

ICSA How-to Guide

DNA Testing for Chinese Adoptees

International Child Search Alliance



When you're searching for Chinese birth family members, it's critically important to do an autosomal/SNP DNA test through 23andMe and upload it to GEDmatch. You can also do a CODIS/STR (paternity) DNA test uploaded to Chinese databases. If you wish to anonymize your information, you can create any name and birth date you wish and use a separate/special email.

Autosomal/SNP DNA test

This is a test of the autosomal (i.e., 22 numbered pairs of) chromosomes as opposed to the sex chromosomes (i.e., X and Y). The test checks about 700,000 pairs of locations in an individual's autosomal/SNP DNA. Companies like 23andMe and AncestryDNA use autosomal/SNP tests.

IMPORTANT: No matter which autosomal test you do, you should also **UPLOAD YOUR RESULTS TO GEDMATCH**. As of October 2022, there are over 800 Chinese birth parents in GEDmatch.

23andMe

Most Chinese adoptees are in 23andMe (23andme.com/en-eu), and you typically find more people of Chinese heritage in this database than any other autosomal company. 23andMe is a saliva test.



AncestryDNA

If you can afford it, you can supplement your 23andMe test with AncestryDNA (ancestry.com/dna), another autosomal test. Some searchers have found Chinese relatives here, and adoptive families not involved in China-related Facebook groups may have also tested with AncestryDNA. This is a saliva test.



GEDmatch

How-to Guide: Uploading [23andMe to Gedmatch](#)

No matter which autosomal test you do, be sure to upload your raw DNA data file to GEDmatch gedmatch.com/login1.php. There are at least 800 birth families from China in GEDmatch, thanks to the work of DNAConnect, Nanchang Project, Roots of Love, and others (see below). This is FREE and easy to do. GEDmatch accepts uploads from 23andMe, FamilyTree DNA, AncestryDNA, My Heritage, and most others.



You can also match your own 23andMe and AncestryDNA results within GEDmatch. You may receive different matches for your 23andMe and AncestryDNA test results.



DNACconnect

DNACconnect (dnaconnect.org) has located hundreds of Chinese birthparents who are searching for children they relinquished and uploaded their DNA to GEDmatch. As of October 2022, they have successfully matched 140 adoptees to their birth families.



Note: DNACconnect will collect and process autosomal DNA for any birth family that is located and also stay in contact with them over the next 10 years or longer until a match is made. Please note that DNACconnect charges to release birth parent contact information (being waived in a pilot project in 2022) – \$50 if your donation is made before a match and \$299 if made after a match. However, if you provide contact information for a birth family in China, any future match to you through DNACconnect will also be free of fees to you.

Nanchang Project & Roots of Love

Both Nanchang Project (nanchangproject.com) and The Roots of Love (therootsoflove.org) are now adding birthparent DNA to Gedmatch through 23Mofang (23mofang.com) tests completed by birth parents in China and uploaded to Gedmatch. All tests and matches are free of charge.



Other Autosomal/SNP DNA sites

Upload your raw autosomal/SNP DNA for free to the two primary Chinese sites, 23mofang and WeGene. There has been at least one match for an adoptee through 23mofang, and both sites give you information about which provinces and cities have people genetically closest to you.

Chinese Companies	Website
<p>23Mofang How-to Guide: Uploading DNA to 23mofang Accepts uploads for a fee (approx. \$45 USD) from 23andMe, AncestryDNA. Database is kept in China. A little challenging to use if you can't read Chinese.</p> 	<p>23mofang.com/</p>
<p>WeGene Accepts uploads from 23andMe and AncestryDNA with payment through PayPal (199RMB or ~\$30USD). Database is kept in China. <i>Tip: Use the English site to create your account and upload your DNA data, but then use the Chinese site, with Google Chrome to translate, to see relative matches and additional information not visible on the English site.</i></p> 	<p>wegene.com/en (English site) or wegene.com (Chinese site – has more features – can use Google Chrome to translate)</p>



Also consider uploading your autosomal/SNP data to the following databases. These are all free and increase your chances of matching more people.

US Companies	Website
Family Tree DNA <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, AncestryDNA, MyHeritage. A swab test - option for those who can't generate enough saliva.</i> 	familytreedna.com
My Heritage <i>Accepts free uploads from AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, 23andMe, Living DNA. My Heritage is a swab test - good option for those who can't generate enough saliva.</i> 	myheritage.com
Living DNA <i>Accepts free uploads from AncestryDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritage, FTDNA</i> 	support.livingdna.com/hc/en-us/articles/360012746031-How-do-I-upload-data-via-Find-my-past-


IMPORTANT... DON'T FORGET!


