

# Report Back On The UK Adoptee Emancipation Pilot Survey

Showing up Child Abuse Trends  
And the Need For Adult  
Revocation Of Adoption By Adoptees

June 2021

By Authors:

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Adult Adoptees In The UK

## Reasons For the UK Adult Adoptee Pilot Survey June 2021

The U.K. Adoptee Emancipation Survey originated Online where the voices of many UK Adult Adoptees have been active. There is often a wider feeling amongst them of poor dialogue with them by the UK Government or other bodies. The current active arm of dialogue over Adoption in the UK is mainly the All Parliamentary Group on Adoption and Permanence (AAPGAP) Chaired by Rachael Maskell M.P...This does not appear to represent Adult Adoptees well, beyond 25 ..

The APPGAP Group monitors the state of Adoption in the UK and some pro-adoption charities and other MP's contribute to it .. Lead amongst those charities is Adoption UK. and CoramBAAF.org.uk. Both Charities have done surveys on Adoptees in the recent past. Neither cover older Adoptees views over age 25. which is the cut off date for UK Social Service involvements with young people.

Coram.org.uk on **26<sup>th</sup> March 2016** did a survey of 95 young Adoptees mostly in favour of adoption. They explain :

*“The study, which was conducted by researchers at children’s charity Coram, was commissioned by 29 Adoption Agencies in England. A total of 95 children and young people were involved in the study which comprised an online survey, focus groups in Leeds, the East Midlands and London, and participation groups in the North East, Merseyside and the North West. “*

More recently Adoption UK in it's Barometer studies (**2019**) did a survey of 76 Adoptees aged up to 24 showing many suffered instabilities in their Adoptee lives and also at school – education and training. Adoption UK added to that a further qualitative study of another 6 Adoptees having difficulties with stability and education /training .

The ethos of the All Parliamentary Group of Adoption is one of stabilisation of UK Adoption practice, Adoptees, and Adopters with an underlying eye on the fact that it otherwise costs £34000 or more per child to keep them in State care . The practical area of the stabilisation ethos

takes the form partly of the A.S.F (Adoption Support Fund) which reached £50 Million by 2019 – 20 and is rising to £200 Million. It is supposed to furnish Adopters and Adoptees under 25 with stabilising therapies and extra post adoption supports and learned parenting skills ..

The Surveys of both Adoption Charities **95** (Coram) and Adoption UK) **82** Adoptees were gained by having a big reach and finance too. The two authors of this survey in this Report-back named the “ UK Adoptee Emancipation Pilot Survey” with **84** respondents on it now purchased a one year account on SurveyMonkey.com and paid for that themselves. Contacting UK Adult Adoptees was the next big step achieved Online using UK Adoptee Facebook Groups and others where UK Adoptees were.

### Interrogating the Experiences Of UK Adult Adoptees In A Pilot

Several questions were interrogated with 84 UK Adult Adoptees drawn from online forum groups. The survey we set up was promoted as “active” , via Facebook, and **for reliability and validity** forbade anyone adopted outside of the UK to answer it. Anyone adopted inside the UK though as a child, was permitted to be included if they had lived here too.

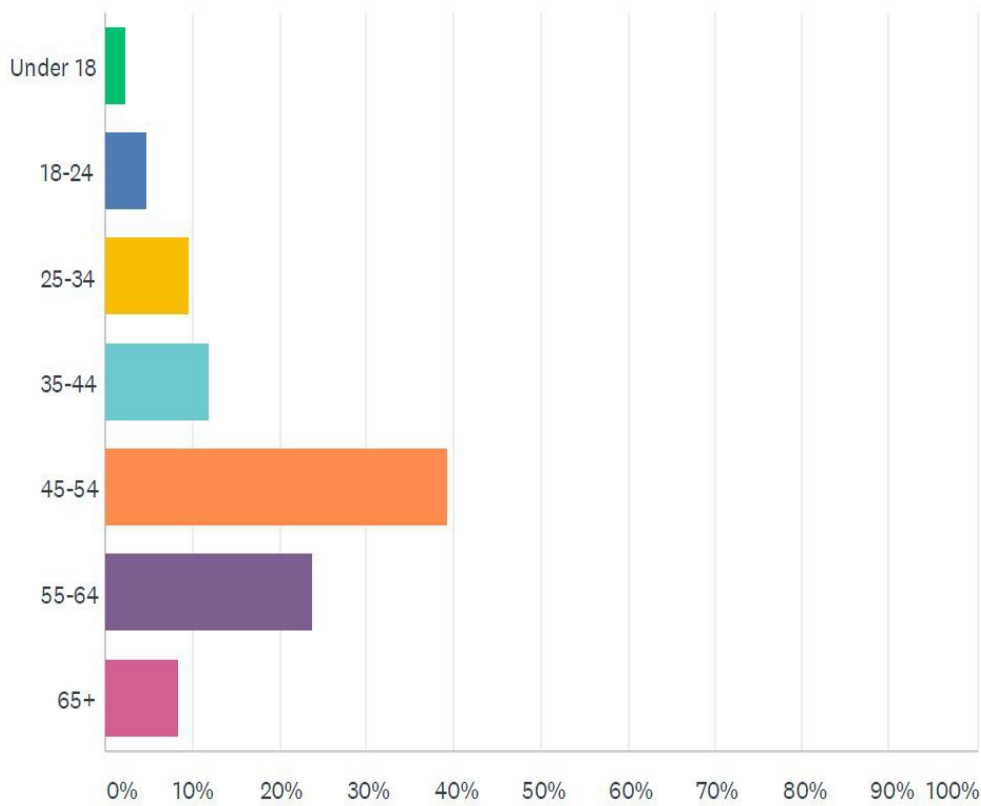
As a first Pilot study We wanted to test “positive and negative experiences” of UK Adult Adoptees fairly, and see the ages of those who were answering so we might pick up some ideas of historical ranges of experiences of Adult Adoptees .

