



Unintended Pregnancies and Reducing Abortion

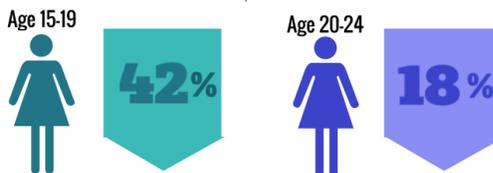
Colorado has a vested interest in reducing the number of unintended pregnancies that happen each year. The more than 45 percent of pregnancies in our state that are unplanned create real social and fiscal impacts on individuals, families and the state. The ability for a woman to choose when she becomes pregnant - typically through the use of family planning - is good for her and her baby's health and well-being and good for her family.

By investing resources in a long standing program, Colorado has been able to reduce birth rates in high-risk populations, decrease the number of unplanned pregnancies, lower rates of abortion, improve health outcomes for women and children and make better use of Colorado's resources.

By successfully enabling women throughout the state access to family planning services, particularly the most effective contraceptive methods such as IUDs and implants, we have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of abortions. Access to long-acting reversible contraceptives reduces the number of abortions, a goal that all Coloradans can support.

- In 2010, more than 45 percent of pregnancies in Colorado were unplanned.
- Unintended pregnancies resulted in more than 10,000 abortions a year in Colorado, before the Colorado Family Planning Initiative. Since then, the number has dropped to about 9,000 annually.
- When long-acting reversible contraception became more readily available in Colorado between 2009 and 2013, the abortion rate fell 42 percent among all women ages 15 to 19 and 18 percent among women ages 20 to 24.

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About the Colorado Family Planning Initiative

The Colorado Family Planning Initiative (CFPI) at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has successfully expanded contraceptive options, enabling more than 30,000 women in the state to choose the most effective contraceptives - intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants. For more than 40 years, Title X family planning clinics have played a critical role in ensuring access to these devices as well as other family planning services for millions of low-income or uninsured women and their families. Since 2009 a boost in funding from the CFPI to Title X clinics increased health care provider education and training and reduced cost-barriers, enabling thousands of Colorado women to choose the most effective forms of contraception. For more information, please contact Eliza Shultz, CDPHE Legislative Director, at (303) 913-1955 or eliza.schultz@state.co.us

