

Only 7% of health centers in the state other than Planned Parenthood offer accessible and comprehensive family planning care

In 2018, Missouri lawmakers passed two budget bills that discriminate against Planned Parenthood patients. The bills aimed to block patients from accessing preventive care at Planned Parenthood health centers. Additionally, the Trump/Pence administration announced a dangerous policy that will impose new restrictions on Planned Parenthood. The “gag rule” will affect health care providers that participate in Title X, the nation’s program for affordable birth control and reproductive health care that four million people rely on each year.

Preventing Missourians from choosing Planned Parenthood could leave many without access to vital preventive care, including birth control, cancer screenings, and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment.

Planned Parenthood affiliates in Missouri and associated entities provide critical health and education services to over 46,000* women, men, and young people every year.

Each of Missouri’s 11 Planned Parenthood health centers provide comprehensive and accessible care.

Planned Parenthood offers Pap tests and a full range of birth control options, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) and offers patients same-day or next-day appointments in most cases.

Planned Parenthood is a crucial component of the safety net, collaborating with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and other providers to care for Missourians with low incomes. There are nearly 400,000 Missouri women aged 13–44 who need publicly funded family planning services.** An extensive report documents that Missouri’s current safety net is not equipped to provide those family planning patients with the services they need. The State Legislature’s attempt to cut patient access to Planned Parenthood could create an enormous hole in Missouri’s already strained safety net.

“There’s a common misconception that if Planned Parenthood is removed from the Title X network that other health care providers will just pick up the slack, I can tell you that this simply isn’t the case - the health care safety net is already stretched too thin as it is,”

*Michelle Trupiano, Executive Director,
Missouri Family Health Council*

Missouri Safety Net Report Summary

Besides Planned Parenthood, **only 7% of more than 600 safety-net health centers offer a full range of birth control options and have evening or weekend hours.**

Missouri's safety net needs more resources, not fewer providers:

- 86% of non-Planned Parenthood providers DO NOT offer evening or weekend hours.
- 71% of non-Planned Parenthood providers DO NOT offer long-acting reversible birth control methods like IUDs.
- 41% of non-Planned Parenthood providers DO NOT offer birth control and Pap tests.

Researchers used records from the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) to assess information provided by Congresswoman Ann Wagner. The DSS data included every Federally Qualified Health Center, rural health clinic, community mental health center, safety-net hospital, and family planning and STD provider in the state. **Researchers assessed 667 health centers in Missouri** to determine if they provide family planning services to patients with low incomes. The research was conducted in 2017 and 2018 and included multiple calls to health centers, internet searches, and verification of Title X health center information by the Missouri Family Health Council.

If patients can no longer choose Planned Parenthood, many will have nowhere to turn to access vital preventive care because the remaining health centers will not be able to absorb them. *"Federally qualified health centers simply don't have the resources to offer the kind of drop-in care that's Planned Parenthood's specialty."* *Dr. Abbe Sudvarg, St. Louis Public Radio, March 24, 2016*

Read the full report: ppmissouri.org/report

**This number includes one Planned Parenthood health center in Illinois that serves residents of both Missouri and Illinois.*

***Frost JJ, Frohwirth L and Zolna MR, Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2014 Update, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2016, <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/contraceptive-needs-and-services2014-update>*