

Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

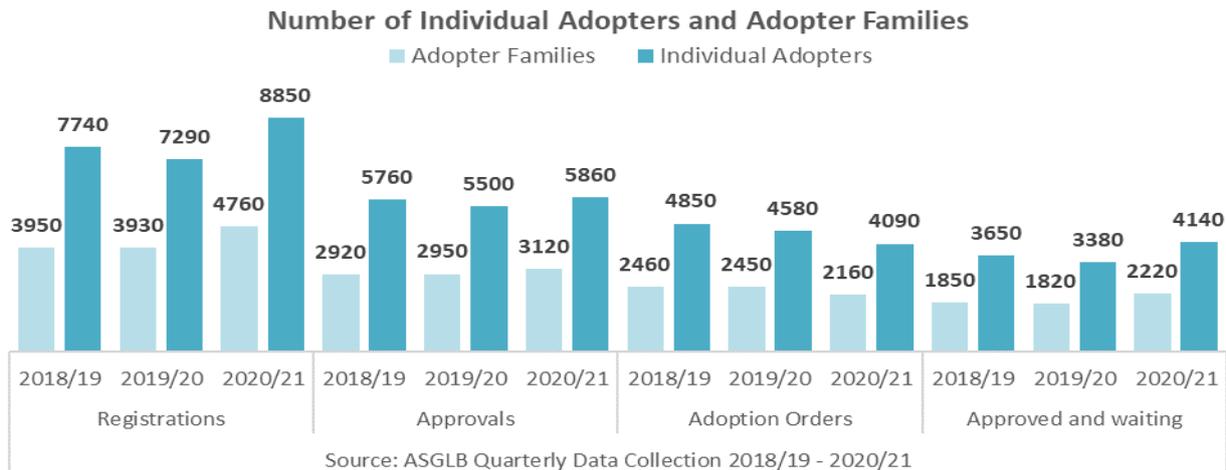
Adopter Characteristics

April 2022

INDIVIDUAL AND ADOPTER FAMILIES

Over the last three years there has been an increase in the number of, and diversity of individual adopters and adopter families. There has been an increase in the number and proportion of one-person adopter families, Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopters, adopters who identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, and same sex adopter families. The gender split and adopters who have a disability have remained stable. After a decline, there has been an increase in the number and proportion of adopter registrations where the adopter stated a religion.

The chart below shows the number of individual and adopter families from Registration, Approvals, Adoption Orders, and Approved and Waiting from 2018/19 to 2020/21.



In 2020/21 there were:

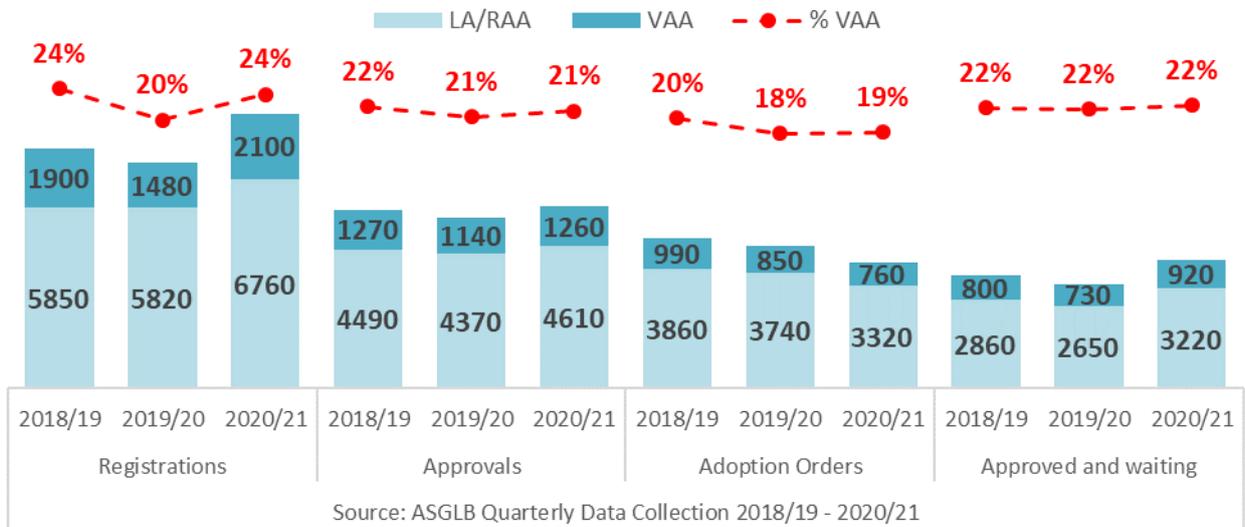
- **8850** individual adopter registrations; **4760** adopter families, a **14% (1110n)** increase in the number of individual adopters, and a **21% (810n)** increase in the number of adopter families when compared to 2018/19
- **5860** individual adopter approvals; **3120** adopter families, a **2% (100n)** increase in the number of individual adopters and a **7% (200n)** increase in the number of adopter families when compared to 2018/19
- **4090** individual adopters who had an adoption order granted; **2160** adopter families, a **16% (760n)** decrease in the number of individual adopters and a **12% (300n)** decrease in the number of adopter families when compared to 2018/19
- **4140** individual adopters approved and waiting; **2220** adopter families, a **13% (490n)** increase in the number of individual adopters and a **20% (370n)** increase in the number of adopter families when compared to 2018/19

In 2020/21 individual VAA adopters accounted for:

