

*"The result of sexual intercourse
is usually a child." **

Dear Visitor,



Because of a lack of sex education, there still is not enough knowledge about safe contraception. Another limiting factor is money: Since contraception can be expensive, many people can't afford it. In addition to these problems, abortion access is limited. Austria does not provide affordable services in enough public hospitals, even 30 years after the country legalized abortion within the first three months of pregnancy. Another action that still needs to be put into force is restricted zones around clinics, where both women and clinic staff will be protected from psychological intimidation.

Women from all groups of society need abortion options in case of limited access to contraception or too little sex education. This is why abortion must be exempt from punishment. In fact there is no good reason why abortion should be covered by the penal law at all.

Generations of predecessors fought hard to win women's right to self-determination over their own bodies. Today, we need to be vigilant not only against erosions of current conditions, we must work to improve them as much as possible. It is vital that sexually active women be well-informed about contraception so they can make their own decisions without any outside influence.

In order to guarantee every woman's free decision whether and when to give birth, we need comprehensive sex education for everybody and open access to contraception. The term "everybody" includes women and men since contraception is men's business as well. Free contraception in schools and reimbursement for the "Pill" are no luxury, but a basic necessity.

This museum has a major stake in this goal. Here the development of contraception and abortion has been documented. Here you can see the multiple wrong and dangerous paths that have been taken over time. Here you can take an in-depth look into well-established, but often little-known facts. For example - how, when and why pregnancy can happen.

No one will leave the Museum of Contraception and Abortion without having learned something new, whether it be on medical progress, social pressure, or social developments. Everyone will have something to think about and talk about with others.

I am very proud to have this unique museum in Vienna, the only one of its kind in the world. I wish you a very fruitful stay.

With my best regards
Mag. Barbara Prammer
Speaker of the National Council

MUSEUM OF CONTRACEPTION AND ABORTION

Address:

37 Mariahilfer Guertel/1st floor, A-1150 Vienna, Austria
phone +43 699 178 178 04
www.muvs.org

Public Access:

Underground Lines 3 and 6: Westbahnhof Station,
Exit Äussere Mariahilfer Strasse
Tram Lines 5, 6, 9, 18, 56, 58: Westbahnhof Station.
No parking site. Bikes can be placed in the inner yard.

Opening hours:

Wednesday through Sunday, 2PM to 6PM

Tickets:

8 Euros
Discounts (up to age 22): 4 Euros

Guided tours:

Tours for classes (90 minutes) must be booked in advance:
+43 699 178 178 06 or at info@muvs.org
Listen to the audio-tour from inside or outside the museum (local rate):
for contraception dial +43 1 236 300 02 and add no. of respective
panel.
For abortion dial +43 1 236 300 03 and add no. of respective panel.

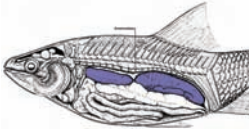
Internet:

Visit the museum online at www.muvs.org
A free email-newsletter is prepared every 4-8 weeks.

Newsletter subscription: Homepage > Museum > Newsletter

DOCUMENTING PROGRESS: FROM INFANTICIDE TO CONTRACEPTION

Under “natural” circumstances, a woman has approximately 15 pregnancies in her lifetime, resulting in ten births, depending on health, sanitation, housing conditions, access to clean water and proper nutrition, etc. Approximately seven of those ten births survive childhood. For economic, social or other reasons, most people neither presently nor historically want so many children.



For all generations and in most cultures, regulating the number of offspring has been and remains an essential issue. To do so, contraception, abortion and infanticide have been practiced.



Preconditions for using contraception and abortion are:

- Development of effective and safe methods based on medical and/or magical knowledge of the relevant time
- Unrestricted access to information as to methods and alternatives
- Permission to use known methods (given laws, religion, social structures, relationship)
- Understanding of implications
- Using these methods must have an advantage over
 - either more offspring
 - or possible infanticide

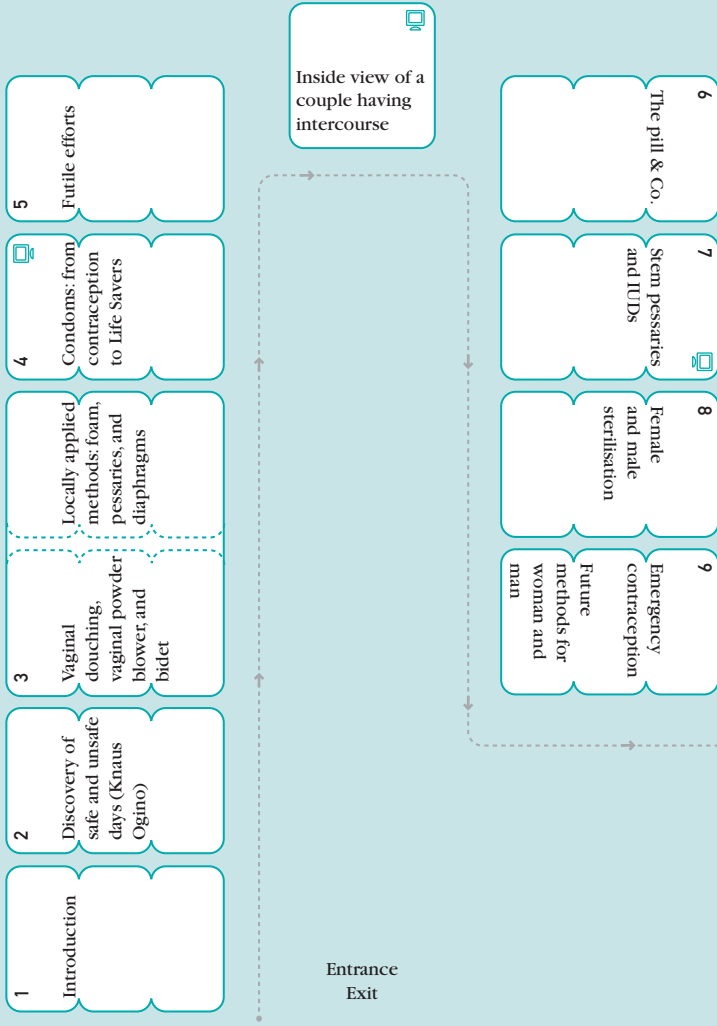


Early condoms were produced from fish air bladders. Before vulcanization was developed, condoms were uncomfortably thick.

