



What is Emergency Contraception?

Emergency contraception (EC) is the term for a contraceptive product that is used after unprotected sex, contraceptive failure, or sexual assault to prevent pregnancy from occurring by delaying ovulation. Emergency contraception, which prevents pregnancy, is different from medical abortion, which terminates a pregnancy using medication under the supervision of a health care professional.

While intra-uterine devices have been used as emergency contraceptives for decades, oral pills containing a high dose of levonorgestrel, a hormone that is often included in birth control pills, became the more common emergency contraceptive in the United States after the FDA approved their use in 1999 under the brand name Plan B. In 2009, the two-pill regimen was replaced with Plan B One Step, which only requires one pill. After the patent expired on the original formulation of Plan B during the summer of 2009, the generic brand Next Choice was introduced to the market, increasing the affordability of emergency contraceptives. These contraceptives remain highly effective for up to 72 hours after intercourse and are available without a prescription to those 17 and older.

In August 2010, the FDA approved *ella*, an oral emergency contraceptive containing ulipristal acetate that is effective for up to 120 hours after intercourse. Ella is now available in the U.S. by prescription only.

Improvements to Access and Effects on Colorado¹

- 2006 . . . The FDA approves emergency contraception for over-the-counter access for people 18 and older
- By 2008, the amount of emergency contraception purchased in Colorado pharmacies has increased by 708% since 2005
- 2009 . . . The FDA approves Plan B One-Step and a generic version called Next Choice
- . . . The FDA extends over-the-counter use of emergency contraception to 17-year-olds
- By the end of 2010, the amount of emergency contraception purchased in Colorado pharmacies will have a projected 34% increase since 2008.

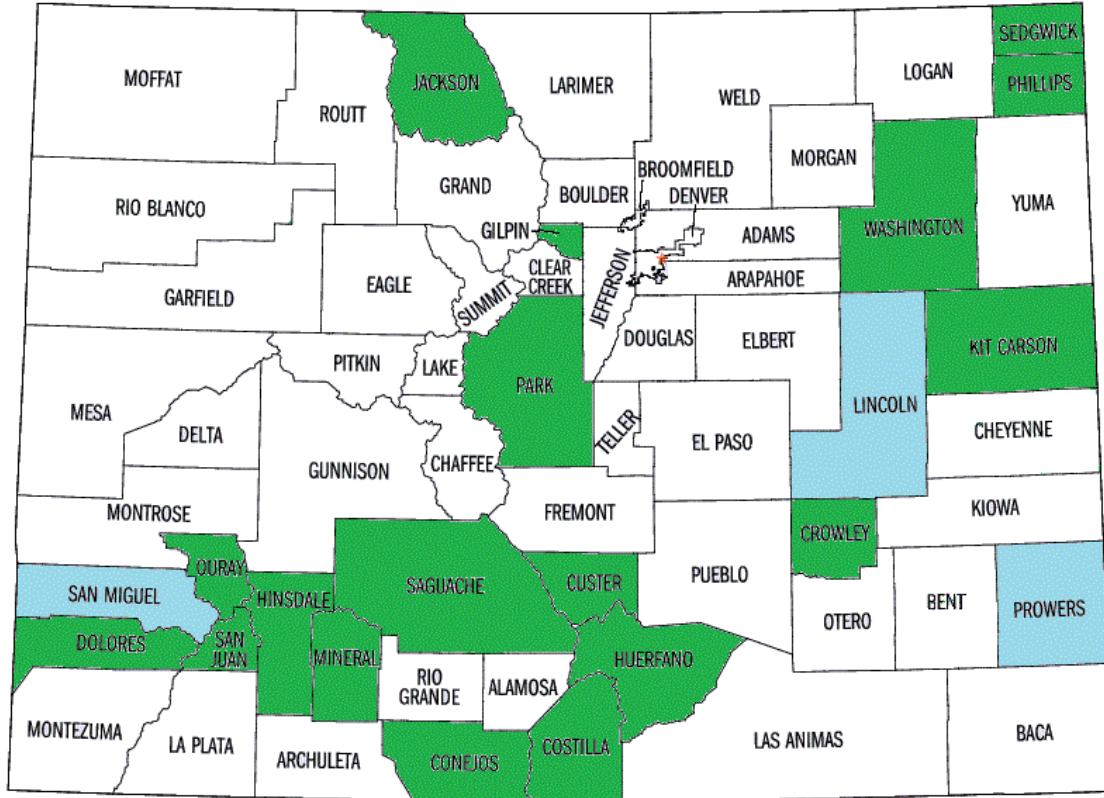
Highlights²

- 92 percent of pharmacies in the state of Colorado carry emergency contraception, which is a 4 percent increase from the results of the 2008 study.
- Only 2 out of the 34 pharmacies that do not sell emergency contraception have posted a sign stating “Emergency Contraception/Plan B not available” as required by law.
- Approximately 21 percent of pharmacists responded that they do not sell emergency contraception to women 17 and older without a prescription.
- The average cost for Plan B One-Step in Colorado pharmacies is \$46.03, and the generic Next Choice remains at a high average cost of \$45.04, which poses a financial hardship to many women.
- Despite the fact that 11 percent of Colorado women of reproductive age are on Medicaid, only 3.5 percent (1,338 doses) of emergency contraception were purchased with Medicaid insurance.
- Out of the pharmacies that do sell emergency contraception, 9 percent responded that at least one pharmacist at their pharmacy refuses to sell it.
- 18 out of 64 counties in Colorado do not have a pharmacy that sells emergency contraception.

