

ABSTRACT

SOCIAL WORKERS' ATTITUDES TOWARD TRANSRACIAL ADOPTION AND THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF THE MULTIETHNIC PLACEMENT ACT AND INTERETHNIC ADOPTION PROVISIONS

Transracial adoptions are a topic of much concern, especially for social workers in the child welfare arena. In the past 15 years, the Multiethnic Placement Act and Interethnic Adoption Provisions (MEPA-IEP) have been enacted in the United States to ban the use of race when placing children in foster and adoptive homes. This exploratory study used quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze 33 surveys that revealed information about adoption social workers' perceptions of transracial adoption and MEPA-IEP. Data were collected through a survey instrument that included the Attitudes Toward Transracial Adoption Scale and five survey items and four open-ended questions related to adoption social workers' perspectives of MEPA-IEP. Findings revealed the workers in this study viewed transracial adoption and MEPA-IEP positively. Implications for this study and recommendations for future research are provided.

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