

Adoptions Statistics Expressed Using Geographic Information Systems

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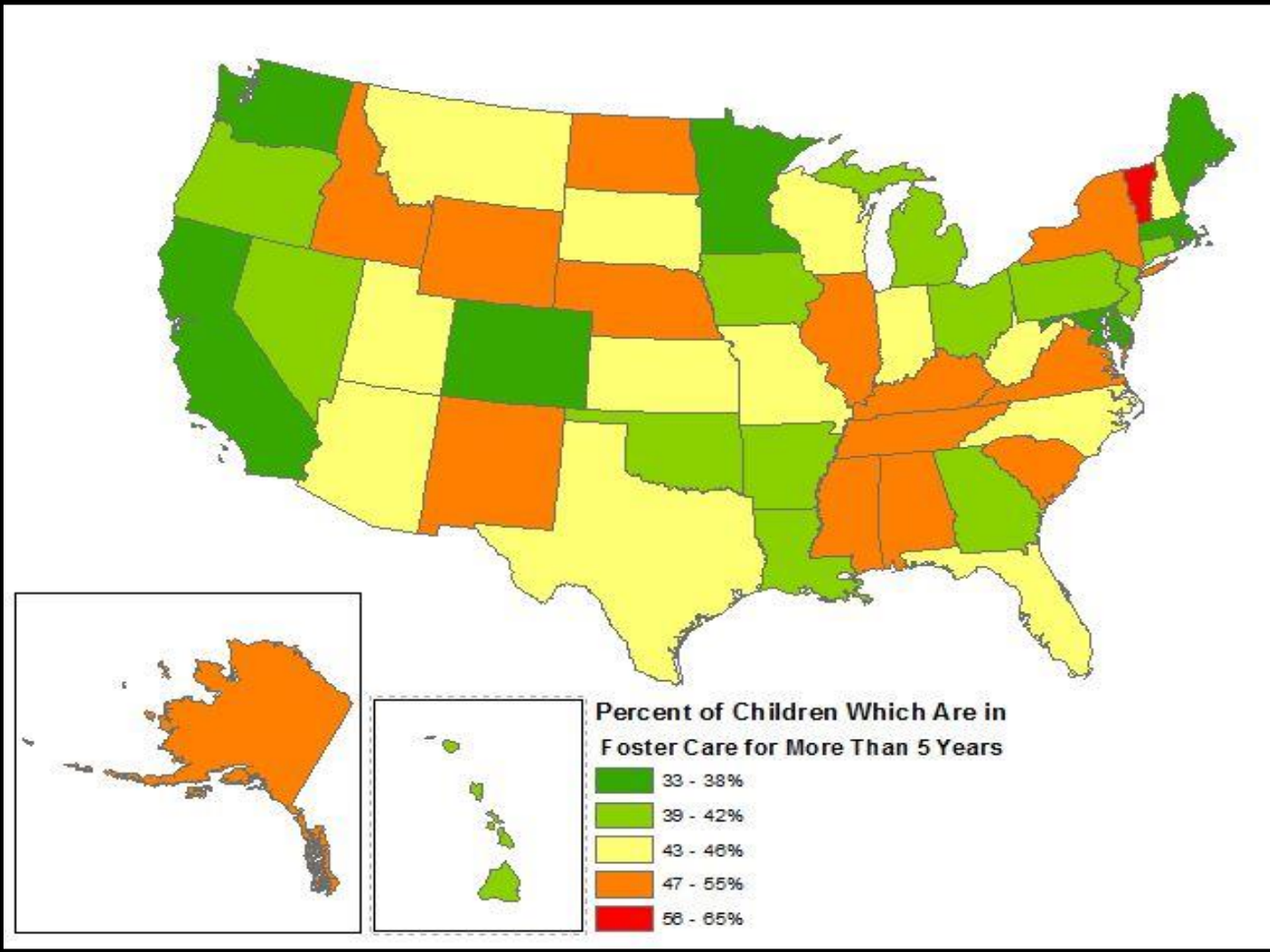


