

Observing the Implementation of Pharmacist-prescribed Hormonal Contraception in Rural and Underserved Populations in the United States

Daniela Perez Nuñez, Ana Lucia Huertas, Dr. Jaime Myers – Monmouth University, NJ

Significance

These laws allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control to patients without a prescription from a primary care provider. The goal is to make hormonal contraception more accessible.

- Avoid missing work
- Reducing wait time to see a provider (often months)
- Less costs for the uninsured

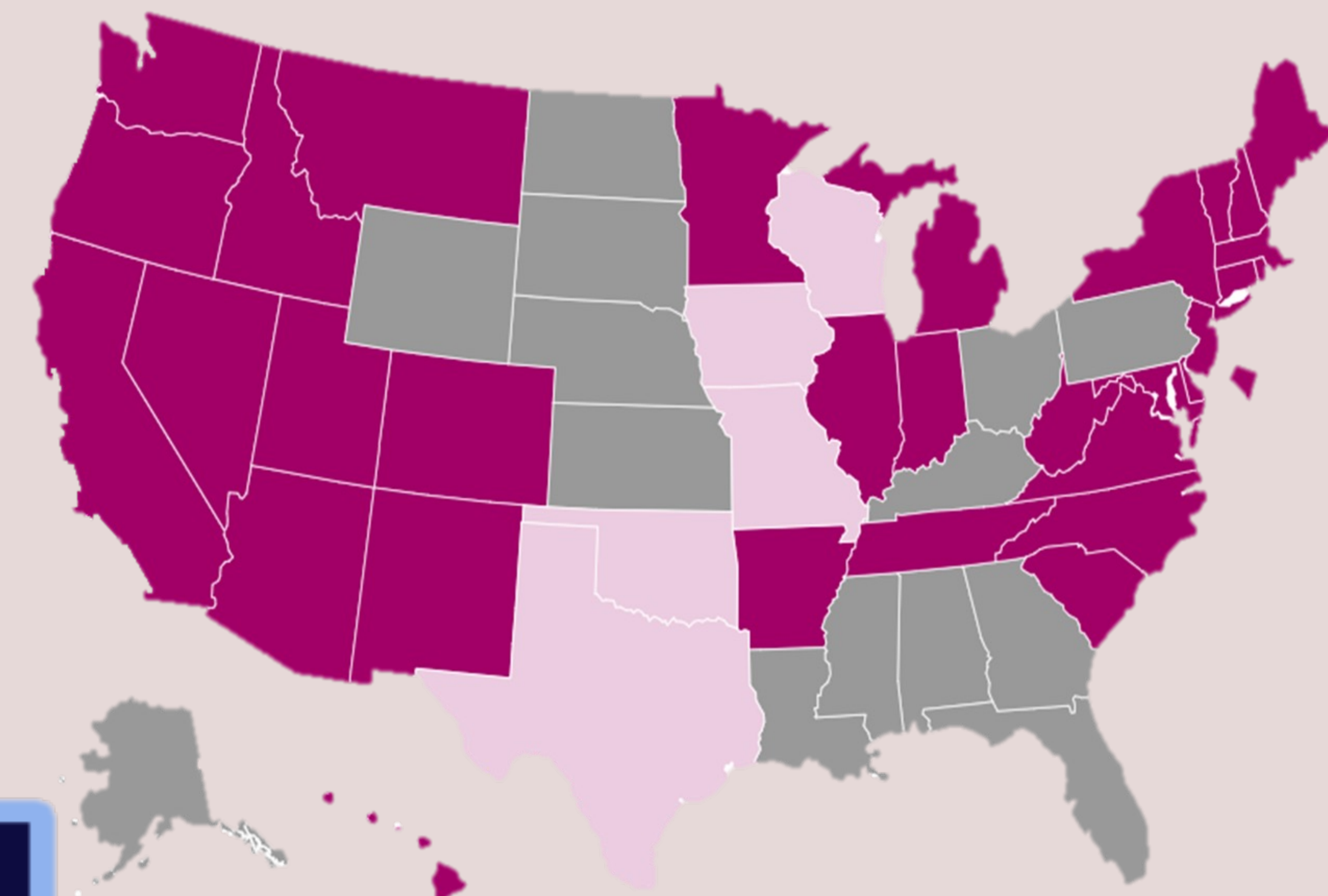
Common birth control methods such as: pills, rings, and patches .

The purpose of this study is to observe whether there are positive changes, such as an increase in accessibility, for women in low-income or rural areas in the U.S. according to the published literature.



27 states out of the 50 allow pharmacist to prescribe birth control

As of 2023:
States that passed the law
Still in process of the law
Has not implemented the law



<https://powertodecide.org/>

Background on these Laws

Legislation was initially passed in California in 2013. States have different requirements, but most require:

- Age – if you're < or > 18 years of age
- Pharmacist training
- Health screening questionnaire for patients

Findings

- Even though laws were passed in many states to allow pharmacists to provide birth control, not all states follow through implementing the legislation.
- Rural areas have very little to no access to pharmacies which reduces access for women in these areas.
- Pharmacists in rural areas are just as likely to prescribe birth control as their urban counterparts.
- We found literature based on seven states: Hawai'i, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, California, Indiana, and New Mexico.

Methods

Search keywords for reviewing literature: "Pharmacist" AND "Hormonal Contraception"

Observe trends in rural areas and underserved populations such as low-income communities.

Opportunities for Growth

- Increasing access to pharmacies for women in rural areas.
- Increasing opportunities for research regarding the effects of these laws.
- Improve marketing/knowledge of these laws.

Please direct all feedback to: Daniela Perez (s1344291) or Ana Huertas (s1298299)

