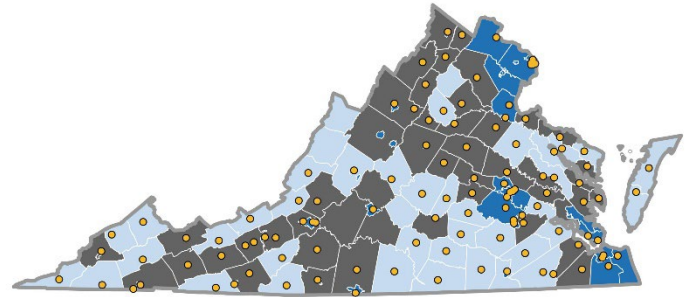


# Virginia Department of Health

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has received Title X funding since the early 1970s. VDH delivers services to more than 20,000 clients annually through their subrecipients and more than 100 service sites. These include more than 20 local health districts and several federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in VA across most areas of the Commonwealth of Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

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

- ▶ Number of family planning (FP) encounters – 36,832
- ▶ FP users with incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – 13,934 (63%); all FP users with incomes below 250% of FPL – 19,839 (90%)
- ▶ Number of tests performed for gonorrhea – 15,861, syphilis – 6,949, and HIV – 7,928
- ▶ Number of female users who received a chlamydia test – 11,466 or a Pap test – 8,872







• Clinic locations

Pop. per sq. mi.  Less than 60  
 60 - 499  
 500 or more

## Overview of Services Offered

As a Title X recipient, VDH 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 is an Overview of Services Offered within the VDH 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"> <li>● Counseling on achieving pregnancy</li> <li>◐ Preconception health services</li> <li>● Pregnancy testing and counseling</li> <li>○ Basic infertility services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◐ FDA approved long-acting contraceptives</li> <li>● FDA approved short-acting contraceptives</li> <li>● Natural family planning methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● STI and HIV education and counseling</li> <li>● STI and HIV screening and testing</li> <li>● STI and HIV treatment</li> <li>◐ STI self-testing</li> <li>◐ Expedited partner therapy</li> <li>◐ PrEP counseling and risk assessment</li> <li>◐ PrEP prescription services</li> <li>◐ PEP counseling</li> <li>◐ PEP prescription services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Screening for breast cancer</li> <li>● Screening for cervical cancer</li> <li>◐ HPV vaccinations</li> <li>● Screening for intimate partner violence</li> <li>◐ Screening for mental health</li> <li>● Screening for obesity</li> <li>● Screening for smoking, drug, and alcohol use</li> <li>◐ Adolescent-friendly health services</li> </ul>
<p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Available at all service sites</li> <li>◐ Available at service sites and through referrals</li> <li>○ Available through referral only</li> </ul>			

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

## Equity in Practice



To enhance adolescent services, VDH created a youth advisory council to inform and improve their services for adolescents. The council is a VDH initiative funded through Title V, the Maternal and Child Block Grant, to get adolescents more involved in decisions about their community's well-being. High school students form the council and meet virtually every month. The council is led by advisors who are young adults and paid part-time employees of VDH. Council members give feedback on current initiatives at VDH and have helped VDH become more mindful in its clinical practices for Title X services. For example, youth advisors highlighted the importance of mental health as a priority when working with adolescents. Many adolescents have discussed feelings of anxiety and isolation, VDH aims to use this information to create a less stressful clinic experience for adolescent clients. VDH also has a Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP), that connects adolescents to critical psychiatric care.

## Innovations in Practice



VDH is developing a family planning quality improvement committee. It will be made up of clinical, programmatic, and epidemiological staff who will evaluate family planning data critically and suggest improvements based on the data. VDH aims to use this initiative to help clinic staff strengthen their research capacity and better understand and use their program's data to initiate targeted and tailored improvement projects. The committee is expected to launch in 2023.

## Did You Know?



To address language barriers for clients who do not speak English, VDH encourages service sites to hire trained interpreters who work in person with the client. VDH has implemented statewide training on why using medical interpreters is important because it alleviates burden on bilingual staff and builds trust, and is a more reliable and equitable solution than using bilingual staff or clients' relatives for interpretation. Using trained medical interpreters also helps staff avoid having to manage power dynamics between the client and their child or other relative, and avoid challenges to client privacy.



The grantee is working to convert its current documentation system to an electronic health records system in the next three years. Although it will take time and substantial training for staff to become comfortable with this, it is an important step for improving efficiency and quality in the future.



VDH has partnered with research hospitals to participate in and rely on the hospitals' comprehensive needs assessments across the state. The grantee has found it helpful to have needs assessments and data analyses done by external research partners, in addition to the data VDH gathers through state systems. For example, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association conducts statewide community-based assessments, which VDH uses to plan and identify specific program priorities.

## 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: FPHPA006528

Website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/family-planning/>