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Trends in the use of contraceptive methods and voluntary interruption of pregnancy in the Spanish population during 1997–2007☆

[José Luis Dueñas](#), [Iñaki Lete](#), [Rafael Bermejo](#), [Agnès Arbal](#), [Ezequiel Pérez-Camoos](#), [Javier Martínez-Salmeán](#), [Isabel Serrano](#), [José Luis Doyal](#), [Carme Coll](#)

Received 18 May 2009; received in revised form 11 May 2010; accepted 12 May 2010; published online 18 June 2010.

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Abstract

Background

This study was designed to acquire information about the use of contraceptive methods in order to reduce the number of elective abortions.

Study Design

Since 1997, representative samples of Spanish women of childbearing potential (15–49 years) have been surveyed by the Daphne Team every 2 years to gather data of contraceptive methods used.

Results

During the study period, 1997 to 2007, the overall use of contraceptive methods increased from 49.1% to 79.9%. The most commonly used method was the condom (an increase from 21% to 38.8%), followed by the pill (an increase from 14.2% to 20.3%). Female sterilization and IUDs decreased slightly and were used by less than 5% of women in 2007. The elective abortion rate increased from 5.52 to 11.49 per 1000 women.

Conclusions

The factors responsible for the increased rate of elective abortion need further investigation.

Keywords: [Contraceptive use](#), [Contraceptive methods](#), [Contraceptive trends](#), [Voluntary interruption of pregnancy](#)

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Study Authors Puzzled Why Abortions Rise with Contraceptive Use

Posted by Eric Scheidler (January 3, 2011 at 3:04 pm)



The results of a [new study](#) just published in the journal *Contraception* on contraception use and abortion rates in Spain have researchers puzzled.

The study, conducted over ten years, was meant to “acquire information about the use of contraceptive methods in order to reduce the number of elective abortions.” From 1997-2007, researchers recorded the various contraceptive methods being used by a representative group of Spanish women, as well as their abortion rates.

What they discovered has them completely baffled—but is exactly what we at the Pro-Life Action League might have predicted: *as contraception use increased, so did the abortion rate.*

Researchers Puzzled by Results

In fact, while contraceptive use among these women went up significantly over that period—from 49.1% to 79.9%—the abortion rate rose even more dramatically—from 5.52 to 11.49 per 1000 women.

In other words, a 63% increase in contraception use was accompanied by a 108% increase in abortions.

The Spanish researchers are completely at a loss to explain these results, concluding that “The factors responsible for the increased rate of elective abortion need further investigation.”

Their puzzlement is understandable: they set out with the assumption that contraception can be used to reduce abortion, hoping to fine-tune that basic approach. Instead, they found abortions only increased with more contraception.

More Contraception Means More Abortion—But Why?

The Spanish research team may be at a loss to explain these results, but they make perfect sense to pro-life advocates who have been saying for years that contraception is not the answer to abortion. (In fact, the Pro-Life Action League explored this topic at a 2006 conference entitled [“Contraception Is Not the Answer”](#).)



The impact that contraceptive use has on people’s sexual behavior is profound. Contraception does not merely mitigate the effects of people’s risky sexual behavior—it radically *alters* their sexual behavior.

Seemingly free of the most significant and concerning consequence of sex—pregnancy—people behave differently, just as one would expect. They’re

more willing to take sexual risks—more sexual partners, more casual sex, more “cheating” etc.—and the end result is more unplanned pregnancy, not less; more abortion, not less.

I’m not saying that using contraception will turn any given individual into a sexual amoralist. But that’s the aggregate effect on contraception across our society.

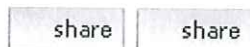
I’ll go even farther and say that the widespread use and availability of contraceptives has fundamentally altered the way our entire society thinks about sex. Sex has become decoupled from pregnancy (and therefore from marriage and family), a change that impacts even those who are not, at the moment at least, using contraception.

Further Study Called for—Let’s Have It!

For a more through discussion on the psychological, behavioral and social impact of contraception, see [this page](#) in the League’s Questions and Answers section.

Meanwhile, here’s hoping that the “further investigation” the authors of this new study are calling for takes place. If they study these issues honestly, they’ll find out that we pro-lifers have been right all along: contraception increases abortion.

HT: [Jill Stanek](#).



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6 Responses to “Study Authors Puzzled Why Abortions Rise with Contraceptive Use”

Note: Visitor comments do not necessarily reflect the views of the Pro-Life Action League.

1. **Jerry Vilt** says:

Abortion is NOT health care.
Contraception is NOT reproductive health.

Posted [January 3, 2011 at 10:21 pm](#)

2. [Study confirms common sense: more contraception leads to more abortions « Divine Life – A Blog by Eric Sammons](#) says:

[...] And now a study confirms this: Study Authors Puzzled Why Abortions Rise with Contraceptive Use [...]

Posted [January 4, 2011 at 7:22 am](#)

3. [Mass Failure of the Contraceptive Implanon « Pro-Life Hotline](#) says:

[...] on the heels of the news earlier this week about increased contraception use leading to increased abortion in Spain, another [...]

Posted [January 7, 2011 at 2:38 pm](#)

4. [George Kocan](#) says:

Contraception creates the illusion of decoupling sex from reproduction.

Posted [January 10, 2011 at 10:49 am](#)

5. [Contraceptive Manufacturer Slapped with Over 700 Lawsuits](#) « [Pro-Life Hotline](#) says:

[...] Not only that, but a study from Spain earlier this year confirmed once again that increased use of contraception does not reduce abortion rates, but in fact drives them up. [...]

