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Transracial adoptions: An alternative solution

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1992

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**TRANSRACIAL ADOPTIONS:
AN ALTERNATIVE
SOLUTION**

**by:
Kitty Hardy**

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of**

Master

in

Social Work

**School of Social Work
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
May, 1992**

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Approval Page

The thesis of Kitty L. Hardy for the degree of Master in Social Work is approved.



Chairperson, Dr. J. Nakhaima, Ph.D.



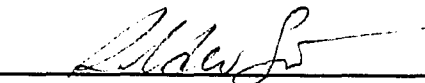
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TRANSRACIAL ADOPTIONS: AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION

Abstract

This research into transracial adoptions indicated that White homes for Black children are a viable adoption resource. In this society Black children who are free for adoption require extra attention from agencies for adoption. The focus of the study was on White homes for Black children, and the racial issues in the community and agency which influenced placement practices.

Findings indicated that the community and the agency both were favorably disposed to transracial placements in general, and the study yielded information on racial opinions from both groups. Racially mixed families were socially accepted by the community and the agency. These findings were then compared to the numbers of potential adoptive homes in the community which expressed interest in a transracial placement.

The community in this study was found to be receptive to transracial adoption, and there were homes available for such placements.

Table of Contents

I. Introduction	1
The Research Problem	5
II. Literature Review	7
III. Purpose of the Study	14
IV. Significance of the Study	16
V. Hypothesis	17
VI. Operational Definitions	18
VII. The Study Variables	19
VIII. Methodology	20
The Population	20
The Sample Description and Procedures	21
The Instruments	23
Development of Section A of Instrument 2	26
Development of Section B of Instrument 2	27
Development of Section C of Instrument 2	27
Development of Section D of Instrument 2	29
IX. The Data Collection Procedure	31
X. Data Processing and Analysis	33
XI. Findings	38
XII. Summary	49
XIII. Implications of the Study	52
Social Implications	52
Implications for Future Studies	53
XIV. Conclusions	54

Appendix A	56
Appendix B	57
Appendix C	60
REFERENCES	65
BIBLIOGRAPHY	68

List of Tables

Table 1. Single Male Homes	38
Table 2. Single Female Homes	39
Table 3. Races of Married Couples	40
Table 4. Married Homes	41
Table 5. Opinion Question	43
Table 6. Group 2 Replies to Section A	60
Table 7. Group 3 Replies to Section A	60
Table 8. Group 2 & 3 Combined Percentages	60
Table 9. Group 2 Replies to Section B	61
Table 10. Group 3 Replies to Section B	61
Table 11. Group 2 & 3 Combined Percentages	61
Table 12. Group 2 Replies to Section C	62
Table 13. Group 3 Replies to Section C	62
Table 14. Group 2 & 3 Combined Percentages	62
Table 15. Group 2 Replies to section D	63
Table 16. Group 3 Replies to section D	64
Table 17. Group 2 & 3 Combined Percentages	64

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TRANSRACIAL ADOPTIONS:
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I. Introduction

In the social work profession, the aim of adoption is to provide a child without parents a new home. Adoption is the process by which a family accepts a child into their home, on a permanent and legal basis, to provide a suitable environment to enable the child to develop normally, in a family where the child is wanted. The commitment for this process needs to be to the child, not the parents, nor the agency (Small, 1984).

Adoption agencies nationwide have accommodated a large number of adoptions over the years, and children have moved from the foster care system into permanent families. As the number of children in substitute care increases, the efforts to locate adoptive homes becomes more extensive. Special recruitment programs are used in some agencies, and incentives such as subsidies have been developed. Still, there are children who wait for adoptive parents (Sturm, 1991).

The most current statistics on the children available for adoption on a nationwide basis clearly explains the need for recruitment efforts and incentives to families to adopt. In 1982 the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare reported 243,000 children in foster care, 50,000 of whom were free for adoption (Simon and Alstein, 1987). In 1991, the American Public Welfare Association (APWA) reports that statistics on the number of children in foster care and free for adoption are rough national estimates, and the data is current only to 1987. According to the APWA and the Voluntary Cooperative Information System, there were an estimated 300,000 children in care nation wide, and 43,000 to 45,000 of these had a permanency plan of adoption. Of these children who were waiting for an adoptive home, approximately 52.5% were White, and 34.1% were Black.

The need to recruit adoptive homes has come to include the issue of transracial adoption. Some families who have expressed an interest in adopting a child have indicated a willingness to adopt transracially. Transracial adoption has come to signify White families adopting Black children. Agencies typically have long lists of White families waiting for a child, while they have few Black families. Simon and Alstein (1987) have listed three reasons for this: child welfare agencies have not actively recruited in Black communities; there is a historic suspicion of public agencies among many Blacks and they tend to restrict their involvement; and many Blacks feel that no matter how close they come to fulfilling the criteria

established for adoption, their ability to be approved is slight. Because the Black families are fewer than the numbers of Black children awaiting placement, Black children have been considered for transracial placements.

Transracial adoptions increased in earnest in the mid 1960's. In 1972 the practice became controversial when The National Association of Black Social Workers took a stand against such placements (Leavy, 1987). Their position was that Afro-American families should be maintained. This group felt that transracial adoptions were contradictory to their preservation efforts. Other critics charged that an arrangement of White families adopting Black children robbed the children of their racial identity. The children's development of racial coping mechanisms were thought to be hampered by the White families' inability to teach the children what they needed to know. These critics claimed the adoptee would therefore experience serious psychological problems during adolescence and adulthood.

Supporters of transracial adoptions felt Black children raised in White families would develop special skills in bridging cultures. These supporters maintained that transracial adoption may produce adults with special interpersonal talents and skills (Simon, 1988). Families with transracial children would become sensitive to ethnic differences and cultural identities, which would then contribute to a more creative pluralistic society (Kim, 1978). This concept

went further to state that fostering continuity and social linkage with the child's background may produce a small social catalysis by which these and other children can live together in a healthier fashion.

As regards the position of some social workers in child welfare practice and placement agencies, there is a difference of opinion on transracial adoptions. Some social workers agree that the best place for a child is within a family, and it is perhaps better to place a child transracially than having no family. However, there appears to be a great amount of anxiety among agencies, professionals, etc., about the validity of such placements (Small, 1984). A belief that transracial adoption is unnatural and will therefore be unsuccessful continues to be popular among many child welfare professionals (Simon and Alstein, 1987).

The Child Welfare Act of 1980 says preserving children within their own racial and ethnic heritage must be a primary concern when adoption is planned (Leavy, 1997). Since then, some caseworkers and placement agencies have adhered strenuously to the same-race philosophies despite available, waiting adoptive homes of a different race (Beck and Williams, 1988). Waiting families are kept from waiting children by the bureaucracy. Is that bureaucracy yielding to the community values on race?

Nevada's adoption services may be greatly influenced by community needs and opinions. There are two issues inherent in providing adoptive homes. One is

the general assumption that adoption should exercise the obvious flexibility of selecting the best family possible. The other is the established concept that adoption has the highest potential for success if placement occurs for the child at the youngest age possible.

Transracial adoptions usually occur in Nevada when the best available family possible must be defined as the only available family resource. Additionally, it is typical in current adoptive practices that Black infants are maintained in foster care for longer periods of time than White infants, as the search for Black adoptive families is time consuming. Children entering adoptive homes at older ages are usually more likely to have formed personalities which might be inconsistent with the expectations of their adoptive parents, causing adjustment difficulties (Feigelman and Silverman, 1984).

