

# 2017 CANADIAN FOSTER CARE ATTITUDES SURVEY

CONDUCTED BY HARRIS POLL ON BEHALF OF THE  
DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION

MARCH 2017

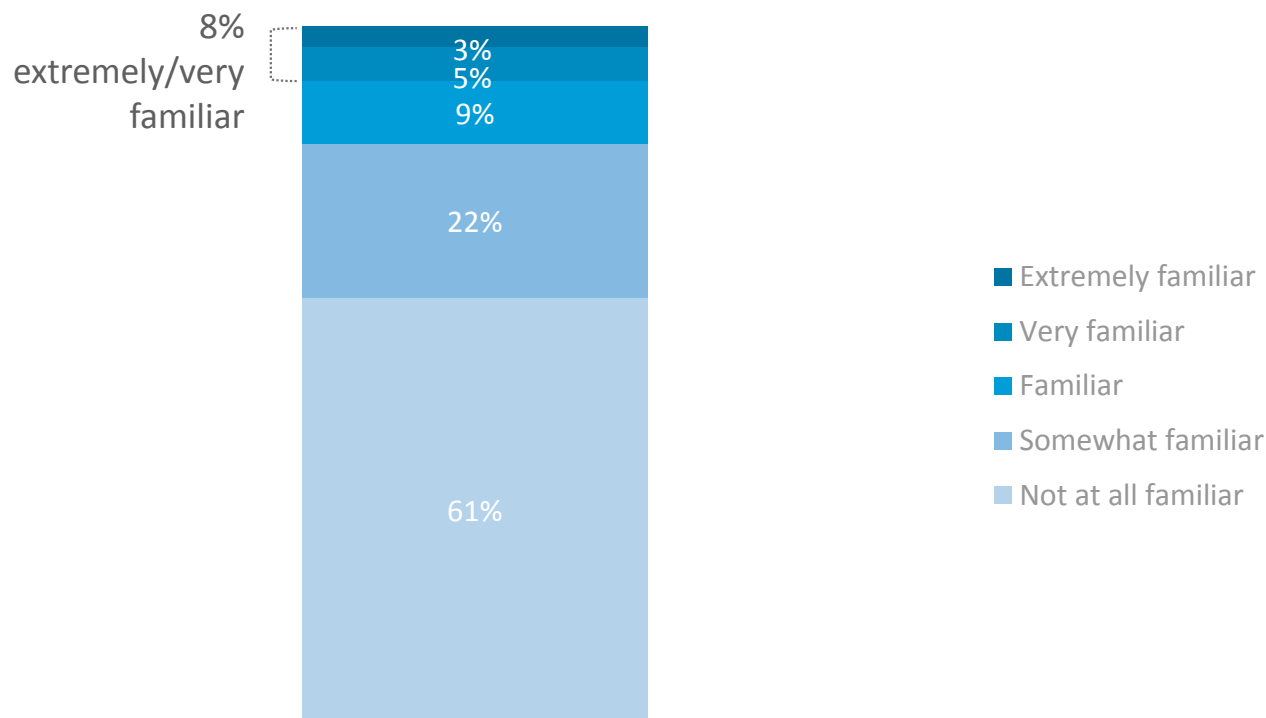


Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
*for Adoption*

# FAMILIARITY WITH FOSTER PARENTS ROLE

Over 6 in 10 adults say they are not at all familiar with what foster parents do to care for children who have been abused or neglected.

