



Infant Adoption Training Initiative

Understanding Infant Adoption
By Spaulding For Children



Understanding Infant Adoption


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Training Initiative
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Module 1: Introduction



Objectives and Competencies

Housekeeping

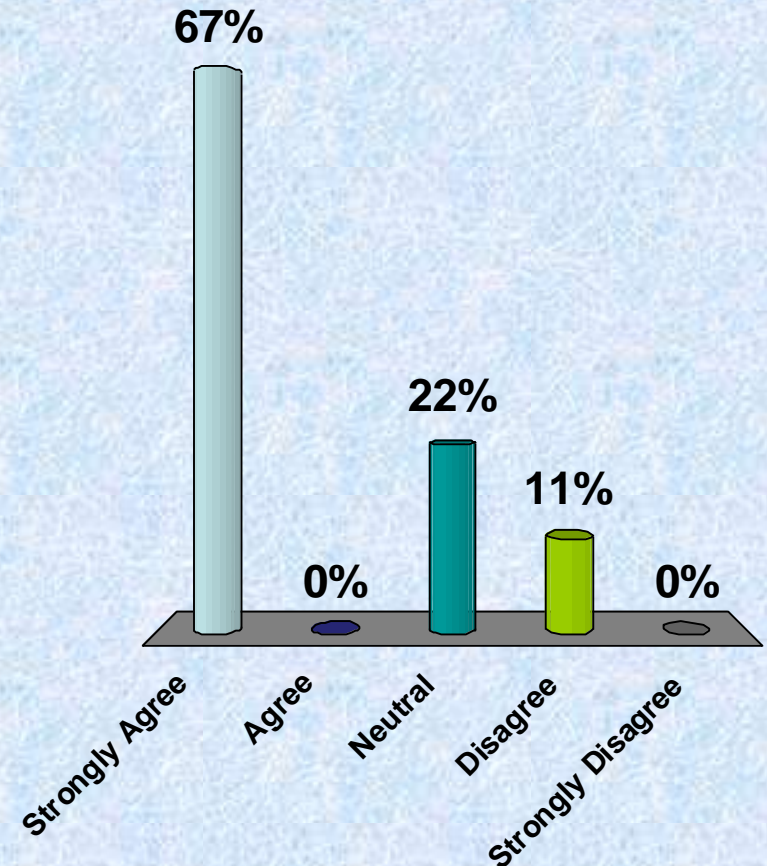


- **Restrooms**
- **Cell phone**
- **Breaks and lunch**
- **Parking lot**
- **Participant Handbook**
- **TurningPoint Instructions**

I feel comfortable and confident discussing adoption as one of the options in family planning.



1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



Purpose



The goal of the training is to enhance the ability of health care and helping professionals provide adoption information and referrals to pregnant women, teens, and men, who are experiencing an unplanned/unintended pregnancy on an equal basis with all other courses of action in a nondirective, noncoercive manner.

Infant Adoption Awareness is about Educating Not Advocating



Training Modules

- Module 1: Introduction
- Module 2: Adoption Practice
- Module 3: Adoption Law & Procedure
- Module 4: Social, Cultural and Personal Influences
- Module 5: Nondirective Techniques for Informed Decision-making
- Module 6: Resources and Referrals



Introductions



Pre-Test



- Federal requirement for ongoing evaluation, we use a pre/post test
- Confidential

Personal and Professional Values



The health care provider's professional responsibilities in options counseling includes:

- ✓ Knowing the choices available
- ✓ Having basic knowledge of the implications of the different choices
- ✓ Providing information on each choice
- ✓ Making referrals so that patients can get the additional information they need *before* making their informed decisions about their pregnancies.

Title X



- Programs funded under section 1001 of Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 300. are required to offer options counseling to women with unplanned pregnancies.

Option 1 of 2

Professional Standards & Title X



- Offer the opportunity to be provided with information on prenatal care/delivery, infant care, foster care or adoption, and pregnancy termination.
- Provide neutral, factual information and nondirective counseling.
- Provide services without coercion.
- Protect individual dignity.
- Provide referral information.
- Provide for coordination of referral arrangements with other providers.

Option 2 of 2

The Option of Adoption Video



This 10 minute video provides a foundation to nurses and other health care providers about the importance of interactions with women faced with unintended pregnancies. These are first person testimonials from birth mothers explaining how their interactions with health care providers have affected them.

Values Clarification



It is important to recognize and control personal values so that they do not interfere with professional responsibilities.

Personal Values Exercise

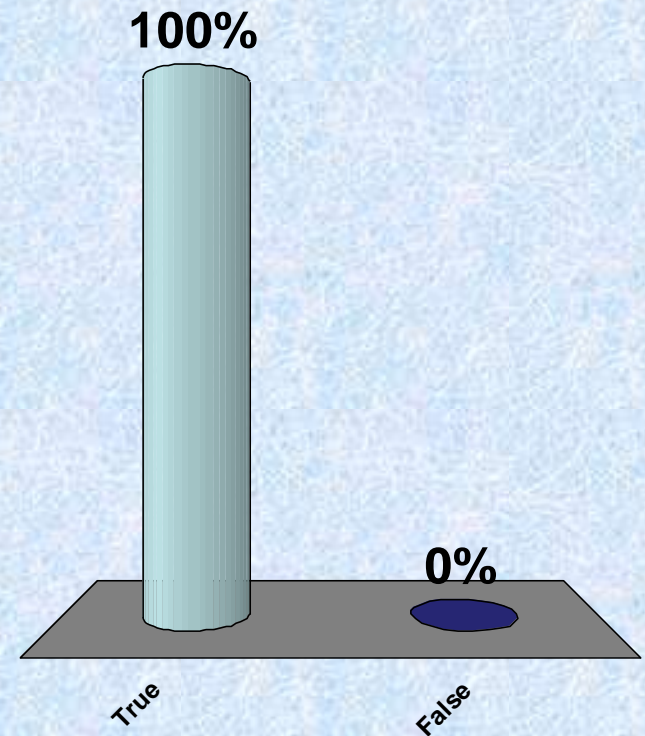


Imagine

Personal values must be recognized and controlled so that they do not interfere with professional responsibilities.....



