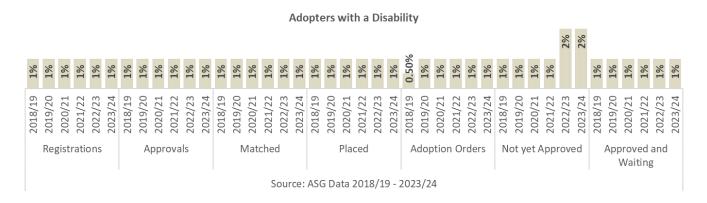
There has been an increase in the number and proportion of one person adopter families.

In 2023/24 single adopter families accounted for:

- 8% adopter registrations, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 8% adopter approvals, an increase of 3 percentage points from 2018/19
- 7% adopters matched, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2018/19
- 7% adopters with a child placed, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2018/19
- 6% adopters who had an adoption order granted, the same as 2018/19
- 7% adopters not yet approved, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2018/19
- 10% adopters approved and waiting, an increase of 3 percentage points from 2018/19

Adopters with a Disability

The chart below shows the proportion of adopters with a disability by registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24. The proportion of individual adopters with a disability has remained stable at **1%** of all adopters, with an increase to **2%** for adopters not yet approved in 2022/23 and 2023/24.



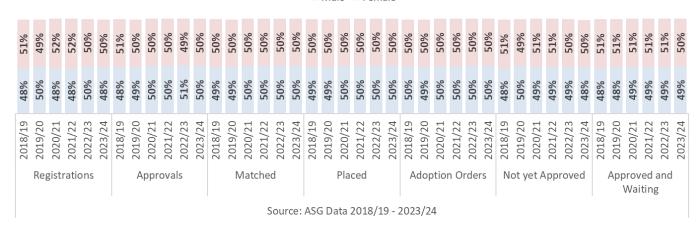
Gender of Adopters

The chart below shows the proportion of male and female adopters for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

Overall, the proportions of adopters identifying as male and female adopters have remained stable, with there being slightly more adopters identifying as female than male.



■ Male ■ Female



The chart below shows the proportion one persona adopter families identifying as male or female for registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

Gender of One Person Adopters

■ Female ■ Male

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2

In 2023/24 single male adopters accounted for:

- 8% adopter registrations, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 8% adopter approvals, the same as 2018/19
- 8% adopters matched, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 8% adopters with a child placed, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 6% adopters who had an adoption order granted, the same as 2018/19
- 8% adopters not yet approved, an increase of 3 percentage points from 2018/19
- 8% adopters approved and waiting, a decrease of 3 percentage points from 2018/19

NB: In 2023/24 additional gender descriptions were added to the adopter level data collection template. The current numbers reported are for the additional descriptions are small and so are supressed for confidentiality.

Age Range of Adopters

The chart below shows the proportion adopters by age range, for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

Adopters aged 30 to 39 accounted for the largest proportion of adopter registrations and approvals, matched, with a child placed, and not yet approved, and adopters aged 40 to 49 accounting for the largest proportion of adopters with an adoption order, and approved and waiting. This suggests that adopters are likely to be at the older end of the 30 to 39 age range and move into the 40 to 49 age range as they progress through the adoption process.

The proportions of adopters aged 20 to 29, 50 to 59, 60 to 69 have remained stable since 2018/19.

