

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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*Established 1981*

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## **Studies: Birth Control, Contraception Don't Cut Abortions**

by Keith Riler

“Contraception reduces unintended pregnancies” has joined its fantastic make-believe friends “death with dignity,” the “efficacy” of embryonic stem cells, the “certainty” of man-made global warming, and the “positive” multiplier effect in the leftist vernacular. Hopeful that repetition supplants truth, choirs of liberal faithful are singing:

- “Most importantly, broadening access to birth control will help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and abortions.” – Jeanne Shaheen, Barbara Boxer, and Patty Murray
- Covering contraception saves money for insurance companies by keeping women healthy and preventing spending on other health services – (White House Fact Sheet on Contraception Coverage, available at <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2012/02/10/white-house-fact-sheet-on-contraception-coverage/tab/print/>)

Now consider, instead, reality.

**The Science.** The results are in: contraception availability does not reduce unintended pregnancies.

Many adolescent males will wholeheartedly affirm a connection between the availability of contraception and sexual activity, and scientific data supports the link. Studies have shown that contraception increases sexual activity — i.e., that more contraception means more sex.

One study based on Centers for Disease Control data, established clear links between birth control and increases in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). STD increases are a very reliable indicator of increased sexual activity and show that contraception is wrongly

perceived as low-cost insurance — a perception that motivates increased sexual activity.

And more sex means more pregnancies. Why? Because contraception is far from 100% effective, and with mass distribution of contraception comes a commensurate increase in sexual activity. More pregnancies will result because contraception fails in predictable percentages.

It is noteworthy that failure rates are highest in Planned Parenthood’s customer base:

Failures are highest among cohabitating and other unmarried women, among low income, African-American and Hispanic women, among adolescents and women in their 20s. For example, adolescent women who are not married but cohabitating experience a failure rate of about 47% in the first year of contraceptive use.

In Sweden, between 1995 and 2001, teen abortion rates grew 32% during a period of low-cost condoms, oral contraceptives and over-the-counter emergency contraception. Similarly, *National Review* recently reported that “out of 23 studies on the effects of increased access to ECs, *not one* study could show a reduction in unintended pregnancies or abortions.”

A recent ten-year study in Spain was reported to have found the same thing:

[C]ontraception use increased by about 60%, the abortion rate doubled. In other words, even with an increase in contraception use, there weren’t fewer unwanted pregnancies, there were more.

Planned Parenthood’s own affiliate, the Guttmacher Institute, showed simultaneous increases in both abortion rates and contraceptive use in the U.S., Cuba, Denmark, the Netherlands, Singapore, and South Korea. Guttmacher cites other countries as evidence of the opposite relationship, but it is noteworthy that many of those countries already had high abortion

rates, often as part of existing coercive government policies.

**Testimony.** Abortion industry regulars admit the truth. Guttmacher regularly reports that 55%-60% of women having abortions are on contraception. Other industry insiders concede:

Alan Guttmacher Institute researcher Stanley K. Henshaw: “Contraceptive users appear to have been more motivated to prevent births than were nonusers.” Planned Parenthood’s Frederick S. Jaffe, in *Abortion Politics*, admitted that “...even if everyone were to practice contraception, and use the most effective medically prescribed methods, there would still be a very large number of unwanted pregnancies.”

Abortionist and international contraception promoter Malcolm Potts [former director of Planned Parenthood of England] 1976 (even as early as 1973) quoted in *Sex and Social Engineering* by Valerie Riches. - In *Abortion*, he noted, “[T]hose who use contraception are more likely than those who do not to resort to induced abortion.”

Alfred Kinsey, 1955: “At the risk of being repetitious, I would remind the group that we have found the highest frequency of induced abortions in the groups which, in general, most frequently uses contraception.” Sociologist Lionel Tiger, 1999: “With effective contraception controlled by women, there are still more abortions than ever...[C]ontraception causes abortion.”

British Abortionist Judith Bury, Brook Advisory Centres, 1981: “[W]omen...have come to request [abortions] when contraception fails. There is overwhelming evidence that, contrary to what you might expect, the provision [availability] of contraception leads to an increase in the abortion rate.”

**Guttmacher’s Mistake.** Recent Guttmacher analysis of the declining teen pregnancy rate was widely cited as proof that contraception works:

The majority of the decline in teen pregnancy rates in the United States (86%) is due to teens’ improved

contraceptive use; the rest is due to increased proportions of teens choosing to delay sexual activity.

As the real-world data suggests, there are problems with this analysis. The original Santelli study on which the above statement is based relied heavily on 1995-2002 changes in contraceptive usage to postulate a cause for the reduction in unintended births. According to Santelli, this reduction came about as a result of more reliable contraception usage by sexually active teens. However, after 2002, those changes in usage slowed to a halt. As a result, although teen pregnancy rates have continued to decrease, their correlation with Santelli’s hypothesis has vaporized.

**“As people turn to contraception, there will be a rise, not a fall, in the abortion rate.”**

- *Malcolm Potts, former director of Planned Parenthood of England*

The Santelli analysis was a hypothetical modeling exercise that assumed its hypothesis (contraception is increasingly effective, therefore contraception is increasingly effective). When half of the tautology was made untrue by post-2002 contraception usage trends, the conclusion was also

rendered invalid.