1. **True**
2. **False**



Review of Module 1



- **Introduction**
- **Overview of Curriculum**
- **Professional Standards**
- **Title X Requirements**
- **Personal Values**

Module 2: Adoption Practice

Objectives and Competencies



Historical Perspective of Adoption



Definition of Adoption

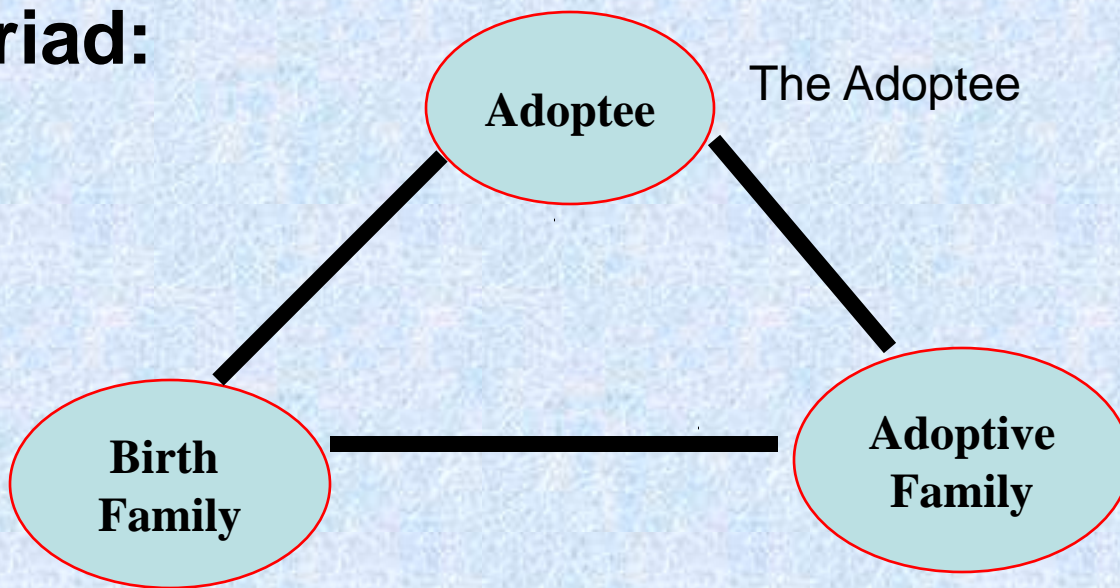
Adoption is a legal process . .

A permanent parent and child relationship is formed by the transfer of parental rights from one set of parents to another individual or couple who is willing to assume those rights and responsibilities over the child.



The Adoption Triad

Adoption is a relationship between the three parties of the triad:



The Birth Family: Mother, father, grandparents and or siblings

The Adoptive Family: mother, father, grandparents and or siblings



Video:

Adoption Then and Now --

Think of these questions as you view the video:



- In what areas has adoption changed most over the last 60 years?
- What are your thoughts on the lifelong impact of adoption on all members of the triad?



“Then and Now” Discussion



Then	Now
Birth parents who released their children <i>and</i> adoptees were discouraged from any future contact.	Many birth parents and adoptees look for and are reunited with each other. Most states have laws/legal procedures for facilitating this process.
Unhealthy or potentially unhealthy infants or children of color were not offered for adoption.	Infants of all races, ethnic origins and disabilities (are considered adoptable).
Birth parents were often coerced into placing a child due to financial and social factors.	Most states have laws regarding what expenses can be paid. There are also laws prohibiting a person from placing his/her child if there was force, duress, or coercion.

Video: Adoption Then and Now --



- What are your thoughts on the lifelong impact of adoption on all members of the triad?



Accurate and Neutral Adoption Language Exercise



Adoption Language Worksheet



Instead of:	Please use:	Why?
1. Adopt out, give away, put up for adoption	Make an adoption plan, choose adoption	
2. Keep the baby	Chose to parent her child, made a parenting plan	
3. Real parent, natural parent	Birthparent, biological parent	
4. Not their own child	Adopted person, adoptee, came to the family through adoption	
5. Illegitimate	Born to unmarried or single parents	

Confidential or Closed Adoption



No identifying information is shared between the adopting and birth families.

Semi-Open Adoption



There is no exchange of identifying information. Birth parents and adoptive parents may maintain contact usually through an intermediary.

Fully Disclosed or Open Adoption



Full disclosure of identifying information between parties occurs. For instance, names and addresses are exchanged.

