Statistics for states implementing access to original birth certificate (OBC) laws since 2000

State	Year OBCs Sealed	Access Law Effective	Data as of	Sealed Original Birth Certificates[1]	Adoptees Requesting OBCs	Percent Adoptees Requesting OBCs[2]	Birth Parents		
							Requesting Contact	Requesting No Contact	Percent Requesting No Contact[3]
Oregon	1957	5/31/00	5/31/14	107,730	11,838	11.0%	583	86	0.08%
Alabama[4]	1991	8/1/00	12/31/13	300,000	6,010	2.0%	233	7	0.00%
New Hampshire	1973	1/1/05	12/31/13	24,000	1,620	6.8%	71	13	0.05%
Maine	1953	1/1/09	12/31/13	24,000	1,383	5.8%	27	8	0.03%
Illinois[5]	1946	5/19/10	12/31/13	350,000	10,347	3.0%	200	461	0.13%
Rhode Island	1944	7/2/12	12/31/13	24,000	938	3.9%	19	10	0.04%
Totals/Averages				829,730	32,136	3.9%	1,133	585	0.07%

Notes:

Bottom line: 1 out of 1,429 birth mothers requested no contact.

[1] Birth certificates are sealed upon final order of adoption. If a child remains in foster care and is never adopted, the certificate is not sealed.
The number of sealed records are estimates from Vital Statistics from each state.

Percentages are based on the number of *sealed records* equating to the number of birth mothers, because typically birth fathers' names were not on the certificate. Results are:

[2] **Adoptees requesting their original birth certificate represent a range up to about 10% of *sealed records*.**

[3] **In 6 states, only 585 birth parents requested no contact, or seven-one-hundredths of one-percent, which equates to 1 out of 1,429 sealed records.**

[4] Alabama-born adopted persons, whose original birth certificates were sealed, may obtain a non-certified copy along with all other documents in the file. While most of these requests are from adopted persons, others (who had a legal determination of paternity causing their OBC to be sealed) have also made requests to open sealed files and are included in these counts. Requests for no contact are not tracked. In 2011, they were estimated to be about 7 with none since then.

[5] Illinois law effective 5/19/10 for adoptees born prior to 1/1/46 and on 11/15/11 for those born after 1945. Of the 10,347 certificates requested, 201 could not be found and 53 certificates had the birth parent information redacted from the original birth certificate released to the adopted adult upon request.

Delaware has ~10,000 sealed records. From 1/99 to 5/13, 841 birth certificates have been released and 18 persons filed disclosure vetos. Requests for contact are not tracked.

Tenneesee sealed approximtely 73,000 records in 1978 and reopened them in 1999. They do not track requests.

Sealed records are estimates, requests are actual as of date shown. All data provided by:

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Est. Population 4/10:

OR	3.8M	ublic.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/GetVitalRecords/Pages/58update.aspx#
AL	4.8M	Cathy.Molchan@adph.state.al.us
NH	1.3M	MOrman@SOS.STATE.NH.US
ME	1.3M	Sharon.Wright@maine.gov
IL	12.8M	www.idph.state.il.us/vitalrecords/vital/adoptstats.htm
RI	1.1M	http://www.health.ri.gov/data/adultadoptees/index.php

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