- **24% (2100n)** individual adopter registrations, the same when compared to 2018/19
- **21% (1260n)** individual adopter approvals, a decrease of **1** percentage point when compared to 2018/19
- **19% (760n)** individual adopters who had an adoption order granted, a decrease of **1** percentage point when compared to 2018/19
- **22% (920n)** individual adopters approved and waiting, the same when compared to 2018/19

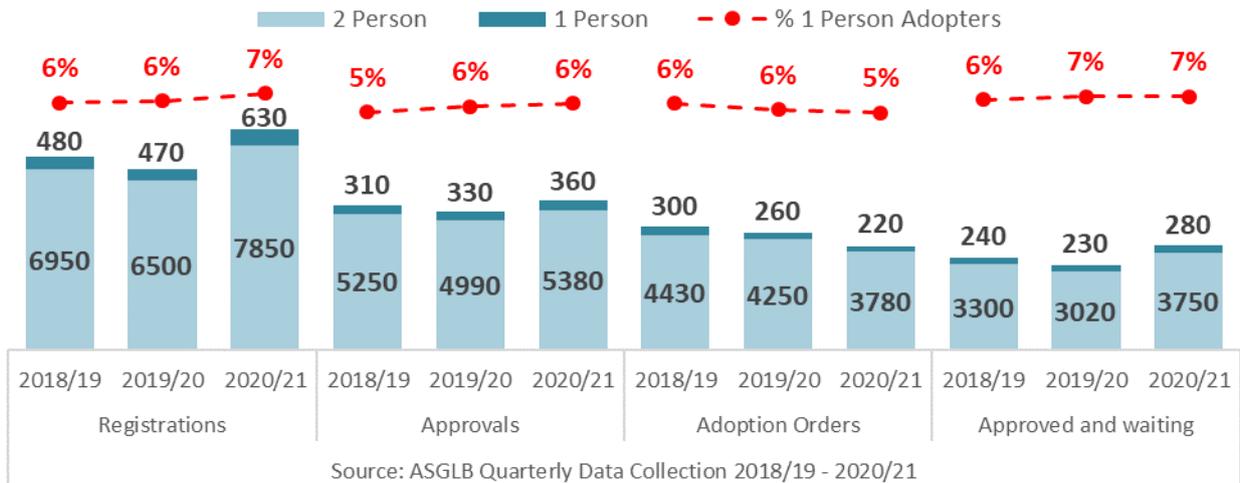
The chart below shows the number of individual adopters by LA/RAA and VAA, and the percentage of VAA adopters.

LA/RAA Individual Adopter Split



There has been an increase in the number and proportion of one-person adopter families. The Chart below show the number and percentage of one person and two-person adopter families.

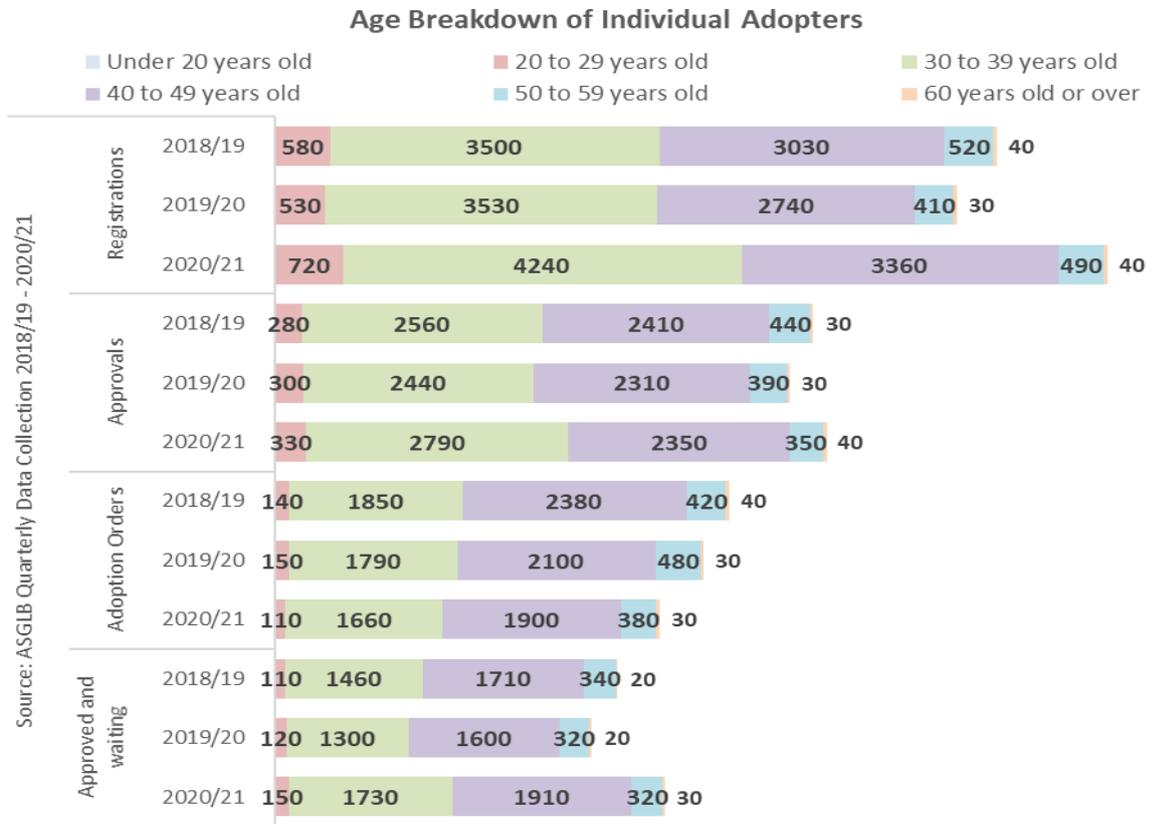
One and Two Person Adopter Families



- One-person adopter families account for between **5%** and **7%** of all individual adopter registrations, approvals, adopters who have had an adoption order granted and adopters approved and waiting
- There has been a decrease in the number and proportion of one-person adopter families who had an adoption order granted