					Age Range of Adopters								
			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24					
	SL	20 to 29 years old	7%	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%					
	tior	30 to 39 years old	45%	48%	48%	48%	49%	48%					
	tra	40 to 49 years old	39%	38%	38%	38%	38%	38%					
	Registrations	50 to 59 years old	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%					
	Re	60 to 69 years old	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%					
		20 to 29 years old	5%	5%	6%	6%	4%	4%					
	/als	30 to 39 years old	44%	44%	48%	48%	47%	46%					
	0	40 to 49 years old	42%	42%	40%	40%	41%	41%					
	Approvals	50 to 59 years old	8%	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%					
	4	60 to 69 years old	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.7%					
		20 to 29 years old	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%	3%					
4	eq	30 to 39 years old	40%	44%	45%	45%	46%	45%					
Source: ASG Data 2018/19 - 2023/24 doption	Matched	40 to 49 years old	45%	43%	42%	42%	42%	44%					
023	Ma	50 to 59 years old	9%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%					
- 2		60 to 69 years old	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%					
/19		20 to 29 years old	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%	3%					
118,	D	30 to 39 years old	40%	43%	44%	44%	46%	45%					
1 20	Placed	40 to 49 years old	46%	44%	42%	42%	42%	44%					
ata	Д	50 to 59 years old	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%					
<u>О</u>		60 to 69 years old	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%					
AS		20 to 29 years old	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%					
Source: Adoption	LS	30 to 39 years old	38%	39%	41%	41%	43%	41%					
our	Orders	40 to 49 years old	49%	46%	46%	46%	44%	47%					
Sc	ō	50 to 59 years old	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	10%					
		60 to 69 years old	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%					
		20 to 29 years old	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%					
et	/ed	30 to 39 years old	43%	47%	46%	46%	47%	46%					
Not yet	Approved	40 to 49 years old	42%	39%	40%	40%	40%	42%					
ž	γpp	50 to 59 years old	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%					
	4	60 to 69 years old	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%					
рг	proved ar Waiting	20 to 29 years old	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%					
a		30 to 39 years old	40%	39%	42%	42%	39%	37%					
s ec		40 to 49 years old	47%	47%	46%	46%	48%	48%					
pro		50 to 59 years old	9%	9%	8%	8%	10%	11%					
Ap		60 to 69 years old	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%					

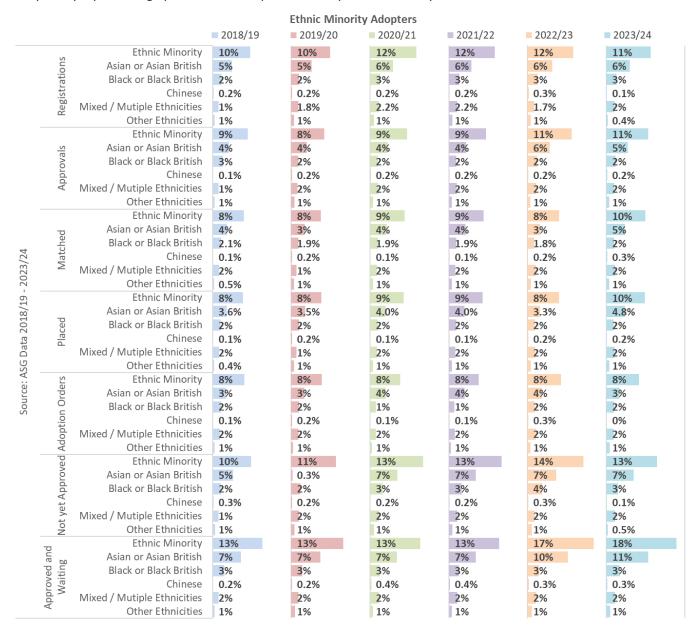
In 2023/24:

- 48% of registrations were for adopters aged 30 to 39, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 46% of approvals were for adopters aged 30 to 39, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 45% of matched, were for adopters aged 30 to 39, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 45% with a child placed, were for adopters aged 30 to 39, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 47% of adoption orders, were for adopters aged 40 to 49, a decrease of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 46% of adopters not yet approved were aged 30 to 39, an increase of 3 percentage points from 2018/19
- 48% of adopters approved and waiting were aged 40 to 49, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2018/19

Ethnicity of Adopters

The chart below shows the proportion of Ethnic Minority adopters for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

There has been an increase in the proportion of Ethnic Minority adopter across all stages of the adoption process except for adoption orders which has remained the same. The proportion of Ethnic Minority registrations decreased this year by **1** percentage point when compared to the previous three years.



