

The Decline in Global Numbers of Intercountry Adoption 2004-16

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The Rise and Fall of ICA

- The period from **1995**, when the **Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption** came into effect, has seen a remarkable rise and fall in the number of children moving for intercountry adoption.
- In **1995** there were about **22,000** adoptions; **by 2004** this had doubled to **over 45,000**; **By 2013** the global total had fallen **below 17,000** – the level of early 1990s – and in **2016** the total was **11,000** to 23 receiving States, fewer than the number to eight countries in 1980.

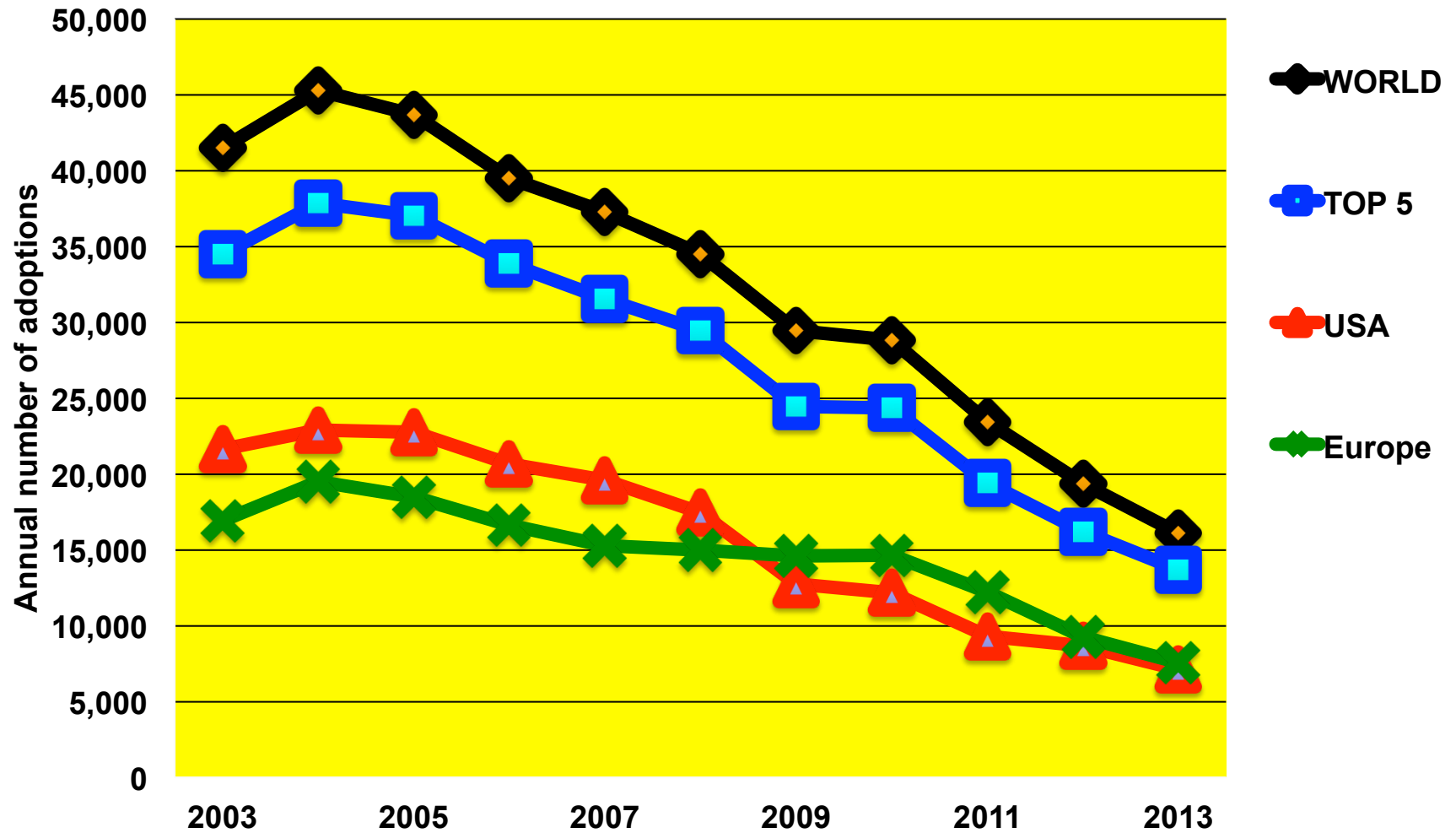
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Aim of presentation

I have examined the rise in numbers elsewhere – “Global Trends in Intercountry Adoption, 2000-2010” *Adoption Advocate* 44
<https://www.adoptioncouncil.org/publications/adoption-advocate-no-44.html>

My aim in this presentation is to look in more detail at the global decline 2004-16 and at changes in the characteristics of children moving – with special attention to member countries of EurAdopt.

Global Trends 2003-2013



ICA in the 21st Century

- More than **380,000** children were adopted world-wide to **23+** countries between 2000 and 2009, the most for any decade in history.
- **Incomplete data for Austria, Portugal, Gulf States**
- In 2010-2016 there were a further **123,000** so that we can say that since 2000 there have been at least **500,000**, nearly half my estimated total since 1946.

