



August 9, 2017

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Dear Working Group member,

There is still time to share your interest in attending our annual meeting on September 27, 2017 in Washington, DC. Please complete [this registration request](#) by **Wednesday, August 16**. Also in this newsletter, we highlight a new [Young People subcommittee page](#), media highlights, and the newest sign-ons to our Statement of Purpose.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Grindlay Kelly
Project Director/Associate
Ibis Reproductive Health

Annual meeting registration request

The 2017 OCs OTC Working Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27 in Washington, DC from 9:00am-5:00pm. We hope to accommodate as many people as possible, but due to limited capacity, we cannot guarantee a space for everyone or for more than two individuals per organization. If you are interested in attending, please complete [this registration request](#) by **Wednesday, August 16**. We will let you know if we can accommodate you by Monday, August 21. If space remains after August 21, we will continue to accept registration requests on a first come, first served basis.

OCs OTC Young People subcommittee page

We are happy to announce a [new page](#) for the Young People subcommittee! The webpage contains data and resources about young people and contraception, and includes information

on the sexual and reproductive rights of young people, contraceptive use among young people in the United States, and evidence supporting an over-the-counter birth control pill for people of all ages. The webpage also describes the subcommittee's current projects and activities and provides a list of media coverage on young people and over-the-counter birth control pills. You can find a link to this new resource on the [subcommittee page](#) of the [OCs OTC Working Group website](#).

Media highlights

The need to make OCs available OTC was recently featured in the New Yorker ([The threat to birth-control access in the Trump era](#)). In addition to highlighting the pill's economic advantages, safety, and the fact that the US is behind other countries in providing OCs with a prescription, they also highlight research from Katrina Kimport of working group partner, ANSIRH:

In a study she published this past spring, Kimport wrote that the doctors mainly expected the women in a heterosexual relationship to assume the "time, attention, and stress that preventing pregnancy requires," as opposed to their male partners' having their own contraceptive counselling or exploring birth-control options. Doctors viewed obtaining prescriptions, following a regimen, and watching out for side effects as the women's expected duties—and theirs alone. The emotional and mental responsibilities that fall on women, Kimport adds, further the gender inequality that created the initial imbalance. If access to contraception becomes more difficult, women will assume the greater burden.

A writer from a conservative organization made an economic argument for OCs OTC in Newsday ([Yes, birth control pills should be available over the counter](#)).

Notably, Safeways across Colorado trained their pharmacists to prescribe OCs and the patch ([Birth control available at Colorado pharmacies without visiting a doctor](#)) while Tennessee is still trying to navigate the landscape to make pharmacist prescribing accessible and available ([Why women still must see a doctor for the pill, a year after Tennessee law changed](#)).

Statement of purpose sign-ons

We are pleased to highlight the organizations that have signed onto our [statement of purpose](#) within the last month. Please help us demonstrate the wide support that exists for making OCs available OTC in the United States. [Email Mary](#) if you would like your organization to sign onto the statement of purpose.

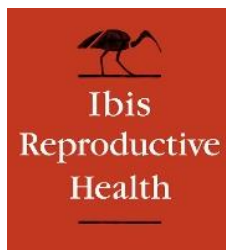
[FHI 360](#)
[National Center for Lesbian Rights](#)
[Reproaction](#)

About us

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups,

university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share a commitment to providing all women of reproductive age easier access to safe, effective, acceptable, and affordable contraceptives. The working group was established in 2004 to explore the potential of over-the-counter access to oral contraceptives to reduce disparities in reproductive health care access and outcomes, and to increase opportunities for women to access a safe, effective method of contraception, free of unnecessary control, as part of a healthy sexual and reproductive life.

The working group is coordinated by Ibis Reproductive Health.



www.ibisreproductivehealth.org

Contact us

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