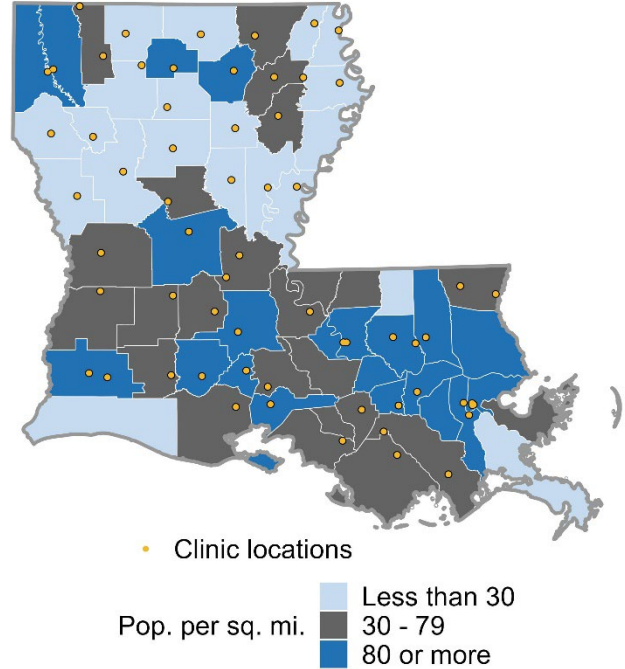


Louisiana Department of Health

The Louisiana Department of Health is a state agency that has been a Title X grantee since the 1970s. Its Reproductive Health Program (RHP) serves approximately 30,000 clients per year through a network of Parish Health Unit (PHU) direct service sites and community health centers operated by subrecipient agencies.¹

Stats at a Glance²

- ▶ Number of family planning (FP) encounters – 40,982
- ▶ FP users with incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – 22,113 (80%); all FP users with incomes below 250% of FPL – 26,443 (96%)
- ▶ Number of tests performed for gonorrhea – 26,496, syphilis – 24,271, and HIV – 23,782
- ▶ Number of female users who received a chlamydia test – 16,187 or a Pap test – 3,475



Overview of Services Offered

As a Title X recipient, RHP 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.³ The infographic below is an Overview of Services Offered within the RHP network. The data shown below are not specific to any particular site but rather are 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	Contraceptive services	STI services	Other preventative health services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Counseling on achieving pregnancy ● Preconception health services ● Pregnancy testing and counseling ● Basic infertility services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◐ FDA approved long-acting contraceptives ● FDA approved short-acting contraceptives ● Natural family planning methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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
<p>LEGEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Available at all service sites ◐ Available at service sites and through referrals ○ Available through referral only or not available 			

¹ Source: Data collected by Mathematica in 2023 for the Title X Implementation Study.

² Source: Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR): [2022 National Summary](#).

³ See the [Title X Service Grants web page](#) for more information on the requirements and regulations guiding Title X projects.

Equity in Practice



In response to the COVID emergency, RHP rapidly implemented a telehealth system to continue to meet the needs of Louisiana's Title X clients. At the time, RHP's direct service sites were closed, and public health staff were reassigned to pandemic-related care. To help clients access care, Title X staff proactively reached out to clients to schedule telehealth appointments, and clinical social workers helped clients who were unfamiliar or uncomfortable with telehealth. To monitor the impacts of this work and assess how telehealth was affecting equity and access to quality services, staff generated weekly reports comparing the demographics of clients served through telehealth to overall client demographics before the pandemic. They found that, although overall client numbers decreased during this time, the demographic makeup of the population they were serving remained the same, indicating that telehealth was not resulting in disproportionate reductions in care for any groups of clients.

For RHP, telehealth has proved beneficial, especially for increasing access to care for clients in rural areas where there is no public transportation. The RHP team remains focused on using data to improve their services. For example, to understand and reduce barriers to telehealth, they are exploring the reasons for reduced demand for telehealth care after the public health emergency ended.

Innovations in Practice



The grantee manages an STI Nurse Certification Program designed to address a critical gap caused by lack of medical personnel to meet the need for STI services statewide. In 2011, following successful petitioning by the Louisiana Department of Health chief nurse and statewide nurse consultants, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing approved an expanded scope of practice for registered nurses (RNs) who complete the STI Nurse Intensive Course administered by RPH. Grantee staff oversee the administration of the course, credentialing, and certification in accordance with the State Board of Nursing regulations. The STI-certified RNs perform Title X family planning visits incorporating STI assessment, screening, and treatment. By increasing the number of RNs able to provide these services, the program improves access to STI care in Louisiana.

Did You Know?



RHP is committed to providing client-centered care. Service sites use an algorithm derived from the Quality Family Planning standards to ensure providers complete a comprehensive assessment of clients' FP needs, and that clients are offered the full range of services in line with their needs and desires. To further support client-centered care and promote health equity, RHP is developing a training program to roll out to all Title X providers in the network. The training focuses on developing cultural humility, addressing implicit bias, and combatting coercive practices.



The Title X team uses data to support quality improvement (QI) for subrecipients and service sites. In addition to helping subrecipients and each of the nine public health regions track measures related to their individual QI plans, RHP facilitates a quarterly call with representatives from the nine public health regions across Louisiana to discuss the data and share on-the-ground perspectives. These calls allow service site staff to share what is working in their regions and what barriers they face, and to exchange strategies related to QI; they have been an effective way to engage staff in data-driven discussions and to provide peer learning opportunities.



In addition to providing reproductive health services through RHP's PHU service sites, the Title X program supports subrecipient community health centers through the Reproductive Health Integration Initiative. The initiative helps build the capacity of community health centers to deliver high quality FP services with the goal of sustaining these gains and increasing access to high-quality reproductive health services statewide. For example, RHP helps RHII subrecipients integrate routine screening for pregnancy intention and need for contraception and STI services into primary care visits, and helps community health centers overcome logistical and cost barriers to stocking long-acting reversible contraceptive methods. These changes lead to more FP conversations in community health settings and increased availability of same-day LARC services for clients.

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](#).

Grant number: FPHPA006523

Website: <https://ldh.la.gov/page/ReproductiveHealthProgram>