

Texas Women's Healthcare in Crisis



Contraception: Myth vs. Reality

Myth: Texas cannot afford to provide contraception.

Reality: Taxpayers save money by providing contraception for low-income women.

- The 2011 family planning cuts added \$136 million to Texas' Medicaid costs in 2013-15.¹
- Every \$1 used to provide contraceptive care saves nearly \$4 in Medicaid costs.²

Myth: Contraception is cheap and easy to get.

Reality: Cost is a barrier, especially for the most effective methods.

- Birth control pills can cost more than \$60 per month. Even generic birth control pills require regular healthcare visits.³
- The highly effective methods often cost hundreds of dollars up front.⁴
- 55 percent of 18-34-year-olds struggle with the cost of prescription birth control.⁵

Myth: Contraception does not work.

Reality: Modern contraceptives are effective.

- IUDs and implants are more than 99 percent effective.⁶
- Contraception is far more effective than no method, which has an 85-percent pregnancy rate within one year.⁷
- Publicly funded contraception prevents nearly 2 million U.S. unplanned pregnancies each year.⁸

Myth: Contraception encourages bad behavior.

Reality: Contraception helps women take personal responsibility for their family's future.

- Planned, well-spaced pregnancies mean healthier babies.^{9,10}
- Women use contraception to achieve their life goals, such as education.¹¹
- Across party lines, 8 in 10 "agree strongly" that for those trying not to get pregnant, using birth control is taking personal responsibility.¹²

Myth: Contraception is controversial.

Reality: Overwhelming majorities find birth control morally acceptable.

- Nine in 10 adults¹³
- Eight in 10 Catholics¹⁴
- Nine in 10 evangelical leaders¹⁵ and white evangelicals¹⁶
- Eight in 10 adults think policymakers who oppose abortion should be strong supporters of birth control.¹⁷

Myth: Private charities can provide the needed preventive care and birth control.

Reality: The need far outstrips availability.

- More than 1 million Texas women need preventive care and contraception.¹⁸
- Even at their peak, publicly supported programs reached only one in three Texas women in need.¹⁹

Myth: Contraception is the same as abortion.

Reality: Use of effective contraception reduces abortion.

- Contraceptives work by preventing pregnancy before it happens.²⁰
- Access to effective contraception dramatically reduces unplanned pregnancy and abortion.²¹



TEXAS
Women's Healthcare
COALITION

Coalition Membership

as of January 30, 2013

Texas Medical Association*

District XI (Texas) American Congress of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists*

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Texas Association of Obstetricians and
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Gateway to Care

Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives

Teaching Hospitals of Texas*

University Health System

San Antonio Metro Health Clinic

South Texas Family Planning and Health Corp.

Texas Council on Family Violence

* Steering Committee Members

Endnotes

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Women's Healthcare
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Development and leadership of the Texas
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