



Open Forum on Immigration Issues for Transnational Adopted People

**February 12, 2025
4pm PST/6pm CST/7pm EST**



**ASL Interpretation
Provided**





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*The Citizenship Clinic is a free legal service for intercountry adopted people,
sponsored by Adoptees United Inc. and operated by Adoptee Rights Law Center.*

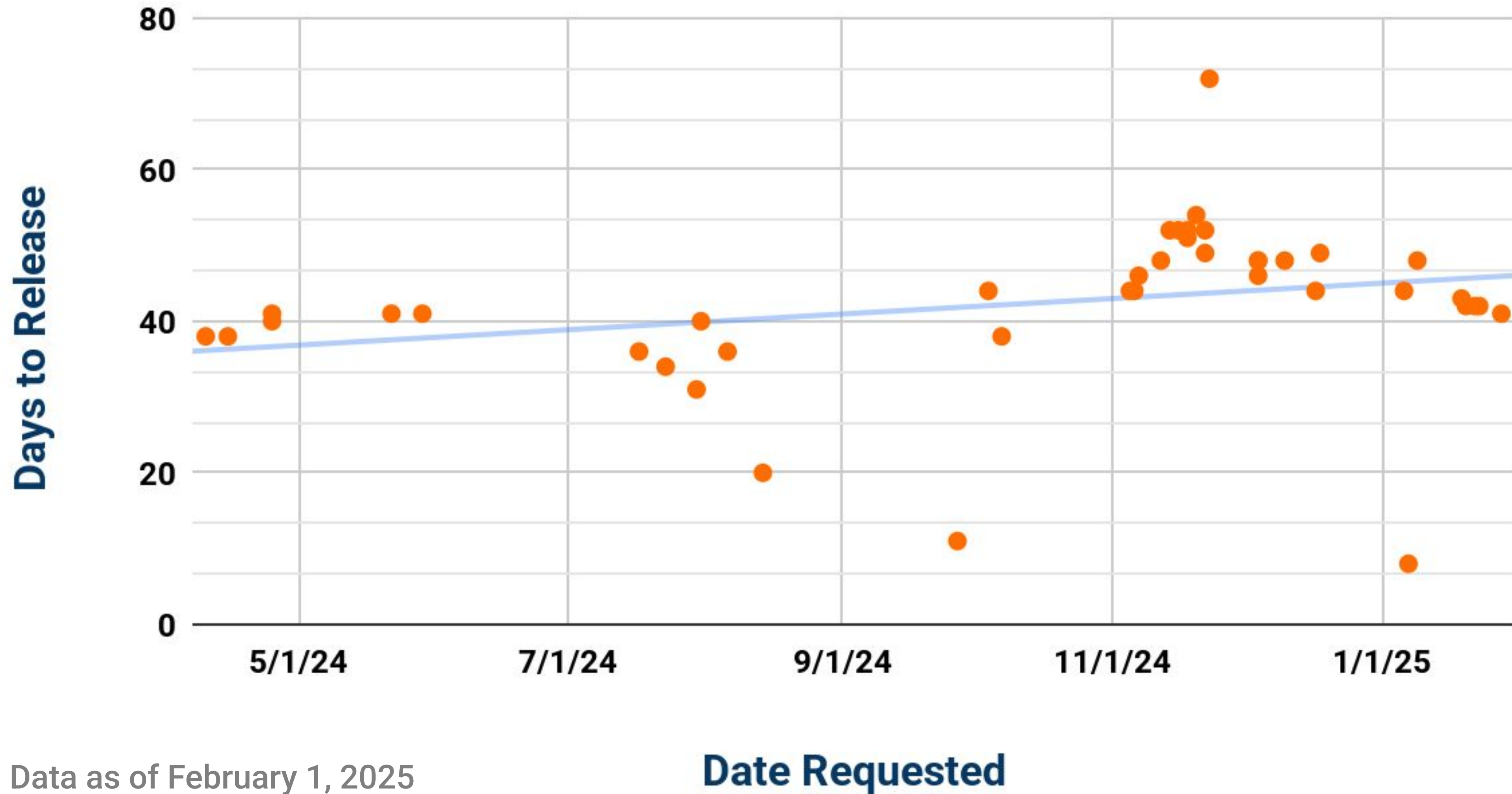


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Citizenship Clinic: Info and Statistics

