POTENTIAL FOR PHARMACIES PRESCRIBING BIRTH CONTROL IN STATES WITH PENDING LEGISLATION

As of March 17, 2021

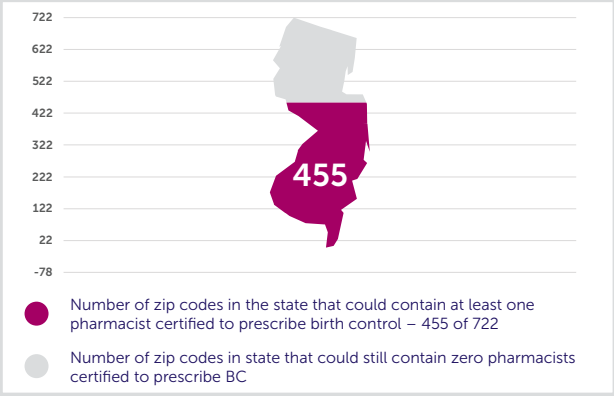
There are currently 18 states that allow pharmacists to prescribe self-administered hormonal birth control (e.g., pills, patch, ring, shot). Legislation is currently pending in 13 additional states – Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Policy Impact

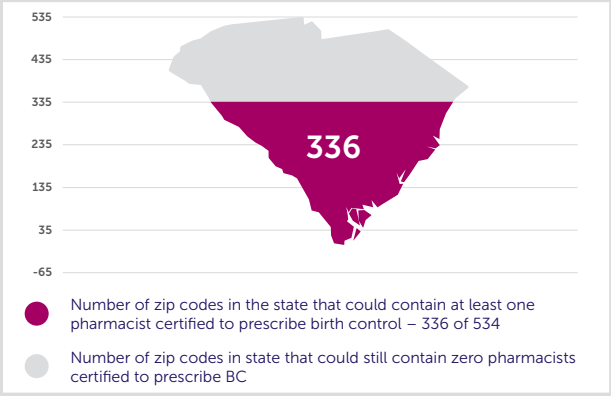
Oregon is considered the gold-standard among states that have adopted this legislation, with 63% of zip codes containing at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control. These graphics show the estimated number of zip codes in each state with pending legislation that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control if they follow in the footsteps of Oregon, highlighting the potential scale of pharmacy prescribing if states fully adopt and implement this policy.[1, 2]

Estimated number of zip codes (63%) in each of the below states that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control (listed in order that bills were introduced).

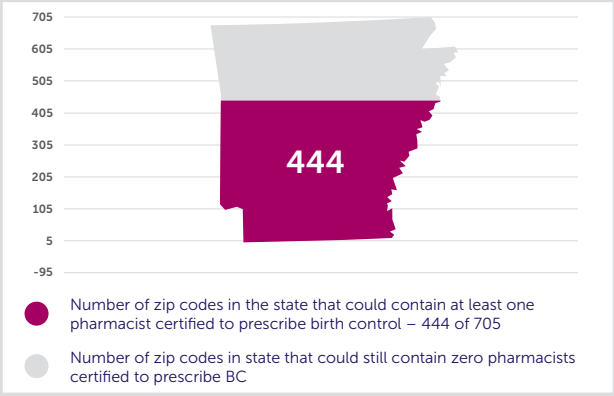
New Jersey (January 2020)



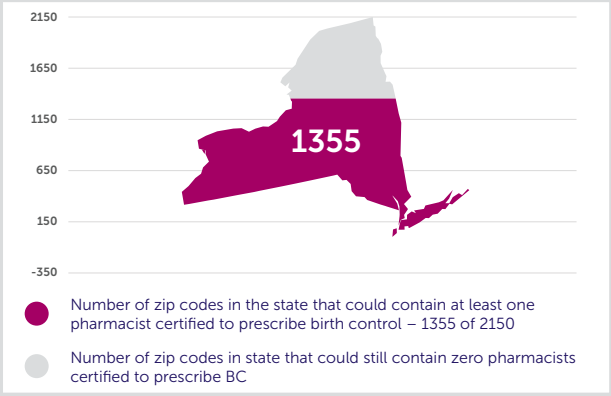
South Carolina (December 2020)