Familiarity with Foster Parent Role in Caring for Abused/Neglected Children

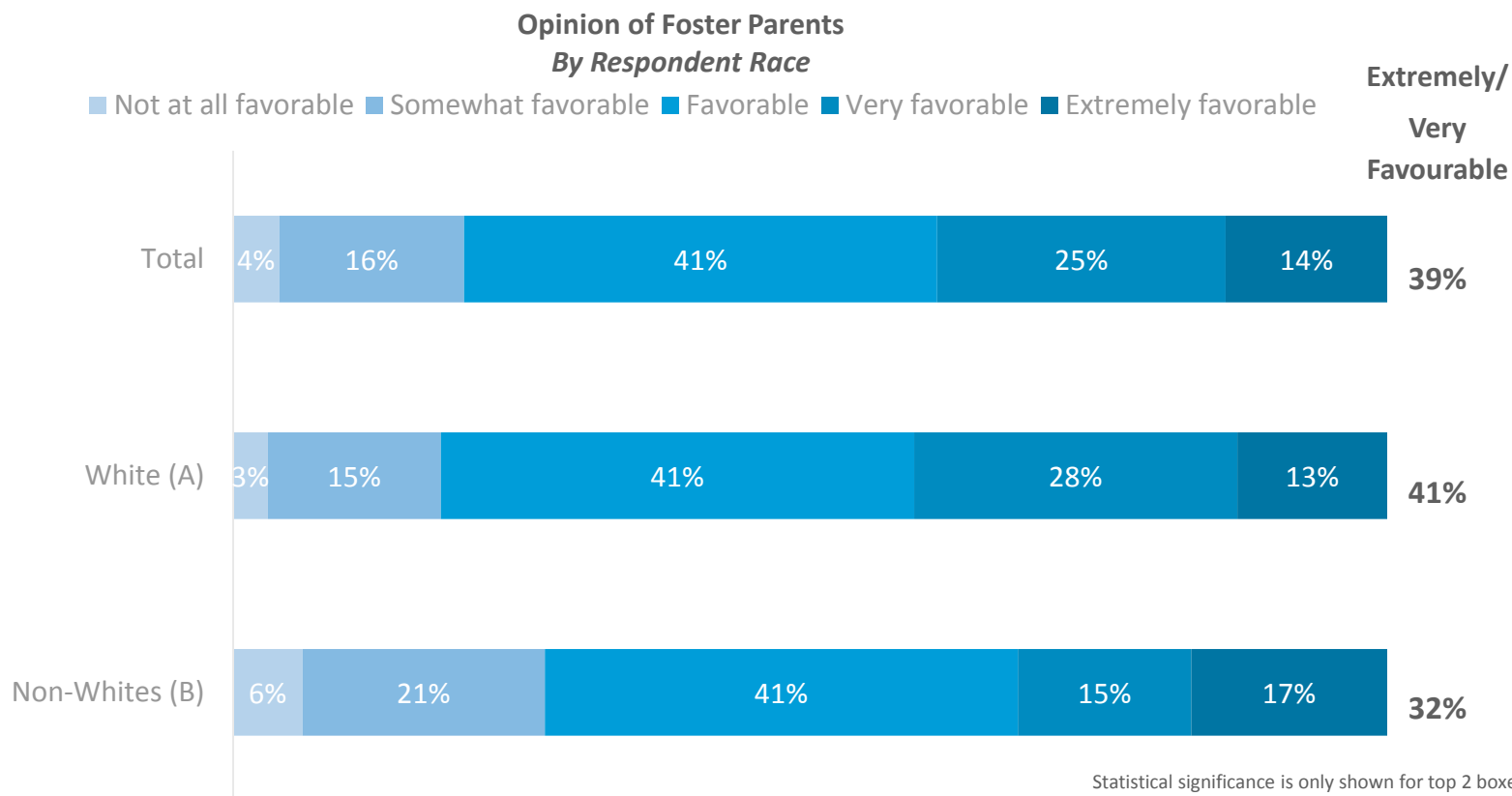


Base: All Qualified Respondents (n=1007)

Q832. How familiar are you with what foster parents do to care for children who have been abused or neglected?

# OPINION OF FOSTER PARENTS BY RACE

About 4 in 10 adults say they feel extremely/very favourable towards foster care parents.