Kinship Adoption

Kinship adoptions are permanent and legal arrangements that can fall anywhere along the relationship continuum



The Relationship Continuum



CONFIDENTIAL
Closed

SEMI-OPEN

OPEN
Fully Disclosed



Grief and Loss



- **Grief and loss may accompany every adoption regardless of the type of adoption.**



- **Open adoption is not a cure for grief and loss.**



- **Grief and loss is a process and may re-emerge over time.**
- **Ongoing contact may reduce anxieties.**

Review of Module 2

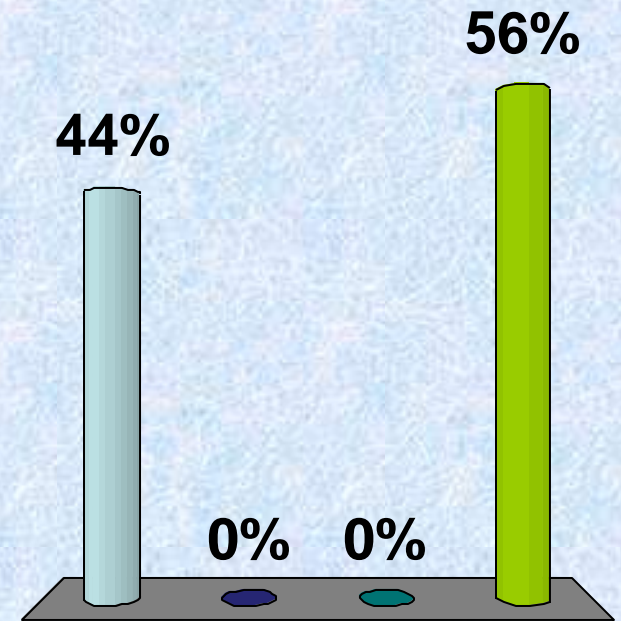


- **History of Adoption in our Culture**
- **Definition of Adoption**
- **The Adoption Triad**
- **Current Adoption Practice**
- **Adoption Neutral Language**
- **Types of Adoption**
- **The Relationship Continuum**

With an Open Adoption...



1. Contact occurs through an intermediary.
2. No contact is maintained.
3. Grief and loss is cured.
4. **None of the above**



With semi-open adoption...



1. Adoptive family receives identifying information.

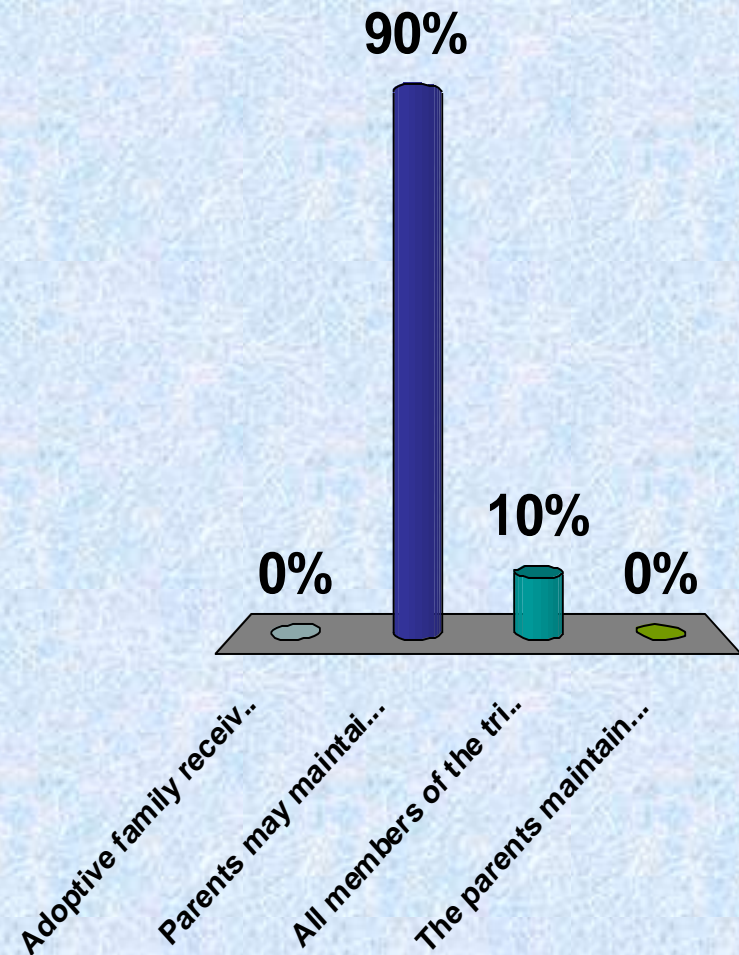


2. Parents may maintain contact via a third party.



3. All members of the triad are required to participate in the child's life.

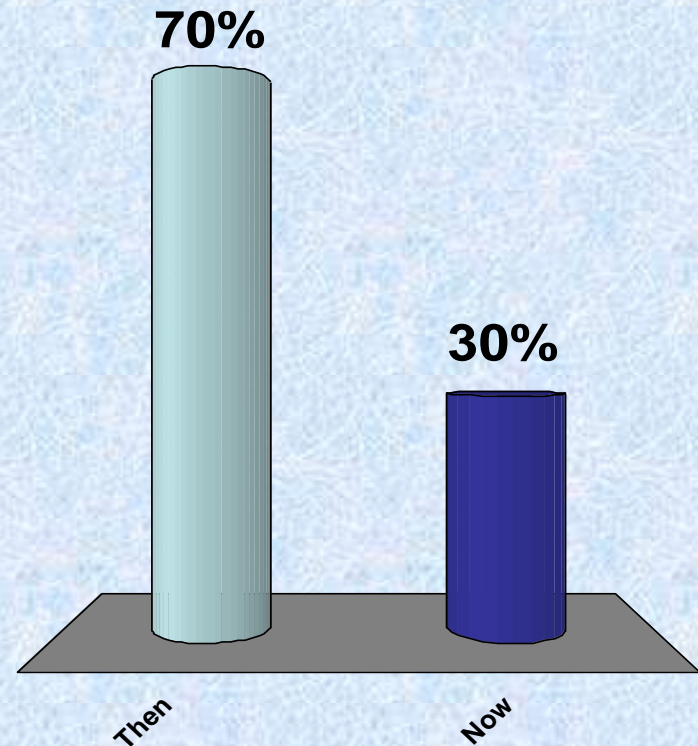
4. The parents maintain contact until the adoption is finalized.



Birth Parents were often coerced into placing a child due to financial and social factors.