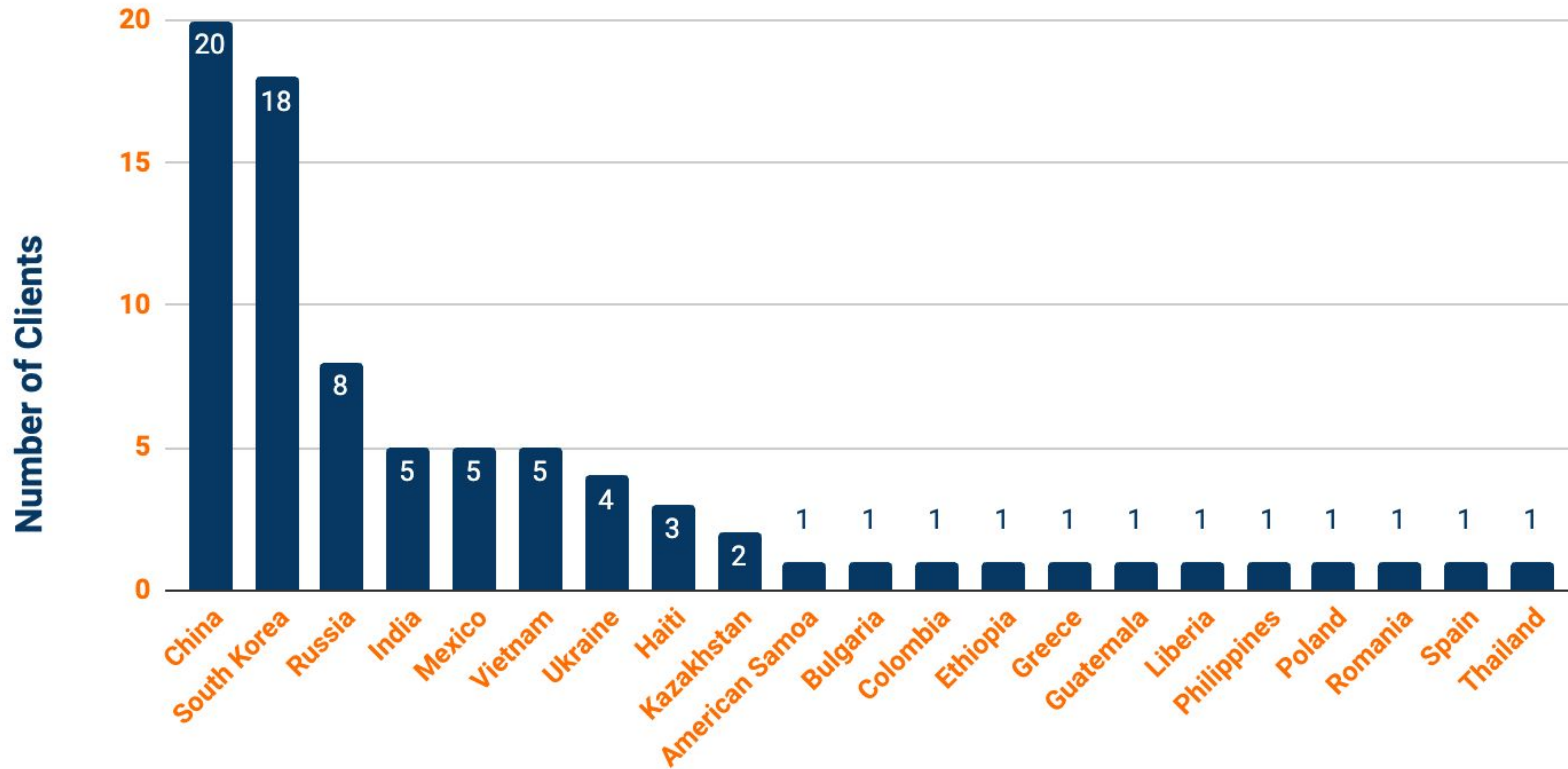
Days to Receive FOIA Records



Data as of February 1, 2025



Clients by Nationality/Country of Birth

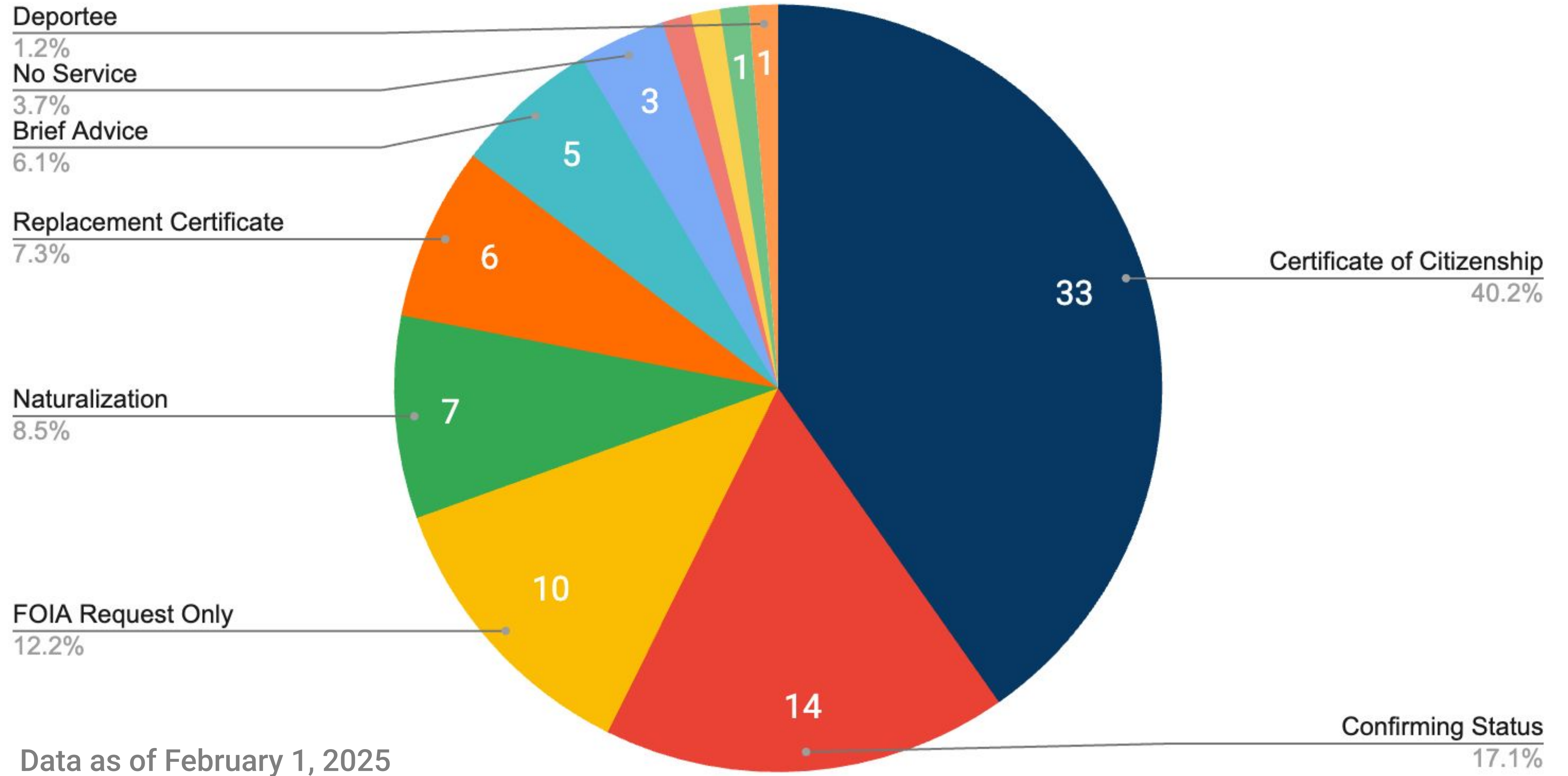


Data as of February 1, 2025

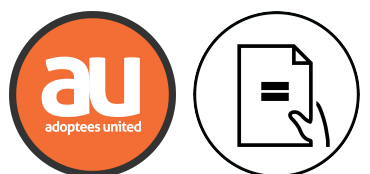
Nationality/Country of Birth



Case Type



Data as of February 1, 2025





Assessing Risk of ICE Involvement

**Based on immigration
and citizenship status**

Legal Permanent Resident

Did not naturalize or qualify for “automatic” citizenship under the CCA

Very Low Risk

- **Admitted to the US as a legal permanent resident**
- **Did not naturalize or qualify for US citizenship through US citizen adoptive parents**
- **Has not been convicted of a relatively serious crime**

Nearly every intercountry adoptee in the United States became a legal permanent resident upon arrival to the US. The citizenship clinic works to secure US citizenship through naturalization.

