

Barriers to Family Planning Access in Texas

Evidence from a Statewide Representative Survey

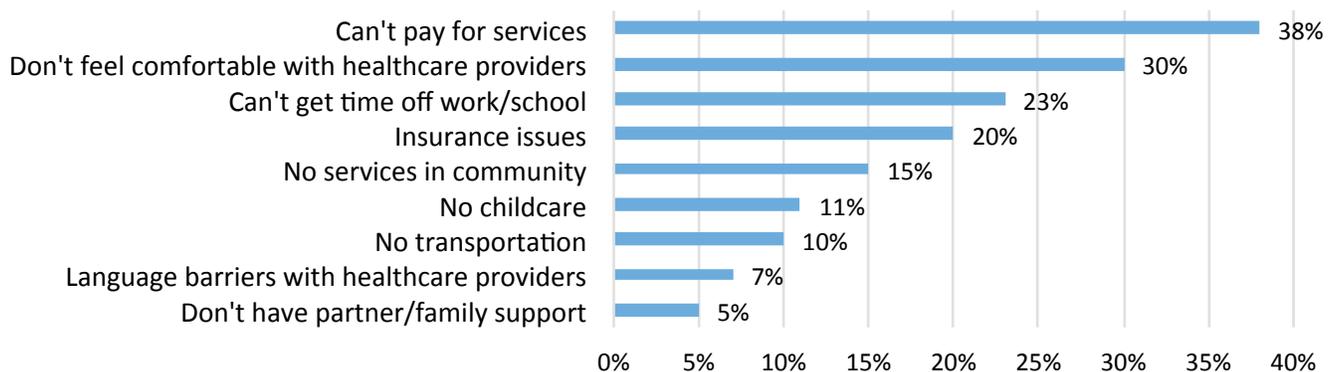
This research brief highlights women’s experiences accessing reproductive health care, as well as satisfaction with their current contraceptive method following major changes in funding and coverage of family planning services occurring in Texas between 2011 and 2014.

FINDINGS

Barriers to Care

- 55% of women reported at least one barrier to accessing reproductive health care services, including cervical cancer screening or family planning services.
- Women reported that they were not able to: pay for services, find a place where they feel comfortable with the health care providers, get time off of work or school, find a place that accepted their insurance, or find a place in their community offering these services.
- 37% of women reported two or more barriers and 25% reported three or more barriers. Women reporting three or more barriers to accessing regular reproductive health care services were more often young (ages 18-29), poor, less educated, unmarried, Spanish-speaking Hispanic women born and educated in Mexico, and without access to internet in their homes.

Figure 1. Barriers to Reproductive Health Care



Women are not using the birth control method they want

- 31% of women using contraception other than sterilization in Texas would like to be using a more effective method.
- 43% of women using contraception other than sterilization who had no insurance or were using TWHP or state or county programs to pay for care would like to be using a more effective method.
- 61% of all women using less effective methods would prefer more effective methods such as hormonal methods, female sterilization, vasectomy, or long-acting reversible methods (LARC).
- 20% of hormonal method users would prefer a more effective method like female sterilization, vasectomy, LARC.
- Women not currently using their preferred method of birth control were more often ages 30-44, poor, less educated, married, Spanish-speaking Hispanic women, born and educated in Mexico, and without access to internet in their homes.
- The top barriers cited among women not using their preferred method were financial: they could not afford it (36%) and their insurance would not cover it (23%).

Figure 2. Current Contraceptive Method of Women Using Contraception Other than Sterilization by Source of Payment (N=224)

