

Offering Extended Hours in Your Family Planning Clinic

Extending hours in your family planning clinic is a manageable step toward improving access to services for working individuals and teens. It provides an opportunity to bring family planning services to those facing barriers.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, 51% of clients reported preferring to go to clinics with extended hours because:

- did not have to take time off from work or school
- were more likely to find free or low-cost child care
- shorter wait times during non-conventional times



THINGS TO CONSIDER

1) Check In With Staff

- Providers want to know that patients will utilize the extended schedule and return for follow-up
- Scheduling and staff capacity could impact success
- Share plans with staff and welcome questions and input to make it work for everyone



4) Give it time

- Marketing is essential, but it will take time
- Day of the week/time of day may take several attempts to find the best fit
- Agencies should pilot extended hours for at least six months



2) Ask Your Community

- Consider conducting an online survey to tailor your clinic hours to meet community needs
- Partner with schools or other community organizations to help support your efforts Focus on making appointments that accommodate adolescents and working individuals



5) Keep it going

- Evaluate success by asking staff and clients to complete surveys
- Community and staff needs will change, and clinics need to adjust to meet the demand



3) Get The Word Out

- Social media is a great tool to announce changes
- Connect social media with high schools and community colleges to increase awareness
- Adapt marketing materials, print/ digital, to reflect the changing schedule



AGENCIES WITH AN EXTENDED HOUR SCHEDULE REPORTED...

1. More flexibility for patients
2. Ensure access to high-quality, client-centered reproductive health services, reducing health disparities
3. Allowed students and working individuals to receive care after hours



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