

provided for the teacher below selected questions, in case there are further questions from your students or you need additional information. Statements for the true/false game are provided below, as visuals at the end of this lesson, and as a PowerPoint presentation available online at [www.kingcounty.gov/health/FLASH](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/FLASH).

A sample explanation is provided for each statement. For some statements, additional information is included in a text box just below the explanation – this is to assist teachers in answering student’s questions – it is not necessary to read all of the information in the text boxes.

### True/False Statements:

1) Only about 1,000 children are adopted each year in the United States. (False)  
 Explanation: *Actually, more than 80,000 children are adopted in the United States each year.<sup>19</sup> There are currently 1.5 million adopted children in the United States, more than 2% of all children.<sup>20</sup>*

2) Most families who adopt children do so because they are infertile – that is, they cannot get pregnant. (False)  
 Explanation: *Although many families do choose adoption for this reason, over half of U.S. families with adopted children also include birth or stepchildren.<sup>21</sup>*

3) Most adopted children were adopted when they were babies. (False)  
 Explanation: *Approximately 14,000 infants are adopted each year because the birth mother voluntary chooses to make an adoption plan for the baby. Most children are actually adopted from foster care, and are usually not babies when they are adopted.*

- 17% of all adoptions involve birth mothers making an adoption plan while still pregnant.
- 15% of children are adopted into the U.S. from another country
- 68% are adopted out of foster care.<sup>22</sup>

4) If a woman chooses adoption for her baby, she needs to get written permission from the person she got pregnant with. (True)  
 Explanation: *The person a woman got pregnant with is the biological father of the baby, and if he can be located, he must give his permission to make an adoption plan.*

The biological father must sign a “consent to adoption,” stating that he agrees with the choice to make an adoption plan. Another option is for him to sign a “denial of paternity,” which means that he does not believe he is the biological father, or he does not want to be considered as the biological father. After he signs a “denial of paternity” form he does not have any parental rights or responsibilities for the child.<sup>23</sup>

- 5) If someone decides to plan for an adoption, they can pick the family that adopts their baby, if they want to (True)

Explanation: *Almost all adoptions today work this way – they are called “open adoptions.”*

In an open adoption, the birth mother or birth parents are able to choose the family who will adopt the baby, and they are able to have ongoing contact with the baby after he or she is adopted. Some people send letters and pictures, while other people have regular in-person visits.<sup>24</sup>

- 6) It is legal to buy someone’s baby, as long as everyone involved agrees to it (False)

Explanation: *Although birth parents are sometimes reimbursed for costs associated with the pregnancy, adoptive parents do not ever “buy” the baby.*

Adoption is a legal process, and there are many laws that govern it. Individuals who wish to adopt must work with an adoption agency or an adoption lawyer.

- 7) Most abortions only take 5 or 10 minutes, even though the woman is usually in the clinic for 2 to 3 hours. (True)

Explanation: *The surgical abortion procedure takes about 5-10 minutes. The appointment is much longer, including time for paperwork, preparation, and time to rest afterwards.*<sup>25</sup>

- Surgical abortion procedure, also called vacuum aspiration, takes about 5-10 minutes. The entire appointment takes 3-4 hours, including time for paperwork, preparation, and time to rest afterwards.<sup>26</sup>
- Some women may chose to have a medical abortion, where their pregnancy is ended by medications they take. This process happens slowly over one or more days in a woman’s home or other location.<sup>27</sup>

- 8) If a woman has an abortion, she is more likely to have a miscarriage later in life. (False)

Explanation: *Women who have an abortion, or even several abortions, are no more likely to have a miscarriage than women who have never had an abortion.*

- Abortions performed in the first trimester pose virtually no long-term risk of such problems as infertility, ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage or birth defect.<sup>28</sup>
- There is no association between abortion and breast cancer or any other type of cancer.<sup>29</sup>
- Abortion does not pose a hazard to women’s mental health.<sup>30</sup>

9. If a woman in Washington State can’t afford to have an abortion, she can apply for Medical Coupons, which will pay for it. (True)

Explanation: *Currently in Washington State, women who are pregnant and don’t make much money can apply for free Medicaid insurance that will pay for abortion. It will also pay for prenatal care if a woman is planning on continuing her pregnancy and becoming a parent.*

- State medical coverage for pregnancy and abortion varies from state to state.
- To see current guidelines for coverage in Washington State, visit: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/insurance/pregnant.aspx>
- In Washington, teens qualify for coverage based on their own income, not the income of their parents or other adults they are living with.
- To find information about other states, visit [www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org) and/or [www.nnaf.org](http://www.nnaf.org)