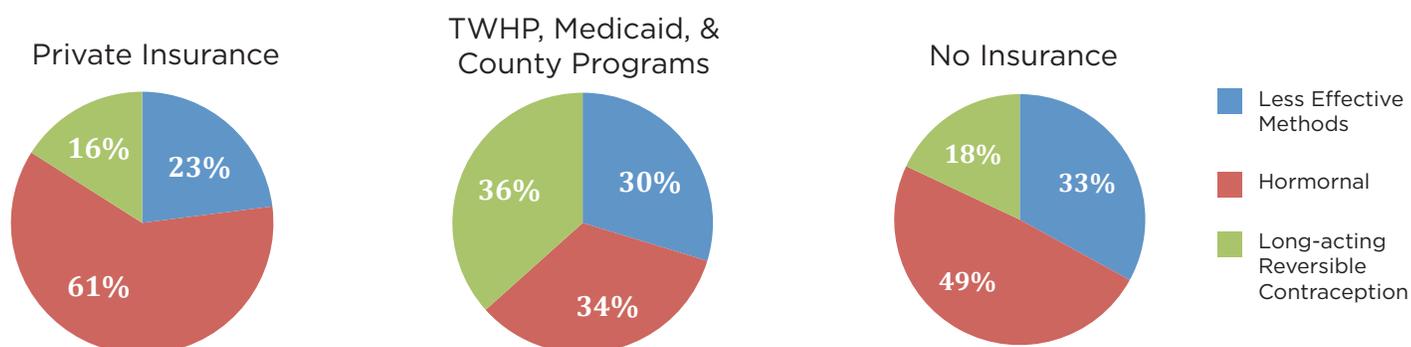
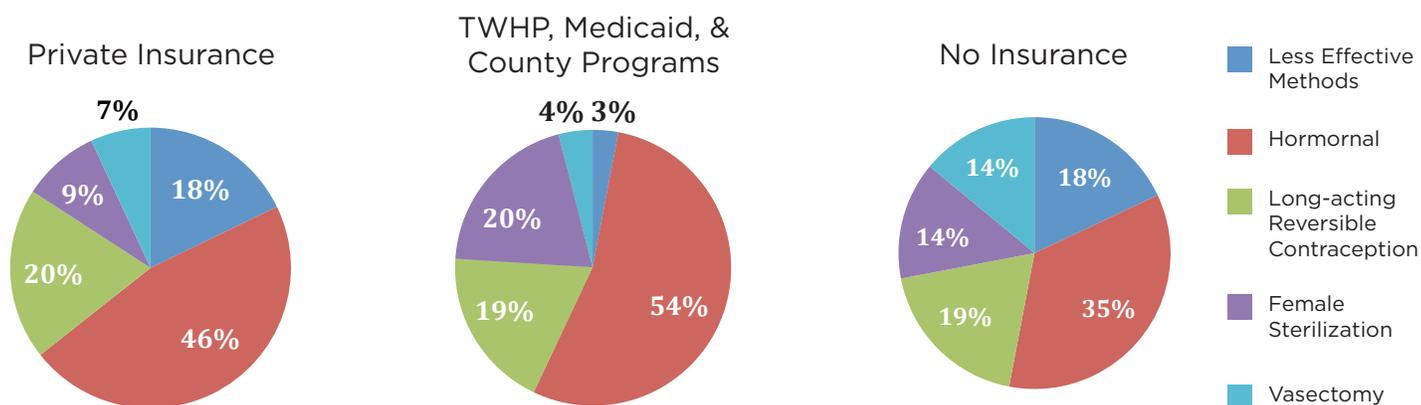


Figure 3. Preferred Contraceptive Method of Women Currently Using Contraception Other than Sterilization by Source of Payment (N=224)



Note: Less effective methods refer to withdrawal, condoms, calendar or rhythm method, spermicide; Long-acting reversible contraception refers to intrauterine device (IUD) and implant

METHODS

Data for this report are from a study commissioned by TxPEP and conducted by GfK using its KnowledgePanel. KnowledgePanel is a nationally representative, probability-based online non-volunteer access panel. GfK sampled households in the KnowledgePanel and then invited 1,397 non-institutionalized Texas-resident women between the ages of 18 and 49 to participate in the survey; 779 women completed it. Data collection took place over 5 weeks from December 2014 to January 2015.

Table 1 shows the socioeconomic characteristics of the women who completed the survey.

CONCLUSIONS

Texas women face barriers to accessing effective contraceptive methods and report desire to use more effective methods. In particular, poor, Spanish-speaking women with low educational attainment report the most barriers to effective contraception use and being unable to use their contraceptive method of choice.

Our findings suggest that use of more effective contraceptive methods (LARC, female and male sterilization) would increase if all methods were available at no out-of-pocket cost.

Table 1. Survey Respondents' Characteristics*

Age	%
18-29	37
30-44	47
45-49	16
Race/ethnicity	%
White, Non-Hispanic	36
Black, Non-Hispanic	13
Other, Non-Hispanic	7
Hispanic	44
Employment status	%
Employed or self-employed	56
Unemployed or not in labor force	44
Marital status	%
Married	50
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	10
Never married-not living with partner	28
Living with partner	12
Parity	%
0	38
1	18
2 or more	44
Country of education	%
US	84
Mexico	12
Other country	3
Education	%
Less than high school	13
High school	27
Some college	34
Bachelor's degree or higher	26
Nativity of Hispanic women	%
US-born	54
Foreign-born	46
Language proficiency	%
English dominant	10
Bilingual	19
Spanish dominant	15
Non-Hispanic	56
Family planning payment source	%
Private insurance	64
TWHP, Medicaid, or County program	13
Out of pocket (with and without discounts)	23

* Weighted Percentages



TxPEP is a five-year comprehensive effort to document and analyze the impact of the measures affecting reproductive health passed by the 82nd and 83rd Texas Legislatures. The project team includes researchers at The University of Texas Population Research Center, Ibis Reproductive Health, and the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/txpep>