Abstract

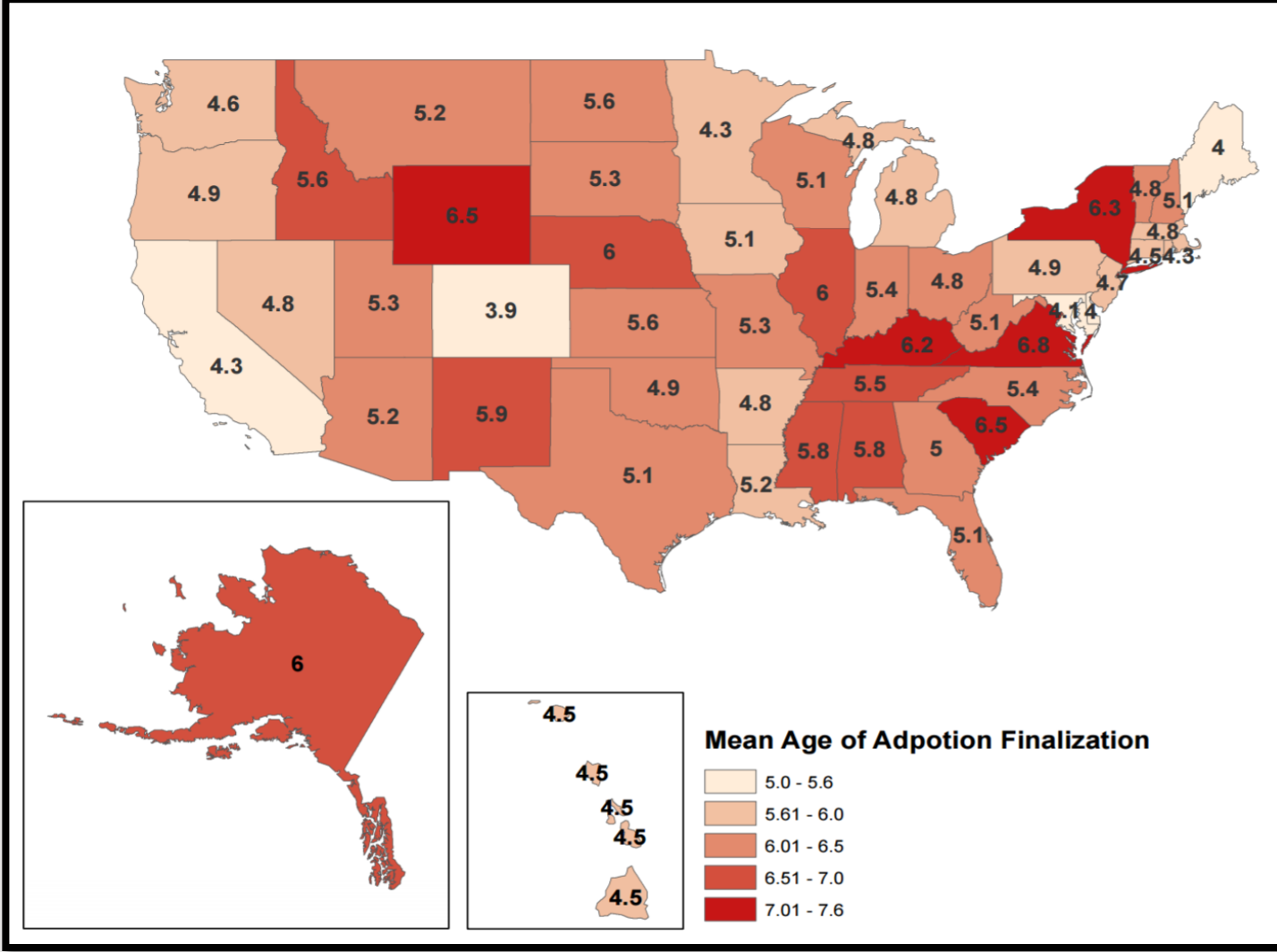
In 2013 there were 650,000 children in Foster Care waiting for a home while 175,000 rounds of in vitro Fertilization (IVF) were given (2014). The cost IVF is 99.5% higher than that of a Foster Care adoption. This cost is only the cost to have the procedure to become pregnant and does not including the additional costs of child birth.

