Evaluating the life course impacts of expanded access to contraception in Colorado

The Colorado Fertility Project

CU Population Center
Colorado Fertility Project Team

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Colorado Family Planning Initiative (CFPI)

• Began in late 2009

• Funding, training, support, and advertising to ensure that all Title X family planning clients could choose any FDA-approved method of contraception

• Documented impacts:
  • Increases in IUDs, implants, and sterilizations
  • Declines in births and abortions in teens and young adults

(Kelly, Lindo, & Packham, 2019; Lindo & Packham, 2017; CDPHE 2017; Ricketts et al., 2014)

Source: CDPHE 2017
What is the impact of family planning programs on people’s lives?

Access to the means of controlling fertility

1

2

Fertility

3

Socioeconomic status
Does access to the full range of contraceptive methods increase young women’s high school graduation?

Effect on high school graduation

• Population-level increase of 1.7 percentage points in high school graduation due to improved access to the full range of contraceptive methods in Title X clinics

• CFPI resulted in an additional 1,600 Colorado women born between 1994-1996 graduating high school

• First modern study that shows this effect, first to be able to disaggregate these effects by race/ethnicity
Current Research

• Generating individual-level fertility histories using administrative records
• Generating fertility rates with fertility histories and administrative registers
• Constructing households from tax filings
• Measuring poverty using tax filings
• Demonstrating positive impact of CFPI on college completion
• Assessing the impact of CFPI on fertility by parity and demographic subgroup
• Assessing the impact of CFPI on poverty
• Assessing the impact of CFPI on income and employment
Thank you!

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