


<p>Discuss reasons it is difficult for teens to parent.</p>	<p><i>What are some other reasons it is so difficult for teens to parent?</i></p> <p>Answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is more difficult to finish high school.</li> <li>• They may give up their teenage experiences before they are ready, such as playing sports, school clubs, and after-school activities.</li> <li>• They may miss out on fun things, such as going out with friends, parties, and dances.</li> <li>• It may be more difficult to spend time with friends.</li> <li>• They are less likely to reach their educational goals, athletic goals, relationship goals, and career goals.</li> <li>• They are more likely to live in poverty.</li> <li>• They are more likely to be single parents and lack the support of a co-parent.</li> <li>• It puts parent(s) under physical and emotional stress as they care for the baby and themselves.</li> <li>• It may strain family relationships.</li> <li>• Teens may want to live with their parents and get their help raising the baby, but their parents may or may not want to be involved.</li> </ul>
<p>Identify adoption as an option for teen parents who decide they are not ready for parenting.</p>	<p><i>Becoming a teen parent may not be the best choice for your own life or the life of your child. There are positive choices to ensure your baby has the best possible start in life.</i></p> <p><i>Adoption is a loving gift to your child; it provides permanency and stability with a loving family.</i></p> <p><i>Choosing adoption is not a failure!</i></p> <p><i>In Michigan, infant adoptions are handled by licensed private adoption agencies. Talk to the school counselor, social worker, or a health clinic to obtain a list of adoption agencies in the area. Or check the yellow pages or the internet under adoption agencies.</i></p> <p><i>Adoption laws allow birth parents to have the opportunity to select the adoptive family, and in many cases the adoptive family will send pictures and provide updates through the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.</i></p>
<p>Distribute the student handout, "Please Don't Abandon Your Baby! Safe Delivery."</p>  <p>Identify Safe Delivery as an alternative to infant abandonment for teen parents.</p>	<p><i>What if teen parent(s) have hidden the pregnancy from friends, family, and teachers out of fear, panic, or despair? Sometimes the parent(s) see no options except to abandon the newborn in a public place, which could result in harm or death of the infant.</i></p> <p><i>Don't abandon your baby; make sure your baby is safe and protected.</i></p> <p><i>On January 1, 2001 the Safe Delivery of Newborns law was implemented to address an increase in infant abandonment in Michigan and to provide safe choices and safe places for the anonymous surrender of a newborn.</i></p> <p><i>The Safe Delivery of Newborns law provides legal protections for a parent(s) to surrender an unharmed newborn no more than 72 hours old in a <u>safe and anonymous</u> manner without fear of prosecution for child abuse and/or neglect to an emergency service provider (ESP), which is an employee at a hospital, fire department, or police station who is inside the building and on duty. Or an ESP, paramedic or EMT may be called via 9-1-1 to come pick up the infant. The parent has the choice of surrendering the infant without giving any identifying information although the ESP will encourage the parent to provide minimal family demographics and medical history. This information is important for the child's future health needs.</i></p>

The baby will be placed with an approved adoptive family by a licensed private adoption agency.



You may want to provide students with website addresses and/or copies of the information available online as listed in appendix L.<sup>2</sup> The Web site for Safe Delivery is [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs). Click on the Safe Delivery logo.

**Closure:** Identify the costs of pregnancy and teen parenting that impact teens the most.

**3 minutes**

Instructional Steps	Script and Detailed Directions		
Identify which costs impact students most.	<p><i>You have learned about the many costs of pregnancy and teen parenting, both lifestyle and financial costs. Which of these costs do you think makes the most impact on teens?</i></p> <p>Call on several students to share their opinions.</p> <p>Tell the students to put their worksheets in their folders or collect them for assessment.</p>		
Remind students that pregnancy is completely preventable by abstaining from sex.	<p><i>Pregnancy is especially difficult for teens. How can you be absolutely certain not to get pregnant or get someone pregnant?</i></p> <p>Answer: Abstain from sex.</p>		
Introduce Lesson 15 on risk reduction strategies (abstinence-based option) or Lesson 17 on how to use limit-setting and refusal skills (abstinence-only option).	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="431 1087 906 1262"> <p><u>Abstinence-Based Option</u> <i>In our next health lesson, we will learn a strategy for reducing the risk of pregnancy and STIs—how to use condoms correctly.</i></p> </td> <td data-bbox="963 1087 1398 1226"> <p><u>Abstinence-Only Option</u> <i>In our next health lesson, we will learn how to use limit-setting and refusal skills.</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><u>Abstinence-Based Option</u> <i>In our next health lesson, we will learn a strategy for reducing the risk of pregnancy and STIs—how to use condoms correctly.</i></p>	<p><u>Abstinence-Only Option</u> <i>In our next health lesson, we will learn how to use limit-setting and refusal skills.</i></p>
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<sup>2</sup> Refer to appendix L, "Resources on Adoption and the Safe Delivery of Newborns," for additional information.

