

PRESS RELEASE

New Analysis Quantifies the Benefits and Savings of Family Planning

About \$7 saved for every public dollar spent

New York, New York, October 14, 2014—We've known for a while that public investment in family planning pays off. But now a new study published in *The Milbank Quarterly* reveals just how cost effective it really is.

The paper, "Return on Investment: A Fuller Assessment of the Benefits and Cost Savings of the US Publicly Funded Family Planning Program," written by Jennifer Frost and colleagues at the Guttmacher Institute, demonstrates that public investment in family planning programs and providers not only helps women and couples avoid unintended pregnancy and abortion, but also helps reduce the incidence of cervical cancer, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), infertility, and preterm and low birth rate births.

The impact on health and cost savings of many of these preventive services has been studied independently, but no study has looked at these services together in the context of the care delivered to publically supported individuals. *The researchers estimate that the investments made in 2010 alone resulted in a net government savings of \$13.6 billion, or \$7.09 for every public dollar spent.*

Other health benefits and cost savings of family planning services in 2010 include:

- Contraceptive care that averted 2.2 million unwanted pregnancies—\$15.7 billion saved
- STI-HIV testing that averted 99,100 cases of Chlamydia, 16,240 cases of gonorrhea, 410 cases of HIV, 1,130 ectopic pregnancies, and 2,210 cases of infertility—\$123 million saved
- PAP and HPV testing and vaccines that averted 3,680 cases of cervical cancer and 2,110 cervical cancer deaths—\$23 million saved

"This analysis quantifies, for the first time, many of the myriad benefits of publicly funded family planning services beyond enabling women to prevent unintended pregnancies," says lead author Jennifer Frost. "This study provides the most comprehensive portrait to date of the value of taxpayers' investment in these services."

Accompanying the study is a commentary by Sonya Sonenstein of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University, who notes that states that do not provide these types of services "are not being financially prudent."

About *The Milbank Quarterly*

Continuously published since 1923, *The Milbank Quarterly* features peer-reviewed

original research, policy review, and analysis from academics, clinicians, and policymakers. The *Quarterly's* multidisciplinary approach and commitment to applying the best empirical research to practical policymaking offer in-depth assessments of the social, economic, historical, legal, and ethical dimensions of health and health care policy. *The Milbank Quarterly* is published in March, June, September, and December on behalf of the Milbank Memorial Fund by John Wiley & Sons.

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