

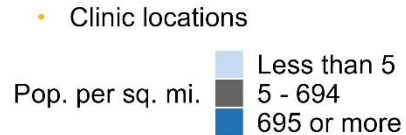
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is a U.S. territory comprising 14 islands in Oceania. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a state agency that provides healthcare and public health services throughout CNMI. The CNMI Family Planning (FP) Program serves about 1,200 clients per year at a hospital-based clinic, health centers, and a mobile unit on CNMI's three populated islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.¹



Stats at a Glance²

- ▶ Number of family planning (FP) encounters – 1,886
- ▶ FP users with incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – 368 (31%); all FP users with incomes below 250% of FPL – 372 (32%)
- ▶ Number of tests performed for gonorrhea – 299, syphilis – 32, and HIV – 27
- ▶ Number of female users who received a chlamydia test – 188 or a Pap test – 26



Overview of Services Offered

As a Title X recipient, CHCC 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 CHCC 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

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

Contraceptive services

- FDA approved long-acting contraceptives
- FDA approved short-acting 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 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



CHCC has streamlined services to make FP care more accessible to all clients. For example, its Saipan site, a hospital-based women's health clinic, shares a building with the obstetrics ward, adolescent and adult outpatient care, and laboratory services. This allows for quick referrals between FP and other health services and reduces the number of appointments and the amount of travel clients need to meet their health care needs. To make it even easier to access care, the clinic accepts walk-in appointments during regular business hours.

To better meet the needs of adolescents and men, the FP program now offers Saturday clinics at its Saipan site. Reduced client traffic on Saturdays provides a more discreet and confidential environment for adolescents and men, who may worry about stigma around seeking reproductive health services, and Saturday clinics make services accessible for people who attend school or work during the week. Also, because the women's health clinic is not open on weekends, Saturday clinics provide a space for men to seek FP services without the association with women's health.

Innovations in Practice



CHCC introduced a mobile clinic to expand outreach and access to preventive health services on Saipan. The mobile clinic operates as a separate entity under CHCC but is used by various public health programs. On days when the mobile clinic conducts outreach to promote women's health screening, the FP program coordinates to send an FP provider with the mobile clinic team. This brings FP services closer to where people live and work and helps clients overcome transportation barriers.

Did You Know?



CHCC public health programs work together to help residents overcome barriers to obtaining FP and other preventive health services. Programs work together to reduce transportation barriers through the mobile clinic and by providing vouchers for transportation to medical appointments. The FP program also connects FP clients with Medicaid application assistance provided by another CHCC program. CHCC staff give out information about FP services during outreach events. They also provide screenings related to a wide variety of other health needs. With this collaborative approach, CHCC strives to provide comprehensive services for its clients.



The grantee has leveraged partnerships and digital tools to ensure the provision of client-centered contraceptive counseling. The FP program partnered with the University of California to provide client-centered contraceptive counseling training to CHCC providers. More recently, the Reproductive Health National Training Center visited CNMI to provide additional training on client-centered counseling to CHCC providers and staff. In addition, the grantee has integrated questions on pregnancy intentions into its new electronic health records system to encourage conversation about clients' need and desire for FP, preventive care, and referrals to appropriate health care services.



Strong partnerships with public schools help the grantee reach adolescents with information and services. CHCC has partnered with the public school system's Personal Responsibility Education Program, enabling the FP program to provide contraceptive counseling, preventive health services, and STI and HIV testing on high school campuses and to implement a sexual health curriculum in middle, junior, and high schools. Although the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted on-campus outreach and education, the FP program used virtual education sessions to reach adolescents. The program has since returned to schools, offering teenagers health screenings and information about FP services. Increasingly, schools have viewed FP services more favorably because of their positive relationship with CHCC throughout the pandemic.

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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