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THE #METOO MOMENT: SECOND THOUGHTS ON THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION

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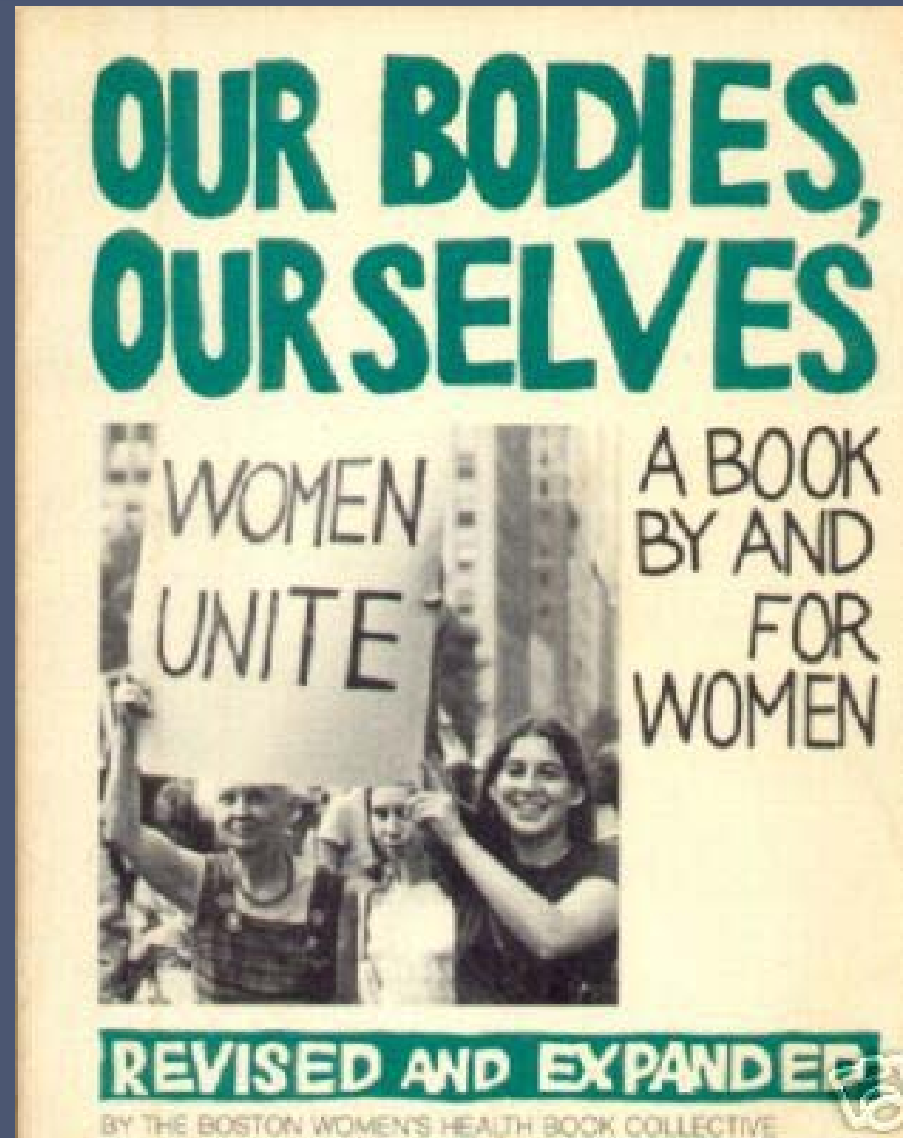
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Second thoughts: Health consequences of the sexual revolution

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Disclaimers

- I have no affiliations with industry.
- I received no compensation in preparing this presentation.
- This presentation does not represent the opinions of Duke University.



The sexual revolution was characterized by significant changes in...

- Sexual behaviors
- Women's fertility strategies e.g. contraception and abortion
- Relationships between the sexes

...which have had short- and long-term effects on women's health

- What are some of these changes?
- What are the consequences?
- How does this speak to the #MeToo moment?

Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health

- Increased rates of sexually transmitted infections and disease
 - Gonorrhea
 - Chlamydia
 - Syphilis
 - Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Changes in sites of infection
 - Mouth/throat, anus, colon and rectum

Changes in women's fertility strategies have consequences for women's health

- Increased use of contraception and abortion
- Delayed childbearing
- Infertility

Changes in relationships between the sexes have consequences for women's health

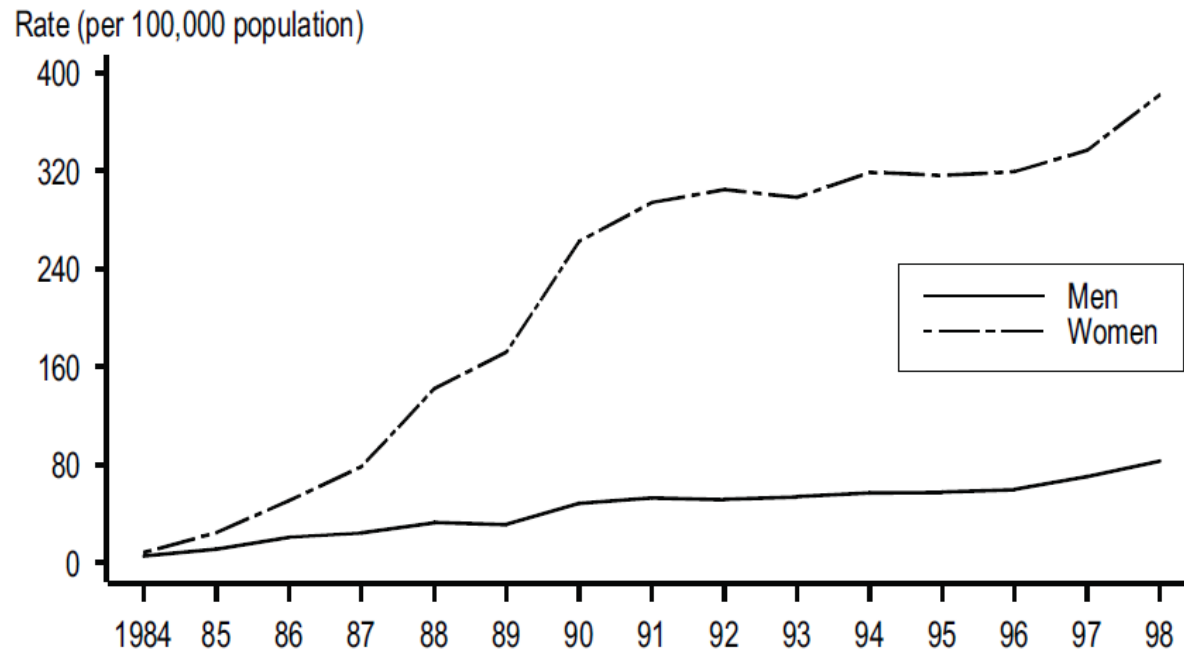
- An increase in casual, exploitative and/or abusive sex (often driven by use of pornography)
 - Decreased sexual satisfaction
 - Increased sexual exploitation
 - Commodification not only of sex, but of women themselves
 - Piercing, shaving and genital surgery

Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health

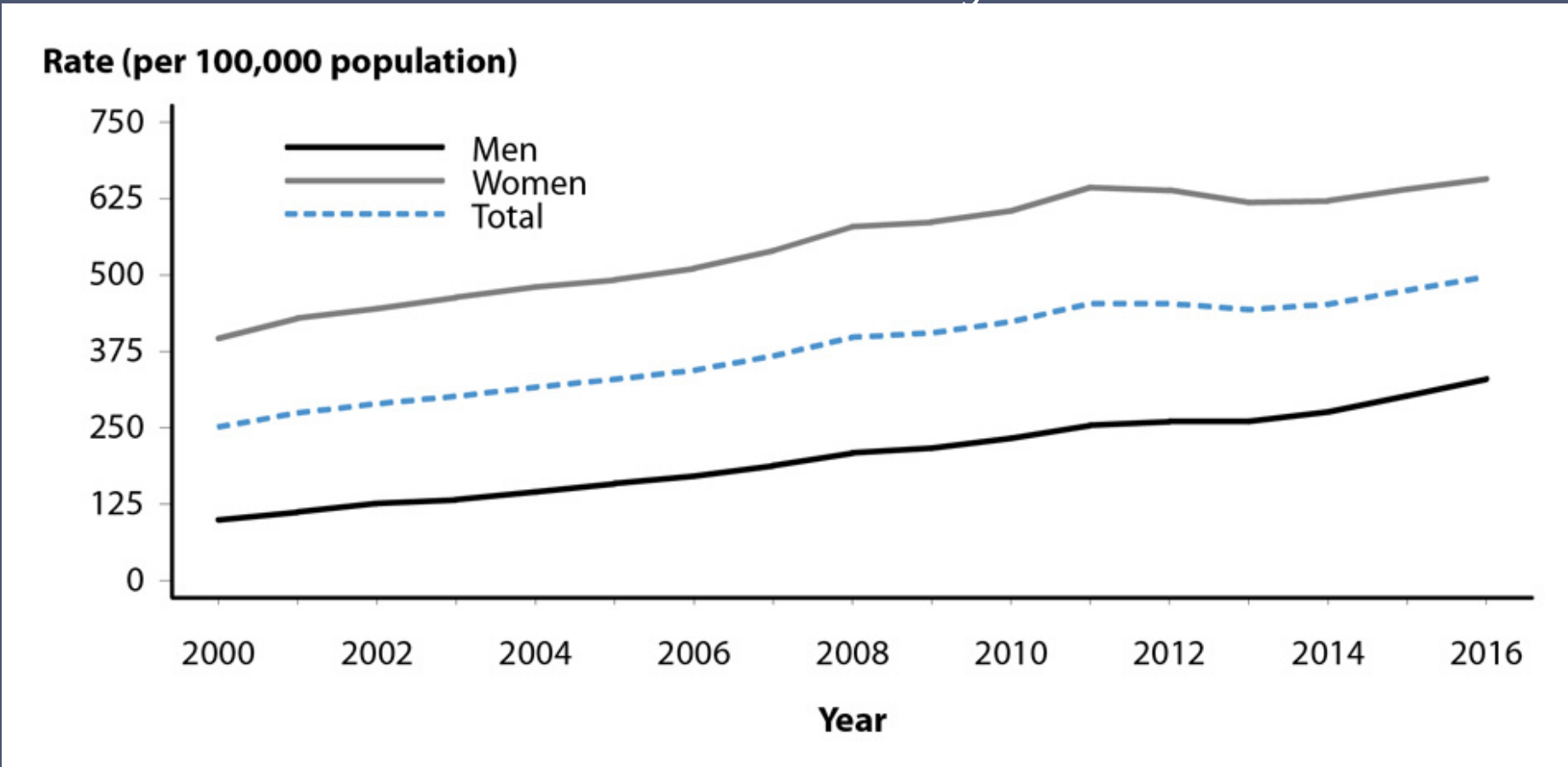
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Sexually transmitted disease surveillance – Chlamydia, 1984-1998

Figure 1. Chlamydia — Rates by gender: United States, 1984–1998



Sexually transmitted disease surveillance – Chlamydia, 2000-2016



Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health

- Sexually transmitted infections are associated with both short- and long-term effects on women's fertility
 - Gonorrhea and *Chlamydia trachomatis* infections can cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), with tubal damage and infertility
 - Tubal factor infertility is the most common cause of female infertility (25-35%)
 - The most common cause of tubal factor infertility is pelvic inflammatory disease and Fallopian tube infection (>50%)
 - A high proportion of *in vitro* fertilization procedures are performed for tubal factor infertility

Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health

- There is evidence (though conflicting) that *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection may also lead to increased risk for miscarriage¹
 - Infection with *C. trachomatis* may cause the production of antibodies to microbial heat shock proteins (Hsps); these microbial proteins share similarities with human heat shock proteins, which are produced by human embryos
 - In mouse models, antibodies to Hsps impair embryo formation, indicating a potential mechanism for miscarriage in humans²
 - These findings may have significant implications for women (especially adolescents) who become infected with *C. trachomatis*.