The Rise and Fall of ICA in the new millennium

- The total of **380,000** adoptions **2000-09** was the highest for any decade, but it masks a rise to over **45,000 in 2004** followed by a fall to under 30,000 by 2009. The next seven years saw a further decline to **11,000 in 2016**.
- The next two slides shows the pattern for the five top receiving States and seven other European receiving countries with at least one agency a member of EurAdopt in 2015 recording 25+ adoptions

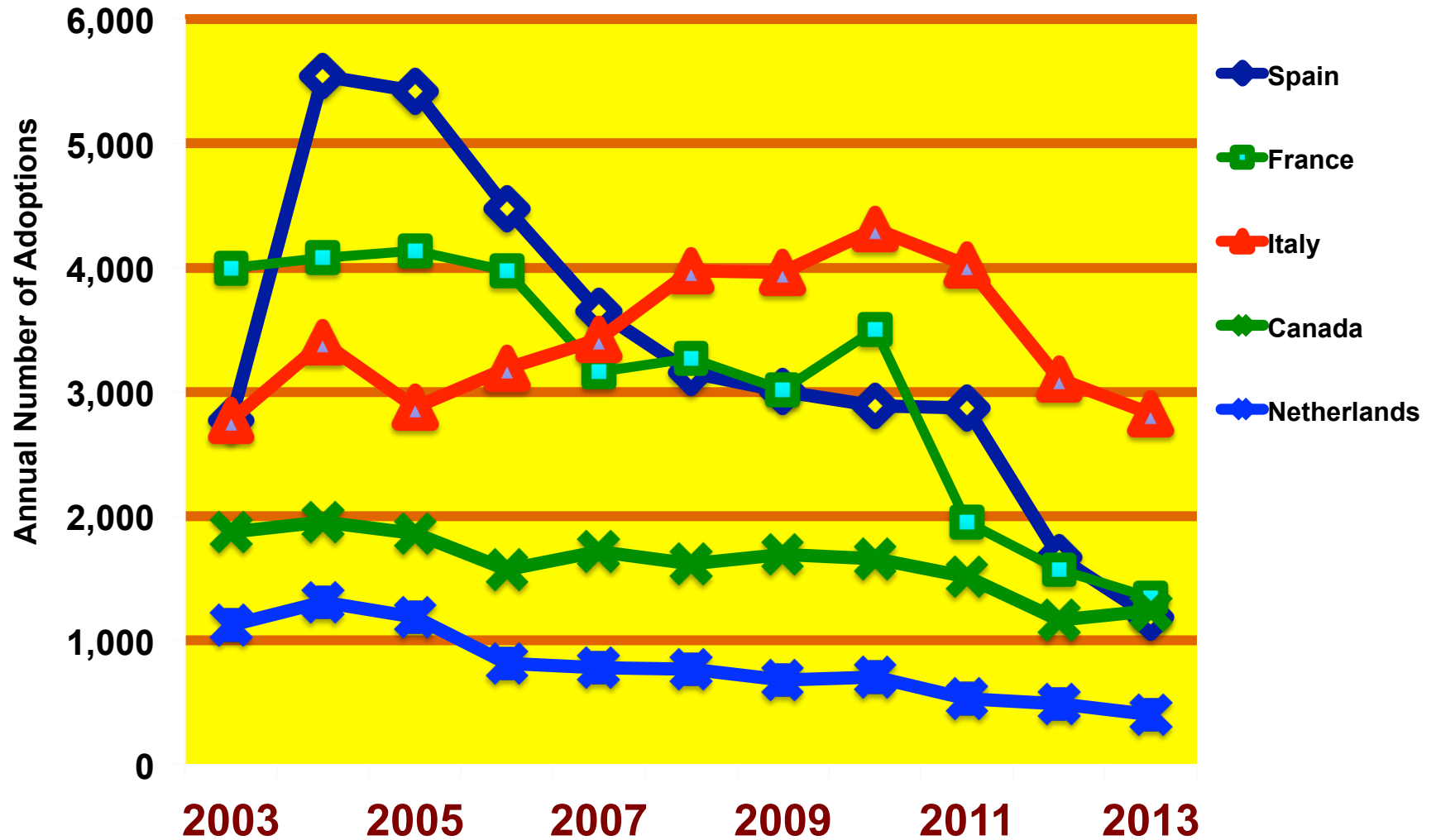
Intercountry Adoption 2004-2016

	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016	2004-16
USA	22,989	19,601	12,149	7,094	5,372	170,876
Italy	3,402	3,420	4,130	2,825	1,872	41,202
Spain	5,641	3,648	2,891	1,191	567	35,760
France	4,079	3,162	3,508	1,343	[956]	32,904
Canada	1,955	1,715	1,660	1,243	790	18,567
TOTAL	45,483	37,244	23,552	16,264	11,102	355,306

7 European States 2004-2016

	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016	2004-16
N'lands	1,307	782	705	401	214	8,993
Sweden	1,109	800	728	450	259	8,553
Germany	744	783	513	288	196	6,731
Norway	706	426	343	144	126	4,250
Denmark	528	429	419	176	84	4,338
Belgium	470	358	388	178	121	4,076
Finland	289	176	187	141	58	2,267
ALL						
Europe	19,610	15,307	14,874	7,682	4,814	160,756
23/4	45,281	37,245	28,831	16,264	11,102	355,306
States						

FIVE RECEIVING STATES 2003-2013



Trends in Intercountry Adoption

- Between **1998 and 2004** numbers rose by **42%** worldwide: by **273%** in Spain
- Between **2004 and 2010** numbers **fell** by **37%** worldwide; by **47%** in USA; by **51%** in Norway by **34%** in Sweden; by **14%** in France; while Italy saw **21% growth**

From **2010 to 2016** there was a further decline of **61% worldwide - 70%+** in Spain and Denmark.