1. Please check your account(s) at least monthly for new matches!
2. If you get a message or see a match that shows an identical twin or sibling, please check first who the match is. You could have accidentally uploaded your/your child's DNA twice.

CODIS/STR DNA test

There are four databases that only take CODIS/STR test results, and not autosomal/SNP like 23andMe. This type of test is most often used by law enforcement to solve crimes or as a paternity test. It is however the most commonly-used DNA test in China right now. With a CODIS/STR test, you will only find a match to a close relative like a parent or identical twin.

CODIS refers to the FBI's Combined DNA Index System, a software platform that blends forensic science and computer technology. CODIS/PATERNITY/STR DNA tests look for unique repeating patterns in an individual's DNA known as short-tandem repeats, STRs. STRs can be used to differentiate one person from another. Typically, a CODIS/STR DNA test compares only 13 to 20 autosomal STR markers.

Where to get a CODIS/STR test:

LabCorp (<https://dna.labcorp.com/dna-testing/single-party-testing/at-home/order-test>) - USA, purchase the *at-home single party test* for \$105.



(New York residents can't order the at-home test, but will need to go to the local LabCorp office for the DNA test; cost is around \$210.)

DNA Diagnostics Center (DDC), (<https://dnacenter.com/>) offered at a discount through DNACConnect - \$80 if you use USPS, or \$95 if you select FedEx. Contact



Mary Hult at 513-645-8886 to order and tell her that DNACConnect sent you to get the discount.



Consanguinitas (consanguinitas.nl/dna-testen/dna-profilering) - Netherlands, €149

PappaTest (pappatest.se/dna-tester/dna-id) - Sweden, SEK 1,195

EasyDNA (easydna.co.uk/dna-profiles/) - based in UK, with worldwide offices, £99

Send your test results to the four databases below.

Baby Come Home (Baobeihuijia)

This is a Chinese website started by Chinese parents whose children were abducted or went missing (baobeihuijia.com). It was created to help Chinese citizens find missing relatives. It has listings of Chinese birth parents looking for children, domestic Chinese adoptees looking for their birth parents, ads for lost adults, and international adopted children looking for birth parents. If you open this Chinese website in Google Chrome, you can automatically translate the site into English.



To register with Baby Come Home, join the Facebook group **Baby Home**, facebook.com/groups/275651082969132. Look in the files section of this Facebook group for information on how to register.

Chinese Local and National Databases

There are two ways to enter your DNA into the national database in China. If you're visiting China, you can leave a DNA sample at the Ministry of Public Security (police station). It's free, but the uploads aren't always reliable. A second option is to have DNACConnect.Org submit your results for you. Also if you traveled to China in the past and left a DNA sample with the police, DNACConnect can verify that the sample was actually submitted (which hasn't always happened, as a recent experiment showed 40% of police station samples were never uploaded). You can submit your results anonymously so that only DNACConnect will know your identity. If there's a match to just to one birth parent, they will conduct a follow-up autosomal test and upload the results to GEDmatch for verification. The fee for this service is \$25. Email BrianStuy@Research-China.org.

DNACConnect has worked out a discounted price for a CODIS/STR test with DNA Diagnostics Center (DDC) - \$80 if you use USPS or \$95 if you select FedEx. Contact Mary Hult at 513-645-8886 to order. Tell her DNACConnect sent you to get the discount.

There are also local volunteer groups in China with their own databases. Check with the province search poster manager for your province to find out if they know of any in your area.



Help for Family Reunion (HFFR)

Email your CODIS/STR DNA results to Help for Family Reunion, a private non-profit organization in China that has helped to reunite 760+ families since it was established in 2015. The database is kept in the U.S.



See HFFR on Facebook: facebook.com/groups/2014039432246491

E-mail the CODIS/STR DNA info below to BeeHFFR@gmail.com:

1. Name - SWI assigned name is OK (Indicate which name to use in the database, Chinese OR English)
2. Photo of DNA results. You can remove your real name and address for privacy concerns.
3. Date of birth
4. Gender
5. Current residing country
6. Contact info - customized WeChat ID (don't send WeChat code) preferred. Email is OK.
7. Pictures (2) - 1 headshot and 1 full body preferred
8. Adoption info - a few lines on where you were adopted, your finding place, your special physical features, etc.
9. If you don't get confirmation in a week, email again or WeChat *meefengbz*

GenGen Charities

GenGen Charities, based in the U.S., helps Chinese adoptees search for birth families in China. They accept CODIS/STR DNA tests to upload to their database and will regularly send updates if there are any matches. Email your CODIS/STR results to info@gengencharities.org.

