



Title X Family-Planning Services: Fast Facts

Title X (ten) of the Public Health Service Act is the cornerstone of the federal domestic family-planning program: It is the only federal program exclusively dedicated to family planning and reproductive-health services. It was enacted with broad bipartisan support in 1970: one of the chief co-sponsors of the bill was then-Rep. (subsequently President) George H.W. Bush,¹ and it was signed into law by then-President Richard Nixon.

What services does the Title X family-planning program provide?

- Title X provides voluntary, confidential reproductive-health services, including educational services and nondirective counseling on abstinence and contraceptive methods.²
- Federal law *prohibits* any Title X money from being used for abortion care.³
- Besides providing contraceptive methods, counseling and education, Title X family-planning clinics offer many other reproductive-health services, including: screening for breast cancer, cervical cancer, and sexually transmitted diseases; Pap tests; breast and pelvic exams; hypertension and blood pressure measurement; as well as prenatal, postpartum and well-baby care.⁴
- The Title X program also sponsors continuing-education programs for family-planning clinicians each year. In addition, the program maintains a clearinghouse for information and educational materials on family planning and reproductive health, and supports a research program which focuses on family-planning service delivery improvements.⁵

Who receives care at Title X clinics?

- Each year, approximately 5 million young and low-income women and men receive basic health care through the 4,400 clinics nationwide receiving Title X funds.⁶ Grants are administrated through state health departments or regional umbrella agencies which subcontract to local agencies.
- Most Title X patients are low-income women who are uninsured and ineligible for Medicaid. No one can be refused services based on their inability to pay. Women with income at or below the poverty level receive fully subsidized services; women with income over 100 but less than 250 percent of the poverty level are charged on a sliding scale; and women with income over 250 percent of poverty must be charged full fees.⁷

- For many women, particularly those who cannot afford private health insurance and who do not qualify for Medicaid, Title X clinics provide their only source of basic health care.⁸

Access to contraceptive services is central to improving women's overall health and reducing unintended pregnancy:

According to the Guttmacher Institute:

- Each year publicly funded contraceptive services help women prevent 1.3 million unintended pregnancies, which would result in 533,800 births, 632,300 abortions, and 165,000 miscarriages.⁹
- In the absence of publicly funded family planning, the number of abortions each year in the United States would be 40 percent higher than it currently is.¹⁰
- In fact, from 1980 to 2000, Title X clinics helped women prevent nearly 20 million unintended pregnancies, nine million of which would have ended in abortion.¹¹

Publicly funded contraceptive services also significantly reduce pregnancy and abortion among young people:

According to the Guttmacher Institute:

- Without these services an additional 386,000 teenagers would become pregnant each year. Of these, 155,000 would give birth, increasing the number of teen births by one-quarter. A total of 183,000 teenagers would have abortions, increasing teen abortions by 58 percent.¹²
- Since 1981, Title X funded clinics have prevented more than 5.5 million adolescent pregnancies which would have resulted in more than two million births and two million abortions for minors.¹³
- Despite new evidence of a recent increase, in general the national teen-pregnancy rate has dropped dramatically since the early 1990s.¹⁴ While many strategies have been tried in a 20-year effort to prevent teen pregnancy, research shows that 80 percent of the decline in teen-pregnancy rates from 1990-2000 was due to increased contraceptive use.¹⁵

Other benefits of the Title X program:

- It helps prevent the spread of STDs: Title X funds are used to perform vital STD screening and treatment. Between 1995 and 1998, Title X clinics performed 19 million tests for STDs, including 1.4 million for HIV.¹⁶
- It helps women deliver healthier babies: By helping women plan their pregnancies, publicly funded contraceptive services prevented 20,000 occurrences of low birth weight and 12,000 neonatal and infant deaths between 1982 and 1988.¹⁷

- It's positively affects women's lives and saves taxpayer dollars: A socially responsible and fiscally sound reproductive-health-care policy requires that affordable, safe and effective contraceptive care be available. Every government dollar spent on contraceptive services saves an average of \$3.80 in Medicaid costs for newborn- and pregnancy-related care.¹⁸

By providing women access to family-planning services, Title X gives women real choices over their reproductive lives, providing a realistic and effective mechanism to reduce unintended pregnancy and make abortion less necessary. However, anti-choice lawmakers in Congress have repeatedly attempted to defund the program and restrict minors' access. Furthermore, under anti-choice control for 12 years, Congress chronically failed to provide adequate funding levels for Title X. Had the program simply kept pace with inflation since 1980, earning no other increases, it would now be funded at more than \$700 million; instead, it is funded at \$305 million.