Introduction

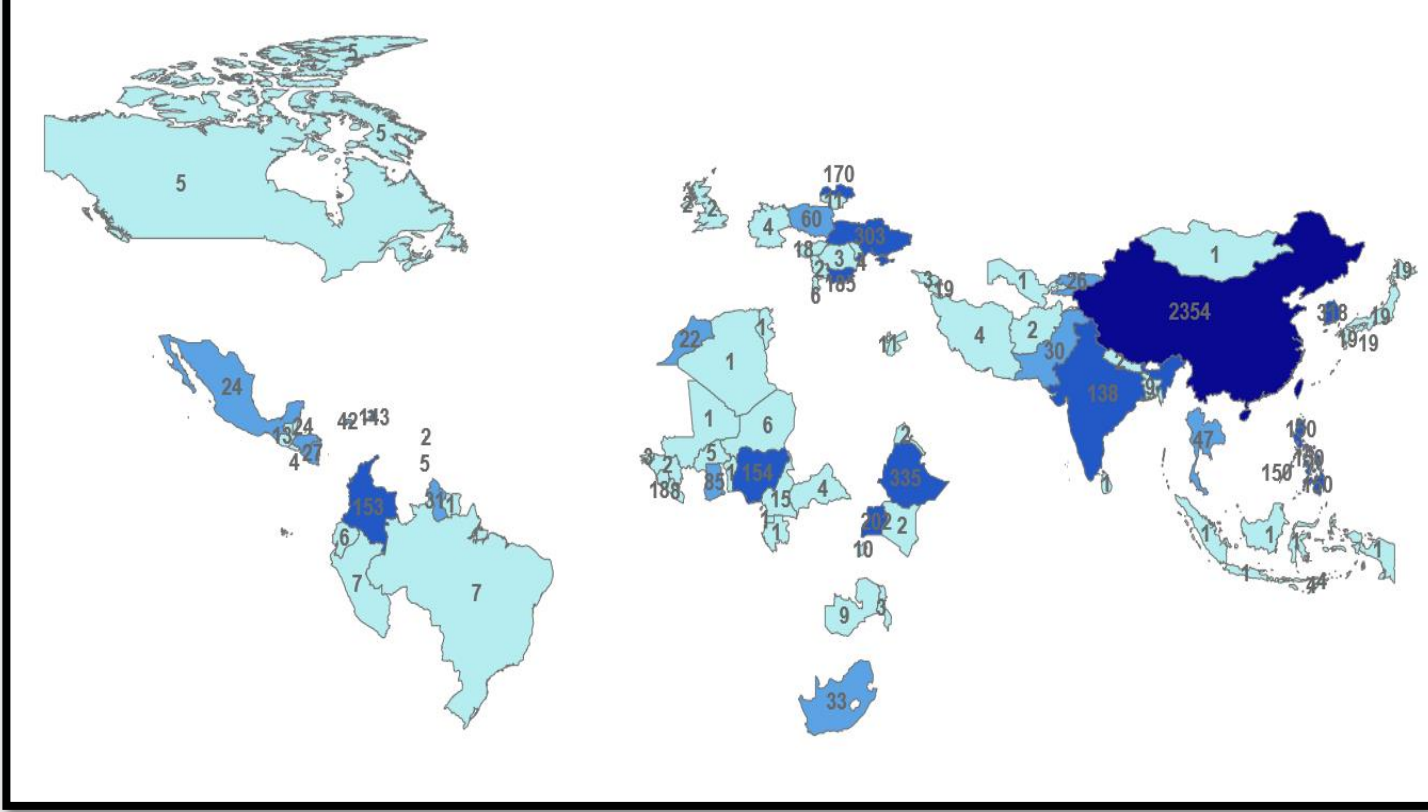
- 14% of children in Foster Care were in group homes or institutions.
- Single parent families accounted for 29 percent of all adoptions from foster care in 2014
- The age of first time mothers has increased from 21.4 in 1970 to 26.3 in 2014.
- 18.4% of women and 7.5% of men are diagnosed with impaired to full infertility.



This image depicts the number of households with married adults ages 18-39 containing no children.



The mean age of adoption is 6.2, but for some children that age is much high or the day never comes. Note: 66.8% of adoptions from Foster Care take less than 1 year.