The Research Problem

It is a nationwide experience that the number of available Black children for adoption far exceeds the number of eligible and willing Black adoptive families (Silverman and Feigelman, 1981). In 1989 the Child Welfare League of America issued a statistical report on the numbers of available children for adoption in the nation. There were 25,000 children identified, of which 80% had waited for over two years for an adoptive home. Of this number, 50% were minority children.

On a national basis, agencies cited four reasons for these delays: Lack of minority parents for the minority children, lack of parents willing to take children with special needs, delay in termination of parental rights, and lack of agency staff and resources (Strum, 1991). The number one reason cited in this study would lead one to wonder about the transracial placement practices in the nation.

Community acceptance of racially mixed families may be poor, thereby stifling the availability of non-Black adoptive resources. Although placement agencies and social workers may be willing to provide transracial adoption services, community opinion could be a strong influence, and barrier.

Black children who remain in foster care or institutions as a result of the non-availability of an adoptive home are potential candidates for behavior problems reflective of that type of upbringing. These behaviors can carry over into their adult lives and can continue to be a disruption to establishing a family.

Community opinion influences the definition of "Black" by agencies. The most common view is that children of any degree of Black parentage are considered to be Black (Grow and Shapiro, 1977). Some child custodial agencies do not designate any children as "racially mixed" but consider them Black if they have one Black parent.

This research is concerned with exploring the influence of the Southern Nevada community upon current adoption trends. Community opinions may

negatively influence adoption policy because it is unfamiliar with the full extent of the dynamics of a Black child being raised in foster care or institutions. Nevada's adoption agencies and social workers may prefer transracial adoptions over maintaining a child in foster care or other alternate placements, but are they anxious about proceeding due to community opinion?

II. Literature Review

There is significant literature available on the results of transracial adoptions. Literature indicates advantages and limitations of such placements, and through the years the acceptance of transracial placements have shifted.

The 1960's saw an increase in transracial placements. Some agencies which supported transracial adoptions based their position on equality of all children. These agencies believed they were contributing to the elimination of conditions which separated the races and where therefore influencing the welfare of children in general (Madison and Shapiro, 1973).

At about the same time, an increasing number of families were applying to adopt, even though they could have children of their own. Infertility remained a motive to some, however it was becoming a less frequently cited motive for adoption (Silverman and Feigleman, 1977). Families showed a willingness to adopt a child who was racially and culturally different. Trends indicated that as

adults became politically aware and conventions changed, families were increasingly willing to include handicapped and racially different children in their homes (Silverman and Feigleman, 1977).

Because of these trends, agency policies changed. Transracial placements were acceptable, under outlined criteria. Adoptive homes of the same race remained the first priority, however transracial placements were addressed by many agencies (Madison and Shapiro, 1973). This resulted in one-third of the 6,500 Black children being adopted in White families in 1970 (Howard, Royes, and Skerl, 1977).

Historically there has been a disproportionately large number of Black children awaiting adoption under care of public and private agencies. In 1971 voluntary agencies had 141 White homes approved for every 100 White children awaiting adoption, but only 83 non-White homes approved for every 100 non-White children (over 75% of whom were Black). For public agencies, the ratio for 1971 was 113 White homes for every 100 White children, but only 57 non-White homes for every 100 non-White waiting children (Chimezie, 1975).

Statistics continue to show a need for homes. Currently in Nevada, there are 2904 children in substitute care with the Division of Child and Family Services (formerly Nevada State Welfare Division). According to 1991 agency statistics, 1770 (60.9%) are White and 803 (27.6%) are Black. From this statewide total, 344

children have been identified as having an adoption plan for permanency. There are 235 White children (68.3%), and 109 Black children (31.6%) with this plan (Nevada State Welfare, 1991).

The Southern Nevada area serves 1846 (63.5%) of the state's total children in care. This is over half the children in substitute care for the State. Of this total, 936 (50.7%) are White, and 736 (39.8%) are Black. Southern Nevada social workers for the agency have established adoption plans for a total of 240 (13%) of the children in care. Black children account for 97 (40%) of that total, while 129 (53.7%) are White.

Although these numbers indicate White children comprise the majority of children in substitute care, and in need of adoption services, the numbers of Black children are high in comparison to other minorities. In 1987 the national statistics indicated 52.5% of children in substitute care awaiting adoption placement were White, while 34.1% were Black (APWA,1991) The current figures for Southern Nevada also indicate a significant number of Black children awaiting adoption.

In 1972 the National Association of Black Social Workers developed a policy which called for the maintenance of Black children in Black families, despite the shortage of Black adoptive homes. The Association stated they viewed transracial adoptions as a hostile act against their community. They considered the practice to be a blatant form of racial and cultural genocide (National

Association of Black Social Workers, 1972). As a result, transracial adoptions began to slow down. Therefore, many Black children remained unadopted.

Children placed into adoptive families at an older age are more likely to have formed personalities which might be inconsistent with the expectations of their adoptive parents (Feigelman and Silverman, 1984). Also, a child's troubled pre-placement experiences have been found to contribute more significantly to adoptive placement adjustment than the race of the adoptive family.

Foster care offers no guarantees for permanence, therefore, a child's ability to establish deep relationships with family members is stifled. Sudden moves to new families can be destructive to a child's emotions. Parent/child relationships are tenuous, and the foster child is sometimes maintained as the "outsider" (Katz, 1974). Few, if any long term support systems are established. Therefore, a child's self image, according to Katz, would probably be extremely negative.

Chimezie, (1975), furthered the Association's position by comparing alternatives. Black children who are not adopted wind up in permanent foster care or institutions, both of which are believed to produce behavior problems. However, Chimezie stated White families who adopt Black children are unable to equip the child with the psychosocial tools needed to develop an appropriate identity. He claimed White parents typically do not have the life experiences needed to transmit knowledge to a Black child to assist him in living in a society

where discrimination is a real possibility. The child has no potential for identifying with a Black group, or for being fully accepted in a White group (Chimezie, 1975). This concept indicates strong community influence for maintaining a child in a non-adoptive status unless a same-race adoptive family was available.

In 1977 Simon and Alstein (1977) reported their findings of 200 transracially adopted children studied for fifteen years. Their results showed the experience to have been positive for those involved. They concluded that transracial adoptions did not jeopardize the child's racial awareness, identity, or attitude. Additionally, their findings did not offer any evidence that Black children raised by White parents acquired an ambivalence for other Blacks. Despite this, they identified a continuing belief among many child welfare professionals that transracial adoption was unnatural, and therefore bound to be unsuccessful. Many adoption officials claimed transracial adoption was too fragile an experience not to result in serious problems once the child left the family. Here again is the contrast between positive family experience and direct community experience.

More recent comparison studies have been conducted to identify differences among Black children raised by Black adoptive families and those raised in White adoptive families. Mcroy (1982) and others presented a study geared upon the

symbolic interaction theory, which postulated that a person's self-concept, including self-esteem, arises out of the social experience of interaction with other people. According to this theory, major influences on the development of self-concept included: communication directly from other people about the self, comparison of the self with others in the immediate environment, and the role assigned to the individual by the community. Community influence upon the family and child were found to play a part in the development of self-esteem, as well as racial identity. Mcroy found that while self-esteem remained stable in the study groups, racial identity was significantly different (McRoy, et al., 1982). This group also found that White siblings of Black adoptees would experience abuse from children their own age about having a Black sibling. They also found the White family members did not tolerate racial insults from non-family members, but the siblings would, at times, engage in such language themselves.

