



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

Education, Self Sufficiency and Economic Opportunity

Colorado has a vested interest in reducing the number of unintended pregnancies that occur each year. When a woman faces an unplanned pregnancy, she is more likely to face a number of education and economic challenges. Investments in education strengthen Colorado both economically and intellectually - and unplanned pregnancies can prevent women - and men - from finishing their education. The economic challenges created by an unplanned pregnancy coupled with a lack of education add new barriers to achieving economic well-being.

- Nationally, 61% of women who have children after enrolling in community college fail to finish their planned degree.
- 30% of teenage girls who have dropped out of high school cite pregnancy or parenthood as a reason.
- Colorado women with a bachelor's degree or higher earn 77% more than Colorado women with a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Because of Colorado's skilled workforce and modern economy, higher education pays off. Women in their 20s with college degrees earn as much as \$20,000 more per year than women with high school degrees.

Through the Colorado Family Planning Initiative, thousands of Colorado women have had greater access to expanded family planning services, including the ability to choose the most effective forms of contraception. Contraception is central to women's ability to control when they become parents, and the educational and employment benefits they experience as a result. It has enabled more women to take control of their future by giving them access to a full range of contraceptive options in order to find what is right for them and their families.

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.

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