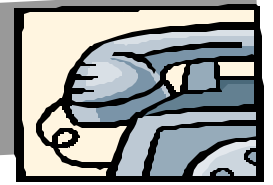


IT'S YOUR CHOICE!!



For more information about reproductive health services for teens and adults call the **CHOICE Hotline 215-985-3300** or **800-848-3367**

Reproductive Health Services for Teens

What are reproductive health services?

Reproductive health services can help you control when you begin to have children and how many children you will have throughout your life. These services can also help you maintain your health. Reproductive health services include:

- **Counseling**
- **Birth control**
- **Screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)**
- **Prenatal care and delivery services**
- **Abortion**
- **Screening and treatment for cancers of the reproductive organs (breasts, cervix, ovaries, uterus, or testicles)**

Why do teens need reproductive health services?

Over half of American teens begin sexual activity before they reach the age of eighteen. Every year, one in four sexually active teens is infected with a sexually transmitted infection. Almost one million teens become pregnant each year and 80% of these pregnancies are unplanned.

Sexually active teens need regular check-ups to stay healthy and to obtain birth control if they do not want to become pregnant. Pregnant teens need prenatal care or abortion services. Even teens who have not had sex need regular check-ups that may include reproductive health care. Reproductive health counseling can help a teen decide about sexual activity, learn about birth control, and remain healthy.

Where can I go for reproductive health services?

Many clinics, doctors offices, and hospitals offer reproductive health services to teens. Some schools have Health Resource Centers where teens can get services. For up-to-date information on where to go for services near you, call **the CHOICE Hotline at 215-985-3300 or 800-848-3367.**

How much do reproductive health services cost?

At many clinics, check-ups, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections are free for teens under eighteen years of age. If services are not free, you may be charged on a sliding fee scale, so how much you pay depends on how much money you earn. Call **CHOICE** for a free or low-cost clinic near you.

CHOICE
Educating the Community to Make Informed Decisions

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WOMEN'S WAY

Can I get reproductive health services without my parents knowing about it?

Even if you're under eighteen, you can receive birth control, pregnancy tests, and screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (including HIV) without your parents' knowledge or consent. Most clinics keep confidential records and will not give information to parents or anyone else without your permission. To be sure, ask whether your records will be kept confidential before going to a clinic or doctor for services.

What if I'm pregnant?

Pregnant teens have the right to make all decisions about their own health care, including prenatal care, delivery and health care for the child. The only time you have to inform your parents is if you want an abortion and you are under eighteen.

What about abortion?

In the state of Pennsylvania, teens need the permission of at least one parent to have an abortion. The parent must attend an information session about the abortion and give written consent at least 24 hours before the abortion is performed.

If you feel you can't tell a parent, a judge can give you permission instead through a process called **judicial bypass**. Judicial bypass is an informal meeting with a judge who will talk with you about the law and your decision to have an abortion. Based on this meeting, the judge will decide whether to allow the abortion. The meeting is private and confidential. It is a good idea to have a lawyer or a counselor help you with the process. **CHOICE** or the abortion clinic can refer you to a lawyer who will help with judicial bypass without charging you any money. The meeting with the judge takes only a short time. By law, the whole process has to be completed in three days. If you need any more information about judicial bypass or abortion, call the **CHOICE Hotline.**

Judicial bypass is usually the best option for teens who cannot tell a parent about their pregnancy. However, some teens decide to go to another state, like New York, where a parent's permission is not required.

For more information about this fact sheet, call 215-985-3300.