Recent Congressional Action

FY'08

- February 5, 2007: President Bush proposes \$283 million for the Title X family-planning program in his FY'08 budget request.
- June 7, 2007: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education passes the FY'08 spending bill. The bill includes \$311 million for the Title X family-planning program, a \$28 million increase over the FY'07 funding level and the president's budget request.
- June 19, 2007: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies passes the FY'08 spending bill. The bill includes \$300 million for the Title X family-planning program, a \$17 million increase over the FY'07 funding level and the president's budget request.
- June 21, 2007: Senate Appropriations Committee passes the FY'08 spending bill, which includes \$300 million for Title X.
- July 11, 2007: House Appropriations Committee passes the FY'08 spending bill, which includes \$311 million for Title X.
- July 19, 2007: House passes the FY'08 spending bill, which includes \$311 million for Title X.
- October 23, 2007: Senate passes the FY'08 spending bill, which includes \$300 million for Title X.
- November 7, 2007: Senate passes the FY'08 conference report, which includes \$311 million for Title X.
- November 8, 2008: House passes the FY'08 conference report, which includes \$311 million for Title X.
- November 13, 2007: Citing overall budgetary concerns, President Bush vetoes the FY'08

conference report.

- December 17, 2007: House passes the FY'08 omnibus appropriations bill, which includes \$305 million for Title X.
- December 18, 2007: Senate passes the FY'08 omnibus appropriations bills, which includes \$305 million for Title X.
- December 26, 2007: President Bush signs the bill into law – P.L. 110-161.

FY'09

- February 4, 2008: President Bush proposes \$300 million for the Title X family-planning program in his FY'09 budget request.
- June 19, 2008: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education passes the FY'09 spending bill. The bill includes \$315 million for the Title X family-planning program, a \$10 million increase over the FY'08 funding level and a \$15 million increase over the president's budget request.
- June 24, 2008: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education passes the FY'09 spending bill. The bill includes \$300 million for the Title X family-planning program, the same amount the president's budget request and \$5 million less than the FY'08 funding level.
- September 24, 2008: House passes a FY'09 continuing resolution, which level-funds Title X at \$305 million. The CR expires March 6, 2009.
- September 27, 2008: Senate passes a FY'09 continuing resolution, which level-funds Title X at \$305 million. The CR expires March 6, 2009.
- September 30, 2008: President Bush signs the bill into law – P.L. 110-329.

January 1, 2009

Notes

¹ Region VIII Family Planning Training Center. *About Title X Family Planning*, at <http://www.region8familyplanning.org/titleXFamilyPlanning.htm> (last visited Nov. 6, 2008).

² Bureau of Community Health Services (BCHS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), *Program Guidelines for Project Grants for Family Planning Services* 9-15 (1981).

³ 42 U.S.C.A. § 300a-6

⁴ Bureau of Community Health Services (BCHS), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), *Program Guidelines for Project Grants for Family Planning Services* 9-15 (1981).

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- ⁵ Office of Population Affairs. *Family Planning*, at <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/familyplanning/index.html> (last visited Nov. 6, 2008).
- ⁶ Office of Population Affairs. *Family Planning*, at <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/familyplanning/index.html> (last visited Nov. 6, 2008).
- ⁷ A minor seeking confidential services is eligible based on her income and not that of her parents. AGI, *Issues in Brief: Title X and the U.S. Family Planning Effort*, at 2 & 4; see also 45 Fed. Reg. 108 (1980) (codified at 42 C.F.R. § 59.5(7), (8), § 59.2).
- ⁸ Cynthia Dailard, *Challenges Facing Family Planning Clinics and Title X*, GUTTMACHER REP. ON PUB. POL'Y, April. 2001, at 8.
- ⁹ Guttmacher Institute, *In Brief: Facts on Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services in the United States* (2008) at http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contraceptive_serv.pdf (last visited Nov. 6, 2008).
- ¹⁰ GI, *In Brief: Facts on Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services in the United States* (2008) at http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contraceptive_serv.pdf (last visited Nov. 6, 2008).
- ¹¹ Rachel Benson Gold, *Title X: Three Decades of Accomplishment*, GUTTMACHER REP. ON PUBLIC POL'Y, Feb. 2001, at 5.
- ¹² GI, *In Brief: Facts on Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services in the United States* (2008) at http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contraceptive_serv.pdf (last visited Nov. 6, 2008).
- ¹³ Rachel Benson Gold, *Title X: Three Decades of Accomplishment*, GUTTMACHER REP. ON PUBLIC POL'Y, Feb. 2001, at 7.
- ¹⁴ Press Release, GI, *U.S Teenage Pregnancy Rate Drops for 10th Straight Year*(Feb. 19, 2004).
- ¹⁵ Rebekah Saul, *Teen Pregnancy: Progress Meets Politics*, GUTTMACHER REP. ON PUBLIC POL'Y, June 1999, at 7.
- ¹⁶ Rachel Benson Gold, *Title X: Three Decades of Accomplishment*, GUTTMACHER REP. ON PUBLIC POL'Y, Feb. 2001, at 8.
- ¹⁷ GI, *Issues in Brief: The U.S. Family Planning Program Faces Challenges and Change*, at <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/ib3.html> (last visited Nov. 6, 2008).
- ¹⁸ Jennifer J. Frost et al., *Estimating the Impact of Serving New Clients by Expanding Funding for Title X, Occasional Report*, New York: Guttmacher Institute (2006, No. 33), at <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2006/11/16/or33.pdf> (last visited Nov. 6, 2008).