may be related to increasing scrutiny of inpatient claims by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. In the future, it will be important to systematically collect data on hospital-based care delivered under observation status and determine its impact on cost and outcomes.

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Conflict of Interest Disclosures: The authors have completed and submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest. Dr Kangovi reported that she provides primary care services at spectrum health services, a federally qualified health center. Dr Grande reported that he has served as an expert witness on behalf of the State of Vermont; has received honoraria from the Johns Hopkins University CME Program; has a consultancy with the National Nursing Centers Consortium; has served as a board member of the National Physicians Alliance; is a current board member of Healthy Philadelphia (both board member positions were uncompensated); and has received grant support from or has grants pending with the health well foundation, the National Genome Research Institute, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.


Figure. Schematic Representation of Call Script

Table. Outcomes Examined Based on Census Block Group Median Household Incomea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Poverty Level Income Group, No. (%)</th>
<th>Adjusted Odds Ratio [95% CI]bc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤200% (n = 432)</td>
<td>338 (78.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;200% (n = 484)d</td>
<td>0.98 (0.77-1.45)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If in step 2 the caller was told that she was unable to access emergency contraception based on her age, that answer was considered to be misinformation regarding over-the-counter access. The understood age to dispense emergency contraception over-the-counter was not obtained in this situation due to concern that if callers asked this question, it would be perceived by the pharmacy staff as an attempt to obtain information to guarantee access when they presented in person to the pharmacy.

Methods. From September to December 2010, female research assistants posing as adolescents who recently had unprotected intercourse were randomly assigned to call every commercial pharmacy in Nashville, Tennessee; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Cleveland, Ohio; Austin, Texas; and Portland, Oregon. We chose cities in geographically diverse states without pharmacy access laws that supersede uniform federal regulations. Lists of pharmacies were obtained from state boards of pharmacy. Calls were made weekdays between 9 AM and 5 PM, when pharmacies would presumably be fully staffed. Callers followed standardized scripts (Figure; details available on request) to simulate real-world calls and elicit specific information on emergency contraception availability and access. We examined same-day availability of emergency contraception, whether emergency contraception could be accessed by the caller, and whether the pharmacy communicated the correct age at which emergency contraception is accessible over-the-counter.

Census data from 2010a were merged with pharmacy addresses to determine the median household income of each pharmacy’s census block group; 200% of the 2010 federal

See also p 365.
poverty level was considered low-income. We compared outcome measures across low-income vs non–low-income neighborhoods using logistic regression models, clustering by city, and adjusting for whether the pharmacy was independent or a chain. To exclude the possibility of differential findings between pharmacy chains, we repeated the analyses adjusting for pharmacy chain (eg, CVS/pharmacy, Walgreens) as a fixed effect. The Boston University Medical Center institutional review board deemed this study to be non–human subjects research.

Results. Of 943 commercial pharmacies, 687 (72.9%) were chains (≥4 locations); 432 (47%) were located in low-income neighborhoods; and 916 addresses (97%) were successfully linked with census data and included in the analysis. Missing census information was distributed evenly across cities. The average cost of emergency contraception without insurance was $45 (range, $15-$65).

The availability of emergency contraception did not differ based on neighborhood income (Table). However, in 19% (n = 138) of calls, the adolescent was told she could not obtain emergency contraception under any circumstance. This misinformation occurred more often (23.7% vs 14.6%) among pharmacies in low-income neighborhoods (adjusted odds ratio [AOR], 1.93; 95% CI, 1.53-2.43). When callers queried the age threshold for over-the-counter access, they were given the correct age less often by pharmacies in low-income neighborhoods (50.0% vs 62.8%; AOR, 0.59 [95% CI, 0.45-0.79]). In all but 11 calls, the incorrect age was stated as erroneously too high, potentially restricting access. Adjusting analyses for pharmacy chain as a fixed effect yielded virtually identical results.

Comment. Although we found approximately 80% same-day availability of emergency contraception in US metropolitan areas, misinformation regarding access was common—particularly in low-income neighborhoods. Although our design did not permit us to determine why disparities in access to emergency contraception exist, possible explanations include differences in pharmacy staffing or training, frequency of requests for information, or organizational cultures around customer service. Our study assessed only telephone calling and not in-person visits. Limitations withstanding, the finding that misinformation regarding emergency contraception access is more common in low-income neighborhoods, which have higher teen pregnancy rates, suggests that targeted education for consumers and pharmacy staff may be necessary.

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Author Contributions: Dr Wilkinson had full access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Study concept and design: Wilkinson, Silverstein.

Acquisition of data: Wilkinson, Fahey, Suther.

Analysis and interpretation of data: Wilkinson, Fahey, Cabral, Silverstein.

Drafting of the manuscript: Wilkinson, Fahey, Suther, Cabral, Silverstein.

Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: Cabral, Silverstein.

Statistical analysis: Wilkinson, Cabral, Silverstein.

Administrative, technical or material support: Wilkinson, Fahey, Suther.

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CORRECTIONS

Table Error: In the Original Contribution “Association of BRCA1 and BRCA2 Mutations With Survival, Chemotherapy Sensitivity, and Gene Mutator Phenotype in Patients With Ovarian Cancer,” published in the October 12, 2011, issue of JAMA (2011;306[14]:1557-1565), an incorrect proportion was listed in Table 1. In the column describing BRCA1 mutation cases, the number (%) of those with residual tumor size of less than 1 cm should be 15 (50). This article was corrected online. An accompanying letter to the editor appears in this issue of JAMA.

Errors in Text, Table Legend, and End Matter: In the Original Contribution “Sleep Disorders, Health, and Safety in Police Officers” by Rajaratnam et al, published in the December 21, 2012, issue of JAMA (2011;306[23]:2567-2578), incorrect language was used in several places in the text, in the footnotes in Tables 3 through 5, in the row subtotals in Tables 3 and 4, in a column head in Table 2, in the Financial Disclosures, and in the first 2 references. Some individuals were inadvertently missing from the Additional Contributions. This article was corrected online.

Error in Editorial: In the Editorial entitled “Onward,” published in the June 22/29, 2011, issue of JAMA (2011;305[24]:2575-2576), the first sentence of the second paragraph should have read, “Considering the history of the previous 14 JAMA editors, all of whom had left their offices by firing, resignation, or retirement at times not necessarily of their choosing, . . . .” with this supporting reference: Riley RW. A century of editors. JAMA. 1983;250[2]:230-235. This article was corrected online.