In 2023/24 Ethnic Minority adopters accounted for:

- 11% adopter registrations, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2018/19
- 11% adopter approvals, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 10% adopters matched, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 10% adopters with a child placed, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018/19
- 8% adopters who had an adoption order granted, the same as 2018/19
- 13% adopters not yet approved, an increase of 3 percentage points from 2018/19
- 18% adopters approved and waiting, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19

For context 18% of children waiting with a PO are from an ethnic minority, compared to 17% in 2018/19

Religion of Adopters

The chart below shows the proportion of adopters with a religion for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

Under half of the adopter population had a religion, and since 2018/19 the proportion of individual adopters with a religion has declined across all stages of the adoption process

	Religion of Adopters							
			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
		Religion (t)	53%	50%	52%	52%	48%	49%
	SL	Buddhist	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
	Registrations	Christian	45%	42%	43%	43%	38%	38%
	trat	Hindu	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
	<u>8</u> 151	Jewish	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%
	Re	Muslim	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
		Other	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%
		Religion (t)	56%	53%	51%	51%	48%	47%
		Buddhist	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	
	Approvals	Christian	49%	45%	43%	43%	40%	37%
	õ	Hindu	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	dd	Jewish	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	1%
	⋖	Muslim	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
		Other	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%
		Religion (t)	57%	54%	53%	53%	49%	48%
		Buddhist		0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	1070	0.1%
	pa	Christian	50%	47%	45%	45%	43%	40%
	Matched	Hindu	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
4	∕lat	Jewish	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%
3/2/	_	Muslim	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
023		Other	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%
- 2		Religion (t)	57%	54%	53%	53%	49%	48%
19		Buddhist	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	4370	0.1%
18/	77	Christian	51%	47%	46%	46%	43%	39%
20	Placed	Hindu	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
ıta	Pa	Jewish	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%
D		Muslim	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
SG		Other	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%
Source: ASG Data 2018/19 - 2023/24		Religion (t)	57%	56%	54%	54%	52%	48%
Ĭ	Adoption Orders	Buddhist	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	40/0
Sol)rd	Christian	51%	50%	47%	47%	45%	42%
	D U	Hindu	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	ţi	Jewish	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
	dop	Muslim	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Ac	Other	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%
		Religion (t)	53%	50%	52%	52%	50%	49%
	Not yet Approved	Buddhist	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
	0	Christian	45%	41%	42%	42%	38%	37%
	√ pp	Hindu	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	et /	Jewish	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	1%
	ī Ķ	Muslim	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	4%
	8	Other	4%	4%	5%	5%	6%	6%
		Religion (t)	57%	55%	53%	53%	52%	51%
	ъ	Buddhist	31/0					
	Approved and Waiting	Christian	46%	0.5% 44%	0.3% 43%	0.3% 43%	0.2% 39%	0.2% 37%
	proved al Waiting	Hindu	2%					
	rov Vai	Jewish		1%	1%	1%	2%	3%
	dd' V	Muslim	1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	1%	1%
	⋖	Other	4% 4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5% 6%
		Other	470	4%	4%	4%	5%	070

Adopters with a Christian religion account for the largest proportion of registrations, approvals, matched, with a child placed, adoption orders, not yet approved and approved and waiting, followed Other religion, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist.

Sexual Orientation of Adopters

The chart below shows the proportion adopters by sexual orientation, for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

There has been an increase in the adopter population who identify as LGBTQIA+ across all stages of the adoption process.

Sexual Orientation of Adopters 2018/19 **2019/20** 2020/21 2021/22 2023/24 2022/23 Registrations Hetrosexual 74% **72**% 76% 76% **72**% 71% LGBTQIA+ 14% 15% 17% **17**% 19% **19**% Approvals 75% 73% 74% 70% Hetrosexual 74% 73% LGBTQIA+ 15% **15**% 17% 17% 18% **20**% source: ASG Data 2018/19 - 2023/24 Matched Hetrosexual 75% 73% 74% 74% **72**% 73% LGBTQIA+ **15**% 16% 16% 16% 20% **20**% 75% 73% 74% 74% **72**% Hetrosexual 72% Placed LGBTQIA+ **15**% 15% 16% 16% 20% 20% Hetrosexual 76% 74% 73% 73% **72**% 73% Adoption Orders LGBTQIA+ 16% **16**% **16**% 19% 14% 20% 74% Approved Hetrosexual **72**% 76% 76% 71% 71% Not yet 18% 19% LGBTQIA+ 14% 16% 18% 18% and Waiting Approved Hetrosexual 77% 77% 77% 77% 76% 73% LGBTQIA+ 13% 13% 16% 16% **16**% 18%

In 2023/24 LGBTQIA+ adopters accounted for:

- 19% adopter registrations, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 20% adopter approvals, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 20% adopters matched, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 20% adopters with a child placed, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 19% adopters who had an adoption order granted, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 19% adopters not yet approved, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 18% adopters approved and waiting, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19

NB: In 2023/24 additional sexual orientation descriptions were added to the adopter level data collection template. The current numbers reported are for the additional descriptions are small and so are supressed for confidentiality.