This study (McRoy, et al., 1987) identified another interesting phenomenon. Children who were reluctant to refer to themselves as belonging to a particular racial group usually had parents who stressed "human identity" as more important than any type of racial identity. Being Black became an insignificant characteristic. This suggests that while internal relationships are equal in transracial as well as inracial families, it is community influence that makes the distinction in racial identity.

Silverman and Feigelman (1981) found trends to support their hypothesis that problems in transracial adoptions only become apparent as the child grows older and is increasingly exposed to the "hostile" world outside the family. Issues of dating, friendships, and marriage are a few of the areas where experience and community opinion might clash.

A longitudinal study of transracially adopted children completed, in 1986 when the children were 8 years old, reported they had a positive concept of Blackness and of themselves during their preschool years. However, as the children grew older, there was some evidence that the self concept was not sustained at equal levels as children adopted inracially (Shireman and Johnson, 1986). As contact with the surrounding community increased, racial identity and pride tended to "level out", although it remained positive.

In 1987, this concept was further espoused by Watson. He participated in a study of racial identity in eight year old children (Johnson, Shireman, and Watson, 1987). He found that as the transracially adopted child assimilated into the family, the racial factor became less important. The family no longer thought of the child as different, or Black. However, Watson further stated the recognition of racial differences was a critical task for transracial adoptees as they matured and had increased contact with the community.

Although there is a significant amount of literature on the results of transracial adoption, and on the advantages and limitations of such placements, additional research on how agencies are dealing with the need for adoptive homes for Black children versus community influence on the placements process is needed. As evidenced here, existing literature presents a picture of social values on race as the primary cause for social and agency non-acceptance of transracial adoptions. However, literature also indicates that transracial adoption creates successful family relationships which are far more beneficial to the child than substitute care programs throughout a child's growing years. Current research demonstrates that transracial adoption is beneficial to a child as opposed to long term alternate care. Research does not clearly define why such placements are delayed, making the child wait longer for an adoptive home than a non-Black child. This study will attempt to provide an insight to that issue by exploring the community influence on adoption practices. Once this information is available the need for community education on the needs of waiting children and the success of transracial adoption can be evaluated.

III. Purpose of the Study

Social issues have been a hinderance in providing Black children with available adoptive homes. These issues are reflected in agency adoption policies.

This research project explores:

A) current opinion on transracial adoption

1) the community of Southern Nevada

2) professional social workers

B) the influence of community opinion on adoption practices by

contrasting:

1) available families for transracial adoption

2) community and professional acceptance of

transracial placements

The study was conducted in the Southern Nevada area only. This included the Las Vegas Valley, Blue Diamond, Henderson, and Boulder City. These are the most densely populated areas of Southern Nevada therefore the sample for the community questionnaire was drawn from these cities. The professional information was drawn from the State adoption agency which is legally licensed to practice adoption placement services in Southern Nevada: Division of Child and Family Services. This agency processes adoptions for children of all ages, and cultural backgrounds, therefore the focus for this study was on this agency.

IV. Significance of the Study

A large number of Black children in Southern Nevada need adoptive homes. Although adoption agencies have established recruitment efforts to find Black homes for Black children, there remains a large number of waiting children.

The Southern Nevada community may not be accepting of racially mixed families, although agencies may have waiting lists of families who are willing to accept racially different children. There is, therefore, a need to determine if the agencies can increase their use of transracial adoptive homes without causing a conflict with community values.

Transracial placements would decrease the number of children dependent upon the State, thereby decreasing the expense to taxpayers. Of greater significance, permanent homes for children offers them a greater stability and a family life which they would not experience if raised in institutions or temporary foster care placements.

This research will attempt to identify that transracial adoptive homes are currently available to waiting children. The opinions of social workers in a local adoption agency will then indicate if such placements will, in fact, be provided to the children. The strong objection to transracial adoptions, raised by the National Association of Black Social Workers, may be shared by social workers in general, therefore indicating that available homes will not be used. If the local community

rejects the racially mixed families that such adoptions would create, then the social values of the community may be reflected in the current adoption practices.

This research question is relevant to understanding why Southern Nevada has a large number of parentless Black children without adoptive homes.

The Research Question

This study explores the range of community influence on the transracial adoption process in Southern Nevada. The research centers on community opinion and adoption agency opinion on transracial placement issues. The exploration of this question includes a review of available adoptive homes as a means of determining if transracial adoptive homes are available in Southern Nevada. If homes are available, does community opinion influence agency placement practice?

V. Hypothesis

Adoption agencies in Southern Nevada are not willing to pursue transracial adoptive placements for Black children due to the community's unwillingness to accept transracial families, even though there are some families willing to adopt racially different children. Therefore, it is hypothesized in this study that negative

community influence against racially mixed families results in the agency making few transracial placements for Black children.

VI. Operational Definitions

community - residents of Las Vegas, Blue Diamond, Henderson and Boulder City.

Adoption agency - (professionals) the social workers for the Division of Child and Family Services in Southern Nevada, which is an agency legally licensed to place children with unrelated families for adoption. Each worker in this study has a job assignment which includes decision making on adoption placements.

adoptive family- a family, of any size including single parents, who have been investigated and approved by a licensed adoptive agency as a prospective home for an adopted child, where the child is not related in any way. For the purpose of this study, this term will also include any family who has completed an adoption application or inquiry form, and is pending investigation. This definition does not include foster families.

- free child -** a person between the age of birth and eighteen years who is without legal parental authority and control, and who is legally recognized as being eligible for adoption.
- inracial -** families of the same race as the adoptive child.
- non-special needs child** for the purpose of this study, this term will be defined as a child who is healthy, age new born to six years, and Caucasian.
- special needs child** this term will identify all other children, including minorities, sibling groups handicapped children, and children with medical and/or emotional needs which are not considered "usual".
- transracial -** families where the adopted child is from a distinctly different race than at least one of the adoptive parents.

VII. The Study Variables

Independent Variables -

The community attitudes toward transracial adoption

The number of non-Black homes for children who are Black

Dependent Variables -

The agency's willingness to make transracial placements

VIII. Methodology

The design for this project was the exploratory survey design. The source of the data was: (i) the existing adoption records within the adoption agency, (ii) social workers employed by the adoption agency, (iii) and a random sample of the defined community. The agency's records (i) were used to obtain information on the number of potential transracial adoptive homes available to the waiting Black children. The social worker's (ii) were asked to provide information on professional's willingness to pursue transracial adoptions. Community (iii) acceptance of racially mixed families was gauged in the third sample group.

The Population

Exploring the availability of transracial homes in the community was necessary to determine if potential transracial placements actually existed. Therefore the population of available adoptive homes in Southern Nevada was an important aspect to the study. Once the availability of alternative resources was known, the study needed to include professional social workers in the population to determine their willingness to utilize the placement potentials. Having the potential homes and the opportunity to use them depended on the community's

acceptance of racially mixed families. Therefore, the community was included in the population for this study.

The Sample Description and Procedures

Sample Group I: Existing records within the adoption agency served as the sample population for Sample Group I. Individual client records were not identified by name to insure confidentiality. Each record was given a number code instead. In this manner, documents (adoption applications and inquiries) from families interested in adoption within the community supplied the factual information regarding potential adoptive families' racial preferences for children they seek to adopt. Because the documents had been submitted voluntarily from families in the community to express their interest in adopting a child, the sample included only potential adoptive homes. This comprised Sample Group 1.

Sample Group 2 was the Adoption Agency, as defined. This group provided information on the professional's opinions on transracial placements. The employees of the adoption agency were polled by using a questionnaire. The sample size for this group was 50, because there are 50 employees of the agency whose jobs require them to make decisions about adoptive placements. This information has been made available through the agency for this study.

