

Profile of Children Awaiting Adoption in Thailand

Welcome to Holt's Thailand Program! As you begin your adoption process, we want to provide you with accurate information regarding the typical child profile awaiting adoptive families in Thailand.

STANDARD PROCESS

Why Children Come Into Care: Children become available for adoption in Thailand for a variety of reasons. These include: cultural stigma against single women parenting a child, serious poverty, family illness or other family crisis, incarceration. Most children referred to Holt International have been relinquished by their birth mothers. Some children were found by the Thai government to be legally abandoned by their birth parent(s) and have come into the care of our partner agency, Holt Sahathai Foundation (HSF) for adoptive placement.

Type of Care: The vast majority of children we place from Thailand enter HSF's foster care program as soon as they are relinquished by their birth mothers. HSF provides pregnancy and adoption counseling services to birth mothers so most are able to receive some level of prenatal care and choose to give birth at the maternity home that HSF partners with. In some instances, children referred to us are being cared for in government child caring centers or group homes. The institutions we receive referrals from in Thailand are generally large public facilities, referred to as babies' homes, boys' homes or girls' homes. Most are located in larger, well-resourced cities. Holt International does not receive child referrals directly from the Thai government so HSF can be selective of the public institutions they work with. They try to partner with institutions that provide a high standard of care in group home-like environments.

Age: The majority of children referred to us from HSF range from 18-24 months. The children available for international adoption in Thailand can vary in age from 13 months to 8 years +.

Gender: The distribution is evenly divided between boys and girls. Only families with a male child in the home may request a girl. Because a gender request option is allowed, the wait to be matched with a girl may be longer for these families than for a boy. Childless couples and families who already have a female child must be open to either gender.

Common medical conditions: Children available for adoption from Thailand are generally healthy. Common medical conditions include thalassemia, G6PD, low birth weight, prematurity, malnourishment, birth mother history (substance abuse or mental disease), mild developmental delays, birth conditions such as jaundice and respiratory distress syndrome, and HIV+ converted to negative (i.e. birth mother was HIV+ but child received subsequent negative tests after birth).

SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTIONS

There is not a separate special needs referral process for Thailand. Children who are older or with medical needs are referred in the standard quarterly referral groups. We first try to identify a family with a dossier in Thailand for each child, and when this is not possible, we refer the child's case to our Waiting Child Program (WCP). Families in process with the Thailand Program may also work with the WCP if they wish to review child referrals that have been posted on the photolisting (<http://www.holtinternational.org/waitingchild/photolisting/regionOther.php?region=SE%20Asia>).