Overall annual numbers fell by **75%** between **2004 and 2016.** - in Spain by **90%**

Change in Numbers 2004-2010

	2004	2007	2010	% change
Norway	706	426	343	- 51
Spain	5,541	3,648	2,891	- 48
USA	22,824	19,601	12,149	- 47
Netherlands	1,307	732	705	- 46
24 states	45,483	37,244	28,831	- 37%
Sweden	1,109	800	728	- 34
Denmark	528	428	419	- 21
France	4,079	3,162	3,508	- 14
Italy	3,402	3,420	4,130	+ 21

Change in Numbers 2010-2017

	2010	2013	2016	Change 2010-16	2017
Spain	2,891	1,191	567	- 80	n/a
Denmark	419	176	84	- 80	79
France	3,508	1,343	[953]	- 73	685
Netherlands	705	401	214	- 70	210
Sweden	728	450	259	- 65	n/a
Norway	343	144	126	- 63	n/a
USA	12,149	7,094	5,372	- 56	4,714
Italy	4,130	2,825	1,872	- 55	1,439

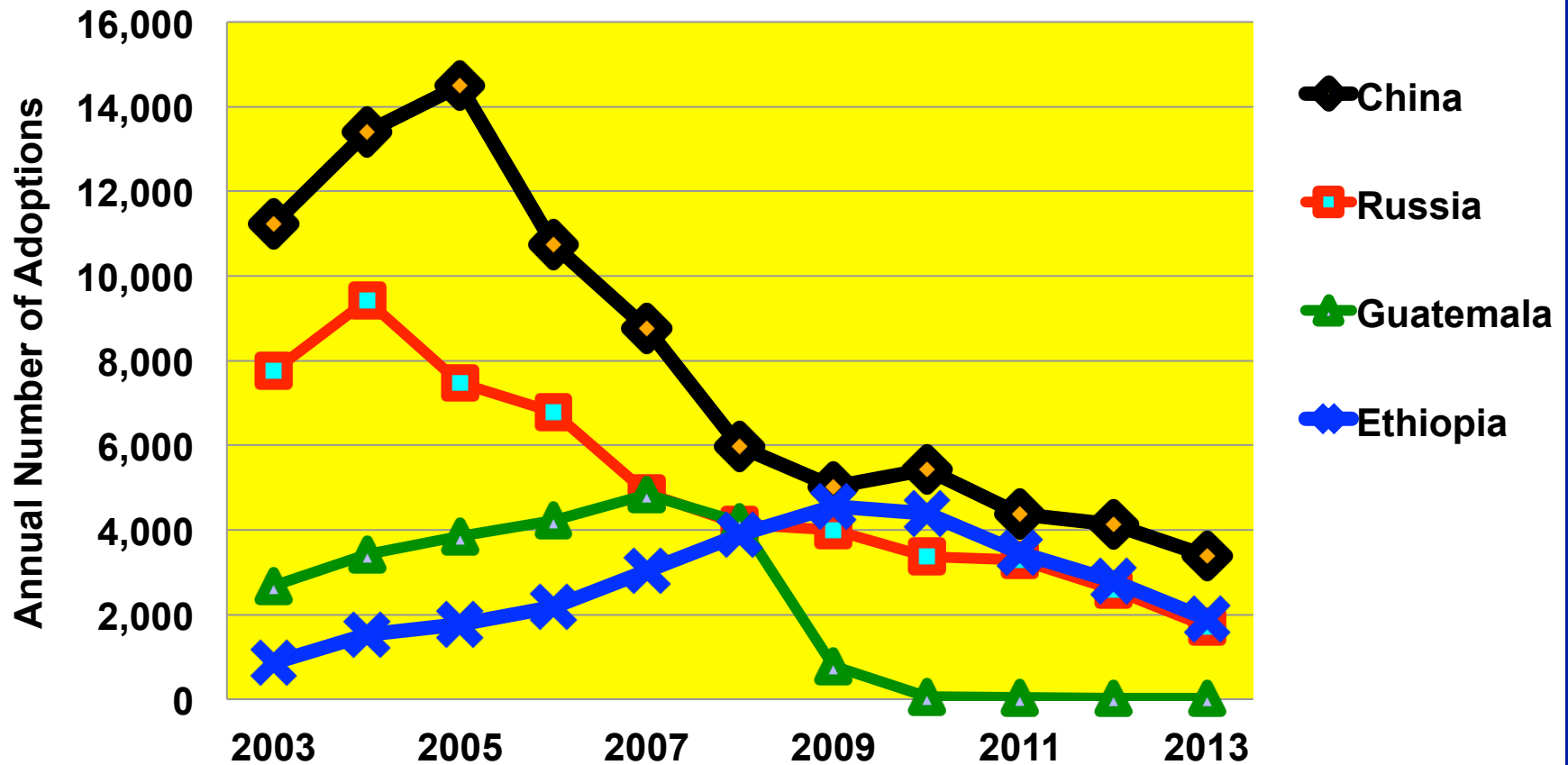
Top 7 States of Origin: 1980-2016

1980-89	1998	2004	2010	2016
Korea	Russia	China	China	China
India	China	Russia	Ethiopia	Congo
Colombia	Vietnam	Guatemala	Russia	Colombia
Brazil	Korea	Korea	Haiti	India
Sri Lanka	Colombia	Ukraine	Colombia	Russia
Chile	Guatemala	Colombia	Vietnam	Vietnam
Philippines	India	Ethiopia	Korea	Haiti