Sample Group 3 were residents of the community, selected randomly from telephone directories, and through personal survey. The sample size for Group 3 was 100. The directory for Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, and Blue Diamond provided a portion of the population. Using a table of random numbers (Royse, 1991), the last three digits of the listed six digit numbers were used to signify page numbers of the current telephone directory (Centel, 1992). There are 621 pages, beginning with page 1, for the identified community. For pages of one digit numbers (ie: 1-9) the three digit composition of 001, 002, etc. was used, thus insuring inclusion of these pages in the sample. Similarly, two digit page numbers were included in the sample by identifying a zero digit as the first of the three digit groupings. Three digit groupings of numbers greater than 621 were discarded.

The researcher selected a beginning number from the random listings by placing her finger on the page with her eyes shut. The number her finger covered was the first selection for the sample. Selections were made by taking consecutive numbers, moving down the column and beginning again at the top of the next column, until 100 three digit numbers were recorded.

Once 100 pages had been randomly selected, the process was repeated to randomly select individual telephone listings. Each page contains 4 columns of listings, and each column lists approximately 103 lines, for a total of 412 listings

possible for each page. Random numbers were selected in the above described manner to obtain 100 three digit numbers to identify which listing on the selected pages would provide the telephone numbers for the sample. Businesses and non-residential listings were discarded as the survey included residents only. The surveyor insured that the respondent was 18 years of age or older before initiating the questionnaire.

Personal surveys were conducted when the random telephone number proved unsuccessful for completion of the questionnaire. Individuals were selected by accidental sampling, and had to meet two criteria for the survey: they had to be residents of Southern Nevada and they had to be eighteen years old or older.

The Instruments

There were two instruments developed for this study. Data from agency records was collected using Instrument I (see Appendix A). Data from Groups 2 and 3 was collected by using the opinion questionnaire, Instrument 2 (see Appendix B). Both groups 2 and 3 received the same instrument. In this manner professional opinion and community opinion could be compared.

Instrument I was used to record: 1) the race of the applicant, 2) acceptable race of the child(ren) the applicant preferred to adopt. This information then provided data on 1) how many potential adoptive homes are available in Southern

Nevada, and 2) how many of these potential homes have indicated a willingness to pursue a transracial adoption.

The researcher reviewed each application and waiting list inquiry currently on file with the agency. The researcher completed Instrument I for each document reviewed.

The Instrument for Sample Groups 2 and 3 was identified as Instrument 2. The Instrument was a matrix design as a means of organizing the response categories. The Likert Scale was used. Response categories were: Strongly agree, Agree, Don't Know, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.

This method of questionnaire structure uses space efficiently and allows for quick and easy recording of responses. The scale provided for a range of opinions to be expressed. However, the Likert scale format has the potential to foster a patterned response from the respondent. This possible limitation of the instrument's scale was tested during the pretest. Responses obtained were consistent with the final opinion question, and showed no patterns based on questionnaire format. It was anticipated that the final opinion expressed on the transracial issue would be evident in the manner in which the other questions were answered. This was the case. Therefore, the statement structure of the instrument allowed for uniformity in responses, leading to a logical opinion at the end.

Questions were divided into the following topic areas

- A. knowledge of current adoption agency policy on transracial adoptions and issues regarding a family's decision to adopt (to differentiate between fact and opinion)
- B. knowledge of specific adoption needs for Black children (to gauge an awareness of the need)
- C. knowledge of alternatives available to free children who are not adopted (to assess the respondent's awareness of the effect of maintaining a child in a non-adoptive status)
- D. opinion of types of problems, if any, transracial adoptions may create for:
 - a. the child (research demonstrates that transracial adoption is a viable alternative to long term alternate care, whereas opinions did not always agree)
 - b. the family (research indicates that racially different families can offer a solid homelife for their adopted child, however negative community reaction may cause problems)
 - c. the community (research indicates that the community influence is the determinant in the transracially adopted child's self esteem and racial identity).

The questionnaire was designed by the researcher for this study based on prior research on transracial adoptions as described hereafter.

The Development of Section A of Instrument 2

Section A was designed to poll the respondent's knowledge of adoption trends and policies. This information was needed to determine the actual awareness of adoption issues.

The instrument asked for the respondent's knowledge of motivation for families to adopt, thereby gauging their knowledge of new trends in family building.

The instrument posed a key statement in this section: "Most adoptive parents seek to adopt children who are physically similar to themselves". This statement gauged the respondent's awareness of the potential for transracial adoptions in Southern Nevada, and understanding of current adoption movements.

A statement was included in the instrument to identify the respondent's awareness of the actual feasibility of transracial adoption in Southern Nevada. It was important for the instrument to identify the respondent's knowledge of policy versus opinion in this area.

Development of Section B of Instrument 2

Section B deals with the actual needs of children awaiting adoption in Nevada. The respondent's awareness was then considered in evaluating the final opinion on the transracial issue.

The questionnaire asked the respondents for their knowledge of the ratio of White children in care versus Black children in care, thereby exploring their factual awareness of Black children's needs in Nevada.

Southern Nevada clearly has a need to identify adoptive homes for Black children as evidenced by the numbers awaiting placement, as discussed earlier in this text. Respondents were asked if there are more White families who want to adopt than Black families, as a means of exploring the respondent's knowledge of recruitment needs for families interested in adoption.

The questionnaire also asked for each respondent's awareness of the numbers of Black children available for adoption. By comparing the opinions expressed to these statements, the respondent's awareness of adoptive resources, other than transracial, was explored.

Development of Section C of Instrument 2

Section C explores the respondent's awareness of the problems of maintaining a child in foster care as opposed to adoption or other permanent placements.

The respondent's understanding of the need for permanent homes was explored by the statement "a child can benefit equally well being raised in either a foster family or an adoptive family".

This section contains a key question relevant to racial differences in a family and the potential for adjustment problems and self esteem issues. The respondents were asked to record their opinion on the following statement: "A child's racial difference in a family will have greater impact on his ability to adjust than any other factor." Research has demonstrated that prior placement experiences and the child's age at placement are more significant than other issues.

The instrument was designed to explore information on the respondent's awareness of non-adoption alternatives for children in the juvenile system. For example, the statement: "it is more important for a child to be permanently placed in a home than to be raised in foster care or an institution" offered the respondent an opportunity to express an opinion on the need for permanency planning.

Problems must be managed in any type of adoptive home, and according to the research discussed previously, racial differences play a small part. Therefore,

the statement "a child who is considered to have problems will be worse if placed with a family of a different race" was included.

Development of Section D of Instrument 2

This section of the questionnaire dealt with the subjective racial issues of transracial adoption. Each question addressed the Black-White issue in some manner and the respondent was asked to express his/her opinion in those terms. For instance, there were two statements, similar to one another, but addressing the racial issue from different perspectives: "White families who adopt Black children will never be fully accepted by either Blacks or Whites" and "Black children who are adopted by White families will never be fully accepted by either Blacks or Whites."

The questionnaire included a statement designed to explore the opinion of sibling relationships in a transracial family. The statement was: "Black/White adoptive siblings will have problems getting along with each other because their peers will tease them."

The statement: "White parents who adopt Black children should emphasize that all people are the same and minimize racial differences" was a key to the opinion statement. Since some objections to transracial adoption center on the assumed loss of racial identity, those who were unfavorable to transracial

adoption would likely have answered "strongly disagree". Supporters of transracial placements would similarly have responded with "strongly agree", because such placements would not be considered as stifling for the identity of the individual.

