

THE EVOLUTION OF BIRTH CONTROL

We can see how there was a sudden increase in the adoption of the birth control pill.

Much of this is due to the change in statements given by parties such as the Catholic Church, FDA, and prominent figures in government. For example, since the Catholic Church doesn't believe in contraception, this influences those who share in this belief and their use. The United States education system has often been criticized for how the subject is not taught equivalent in schools. Technology, however, has improved access to birth control and health information.

Furthermore, the messaging in the product's advertising changed where it went from direct-to-consumer not being allowed to coining the term "lifestyle drugs". There are many benefits of the birth control pill including the prevention of the spread of STDs and pregnancy. Today, women and girls who are past the age of puberty have access to birth control and it is covered under insurance. There are also a number of celebrities that have spoken out about this topic to decrease the taboo. In the future, women are hopeful that men could take birth control.

YELLOW - Other rudimentary versions

PINK - Government policy

GRAY - Social advancements

WHITE - Scientific advancements on the pill

1550 BC

The Egyptian Ebers Papyrus have some of the **earliest documented descriptions of birth control including a mixture** of honey, acacia leaves, and lint.

23-79 AD



Pliny, the Roman writer of Natural History, counsels his readers to refrain from sex to avoid pregnancy. He is the **first known advocate of abstinence** as a form of birth control.

MEDIEVAL EUROPE



Any **effort to halt pregnancy was deemed immoral** by the Catholic Church, although it is believed that women of the time still used a number of birth control measures, such as coitus interruptus and inserting lily root and rue into the vagina. They were also encouraged to tie weasel testicles around their thighs during sex to prevent pregnancy.

1640



The **oldest condoms** made of animal gut discovered to date were recovered in the ruins of Dudley Castle in England. They were only widely available in the 20th century.

1827



The Malthusian League was established in the United Kingdom to **educate the public about the importance of family planning** and to advocate for getting rid of penalties for promoting birth control. Advocates were prosecuted for publishing on various methods of birth control.

In a major scientific breakthrough, **scientists discover the existence of the female egg** -- the ovum. Prior to this, it is only known that semen must enter the female body for conception to occur. This is the first step in understanding the science of human reproduction.

1877

1916

1914

Charles Knowlton, a Massachusetts physician, invents a birth control solution to be **injected into the uterus by syringe after intercourse**. Various recipes for the water-based solution include salt, vinegar, liquid chloride, zinc sulfite or aluminum potassium sulfite. The syringe method will remain in popular use for the next 40 years.

In the United States, Margaret Sanger and Otto Bobsein **popularized the phrase "birth control"**.

Once Sanger returned to the United States, she **established a short-lived (11 days) birth-control clinic** with the help of her sister, Ethel Bryne, based in the Brownville section of Brooklyn, New York.



The **first permanent birth-control clinic** was established in Britain by Marie Stopes working with the Malthusian League. The clinic, run by midwives and supported by visiting doctors, offered women's birth-control advice and taught them the use of a cervical cap. Sanger founded the American Birth Control League, which later became the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

The Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics was **founded to campaign for municipal clinics**.



The Birth Control Conference assembled 700 delegates and was **successful in bringing birth control and abortion into the political sphere** -- three months later, the Ministry of Health, in the United Kingdom, allowed local authorities to give birth-control advice in welfare centres.



The American Medical Association Committee on Contraception **revoked its statement condemning birth control**.

Association's Approved List of contraceptives went on to become an **annual publication** that the expanding network of FPA clinics relied upon as a means to 'establish facts [about contraceptives] and to publish these facts as a basis on which a sound public and scientific opinion can be built'.

A chemist, named Carl Djerassi from Mexico City **made the hormones in progesterone pills** using Mexican yams.



The **FDA approved the first oral contraceptive**; however, they were **not available to married women in all states** until Griswold v. Connecticut in 1965 and were not available to unmarried women in all states until Eisenstadt v. Baird in 1972.

President Lyndon B. Johnson started **endorsing public funding for family planning services**, and the Federal Government began subsidizing birth control services for low-income families.



The Affordable Care Act, passed into law under President Barack Obama, **requires all plans in the Health Insurance Marketplace to cover contraceptive methods**. These include barrier methods, hormonal methods, implanted devices, emergency contraceptives, and sterilization procedures.

The birth control pill gives women highly effective control over their fertility. Even though it is debated, one of the most important reasons for it is due to the repercussions of sexual assault. **The pill paved the way for women to talk about this issue**. Time's Up is a movement against sexual assault.

2018

2010

1966

1960

1951

1937

1936

1930

1924

1921