States of Origin 2004-2016

	2004	2005	2007	2010	2016	2004-16
China	13,412	14,493	8,748	5,429	2,671	84,411
Russia	9,440	7,480	4,880	3,426	481	50,881
Ethiopia	1,534	1,778	3,034	4,309	321	31,736
Guatemala	3,425	3,872	4,851	58	7	21,519
Colombia	1,749	1,466	1,635	1,828	485	16,063
Ukraine	2,119	1,987	1,614	1,098	394	14,875
S Korea	2,239	2,121	1,223	1,438	376	14,594

Top 4 States of Origin 2003-2013



Change in Numbers 2004 - 2010

	2004	2010	Total Change	- % change
CHINA	13,412	5,429	7,923	- 60
RUSSIA	9,440	3,426	4,011	- 54
Guatemala	3,425	58	3,367	- 98
Ukraine	2,119	1,098	1,378	- 48
S Korea	2,239	1,128	<u>1,371</u>	- 49
Global Total		5 states	= 17,810	
	45,483	28,632	= 16,831	- -37
Ethiopia			+ 2,835	- +185
Vietnam	1,534	4,369	+ 768	- +156
	492	1,260	+3,603	

Change in Numbers 2010-2016

	2010	2016	Change	% change
China	5,429	2,670	- 2,759	- 80
Ethiopia	4,369	321	- 4,048	- 95
Russia	3,424	481	- 2,493	- 93
Haiti	2,502	396	- 2,106	- 84
Colombia	1,828	485	- 1,343	- 74
Vietnam	1,260	399	- 861	- 68
S. Korea	1,129	376	- 753	- 66
Ukraine	1,098	394	- 704	- 64
Top 8 =			- 15,067	
All states	28,831	11,102	- 17,729	- 62 %
India	607	486	- 121	- 20
Bulgaria	237	373	+ 136	+ 57
Congo DR	188	631	+ 483	+ 234

Age of Children Adopted

	EURADOPT 2013		EURADOPT 2010		EURADOPT 2005	
	0-1	5+	0-1	5+	0-1	5+
Korea	---	0%	92%	0%	96%	0%
S Africa	21%	7%	76%	1%	86%	0%
Ethiopia	38%	5%	36%	8%	47%	15%
China	4%	7%	11%	1%	28%	0%
India	---	38%	4%	28%	8%	16%
Ukraine	---	100%	---	79%	---	60%
Brazil	---	90%	---	78%	---	59%

Intercountry Adoptions from four continents – as % of all

	2003	2007	2011	2015
ASIA	43%	40%	36%	43%
EUROPE	32%	21%	26%	24%
Latin America	17%	23%	13%	12%
AFRICA	6%	13%	25%	20%

Intercountry Adoptions from four continents in Nordic Countries 2011

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Finland
ASIA 36%	49%	48%	39%	39%
EUROPE 25%	7%	18%	2%	19%
Latin America 12%	32%	16%	11%	4%
Africa 24%	13%	18%	49%	37%

Adoptions from Asia

- Since the late 1990s China has been the most important source of children worldwide, sending more than 148,000 from 1992-2016.
- Before that Korea had been main source of children and by 2011 had sent more than 168,000. in the 1980s three of the top 5 states of origin were Asian: **Korea, India & Sri Lanka.**
- In 2005 **47 per cent** of adoptions were from Asia; by 2011 this had fallen to **36%**, but in 2016 **45%** of intercountry adoptions from Asia.

Adoptions from Asia 2001-2016

	2001	2004	2005	2007	2009	2016	2001-16
China	7,725	13,412	14,493	8,748	5,012	2,670	113,514
Korea	2,491	2,239	2,121	1,223	1,396	376	21,767
Vietnam	1,297	492	1,198	1,695	1,504	399	15,441
India	1,508	1,067	873	1,003	722	486	14,123
Philippines	405	410	503	568	556	359	7,467
Thailand	463	535	465	440	336	232	6,103
Taiwan	130	220	262	266	389	168	4,013
ALL ASIA	15,290	19,056	20,564	14,723	10,387	4,963	190,716

CHINA 2001-2016

	2001	2003	2005	2009	2012	2016
USA	4,705	6,857	7,903	3,000	2,697	2,231
Spain	941	1,043	2,753	573	447	100
Canada	618	1,115	960	377	254	87
NL	445	567	666	283	192	58
Sweden	220	373	462	248	89	17
France	130	360	458	102	63	28
Italy	0	0	0	23	171	118
TOTAL	7,725	11,228	14,493	5,012	4,132	2,670

Adoption from China

- If adoptions had continued at the 2005 level, by 2010 China would have sent as many children in 17 years as Korea in 50.
- In fact numbers have fallen and the total sent **1993-2016** is about **148,000**, well below the Korean total of **168,000** from 1953-2016
- A majority of children now have special needs – and many more are older boys.

