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Title X-funded providers are required to offer neutral, factual, and nondirective counseling to pregnant patients on each of the following options:

- prenatal care and delivery;
- infant care, foster care, or adoption; and
- pregnancy termination.

It is important that providers are knowledgeable about each option, including adoption, so that they can speak accurately and without bias if a patient elects to learn more. If a patient would like to be connected to additional resources on any of these options and/or speak to someone with more specialized knowledge, Title X requires the patient be provided with a referral.

Below are resources available for clinicians that review important considerations and best practices on adoption so that pregnant patients who choose to learn more about adoption at your health center receive accurate and non-judgmental counseling from their provider.



TRAIN STAFF

The National Council for Adoption offers a free [training webinar](#) on adoption that reviews the process and barriers to adoption and offers case-study videos.

The Family Planning National Training Center produced a five-part [video series](#) and a companion discussion guide on pregnancy counseling without bias.

Essential Access Health, the Title X grantee in California, offers an [online course](#) on the best practices in pregnancy options education that can be implemented in a school-based setting for a registration fee. Continuing education credits are available upon completion of the program.

In 2014, about **18,000** domestic infants were **adopted**,¹



BEST PRACTICES AND REGULATIONS

When an expectant patient chooses to learn more about adoption, it is important for a health care provider to use positive language to discuss adoption rather than using negative or out of date language. Friends in Adoption has compiled a [glossary](#) of adoption terminology, and Adoptive Families has a helpful [list](#) of positive language to use and negative language to avoid.

State regulations largely determine who may be adopted, who may adopt, and who may place a child for adoption. To learn more about your state's laws and regulations on adoption, review the Child Welfare Information Gateway [summary publication](#) or the Adoptive Families' [webpage](#).

For more information about adoption practices, physician roles in adoptions, best practices for referrals, and additional recommendations on adoption consult the [committee opinion](#) released by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



FIND AN ADOPTION AGENCY NEAR YOU

To find an adoption agency near you for patient referrals, use the National Council for Adoption's membership [agency search](#) for a comprehensive listing, or the Adoptive Families [agency search](#). To find an accredited intercountry adoption agency near you, use the Council on Accreditation [search engine](#).



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The National Council for Adoption is a nonprofit agency dedicated to supporting adoption and has additional resources on adoption on its [website](#).

For more information about intercountry adoption, which must be accredited and meet the standards of The Hague Adoption Convention accreditation, visit the US Department of State [website](#).

Refer to the Center for American Progress's [report](#) "The Adoption Option" for more information about the historical context of adoptions as well as findings from research on adoption.

For more information, contact Amanda Mulligan at amulligan@nfprha.org.

¹ Jones, Jo and Paul Placek, *By the numbers: A comprehensive Report of U.S Adoption Statistics*, ed. Chuck Johnson and Megan Lestino. Alexandria: National Council for Adoption, 2017.