INDIVIDUAL ADOPTER CHARACTERISTICS

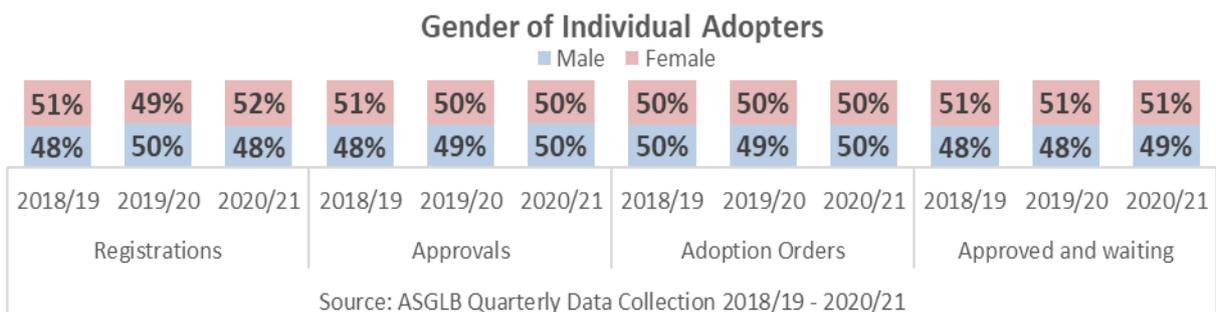
There has been an increase in the number and proportion of individual adopters aged between 20 to 29 adopters aged between 30 to 39. The chart below shows the number of individual adopters broken down by age range.



Over the last three years:

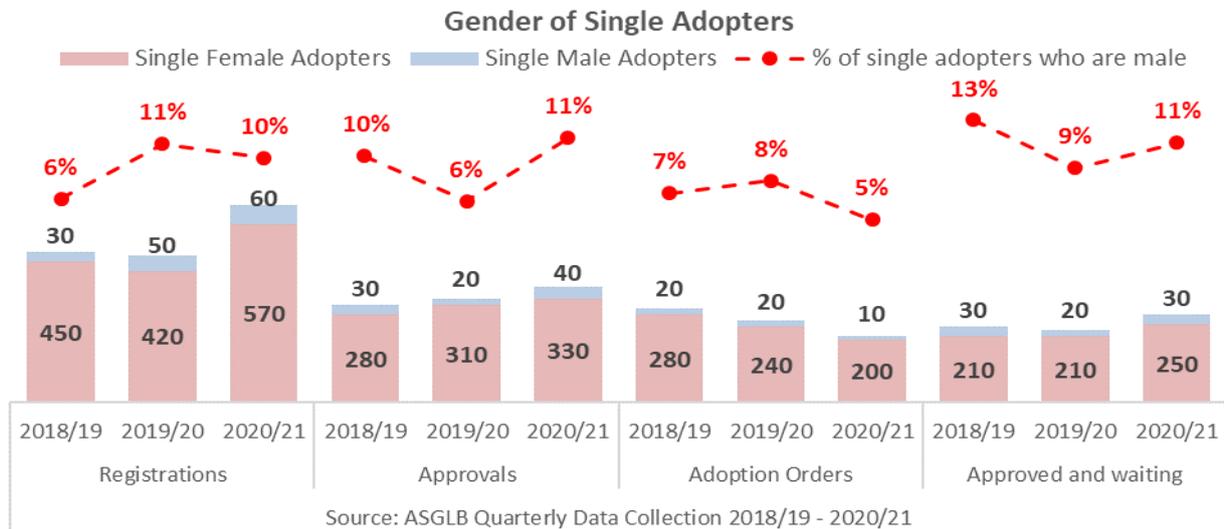
- Adopters aged between 30 to 39 accounted for the largest proportion of individual adopter registrations, **48% (4240n)** in 2020/21, an increase of **3 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- Adopters aged between 30 to 39 accounted for the largest proportion of individual adopter approvals, **48% (2790n)** in 2020/21, an increase of **4 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- Adopters aged between 40 to 49 accounted for the largest proportion of individual adopters who had an adoption order granted, **46% (1900n)**, a decrease of **3 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- Adopters aged between 40 to 49 accounted for the largest proportion of individual adopters approved and waiting, **46% (1910n)**, a decrease of **1 percentage point** when compared to 2018/19

The chart below shows the gender split of individual adopters.



Overall there are more female adopters than male adopters. The proportion of male and female adopters has remained stable over the last three years, with there being an increase of **1 percentage point** in the proportion of individual female adopter registrations from 2018/19 to 2020/21.

