

Statistics for some states with access to original birth certificates (OBCs)

State	Law Effective	Data as of	Sealed Records	Birth Certificate Requests	% Adoptees requesting OBCs	Requests for Contact	Requests for No Contact	% Parents wanting No Contact
Oregon	5/31/00	4/10/08	107,730	9,735	9.0%	484	85	0.08%
Alabama*	8/1/00	3/31/08	300,000	4,298	1.4%	191	Very few	0.00%
New Hampshire	1/1/05	10/24/08	24,000	1,158	4.8%	48	12	0.05%
Totals/Averages			431,730	15,191	3.5%	723	101	0.02%

Notes:

Percents are based on the number of sealed records, which would be significantly lower if birth fathers' names were shown on the birth certificate.

Adoptees requesting their original birth certificate range from 1.4% to 9% of the total sealed records.

Of 431,730 sealed records, only 101 birth parents requested no contact, or two-one-hundredths of a percent.

*Alabama law allows any person born in Alabama, whose original birth certificate was sealed due to a legal action, to obtain a non-certified copy of that birth certificate 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 original birth certificate to be sealed) have also made some requests to open sealed files and are included in these counts.

Requests for no contact are not tracked, but in 2007 they were estimated to be 3 or 4. Four was used in the calculation.

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

OR: Carol A. Sanders, Manager, Center for Health Statistics, Portland, Oregon 97232

<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/index.shtml>

AL: Dorothy Harshbarger, State Registrar and Director, Center for Health Statistics, Montgomery, AL 36103

धारshbarger@adph.state.al.us

NH: William Bolton, Director Vital Statistics, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

<http://www.sos.nh.gov/vitalrecords/>

NJ Coalition for Adoption Reform and Education (NJCARE) www.nj-care.org

Contact: Judy Foster, birth parent, 973-455-1268, jfoster7@optonline.net; Pam Hasegawa, adoptee, 973-292-2440, pamgawa@optonline.net; or

Jane Nast, adoptive parent, 973-267-8698, janenast@compuserve.com.