1. **Then**
2. **Now**



Module 3: Adoption Law and Procedure



Objectives and Competencies



Both Federal and State Laws govern adoptions



It is not expected for you to become an expert. The intent is for you to obtain general knowledge regarding adoption law to share with a patient/client.

Multiethnic Placement Act (MEPA/IEP)



Implications for Infant Adoption:

- A birth parent (in a voluntary infant adoption) may select an adoptive parent by the characteristics they choose.
- An adoption agency receiving federal funds cannot select an adoptive parent based on race, color, or national origin, nor can it steer a birth parent to adoptive parents by race, color, or national origin.
- MEPA insures that federally funded agency adoptions are not delayed based on race, color, or national origin of either the child or the adoptive parent.

Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978



Implications for Infant Adoption:

- Placement and adoption of Native American children is governed by their tribe, whose authority is legislated by the U.S. Government.
- If either parent has Native American heritage, a contact must be made to the appropriate tribe.
- Eligibility and or membership requirement varies by tribe.
- Placement criteria begins with family members, then tribal members, a different tribal family and finally a family from outside the tribal community.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act-2003



- **May request a stay, postponement, of a court proceeding in which he/she is a party.**
- **Applies to paternity.**
- **A letter from the commander is required if service member is unable to attend the hearings.**

State Laws

Adoption Legal Process





Adoption Agencies

Adoption Attorneys





Pregnancy Counseling Services

State Laws

Frequently Asked Questions

Activity





Rights of Birth Parents



Child Protection Law

Review of Module 3



- **MEPA**

- **ICWA**



- **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act**

- **State Laws**



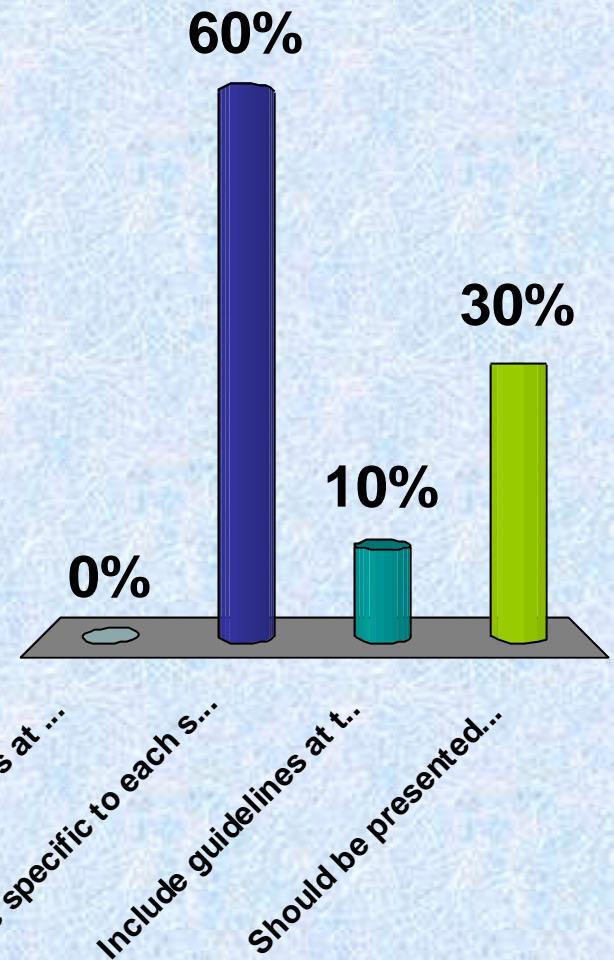
- **Birth Parent Rights**

- **Child Protection Law**

Adoption laws:



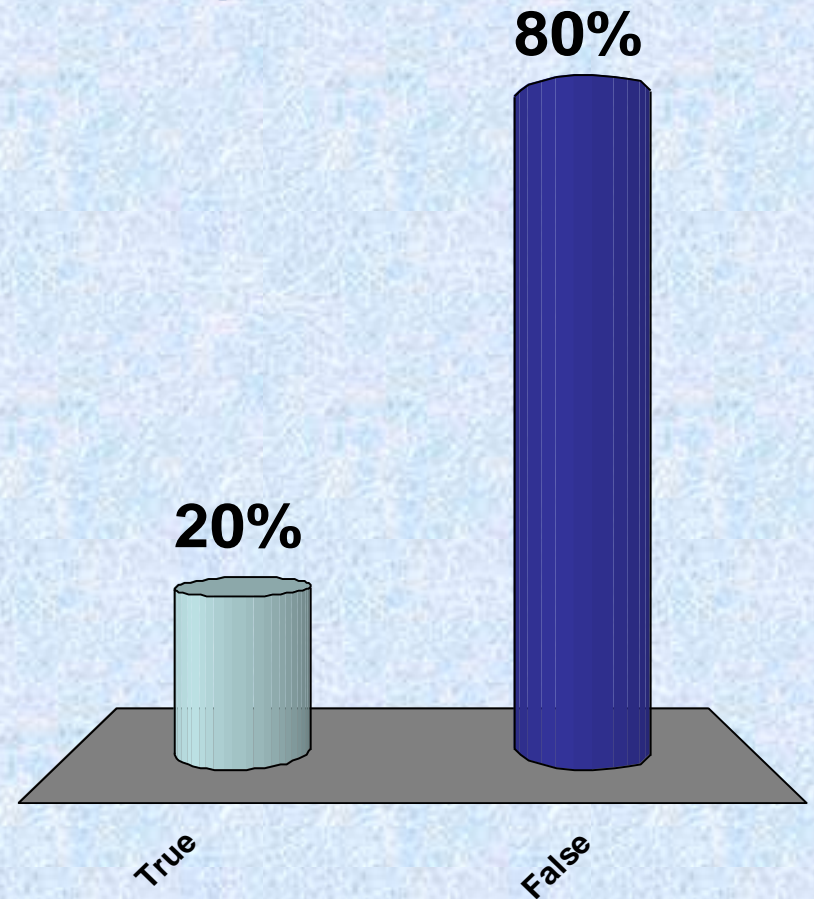
1. Include guidelines at the federal level only.
2. Are specific to each state and may change over time.
3. Include guidelines at the state level only.
4. Should be presented by an adoption attorney or expert.



