

China Survey Results

Adoptions to the U.S. in 2015: 2,354

Average cost: \$36,070

Traditional Program, matched within 5 years: 0%

Waiting-Child Program, matched within 6 months: 75%

Waiting-Child Program, matched within 1 year: 84%

Waiting-Child Program, matched within 2 years: 93%

Adopted a child younger than two years: 28%

Adopted a child younger than five years: 72%

CHINA ADOPTION COST

Total costs excluded expenses associated with any previous unsuccessful attempts to adopt, and were similar for Traditional and Waiting Child adoptions. The average costs reported by families that adopted from China in 2014/15 represented a 4.9% *decrease* over the previous two-year reported average.

The greatest variations in cost fell within the program fee, depending on the adoption agency used, and the travel expenses—some families choose to bring more family members on the trip, extend their stay beyond the required length, or stay in higher end hotels, or must travel during a peak season; others save on these expenses by using rewards points for travel or lodging.

China – Average Cost Breakdown

Home study fee	\$2,194
Adoption agency application & program fees	\$9,351
All other document preparation & paperwork fees	\$2,410
In-country adoption expenses	\$5,736
Child's passport, visa, medical exam, and other fees	\$573
Major travel expenses	\$8,249
In-country travel expenses	\$2,730
Post-adoption expenses	\$2,062
All other expenses	\$2,713
AVERAGE TOTAL	\$36,070

* Average represents total costs before claiming the Adoption Tax Credit.

China families on their total cost:

“Everything was outlined and all the costs were explained.”

“Our travel costs were high because we traveled with all of our family.”

“Our biggest fees were for the dossier and our travel expenses. Traveling to China was very expensive, but it was a trip of a lifetime!”

“Our adoption took several years to complete, and we had to update paperwork each year. That added to the total cost.”

CHINA ADOPTION TIMING

Adoption from China has slowed down significantly over the past decade. Families that wish to adopt a healthy infant from China must apply through the “Traditional” program and be prepared for a long wait. All of the “Traditional” Program respondents to the 2014-2015 survey waited longer than five years for their referrals. Families that are open to an older child and/or a child with special needs (which vary from minor, correctable needs such as cleft lip to ongoing health conditions) adopt through China’s “Waiting Child” program; the wait for a referral in this program can be minimal, as many families select their child from a list of waiting children.

China Waiting-Child Program families on their total timeline:

“We were matched with the child before we updated our home study. China calls it pre-approval.”

“The process in China is very standardized. We were there for the required two weeks.”

“Our son was considered special needs, although his need is rather minor. We were open to all sorts of physical needs and considered a ‘young’ couple compared to other adoptive parents (according to our social worker), so our wait was relatively short.”

“We flew during a time when families were experiencing significant delays from the U.S. for their children’s visas. The group a month ahead of us was stuck there an extra week, so I padded my trip with that possible delay in mind.”