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Texas tops in adoptions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Texas is leading the nation in adoptions, followed by California and New York, according to the first detailed statistics on adoptions published in a decade.

There were 141,861 adoptions in the United States in 1982, the most recent year covered in the study published Tuesday by the National Committee for Adoption.

Of the adoptions reported in 1982, 91,141 were by individuals related to the children and 50,720 were by unrelated individuals, the study found.

Texas had the most adoptions at 12,176 that year, followed by California with 10,500 and New York at 9,000, according to the survey.

The non-profit Washington-based group, which works to simplify the adoption process, compiled the statistics in a volume entitled "Adoption Factbook."

Adoption information was formerly collected by the National Center for Social Statistics, but that agency closed down in the 1970s, and since then there has been no source for detailed information on the process.

Dr. William L. Pierce said his committee surveyed social welfare, health and other state and private groups to compile its report. Dr. Paul J. Placek of the federal National Center for Health Statistics assisted in the effort.

Pierce said his group generally tends to encourage adoption, having concluded that it is a better solution for both children and their unwed mothers than having a young woman try to rear a child alone.

A trend toward young women keeping their babies in recent years has allowed a comparison of women who keep children with those who give them up, he said.

Generally, Pierce said, when adoption is the choice both the children and the mother are less likely to end up living below the poverty level and seeking public assistance.

Pierce estimated that 250,000 babies are born out of wedlock annually, and that about 2 million American couples who cannot have children of their own are seeking to adopt.

Here is regional rundown of the estimated number of adoptions in 1982:

- New England: Maine, 1,011; New Hampshire, 607; Vermont, 328; Massachusetts, 2,558; Rhode Island, 470; Connecticut, 670.

- Middle Atlantic: New York, 9,000; New Jersey, 5,098; Pennsylvania, 2,949.

- East North Central: Ohio, 7,376; Indiana, 4,783; Illinois, 6,553; Michigan, 5,562; Wisconsin, 2,754.

- West North Central: Minnesota, 2,905; Iowa, 1,787; Missouri, 3,084; North Dakota, 535; South Dakota, 526; Nebraska, 1,318; Kansas, 2,498.

- South Atlantic: Delaware, 249; Maryland, 1,529; District of Columbia, 717; Virginia, 3,037; West Virginia, 1,932; North Carolina, 3,547; South Carolina, 1,863; Georgia, 3,344; Florida, 8,365.

- East South Central: Kentucky, 1,270; Tennessee, 2,777; Alabama, 2,744; Mississippi, 1,694.

- West South Central: Arkansas, 1,495; Louisiana, 2,506; Oklahoma, 2,795; Texas, 12,175.

- Mountain: Montana, 714; Idaho, 573; Wyoming, 252; Colorado, 2,830; New Mexico, 2,312; Arizona, 1,027; Utah, 1,222; Nevada, 631.

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