

# Publications on birth control and pregnancy health

Pam Coll 18



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2024

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Pam Coll 18

**CREATOR:** American Birth Control League (1921-1942)

**TITLE:** Publications on birth control and pregnancy health

**DATES:** 1866-1967, undated

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (2 boxes + 1 oversize folder)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The bulk of the collection consists of pamphlets, brochures, and printed materials related to efforts to legalize various forms of birth control in Connecticut and the United States. This includes materials from the 1920s related to the Eugenics movement in the United States promoting sterilization for social improvement. The collection also includes a small amount of material related to women's health and pregnancy.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.pam.0018>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.pam.0018>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Provenance for items in the collection is unknown. Collection was created by Medical Historical Library staff.

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Publications on birth control and pregnancy health. Historical Library, Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

The American Birth Control League was founded by Margaret Sanger in 1921. The National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control was founded by Margaret Sanger in 1928. The Birth Control Federation of America was formed in 1939 by joining the National Committee on Federal Legislation with the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, which has split off in 1928. The Birth Control Federation of America was renamed The Planned Parenthood Federation of America in 1942.

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## Scope and Contents

The bulk of the collection consists of pamphlets, brochures, and printed materials related to efforts to legalize various forms of birth control in Connecticut and the United States. These materials include publications from several organizations founded and/or led by Margaret Sanger, who coined the term "birth control" and is credited with starting the birth control movement in the United States. The collection also includes publications from the 1920s related to the Eugenics movement in the United States promoting sterilization for social improvement and a small amount of material related to women's health during pregnancy.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	American Birth Control League 1 brochure on child spacing, 1 pamphlet on pros and cons of birth control, 2 copies of a page on problems for family health (abortion, pre-natal and obstetrical care, sex education, early marriage, birth control, sterilization, and a healthy sex life), 2 editions and 1 cover and back of the Birth Control Review journal, 1 pamphlet listing reasons for the popularity of the birth control movement, 2 copies of statement signed by physicians supporting birth control and birth control research, 1 publication relating to the Mother's Clinic, 1 brochure stating the principles and aims of the League, 1 table listing the member organizations, clinics, and public funds in each state,	1932-1938
b. 2, f. 2	American Birth Control League, oversize materials 1 copy of a statement signed by 65 physicians at the American Birth Control League's annual luncheon, stating that the public should be educated on the state of birth control, birth control is valuable as a form of preventative medicine and public health preservation, and clinical research has found that birth control is safe	circa 1936
b. Folder, f. XL 1	American Birth Control League, chart of organizations in the United States involved in efforts to change birth control laws. 3 copies.  All copies are restricted until conservation treatment is completed.	1936
b. 1, f. 2	Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau 1 brochure for the conference on contraceptive research and clinical practice, 1 brochure on the Rhythm theory of "natural birth control"	1936-1938
b. 1, f. 3	Birth Control Federation of America 1 article on birth control education, 2 editions of <i>Information Service</i> journal with articles on population stability, 1 article from the A.M.A. Journal on pellagra in relation to mental disease, 1 article from the A.M.A. Journal on birth control	1940-1941
b. 1, f. 4	Human Betterment Foundation 3 copies of a pamphlet on human sterilization and eugenics, 1 brochure with a report to the board of directors of the Foundation in 1937, 1 pamphlet with a report to the board of directors in 1938, 1 page with a list of arguments promoting sterilization in California	1937-1938
b. 1, f. 5	National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control 1 brochure with bills introduced to decriminalize sending contraceptive information and supplies through the mail among medical professionals, 1 page with an article from the <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> about P.L. Gassaway's birth control policies, 4 pamphlet with national birth control news, 1 newsletter and 1 card asking people to advocate for the Birth Control Bill, 1 report on Margaret Sanger's travels in India, 1 page with information on how to support the Birth Control movement	1936-1937
b. 2, f. 1	National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control, oversize materials 1 copy of a speech by Pearl Buck praising Margaret Sanger at the "Birth Control Comes of Age" dinner for the National Committee on Federal Legislation for Birth Control	circa 1935