We also wanted to test if child abuses inside Adoption occurred and whether people wanted to Revoke (end) their Adoptions if legally eased. We wanted to test adequacy of Adult Adoptee specific therapy supplies too.

(See Next Pages For Easy To Read Results )

# Q1 What is your age range?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



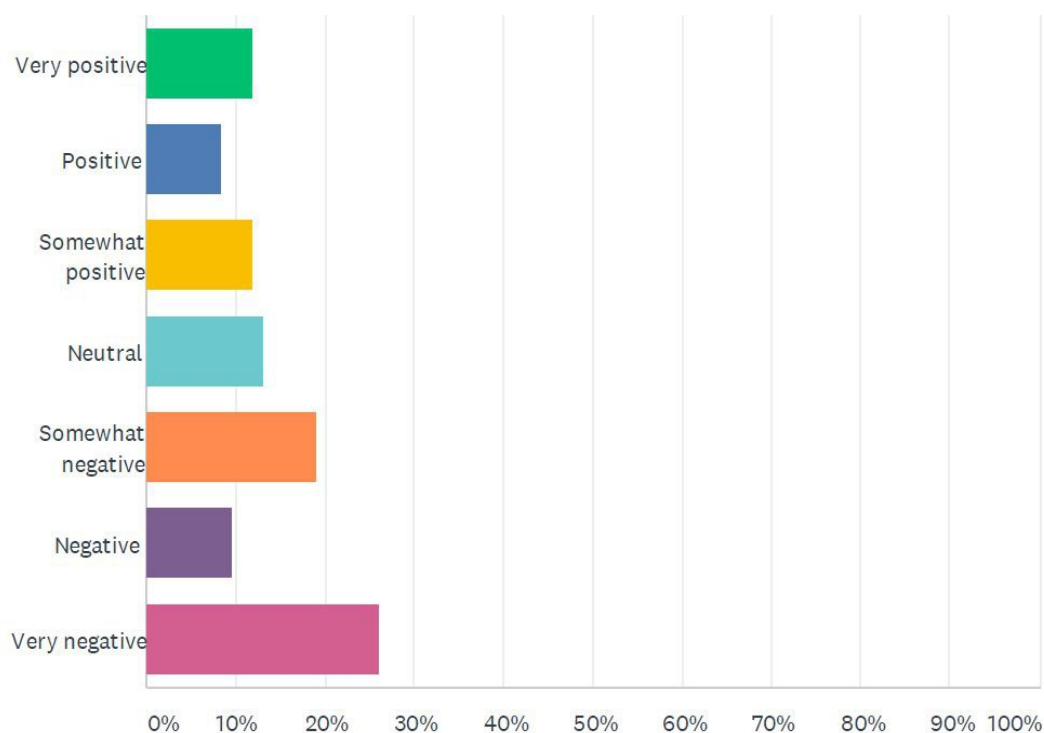
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	2.38% 2
18-24	4.76% 4
25-34	9.52% 8
35-44	11.90% 10
45-54	39.29% 33
55-64	23.81% 20
65+	8.33% 7
TOTAL	84

What we saw quickly, was a predominance of older Adoptees from ages 35 – 65+ and we noted 83% were such respondents . The rest were younger. In the next question we asked how negative were the experiences of being an Adoptee but gave options of positive to negative.

