

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE FOR TEXAS FOSTER YOUTH

RIGHTS

of Texas foster youth



You can get birth control through Medicaid (STAR Health). If you are a teen on Medicaid, you can provide your own consent for birth control. You also have a right to not get on birth control if you don't want it.

You can get long-lasting methods like an IUD or implant. These methods are very effective and are good for teens and young adults. (You still need to use a condom to protect yourself from sexually transmitted infections).

You can consent to some other care as a minor, including treatment for most sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse counseling, prenatal care, and care for mental health crises.

You can stay on Medicaid until you are 26 if you aged out of foster care.

You have a right to feel safe. You can leave any relationship that makes you feel uncomfortable or scared.

About 9 out of 10 women who regularly have sex without birth control will get pregnant within a year.

If you are a teen thinking about having sex, it's usually best to talk to a guardian or trusted adult about your birth control options. However, teens in foster care who are on Medicaid have the right to provide their own medical consent to get birth control.

Title X (pronounced Title Ten) clinics are a good place for teens to go to get confidential family planning services. There are about 100 Title X clinics in Texas.

REPORTING

abuse and neglect



Medical professionals in Texas have a responsibility to screen for abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse. These laws are intended to keep you safe. They have to break confidentiality and report if:

- * They think you are being abused
- * You are a danger to yourself or others
- * You are 14 to 16 years old, and in a relationship with someone more than three years older than you, or someone of the same sex
- * You are 13 or younger and sexually active.

Most Effective

IUD or Implant
Lasts 3 - 10 years
99% effective



Effective

Birth control pill, patch, ring, shot
Requires frequent attention
91% - 94% effective



Less Effective

Barriers, spermicide, rhythm
Use every time
72% - 82% effective

