



The History and Legacy of Contraception

Contraception encompasses a variety of methods used to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Discuss the history of contraception, including scientific discoveries leading to safe methods.

Conversation Questions

1. What led to the creation of the pill?
2. What are the implications of seeing contraception as a woman's problem?

Key Definitions

- *contraception* – deliberate prevention of conception or impregnation (from *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*)
- *vasectomy* – an operation that prevents a man from producing sperm (from *Merriam-Webster English Language Learners Dictionary*)

Listen

Birth Control – The Biggest Myths from Science Vs

<http://bit.ly/2VS2a6N>

Gynecologist Dr. Amita Murthy and a panel of medical professionals speak with a group of teenagers about the myths surrounding birth control.

The Great Bluff That Led To A 'Magical' Pill And A Sexual Revolution (via Fresh Air)

<https://n.pr/2ZezKWA>

Host Terry Gross interviews journalist Jonathan Eig on his book that chronicles individuals who developed the first oral contraceptive, and the implications of their research methods.





Read

“The Birth Control Pill: A History” via Planned Parenthood

<http://bit.ly/2UCkqED>

This fact sheet delves into the details of how oral contraceptives were first developed, as well as other conditions that the pill can treat today.

***America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation* by Elaine Tyler May**

<https://skokielibrary.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1625617133>

Scholar May explores the political and cultural implications of the pill in American society, how it is seen as a tool for empowerment.

***The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution* by Jonathan Eig**

<https://skokielibrary.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1971619133>

Journalist Eig profiles key people whose work led to the development of Enovid, the first Food and Drug Administration approved oral contraceptive, in the 1950s.

***Woman Rebel: The Margaret Sanger Story* by Peter Bagge**

<https://skokielibrary.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1867936133>

Bagge recounts the life of activist Margaret Sanger, who overcame great opposition to advocate for research on birth control methods.

Watch

How do contraceptives work?

<http://bit.ly/2Gjmp6N>

This short video describes how contraceptives can prevent pregnancy, and discusses whether one strategy is better than another.