Sex Ratio in Chinese ICA

YEAR	Total	Girls	Boys	% female
2005	14,221	13,556	665	95%
2006	10,646	9,638	1,008	90%
2007	7,858	6,650	1,208	85%
2008	5,531	4,169	1,362	75%
2009	5,294	3,901	1,393	74%

Gender of Children Adopted

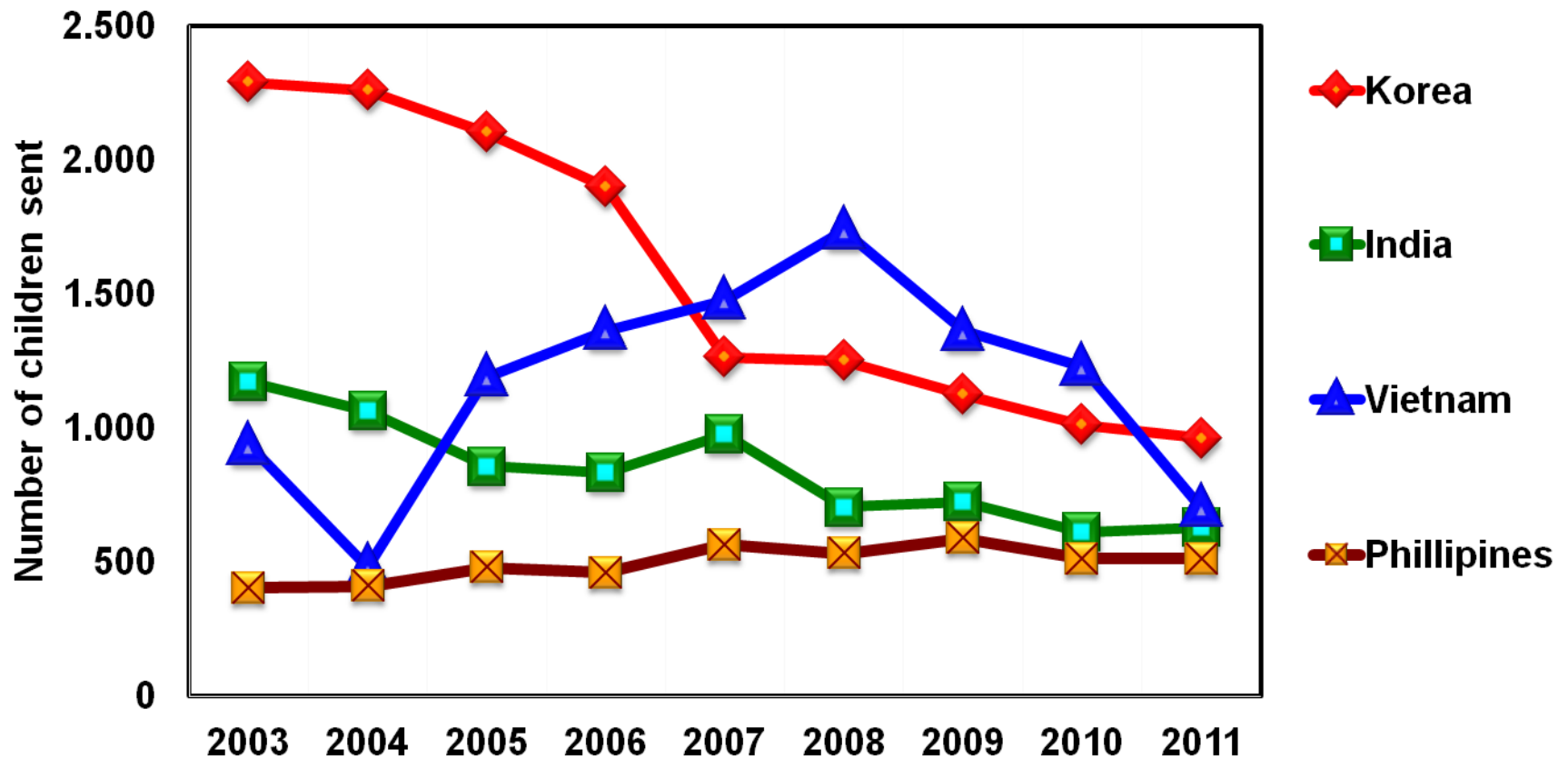
	EURADOPT 2013			EURADOPT 2005		
	Female	Male	% girls	Female	Male	% girls
China	102	256	29%	1,724	118	94%
India	18	3	86%	123	71	63%
Ethiopia	47	91	32%	164	201	45%
Korea	3	30	9%	65	186	26%

% of Children Adopted from China with special needs (Hague)

	2005	2007	2009
Sweden	6%	25%	69%
Netherlands	13%	42%	66%
USA	14%	42%	61%
All States	9%	30%	49%
France	6%	13%	34%
Norway	0.1%	7%	28%
Spain	0.1%	4%	9%

Other Asian Sending Countries

4 Asian States of Origin 2003-2011



Adoption from South Korea

- In 2007 for the first time for many years there were more domestic than intercountry adoptions.
- But annual number of intercountry adoptions remains high for a country which is now rich and has lowest fertility in Asia. Korea still sends more children per 1,000 births than Ethiopia or China.
- **Number fell from 2,491 in 2001 to 950 in 2011**
- A new Act in 2012 prioritises domestic adoption and introduced dual citizenship and in May 2013 Korea finally signed the Hague Convention. **But in 2016 there were still 376 international adoptions (70% to the USA).**

Adoption in India

- India has the lowest adoption ratio (**0.02 in 2011**) of any major sending country and numbers have been falling – **from 1,364 in 2000 to 589 in 2011** (CARA statistics) and **343 in 2015**, but rose to **486 in 2016**
- In-country adoptions are now more numerous but remain few in relation to need.
- At the same time concern over irregularities – e.g. children stolen or sold by parents - have been increasing.

