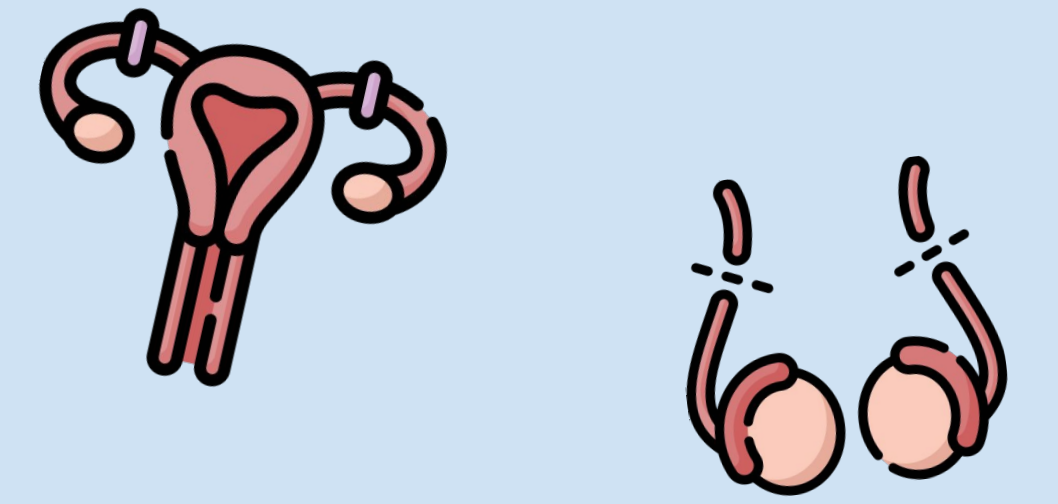




Birth Control and its Environmental Impact

Emma Wieseler, Callista Robertson, Bailey Magnuson, Fiona Kelley, Houssam Ennoura
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INTRODUCTION

Research Question:

With a constant development of new forms of contraception and a rising human population, how does birth control have an environmental impact?

Why I am Interested in this Research Question:

We were interested in this topic because it is highly debated in the U.S. Birth control and its environmental impact studied that is often researched but not always discussed in classes. For these reasons we wanted to study a topic that was highly discussed but not always talked about in classroom settings.

Key Findings so Far:

The 2019 data on contraceptive use among women of reproductive age shows stark regional contrasts, with methods like "Female Sterilisation", "Injectables", and "Pills" varying in popularity across regions. However, usage is lowest in regions like "Sub-Saharan Africa" and "Oceania" (excluding Australia and New Zealand), underscoring the global disparity in access to reproductive health and family planning services. Enhancing access to these services could bridge the gap between the desire and actual use of family planning, thereby aiding in managing population growth, an economical approach to mitigate climate change impacts. A 2020 study projected that we would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 20 percent by the year 2100, if women without current access to birth control were provided with contraception (Hazlegreaves, 2020). Updated data is needed to track current trends and guide public health strategies.

Finding #2: This dataset shows the correlation between global population growth and increasing global carbon emissions. The bar graph shows change in global population from 2 billion people in 1927 to 7.3 billion people in 2017, while the line graph shows change in carbon emissions for the same time period. There is a clear positive correlation between the two variables.