Relationship Status of Adopters

The chart below shows the proportion of adopters by relationship status, for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

Married Adopters account for the highest proportion of adopters across all the stages of the adoption process. Since 2018/19, the proportion of married adopters has declined, while single adopters and adopters in single sex partnerships have increased

Relationship Status of Adopters 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21 **2021/22** 2022/23 2023/24 70% 66% 65% 66% Married 70% 66% Registrations Civil Partership 3% 2% 2% 2% 2% 1% Male /Female Partnership 12% 11% 11% 12% 13% 12% Other 0.8% 0.3% 0.3% 0% 0.4% 1.2% Single 6% 6% 7% 7% 8% 8% Single Sex Partnership 6% 6% 8% 8% 9% 8% Married **72**% 73% 71% 71% 68% 66% Civil Partership 3% 3% 2% 2% 2% 2% Approvals Male /Female Partnership 9% 10% 10% 11% 10% 11% Other 0.6% 0.4% 0.2% 0.2% 0.5% 0.9% 6% 6% 8% Single 5% 6% 7% Single Sex Partnership 6% 6% 8% 8% 9% 8% Married 71% 73% 74% 74% 69% 67% Civil Partership 3% 3% 2% 2% 2% 2% Matched Male /Female Partnership 10% 10% 9% 9% 11% 11% Source: ASG Data 2018/19 - 2023/24 Other 0.4% 0.3% 0.3% 0.3% 0.4% 0.8% Single 6% 5% 6% 6% 7% 7% Single Sex Partnership 7% 9% 6% 6% 7% 10% Married 71% 74% 74% 74% 69% 67% Civil Partership 3% 2% 2% 2% 2% 3% Male /Female Partnership 10% 10% 9% 9% 11% 12% Other 0.3% 0.3% 0.4% 0.4% 0.3% 0.8% Single 6% 5% 6% 6% 6% 7% Single Sex Partnership 6% 6% 7% 7% 10% 9% Married 72% 72% 75% 75% 70% 69% Adoption Orders Civil Partership 4% 4% 2% 2% 2% 2% Male /Female Partnership 9% 10% 9% 9% 11% 11% Other 0.4% 0.2% 0.4% 0.4% 0.2% 0.5% Single 6% 5% 5% 6% 6% 6% 7% 7% Single Sex Partnership 6% 9% 9% 5% Not yet Approved 69% 65% 65% 64% 65% Married 68% Civil Partership 3% 2% 1% 1% 2% 1% Male /Female Partnership 11% 13% 14% 13% 11% 13% Other 0.9% 0.3% 0.3% 0.3% 0.4% 1.4% Single 6% 6% 7% 7% 8% 7% Single Sex Partnership 6% 7% 9% 9% 8% 8% Married 70% 70% 68% 71% 72% 67% Approved and Civil Partership 3% 2% 2% 3% 3% 2% Waiting Male /Female Partnership 10% 10% 11% 11% 12% 10% 0.5% Other 0.4% 0.2% 0.2% 1% 1% Single 7% 7% 7% 7% 9% 10% Single Sex Partnership 5% 5% 7% 7% 8% 7%

Since 2018/19 the proportion of:

- Single adopters have increased by 2 to 3 percentage points across all stages of the adoption process
- Adopters in single sex partnerships has increase by **2** to **3** percentage points across all stages of the adoption process

Two Person Adopter Families

The chart below shows the proportion of two person adopter families for adopter registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24.

There has been a decrease in the proportion of two person adopter families where the adopting couple are different sex, and an increase in adopting couples where both are the same sex. There is a higher proportion of same sex couples where both adopters identify as male than female.

