

# CONTRACEPTION IN JAIL

House Bill 275 allows women to continue their previously prescribed contraceptive medications while incarcerated. Incarceration puts women at increased risk for unintended pregnancy.<sup>1,2</sup> Continuity of contraceptive prescriptive medications for women, while incarcerated in Utah jails, will likely decrease rates of unintended pregnancy and is cost effective for publicly funded health systems.

## WOMEN IN A UTAH JAIL<sup>1</sup>

- Majority are of reproductive age (18-49).
- High recidivism with an average of 7 jail stays.
- 87% had been pregnant.
  - 1 in 3 had been pregnant while incarcerated.
  - 24% had at least one abortion.
  - 24% had placed a child in adoptive care.
  - 55% had custody of a minor child.
  - 88% used illicit drugs in prior 12 months.
  - 52% were uninsured.
  - 59% had a history of forced sex in their lifetime.
  - 37% had a history of transactional sex.
- 18% of women in a Utah jail used a short-acting hormonal method of contraception in the year before arrest.



- Approximately 1,100 women are housed in Utah jails on any given day.<sup>3</sup>
- An estimated 18% (198 women) had a prescription for OCPs or Depo.<sup>1</sup>
- Price of each pill is approximately \$1.33.
- Contraceptive continuation costs \$3.99 for a woman in jail for 72 hours
- Pill packs range from \$5-\$40 depending on purchasing prices.

The 2010 public costs for unintended pregnancies in Utah was between \$100-\$400 million.<sup>5</sup>

**FAMILY PLANNING HAS A RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF \$7.09 FOR EVERY PUBLIC DOLLAR SPENT.<sup>4</sup>**

## EVENTS AVERTED<sup>6</sup>

- **Providing contraception to 2500 women would prevent:**
  - 540 unintended pregnancies
  - 250 unplanned births
  - 180 abortions
  - 100 miscarriages
  - 70 unplanned births after short interpregnancy intervals
  - 30 unplanned preterm low-birth-weight births

**\$2,706,180** maternal, pregnancy, and birth-related gross costs saved.

**\$232,810** total family planning costs.

**\$2,473,370** total net savings.



## REFERENCES

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3. Minton, T. D. (2015). Census of jails: Population changes, 1999–2013 (NCJ 248627). Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cjpc9913.pdf>
4. Frost, J. J., Sonfield, A., Zolna, M. R., & Finer, L. B. (2014). Return on investment: a fuller assessment of the benefits and cost savings of the US publicly funded family planning program. *The Milbank Quarterly*, 92(4), 696-749.
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6. Health Benefits and Cost Savings of Publicly Funded Family Planning, Guttmacher Data Center. <https://data.guttmacher.org/calculator>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

7. National Commission on Correctional Health Care. (2014). Women's health care in correctional settings. Retrieved from <http://www.ncchc.org/women%E2%80%99s-health-care>
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