INDIA 1998-2016

Country	1998	2002	2006	2012	2016
USA	478	466	320	159	194
Italy	194	102	136	64	127
Canada	179	127	36	36	42
Denmark	120	93	30	9	6
Spain	97	109	79	7	30
Sweden	78	60	38	19	9
TOTAL	1,618	1,247	846	394	486

China, India, Korea - 2005-2010

		2005	2008	2010	Ratio 2005
China	Intercountry	14,221	5,541	4,911	0.84
	Domestic	n/a	37,009	29,618	-(2.0+)
	% ICA		7%	14%	
India	Intercountry	867	821	593	0.034
	Domestic	2,284	2,189	5,903	0.088
	% ICA	28%	27%	9%	
Korea	Intercountry	2,101	1,250	1,013	4.8
	Domestic	1,461	1,306	1,462	3.3
	% ICA	59%	49%	41%	

Gender of Children Adopted

	EURADOPT 2013			EURADOPT 2005		
	Female	Male	% girls	Female	Male	% girls
China	102	256	29%	1,724	118	94%
India	18	3	86%	123	71	63%
Ethiopia	47	91	32%	164	201	45%
Korea	3	30	9%	65	186	26%

VIETNAM 1998-2016

Receiving Country	1998	2003	2009	2011	2012	2016
France	1,343	234	308	264	76	74
USA	603	382	481	0	0	13
Sweden	186	32	65	0	0	11
Canada	79	45	159	54	43	30
Italy	n/a	59	231	142	41	125
Ireland	n/a	39	136	0	0	21
Spain	0	10	65	178	41	109
TOTAL	2,484	936	1,518	704	214	399

Eastern Europe 2003-2016

	2003	2004	2008	2011	2016
Russia	7,743	9,425	4,140	3,325	481
Ukraine	2,052	2,021	1,577	1,073	394
Bulgaria	963	386	138	316	373
Belarus	656	616	6	150	93
Romania	474	289	8	5	25
Poland	347	408	408	298	325
Lithuania	85	103	127	143	57
Hungary	70	70	115	155	176
Latvia	65	124	90	119	99

Adoption from Russia

- Russia has signed but not ratified the Hague Convention.
- **Since 1992 over 100,000** children have been placed for ICA, peaking at **9,000+** in 2004. Many of the children have FASD.
- On January 1st 2013 a new law came in banning adoption by American citizens - following the death of Dima Yakovlev from heat-stroke; the case of Artyam Savelyev, sent back by his adoptive mother; and other incidents, including children murdered.
- In 2014 only two adoptions from Russia to the USA were recorded and numbers fell in most other states. By 2016 the annual number had fallen to **under 500**

RUSSIA 2004-2016

Receiving Country	2004	2005	2007	2009	2012	2016
US (FY)	5,865	4,639	2,310	1,586	748	0
Spain	1,618	1,262	955	868	479	95
Italy	738	628	492	704	749	306
France	445	357	402	288	235	30
Ireland	189	131	160	100	32	2
Israel	95	73	108	75	86	21
Total	9,384	7,492	4,881	4,033	2,586	481

Intercountry Adoption from Africa

For many years intercountry adoption from Africa was rare. However, the growing demand for young infants - and fall in numbers from many other sending countries – has changed all that, notably in **Ethiopia**, which sent **4,575** children in **2009** and replaced Russia as the State of origin sending most children after China. In later years there were increases in adoptions from Congo and Uganda.

Madonna and Child



TOP 7 AFRICAN STATES

	2016	2012	2009	2007	2003
Ethiopia	321	2,800	4,553	3,034	855
Congo DR	[631]	517	156	69	24
Nigeria	160	266	186	83	64
Uganda	203	248	74	57	12
Ghana	33	181	122	58	18
S Africa	147	165	299	212	188
Mali	1	155	191	158	135
All Africa	[2,039]	5,286	6,500	4,741	2,336

Standardised Rates 2009

AFRICA	Adoptions per 1,000 births	Other Countries	Adoptions per 1,000 births	Peak rate (year)
Ethiopia	1.45	Haiti	4.52	9.6 (2010)
Mali	0.40	Bulgaria	3.32	16.2 (2003)
S Africa	0.28	Ukraine	3.24	5.0 (2003)
Ghana	0.16	Korea	3.16	13.3 (1985)
Cameroon	0.13	Russia	2.59	7.7 (2004)
Morocco	0.10	Guatemala	1.75	10.8 (2007)
Congo RD	0.05	China	0.28	0.8 (2005)
Nigeria	0.03	India	0.03	0.05 (2003)

% of Adoptions from Africa

2003	2007	2009	2013	2015
% of adoptions to France from Africa				
24.4%	29.2%	32.6%	42.1%	35%
% of adoptions to Spain from Africa				
4.1%	14.9%	26.1%	23.4%	17%
% of adoptions to Italy from Africa				
2.5%	9.5%	12.6%	20.0%	16%
% of adoptions to USA from Africa				
1.8%	9.3%	21.8%	29.6%	19%
% of adoptions from Africa to all countries				
5.4%	12.7 %	21.7%	27.9%	20%

