

November 11, 2014

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Dear Working Group Member,

Below are several updates related to the working group, including a resolution by the American Academy of Family Physicians endorsing OCs OTC, and a report back on our October working group meeting. We also include several links to coverage of the midterm election buzz around OCs OTC. As part of this, [ABC News](#) reported on an Associated Press-GfK poll (conducted Oct. 16-20 with 1,608 adults using KnowledgePanel, GfK's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US population), which found that 50% of likely voters are in favor of allowing the sale of oral contraceptives over the counter, including 60% of Democrats and 42% of Republicans. We also include the abstract for a new study on US women's opinions on an age restriction for a future OTC OC. Finally, we provide details about an upcoming webinar hosted by the Communications, Opinion, and Messaging Strategy Project (COMS Project) on November 13 focusing on youth and the ACA preventive care benefits.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan", is positioned below the text "Thanks,".

Daniel Grossman, MD
Vice President for Research, Ibis Reproductive Health

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) endorses OCs OTC

The AAFP recently adopted a resolution supporting over-the-counter access to oral contraception without a prescription. Under the Affordable Care Act, private insurance must

cover all contraceptive methods approved by the FDA, including OTC methods; however, a prescription may be required for coverage. The AAFP also supports insurance coverage of oral contraceptives regardless of prescription status in all insurance plans.

Learn more [here](#).

OCs OTC Working Group Meeting on 10/21

On October 21, we held our annual OCs OTC Working Group meeting. This year's meeting took place in Washington, DC, with over 60 attendees. We had great discussion on topics ranging from cost and insurance coverage of a future OTC OC, to OCs OTC in the midterm elections, international implications of an OTC switch, communicating key messages about OCs OTC, and other strategies to improve access to hormonal contraception. If you would like more information about the meeting, please let [Ella](#) know.

OCs OTC in the midterm elections

Moving the pill OTC was a theme in a number of midterm races this year, bringing more national attention to the issue.

Here is some recent coverage on the issue:

[Despite campaign talk, contraception plan not on GOP agenda](#), *Washington Times*

[The good news for Democrats in Colorado](#), *New Yorker*

[Poll: Economy, health care eclipse social issues](#), *ABC News*

[The Democrats are running on empty](#), *Spiked*

Webinar on youth and the ACA preventive care benefits

Join the Communications, Opinion, and Messaging Strategy Project (COMS Project) on **November 13 at 2:00pm EST** to learn about emerging messaging research to raise young people's awareness and encourage use of the ACA preventive care benefits. Though under the ACA most private insurance plans must cover recommended preventive services without cost sharing, awareness of these benefits among young people remains low. Advocates for Youth, the National Women's Health Network, SPARK: Reproductive Justice NOW!, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR), and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health have joined together to develop values-based messaging to engage young people on the ACA's preventive health benefits. The first step of this project is a large national survey of over 1,000 18 to 29 year olds.

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/ACAbenefitRSVP>

Featured article: Women's perspectives on age restrictions for over-the-counter access to oral contraceptives

Grindlay K, Grossman D. Women's perspectives on age restrictions for over-the-counter access to oral contraceptives. *J Adolesc Health* 2014; DOI:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2014.08.016>.

Abstract

Purpose: There is a growing movement for an over-the-counter (OTC) oral contraceptive (OC) in the United States. This study aimed to explore women's views regarding an age restriction for an OTC OC.

Methods: From November to December 2011, we administered a nationally representative survey of US women aged 18-44 years who were at risk of unintended pregnancy to explore their opinions of an age restriction for an OTC OC. A total of 2,046 women completed the survey. Weighted proportions were calculated, and logistic regression was used to identify covariates associated with supporting an age restriction. Chi-square tests of potential advantages and disadvantages of OTC access to OCs by support for an age restriction were also performed.

Results: Overall, 26% of respondents supported an age restriction for an OTC OC; 28% were against an age restriction, and 46% were unsure. In multivariable analysis controlling for overall support for OTC access to OCs and for other covariates, women were more likely to support an age restriction for an OTC OC if they had less than a high school degree (odds ratio [OR], 2.5), a high school degree (OR, 1.6), or some college (OR, 1.6) compared with a college degree; if they were married compared with never married (OR, 2.1); and if they lived in the Midwest (OR, 2.1) or South (OR, 2.1) compared with the West.

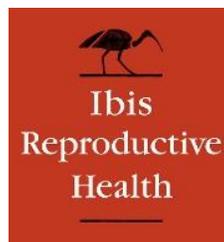
Conclusions: A minority of women support an age restriction. Women's concerns about a potential OTC OC should be addressed through education and ongoing research.

Please let [Ella](#) know if you would like a copy of the corrected proof (in press).

About us

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group is an informal coalition of reproductive health and rights organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups, university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share an interest in women's health and access to contraception. Our goal is to evaluate objectively the risks and benefits of demedicalizing contraceptive care, with an eye toward improving access to OCs and potentially other hormonal contraceptive methods by making them available without a prescription.

The working group is coordinated by Ibis Reproductive Health.



www.ibisreproductivehealth.org

Contact us

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