## Alabama Department of Public Health

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has been a Title X grant recipient since the 1980s. ADPH offers Title X services through a mix of subrecipients and service sites across the state. Service sites are city and county health departments.<sup>1</sup>

### Stats at a Glance<sup>2</sup>

- Number of family planning (FP) encounters 96,391
- FP users with incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) 29,217 (62%); all FP users with incomes below 250% of FPL 43,541 (93%)
- Number of tests performed for gonorrhea 45,862, syphilis 34,018, and HIV 33,691
- Number of female users who received a chlamydia test 44,199 or a Pap test 18,018



Clinic locations

Pop. per sq. mi.

Less than 30 30 - 89

90 or more

### Overview of Services Offered

As a Title X recipient, ADPH provides a broad range of FP services including pregnancy prevention and birth spacing, pregnancy testing and counseling, assistance to achieve pregnancy, basic infertility services, sexually transmitted infection (STI) services, and other preconception health services. The services are voluntary, confidential, and provided regardless of ability to pay.<sup>3</sup> The infographic below provides an Overview of Services Offered within the ADPH network. The data shown below are not specific to any particular site but rather representative of the broader grantee network. For information on services available at individual service sites, please refer to the OPA clinic locator.



# Pregnancy assistance and counseling

- Counseling on achieving pregnancy
- Preconception health services
- Pregnancy testing and counseling
- Basic infertility services



### **Contraceptive services**

- FDA approved longacting contraceptives
- FDA approved shortacting contraceptives
- Natural family planning methods



#### **STI services**

- STI and HIV education and counseling
- STI and HIV screening and testing
- STI and HIV treatment
- STI self-testing
- Expedited partner therapy
- PrEP counseling and risk assessment
- PrEP prescription services
- PEP counseling
- PEP prescription services



## Other preventative health services

- Screening for breast cancer
- Screening for cervical cancer
- HPV vaccinations
- Screening for intimate partner violence
- Screening for mental health
- Screening for obesity
- Screening for smoking, drug, and alcohol use
- Adolescent-friendly health services

#### **LEGEND**

- Available at all service sites
- Available at service sites and through referrals
- Available through referral only
- <sup>1</sup> Source: Data collected by Mathematica in 2023 for the Title X Implementation Study.
- <sup>2</sup> Source: Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR): 2022 National Summary.
- <sup>3</sup> See the <u>Title X Service Grants web page</u> for more information on the requirements and regulations guiding Title X projects.

### **Equity in Practice**



The grantee has several strategies in place to encourage more adolescents to use sexual and reproductive health services. For example, teens in Alabama can schedule family planning appointments with short notice, receive Title X services after school hours, and access confidential family planning services without parental consent. The grantee also uses targeted social media marketing to reach teens living in different areas across the state. For example, the grantee has used place-based social media marketing (near local malls or shopping centers they frequent) to advertise Title X services to youth between the ages of 16 and 21.

#### Innovations in Practice



In response to provider shortages in rural areas of the state, the grantee coordinated a training and certification program for nurse practitioners to place intrauterine devices (IUDs) and provide colposcopy exams without the need for clinician oversight. Through this certification, senior nurse practitioners, who have worked at the agency for several years, work with medical directors to train junior nurse practitioners on inserting IUDs. These opportunities for training have created incentives for nurse practitioners to build their careers with ADPH. This certification process has helped combat staffing limitations and expanded access to colposcopy and IUD services across the state.

### Did You Know?



The grantee has partnered with a test administrator to offer at-home STI and HIV self-test kits at all clinic locations. Clients can request the self-test kits through an online portal, and the kits can test for chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV. To ship the kit to a centralized lab location, clients return the self-collected specimen using a pre-paid mailing slip. Clients can access their results via an online client portal that is linked with the grantee's FPAR database. The grantee and the test administrator work together to follow up with and provide needed referrals for each client who has a reactive result for syphilis, HIV, chlamydia, or gonorrhea.



The grantee monitors subrecipient data and service delivery through regular chart audits and quarterly calls. During the quarterly calls, the grantee reviews data and chart audit results with subrecipients to discuss trends, troubleshoot challenges, and identify areas for improvement. These data typically inform focus areas for outreach or innovation for the upcoming year. For example, reviewing data across the state allowed ADPH to understand the need for additional colposcopy services in rural areas and employ a staff training strategy that addresses that need. ADPH also identified areas with high incidence of the human papillomavirus (HPV) and launched an outreach campaign to increase awareness of the HPV vaccine in those areas.



ADPH and community partners are working together to reduce STI rates and increase vaccination rates. For example, ADPH collaborates with the University of Alabama at Birmingham on several initiatives, including the Community Health Advisor (CHA) initiative. The CHA initiative focuses on placing trained community health associates and clinical social workers in regions with both high levels of income insecurity and high incidences of cervical cancer to offer family planning outreach, education, and case management. This CHA partnership will also launch a campaign focused on increasing the rates of HPV vaccination across the state.

## About the Title X Program

The Title X Family Planning Program, created in 1970 and authorized under Title X of the Public Health Service Act, is administered by the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, please refer to OPA's website.

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Website: https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/familyplanning

