



CONTRACEPTIVE EQUITY

*Overwhelmingly, Black women and men believe that publicly funded health care services should include birth control for low-income people who want it.**

We must **RESPECT** the rights of each woman to use contraceptives to plan her family without coercion by her doctor or government.

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda believes that Black women have the right to make informed decisions about their fertility and to prevent unintended pregnancy. Fundamental to ensuring that right is our commitment to promoting family planning, contraceptive access, and healthy sexual behavior.

Historically, Black women and other women of color have been the targets of coercive contraceptive practices and policies, unethical testing, and misinformation. Even today, some health care providers push women of color toward longer-acting contraceptives rather than their preferred method. This has led to a higher use among Black women of Norplant and Depo-Provera (both having a checkered past), versus oral contraceptives primarily used by white women.

Lack of health insurance also limits access to family planning among young women, women of color and immigrants. While access has improved under the Title X and Medicaid expansion programs, access is still limited and the demand for publicly-funded contraceptives coverage has increased.

In Our Own Voice believes that all Black women should be fully informed and understand their options for selecting safe, effective and affordable contraception. We work to ensure that national, state and local policies reflect the reproductive health needs and decisions of Black women.

* African-American Attitudes on Abortion, Contraception, and Teen Sexual Health (2013). Belden-Russonello Strategists LLC., Washington DC. February 2013. <http://www.blackrj.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/media-memo.pdf>