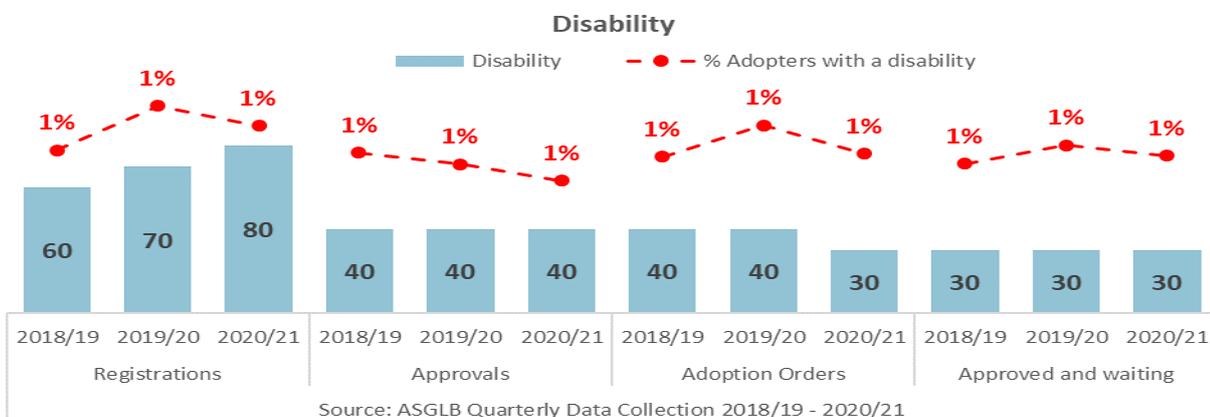
There has been an increase in single male adopter registrations, approvals, and adopters approved and waiting, but a decline in single male adopters who had an adoption order granted. The chart below shows the gender split of single adopters and the proportion of single adopters who are male.



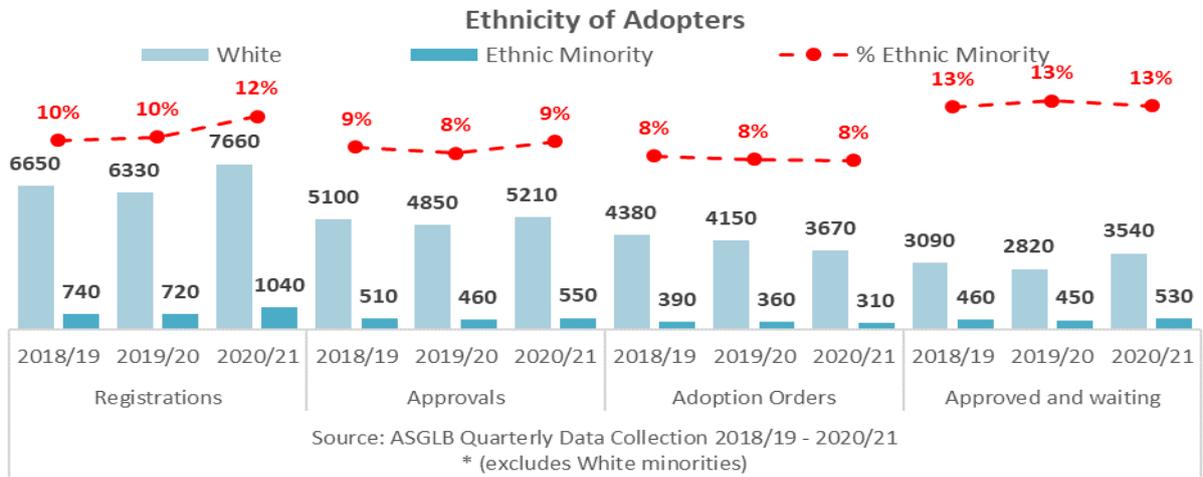
In 2020/21

- **10% (60n)** of all single adopter registrations were male, an increase of **4 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- **11% (40n)** of all single adopter approvals were male, an increase of **1 percentage point** when compared to 2018/19
- **5% (10n)** of all single adopters who had an adoption order granted were male, a decrease of **2 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- **11% (30n)** of all single approved adopters waiting were male, a decrease of **2 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19

The proportion of individual adopters with a disability has remained stable at **1%** of all adopters. The chart below shows the number and percentage of individual adopters with a disability.



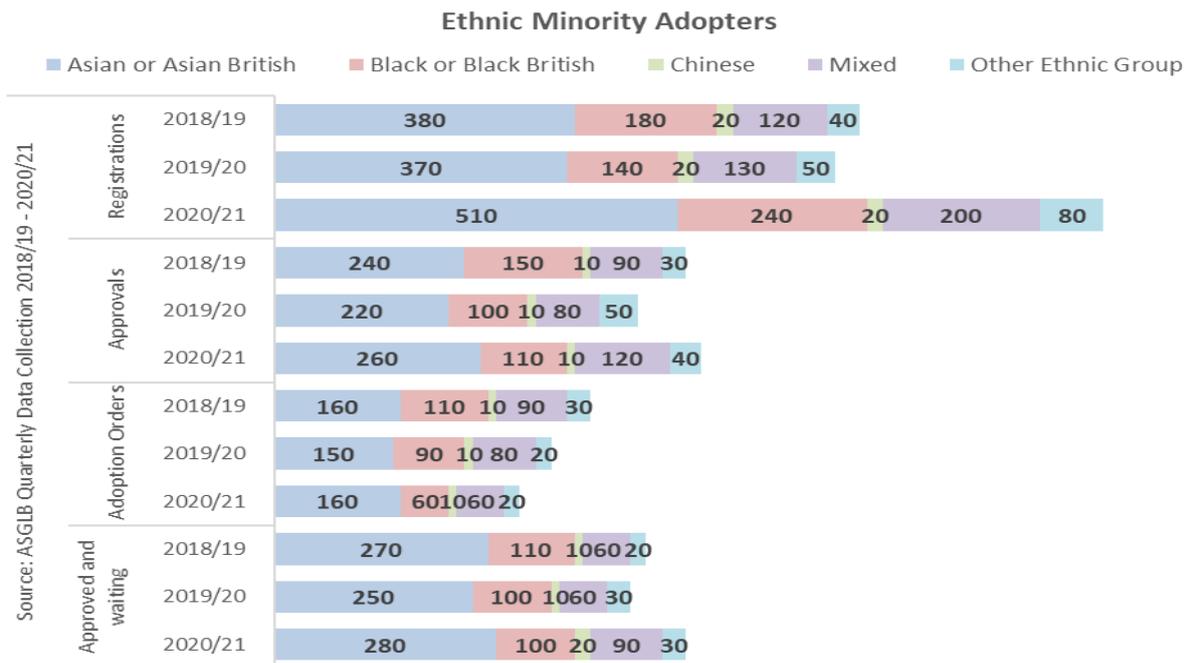
There has been an increase in the number and proportion of Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopter registrations and approvals. The proportion of Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopters which have had an adoption order granted and are approved and waiting have remained stable. The chart below shows the number and percentage of individual White and Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) individual adopters.