## UK Adoptee Emancipation Pilot Survey

### Q2 Was your experience of Adoption as a UK Adoptee negative?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



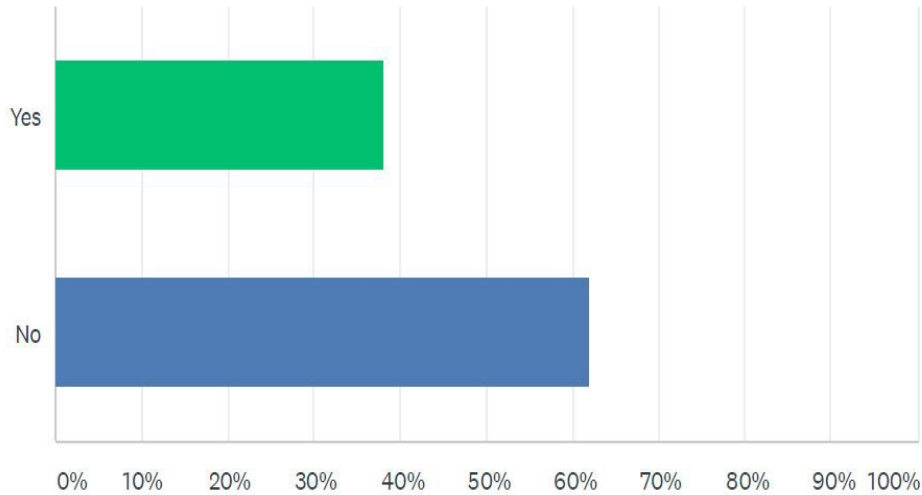
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very positive	11.90% 10
Positive	8.33% 7
Somewhat positive	11.90% 10
Neutral	13.10% 11
Somewhat negative	19.05% 16
Negative	9.52% 8
Very negative	26.19% 22
TOTAL	84

We had heard from many UK Adult Adoptees that their Adoptions were negative so we needed to interrogate that in particular whilst preserving other aspects of Adoptee experiences. From the “Somewhat Negative's” to “Very Negative's” we noted though, the percent was 55% .. The survey design interrogates that further therefore ..

UK Adoptee Emancipation Pilot Survey

### Q3 Were you child abused by Adopters inside your Adoption in your experience of it?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



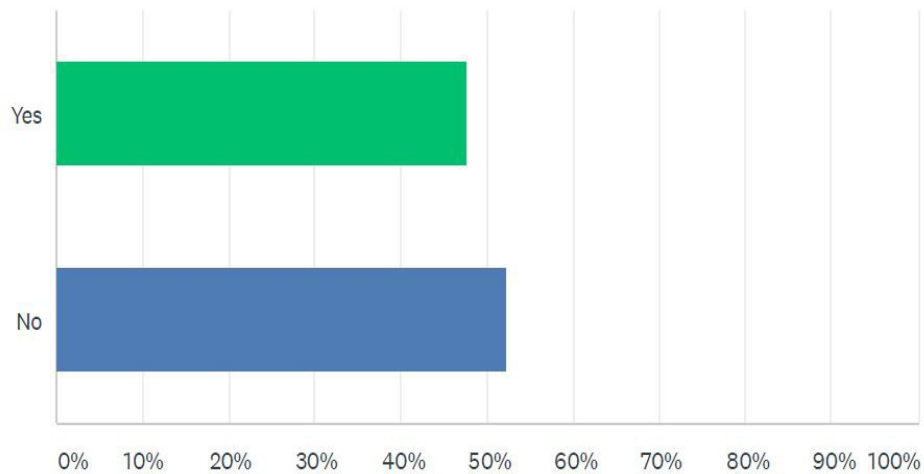
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	38.10%	32
No	61.90%	52
TOTAL		84

This response shows up an alarming feature of 38% of Adult Adoptees experiences as Child Abused INSIDE Adoption. Set against 61% of Adoptees that were not abused . We were cautious on interrogating this more deeply in the Pilot survey because of a younger member's “triggering” advice who worked with us on a Working Group prior to forming the simple but incisive design . It does show us all a very concerning picture ..So we wanted to interrogate further about reactions to all of this experience.