The purpose of ICWA is to permit adoptions by non-indian parents so that the child is not in the welfare system too long.



1. True
2. **False**

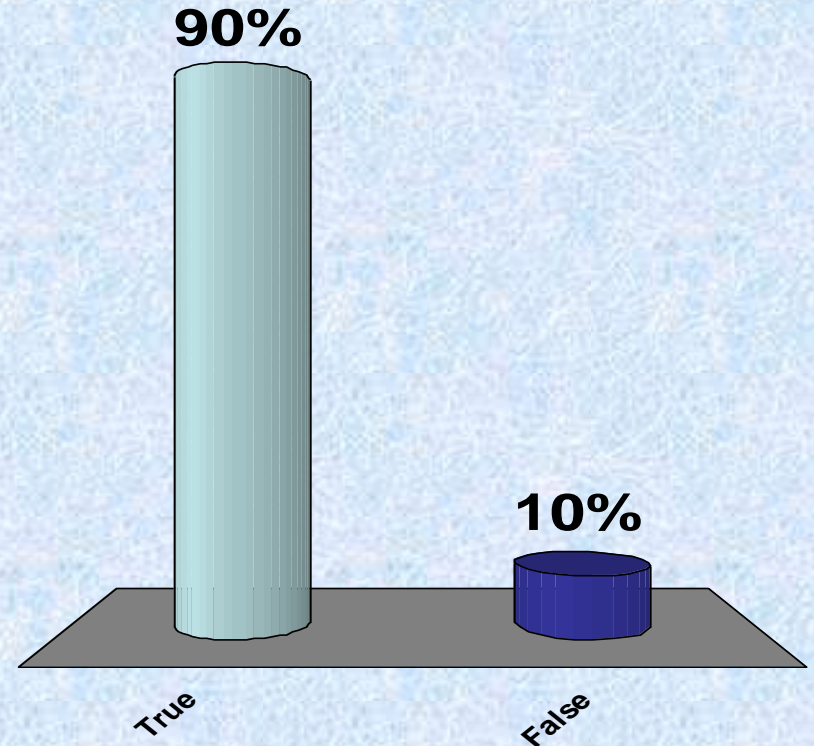


Birth parents have the right to choose adoptive families based on any characteristic, regardless of MEPA.



1. True

2. False

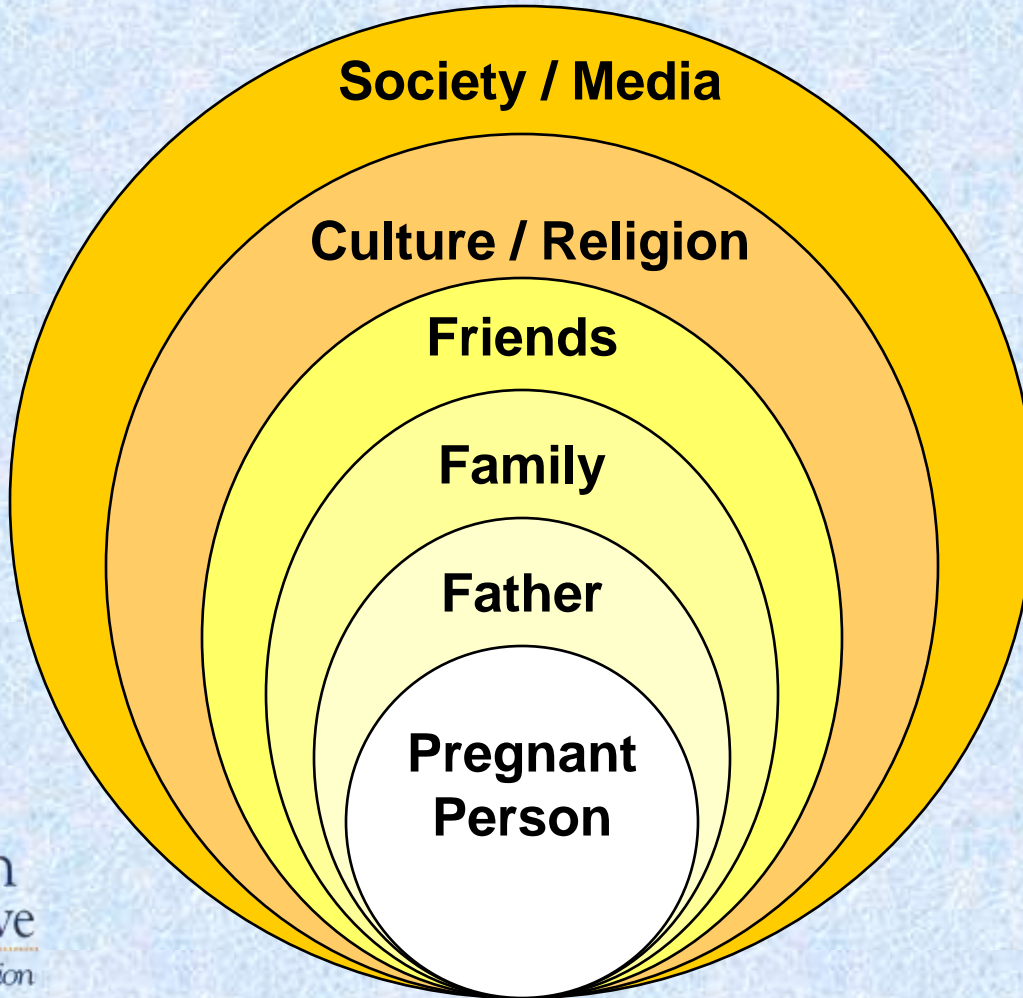


Module 4: Social, Cultural and Personal Influences



Objectives and Competencies

How do People Make Decisions?