b. 1, f. 6	Planned Parenthood 1 brochure with Planned Parenthood news, 3 editions of the <i>News of Population and Birth Control</i> journal, 1 report on the study group on responsible parenthood and the population problem, 1 brochure with a report on contraceptive and fertility clinic services	1945-1959
b. 1, f. 7	Abortion 1 pamphlet <i>The ethical platform</i> published by the New York Society for Ethical Culture, with an address by Algernon D. Black called "The Abortion Issue and the Sanctity of Life"	1967
b. 1, f. 8	Articles in popular publications 1 pamphlet titled <i>Society's ounce of prevention</i> by Helen Hickam Martin supporting birth control, 1 digest of birth control news and press clippings, 1 article titled "Birth Control vs. Class Suicide" by Guy Irving Burch	1936-1945
b. 2, f. 4	Articles in popular publications, oversize materials Includes 1 brochure from the Ecumenical Book Shelf with a list of publications from the World Council of Churches and 1 clipping from the <i>New York Times</i> regarding World Council of Churches report on Christian attitudes towards birth control.	1958-1959, undated
b. 1, f. 9	Birth control education, Right to Access Information 1 page from J.A.M.S. journal on birth control education and the teaching of contraception in medical schools, 1 brochure with a talk by Marie P. Warner on "Pre-Marital Preparation" at the Bronx County Medical Society, 1 pamphlet with a report on <i>The right to birth control information in family planning</i> from the Community Service Society of New York	1939-1964
b. 1, f. 10	Birth control outside the United States 1 page of German bibliography, 1 pamphlet titled <i>Islamic opinions on contraception</i> from the Pakistan Academy for Village Development, 1 pamphlet on birth control in Hungary since 1956, 1 <i>The Scandanavian Times</i> magazine with an article arguing for birth control as a method to control overpopulation	circa 1960-1967
b. 1, f. 11	Chemical contraceptives 1 pamphlet on <i>The clinical effectiveness of lactic acid jelly as a contraceptive</i> , 1 page with a letter from Manufacturing Chemist on the use of phenyl mercuric acetate as a contraceptive, 1 pamphlet on spermicidal chemicals	circa 1937-1939
b. 1, f. 12	Congressional hearing 1 pamphlet with Guy Irving Burch's statement from hearings before the Senate on bill S. 1842 and birth control as a method for population control	1934
b. 1, f. 13	Connecticut 1 page with Connecticut laws on birth control, 1 brochure with an article titled "Birth Control Issue in Waterbury" by John H. Foster, newspaper clippings on contraception in Connecticut, 2 pages from the <i>Connecticut State Medical Journal</i> with details of a conference of the Connecticut State Medical Society in support of legalizing contraception for married women for health purposes	1939

b. 2, f. 3	<p>Connecticut, oversize materials</p> <p>1 copy of a brief by James Wayne Cooper for a state legislative hearing on the constitutionality of Connecticut's ban on contraception, 1 copy of a report from the Connecticut State Medical Society's Committee on Public Policy and Legislation to its House of Delegates against Connecticut's ban on contraception, 2 pages and a stapled collection describing the history of birth control legislation in the Connecticut legislature,</p>	1935, undated
b. 1, f. 14	<p>Eugenics</p> <p>1 pamphlet titled <i>Race pride and birth control</i> detailing contemporary arguments against birth control on the basis of racial or national identity, 1 letter from The Humanitarian Society warning about negative effects of birth control education, 1 page with an article advocating for birth selection/eugenics over birth control, 2 pages from the Eugenic Babies Foundation advertising membership for their organization</p>	circa 1921-1928
b. 1, f. 15	<p>Pregnancy and reproductive health</p> <p>1 pamphlet on "the treatment of extra-uterine pregnancy, ruptured in the early months, by vaginal puncture and drainage, 1 pamphlet with a study on the vital capacity of the lungs in pregnant women and toxemia (preeclampsia), 1 brochure on albuminuria in pregnancy presented to the Gynecological Society of Boston, 1 pamphlet with cases and advice on "the removal of the womb by abdominal section," 1 pamphlet with a PhD thesis for the University of Minnesota on "The relationship between cystic disease of the breast and cancer"</p>	1866-1933
b. 1, f. 16	<p>Sterilization</p> <p>1 pamphlet of "The Population Bomb" pamphlet series titled <i>Is voluntary human sterilization the answer?</i> in response to concerns about overpopulation</p>	undated
b. 1, f. 17	<p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>1 brochure from the Mountain Maternal Health League of Berea, Kentucky supporting the funding of contraceptives for rural women, 2 copies of a page with an article titled "Control: By Man or Nature?" arguing for birth control as a way to "exercise control at the level of a reasonably elevated standard of living," 1 cover of a publication titled <i>Birth Control: Hands off</i> with an illustration of a rattlesnake, 1 page with the article "Is Birth Control Moral?" by Rabbi Edward L. Israel, published by the New Jersey Birth Control League, with analysis of the Torah in support of birth control, 1 page with a list of doctors</p>	circa 1932-1938

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Abortion  
Birth control  
Birth control -- Law and legislation  
Contraception  
Eugenics  
Sterilization (Birth control)

### **Contributors**

American Birth Control League (1921-1942)  
Birth Control Federation of America  
Human Betterment Foundation  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America