¹Giakoumelou S, Wheelhouse N, Cuschieri K, Entrican G, Howie SE, Horne AW. The role of infection in miscarriage. *Hum Reprod Update*. 2016 Jan-Feb;22(1):116-33.

²Karinen L, Pouta A, Hartikainen AL, Bloigu A, Paldanius M, Leinonen M, Saikku P, Järvelin MR. Antibodies to *Chlamydia trachomatis* heat shock proteins Hsp60 and Hsp10 and subfertility in general population at age 31. *Am J Reprod Immunol*. 2004 Nov;52(5):291-7.

Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health

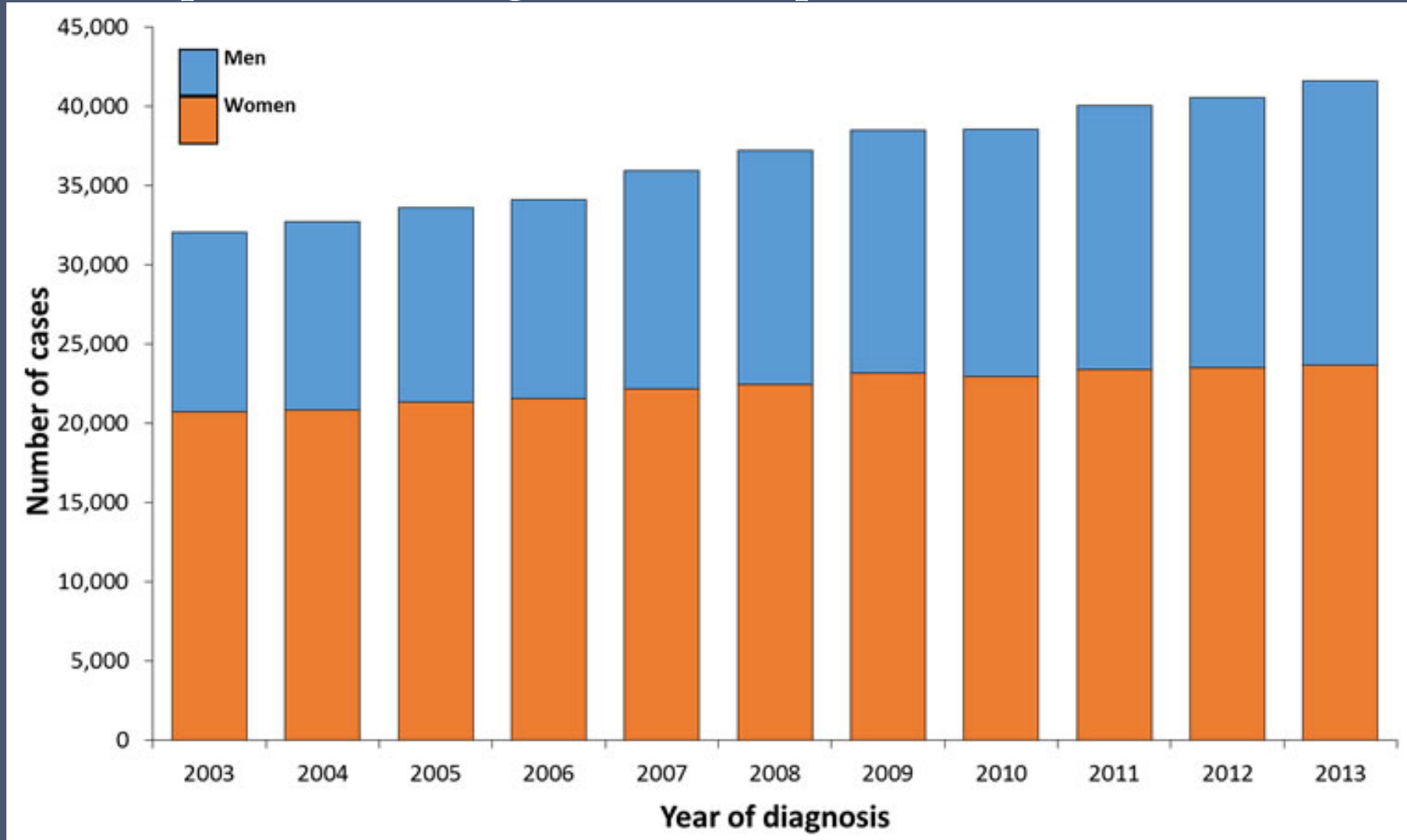
- Beyond pelvic inflammatory disease
 - *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection in men may also be associated with increased risk for infertility
 - Prior *Chlamydia* infections in a male partner are associated with the presence of antibodies in their female partners
 - These may increase risk for “sexually transmitted infertility”³