The irrelevance of the Santelli study suggests that Michael New’s explanation is increasingly credible:

[P]arental involvement laws and public funding restrictions are effective in reducing the incidence of abortion among minors. Specifically, the passage of a parental involvement law correlates with a 16 percent decline in the minor abortion rate, and the passage of Medicaid funding restrictions correlates with a 23 percent decline in the minor abortion rate.

**Conclusion.** Real-world studies show that contraception has not reduced, but has instead increased unintended births. Therefore, President Obama’s recent HHS edict has a very questionable basis in fact. It has also alienated a large swath of the electorate and is in all likelihood unconstitutional.

It seems that in this case, science has taken a backseat to ideology, and as a result, Catholics and other faiths are being systematically mistreated as a result of their religious beliefs. That makes this a case of bad science and religious bigotry.

<sup>1</sup>1995 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) and 1994-1995 Abortion Patient Survey (APS). Planned

Parenthood has indicated that 75% of its customers are at or below 150% of the poverty line.

<sup>2</sup>Santelli JS et al., Explaining recent declines in adolescent pregnancy in the United States: the contribution of abstinence and improved contraceptive use, *American Journal of Public Health*, 2007, 97(1):150-156.

<sup>3</sup>For instance, sexually active teens using the pill increased from 25.0% to 34.2% from 1995 to 2002 but decreased to 30.5% in 2006/2010. Likewise, those using condoms increased from 38.2% to 54.3% from 1995 to 2002 but decreased to 52.0% in 2006/2010. The rate of changes in those using “no method” also changed dramatically, from 29.3% to 16.8% from 1995 to 2002, but only from 16.8% to 14.4% in 2006/2010. Data is from the CDC 2006-2010 National Survey of Family Growth.

<http://onemoresoul.com/news-commentary/studies-birth-control-contraception-don%e2%80%99t-cut-abortions.html>

## Harvard scientists see breakthrough on cystic fibrosis, using adult stem cells

Harvard scientists have announced what appears to be a breakthrough in research on the treatment of cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis, which used to claim its victims in infancy or early childhood, has evolved into a killer of those in their 30s because treatments of the infections that characterize the disease have improved. But despite those advances, there has been little progress in treating the underlying condition that affects the vast majority of patients: a defect in a single gene that interferes with the fluid balance in the surface layers of the airways, and leads to a thickening of mucus, difficulty breathing, and repeated infections and hospitalizations

Using stem cells taken from the skin of cystic-fibrosis victims, Jayaraj Rajagopal and colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital have created induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells and then used those cells to create human disease-specific functioning lung epithelium, the tissue that lines the airways and is the site of the most lethal aspect of cystic-fibrosis, where the genes cause irreversible lung disease and inexorable respiratory failure. “We’re not talking about a cure for cystic-fibrosis; we’re talking about a drug that hits the major problem in the disease. This is the enabling technology that will allow that to happen in a matter of years,” said Rajagopal, the senior author on

the paper. The researchers have produced tissues that reproduce the lung tissues of the disease’s victims. These tissues can now be used to test drugs that attack the disease directly—something that had not previously been possible.

This latest advance—like virtually every important advance to date in the medical use of stem cells—involved the use of cells taken from adult donors.

For further information see:

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2012/04/big-advance-against-cystic-fibrosis/>

**Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?**

**Make sure they get the facts first!**

**A LIFE depends on it...**

**1-800-395-HELP (4357)**

### *Calendar of Events*

Visit [www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org) for the most up to date information on activities and events happening in your area. Have you visited the website lately? It is totally “remodeled” to be even more user friendly.

**Nationwide Rally for Religious Freedom. June 8th** has been announced for the next Nationwide Rally for Religious Freedom. To keep updated on the latest San Francisco rally news, please join here: <https://www.facebook.com/StandUpForReligiousFreedomSanFrancisco>

**Yuba-Sutter Fair – August 1-5:** The 2012 Yuba-Sutter fair will run from August 1st-5th. If you would like work at the booth, please call Maureen at 673-1437 or email [secretary@ysrtl.org](mailto:secretary@ysrtl.org).

**PRO-LIFE WALKS ACROSS AMERICA – Crossroads, a Civil Rights organization that exists in order to help bring about a Culture of Life and defend the right to life of all unborn children**, walks across America each summer, coast to capital to save unborn human life. They are now accepting applications for the Summer 2012 walks. Email [info@crossroadswalk.org](mailto:info@crossroadswalk.org) or call 800-353-8817 (U.S. and Canada), Fax: 1-410-312-5238 for more info. To visit their website visit [crossroadswalk.org](http://crossroadswalk.org)

**SURVIVORS ANNUAL PRO-LIFE TRAINING CAMP – June 21-July 1** The Survivors (<http://survivors.la/> ) hold their annual "Pro Life Training Camp" June 21 - July 1, 2012, in Los Angeles CA. To learn more visit their website <http://survivors.la/training-camp.asp> or call 951-750-1114 or email [camp@survivors.la](mailto:camp@survivors.la) for more information. *Known nationally as the pro-life "boot camp", Survivors Pro Life Training Camps have equipped hundreds of high school and college students, including many of our student volunteers, to be effective voices for the preborn.*



To all the moms who traded sleep for dark circles, salon haircuts for a pony tail, long baths for quick showers, and designer handbags for diaper bags...that wouldn't change a thing in her life, loving the whole experience....  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**



## WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same "no-exceptions, no excuses" beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.

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