Posted [May 13, 2011 at 10:53 am](#)

6. [Obama's Free Birth Control Scheme Treats Pregnancy as a Disease](#) « [Pro-Life Hotline](#) says:

[...] effect of contraception is to increase risky sexual behavior and, ultimately, increase abortion. As reported here earlier this year, recent research found that—contrary to researchers' [...]

Posted [July 20, 2011 at 4:45 pm](#)

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To ensure constructive dialog, the following will not be tolerated:

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The Divine Life Why We Were Created *a blog by Eric Sammons*

January 4, 2011

Study confirms common sense: more contraception leads to more abortions

In all my years of pro-life work, one of the most common canards I have heard is “No matter where you stand on legalized abortion, we can all agree that we should increase access to contraception in order to lower the abortion rate.” Pro-abortion advocates trying to appear reconciliatory will promote this idea, and sadly, many pro-life advocates will agree with it. But it is simply nonsense, and common sense should tell anyone that. If you encourage people who don’t want to have kids to have sex, then what happens when their “protection” doesn’t work or is not immediately available? It doesn’t take an Einstein or Plato to know: abortion.

And now a study confirms this:

[Study Authors Puzzled Why Abortions Rise with Contraceptive Use](#)

The results of a new study just published in the journal *Contraception* on contraception use and abortion rates in Spain have researchers puzzled.

The study, conducted over ten years, was meant to “acquire information about the use of contraceptive methods in order to reduce the number of elective abortions.” From 1997-2007, researchers recorded the various contraceptive methods being used by a representative group of Spanish women, as well as their abortion rates.

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Seemingly free of the most significant and concerning consequence of sex—pregnancy—people behave differently, just as one would expect. They're more willing to take sexual risks—more sexual partners, more casual sex, more “cheating” etc.—and the end result is more unplanned pregnancy, not less; more abortion, not less.

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As Mark Shea would say, “sin makes you stupid” and only sin could make someone stupid enough to think that more contraception would lead to less abortions. But for over forty years our culture has wanted sex without consequences, and no amount of common sense will prevent us from continuing to push for it.

Here is the one method of contraception that is sure to NOT lead to more abortions:



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1. [...] Study: More Contraception Leads to More Abortions – Eric Sammons, The Divine Life [...]

Pingback by [TUESDAY AFTERNOON EDITION | ThePulp.it](#) — January 4, 2011 @ [4:48 pm](#)

2. “More Contraception Leads to More Abortions”

Only an academic would have trouble figuring this out.

 *Comment by [Christian](#) — January 5, 2011 @ [10:02 am](#)*

3. [...] only is this contrary to the moral teachings of the Church, it has proven to be a disaster and to increase abortions. Such a “compromise” is essentially a [...]

Pingback by [Will “dialogue” end abortion – or just the abortion debate? « Divine Life – A Blog by Eric Sammons](#) — January 19, 2011 @ [7:53 am](#)

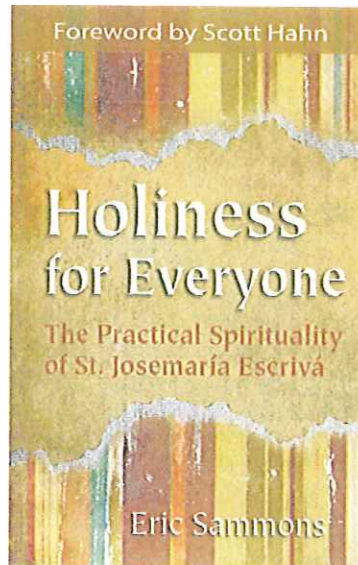
4. The study does not establish that more contraception leads to more abortions. It establishes that, in some cases, contraception and abortion move together. It is possible that more abortions encourage more contraception as a reaction. Or that some third mechanism is responsible for both abortions and contraception.

No causal relationship has been established by this study.

Comment by [Paul Rimmer](#) — January 20, 2011 @ [12:16 pm](#)

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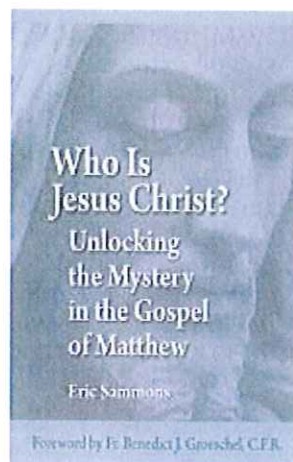
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I am the Director of Evangelization for the [Diocese of Venice in Florida](#).

I began my study of the Catholic faith in 1991 as an Evangelical Protestant, [converting to the Catholic Church](#) in 1993.

I regularly [speak to parish groups and other organizations on a variety of topics](#) - contact me to schedule a talk for your group.

You can email me at eric@ericsammons.com.

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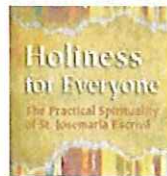
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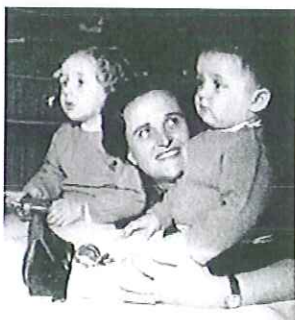
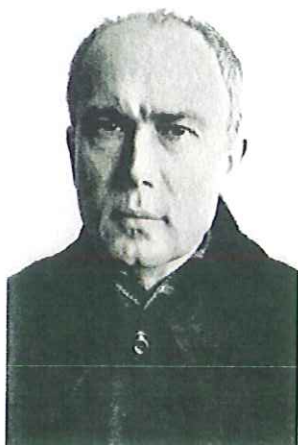
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