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CONTACT: Paloma Zuleta
202-812-4477
pzuleta@powertodecide.org

ESTIMATED 180,000 WOMEN IN CONNECTICUT LIVE IN CONTRACEPTIVE DESERTS

(Washington, D.C.)—According to data released by [Power to Decide](#), an estimated [180,000 women](#) living at or below 250% of the poverty level in Connecticut live in contraceptive deserts, counties in which there is not reasonable access to a health center offering the full range of contraceptive methods. Currently, across the country more than 19 million U.S. women of low income live in [contraceptive deserts](#).

“In Connecticut, [180,000 women](#) must overcome significant barriers to access the contraception they need and deserve in order to decide if, when and under what circumstances to get pregnant and have a child,” said Raegan McDonald-Mosley, MD, MPH, CEO of Power to Decide. “The challenge of covering costs associated with obtaining family planning services—such as transportation, child care and unpaid time off from work—may be too great a burden for those already struggling to make ends meet.”

Additional data from Power to Decide show that more than 151,000 Connecticut women of reproductive age (13-44) in need of publicly funded contraception live in the five counties that lost resources due to the Title X Family Planning Program “[domestic gag rule](#).” The rule was lifted on November 8, 2021, after more than two years of harm. Despite these challenges, family planning providers have been making every effort to provide contraceptive services to patients across the state.

Connecticut has also taken several steps to expand access to contraception. This includes expanding Medicaid to low-income adults, which helps decrease the percentage of uninsured women, and by extension, give them the contraceptive coverage they need to help live healthy lives. In addition, Connecticut requires insurance to cover an extended supply of prescription contraceptives, as well as the full range of contraceptive methods. Connecticut can also guard against additional barriers to access by enacting policies that allow pharmacists to prescribe contraception.

More information about these policies can be found [here](#). In addition, information about Connecticut’s telehealth policies relevant to contraceptive access can be found [here](#).

Power to Decide is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to ensure all people—no matter who they are, where they live or what their economic status might be—have the power to decide if, when and under what circumstances to get pregnant and have a child. Please visit us at www.PowerToDecide.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).