

PHARMACIES PRESCRIBING BIRTH CONTROL IN CALIFORNIA

As of March 29, 2021

California is one of 18 states to allow pharmacists to prescribe self-administered hormonal birth control (e.g., pills, patch, ring, shot).

Policy Impact

California first passed this legislation in 2013, and pharmacists first began prescribing in 2016. These graphics highlight the potential scale of pharmacy prescribing if California fully adopts and implements this policy. The first graphic shows the estimated number of zip codes in California that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control. If California follows in the footsteps of Oregon, the gold standard among states that have adopted this policy, then approximately 1629 out of 2586 zip codes (63%) in the state could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control post legislation.^{1, 2} As of September 21, 2020, 802 out of 2586 zip codes (31%) contained at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control.

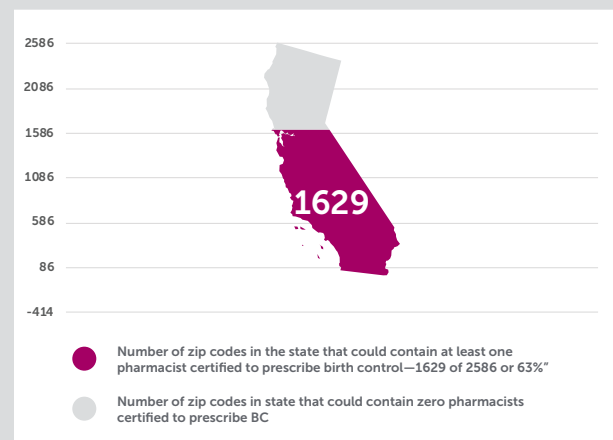
The second graphic shows a heat map depicting the zip code density of birth control prescribing pharmacies that we are aware of across the state as of September 21, 2020. The darker the shading, the more birth control prescribing pharmacies in that zip code.

More Information

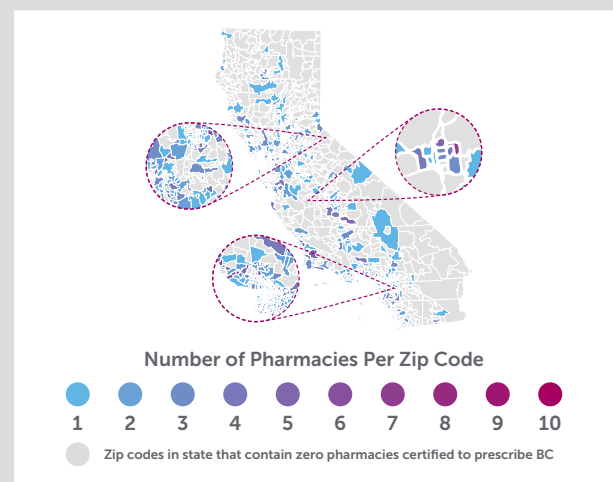
For more information about pharmacy prescribing in California, see our [interactive map](#). To learn more about pharmacist prescribing of contraception policies, see our [infographic](#) and [fact sheet](#).

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](#).

Estimated number of zip codes (63%) in California that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control.



Density of California birth control prescribing pharmacies by zip code.



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.

PHARMACIES PRESCRIBING BIRTH CONTROL IN CALIFORNIA

As of March 26, 2021

California is one of 18 states to allow pharmacists to prescribe self-administered hormonal birth control (e.g., pills, patch, ring, shot).

Policy Impact

California first passed this legislation in 2013, and pharmacists first began prescribing in 2016. These graphics highlight the potential scale of pharmacy prescribing if California fully adopts and implements this policy. The first graphic shows the estimated number of zip codes in California that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control. If California follows in the footsteps of Oregon, the gold standard among states that have adopted this policy, then approximately 1629 out of 2586 zip codes (63%) in the state could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control post legislation.^{1,2} As of September 21, 2020, 802 out of 2586 zip codes (31%) contained at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control.

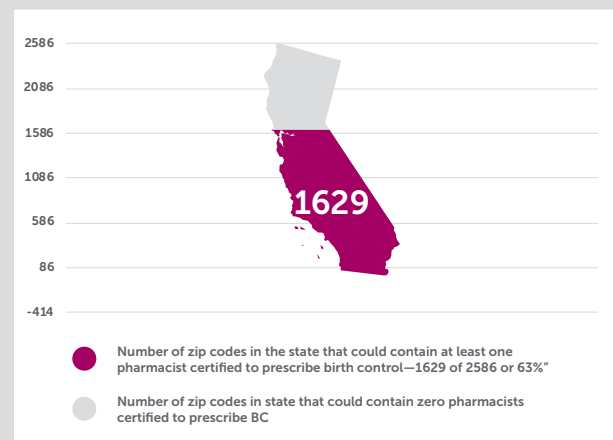
The second graphic shows a heat map depicting the zip code density of birth control prescribing pharmacies that we are aware of across the state as of September 21, 2020. The darker the shading, the more birth control prescribing pharmacies in that zip code.

More Information

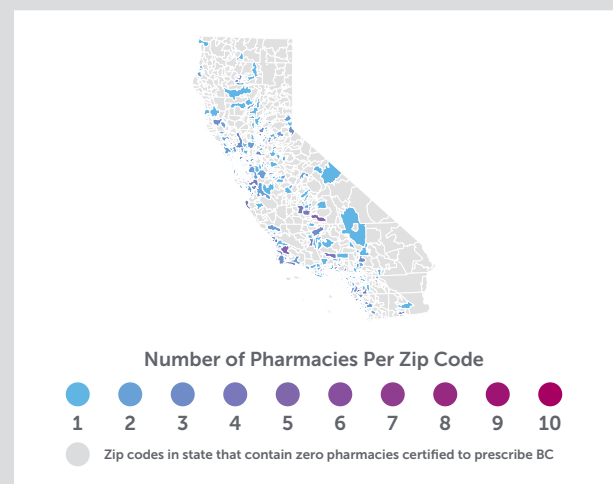
For more information about pharmacy prescribing in California, see our [interactive map](#). To learn more about pharmacist prescribing of contraception policies, see our [infographic](#) and [fact sheet](#).

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](#).

Estimated number of zip codes (63%) in California that could contain at least one pharmacist certified to prescribe birth control.



Density of California birth control prescribing pharmacies by zip code.



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.