Two Person Adopter Families: Same Sex and Different Sex 2018/19 **2019/20** 2020/21 **2021/22** 2022/23 2023/24 Registrations Adopting couple different sex 82% 81% 79% 79% 78% 79% Adopting couple are both male 10% 12% 12% 12% 14% 13% Adopting couple are both female 7% 6% 9% 8% 9% 8% Adopting couple different sex 82% 81% 79% 79% 78% 77% Approvals Adopting couple are both male 12% 13% 10% 13% **1**5% **1**5% 7% 8% 8% Adopting couple are both female 8% 8% 7% 82% 77% Adopting couple different sex 81% 80% 80% 77% Matched Source: ASG Data 2018/19 - 2023/24 Adopting couple are both male 11% 11% 13% 13% 14% **1**5% Adopting couple are both female 7% 7% 7% 7% 8% 8% Adopting couple different sex 82% 81% 81% 81% 77% 77% Placed Adopting couple are both male 11% 11% 13% 13% 14% 15% Adopting couple are both female 7% 7% 7% 7% 8% 8% 83% 80% 78% Adopting couple different sex 80% 80% 78% Adoption Orders 11% Adopting couple are both male 11% 12% 12% 14% 13% Adopting couple are both female 5% 8% 7% 7% 9% 8% 83% 81% 80% 80% 78% Adopting couple different sex 79% Approved Not yet Adopting couple are both male 9% 12% 12% 12% 13% 13% Adopting couple are both female 7% 6% 8% 8% 7% 8% nd Waiting Adopting couple different sex 84% 84% 81% 79% 81% 81% Approved 10% 12% 14% Adopting couple are both male 8% 12% 13%

In 2023/24 same sex couples accounted for:

Adopting couple are both female

- 21% of adopter registrations, an increase of 4 percentage points from 2018/19
- 23% adopter approvals, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19

7%

- 23% adopters matched, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 23% adopters with a child placed, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 22% adopters who had an adoption order granted, an increase of 6 percentage points from 2018/19

6%

7%

7%

6%

6%

- 21% adopters not yet approved, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19
- 20% adopters approved and waiting, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2018/19

Timeliness for Adopters

The chart below shows the average time by stage from enquiry, to registrations, approvals, matched, placed, adoption orders, not yet approved, and approved and waiting from 2018/19 to 2023/24, for all adopters, RAA/LA adopters and VAA adopters.

	Average Time by Stage for All Adopters							
			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	to ion	All Adopters	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Enquiry to registration (m)	RAA/LA Adopters	3	3	3	3	3	3
		VAA Adopters	5	5	5	5	4	5
	Registration to approval (m)	All Adopters	7	7	7	7	8	8
	Registration to approval (m)	RAA/LA Adopters	7	7	7	7	8	8
	Reg	VAA Adopters	8	8	8	8	8	8
	al to (m)	All Adopters	7	6	6	6	8	9
_	Approval to Match (m)	RAA/LA Adopters	7	6	6	6	8	8
Source: ASG Data 2018/19 - 2023/24	Apl	VAA Adopters	7	7	6	7	8	9
- 202	d to (d)	All Adopters	26	21	26	29	27	28
3/19	Matched to Placed (d)	RAA/LA Adopters	22	20	24	27	24	24
2018		VAA Adopters	42	27	34	38	38	43
Jata	o A0	All Adopters	8	7	9	8	9	8
ASG [Placed to AO (m)	RAA/LA Adopters	7	7	8	8	9	8
rce: /	Plac	VAA Adopters	10	9	11	9	11	10
Sou	/ to n)	All Adopters	27	25	27	27	29	30
	Enquiry to AO (m)	RAA/LA Adopters	26	24	25	26	28	29
	En A	VAA Adopters	32	30	32	31	33	35
	ition (m)	All Adopters	23	22	23	24	26	26
	Registration to AO (m)	RAA/LA Adopters	22	21	22	23	25	26
	Reg	VAA Adopters	27	25	27	26	28	30
	ed ting	All Adopters	9	7	7	9	10	11
	Approved and Waiting (m)	RAA/LA Adopters	9	7	7	9	9	10
	Ap	VAA Adopters	8	6	7	8	11	14

In 2023/24 the average time from:

- Enquiry to registration was **3 months**, the same 2018/19
- Registration to approval was **8 months**, an increase of **1 month** from 2018/19
- Approval to matched was 9 months, an increase of 2 months from 2018/19
- Matched to placed was 28 days, an increase of 2 days from 2018/19
- Placed to AO was 8 months, the same as 2018/19
- Approved and waiting was 11 months, an increase of 2 months from 2018/19

In 2023/24:

- RAA/LA adopters had been approved and waiting for an average of **10 months**, an increase of **1** month from 2018/19
- VAA adopters had been approved and waiting for an average of **14 months**, an increase of **6 months** from 2018/19

The chart below shows a comparison of the average time (months) for each stage of the adoption process by diversity of adopters.

