

## THE FACTS ABOUT EMERGENCY BIRTH CONTROL PILLS

Nearly 40 percent of all pregnancies—and up to 85 percent of teen pregnancies—in the United States each year are unintended.

Emergency birth control pills could prevent up to 50 percent of unintended pregnancies and 70 percent of all abortions among women in South Carolina alone.

### Emergency Birth Control Pills

- Can prevent pregnancy when taken up to three days (72 hours) after unprotected sex.
- Are up to 89 percent effective when taken in a timely manner.
- Are a stronger dose of the same medicine found in regular birth control pills.
- Are also known as “emergency contraception,” “the morning after pill,” or “Plan B®”.
- Are not the “abortion pill” (RU-486).
- Can delay ovulation.
- May inhibit fertilization.
- May possibly prevent implantation.
- Are approved for use in the United States by the FDA.

The South Carolina Emergency Contraception Initiative is a project of New Morning Foundation in partnership with Advocates for Youth.

[www.morningafterinfo.org](http://www.morningafterinfo.org)



The South Carolina  
**Emergency Contraception**  
Initiative

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## THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION INITIATIVE ♦ n.

Designed to reduce unwanted pregnancy among

young women. Provide education and outreach

Improve access to emergency birth control.

Project of New Morning Foundation in partnership

with Advocates for Youth.



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**Emergency Contraception**  
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## EVERY DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA...

Thousands of young women face the possibility of a pregnancy they did not intend and may not want:

- Their regular method of contraception failed,
- They were raped or sexually assaulted,
- They missed their contraceptive shot,
- They did not use a method of protection.

No young woman should have to face an unwanted pregnancy when there is medication to prevent it.

Yet many young women in South Carolina do not know about emergency birth control.

The American Medical Association, the Society for Adolescent Medicine, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are among the many medical associations that support women's access to emergency birth control.

## WHO WE ARE

The South Carolina Emergency Contraception Initiative works to help young women prevent unintended pregnancy by educating them and others in our community about emergency birth control pills.

In partnership with Princeton University and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, we identify and encourage a network of health care providers and pharmacists in South Carolina to assist young women in need to obtain emergency birth control and related health care services.

We recognize that for those who are sexually active, emergency birth control should not take the place of regular birth control methods including condoms.

Research shows that education about and access to emergency birth control:

- Does not reduce women's use of regular birth control methods.
- Can greatly reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy for young women who are sexually assaulted, experience contraceptive failure, or have unprotected sex.

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## WHAT WE OFFER

### FOR YOUNG WOMEN, AGES 16 TO 24

- A Web site, [www.morningafterinfo.org](http://www.morningafterinfo.org), with information about emergency birth control pills
- Workshops and leadership institutes for peer educators and youth advocates
- Up-to-date publications and pamphlets
- A directory of health care providers who can prescribe emergency birth control pills
- A directory of pharmacies that stock the medication.

### FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, Pharmacists and Other Caring Adults

- Publications with the latest facts
- Clinical practice guidelines for practitioners
- Emergency room protocols
- Best practice guidelines for college health and crisis counseling centers
- Pamphlets and wallet cards for young women
- Training on emergency birth control issues.

### FOR PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, College Organizations, Rape Crisis Centers, and Community-based Organizations

- In-depth technical assistance and training for associations' members
- Up-to-date resource materials and educational opportunities
- Seed grants, materials, and technical assistance to conduct local emergency birth control awareness campaigns and
- Networking opportunities.