The questionnaire addressed community influence on transracial families with the statement: "Black children raised by White parents will have increased problems as they grow older and meet more people outside the home". This statement gauged the respondent's opinion of the community's ability to effect the child.

Other's influence on transracially adopted children's Black identity was explored by the statement "Black children raised by White parents learn prejudice against other Blacks".

Bi-racial children present an interesting issue. Should they be raised in Black homes or White homes? The instrument contained a question to obtain the respondent's opinion on this issue. Here again, the answer is not clear cut, and opinion is being explored by the questionnaire.

The final questions on the instrument asked for an actual opinion of transracial adoption. The last question identified how many in each sample group were in favor of the process and how many were opposed to it. The opinions expressed on this question were the aim of the research.

IX. The Data Collection Procedure

Sample Group I - With the permission of the Division of Child and Family Services, the researcher reviewed the existing applications and inquiries submitted to the agency by potential adoptive families. Each document was reviewed to identify two pieces of information: the race of the family and the race of the child(ren) they seek to adopt. The application and inquiry forms used by the agency have been designed to collect both types of information. The researcher read the documents sufficiently to obtain the needed information and record it, using Instrument I. No other details or data were obtained for the purpose of this study.

Sample Group 2 - With the permission of the agency, Instrument 2 was personally administered to staff by the researcher. Staff members, selected in accordance with the previously outlined sampling process, were given a copy of Instrument 2 which included written instructions. The researcher explained the purpose of the research, if asked. The respondent was given as much time as needed to read and respond to each question. Identifying information on the respondent was not requested. Respondents were asked not to write in any identifying information. Upon completion, the Instrument forms were collected from the respondents by the researcher.

Sample Group 3 - Instrument 2 was used to collect data from Sample Group 3. The instrument was completed using the telephone survey method and personal survey via accidental sampling. Volunteers were given a list of telephone numbers selected in accordance with the previously outlined method. All telephone numbers were attempted first, and if the number was discarded because of a refusal to participate, because it was a business, or the number was out of service, etc., then the questionnaire was completed by personal survey. A standardized introduction statement was provided to each volunteer in addition to the survey questions of Instrument 2. Volunteers were given information in advance on the purpose of the study and the sampling method. In this manner they were prepared to answer any questions. Identifying information of the respondent was not requested. If provided to the interviewer, the information was not recorded.

Advantages to using the telephone survey method included: timeliness; low cost; and it allowed for access to individuals who would not permit personal interviews with strangers or return a mailed questionnaire.

Disadvantages included: impossibility for personal observation, and the potential inability of the interviewers to engage the respondent's interest in completing the questionnaire. This limitation was accounted for by the personal survey process described above.

X. Data Processing and Analysis

This exploratory process was designed to explore the public opinion of transracial adoption as compared to professional opinion. It was anticipated that community opinion would be negative whereas professional opinion would be positive. The hypothesis would then be supported in that community opinion determines the agency's practice, as opposed to the needs of the child determining the placement practices.

The information from Sample Group 1 was recorded on the instrument exactly as it was contained within the records being used for the sample. Therefore, there was no scale needed to measure responses. The information obtained was then compiled in a frequency table to identify how many families in Southern Nevada were interested in transracial adoption. In this manner the number of potentially successful transracial adoptive homes was identified.

Group 1: The agency adoption applications and inquiry forms identified five (5) major racial categories: Caucasian, Black, Hispanic, Asian and Native American. For each document reviewed, these racial identifiers were recorded for the single females, single males, and the married couples. If more than one racial identifier was listed, the minority listing was recorded. Only one social identifier per individual adult was recorded.

The racial preference for the child sought for adoption was recorded using the same five (5) identifying categories. In this area, more than one selection was possible as each applicant could indicate an openness for any one or all five racial categories. Married person's selections were identical for the child in all cases. For each family (married couples were processed as one family although each individual's race was recorded) there were 5 possible selections for the child.

The data collected and processed included the year of the family's inquiry if they were on the agency's adoption waiting list. An entry to the waiting list indicated they were interested in adopting a "non-special needs" child. If the family was listed as wanting a special needs child, the data entry was coded to identify that preference. Families with approved adoption home studies who were ready to receive a child were coded to reflect that status. The data obtained for this study does not include homes where children had already been placed for adoption.

By coding the data in this manner it was possible to determine how many potential families were available to the agency, and which of these families had indicated a willingness to consider a transracial adoption. Since this study is focused primarily on White families and Black children, those matchings were recorded as potential transracial homes.

Groups 2: There were fifty (50) professional social workers within the agency identified for the sample. From this number thirty-eight (38) surveys were completed and returned. The twelve (12) surveys which were not completed could not be accounted for as no identifying information was recorded for those surveys which were returned. The twelve (12) workers could therefore not be approached in order to request the survey.

Of the thirty-eight forms returned, two were discarded. Both of these forms were answered by the worker writing in qualifiers for their response as opposed to completing the scale of available answers. Although the researcher accepts that adoption decisions should be made on a case by case basis the questionnaire was designed to gather general opinions. Therefore two surveys were discarded from the analysis, leaving a total of thirty-six (36).

Group 3: One hundred (100) community residents were selected for the survey and a total of eighty-six (86) surveys were completed. Fourteen (14) surveys were not returned by the volunteers. Two surveys were discarded as they were incomplete. The total for Group 3 therefore was eighty-four (84). Of this number 31 were telephone interviews and 53 were personal surveys.

Each question was coded according to the scale used. The 'strongly agree' choice was coded as a "1" and each other choice was sequentially numbered. The

last question, the opinion statement, was coded in reverse order. On this "unfavorable" was coded as a "1", with "very favorable" coded as a "5".

The opinion question was the key question on the survey. The responses to this question were compared to the responses to every other question. The design of the questionnaire was such that a person who was "very favorable" to transracial adoptions would have "strongly disagree" to all questions within the survey with three exceptions.

Question 10 read "It is more important for a child to be permanently placed in a home than to be raised in foster care or an institution." The response to this question would logically have been "strongly agree", based on researched findings of the importance for stability and permanence for a child, as has been previously discussed in this text.

Question 16 read "Black children raised by White adopted parents will have increased problems as they grow older and meet people outside the home." Here again, the answer would have been "strongly agree" if the respondent was familiar with the impact of the community on racially mixed families. As cited previously, transracial families do well with building self esteem, etc. As the child interacts more with the environment outside the home problems of a racial nature are likely to surface.

The response for question 15 was open, with prior research on transracial adoption making no conclusive finding. The question was "White parents who adopt Black Children should emphasize that all people are the same and should minimize racial differences." The issue here was of racial differences as an identity within society as a whole, or as an individual characteristic within a society of multiple blended characteristics. The responses were subjective, but of interest to the final opinion expressed in this survey. Transracial adoption may indicate to some that racial identity becomes blended and perhaps lost if "human sameness" is stressed within the home.

Data from Groups 2 and 3 were processed separately and in comparison. The two categories at either end of the scale (the "agrees" and "disagrees") were joined together in considering the percentage of findings. The difference between "strongly" agree and agree did not detract from the agree versus disagree aspect of the response. The tables developed also indicated the actual number of responses for each category. (Appendix C).

XI. Findings

The survey revealed fifteen (15) potential homes with single males. All fifteen (15) were Caucasian. The following table indicates the racial preference for the children these homes wanted:

Table 1. Single Male Homes

Male Race	Single Male Preference of Child's Race				
	Caucasian	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Nat. American
15 Caucasian	15	2	6	5	6

In this group, there were two potential transracial homes.