UK Adoptee Emancipation Pilot Survey

Q4 If ending, "revoking" your Adoption was legally eased for Adult Adoptees, would you "Revoke" it? In other words legally end it?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



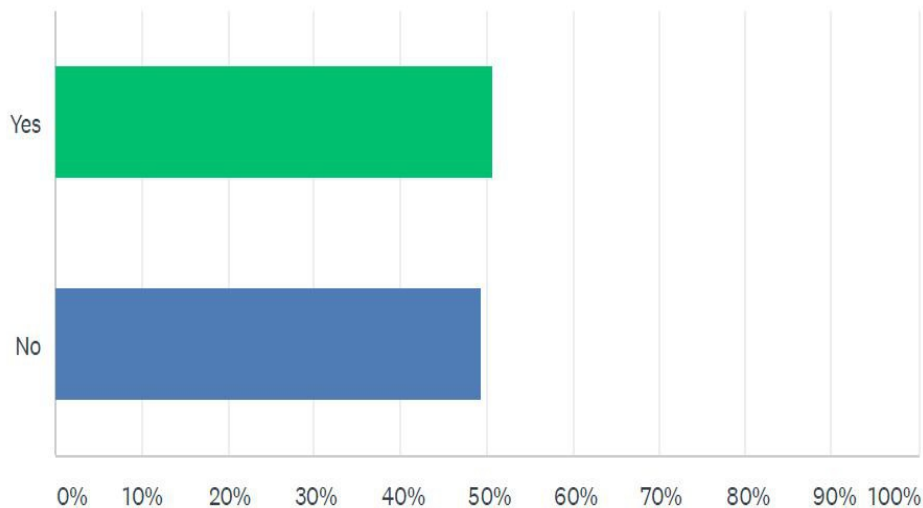
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.62%	40
No	52.38%	44
TOTAL		84

There is much current knowledge Online (Facebook) about Revoking or “Discharging Adoptions” from places like Australia where about 17 have been revoked in Adult Adoptee led cases and where Adults have had enough of being inside the: “Adoptee identity” which for many does not feel as if it is theirs. The UK does not allow Adult Revocation of Adoptee identity status regardless of its: “artifice” which some Adoptees feel is not right, and some Adoptees do not want. **However 47% in this survey want to revoke their Adoptee status** . Clearly some Adult Adoptees do want Revocation eased and new Human Rights to call themselves by their own identity – name or sense of self . outside what has been conferred upon them by the artifices of Law even if intended for good reasons at one time. Would many Adoptees feel more comfortable living “as themselves “transitioning” back to their birth identity” ? We interrogated this in Question 5 next ..

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Q5 If you ended your Adoptee status would you feel more comfortable living as yourself in your chosen other identity or birth-identity?

Answered: 83 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.60%	42
No	49.40%	41
TOTAL		83

Clearly many Adult UK Adoptees feel they do want to live as themselves in a chosen way that reclaims their birth identity status .. 50% stated that .

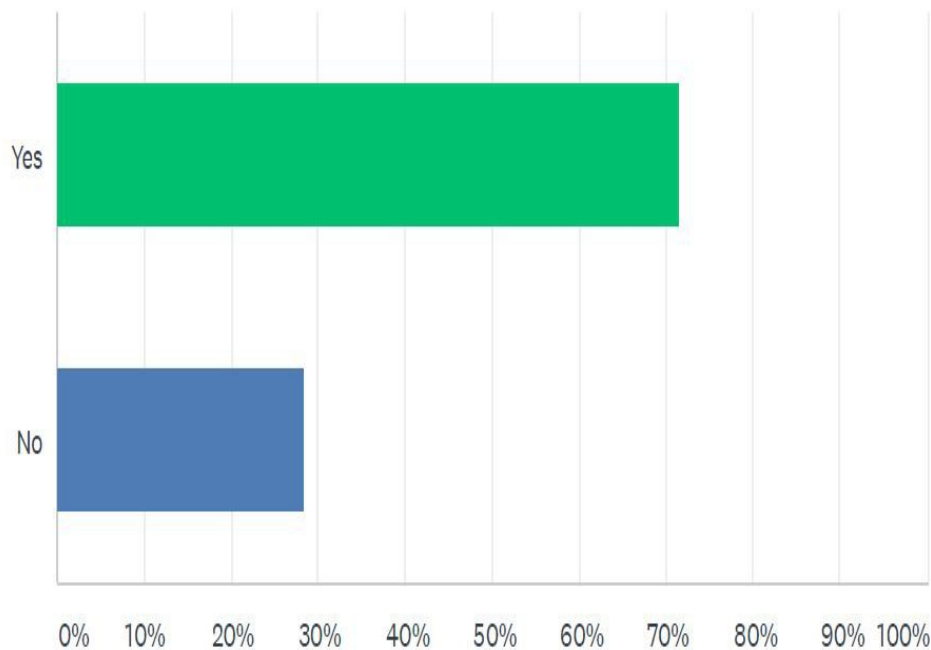
Equally some nearly 49% appear content to be as they are .

