



Reducing Unintended Teen Pregnancy in Colorado

Women facing unplanned pregnancies risk a number of social, economic and health problems regardless of their age. Teen mothers, in particular, often face insurmountable odds that affect their education, income potential, family dynamics and more. They bear financial responsibilities for their babies that their peers do not. Their children are at risk of immediate and long-term health issues and challenges to their overall development and wellbeing.

The Colorado Family Planning Initiative has helped thousands of women avoid unplanned pregnancies by removing the cost barriers to the most effective forms of contraception. Lack of accessibility and high-costs were preventing women from being able to select long-acting reversible contraceptives such as intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants. By investing a small amount of money in a long-standing program, Colorado successfully reduced teen birth rates, the number of unplanned pregnancies and rates of teenage abortion.

When long-acting contraception became more readily available in Colorado between 2009 and 2013:



Between 2009-2013, the abortion rate fell 42% women ages 15-19.

- The state teen birth rate dropped by 40 percent.
- The abortion rate fell 42 percent among all women ages 15 to 19.
- Teen birth rates in our state declined more rapidly than in any other state or the nation.
- Nine of 10 teen moms who received a long-acting reversible contraceptive before leaving the hospital after delivery did not get pregnant within two years.
- The number of teens with repeat births decreased by 53 percent.

The birth rate among low-income teens living in the counties with Title X providers dropped (2009 - 2012)

Age 15-19



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 Liaison, at (303) 913-1955 or eliza.schultz@state.co.us.