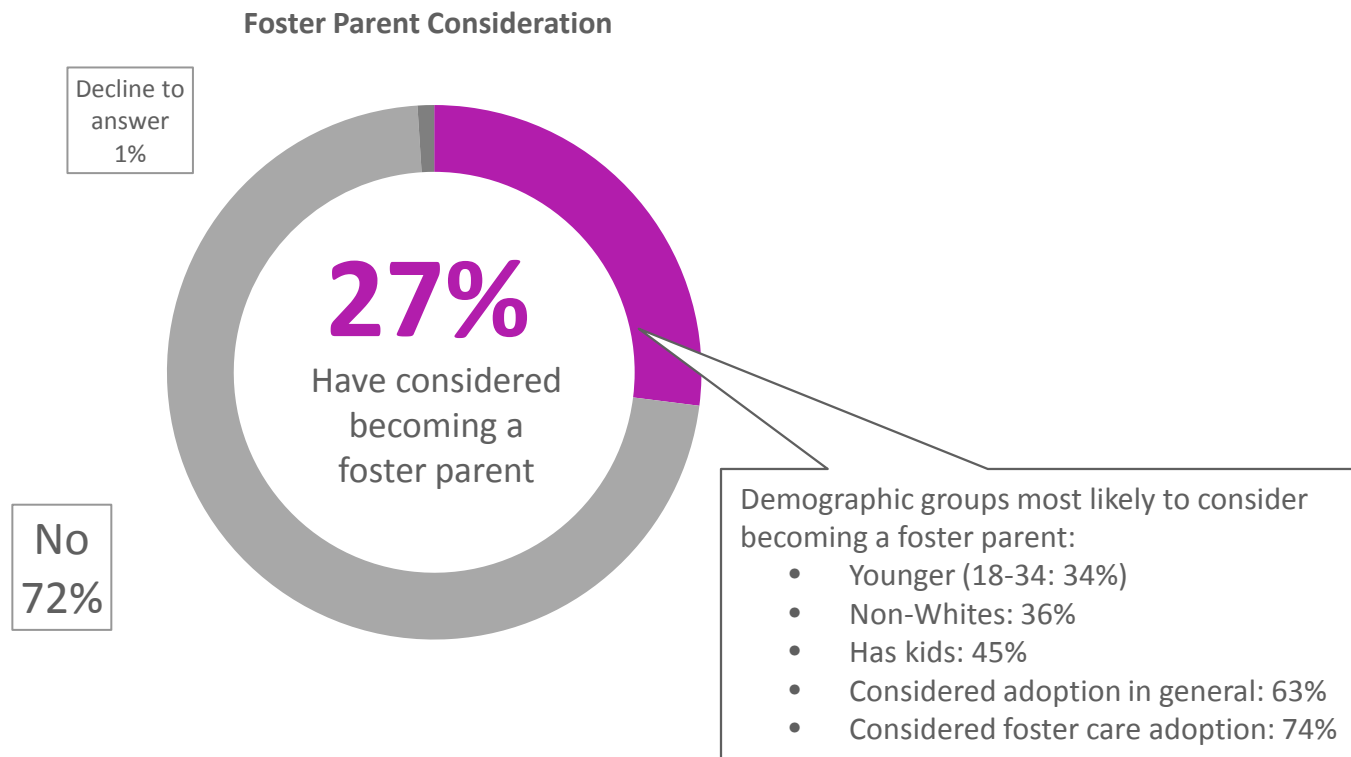


Base: All qualified respondents. (Total n=1007; White n=824, Non-White n=183)

Q806. In general, what is your opinion of foster parents?

# FOSTER PARENT CONSIDERATION

Nearly 3 in 10 Canadian adults have considered becoming a foster parent.