The single women in the survey numbered thirty-three (33). Of this total thirty-one (31) were Caucasian, one was Hispanic and one was Black. The following table indicates potential transracial homes, of which there were seven.

Table 2. Single Female Homes

Female # and Race	Single Female Preference of Child's Race				
	Caucasian	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Nat. American
31 Caucasian	31	7	10	8	10
1 Black	1	1	1	1	1
1 Hispanic	1	1	1	1	1

Of the married couples, the following table indicates the racial identities:

Table 3. Races of Married Couples

Race of Husband	Race of Wife				
	Caucasian	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Nat. American
Caucasian	180	0	5	2	1
Black	1	3	0	1	0
Hispanic	7	0	2	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	1	0
Nat. American	4	0	1	0	0

Of these racial groupings, the following table indicates the racial preference for the child.

Table 4. Married Homes

Race of		Married Couple's Preference of Child's				
		Race				
Husband	Wife	Cauc	Black	Hispan	Asian	Nat Am
Cauc	Cauc	180	31	79	83	81
Cauc	Hispan	5	0	5	2	4
Cauc	Asian	1	0	1	2	1
Cauc	Nat Amer	1	0	0	0	0
Black	Cauc	0	1	0	0	0
Black	Black	0	3	0	0	0
Black	Asian	1	1	1	1	1
Hispan	Cauc	7	0	6	4	4
Hispan	Hispan	0	0	2	0	0
Asian	Asian	1	0	1	1	1
Nat Am	Cauc	4	2	3	3	4
Nat Am	Hispan	1	0	1	1	1

The tables indicate the majority of married couples in this survey were Caucasian/Caucasian, and of the 180 homes in this group 31 would consider a Black child for adoption.

In review, this data demonstrated there were a total of 40 potential transracial adoptive homes in Southern Nevada. One limitation within these findings however, was that of all 40 potential homes only two had received an approval for actual placement from the agency. In both instances, they were full Caucasian couples willing to accept any race child. The other thirtyeight homes had a potential of not being approved to receive a child. This data indicated only the number of potential homes, not actual placements available.

Groups 2 and 3 were in favor of transracial adoptions overall, as the following table indicates:

Table 5. Opinion Question

Responses	Group 2	Group 3	Totals	Percent
Very Unfavorable	0	7	7	15%
Percentage	0%	8%	5%	
Somewhat Unfavorable	6	6	12	
Percentage	16%	7%	10%	
Don't Know	4	8	12	10%
Percentage	11%	9%	10%	
Somewhat Favorable	21	41	62	73%
Percentage	58%	48%	51%	
Very Favorable	5	22	27	
Percentage	13%	26%	22%	

Responses to the other questions provided some insight on the information and opinions each respondent used in connection with the overwhelming majority indicated above.

In Section A both groups showed a majority of disagreement to question one, indicating their awareness that infertility is no longer a primary motivation for families to adopt. However the responses to question two showed an

overwhelming agreement to the statement that families prefer to adopt children physically similar to themselves. This indicated both groups realized that while some families make a choice to adopt rather than have children naturally, these families would still prefer a child who resembles them in appearance. Research indicates the opposite, however findings from Group 1 would support the indicators from Groups 2 and 3. The majority of families waiting to adopt were requesting children of the same race of at least one adoptive parent in the home.

Group 2 tended to disagree with statement three, indicating an awareness that their agency does not have a policy requiring same-race adoptive placements. There were 52% who responded correctly and disagreed with this statement. However, 13% did not know and 33% agreed. Group 3 showed a majority of responses to statement 3 in the "don't know" category. There were 57% who indicated they did not know the agency's policy on race for adoptive placements.

Section B polled opinions and knowledge of adoption needs in Southern Nevada. On statement four the professionals showed an almost even split between agreement and disagreement about the ease in placing infants, regardless of race. Group 3 had a majority of responses in the "agree" category. Interestingly, this statement compared to statement seven ("there are as many Black families who want to adopt as there are White families") indicated contrasting opinions. Whereas 47% of professionals indicated infants were easy to place regardless of

race, not one professional agreed with statement seven. There were 94% disagreements with statement seven in Group 2 and 54% disagreement in Group 3. A comparison of these statements clearly indicated the opinion in both groups that White adoptive families outnumbered Blacks, and any infant could be quickly placed in an adoptive home. In evaluating these responses there were some limitations to consider: the lack of a uniform definition for "quickly", and a lack of information on the number of infants placed and their races. Since the data collected did not include adoptive homes who had already received children, or the number and race of available infants, it was not possible to conclude that the responses in statements four and seven are direct indicators of the Groups being in favor of transracial adoptive placements. However, for this exploratory study, this information was significant.

Statements five and six gauged awareness of the numbers of Black children as compared to other races in the foster care system, and the numbers available for adoption. In both cases, Black children number fewer than White, but greater than other minorities. Group 2 responses indicated the majority were aware of these statistics, however the community was largely unaware of the numbers. In Group 3, 63% responded with "don't know".

Section C asked the respondents to consider statements about alternatives to children who were not adopted. In this section, statements eight and ten were

compared, while nine and eleven were compared. These sets considered similar statements.

Both statements eight and ten considered the quality of a child's experience if raised in foster care versus in an adoptive home. Logically, the respondents would provide answers that corresponded in both statements. Both groups had a majority of disagreements with statement eight, which indicated they believed a child cannot benefit equally from foster care as from an adoptive home. Correspondingly, question ten had a large majority who agreed that it is important for a child to have a permanent home. In both groups, adoption seemed to be a preferred option for children in Nevada's foster care system.

Statement ten was the first in the survey which would require a "strongly agree" answer if the respondent was in keeping with the research. Both groups were overwhelmingly in agreement with this statement. Group 2 had 86% in agreement, Group 3 had 92%. In neither groups was there a response of "strongly disagree" and only three in each group responded with "disagree". This shows the question was valid as compared with other research.

Responses to statements nine and eleven were primarily in disagreement. The combined group scores showed 64% and 57%, respectively, in disagreement with statements that race could be the major adjustment issue in a family. These responses were in keeping with the research on transracial adoptive families. The

responses were also in keeping with the overall acceptance of transracial placements, as the respondents acknowledge that race is not the major factor for possible problems.

Section D requested opinions on racial issues, and some of the statements had no conclusive research to guide a response. Statements twelve and thirteen dealt with community acceptance of transracial families. The majority in both groups disagreed with both statements which indicated they believe the families would be accepted socially.

Statement fourteen received 63% disagreement in both groups. The indication was that both groups believe racially different adopted siblings would not have problems in their relationships.

Statements sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, and twenty-one all dealt with the impact of White parents on a Black adopted child. Statement sixteen, if answered in accordance with researched information, would have shown a majority to be in agreement. However, both groups showed the majority to disagree. This statement considered the influence of the community outside the family and the potential for problems upon interaction with that community. This survey indicated that residents of Southern Nevada do not believe the community influence would be negative. The other four statements on this issue showed a

majority in disagreement to the statements. This indicated both groups believed transracial adoption could be a positive experience for the child.

Statement twenty requested an opinion of the best racial family for a biracial child. In each of the two groups approximately one quarter of the responses were "don't know". The majority of the other respondents were in disagreement with the statement that biracial children would do best in Black homes. Racial lines appeared to be open in these responses as they did not automatically place a biracial child with a minority family. This was in keeping with the two groups acceptance of transracial adoptions.