In 2020/21 Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopters accounted for:

- **12% (1040n)** of all individual adopter registrations, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **9% (550n)** of all individual adopter approvals, the same when compared to 2018/19
- **8% (310n)** of all individual adopters who had an adoption order granted, the same when compared to 2018/19
- **13% (530n)** of all individual adopters approved and waiting, the same when compared to 2018/19

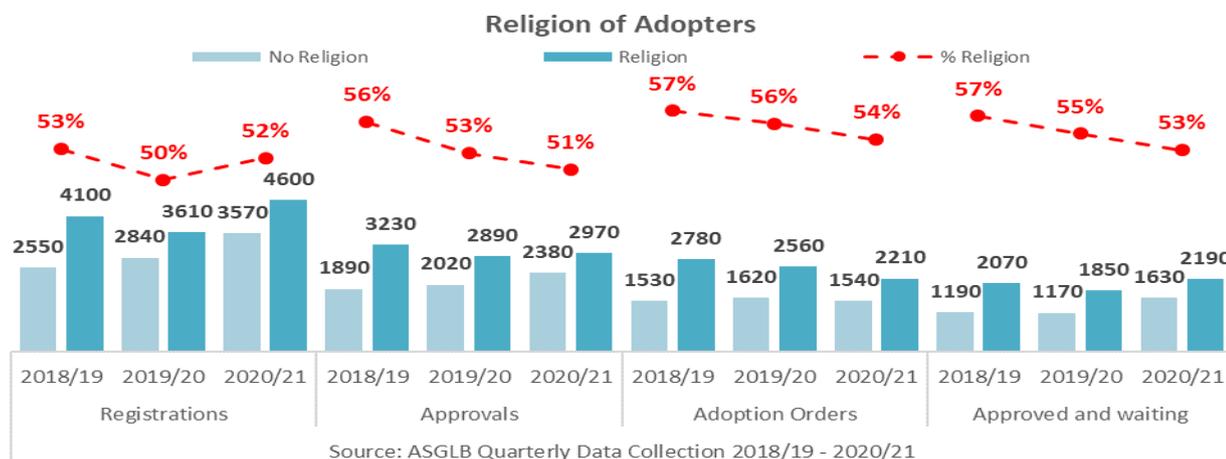
The chart below shows the ethnic breakdown of Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopters. Asian or Asian British is the largest represented of the ethnic groups.



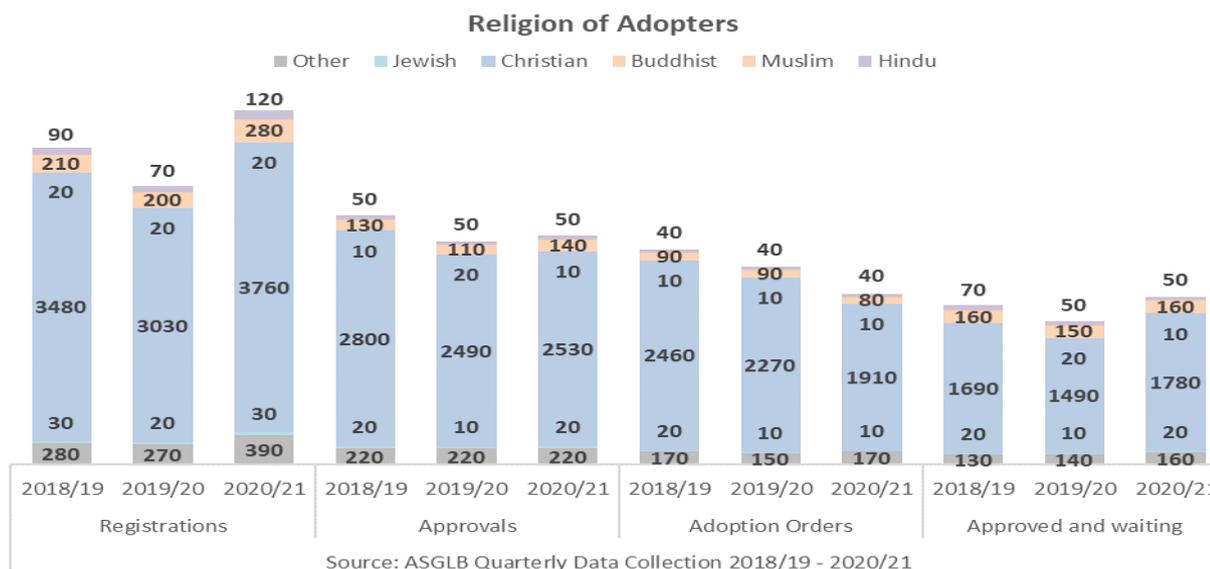
Over half of all individual adopters stated a religion. Christian is the largest represented religion.

