

Placing siblings together increases the chances that children will be adopted.

- Adam McCormick, *Siblings in Foster Care: An Overview of Research, Policy, and Practice*, 4 J. of Pub. Child Welfare 198 (2010), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15548731003799662?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

This article reviews empirical data on siblings in foster care and provides an overview of the policies and practices related to sibling placements in the child welfare system. As one example, McCormick notes that research shows children placed with their siblings have more stability in their care compared to those who are separated from siblings. In particular, “[c]hildren who are placed alone either with a history of placement with siblings or with a history of placement alone, are significantly less likely to be adopted or placed in a subsidized guardianship home, than children who are placed with a consistent number of siblings in all of their placements.” *Id.* at 213 (internal citations omitted).

- Susan L. Smith, *Siblings in Foster Care and Adoption: What We Know from Research*, in Deborah N. Silverstein & Susan L. Smith, Eds., *Siblings in Adoption and Foster Care: Traumatic Separations and Honored Connections* (Praeger Pub. 2009), <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2009-11027-000>

This chapter discusses research about sibling relationships and implications for child-welfare practices, including placement stability in adoption. The author challenges the view that it is more difficult to place sibling groups with adoptive families compared to single children by citing to a study that came to the opposite conclusion: “A study of over 10,000 children photo-listed for adoption in New York found that members of sibling groups were more likely to be adopted and were placed more quickly than single children. In fact, the time to adoption was decreased by 3.2 months for each additional child in the sibling group.” *Id.* at 21-22 (additional citations omitted). After reviewing other studies on adoption disruption, the author finds that—taken as a group—they tend to show reduced disruption risk for siblings who are adopted together.