³W. Eggert-Kruse, K. Batschulat, T. Demirakca & T. Strowitzki. Male immunity to the chlamydial 60 kDa heat shock protein (HSP 60) – associated with semen quality? *Andrologia* 2015, 47, 66–76.

Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health: HPV

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States and is associated with oral, penile and cervical cancer

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/hpv/statistics/trends/index.htm>



Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health: HPV

- The incidence of oropharyngeal cancer has been increasing in recent years due to increasing rates of HPV infection. This is felt to be associated with changes in sexual practices
- At the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Radiation Oncology, Farzan Siddiqui, MD, PhD, of Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, noted: "The growing incidence in oropharyngeal cancer has been largely attributed to the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, which led to an increased transmission of high-risk HPV" [emphasis added]^{4,5}

⁴Gayar OH1, Ruterbusch JJ, Elshaikh M, Cote M, Ghanem T, Hall F, Siddiqui F. Oropharyngeal carcinoma in young adults: an alarming national trend. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg* 2014 Apr;150(4):594-601

⁵<https://www.oncologynurseadvisor.com/web-exclusives/hpv-linked-to-growing-number-of-young-adults-with-oropharyngeal-cancer/article/314581>, accessed 18May2018

Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health: HPV

- HPV is also associated with rectal and possibly colorectal cancer^{6,7,8}
- 3 in 10 new diagnoses of rectal cancer now occur in adults < 55 years of age⁹
- The possible association with HPV is noteworthy given the newly observed epidemic of GI cancers in young adults

⁶Raul D. Bernabe-Dones, Maria Gonzalez-Pons, Alejandro Villar-Prados, Mercedes Lacourt-Ventura, Heriberto Rodríguez-Arroyo, Sharon Fonseca-Williams, Francisco E. Velazquez, Yaritza Diaz-Algorri, Sofia M. Lopez-Diaz, Nayra Rodríguez, Yasuhiro Yamamura, Marcia Cruz-Correa. High prevalence of human papillomavirus in colorectal cancer in Hispanics: A case-control study. *Gastroenterology Research and Practice*, Volume 2016, Article ID 7896716

⁷Damin DC, Ziegelmann PK, Damin AP. Human papilloma virus infection and colorectal cancer risk: a meta-analysis. *Colorectal Dis.* 2013;15:e420-428.

⁸Baandrup L, Thomsen LT, Olesen TB, et al. The prevalence of human papilloma virus in colorectal adenomas and adenocarcinomas: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Eur J Cancer.* 2014;50:1446-1461.

⁹<https://www.aafp.org/news/health-of-the-public/20170307colorectalcarates.html>, accessed 18 May 2018

Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health: HPV

- Women with cervical HPV and dysplasia (abnormal cells) are more likely to have anal dysplasia
- As a result women may be at increased risk for anal or colorectal cancers due to the association between cervical HPV infection with dysplasia, and anal dysplasia
 - As an aside, pornographic movies frequently feature anal and anal-to-oral sex
 - Anal sex may also be seen as a means of preventing

Changes in sexual behavior have consequences for women's health: HPV

- HPV is not only associated with squamous lesions of the cervix, but also with the more dangerous glandular dysplastic lesions, and adenocarcinomas
- Non-high-risk HPVs are also associated with cervical cancers

What is the epidemiological evidence for increases in STI rates since the sexual revolution?