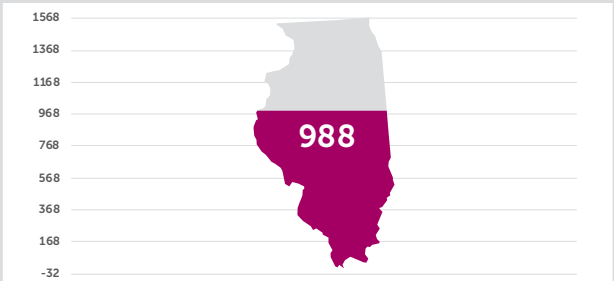
Arkansas (December 2020)



New York (January 2021)



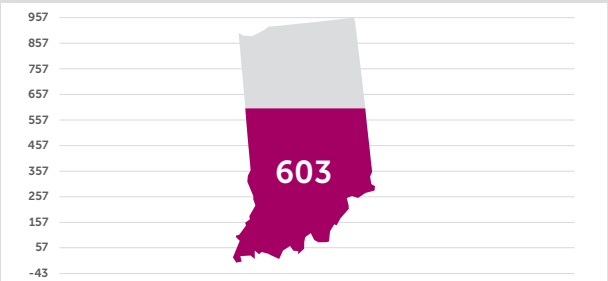
Illinois (January 2021)



Number of zip codes in the state that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control – 988 of 1568

Number of zip codes in state that could still contain zero pharmacists certified to prescribe BC

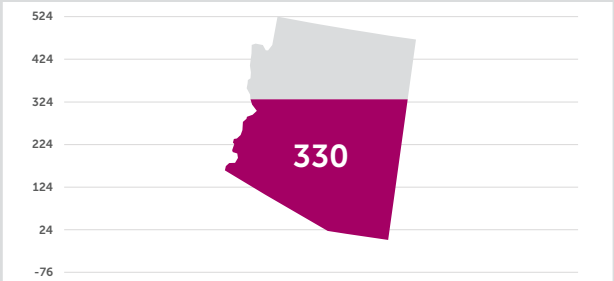
Indiana (January 2021)



Number of zip codes in the state that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control – 603 of 957

Number of zip codes in state that could still contain zero pharmacists certified to prescribe BC

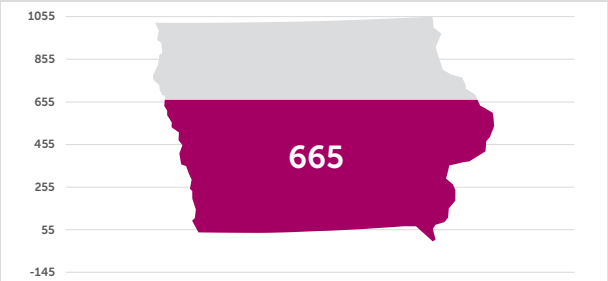
Arizona (January 2021)



Number of zip codes in the state that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control – 330 of 524

Number of zip codes in state that could still contain zero pharmacists certified to prescribe BC

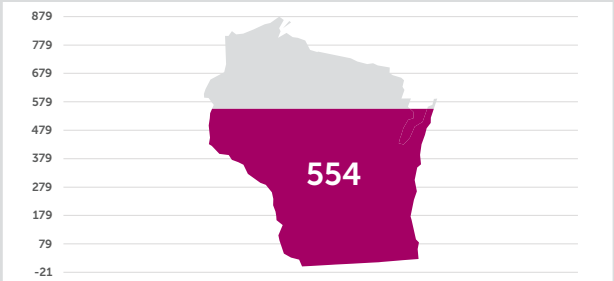
Iowa (January 2021)



Number of zip codes in the state that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control – 665 of 1055

Number of zip codes in state that could still contain zero pharmacists certified to prescribe BC

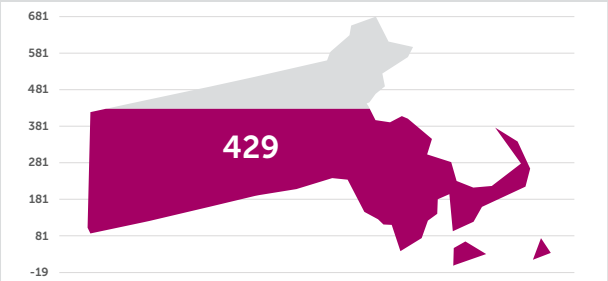
Wisconsin (January 2021)



