



# Intercountry Adoption in Ireland: China Summary

January 2025

## Overview

- Between 1994 and 2019, 431 children were adopted into Ireland from China.
- This group accounts for about 9% of Ireland's total current intercountry adoption population.
- The number peaked in 2004 with 67 adoptions from China into Ireland that year. It slowly declined over the following years.



## Context

China:

- is located in East Asia
- has one of the highest populations in the world (1.4 billion).
- has been governed by the Chinese Communist Party since 1949
- has experienced strong recent economic growth

China's 'one-child policy' was introduced in 1979 and ended in 2016. It was voluntary at the start, but became mandatory in an effort to slow the rapid population growth.

## What do we know about the people adopted from China into Ireland?



- Before 2010, the average age at adoption was 1 year old.
- After 2010, this increased to 2 years and 5 months old.
- 89% of the children were registered as female, and 11% as male
- This group of Ireland's intercountry adopted population range in age from 7 – 30, with the vast majority now aged between 17 and 24. The average age is 20 years old.

In 2020, China suspended international adoption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, it has not been reopened.

Compiled by the AAI Research Team

*If you are an intercountry adopted person, and would like to take part in research with the AAI, please let us know, we'd be really happy to hear from you!*

You can email us on [aai\\_research@aai.gov.ie](mailto:aai_research@aai.gov.ie)