In the middle of the 20th century the frog test was used to verify a pregnancy.

CONTRACEPTION

audio-tour phone 01 236 300 02 + no. of panel



ABORTION

audio-tour phone 01 236 300 03 + no. of panel

The law

5

Who decides over fertility?

The State's cruelty... (till 1975)

... has been overcome (from 1975)

The legal abortion

6

Pioneers for family planning

The Church

7

Women survive thanks to legalization of abortion

Countries with illegal abortion

8

Maternal morality and illegal abortion

Abortion tourism

9

Documenting progress: from infanticide to contraception

Development of safe abortion methods

Abortion in art and literature

The illegal abortion

4

Illegal abortion methods

3

Frequency of illegal abortions

2

Infanticide, suicide, abortomists

1

Pregnancy tests

Frog test, etc.



LOKALE SCHRANKMITTEL

DAS KONDOM

FRÜHES ORALE VERHÜTUNG

Das Reich der Geschichtslehre ist im Allgipfel

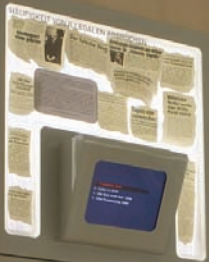
Lebenswichtige Information
EROS
Lebenswichtige Information
Zur Planung der Schwangerschaft
DAS ERSTE & BESTE
KONDOM

Zwei Planeten im Selbstgebrauch



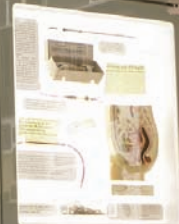
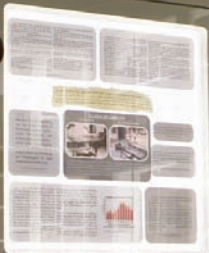
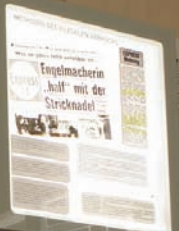
LEGALE ABBRUCH

WELTPREISEITUNG MIT 2 LEGALEN ABBRUCHEN



WELTPREISEITUNG MIT 2 LEGALEN ABBRUCHEN

Engelmöcherin
„hilft“ mit der
Strocknadel



Jedes Jahr
unterziehen sich
allein in Europa rund
2.000.000 Frauen
der Abtreibung!



Further conditions for contraception:

- Availability (fee, rent, exchanges or free)
- Regular use of a chosen method
- Perceived advantage over abortion



These premises have been guaranteed only in the last decades and in only a quarter of the countries worldwide. Most women/couples have had and still have little or no access to effective contraception or safe abortion. “Safe abortion” indicates a procedure conducted under “State of the Art” conditions. This is only possible if abortion is legalized, otherwise it will (again) be performed on hidden kitchen tables.



Every day 910,000 conceptions occur worldwide, of which 580,000 lead to pregnancies. Due to errors in very early development, a large number of fertilized eggs either fail to implant or to develop further.



Two-thirds of all pregnancies were planned, 60% of all pregnancies result in births. The remainder either abort spontaneously (15%) or are terminated (22%). Abortions are performed mostly under unsafe conditions in countries where it is illegal. This frequently leads to severe complications and 68,000 deaths worldwide per year. On the other hand, an abortion performed correctly by a trained provider is far less risky than giving birth.



IUDs (coils) have been used for contraception for about 100 years. Vaginal douches were thought to bold off sperm “in time”.

Soap is a dangerous substance to use for abortions.

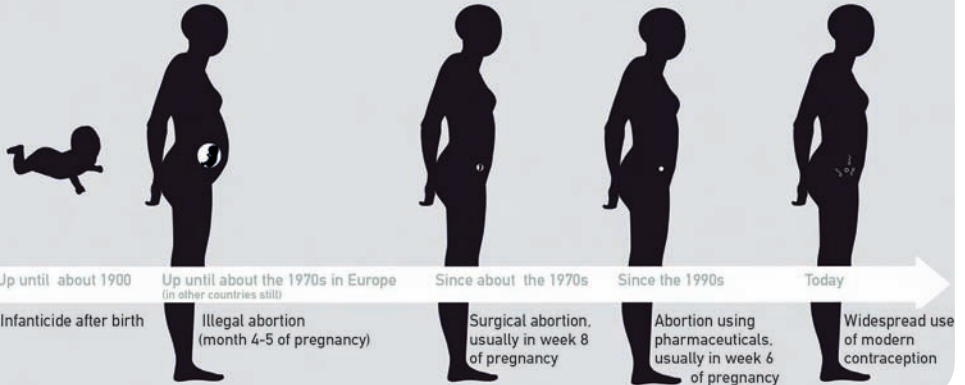
Bidets have been used for contraception - with little success.



The first and only museum of its kind displays the struggle for control over fertility - from early centuries to the present with a glance into the future. The museum aims to provide a greater understanding of the power of fertility and the necessity of regulating it.

Until 1975, abortion was illegal in Austria.

DOCUMENTING PROGRESS: FROM INFANTICIDE TO CONTRACEPTION



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* Quotation on cover page from "Love without unwanted children", ca. 1914

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