

CONTRACEPTIVE ACCESS IN COLORADO

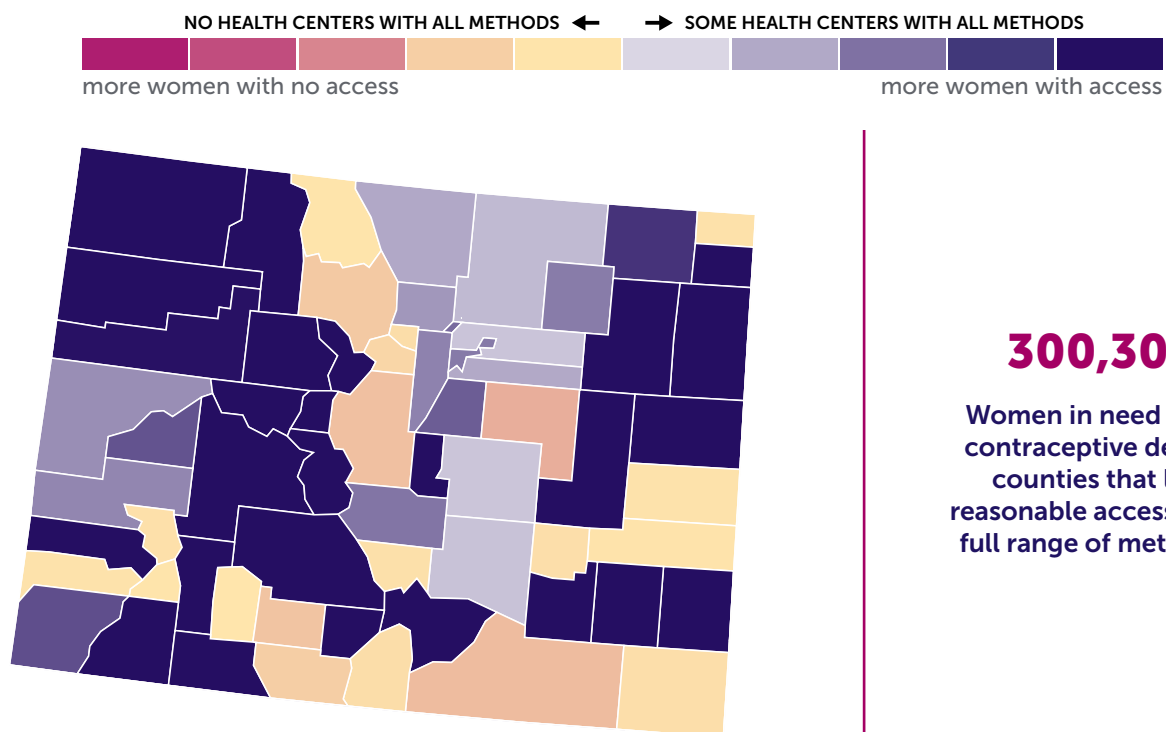
As of November 3, 2022

Contraceptive Deserts Nationwide

More than 19 million U.S. women with low incomes live in contraceptive deserts—counties in which there is not reasonable access to a health center offering the full range of contraceptive methods. Of those 19 million women, roughly 1.3 million women live in counties without a single health center that offers the full range of contraceptive methods.

These access barriers put women already struggling to make ends meet at risk of not being able to get the birth control method right for them. These women might face additional transportation costs, child care costs, and unpaid time off work because of the long distances they need to travel to access care.

Contraceptive Deserts in Colorado



*For more information please see: <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/understanding-contraceptive-deserts>

Title X and the Impact of the Gag Rule

For 50 years, the Title X Family Planning Program has provided federal funding to health centers that provide free or low-cost birth control and related services. The Trump Administration undermined the ability of Title X health centers to provide quality care by enforcing the “domestic gag rule.” The gag rule forces health centers that receive Title X funds to withhold information from patients about abortion services and care. In addition, health centers are required to cease providing abortion care with non-Title X funds unless they do so at a physically separate site, which is impossible for many health centers.

To date, approximately 8.8 million women in need live in counties that have lost Title X support for reproductive health care access. The loss of funds is likely to result in increased costs, shorter hours, and fewer services being offered by impacted centers. For women living paycheck to paycheck, losing affordable access to the birth control they need because the health center they depend on has lost its Title X funding compromises their reproductive health and well-being.

For more information, please see <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/impacts-domestic-gag-rule>

Title X in Colorado



- In 2021, Title X-supported clinics provided contraceptive care to **35,019** women in Colorado. The number of women served from 2018-2021 declined by **22.5%**.
- Some Title X-supported clinics in Colorado were forced to leave the program as a result of the gag rule. New Title X grants were awarded in 2022 and participating clinics are no longer subject to the harmful rule. However, current Title X funding levels are not sufficient to meet the need in Colorado.

States Can Improve Contraceptive Access, Here's What Colorado is Doing

Is Colorado Doing This?

Expand Medicaid to low-income adults as the ACA allows	Yes
Medicaid Family Planning Waiver or State Plan Amendment (SPA)	Yes
Medicaid reimbursement for postpartum long-acting reversible contraception	Yes
Medicaid 12-month postpartum coverage extension	No
State law/policies that allow pharmacists to prescribe contraception	Yes
State law/policies to extend the supply of prescription contraceptives	Yes
State laws/policies to protect contraceptive coverage	No

For more information please see: <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/key-information-about-us-states>

State Telehealth Policies Relevant to Contraceptive Access



Telehealth policies have long been a way to increase access to health care, including contraception. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, use of telehealth has greatly expanded in the US and has proven itself a viable option for some folks to obtain contraception. Power to Decide's [polling data](#) found that 77% of respondents agree that telehealth is a useful method to get birth control when in-person visits are not possible.

Over the course of the pandemic, states have changed their policies to facilitate access to telehealth. To better understand the ways in which telehealth access has changed and expanded over the course of the pandemic, we have synthesized and [visualized](#) the state-level landscape of telehealth access for Medicaid and private payor insurance both pre-COVID and during the pandemic. We focused on data that answers three questions: how is telehealth delivered, who can provide it, and what services are provided?

We've chosen these three questions to help simplify complicated policies so that advocates, public health officials, elected officials, and everyday health care users can more easily understand the various telehealth policies that are most likely to affect access to birth control in their states.

While telehealth shows great promise in increasing access to health care, including contraception, there are also cautions. Power to Decide's [polling data](#) revealed gaps in access and knowledge for women with lower income, with 67% of respondents with annual household incomes over \$50,000 reporting understanding what telehealth is, compared to only 21% of respondents with annual household incomes under \$50,000. Additionally, there are concerns over quality of care, payment parity, HIPAA compliance, individual privacy, and internet access. To ensure that telehealth is not only beneficial but also equitable, these are important considerations to address as states decide whether and in what form to continue temporary telehealth expansions past the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information on state telehealth policies, please read our [Overview of State Telehealth Policies Relevant to Contraceptive Access](#). To see the most up-to-date information for your state, please check out our interactive [maps and tables](#).