Average Time by Stage for All Adopters

			2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	■ 2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	nc	All Adopters	3	3	3	3	3	3
	atic	1 Person Adopters	3	3	2	3	3	3
	gistı	2 Person Adopters	3	3	3	3	3	3
	o reg (m)	Adopters with a Disability	3	2	3	4	4	3
	y to	White Adopters	3	3	3	3	3	3
	nin_	Ethnic Minority Adopters	6	4	3	4	4	4
	Eno	LGBTQIA+ Adopters	3	3	3	3	3	3
	val	All Adopters	7	7	7	7	8	8
	appro	1 Person Adopters	7	7	7	7	8	8
		2 Person Adopters	7	7	7	7	8	8
	on to (m)	Adopters with a Disability	8	7	8	7	9	8
	Registration to approval Enquiry to registration (m)	White Adopters	7	7	7	7	8	8
		Ethnic Minority Adopters	8	7	9	9	9	9
		LGBTQIA+ Adopters	7	7	7	7	8	8
		All Adopters	7	6	6	6	8	9
	r) L	1 Person Adopters	9	8	7	7	8	10
	latc	2 Person Adopters	7	5	5	6	7	8
	≥ 0	Adopters with a Disability	7	7	4	8	7	6
	alt	White Adopters	7	6	6	6	7	8
	JO V	Ethnic Minority Adopters	8	9	8	8	9	10
	Matched to placed (d) $\left Approval \ fo \ Match \right $	LGBTQIA+ Adopters	7	5	5	6	7	9
	(p	All Adopters	26	21	26	29	27	28
-) pe	1 Person Adopters	31	24	27	31	33	26
3/2/	lace	2 Person Adopters	24	22	25	30	28	31
023	d 0:	Adopters with a Disability	21	15	31	23	21	24
9 - 2	ed t	White Adopters	27	21	26	29	27	27
3/19	tch	Ethnic Minority Adopters	26	25	33	29	29	35
0.18	Ma	LGBTQIA+ Adopters	24	22	25	30	28	28
Source: ASG Data 2018/19 - 2023/24		All Adopters	8	7	9	8	9	8
Da	Œ	1 Person Adopters	8	9	9	9	9	8
1SG	0	2 Person Adopters	7	7	9	8	9	8
: e	to A	Adopters with a Disability	7	8	7	8	8	12
onro	Placed to AO (m)	White Adopters	8	7	9	8	9	8
Sc	olac	Ethnic Minority Adopters	9	8	10	9	10	9
		LGBTQIA+ Adopters	7	7	9	8	9	8
		All Adopters	27	25	27	27	29	30
	(E	1 Person Adopters	30	28	26	28	30	31
	AO	2 Person Adopters	26	24	25	27	29	30
	Enquiry to AO	Adopters with a Disability	27	25	24	28	29	31
	Ji.	White Adopters	27	25	26	27	29	29
	ıbu	Ethnic Minority Adopters	32	28	32	32	33	34
	ш	LGBTQIA+ Adopters	26	24	25	27	29	30
	- E	All Adopters	23	22	23	24	26	26
	Registration to AO (m)	1 Person Adopters	25	24	24	25	26	27
	9 O	2 Person Adopters	23	20	22	23	25	26
	on t	Adopters with a Disability	24	23	21	24	25	28
	rati	White Adopters	23	22	23	23	25	26
	gist	Ethnic Minority Adopters	26	25	28	28	29	30
	Reg	LGBTQIA+ Adopters	23	20	22	23	25	26
	Dg U	All Adopters	9	7	7	9	10	11
	Approved and Waiting (m)	1 Person Adopters	12	7	8	9	12	12
	≶	2 Person Adopters	8	6	6	7	8	8
	l and (m)	Adopters with a Disability	12	6	9	8	10	8
	ved	White Adopters	9	6	7	8	9	9
	pro	Ethnic Minority Adopters	13	11	11	12	14	16
	Ap	LGBTQIA+ Adopters	8	6	6	7	8	11
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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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