

**THE LONG HISTORY OF WOMEN'S
RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS IN THREE SOUTH
AMERICAN COUNTRIES; THE RECENT
LEGAL HISTORY OF ABORTION LAW IN
URUGUAY, ARGENTINA, CHILE.**

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BRIEF HISTORY OF SOUTH AMERICAN REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
CAMPAIGNS 349
COMPARISON BETWEEN U.S. AND L

welcomed after 1927 to the Pan American Child Congresses.³

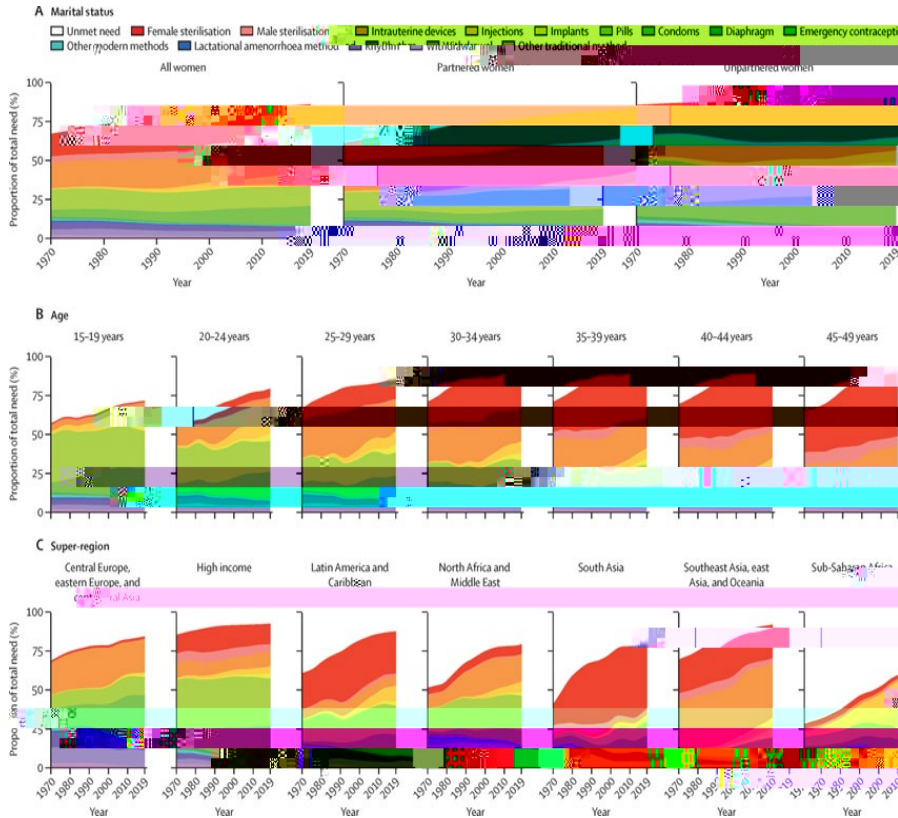
over the world since 1992.⁹ Its 2022 report noted the challenges facing reproduction rights all over the world, especially in the United States due to the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case that eliminated national constitutional abortion rights for women.¹⁰ But in terms of Latin America, the situation had improved remarkably since 1918, when women had few legal choices. The proportion of all pregnancies in Latin America and the Caribbean ending in abortion increased between 1990-1994 and 2010-2014, from 23% to 32%.¹¹ Women, especially those who had already given birth, often chose tubal ligation—female sterilization—usually after giving birth.¹² They were not about to wait for permission to use new legal contraceptive methods, although in some countries like Peru, Bolivia, and Chile, forced tubal ligation became a state tactic to control proliferation of non-whites, HIV-infected babies and leftists.¹³ In 2018, approximately 23% of South American women listed sterilization for birth control, compared to 18% who used birth control pills. What do these statistics mean? Either reversible forms of birth control such as the pill, IUDs, and injectable contraceptive were too expensive or had undesirable side effects, or those involving male contraceptives lacked female input. As more reliable contraceptive methods become available, sterilization has become less frequent in South America, but the day-after-pills are not free and often cost as much as 22 USD.¹⁴

Colombia, an exception to this, chose the implementation of free sterilization as part of public family planning programs that began in the 1960s, and represents the principal agent promoting family planning since 2011.¹⁵ Nevertheless, accusations of forcible sterilization of developmentally disabled girls have been made in Colombia.¹⁶ Female

9. *Factbook 2022* (U.S. State Dept. 2022) 1.2 (TJ-0.002 Tw J05)4.6 J0 R30 0 6n(4Tplyd

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WORLD-WIDE TOTAL CONTRACEPTIVE USE BY AGE, PARTNERED AND UNPARTNERED WOMEN, AND REGION, 1970-2019²⁰



TUBAL LIGATION AND STERILIZATION AS A COMMON CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICE

As a result of increased contraceptive use, the frequency of abortion has decreased in Latin America. In the last thirty years, tubal ligation has been the principal cause.

According to the Guttmacher organization, the number of unintended pregnancies in Latin America and the Caribbean have gone from 94 per

20. Annie Haakenstad et al., *Measuring Contraceptive Method Mix, Prevalence, and Demand Satisfied by Age and Marital Status in 204 Countries and Territories, 1970–2019: A Systematic Analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019*, 400 THE LANCET 295, 311 (2022).

1,000 women in 1994 to 69 per 1,000.²¹ Abortion, however, has only been reduced by 3%.²² We can probably conclude from this data that birth control measures, both surgical and mechanical, have been extremely

remains for poor women to access these drugs without going through the same steps as other contraceptives.

The question I wish to raise regards future strategies for the feminist birth control movement is: how will changing reproductive strategies, ones that may cast aside the need for current restrictions on women, affect the future of abortion politics? If women increasingly rely on new forms of birth control and the day-after-pill, what will happen to conservative demands t (a)-10bl4.6 (e)x2.1 (n)1.9 () (ne)-1.6 T.hohe f8ont i(e)11.71 (n)1.9 () 6s fus t nonsdr