10. If a woman wants to have an abortion, she needs to get written permission from the person she got pregnant with. (False)

Explanation: *In Washington State a pregnant woman or teenager does not have to have permission from anyone to receive an abortion. This includes the person she got pregnant with, her parents, or her husband or boyfriend.*

11. Most women end up waiting until pretty late in their pregnancy to have an abortion. (False)

Explanation: *The overwhelming majority of abortions are performed in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy*

- 88% of all abortions are performed before the first 12 weeks.<sup>31</sup>
- Many women (58%) wish they could have had their abortions earlier.<sup>32</sup>
- Most of the women who wanted their abortion earlier said they were delayed by trying to raise the money.<sup>33</sup>
- Teens are more likely than older women to delay having an abortion until after 15 weeks of pregnancy, when the medical risks associated with abortion are higher.<sup>34</sup>

12. There is a pill you can buy at the store that makes you have an abortion. (False)

Explanation: *There are two pills that people sometimes get confused with each other. One [hold up one finger] is prescribed by a doctor for a woman who wants a “medical abortion.” She can only get this pill from a doctor – it cannot just be bought in a store. The other pill [hold up a second finger] – called Emergency Contraception (the most well-known brand is Plan B -- is a special birth control pill that can be taken after sex. Plan B does not cause an abortion, just helps to prevent a pregnancy. Anyone who is 17 or older can buy this pill at the store, and they do not need a prescription from a doctor.*

13. If a woman is pregnant and wants to give birth, her boyfriend or parents can legally make her have an abortion or adoption instead. (False)

Explanation: *No one can force a woman to have an abortion or make an adoption plan. She does not need anyone’s permission to become a parent.*

14. Most teenage women who are pregnant do not see the doctor as often as they should. (False)

Explanation: *Most teenage women do receive adequate prenatal care. However, it is true that more teens receive late prenatal care or no prenatal care at all compared with women who are not teenagers.*<sup>35</sup>

15. Three of the best things a woman can do to have a healthy pregnancy are to not smoke, not drink alcohol, and go to the doctor or midwife regularly. (True)

Explanation: *Exposure to drugs and alcohol very dangerous to the developing fetus, and can cause birth defects or miscarriage. Women who visit the doctor regularly during their pregnancy are more likely to deliver healthy, full-term babies.*<sup>36</sup>

16. The basic responsibilities of parenthood include providing children with food, shelter, clothing, healthcare and education, and protecting their children from abuse and neglect. (True)

Explanation: *Parents are legally responsible for their children's physical health and well-being, and for ensuring their access to an education. Parents who do not provide a safe environment for their children may be taken to court and may even have their children removed from their care.*

Note: Should you care to deepen this discussion, you could consider asking a discussion question such as: *Of course, being a parent involves more than just meeting you child's basic needs. What are some things you think people can do to be really good parents to their child?*

17. Becoming a parent is the leading cause of dropping out of school among teen girls. (True)<sup>37</sup>

Explanation: *Only 40 percent of young teen mothers graduate from high school, compared to about 75% of women who delayed their first birth to at least age 21.*<sup>38</sup>

Teens who do not complete high school have an unemployment rate of approximately 50% during their teens and early 20's - meaning that at any given time only half of them are able to find work. That is twice the rate of their peers who graduated from high school, and five times the rate of their peers who graduated college. In 2007, the average annual earnings for young adults who had dropped out of high school was \$8,358. Young people under 25 who had completed college earned \$24,797.<sup>39</sup>

18. 8 out of 10 teen mothers do not marry the father of their first child. However, these dads are still able to pay enough child support to help the mom and baby get by. (False)

Explanation: *It's true that 8 out of 10 teen moms do not marry the father of their first child. However, these fathers usually pay very little child support, often because they are quite poor themselves.*<sup>40</sup>

Teen fathers who do not live with their children pay an average of \$800 annually in child support. Teen fathers earn less during their lifetime than their peers who did not have children until they were at least 21.<sup>41</sup> This may be because they too drop out of high school, because of the impact parenthood on their life, or because of some other factor we do not understand.

#### 4. Summarize activity

*You all did a great job today – I appreciate that you were able to talk about such sensitive topics in a respectful way, and I hope that you all learned some new information. Because these are topics that people have such strong feelings about, I want to make sure that you get a chance to explore your own values about adoption, abortion and teen parenting. Both*