- Example: California



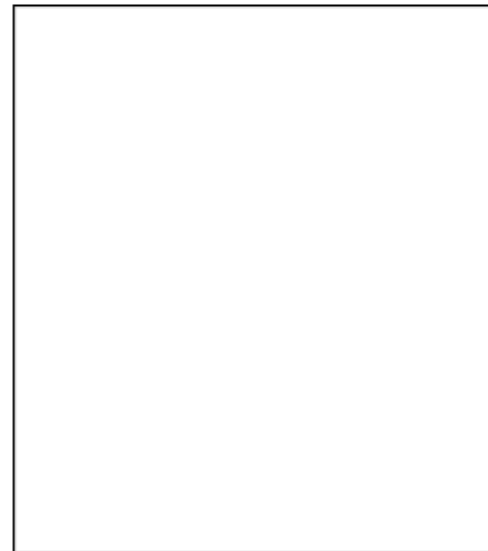
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News > Kaiser Health News

California's Deadly STD Epidemic Sets Record

Harriet Rowan and Alex Leeds Matthews

May 18, 2018



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Diagnoses of sexually transmitted diseases hit a record high in California last year — with sometimes deadly consequences, according to preliminary [state data](#) released this week.

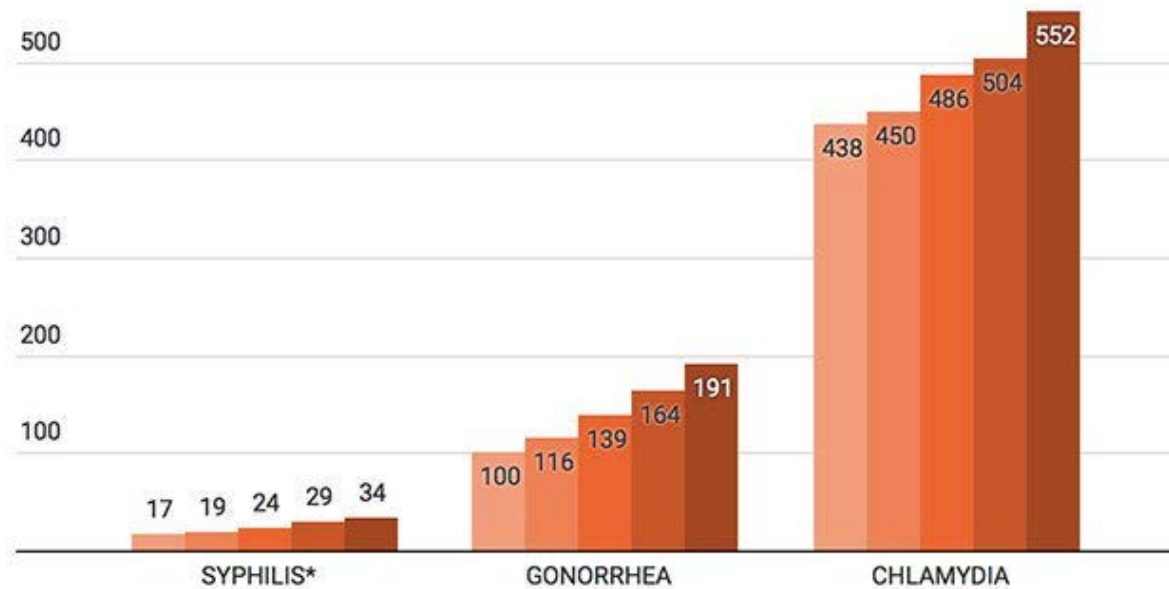
More than 300,000 cases of gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis — the most common sexually transmitted bacterial infections — were reported in 2017.



