



NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio



NCJWSM

National Council of Jewish Women



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN



Increasing Knowledge of Emergency Contraception

What is Emergency Contraception (EC)?

- Emergency contraception, also known as the morning after pill, is a concentrated dose of ordinary birth control which can prevent pregnancy after a contraceptive method fails or after unprotected sex. EC should be taken orally and is most effective when taken within the first 24 hours and is effective within 72 hours of unprotected sex.
(Source: U.S. FDA <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/planB/planBQandA20060824.htm>)
- EC will not affect an existing pregnancy. EC is not an abortion pill.
(Source: U.S. FDA <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/planB/planBQandA20060824.htm>)
- On August 24, 2006, the FDA announced its approval of the sale of EC over-the-counter to women and men 18 and older. Non-prescription packages of Plan B became available in pharmacies across the country in November 2006.
- Because EC is most effective when taken within 24 hours of unprotected sex or sexual assault, this ruling allows women to get access to the drug much quicker.
- On March 23, 2009, the federal district court for the Eastern District of New York issued a ruling that will expand minors' access to EC. Specifically the court ruled that:
 - The FDA cannot prevent EC from being sold over the counter to 17 year olds, effective within 30 days. Currently, anyone under the age of 18 can obtain EC by prescription only.
 - The FDA must reconsider whether minors under the age of 17 should be permitted to obtain EC over the counter.
- Unfortunately many women and even medical professionals do not know about EC, and do not know it is available without a prescription to women 18 and over. More work needs to be done to make sure that Ohio women know how to effectively use EC and know where to get it.

What the Ohio Prevention First Act will do:

- Require the Department of Health to create materials to educate medical professionals and the general public about emergency contraception and make these materials available on their website.



Every woman deserves a second chance to prevent unintended pregnancy.