Percentage of adoptions from Africa in other European Countries 2003-15

2003	2007	2009	2012	2015
5.4%	12.7%	21.7%	27.3 %	20%
% of adoptions in Netherlands				
6.7 %	11.7	20.6	27.7 %	24%
% of adoptions in Sweden				
10.7 %	16.1	19.9	22.3%	20%
% of adoptions in Finland				
12.1 %	21.6	30.5	25.7 %	43%
% of adoptions in Denmark				
10.1 %	20.0	45.8	54.3%	55%

ETHIOPIA 2001-2016

	2001	2004	2007	2009	2012	2016
USA	158	289	1,255	2,277	1,568	183
Spain	0	220	481	722	302	28
France	234	390	417	445	220	10
Italy	79	192	256	346	233	79
Canada	15	34	135	170	93	13
Belgium	38	62	124	143	98	6
Denmark	40	41	38	125	57	57
TOTAL	728	1,527	3,034	4,575	2,800	321

CONGO-Kinshasa 2003-17

	2003	2007	2010	2012	2016	2017
USA	7	10	42	240	359	26
Italy	2	17	75	140	4	3
France	6	5	41	84	[231]	11
Spain	8	29	0	84	0	0
Netherlands	0	2	20	28	12	0
TOTAL	24	69	189	348	631	[29]

Uganda 2003-17

	2003	2005	2009	2011	2013	2016	2017
USA	3	17	69	207	278	187	55
Canada	3	3	2	9	3	4	n/a
Sweden	0	1	2	0	5	0	0
Netherlands	0	1	0	12	10	0	0
TOTAL	6	22	73	228	297	203	[55]
% to USA	50%	77%	95%	91%	94%	92%	100%

South Africa 2003-16

	2003	2007	2009	2011	2013	2016
Denmark	13	32	78	49	41	22
Finland	23	25	41	45	37	14
Belgium	13	12	22	22	22	9
Sweden	54	44	41	30	22	21
Netherlands	43	34	30	23	26	15
Norway	2	16	28	15	13	12
USA	26	7	5	3	17	25
TOTAL	188	235	297	190	221	147

Mali 2003-2016

	2003	2007	2009	2012	2014	2016
France	132	135	117	33	36	0
Spain	1	0	39	66	0	0
Italy	0	12	13	19	0	1
Belgium	2	7	17	15	0	0
Germany	0	0	27	9	0	0
TOTAL	136	158	223	154	36	1

Burkina Faso 2006-16

	2006	2008	2009	2011	2012	2016
France	89	47	25	20	20	16
Italy	15	23	20	30	52	29
Denmark	0	3	3	11	10	5
Germany	6	6	2	8	3	2
Spain	1	7	3	2	5	1
TOTAL	112	91	58	76	94	63
Total (BF)	115	68	61	75	87	

Intercountry Adoption from Latin America

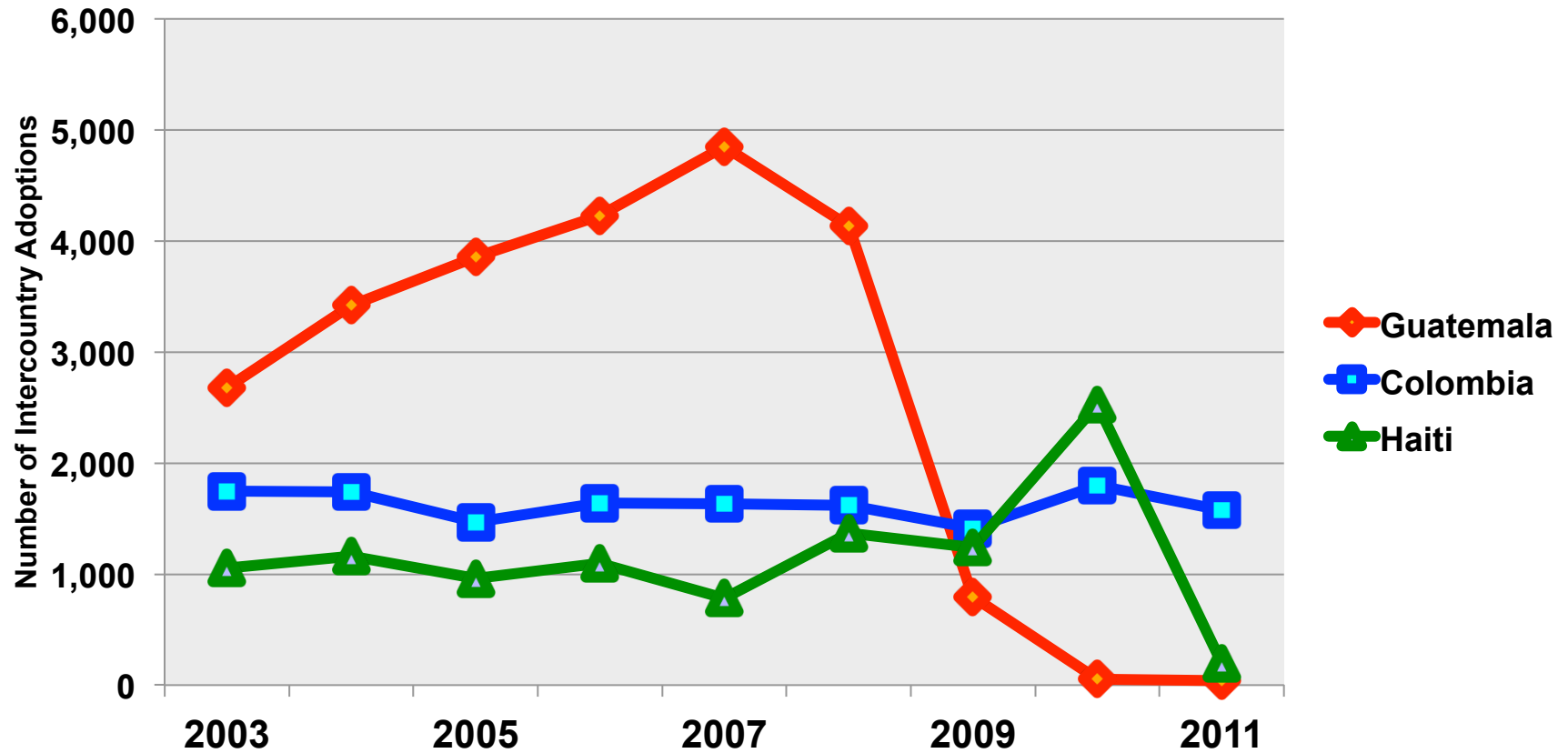
- In the **1980s** six of the top 10 sending countries were from Latin America. From 2003-9 there were only 3 and in 2011-12 one (Colombia), which had been in top 10 since 1980
- **In 2010 the Haitian Earthquake** raised fears of “rescue” of children affected. 2,500 children were taken to Canada, **France**, the US and the **Netherlands**, most in the first three months of the year. 1,000+ entered the US on emergency visas. There were no adoptions to the **UK, Italy, Spain or the Nordic Countries**.
- In 2011-12 the number of adoptions from Haiti fell sharply but since then have been rising and in 2013 and 2014 Haiti was again in the top 10 states of origin – with 70% adoptions going to USA (compared to 22% in 2008 when a majority were to France).

