



Did you know?

- Based on the most recent estimate (2006), nearly half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended (49%), and 43% of these pregnancies end in abortion.ⁱ In the U.S. each year, there are an estimated 1.5 million births resulting from unintended pregnancies.ⁱⁱ
- Two-thirds of women of child-bearing age in the U.S. currently use birth control, and the use of intrauterine devices (IUDs) is on the rise within this group: from 2% in 2002 to 7.7% in 2009.ⁱⁱⁱ

IUD Taskforce Goals

The IUD Taskforce aims to create an environment that ensures that everyone has access to a full-range of contraceptive options, including the highly effective methods (IUDs and implants). The Taskforce aims to improve institutional and community readiness* by understanding and challenging obstacles to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) usage at the individual (patient/healthcare provider), institutional, community, and policy levels.

*Community readiness refers to the degree a community and its institutions are prepared to take action on an issue. Learn more about Community Readiness at http://www.nami.org/Content/NavigationMenu/NAMI_Center_for_Excellence/Tools_for_Excellence/CommunityReadinessHandbook.pdf

The IUD Taskforce:

- Facilitates productive and sustained coordination and dialogue surrounding IUD-related issues among health care providers, health professionals, educators, administrators, researchers, legal and community advocates, and other relevant stakeholders in New York City.
- Advocates for dual-protection to prevent sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy, effective counseling for all patients interested in using LARC methods, and the support to determine which method(s) are right for them.
- Maintains the online IUD Community of Practice to facilitate coordination, collaboration, knowledge exchange, resource development, training, and dissemination of IUD research, resources, and news.

About The Taskforce

The NYC IUD Taskforce aims to ensure that everyone has access to a full range of contraceptive methods, including highly effective long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs). LARCs are highly effective and safe contraception options that can be removed when no longer desired. The Taskforce seeks to address the systemic barriers (financial, institutional, legal, and educational) that may limit knowledge, awareness, access, and use of LARCs, specifically IUDs and implants. The Taskforce launched in January 2013 in response to a need expressed by the family planning provider community in New York City to share information, resources, and strategy. It is the first municipal-level taskforce working to facilitate city-wide, multidisciplinary coordination around IUD access. The IUD Taskforce's newest project is the online IUD Community of Practice. A community of practice is a group of professionals that shares information, resources, and lessons learned about a specific topic.

Why IUDs?

The IUD Taskforce has chosen to focus specifically on IUDs due to their consistently low rates of use among American women using contraceptives, despite the IUDs clinical effectiveness,^{iv} superior ease of use as a “forgettable” contraceptive that does not require daily action by the user,^v and demonstrated success in reducing unintended pregnancy.^{vi} Despite our focus on IUDs, the Taskforce defines its scope of work to include the full range of contraception, recognizing that many of the same barriers apply to contraceptive implants and other contraceptive methods. It is integral to our mission to ensure all people have the information and resources they need to make informed decisions about contraception.

Taskforce Membership and Structure

- More than 50 medical providers, educators, administrators, public health professionals, reproductive health advocates, and researchers from more than 25 New York City-based organizations currently serve on the IUD Taskforce.
- The IUD Taskforce's central activities are concentrated in the Taskforce workgroups, comprised of voluntary members that meet regularly.
- Efforts are currently focused in four key domains: Data/Monitoring, Patient Access, Policy/Advocacy, and Provider Training.

For further information, please visit our website: IUDTaskforce.org or email us at: IUDTaskforce@healthsolutions.org

ⁱ Finer, L.B., Zolna, M. Unintended Pregnancy in the United States: Incidence and disparities, 2006. *Contraception*, 2011, 84, 5, 478-485. Accessed from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3338192/>

ⁱⁱ Mosher WD, Jones J, Abma JC. Intended and unintended births in the United States: 1982–2010. National health statistics reports; no 55. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. Accessed from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr055.pdf>; Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Ventura SJ, et al. Births: Final data for 2010. National vital statistics reports; vol 61 no 1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012. Accessed from: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_01.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Finer, L. B., Jerman, J., & Kavanaugh, M. L. (2012). Changes in use of long-acting contraceptive methods in the United States, 2007–2009. *Fertility & Sterility*, 98(4), 893–897.

^{iv} Trussell, J. “Contraceptive Failure in the United States.” *Contraception* 83 (2011): 397–404. Access from: <http://www.kupferkette.info/downloads/contraceptive-failure-in-the-united-states--2.pdf>

^v Grimes, D. “Forgettable Contraception.” *Contraception*. 80, 6(2009): 497–499. Accessed from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19913141>

^{vi} ACOG. “ACOG. “Adolescents & Long-Acting Reversible Contraception: Implants and Intrauterine Devices.” Committee Opinion No. 405 (2009):. 1–5.5. Accessed from: <http://www.acog.org/-/media/Committee%20Opinions/Committee%20on%20Gynecologic%20Practice/co450.pdf?dmc=1&ts=20140303T1553209882>



Join us!

The IUD Taskforce aims to engage leaders and partners of all types, within and outside the current Taskforce membership, to ensure that everyone has access to a full range of contraceptive methods.

The IUD Community of Practice

A *community of practice* is a group of professionals who share information, resources, and lessons learned around a specific topic. Launched in April 2014, the IUD Community of Practice can be found at iudtaskforce.org and is the IUD Taskforce's newest project. The IUD Community of Practice:

- **Engages** leaders and partners of all types, within and outside the current IUD Taskforce membership, to work together to reduce barriers to accessing contraceptives at the local, regional, & national level.
- **Centralizes** current IUD/LARC resources and produced materials, including links to external organizations and projects
- **Facilitates** collaboration, coordination, real-time problem-solving, and exchange of lessons learned and promising practices among those working to break down barriers to contraceptive access, specifically access to LARCs.
- **Leverages** the current momentum of the IUD Taskforce and seeks to engage local, state, and national leaders to strengthen the larger dialogue surrounding contraceptive choice. It is our hope that others will share their work and resources with the IUD Community of Practice.

The IUD Community of Practice provides:

- **IUD Community Listserv** – Reach out to colleagues anytime & get IUD news and research updates
- **Crowd-source your IUD questions** – The IUD Community is a group of engaged experts and colleagues that can help to troubleshoot your questions in real-time and offer feedback
- **Browse or contribute to our extensive database of IUD/LARC resources**, as well as our list of aggregated links to relevant projects and organizations
- **Download materials produced by the IUD Taskforce as guides for other communities** – Lessons learned, factsheets, and policy briefs
- **Find an IUD Provider in your area or create a referral list of providers in your area**
- **Access full versions of the latest IUD research articles**

IUD Taskforce Call to Action

The Taskforce seeks to address the systemic barriers (financial, institutional, legal, and educational) that may limit knowledge, awareness, access, and use of long-acting reversible contraceptive methods (LARCs), specifically IUDs and implants. LARCs are highly effective and safe contraception options that can be removed when no longer desired.

The Taskforce launched in January 2013 in response to a need expressed by the family planning provider community in New York City to share information, resources and strategy. It is the first municipal-level taskforce working to facilitate city-wide, multidisciplinary coordination around IUD access.

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