U.S. Citizen

Naturalized or
derived US
citizenship
under the CCA

Virtually No Risk

- **Admitted to the US as a legal permanent resident**
- **Became a citizen, either through naturalization or “automatically” as the child of US citizen (adoptive) parents**

Most (but not all) intercountry adoptees are US citizens today. The citizenship clinic works to assure that they secure proof of that citizenship through a Certificate of Citizenship.

**Not Lawfully
Present in
the United
States**

High Risk

Has been in the U.S. for less than two years or permanent immigration status

May be subject to expedited removal

It is highly unlikely that any intercountry adoptees are in this category.

**Not Lawfully
Present in
the United
States**

High Risk

- **In the U.S. for more than two years**
- **Does not have permanent immigration status (e.g., does not have a green card), and**
- **Has a relatively serious criminal conviction**

The vast majority of intercountry adoptees are NOT in this category

Not Lawfully Present in the United States

Does not have a green card or proof of entry to the US

Heightened Risk

- **Has been in the U.S. for more than two years**
- **Does not have permanent immigration status (e.g., does not have a green card)**
- **No relatively serious criminal conviction**

The vast majority of intercountry adoptees are NOT in this category, but a very small number are, specifically those whose parents brought them to the US illicitly and/or who have no record of entry into the United States

Lawfully Present in the United States

Does not have a green card (LPR Card)

Long-Term Risk and Uncertainty

- **Those with Temporary Protected Status**
- **DACA recipients**
- **Those with unexpired Non-Immigrant Visas (e.g., student, tourist, employment, etc.)**
- **No relatively serious criminal conviction**

A very small number of intercountry adoptees are in this category

Legal Permanent Resident

Did not naturalize or qualify for “automatic” citizenship under the CCA

High Risk

- **Admitted to the US as a legal permanent resident (has a green card)**
- **Did not naturalize or qualify for US citizenship through their US citizen adoptive parents**
- **Has been convicted of a relatively serious crime**

This generally involves a relatively small number of adopted people who have been deported in the past as a result of a relatively serious criminal conviction.

Legal Permanent Resident

Did not naturalize or qualify for “automatic” citizenship under the CCA

Very Low Risk

- **Admitted to the US as a legal permanent resident**
- **Did not naturalize or qualify for US citizenship through US citizen adoptive parents**
- **Has not been convicted of a relatively serious crime**

Nearly every intercountry adoptee in the United States became a legal permanent resident upon arrival to the US. The citizenship clinic works to secure their US citizenship through naturalization.

U.S. Citizen

Naturalized
or derived US
citizenship
under the
CCA

Virtually No Risk

- **Admitted to the US as a legal permanent resident**
- **Became a citizen, either by naturalization or “automatically” as the child of US citizen adoptive parents (Child Citizenship Act of 2000)**

Most (but not all) intercountry adoptees are US citizens today. The citizenship clinic works to assure that they secure proof of that citizenship through a Certificate of Citizenship.



Recommended Documentation: Citizenship & Status

Legal Permanent Resident

Did not naturalize or qualify for “automatic” citizenship under the CCA

Documents to Carry

- **Your Green Card (legal permanent resident card). Federal law requires this.**
- **Keep a paper copy of your green card (front and back) in a safe place. Keep a photo or other electronic copy (front and back) also saved in a safe location.**
- **Renew your green card if it has expired, or naturalize if that is an option. Obtain legal assistance to do so.**

Legal Permanent Resident

Did not
naturalize or
qualify for
“automatic”
citizenship
under the
CCA

Documents to Keep Secure

- **Certified copy of a foreign certificate of birth, if issued by a state**
- **Certified copies of your adoptive parents' birth and marriage records**
- **Copies of your USCIS records**
- **Certified copy of your adoption decree, if available**
- **Plain paper photocopies of all documents stored in a separate place**

U.S. Citizen

**Naturalized
or derived US
citizenship
under the
CCA**

Documents to Carry

- **You are not required to carry proof of US citizenship, but we recommend it.**
- **If possible, carry a US passport card. If you do not have a passport card, carry a photocopy of your US passport book (the pages with photo and signature) and/or a photo of the passport pages on your phone**

U.S. Citizen

**Naturalized or
derived US
citizenship
under the CCA**

Documents to Keep Secure

- **Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization**
- **Unexpired US passport book**
- **Certified copy of a foreign certificate of birth, if issued by a state**
- **Certified copies of your adoptive parents' birth and marriage records**
- **Copies of your USCIS records**
- **Certified copy of your adoption decree, if available**
- **Plain paper photocopies of all documents stored in a separate place**



Answering Questions