Racial factors have not been demonstrated to play a primary role in adoption issues. Respondents have demonstrated a majority of opinions which are confirmed by research and both groups tended to respond in the same percentages to all statements, with the exception of numbers five, six, and fifteen.

Statements five and six were statistical in nature and the community was evidently unaware of the comparative numbers of White and Black children in Southern Nevada's juvenile system. It was not unexpected that the professionals would have more accurate knowledge of these numbers than the community at large.

Statement fifteen has yielded interesting responses. Groups 2 and 3 were not cohesive in their opinions on this statement. This was considered to be a key

statement on racial issues and society. Should race be a factor to separate one from another in social settings, even if it be due to pride in one's race? Or, should race be considered as an individual characteristic, like blue eyes, with no other attention given to differences? Although this survey offered no attempt to provide definitive answers, the opinions of those surveyed were noteworthy. Group 2 had 52% who disagreed with statement fifteen, 36% who agreed, and 11% who were unable to decide. This indicated that the professionals, by not too wide a margin, believed the human identity should be second to racial identity.

Group 3 overwhelmingly agreed with statement 15, by 91%. Additionally, this was the only statement to which no respondent answered with "don't know". The community had definite opinions on this subject, and only 8% answered the same as the majority of the professionals. Therefore, the community was in favor of transracial adoption (per statement twenty two) and even more strongly in favor of minimizing racial differences.

XII. Summary

This survey has demonstrated the availability of transracial adoptive homes in Southern Nevada. Although these potential homes are outnumbered by homes preferring Caucasian children, there remains a placement resource for Black children within the community which was, as yet, untapped. Of the forty

potential homes only two have received preparation from the agency to receive a child, and they were waiting for a placement at the time of this survey.

Information contained herein indicates that of the children in Southern Nevada who are receiving adoption planning by the agency, 97 are Black. This study's limitations include the inability to assert that all 40 potential homes are appropriate as adoptive resources. Further, the data collected cannot conclusively identify delay factors in adoptive placements for these children.

This study does, however, provide some insight as to the professional and community opinion on racially mixed families. In giving a direct opinion on transracial adoption, 72% of the professions and 75% of the community were in favor of such placements. Although it was anticipated that the community would be negatively disposed to racially mixed families, this was not the result of the survey. The survey further demonstrated that the professional's opinions on transracial adoption issues were in accordance with the community's opinions, with one exception.

On the concurring issues, the following opinions can be identified:

- * Adoptive families generally prefer children physically similar to themselves.
- * White adoptive homes outnumber Black adoptive homes.
- * Infants, regardless of race are quickly placed into adoptive homes.

- * Adoption is preferred for children as opposed to foster care.
- * Racial differences in a family are not the major adjustment issues or cause of problems.
- * Transracial families would be accepted socially.
- * The community influence on transracial families would not be negative.

These opinions all indicate a positive relationship to the two group's attitudes toward transracial adoption.

The single issue on which the two groups differed in opinion was on racial versus human identity. Group 2 disagreed with minimizing racial differences while Group 3 showed strong agreement.

The study's hypothesis cannot be supported by the findings. It was anticipated that community opinions on transracial adoptions would be negative, and would be influential in the agency's adoption practices. However the survey demonstrated a positive community opinion, as well as an expressed positive opinion by the professionals.

This opinion survey did not request demographic information from the respondents. It is not possible therefore to identify the race of the respondent's as compared to their expressed opinions. Research into the correlation on an

individual's own race and opinion on transracial adoption would provide more distinctive racial indicators.

XIII. Implications of the Study

Social Implications

One implication stemming from this study would be for clear and very specific time frames for an agency to pursue a same-race adoptive placement. If transracial placements are available, an agency must be prepared to state at what point those resources can be utilized. This survey revealed that adoption is preferred over foster care. Therefore, the agency must have guidelines as to when to accept a home where the physical characteristics of the child are distinct from the family.

This survey yielded an opinion that adoptive families prefer children similar to themselves. Therefore, with respect for family preferences, and the interest of the child, a search should be made for "self sameness" factors in a placement in advance of a transracial placement. Recruitment efforts need to acknowledge the Black community's attitudes toward agency practices, and adoption itself. The Black community needs to be made aware of the need for homes, and the agency needs to become culturally aware of the needs of the Black community.

The data collected for this study did not identify which of the homes willing to accept transracial placements could actually be approved as an adoptive resource. The social workers would need to consider unique factors when studying families interested in racially different children, and they therefore need special training and education in this area. Successful placements require special families, who are themselves tuned-in to the racial needs of the children they seek to raise.

The United States often is referred to as a "melting pot" and this study's implication is that Southern Nevada is no exception. Racially mixed families were generally accepted by the community, and this acceptance offers a permanent resource to homeless children who would otherwise have no family of their own.

Implications for Future Studies

Future studies on transracial adoptions would benefit from a demographic analysis of the respondent. The researcher would then be able to determine if the opinions on transracial adoption are related to the respondent's race, economic status, education, etc.

Forming the questionnaire in different patterns may also demonstrate differences in the data obtained. The questionnaire developed for this survey placed the opinion statement on transracial adoptions at the end. It is conceivable

that preceding statements lead the respondent to an awareness of the need for permanent homes for Black children. By having the respondent express opinions on related issues, the final opinion may have been influenced. Reformatting the questionnaire in future research may yield different data.

Future research into this topic may take a different sampling approach and deal with the data analysis with a more decision making statistical model. Using cross tabulations from the obtained data, the researcher would be able to determine if the distribution of one variable depends on or is related to the distribution of another variable (Craft, 1990). Namely, using Chi square analysis would indicate if an association existed, and the likelihood of a sample association being merely a chance phenomenon.

XIV. Conclusions

The acceptance of transracial adoption in Southern Nevada can be interpreted as an overall open acceptance of racial differences within families. Adoption remains a viable alternative for children who, for various reasons, have no permanent home. Adoption benefits the receiving family, the child, and the interests of society.

Over the years adoption practices and priorities may change, however the need to recruit families increases in direct proportion to the needs of children

within the system. Even though transracial adoptions are an alternative solution for some children, the agency must maintain a responsibility for recruiting and providing services to families of all races who would offer a child a permanent home.

Appendix A

Approved Application _____
Accepted Inquiry _____
Form Date _____

Group 1

Race of Family (Applicant)

Caucasian	_____	_____
Black	_____	_____
Hispanic	_____	_____
Asian	_____	_____
American Indian	_____	_____

Race of Child(ren) willing to Adopt

Caucasian	_____	_____
Black	_____	_____
Hispanic	_____	_____
Asian	_____	_____
American Indian	_____	_____

Appendix B

Questions	Strong Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strong Disagree
Section A This section considers some of the reasons families may wish to adopt and agency policy on race and placement.					
1. Only families who are unable to have their own children want to adopt.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Most adoptive parents seek to adopt children who are physically similar to themselves.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. It is the policy of Nevada's adoption agencies to place children only in adoptive homes of the same race.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Section B This section asks about the adoption needs of children who are awaiting placement.					
4. Infants, regardless of race, are quickly placed into adoptive homes.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. The majority of children in Nevada's foster care program are Black.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. The majority of children in Nevada's foster care system who are available for adoption are Black.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. There are as many Black families who want to adopt as there are White families.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Section C This section asks about alternatives to adoption for children.					
8. A child can benefit equally well being raised in either a foster family or an adoptive family.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Questions	Strong Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strong Disagree
9. A child's racial difference in a family will have greater impact on his/her ability to adjust than any other factor.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. It is more important for a child to be permanently placed in a home than to be raised in foster care or an institution.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. A child who is considered to have "problems" will be worse if placed with a family of a different race.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Section D This section requests your opinions on transracial adoption issues.
--