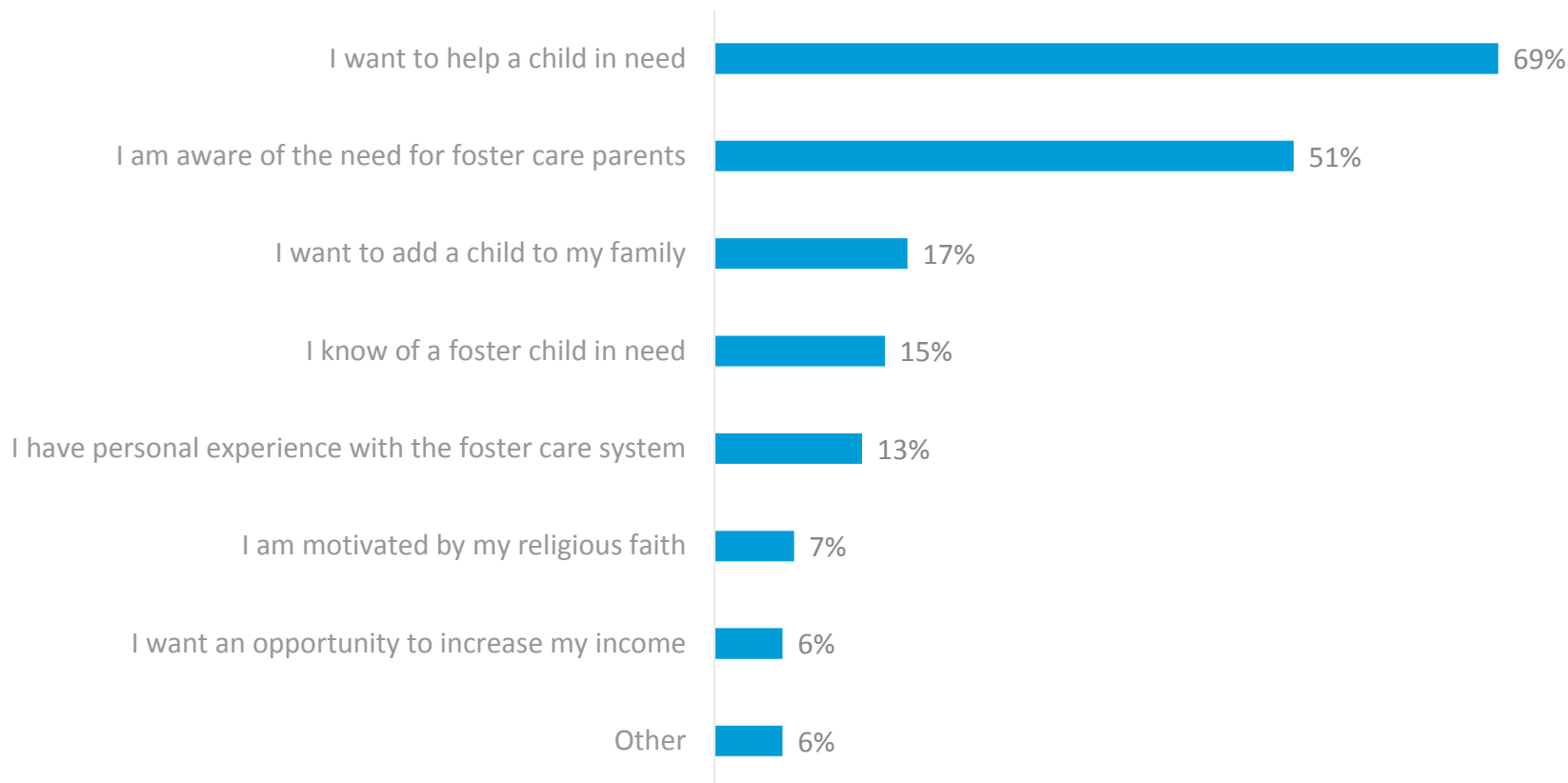
Base: All Qualified Respondents (n=1007)

Q772. Have you ever considered becoming a foster parent (i.e., a person who acts as parent and guardian for a child in place of the child's natural parents but without legally adopting the child)?

# REASONS FOR CONSIDERING BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT

Nearly 7 in 10 say they are considering becoming a foster parent to help a child in need, while half are aware of the need for foster parents.