In 2020/21

- **52% (4600n)** of adopter registrations, **51% (2970n)** adopter approvals, **54% (2210n)** adopters who had an adoption order granted and **53% (2190n)** adopters approved and waiting stated a religion. The chart below shows the number and percentage of individual adopters who have stated a religion.



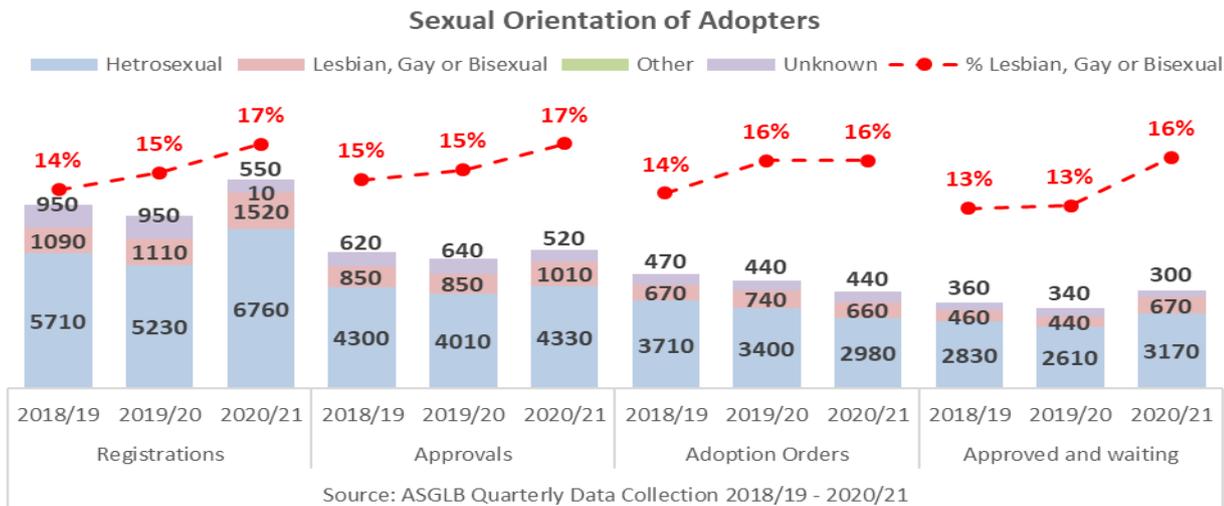
The chart below shows the breakdown of adopters by individual religions.



In 2020/21

- **43%** of adopter registrations were for adopters who identified as Christian, **4%** Other Religion, **3%** Muslim, **1%** Hindu, **0.4%** Jewish, and **0.2%** Buddhist,
- **43%** of adopter approvals were for adopters who identified as Christian, **4%** Other Religion, **2%** Muslim, **1%** Hindu, **0.3%** Jewish and **0.2%** Buddhist
- **47%** of adopters who had an adoption order granted who identified as Christian, **4%** Other Religion, **2%** Muslim, **1%** Hindu, **0.7%** Jewish and **0.2%** Buddhist
- **43%** of adopter approvals were for adopters who identified as Christian, **4%** Other Religion, **4%** Muslim, **1%** Hindu, **0.4%** Jewish and **0.3%** Buddhist

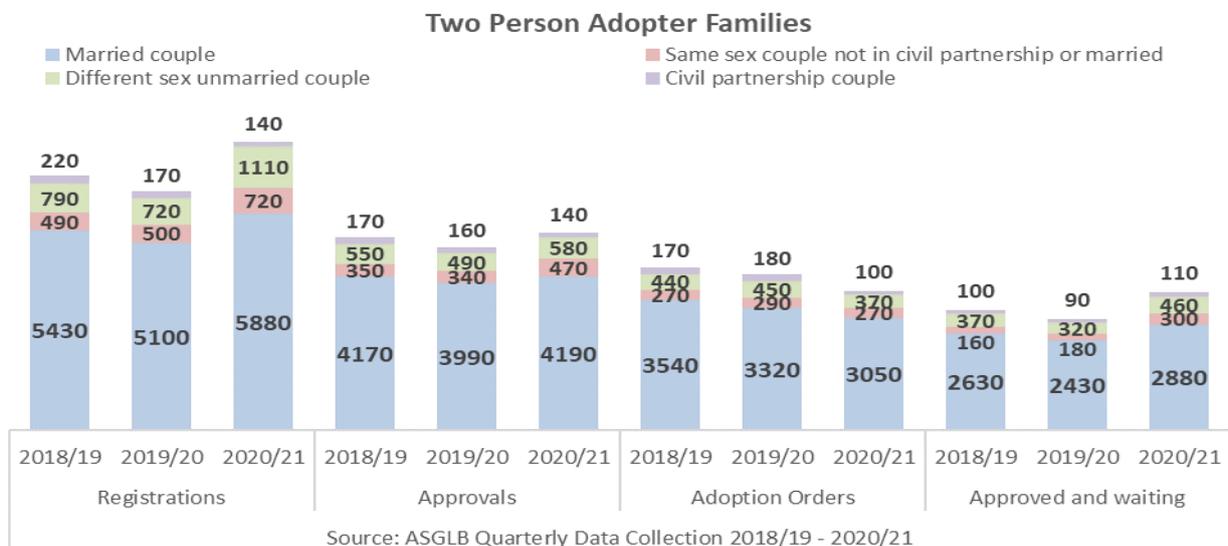
There has been an increase in the number and proportion of adopters identifying as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual. The table below shows the number and percentage of individual adopters who identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual.



