

The Impact of Contraception on Outcomes: Childbearing and Women's Economic Status

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Strengthening Women's Health Access - Medicaid and Family Planning*

ECONOMIC APPROACHES

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Empirical Research: obsession with estimating *causal* effects

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Methods focus on trying to identify a counterfactual. What would have happened if circumstances had been different?

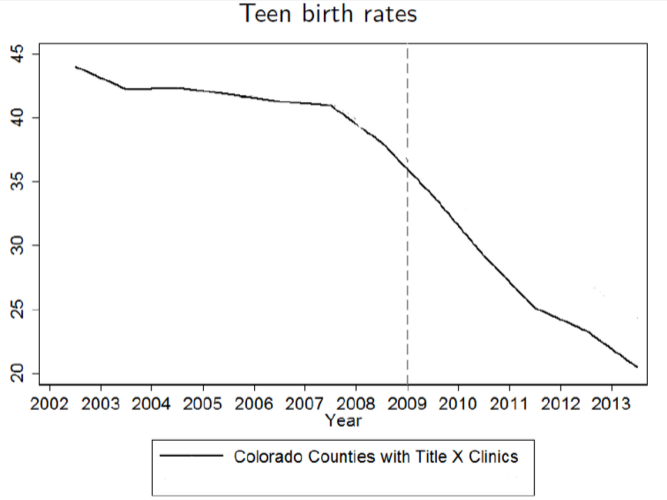
EXAMPLE: COLORADO FAMILY PLANNING INITIATIVE

\$23 million program aimed at expanding access to LARCs through Title X clinics beginning in 2009-2015

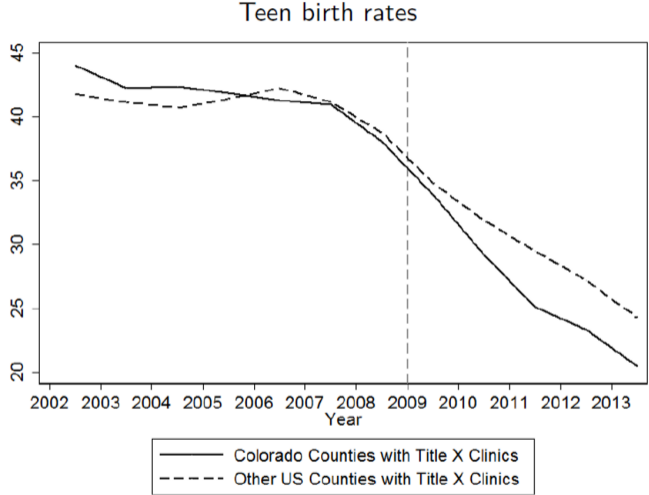
Funds used for:

- purchasing IUDs and implants
- training for LARC counseling, insertion, and removal
- technical assistance for coding and billing and other general assistance

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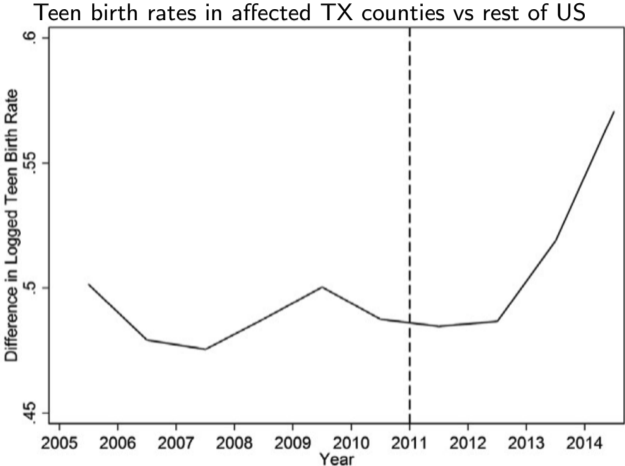
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This comparison indicates the CFPI reduced teen birth rates 6.4%

Source: Lindo and Packham (2017)

EVIDENCE FROM TEXAS CUTTING FAMILY PLANNING FUNDING BY TWO-THIRDS



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Also caused significant increases in births to older women (Lu and Slusky 2016)

Similar evidence from the initial rollout of federally funded family planning programs during the 1960s and 1970s (Bailey 2012)

OTHER STUDIES OF IMPACTS ON CHILDBEARING

A huge body of evidence demonstrating that policies altering access to family planning affect the timing of childbearing and completed fertility

In the interest of time, I'm going to move on to talk about effects on other outcomes

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Having a child is costly because it requires substantial monetary expenditures *and* because childcare responsibilities mean less time for school, work, etc.

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Several studies examining impacts of 1960s and 1970s policies that improved women's ability to regulate their childbearing

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Slight differences in timing

EFFECTS ON EDUCATION

Early legal access to contraception is associated with increases in education, especially for women from disadvantaged backgrounds

- An additional 1/2 year on average for women from the bottom third of a socioeconomic status index (Bailey et al 2012)
- Also credited with increasing the enrollment of women in professional schools (Goldin and Katz 2002)

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- increases the GED completion by 5 percentage points
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- 7% less likely to graduate high school
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EFFECTS ON LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION (LFP)

Early legal access to contraception is associated with an 8% increase in women's LFP between ages 26 to 30 (Bailey 2006)

Avoiding childbearing before age 18 increases subsequent LFP by 5 percentage points (Ashcraft et al 2013)

Unplanned births reduce LFP by 4 percentage points (Cáceres-Delpiano 2006)

EFFECTS ON INCOME/WAGES

Early legal access to contraception is associated with an 8% higher hourly wages during women's late forties (Bailey et al 2012)

- 2/3 explained by labor force experience
- 1/3 explained by education and occupational choice

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Unplanned births reduce income, increase poverty, and increase welfare dependency (Cáceres-Delpiano and Simonsen 2012)

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Unplanned births increase the likelihood of divorce and have negative impacts on the IQ of previously born children (Cáceres-Delpiano and Simonsen 2012, Black et al 2010)

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Being denied an abortion due to a providers gestational age cutoff increases financial distress for at least five years (Miller et al. 2021)

THE BOTTOM LINE

Pregnancy and childbearing have significant effects on educational and economic outcomes

There is strong evidence that these outcomes are affected by policies altering women's ability to control childbearing