# UNIT 3: CONCEPTION, REPRODUCTION , BIRTH, PARENTING & ADOPTION (UTAH SAFE HAVEN LAW)

Health Services Department



## The Cost of Raising a Child:



\*U.S. average for middle-income, married-couple families. Total costs are from birth through age 17. Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Misc. Pub. No. 1528-2015.

January 2017 Revised March 2017 USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

(1)

Misc.



### IN AN IDEAL WORLD...

- All pregnancies would be planned and wanted;
- Newborns would be welcomed into the home; and
- They would be raised in a safe and loving household.

# WHY A PREGNANCY MAY <u>NOT</u> BE WELCOMED

- A person may <u>not</u> want to admit or believe that there is a pregnancy due to:
  - Sexual assault;
  - Fear of telling parents;
  - Fear family will be disappointed; or
  - Fear of death.



# CONSEQUENCES OF HIDING A PREGNANCY

If a person hides a pregnancy, she may not get:

Prenatal care;

Mental health counseling and services;

Information about adoption and other resources.



### MORE CONSEQUENCES

- The woman may have delivered the baby on her own and may need medical care.
- The parents of the newborn may panic and leave the baby in an unsafe place.
- The woman or the infant or both may die.



### "BABY DROP OFF" LAW

The law allows a birth mother or any other person to leave a newborn at a Utah hospital emergency room...

**NO** Questions Asked

**NO** Police

**NO Judgment** 



# WHAT IS A "NEWBORN BABY" DEFINED AS?

A Newborn Baby defined under the Utah Newborn Safe Haven Law:

A baby 3 days old (72 hours) or younger.



### WHAT TO DO?

- Don't be afraid to call 9-1-1.
- Emergency staff know about the Utah Newborn Safe Haven
   Law and how to take care of baby and mom.
- After arriving at the emergency room, the doctors and nurses will make sure both mom and the baby are healthy.



### PRIVACY IS THE LAW!

Mom does not have to give any information to the emergency or hospital staff.

### Privacy is important and it is the law.

But, if mom does have medical information about the health of the newborn, or knows of a serious disease that runs in the family, it will be helpful to tell the emergency or hospital staff.



# WHAT HAPPENS TO THE NEWBORN?

- After the newborn is checked by a doctor, hospital staff contact the Utah Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS).
- DCFS gives the baby to trained foster parents who will care for him or her until adopted.





**QUESTIONS?**