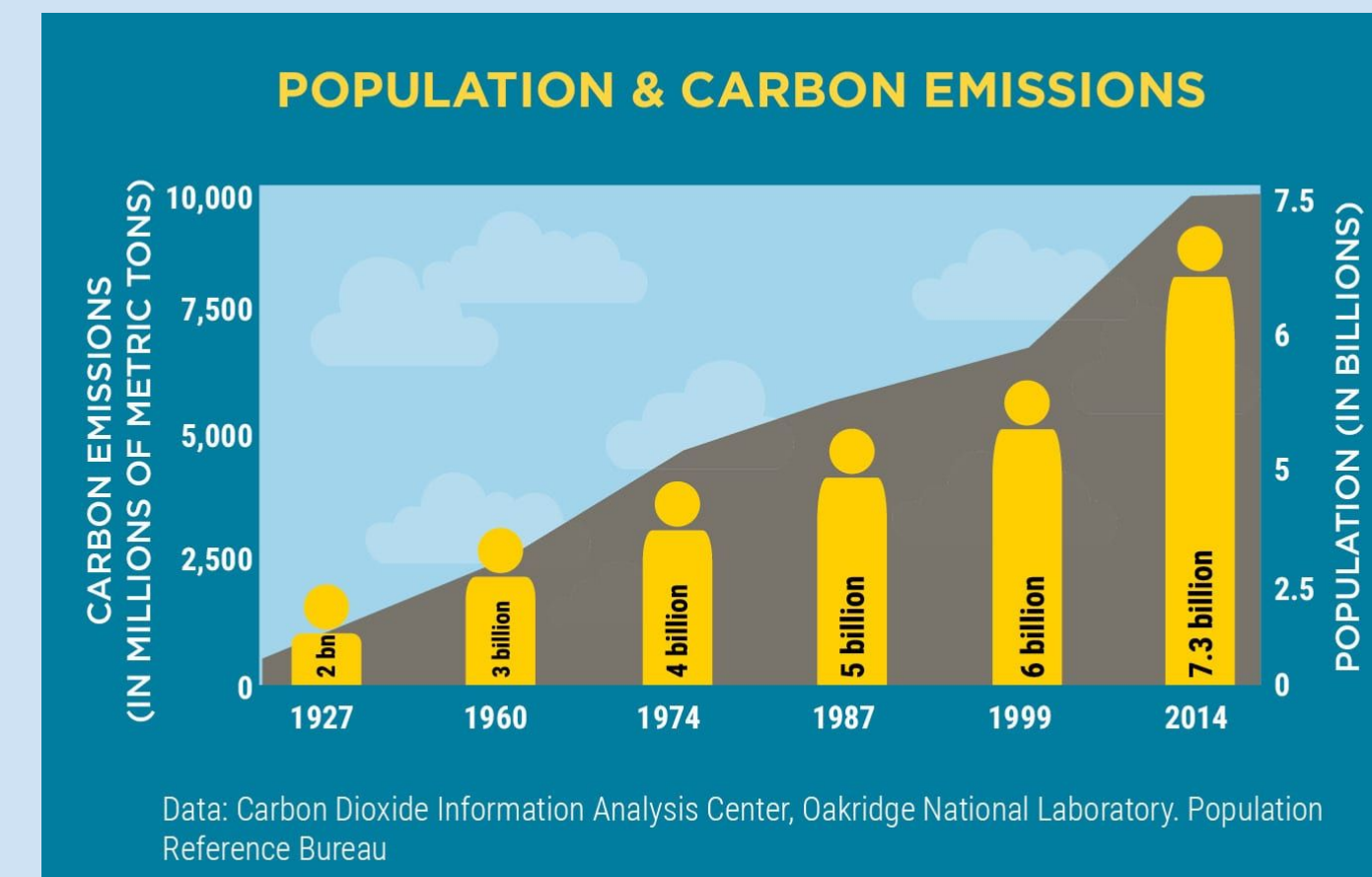


Figure 2. Population Growth and Carbon Emissions Globally

Finding #3: An increase in contraceptive use has the potential to greatly decrease our world carbon emissions. This figure shows that as contraceptive use increases, fertility rate decreases. Given that one additional child adds 9,441 metric tons of carbon emissions to the average parent's carbon legacy (Murtaugh), the impact of contraception on population growth has the potential to greatly reduce our global carbon emissions.

