

PLANNED PARENTHOOD: CREATING A NATION OF WELL WOMEN

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality, affordable health care for women, men, and young people, and the nation's largest provider of sex education.

Every year, Planned Parenthood's approximately 700 health centers nationwide provided:

- Birth control information and services to 2.1 million patients, helping to prevent 516,000 unintended pregnancies and 217,000 abortions.
- Nearly 400,000 Pap tests
- Nearly 500,000 lifesaving breast exams to help alert patients to possible cancers
- Screenings to 88,000 women whose cancer was detected early or whose abnormalities were identified and addressed
- Nearly 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including 700,000 HIV tests, and diagnoses of more than 169,000 STIs

FAMILY PLANNING HAS TRANSFORMED OUR COUNTRY FOR THE BETTER.

As a country, we have made tremendous strides in reducing teen pregnancy, in preventing cancer deaths, and in advancing women's economic empowerment at home and abroad due to increased access to basic preventive services like birth control and cancer screenings. It's why the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention named family planning, including access to modern contraception, one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.¹

1. "Achievements in Public Health, 1900-1999: Family Planning." (1999). *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 48(47), 1073-1080.

Family Planning Reduces Teen Pregnancy. The rate of teenage pregnancy in the United States has declined to its lowest level in decades. Between 1990 and 2010 it decreased from 116.9 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19 to 57.4 per 1,000, a drop of 51 percent.² An analysis of National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), the major source of government data on population and reproductive health, found that contraception accounts for 86 percent of the recent decline in teenage pregnancy.³

Family Planning Reduces Unintended Pregnancy.

Family planning services available through Medicaid and Title X of the U.S. Public Health Service Act help women prevent 2.2 million unintended pregnancies each year. Without these family planning services, the numbers of unintended pregnancies and abortions would be nearly two-thirds higher than they are now.⁴

Family Planning Prevents Cancer Deaths.

New diagnoses of cervical cancer have decreased by more than 50% from 1975-2010 and mortality rates of cervical cancer declined rapidly in past decades due to prevention and early detection as a result of screening with the Pap test.⁵ Likewise, due to improvements in

2. Kost, Kathryn, and Stanley Henshaw. (2014). *U.S. Teenage Pregnancies, Births and Abortion, 2008: National Trends by Age, Race and Ethnicity*. New York: Guttmacher Institute.

3. Santelli, John S., et al. (2007). "Explaining Recent Declines in Adolescent Pregnancy in the United States: The Contribution of Abstinence and Improved Contraceptive Use." *American Journal of Public Health*, 97(1), 150-6.

4. Frost, Jennifer J., et al. (2013). *Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2010*. New York: Guttmacher Institute.

5. *SEER Cancer Statistics Factsheets: Cervix Uteri Cancer*. National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD. [Online]. <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/cervix.html>.

early detection and treatment, death rates for breast cancer have steadily decreased in women since 1989 -- in the four years between 2007 and 2011, rates among women younger than 50 decreased by 3.2 percent per year in white women and by 2.4 percent per year in African-American women, while among women 50 and older, rates decreased by 1.8 percent per year in white women and by 1.1 percent per year in African-American women.⁶ Additionally, oral contraceptive use has consistently been found to be associated with a reduced risk of ovarian and endometrial cancers.⁷

Family Planning Drives Women's Economic

Advancement. A 2012 University of Michigan study found that fully one-third of the wage gains women have made since the 1960s are the result of access to oral contraceptives. This study also found that the decrease in the gap among 25–49-year-olds between men's and women's annual incomes "would have been 10 percent smaller in the 1980s and 30 percent smaller in the 1990s" in the absence of widespread legal birth control access.⁸ Additional studies found that access to contraception

contributed significantly to more young women obtaining at least some college education and to more college-educated women pursuing advanced professional degrees.⁹ Highlighting the fact that birth control is a top economic driver for women, *Bloomberg Businessweek* recently listed contraception as one of the most transformational developments in the business sector in the last 85 years.¹⁰

Family Planning Enhances Children's Well-being in the Long Run. Federally funded family planning programs are associated with significant reductions in child poverty rates and poverty in adulthood. A study of the long-term effects of access to contraception found that individuals born in the years immediately after the federal family planning programs started were less likely to live in poverty in childhood and adulthood.¹¹ Another study found children conceived in areas with greater financial access to contraception were 2 to 7 percent more likely to attain 16 or more years of education.¹²

6. ACS – American Cancer Society. (2015). *Cancer Facts and Figures 2015*. Atlanta, GA: American Cancer Society, Inc.

7. NCI – National Cancer Institute. (2012). *Oral Contraceptives and Cancer Risk*. [Online]. <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/oral-contraceptives>

8. Bailey, Martha J., et al. (2012). "The opt-in revolution? Contraception and the gender gap in wages," *NBER Working Paper*, No. 17922. Cited in Sonfield, Adam et al. (2013). *The Social and Economic Benefits of Women's Ability To Determine Whether and When to Have Children*. New York: Guttmacher Institute.

9. Sonfield, Adam et al. (2013). *The Social and Economic Benefits of Women's Ability To Determine Whether and When to Have Children*. New York: Guttmacher Institute.

10. Soller, Kurt. (2014, December 4). "The Birth Control Pill Advanced Women's Economic Freedom." *Bloomberg Businessweek*. [Online]. <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-12-04/birth-control-pill-advanced-womens-economic-freedom>.

11. Bailey, Martha J., et al. (2014). "Do Family Planning Programs Decrease Poverty? Evidence from Public Census Data." *CESifo Economic Studies*, 60(2), 312–337.

12. Bailey, Martha J. (2013). "Fifty Years of Family Planning: New Evidence on the Long-Run Effects of Increasing Access to Contraception." *NBER Working Paper*, No. 19493.