

WORLD CONTRACEPTION DAY 2008

CONTRACEPTION USE

- » One of the **earliest forms of contraception** in recorded history is the pessary (vaginal suppository) which was often lubricated with honey used by Ancient Egyptian women¹
- » Condoms were used by many ancient civilizations and were predominantly made from **linen and animal tissue**¹
- » The **first oral contraceptive pills** were licensed in the US in **1960** and were used by an estimated **half a million** women in the first year thereafter.²
- » Approximately **85%** of sexually active women who **don't use** any contraception will get pregnant within one year³
 ... but in about **45%** of cases, the reason women are not using a contraceptive method is a perceived lack of risk of pregnancy⁴
- » The cost of contraception is cited by a further **one third** of women as a reason for non-use⁴
 ... yet the cost of bringing up a child till the age of 21 in the UK is estimated to be over **£186,000**⁵

IN EUROPE

- » **47%** of Europeans do not use contraception the first time they have sex with a new partner⁶
 ... and **44%** do not discuss contraception before having sex with their new partner⁶
- » **95%** of European men support or accept their partner's choice of contraception⁶
 ... but only **86%** know what type of contraception their partner is using⁶

IN AFRICA

- » There are **201 million** women in developing countries that want to delay or avoid pregnancy. Of those, **137 million** women are not using any contraception, and **64 million** are relying on less effective traditional methods⁷
- » In 2003, **US\$ 7.1 billion** was spent on providing modern contraceptive services in the developing world. It is estimated that this helped prevent **187 million** unplanned pregnancies and **105 million** induced abortions⁷

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MARIE STOPES
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IN THE US

- » In 2002, **56%** of women in the US had at some point used the withdrawal method with a partner, despite it being **an unreliable method** of contraception⁸
 ... and its **use is on the increase**, with the figure rising from 25% in 1982⁸

IN ASIA

- » In South Asia, the level of **unmet need for contraception** ranges from **19%** of married adolescents in Bangladesh to 41% in Nepal⁹. Similarly, the **level of unmet need** in Southeast Asia ranged from **9-10%** in Indonesia and Vietnam to **32%** in the Philippines⁹
- » **Less than two-thirds** of married adolescent women in South Asia were **aware** of any form of modern reversible female contraception method (59% in Pakistan, 63% in India)⁹

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