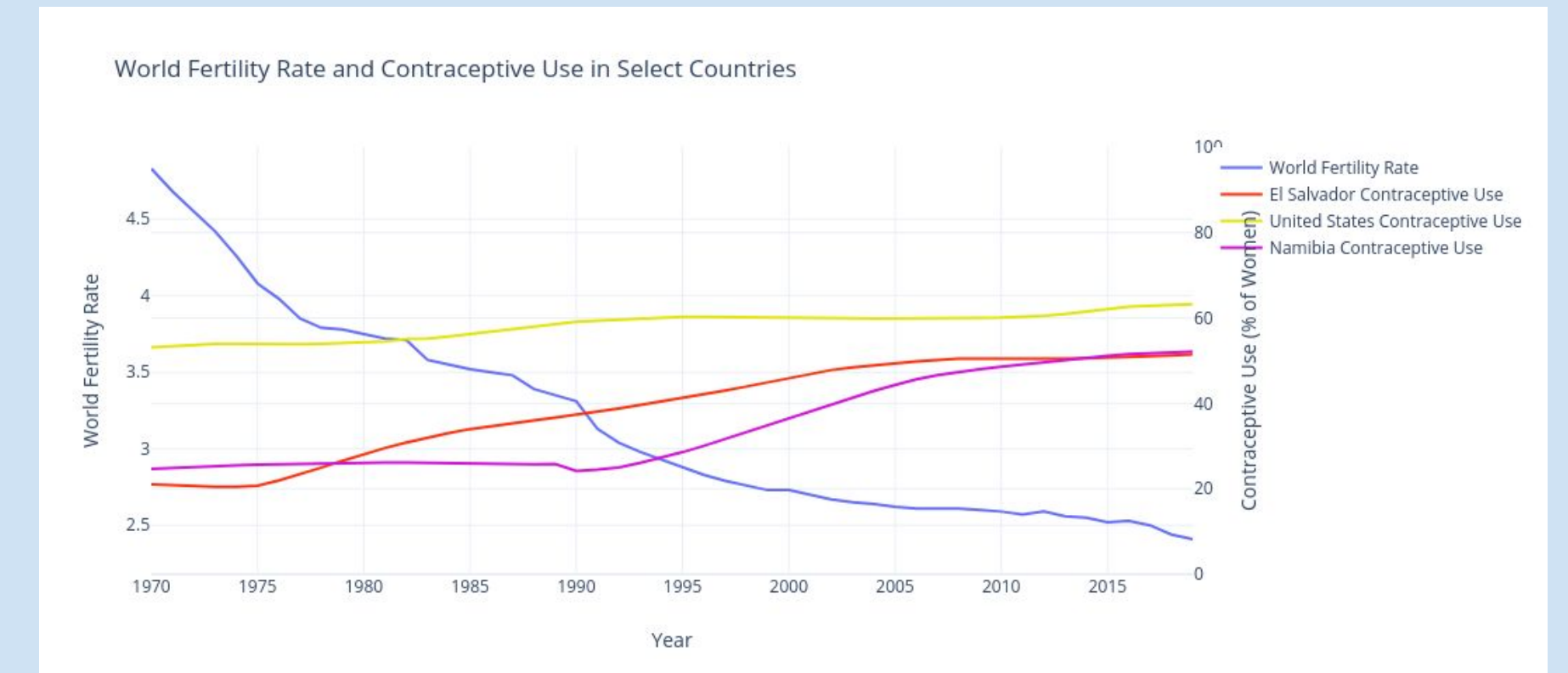


Figure 3. World Fertility Rate and Contraceptive Use in Select Countries

Finding #1: This chart represents the estimated prevalence of different contraceptive use among women of reproductive age (15-49 years) across various global regions in 2019. It provides a comparative visualization of contraceptive methods, highlighting regional differences, including access disparities, and preferences in regards to contraceptive usage.

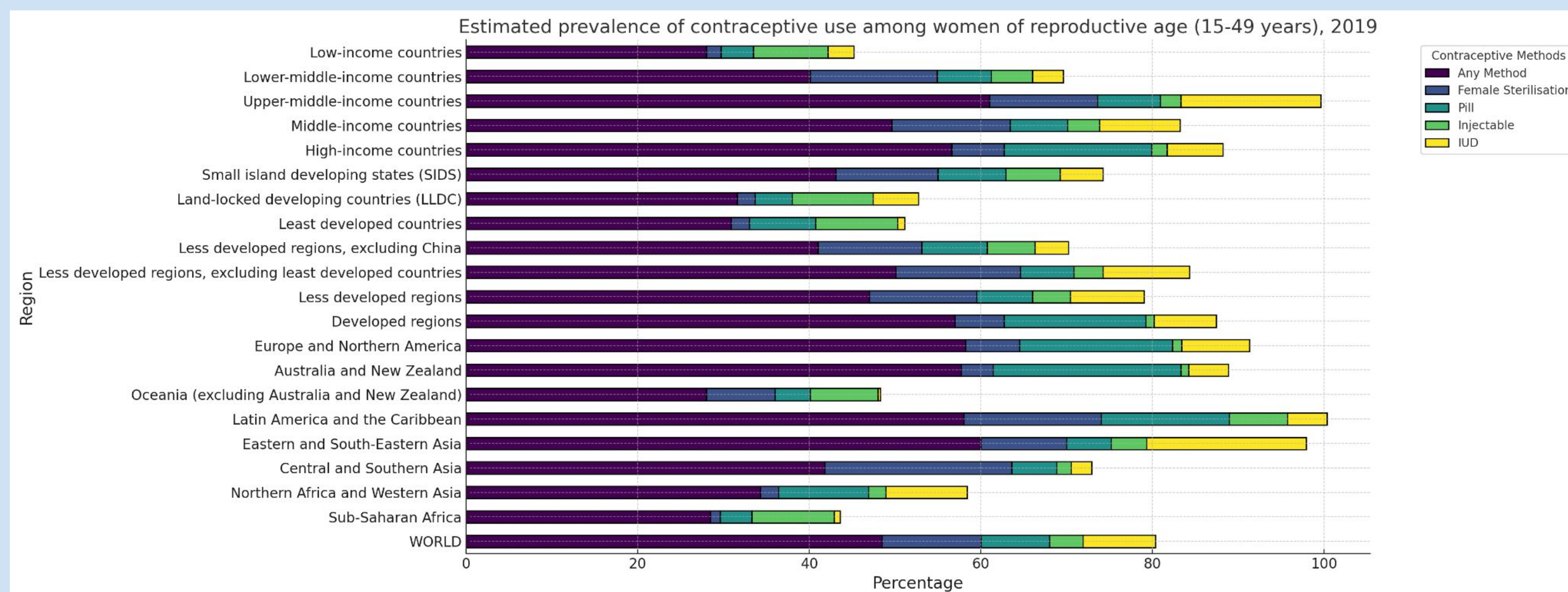


Figure 1. Estimated prevalence of contraceptive use among women of reproductive age (15-49 years), 2019

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