Our test **was to give options** and the figure is very high for those who want to live as themselves outside of the Adoptee status . We turned next to asking about post adoptive therapy since many UK Adult Adoptees claimed Online a degree of trauma and pain even inside the Adoption



## Q6 As an Adult Adoptee did you ever need a choice of therapy to help you?

Answered: 81 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.60%	58
No	28.40%	23
TOTAL		81

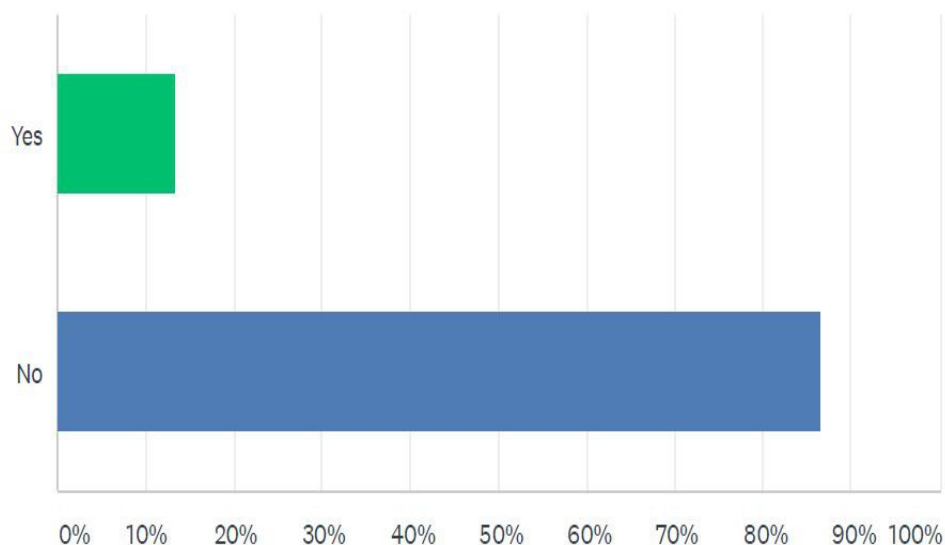
This section of the survey shows apparently how parlous is the approach in the UK towards Adult UK Adoptees and their needs. We started by asking if respondents needed a choice of therapy for their Adoptive needs . 71% said they had needed a choice of therapy to help them .

Then we moved on to what becomes a quite staggering figure regarding specific Adult Adoptee needs

## UK Adoptee Emancipation Pilot Survey

### Q7 Was there any therapy in the UK specific for your Adult Adoptee needs?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	13.41%	11
No	86.59%	71
TOTAL		82

86% of the respondents claimed there was no therapy in the UK specific for their Adult Adoptee needs.

We interpret that most of these are Adults in higher age ranges since that would be consistent with contact with many Online . The glimmer of light appears to be in the younger contingent who have access to therapy using the Adoption Support Fund (some £50 Million up to 2021) and its special intention for stabilisation therapies for younger Adoptee people up to 24.

Many Adult Adoptees are carrying a need for therapy and it is not being met. 38% claim a child abused Adoption too. A tragic figure .

## Conclusions:

We responded with this Pilot Survey as a result of being amongst so many Online Adult UK Adoptees who are often pained people. Mostly forgotten, or shelved away by society and feeling not understood.

Many do not want the encumbrance of being inside the Adoptee status any more but realise of course they were historically “Adopted” ... A substantial number 47% want Revocation (ending their Adoptions) as a Human Right and wish to live as themselves in their chosen identity .. To be sure they are by nature conferred with a DNA and birth identity.. That is incontrovertible. Some 49% wish to remove: “Adopted” as a paperwork article of their identity and return one way or another comfortably to: “not adopted”. Some 38% have been child abused inside Adoption. Some 86% say there has been no Adoptee specific therapy in the UK specific for their needs..These survey questions fairly tested all respondents ..

This is a Pilot Survey (June 2021 ) and can be followed up. We have the means .

## Recommendations :

Government needs to insert an easement in Adoption Law for UK Adult Adoptees to revoke their adoptions and return to birth identity status on a simple no fault basis for ease for all concerned . The Adoption Support Fund needs to be expanded to include Adult Adoptees needs for Adoptee specific therapies and post adoption services that fit them.

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