

## HES 3523 Human Sexuality Class Notes Pregnancy Options: Adoption & Abortion

### Legal Options in the U.S.:

- have & raise baby
- have & not raise (adoption)
- terminate the pregnancy (abortion?)

### Adoption in the U.S.

- How many pregnant women choose this each year?  
2% of unmarried pregnant (unintended) women choose this option  
Sources:
  - Open or closed adoption
    - Open = known history of family & birth giver (healthiest)
    - Closed = Don't know the parents or history
    - Most people are in between open and closed
  - Informal or formal adoption
    - Informal = Vocal or Oral agreement
      - Ex. Going to jail, give consent for someone else to take care of child for that amount of time
  - Public or private
    - Through Private Lawyer & having financial arrangements for child for new caretaker
  - Agency, international, foster, within-family
    - Going to agent to adopt a child between other countries, families
    - Political affiliation and intervention

- Ex. Russia won't allow USA to adopt any babies because of past intervention

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□ How many children are adopted each year?

136,000

- o Infants: 6800
- o By relatives: 1/2
- o International: 18,000

⚡ Current challenges in international adoption:

Systems waiting for adoption, or aging out each year

- o Foster care system: 57000
  - 115,000 in system waiting for adoption
  - 29,000 "age-out" each year

⚡ Adoption-related Expenses:

\$0-50,000+

The share of same-sex couples with adopted children in the home has doubled in the past 10 years

### Terms

Birth Parent:

Giving child up for adoption

Adoption Plan("Parenting Plan"):

How birth parent wants the child to be raised up as

Wishes and desired listen to by the adoptive parents does not have to be carried out necessarily

Home Study:

Social workers do background and criminal checks, look into income of the new home. How the home looks like, all the info on the home study is given to the judge to decide the new home approved

Relinquishment Papers:

48 hours

Giving up rights to child

Adoption Decree:

Finalize decree of adoption from judge

### Adoption Triad

Triangle, child at the top and birth and adoptive parent on each side of the base

What does the Adoption Triad represent?

An issue one faces is what the adoptive parent, birth parents, and child is involved in major decision

*Feelings and experience of the adoption triad are varied and complex*

*Don't ignore, acknowledge and address*

*Members of the triad are not personally responsible for these issues if and when they arise*

### Core Issues in Adoption (Silverstein & Kaplan)

*What is meant by "Core Issues?"*

□ Loss:

Childs separation from birth family