Sexually Transmitted Diseases Soar

Rates of infection per 100,000 Californians

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

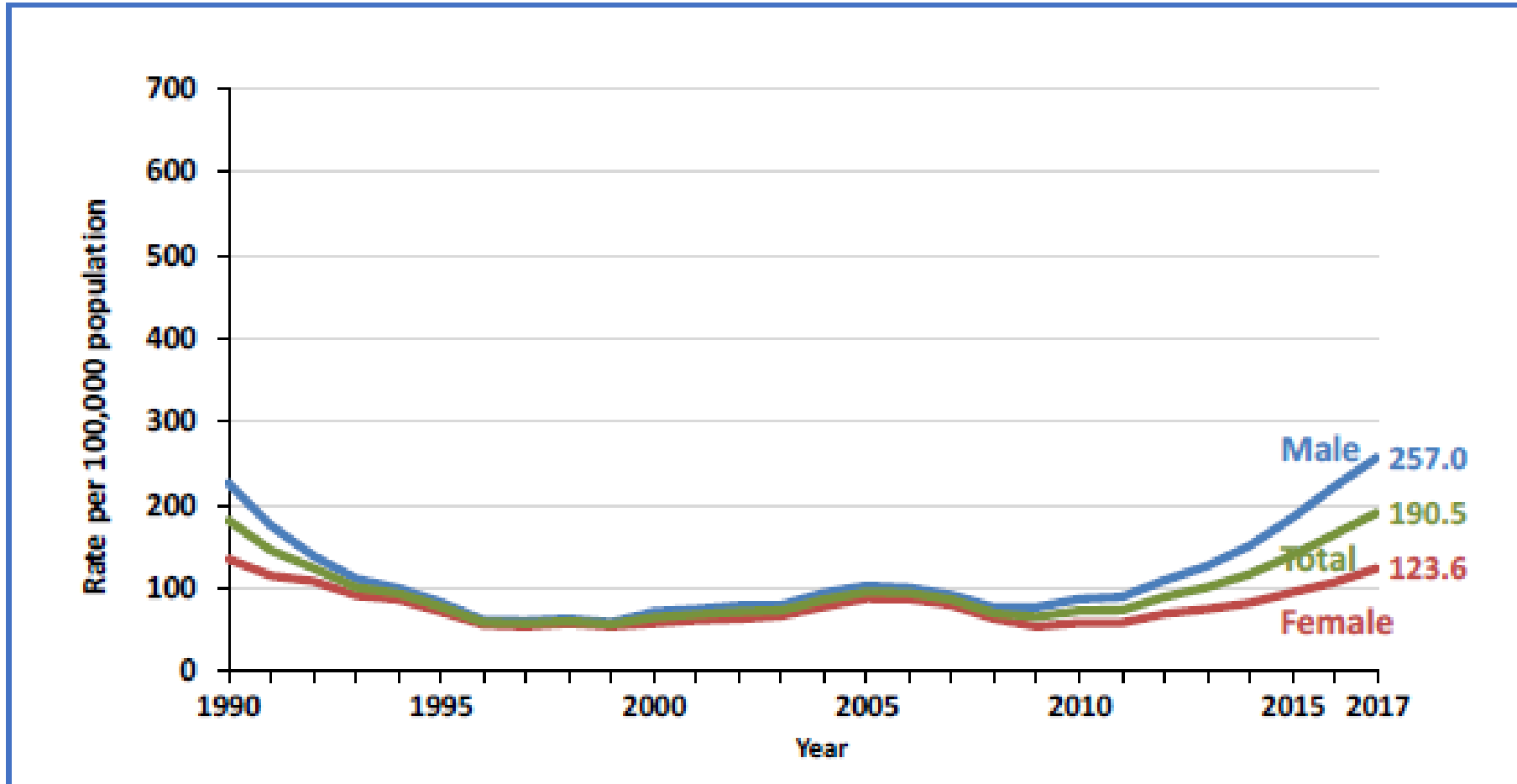


**This is a measure of early syphilis, a combination of primary, secondary, and early latent stages of the disease, but does not include congenital syphilis.*