In 2020/21:

- **17% (1520n)** of all individual adopter registrations identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, an increase of **3** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **17% (1010n)** of all individual adopter approvals identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **16% (660n)** of all individual adopters who had an adoption order granted identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **16% (670n)** of all individual adopters approved and waiting identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, an increase of **3** percentage points when compared to 2018/19

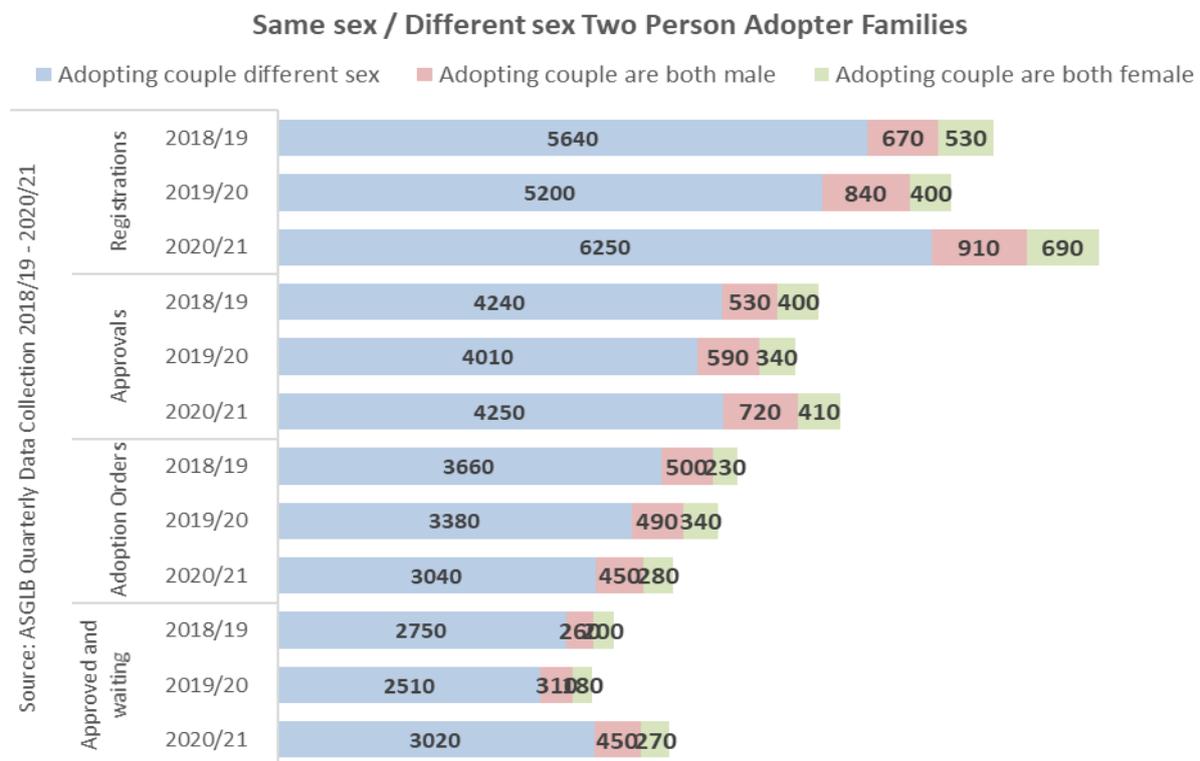
There has been an increase in the number of, but a decline in the proportion of all individual adopters in a married two-person adopter family. There has been an increase in the number and proportion of individual adopters in a same sex couple not in civil partnership or married, and different sex unmarried couple two-person adopter families. The number and proportion of individual adopters in a civil partnership couple is declining.



In 2020/21:

- **66% (5880n)** of all individual adopter registrations were married, a decrease of **4** percentage points, when compared to 2018/19
- **8% (720n)** of all individual adopter registrations were in a same sex couples not in civil partnership or married, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **13% (1110n)** of all individual adopter registrations were in a different sex unmarried couple increase of **3** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **2% (140n)** of all individual adopter registrations were in a civil partnership couple, a decrease of **1** percentage point when compared to 2018/19

There has been a decline in the proportion of different sex two-person adopter families, and an increase in the proportion of same sex two-person adopter families. The chart below shows the breakdown of two-person adopter families.



In 2020/21

- **12%** of two-person adopter family registrations were same sex male couples, an increase of **2** percentage points, and **9%** were same sex female couples, an increase of **1** percentage point when compared to 2018/19
- **13%** of two-person adopter family approvals were same sex male couples, an increase of **3** percentage points, and same sex female couples remained the same at **8%** when compared to 2018/19
- **12%** of two-person adopter families who had an adoption order granted were same sex male couples, an increase of **1** percentage point, and **7%** were same sex female couples, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **12%** of two-person adopter families approved and waiting were same sex male couples, an increase of **4** percentage points, and **7%** were same sex female couples, and increase of **1** percentage points when compared to 2018/19

The table below show the full breakdown of adopter characteristics for 2020/21.

