



Policy recommendations for expanding reproductive health access in Illinois

As state abortion bans go into effect all around us, the country looks to Illinois as a beacon for reproductive health care access in the Midwest.

Although Illinois has been a leader in protecting reproductive rights, people with few resources and people of color across our state continue to experience persistent and unacceptable maternal and reproductive health outcome disparities. This moment calls on us to do more to truly become **a state where all people can decide if, when and under what circumstances to be pregnant and parent.**

62% of Illinois women ages 15-44

use birth control, but only

20% of Illinois women ages 15-44

accessing care at safety net clinics receive contraceptive counseling.

780,370

women live in Illinois counties without reasonable access to the full range of birth control methods.

1 in 3

healthcare networks in Illinois have religious directives limiting how-income patients from accessing the birth control method of their choice.

TO ADDRESS THESE GAPS WE CAN:

1

Expand Medicaid's family planning coverage to include undocumented individuals.

Recently passed legislation already commits the state to greatly expand contraceptive coverage for residents living at or below 213% FPL through a Family Planning State Plan Amendment (SPA). Illinois already pays for abortion and perinatal care for individuals regardless of their immigration status so it's time to include coverage for birth control.

2

Implement quality performance measures with payers to understand, evaluate and support contraceptive access and contraceptive quality.

3

Require Medicaid insurance plans to:

- Document **capacity to offer all birth control methods**, including IUDs, implants, tubal ligation, and vasectomy **within a reasonable distance and timeframe.**
- Communicate in lay person language about **members' right to seek their method of choice without cost from any Medicaid provider.**
- **Coordinate with pharmacists** to support patient-centered contraceptive care.