Culture & Values



- What do we mean by “culture?”
- What are the values influencing a woman trying to make a pregnancy decision?
- What might be important when working with someone of a culture different from your own?

Culturally Responsive Services

Components:

- Aware and respectful
- See patient/client as an individual first
- Being sincerely open about lack of knowledge of cultural specifics
- Respecting role of family and friends in decision-making
- Knowing that there is diversity within cultures- each individual is unique!
- Recognize and respect the cultural norms and values of patient/clients.



Culturally Responsive Services



Are open to including extended family members in discussions *if* the patient/client requests.

Birth Father Issues and Considerations

Birth Fathers' rights are specified in the laws of each state.



Engaging Birth Fathers



- Why engage the father



- Ideas to engage the birth father



- When to engage

Special Issues for Teens



**How does being a teen influence
decision making?**

Large Group Discussion

Normal Adolescent Development



- Physical, social, emotional and cognitive changes
- Developing view of self and ability to see other points of view
- Look to peers for information
- Egocentric
- Often reject parental input
- Difficulty anticipating needs of others
- Moody with poor coping skills
- Have difficulty with future planning

Impact of Pregnancy on Teens



- Appear undecided, unpredictable and non-compliant
- Requires adult decision and action
- May not follow through on medical advice/appointments
- Egocentrism
- Looking at own needs instead of baby's

Impact of Pregnancy on Teens



- Difficulty with planning for the future
- Support network needs to be identified
- Need help in identifying difficult situations that arise
- Anticipatory guidance
- Many mature quickly and make good decisions for themselves and the baby

Experiencing the Influences

Team Activity



Large Group Discussion



Review of Module 4



- **Influences of family, community and culture on pregnancy**
- **Culturally responsive services**
- **Birth father issues and considerations**
- **Special issues in working with teens**

Culturally responsive health care providers:



1. Are aware that there is little diversity within a culture.

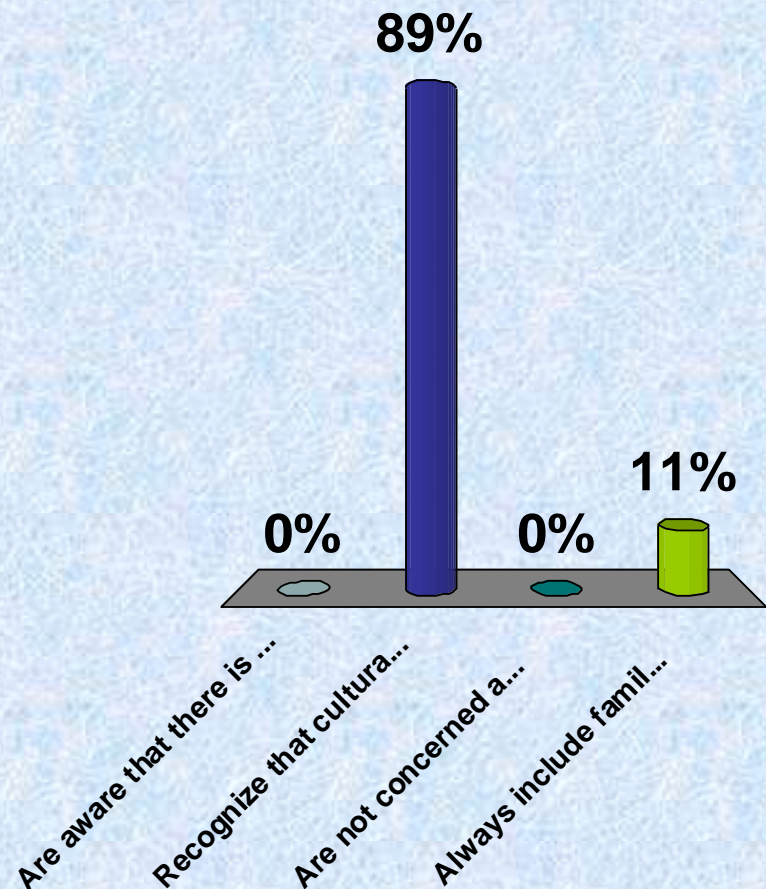


2. Recognize that cultural factors influence the decision making process.



3. Are not concerned about the power differential.

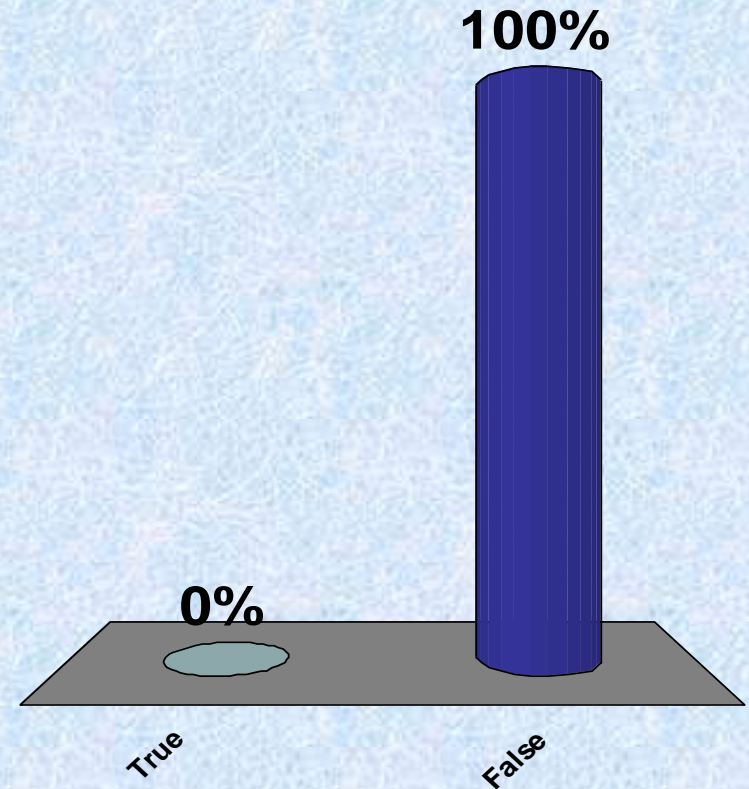
4. Always include family members in the process.



