COVID-19 Impact on Contraceptive & Clinic Services at Health Departments and Federally Qualified Health Centers in South Carolina

March-June 2020
Data from 132 responding clinics

Percent of Clinics Reporting Changes in Contraceptive Care Patient Volume

- Increased: 2%
- Remained the same: 33%
- Decreased: 64%

Among the clinics that saw decreased contraceptive care patient volume, the average decrease in contraceptive care patient volume was 62%.

“We see decreased numbers of patients coming, and so we have decreased opportunities to discuss contraceptive care with patients.”

Percent of Clinics Reporting Changes in Contraceptive Supply Shortages

- No contraceptive supply shortages: 69%
- Implants: 16%
  - “No, that didn’t seem to be a shortage. We haven’t had a problem at all.”
- Intrauterine devices (IUDs): 15%
  - “All across the world had the shortage of masks and gowns and other PPE but we made it work.”
- Oral Contraceptives: 13%
- Depo shots: 13%
- Male condoms: 12%
- Emergency Contraception: 7%
- Vaginal rings: 6%
- Patches: 6%

Percent of Clinics Reporting Continued Provision of Services

- STI testing and/or treatment: 93%
- Oral contraceptives: 93%
- Contraceptive counseling: 92%
- Depo shot provision: 92%
- Provision of male condoms: 87%
- Provision of patch and/or ring: 80%
- Cervical cancer screening: 71%
- Implant procedures: 58%
- IUD procedures: 57%

“When this pandemic was first brought to us, there were some thoughts about whether we would want to do such an invasive procedure as put an IUD in, because the virus was so new to everybody. But after a month or two into it, those thoughts went away from the providers and we started doing what we had to do.”

Percent of Clinics Reporting Changes in Staffing Capacity

- Increased: 2%
- Remained the same: 43%
- Decreased: 55%

“It was a big impact on everybody since a lot of the administration staff, counselors, and social workers had to be furloughed as well. So those services were reduced and that support from the admin team was also reduced.”

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### Percent of Clinics Reporting Changes in Overall Patient Volume

Among the clinics that saw decreased contraceptive care patient volume, the average decrease in overall patient volume was 57%.

- Increased: 5%
- Remained the same: 20%
- Decreased: 75%

"It's been a decreased volume of patient appointments and patient compliance with their appointments."

### Percent of Clinics Reporting Medical Supply Shortages

- Face masks: 57%
- Sanitary Supplies: 53%
- Gloves: 40%
- COVID test kits: 31%
- No shortages: 23%
- Sterile cotton swabs: 12%
- Lab testing supplies for STI testing: 9%
- Lab testing supplies for preventative care: 8%

"...we have not been able to get in certain supplies that we had in the past in terms of personal protective equipment and some of the basic clinical supplies."

### Percent of Clinics Reporting Changes in Overall Patient Volume

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>March-June 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not offer telehealth</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary health care services</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental and/or behavioral services</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraceptive care</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric services</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-child visits</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal services</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Contraceptive care does not include medical abortions, as no clinics reported providing this service.

"We were planning to go into [telehealth] at a later date, but when the pandemic hit we ramped up and got all our providers doing telehealth which worked out really well."

"We’re doing everything by telehealth except for dental. But primary care, mental health counselors, and contraceptive care [were available via telehealth]. We actually have started to implement some guidelines for a Well Woman [visit] to be done via telehealth, and then you bring the patient in later for the physical exam part."

Thank you to those clinics that participated in the 2020 health center survey!

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