Children adopted from Eastern Europe
Evolution of socio-emotional and behavioral symptoms

Réjean TESSIER 1; Sarah PAQUIN1, and Marinova KRASSIMIRA 2

1 School of psychology, Université Laval, 2 Département of education, Université du Québec Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Participants:
Our research aims at studying the behavioral symptoms of children adopted from Eastern Europe who participated in a large survey in 2003. Of these, 147 (71.3%) responded to the 2006 follow up questionnaire.
- Children’s native countries: Russia (66), Belarus (35), Romania (35), other EE countries (11)
- Gender: 88 (60%) boys and 59 (40%) girls
- Mean age at adoption was 2.5 years (SD = 1.92)

 Procedure:
The main hypothesis is not confirmed: adoptive children (as a group) do not recover 8 years post adoption. They maintain orphanage like behaviors.
- The stability of socio-emotional problems may be partially explained by early experiences (of varied adversity) which could entail permanent effects.
- This study highlights that resources should primarily be offered to children with higher level of socio-emotional difficulties at arrival.

Correspondence should be directed to rejean.tessier@psy.ulaval.ca