Reasons for Considering Becoming a Foster Parent  
*Base: Considered Becoming a Foster Parent*



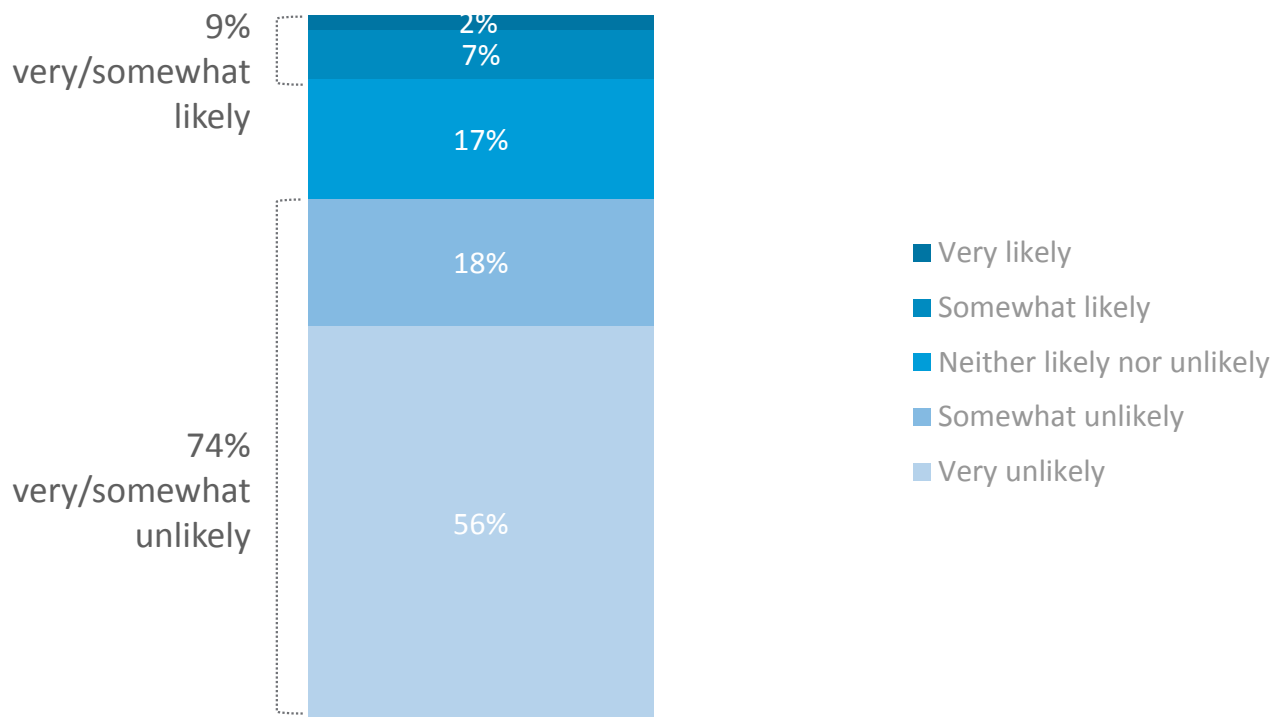
Base: Has considered becoming a foster parent (n=263)

Q773. Which of the following are reasons you have considered becoming a foster parent?

# LIKELIHOOD OF BECOMING FOSTER PARENT WITH ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Being presented with adequate resources has little effect on the likelihood to become a foster parent among those who are not currently considering it.

Likelihood of Considering Foster Parent with Adequate Resources  
Base: Has not considered becoming a foster parent



Base: Has not considered becoming a foster parent (n=735)

