

**A Year in Review:
Looking Backward, Moving Forward
on Plan B OTC**

2006



August 24, 2006: Food and Drug Administration approves Plan B for non-prescription sale for women 18 and older. Good news for consumers 18+; problematic for women \leq 17 and those w/o proof of age, who still need prescription to get EC.



October 2006: JAMA article reports more research needed to fully understand Plan B's mechanisms of action.



October 2006: California EC Network implores statewide commitment to ensuring EC access for young women, low-income women and women of color.



November 2006: Pharmacies nationwide begin carrying Plan B packaged for OTC sale; women 17 and younger can still get Plan B via pharmacy access model.



December 2006: Planned Parenthood affiliates nationwide offer free EC.

2007



January 2007: Select provisions of 2005 Deficit Reduction Act become effective; low-income women and college students forced to pay more for birth control.



March 2007: Center for Reproductive Rights files for summary judgment in case against FDA over the agency's handling of Plan B.



April 2007: Research reveals advance provision of EC doesn't lower pregnancy rates, but does increase likelihood of EC use and use sooner after sex.



June 2007: Access to Birth Control Act introduced in Congress to require all pharmacies to provide birth control, including EC.



June 2007: Eight states (HI, IL, MA, NJ, NY, OK, OR, WA) confirm Medicaid coverage for Plan B OTC. Medicaid will continue to cover Plan B obtained via prescription — including for women 17 and younger.



July 2007: Former Attorney General Richard Carmona tells Congressional panel that Bush Administration silenced him on EC and other important public health issues.



July 2007: Barr Laboratories announces annual Plan B sales are projected to double to \$80 million in 2007.