

Dear Parents of Adopted Teens and Young Adults,

We are inviting you to participate in a study of adoptive families that focuses on the successes and challenges of the teen and young adult years. We want to gain a more accurate and current picture of life course of adopted youth and how different factors (e.g., gender, ethnicity) may be related to their development. We are asking parents to complete an on-line survey that will take approximately 25 minutes. When you finish the survey, you can also volunteer to participate in a one-hour phone interview. If you agree to be interviewed, we will contact you to arrange a time to talk by phone. After we complete this portion of the study, we will also interview adopted young adults.

We are both professors of developmental psychology who have studied many aspects of children's social and emotional development. I (Patricia Ramsey) am the mother of two sons adopted from Chile. After relatively smooth childhoods, they both have had turbulent teen years, motivating me to learn more about the role of adoption at different life stages. I (Doris Bergen) have pondered the complex developmental trajectories of many children, including my own biological daughters, and have long wondered about the possible effects of adoption on children and their families.

From informal talks with many parents, we know that some adoptees experience extreme difficulties during adolescence and young adulthood, whereas others have relatively smooth transitions. We also have heard many stories about school and social service personnel who lack knowledge and sensitivity about adoption issues. We hope that our study will yield more accurate and complete information and lead to better guidelines for effectively supporting adoptive families. Please help us with this study by completing the survey that is at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G9T6JQC>