

*Extended Abstract*

## **Contraception utilization and barriers to use in an Iowan population**

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Disparities in healthcare services and outcomes have been well-demonstrated in existing literature, and these differences extend to obstetric and gynecologic care. However, little research has been done regarding how rural populations use contraception in relation to pregnancy intention. This study analyzes contraception utilization and barriers to its use in an Iowan postpartum population using a survey distributed by the Iowa Department of Public Health. This data shows that rural participants were less likely to report that their pregnancy was unintended

and more likely to report use of effective contraceptive methods in addition to characterizing barriers to contraception use by place of residence. Although the population is limited, this study provides novel insights into patient perspectives on contraception use and areas to target to increase contraception use when pregnancy is undesired.

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