Research shows that pregnant teens in early adolescence are able to make good decisions for themselves and their child



1. True
2. **False**



To engage birth fathers, healthcare providers should...



1. Suggest involving the father after the birth.

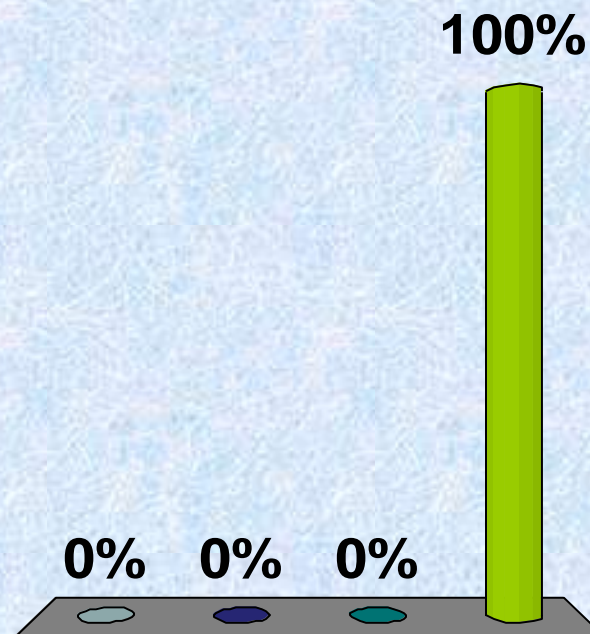


2. Invite him to the initial visits.

3. Let him know that if he stays involved he can avoid child support.



4. Provide support for his emotional and psychological reactions.



Module 5: Nondirective Techniques for Informed Decision-Making



Objectives and Competencies

Nondirective, Noncoercive Counseling



Nondirective, noncoercive methods present information and options through the use of open-ended questions. These questions are designed to help the patient/client make an informed decision that satisfies his/her need and preferences.

Nondirective, Noncoercive Intervention



A nondirective, noncoercive intervention requires that the helping professional support the decisions made by the patient/client, including the decision to refuse information, even if he/she does not agree with these decisions.

Brief, Nondirective, Noncoercive Techniques



- Physical Environment
- Rapport Building
- Open-Ended Questions
- Reflective Listening
- Responding Nonjudgmentally

Brief, Nondirective, Noncoercive Techniques



- Empowerment/ Strength Based Comments
- Empathy
- Identifying Feelings
- Defusing Anger
- Summarizing

Open Ended Questions

- How do you feel about the pregnancy?
- Tell me about how your life has changed with this pregnancy.
- How do you feel about those changes in your life?
- What impact do you think having a child will have on your future plans?
- There are basically three options to a pregnancy: continuing the pregnancy to birth and parenting; continuing the pregnancy to birth and placing him/her for adoption; or terminating the pregnancy. Which of these would you like more information on?



Informed Consent



- Informed consent is given after the patient/client or patient/client's legal representative has been provided with complete information as to:
 - The conditions or situations requiring intervention
 - The choices/options in services or treatment
 - The consequences or probable consequences of each option

Then the patient/client freely chooses one course in lieu of another.

Large Group Discussion



- What is the connection between informed consent and using noncoercive, nondirective techniques?
 - Nondirective, noncoercive methods are the foundation for informed consent
 - Both involve the patient/client having knowledge to make their own decisions.

Video 1 of 2 - Julie



As you view the video, note examples in your handbook of the brief nondirective, noncoercive techniques as they are demonstrated.

Video 2 of 2 - Kesha



As you view the video, note examples in your handbook of the brief nondirective, noncoercive techniques as they are demonstrated.

Role Play



Review of Module 5

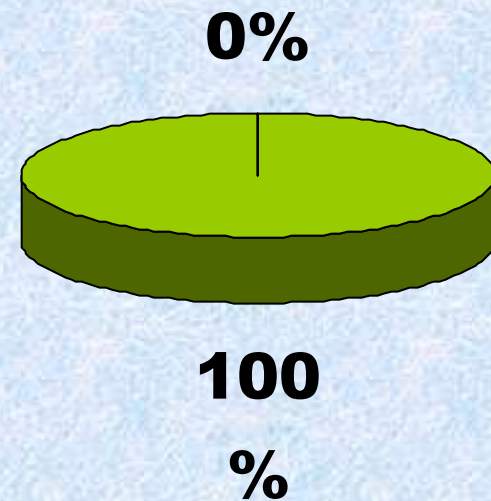


- **Nondirective, noncoercive intervention**
- **Nondirective, noncoercive techniques**
- **Special consideration for teens, culture and men**
- **Informed consent**

Nondirective, noncoercive counseling methods present information and options through the use of open-ended questions.