2020/21 (31 March 2021) Source: ASGLB Quarterly Data Collection		REGISTRATION		APPROVAL		ADOPTION ORDERS GRANTED		APPROVED AND WAITING	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
ALL ADOPTERS	INDIVIDUAL ADOPTERS	8850		5860		4090		4140	
	1 Person	630	7%	360	6%	220	5%	280	7%
	2 Person	7850	89%	5380	92%	3780	92%	3750	91%
	Unknown	370	4%	120	2%	90	2%	110	3%
	Number of Adopter Families	4760	100%	3120	100%	2160	100%	2220	100%
GENDER	Male	4280	48%	2940	50%	2030	50%	2040	49%
	Female	4560	52%	2920	50%	2060	50%	2090	51%
	Unknown	10	0%	c	c	c	c	c	c
AGE	Under 20 years old	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
	20 to 29 years old	720	8%	330	6%	110	3%	150	4%
	30 to 39 years old	4240	48%	2790	48%	1660	41%	1730	42%
	40 to 49 years old	3360	38%	2350	40%	1900	46%	1910	46%
	50 to 59 years old	490	6%	350	6%	380	9%	320	8%
	60 years old or over	40	0%	40	1%	30	1%	30	1%
	Unknown	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
DISABILITY	Yes	80	1%	40	1%	30	1%	30	1%
	No	8770	99%	5830	99%	4050	99%	4110	99%
	Unknown	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
ETHNICITY	WHITE	7660	87%	5210	89%	3670	90%	3540	86%
	WBRI	6930	78%	4760	81%	3350	82%	3180	77%
	WIRI	80	1%	70	1%	40	1%	50	1%
	WIRT	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
	WOTH	650	7%	380	6%	270	7%	320	8%
	WROM	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
	ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH	510	6%	260	4%	160	4%	280	7%
	ABAN	30	0%	10	0%	10	0%	20	0%
	AIND	230	3%	120	2%	80	2%	110	3%
	AOTH	90	1%	50	1%	40	1%	60	1%
	APKN	160	2%	80	1%	40	1%	100	2%
	BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH	240	3%	110	2%	60	1%	100	3%
	BAFR	100	1%	40	1%	30	1%	40	1%
	BCRB	100	1%	50	1%	20	1%	50	1%
	BOTH	40	0%	20	0%	10	0%	20	0%
	CHINESE	20	0%	10	0%	10	0%	20	0%
	CHNE	20	0%	10	0%	10	0%	20	0%
	MIXED	200	2%	120	2%	60	2%	90	2%
	MOTH	90	1%	50	1%	20	0%	40	1%
	MWAS	50	1%	30	0%	20	1%	20	1%
	MWBA	20	0%	10	0%	c	c	c	c
	MWBC	40	0%	40	1%	20	0%	20	1%
	OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS	80	1%	40	1%	20	1%	30	1%
	OOTH	80	1%	40	1%	20	1%	30	1%
	UNKNOWN	150	2%	100	2%	110	3%	70	2%
	REFU	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
	NOBT	150	2%	100	2%	100	3%	60	2%
ETHNIC MINORITIES (excluding White minorities)	1040	12%	550	9%	310	8%	530	13%	
RELIGION	Buddhist	20	0.2%	10	0%	10	0.2%	10	0.3%
	Christian	3760	43%	2530	43%	1910	47%	1780	43%
	Hindu	120	1%	50	1%	40	1%	50	1%
	Jewish	30	0%	20	0.3%	10	0.2%	20	0.4%
	Muslim	280	3%	140	2%	80	2%	160	4%
	None	3570	40%	2380	41%	1540	38%	1630	39%
	Other	390	4%	220	4%	170	4%	160	4%
	Unknown	680	8%	510	9%	340	8%	320	8%

SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Heterosexual	6760	76%	4330	74%	2980	73%	3170	77%
	Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual	1520	17%	1010	17%	660	16%	670	16%
	Other	10	0%	c	c	c	c	c	c
	Unknown	550	6%	520	9%	440	11%	300	7%
RELATIONSHIP STATUS	Single	630	7%	360	6%	220	5%	280	7%
	Married	5880	66%	4190	71%	3050	75%	2880	70%
	Civil Partnership	140	2%	140	2%	100	2%	110	3%
	Male/Female Partnership	1170	13%	600	10%	380	9%	470	11%
	Same Sex Partnership	670	8%	450	8%	250	6%	290	7%
	Other	30	0%	10	0%	20	0%	10	0%
	Information not yet obtained	340	4%	110	2%	80	2%	100	2%
Unknown	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
SINGLE ADOPTERS	Single male adopter	60	1%	40	1%	10	0%	30	1%
	Single female adopter	570	6%	330	6%	200	5%	250	6%
	Unknown	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
TWO PERSON ADOPTER FAMILIES	Same sex couple not in civil partnership/married	720	8%	470	8%	270	7%	300	7%
	Adopting couple are both male	460	5%	320	5%	190	5%	210	5%
	Adopting couple are both female	260	3%	150	3%	80	2%	90	2%
	Different sex unmarried couple	1110	13%	580	10%	370	9%	460	11%
	Civil partnership couple	140	2%	140	2%	100	2%	110	3%
	Adopting couple are both male	60	1%	60	1%	50	1%	40	1%
	Adopting couple are both female	70	1%	60	1%	40	1%	50	1%
	Adopting couple different sex	20	0%	20	0%	c	c	20	0%
	Married couple	5880	66%	4190	71%	3050	75%	2880	70%
	Adopting couple are both male	390	4%	340	6%	210	5%	200	5%
	Adopting couple are both female	360	4%	200	3%	160	4%	130	3%
	Adopting couple different sex	5120	58%	3650	62%	2670	65%	2540	61%
	Unknown	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c

The full breakdown for 2018/19 to 2020/21 broken down by LA/RAA and VAA can be downloaded [here](#).

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication was produced by The Children and Social Care Secretariat, delivered by Coram-i on behalf of the Department for Education.

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