¹ NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado Foundation, 2010 Birth Control and Emergency Contraception Access Project: Final Report.

² NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado Foundation, “Barriers to Access for Colorado Women”, 2010.

Counties without a pharmacy that sells emergency contraception



- No pharmacy was identified or the only pharmacy in the county does not sell EC (Conejos & Crowley)
- No data (pharmacy/ies refused to answer)

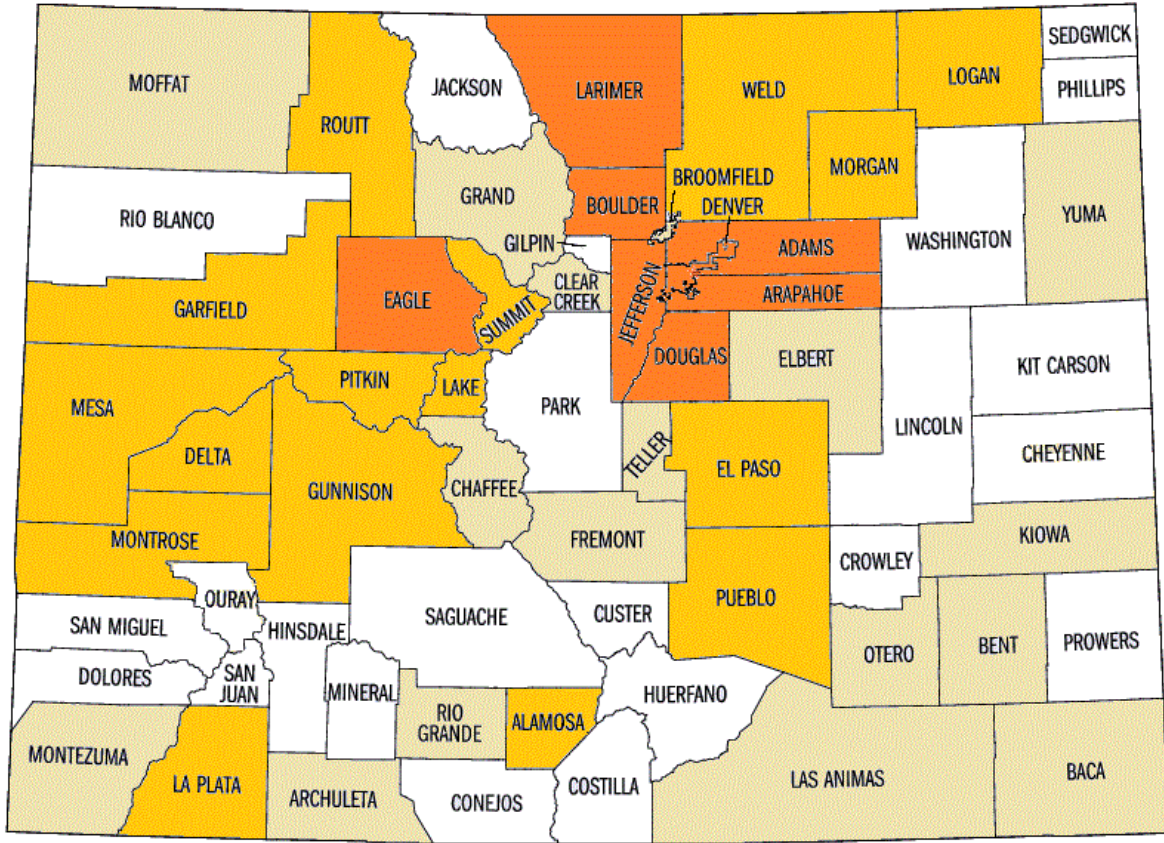
Cities with the highest sales of emergency contraception

Cities	Number of Doses of EC Sold in 2010
Denver	5,568
Colorado Springs	3,840
Boulder	2,910
Littleton	2,544
Pueblo	1,728
Thornton	1,542
Fort Collins	1,500
Arvada	1,088
Aurora	1,080
Highlands Ranch	1,074

Counties with the highest sales of emergency contraception

County	Number of Doses of EC Sold in 2010
Denver	5,568
Boulder	4,530
El Paso	4,494
Jefferson	3,690
Adams	3,192
Arapahoe	3,138
Pueblo	1,986
Larimer	1,974
Douglas	1,782
Eagle	1,752

Sales of Emergency Contraception, By County



Number of doses of emergency contraception sold in 2010

=No data or zero
 = 1-99
 = 100-999
 = 1,000+