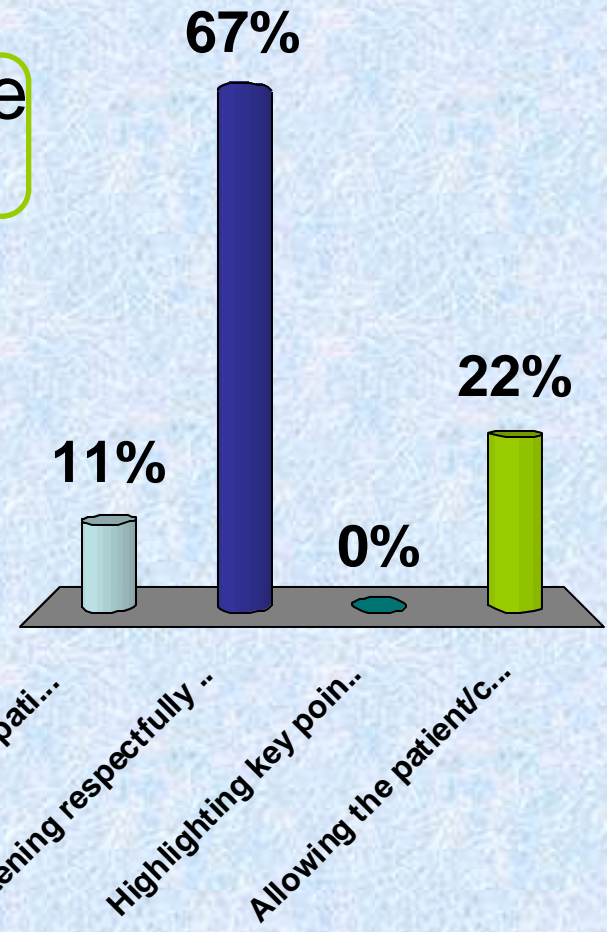
1. **True**
2. **False**



True False

Empathy means...

1. Paraphrasing the patient/client's responses.
2. Listening respectfully to the patient/client's concerns.
3. Highlighting key points of conversation to check comprehension.
4. Allowing the patient/client to tell their story.



Module 6: Resources and Community Referrals

Objectives and Competencies



Making Successful Referrals



Awareness of Community Resources

Making Referrals



Referrals for *further* adoption information are appropriate when the patient/client desires more information about adoption.



Assessing and Making Referrals for Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Services

Large Group Discussion



Networking Discussion



Making Referrals for Pregnancy
Counseling and Adoption
Services Discussion

Referral information works best when it is:



1. Provided by the provider, who makes the initial contact.



2. Provided in multiple formats.



3. Provided by the contact person.

4. Provided with testimonials.

Review of Module 6

- Information and tools to make informed referrals for pregnancy counseling and adoption services
- How to engage in cross-system (inter-agency) networking and collaboration



Review of the Day

- In today's modules we discussed:

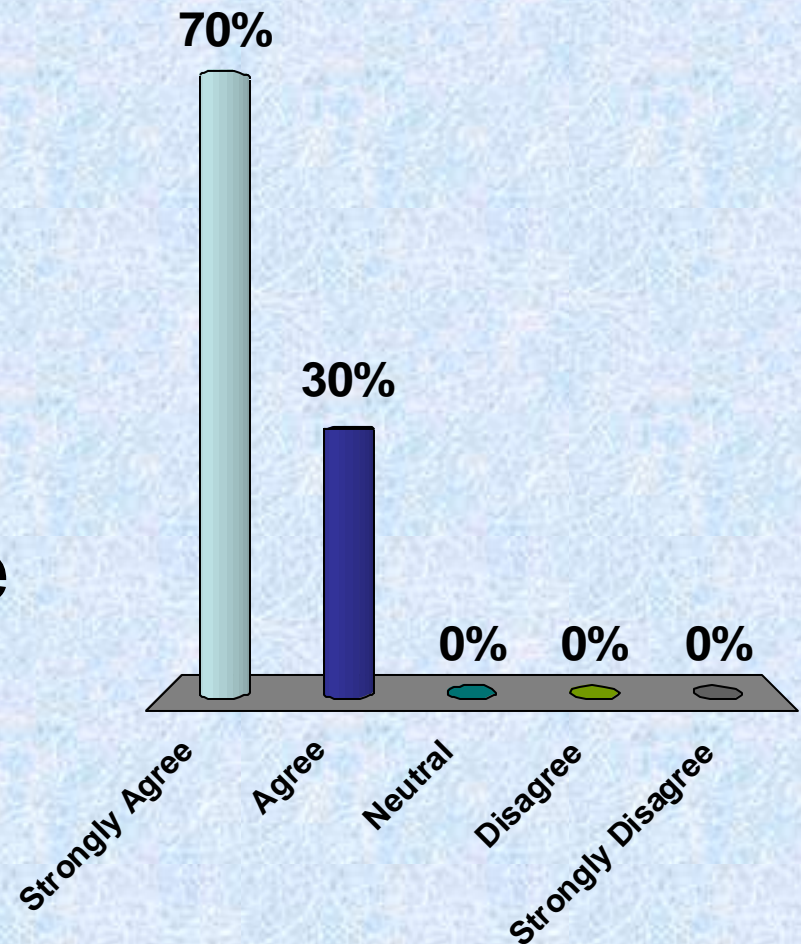


- Module 1: Introduction – Adoption Options
- Module 2: Adoption Practice
- Module 3: Adoption Law & Procedure
- Module 4: Social, Cultural and Personal Influences
- Module 5: Nondirective Techniques for Informed Decision-making
- Module 6: Resources and Referrals

I feel comfortable and confident discussing adoption as one of the options in family planning.



1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree



Post Test



Training Reflection Feedback Form



Certificates