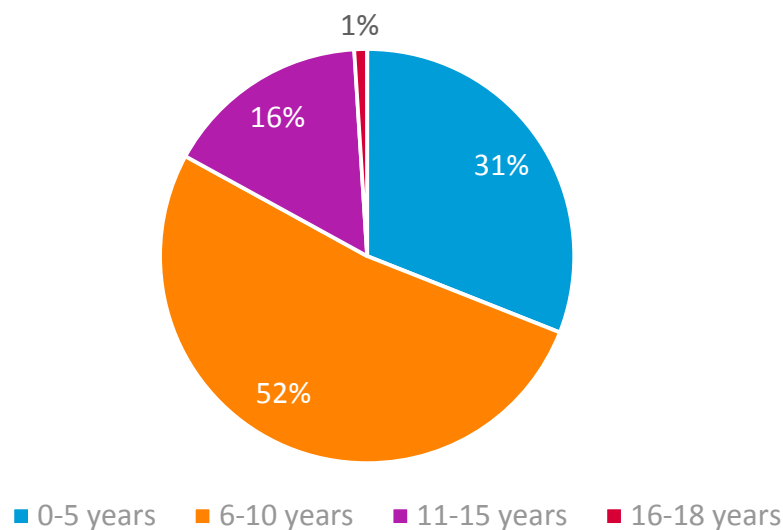
Q774. How likely would you be to consider becoming a foster parent if you were certain that you would receive adequate support in caring for a child placed in your home?

# AVERAGE AGE OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AVAILABLE TO BE ADOPTED

On average, adults estimate the average age of a child in foster care to be about 8 years.

## Estimated Average Age of Children in Foster Care Available to be Adopted

Estimated age (mean): 7.6 years



Base: All qualified respondents (n=1007)

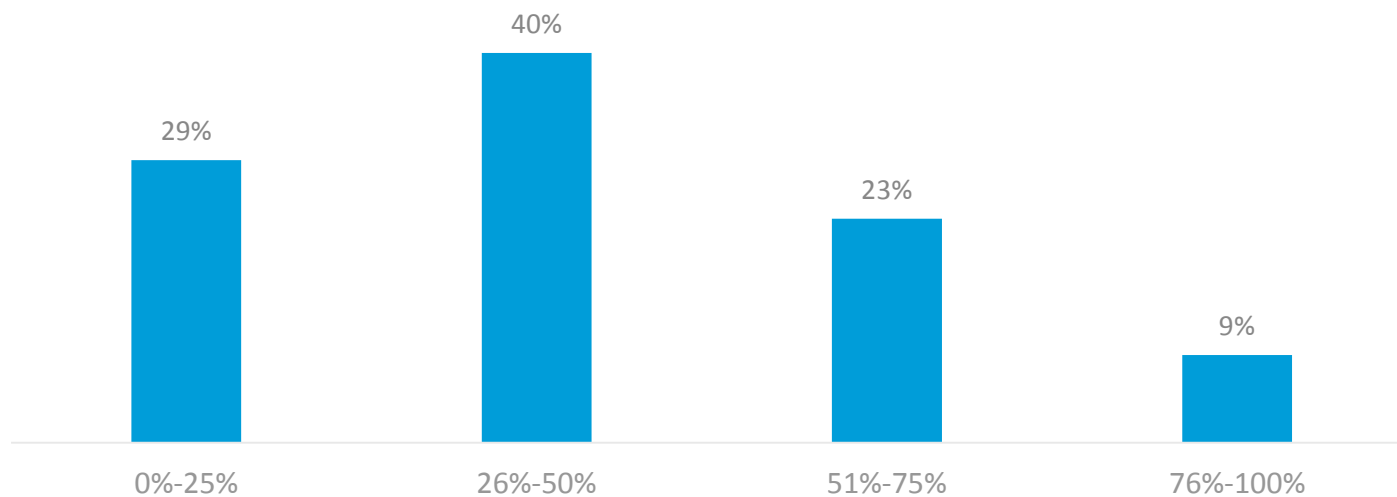
Q840a. Based on what you know of adoption, what do you think is the average age of children in foster care that are available to be adopted in Canada?

# PERCENT OF CHILDREN AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

On average, adults estimate that about 44% of children age out of foster care.

Estimated Average Percent of Children Who Age Out of Foster Care

Estimated percentage (mean): 43.5%



Base: All qualified respondents (n=1007)

Q860. What percent of children do you think become adults (i.e., turn 18 or 21 depending on the state) and leave the foster care system in Canada without being adopted?