Number of zip codes in the state that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control – 554 of 879

Number of zip codes in state that could still contain zero pharmacists certified to prescribe BC

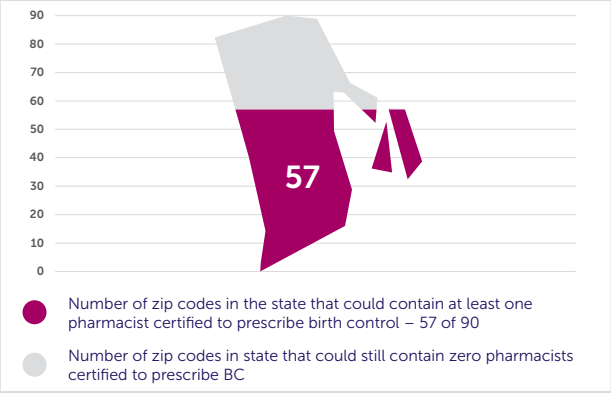
Massachusetts (January 2021)



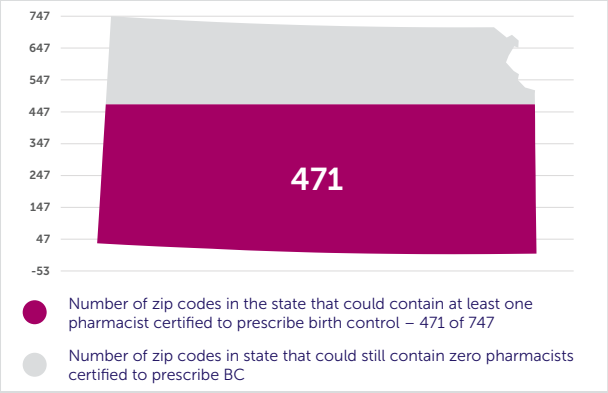
Number of zip codes in the state that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control – 429 of 681

Number of zip codes in state that could still contain zero pharmacists certified to prescribe BC

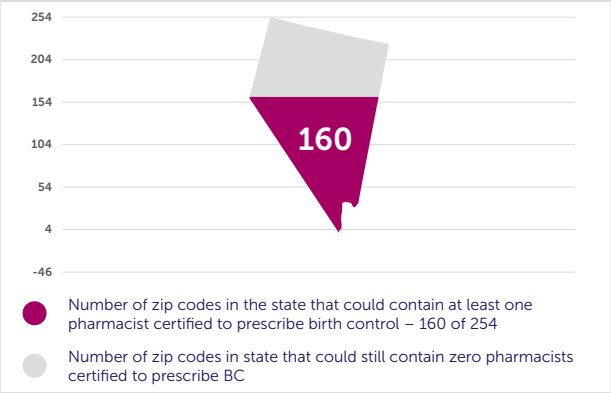
Rhode Island (February 2021)



Kansas (February 2021)



Nevada (February 2021)



More Information

For more information about any pending pharmacy prescribing legislation in the above states, see the light pink states on our interactive map. To learn more about pharmacist prescribing of contraception policies, see our infographic and fact sheet.

Graphics were created using available data from the 2019 U.S. National Pharmacy Market Summary Report from IQVIA, birthcontrolpharmacies.com, research conducted by Dr. Maria Rodriguez, MD, MPH, and colleagues (2018, 2019), and state-level zip-code information. For more details about our methods, please read.

Endnotes

1. Rodriguez MI, Hersh A, Anderson LB, Hartung DM, Edelman AB. Association of Pharmacist Prescription of Hormonal Contraception With Unintended Pregnancies and Medicaid Costs. Obstet Gynecol. 2019 Jun;133(6):1238-1246. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000003265. Erratum in: Obstet Gynecol. 2019 Jul;134(1):182. PMID: 31135740

2. Not all pharmacist-prescribing laws are the same – some state laws are more expansive while others are more restrictive. Consequently, implementation alone cannot determine a state's ability to reach these estimates.