12. White families who adopt Black children will never be fully accepted by either Blacks or Whites.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. Black children who are adopted by White families will never be fully accepted by either Blacks or Whites.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
14. Black/White adoptive siblings will have problems getting along with each other because their peers will tease them.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15. White parents who adopt Black children should emphasize that all people are the same and minimize racial differences.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16. Black children raised by White adopted parents will have increased problems as they grow older and meet people outside the home.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Questions	Strong Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strong Disagree
17. A Black child raised in a White home will develop self esteem problems.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
18. A White family cannot provide a Black child with a positive self identity.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
19. Black children raised by White parents learn prejudice against other Blacks.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20. Biracial children do best in Black homes.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
21. Black children should be raised in Black homes because racial differences cannot be ignored.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

22. My opinion about White families adopting Black children is

(Circle One)

Very unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	I'm not sure	Somewhat favorable	Very favorable
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Appendix C

1. Only families who are unable to have their own children want to adopt.
2. Most adoptive parents seek to adopt children who are physically similar to themselves.
3. Nevada's adoption agencies policy is to place children only in adoptive homes of the same race.

Table 6. Group 2 Replies to Section A

Section A Questions 1 to 3					
Group 2					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
# 1	20	14	1	1	0
Percent	94%		2%	2%	
# 2	0	11	3	18	3
Percent	30%		8%	58%	
# 3	0	19	5	9	3
Percent	52%		13%	33%	

Table 7. Group 3 Replies to Section A

Section A Questions 1 to 3					
Group 3					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
# 1	16	50	3	12	3
Percent	78%		3%	17%	
# 2	0	17	6	54	7
Percent	20%		7%	72%	
# 3	0	26	48	9	1
Percent	30%		57%	11%	

Table 8. Group 2 & 3 Combined Percentages

Section A Questions 1 to 3			
Groups 2 & 3 Combined Percentages			
	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree
# 1	83%	23%	37%
# 2	3%	7%	44%
# 3	13%	68%	18%

4. Infants, regardless of race, are quickly placed into adoptive homes.
5. The majority of children in Nevada's foster care program are Black.
6. The majority of children in Nevada who are available for adoption are Black.
7. There are as many Black families who want to adopt as there are White families.

Table 9. Group 2 Replies to Section B

Section B Questions 4 to 7					
Group 2					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
# 4	1	15	3	12	5
Percent	44%		8%	47%	
# 5	8	18	6	4	0
Percent	72%		16%	11%	
# 6	4	11	11	7	3
Percent	41%		30%	27%	
# 7	15	19	2	0	0
Percent	94%		5%	0	

Table 10. Group 3 Replies to Section B

Section B Questions 4 to 7					
Group 3					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
# 4	7	17	17	26	17
Percent	28%		20%	51%	
# 5	1	11	53	17	2
Percent	14%		63%	22%	
# 6	0	7	56	19	2
Percent	8%		66%	25%	
# 7	5	41	17	18	3
Percent	54%		20%	25%	

Table 11. Group 2 & 3 Combined Percentages

Section B Questions 4 to 7			
Groups 2 & 3 Combined Percentages			
	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree
# 4	33%	16%	50%
# 5	31%	49%	19%
# 6	18%	55%	25%
# 7	66%	15%	17%

8. A child can benefit equally well being raised in either a foster family or an adoptive family.
9. A child's racial difference in a family will have great impact on his ability to adjust.
10. It is more important for a child to be in a permanent home than to be raised in foster care.
11. A child considered to have "problems" will be worse if placed with a family of a different race.

Table 12. Group 2 Replies to Section C

Section C Questions 8 to 11					
Group 2					
	Strong Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
# 8	11	19	3	3	0
Percent	83%		8%	8%	
# 9	8	18	2	5	3
Percent	72%		5%	22%	
# 10	0	3	2	13	18
Percent	8%		5%	86%	
# 11	2	26	5	1	3
Percent	77%		13%	11%	

Table 13. Group 3 Replies to Section C

Section C Questions 8 to 11					
Group 3					
	Strong Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strong Agree
# 8	18	42	4	14	6
Percent	71%		4%	23%	
# 9	8	43	6	25	2
Percent	60%		7%	32%	
# 10	0	3	3	32	46
Percent	3%		3%	92%	
# 11	3	38	16	22	5
Percent	48%		19%	32%	

Table 14. Group 2 & 3 Combined Percentages

Section C Questions 8 to 11			
Groups 2 & 3 Combined Percentages			
	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree
# 8	75%	5%	19%
# 9	64%	6%	29%
# 10	5%	4%	90%
# 11	57%	17%	25%

12. White families adopting Black children will never be fully accepted by either Blacks or Whites.
13. Black children who are adopted by White families will never be fully accepted by either Blacks or Whites.
14. Black/White adoptive siblings will have problems getting along with each other because their peers will tease them.
15. White parents who adopt Black children should emphasize that all people are the same and minimize racial differences.
16. Black children raised by White adopted parents will have increased problems as they grow older and meet people outside the home.
17. A Black child raised in a White home will develop self esteem problems.
18. A White family cannot provide a Black child with a positive self identity.
19. Black children raised by White parents learn prejudice against other Blacks.
20. Biracial children do best in Black homes.
21. Black children should be raised in Black homes because racial differences cannot be ignored.

Table 15. Group 2 Replies to section D

Section D Questions 12 to 21					
Group 2					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
# 12	6	23	5	2	0
Percent	80%		13%	5%	
# 13	6	23	4	3	0
Percent	80%		11%	8%	
# 14	3	20	5	7	1
Percent	63%		13%	22%	
# 15	3	16	4	11	2
Percent	52%		11%	36%	
# 16	0	21	6	8	1
Percent	58%		16%	25%	
# 17	2	27	5	2	0
Percent	80%		13%	5%	
# 18	14	19	2	1	0
Percent	91%		5%	2%	
# 19	13	20	1	1	1
Percent	91%		2%	5%	
# 20	5	21	9	1	0
Percent	72%		25%	2%	
# 21	3	20	4	7	2
Percent	63%		11%	25%	

Table 16. Group 3 Replies to section D

Section D Questions 12 to 21					
Group 3					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree	Strongly Agree
# 12	9	48	11	12	4
Percent	67%		13%	19%	
# 13	7	51	12	10	4
Percent	69%		14%	16%	
#14	6	47	12	16	3
Percent	63%		14%	22%	
# 15	1	6	0	33	44
Percent	8%		0	91%	
# 16	14	44	8	16	2
Percent	69%		9%	21%	
# 17	10	51	12	9	2
Percent	72%		14%	13%	
# 18	21	46	6	6	5
Percent	79%		7%	13%	
# 19	23	50	8	2	1
Percent	86%		9%	3%	
# 20	8	44	25	6	1
Percent	61%		29%	8%	
# 21	11	46	9	12	6
Percent	67%		10%	21%	

Table 17. Group 2 & 3 Combined Percentages

Section D Questions 12 to 21			
Groups 2 & 3 Combined Percentages			
	Disagree	Don't Know	Agree
# 12	71%	13%	15%
# 13	72%	13%	14%
# 14	63%	14%	22%
# 15	21%	3%	75%
# 16	65%	11%	22%
# 17	75%	14%	10%
# 18	83%	6%	1%
# 19	88%	7%	4%
# 20	65%	28%	6%
# 21	66%	10%	22%

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