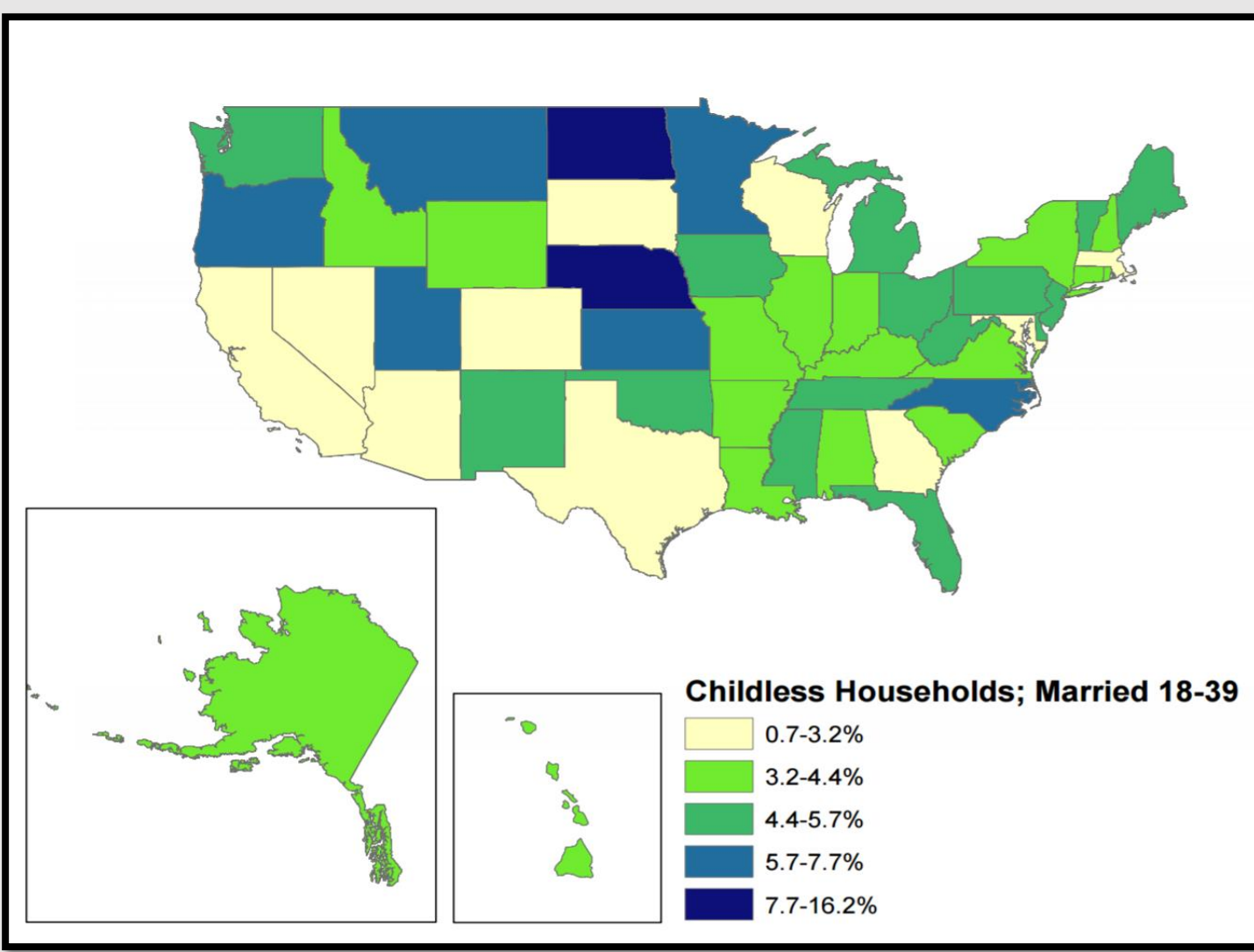
More international adoptions come from China than the next 10 countries combined. Although a Chinese adoption is middle of the row as far as international cost it is still 15% more than a Foster Care adoption from the United States.

The Cost:

- \$0-\$2,500 from Foster Care
- \$8,000-\$40,000 from a private company
- Or \$10,000-\$35,000 for an international adoption
- Tax breaks are up to \$13,800 per adoption independent of how long the process takes.

Results

Using Geographic information Systems (GIS) helps to provide visual aids to increase the emphasis. The color schemes are used to create an emotional response to the numbers being displayed and inciting action.



This image depicts the number of households with married adults ages 18-39 containing no children.

Conclusions

The emphasis of this project is not to say that each home should have a child or where adopted children should come from, but to raise awareness for children in Foster Care waiting for a place to call home.

The use of GIS let us visually analyze and manipulate geographic and spatial data. It's uses are dynamic and has broad array of applications.

*The CDC reports child bearing age as 15-45 years old for women. I chose the age range of 18-35 because after 35 the chances of having a miscarriage is 18% and the chance of having a child with down syndrome rises significantly.

References:

Center for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/> - Office of the Administration for Children and Families www.acf.hhs.gov - State Department <https://travel.state.gov> - United States Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov> - United States Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.childwelfare.gov>