Latin America 2003-2016

	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2016
Guatemala	2,676	3,872	4,851	58	16	7
Colombia	1,750	1,466	1,635	1,798	917	485
Haiti	1,056	958	783	2,601	256	396
Brazil	472	473	485	380	338	126
Bolivia	274	252	152	73	59	0
Mexico	122	163	181	117	62	32
Peru	116	174	169	173	109	98
All Countries	7,106	7,894	8,769	5,499	2,339	1,501

Latin America 2003-2011

Three Latin American Countries



COLOMBIA 2003-2016

	2003	2007	2011	2013	2016
Italy	273	380	554	179	157
US (FY)	272	310	215	159	131
France	276	375	286	84	62
Spain	285	174	148	25	33
Netherlands	171	49	60	52	3
Norway	111	84	70	20	38
Sweden	90	39	79	23	17
Total	1,773	1,644	1,599	575	482

HAITI 2006-2016

Receiving Country	2006	2007	2008	2010	2011	2016
France	571	403	731	992	34	82
USA	309	190	302	(1,223)	33	178
Canada	130	89	111	135	77	47
N/lands	41	28	91	108	0	6
Spain	15	22	27	0	0	0
Total	1,103	786	1,320	2,502	239	396

SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTION

- For the 2010 Hague Special Commission, states were asked to indicate how many of the children adopted had “special needs” i.e.
- **“those who may be suffering from a behaviour disorder or trauma, physically or mentally disabled, older children (usually above 7 years of age) or are part of a sibling group”**
- The issue of special needs adoption was identified as a key topic for the Hague Special Commission in June 2015

Age of Children Adopted in key receiving states - Hague

	2005		2007		2009	
	% over 5	% under 1	% over 5	% under 1	% over 5	% under 1
Italy	47%	6%	50%	10%	58%	7%
France	24%	32%	33%	23%	34%	21%
USA	16%	42%	18%	39%	25%	25%
Iceland	6%	17%	11%	11%	29%	6%
Australia	8%	47%	8%	41%	9%	37%

Children with special needs - selected sending countries (Hague)

	2005	2007	2009
Chile	100%	100%	100%
Latvia	53%	42%	80%
Albania	59%	42%	66%
Lithuania	30%	34%	71%
China	9%	30%	49%

The Impact of falling numbers

- Declining numbers of children placed for adoption has led to a growing imbalance between supply and demand so that prospective adoptive parents outnumber annual adoptions and many are waiting many years after approval for a child.
- The Hague conference has noted that as a result agencies have falling income while having to deal with the higher costs of placing children with special needs, while excess of demand over supply creates new pressures on states of origin.

Waiting Dossiers in Spain and Ireland

- By the end of **2012** there were **more than 23,000** approved applicants in Spain waiting for a child. **In 2013**, there were only **1,188 ICA** completed. At this rate, the “waiting” dossiers would be ‘sufficient’ for more than 19 years [San Roman & Marre 2014]
- In Ireland there are c **650 valid declarations** for ICA – and in **2013** there were only **72 ICA** and less than **20 Hague – compliant referrals**,
- And in the USA the number of agencies continues to fall – with more accredited agencies not seeking re-accreditation.

Cross-Border Surrogacy

The main motivating factor in adoption – both domestic and intercountry - continues to be infertility; cited by around three-quarters of applicants.

As the number of intercountry adoptions falls, many expect the interest in cross-border surrogacy to increase. It is clear that already the number of such commercial arrangements is higher than number of ICA.

But already we see a pattern familiar from ICA – market forces, corruption and moratoria or banning of the practice in India, Thailand and Mexico – and growth in new countries such as Bulgaria. The Hague Conference is exploring the need for a new convention.