

Snapshot: An Overview of Publicly Funded Clinics

According to a 2008 overview of publicly funded contraceptive services in the United States from the Guttmacher Institute:

- The pill is the only contraceptive method provided by virtually all family planning agencies. More than nine in 10 agencies offer the male condom and the injectable contraceptive.
- About 80% of agencies offered emergency contraceptive pills in 2003, compared with 38% in 1995. Nearly half (47%) reported dispensing or prescribing emergency contraception in advance.
- Tubal sterilization and vasectomy are provided by 39% and 31% of agencies, respectively.
- During an initial contraceptive visit, most clinics provide routine counseling about abstinence to teens, particularly those who are ages 17 and younger and those not yet sexually active. Additionally, most clinics routinely counsel teens about the importance of discussing issues related to sex with their parents.
- Women routinely receive cervical cancer screening during their initial or annual family planning visit. Seventy-three percent of clinics typically use a conventional Pap smear, while 27% of clinics may use the liquid-based Pap test.
- Almost all family planning clinics screen at least some patients for chlamydia; 42% screen all female patients during the initial or annual visit, 43% screen sexually active women ages 25 and younger, and the rest screen only women in perceived high-risk groups. Ninety-four percent of clinics offer HIV testing services.
- Most clinics have at least some men who seek either sexually transmitted disease or contraceptive services (74% and 68% of clinics, respectively), but males remain a small proportion (5%) of the overall caseload for most publicly funded family planning clinics.
- Ninety-five percent of clinics have non-English-speaking contraceptive patients. Most of those clinics (88%) provide written materials in languages other than English, and many employ translators (81%), administrative or clinical staff (59% and 57%, respectively) who speak other languages.

Source: Guttmacher Institute. Facts on Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services in the United States. Fact sheet. Accessed at www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contraceptive_serv.html.