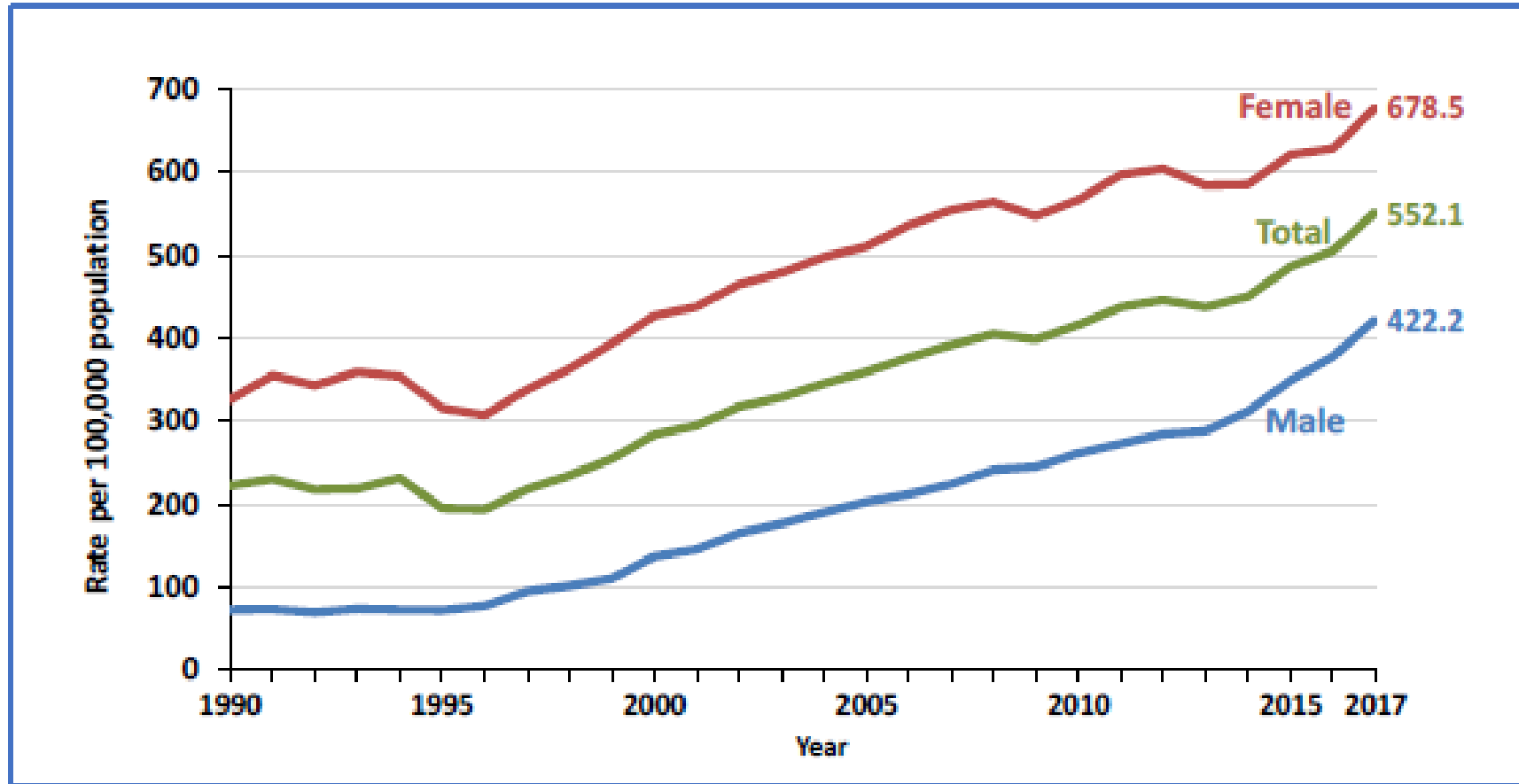
Medscape

Source: California Department of Public Health

Gonorrhea Rates by Gender, 1990-2017

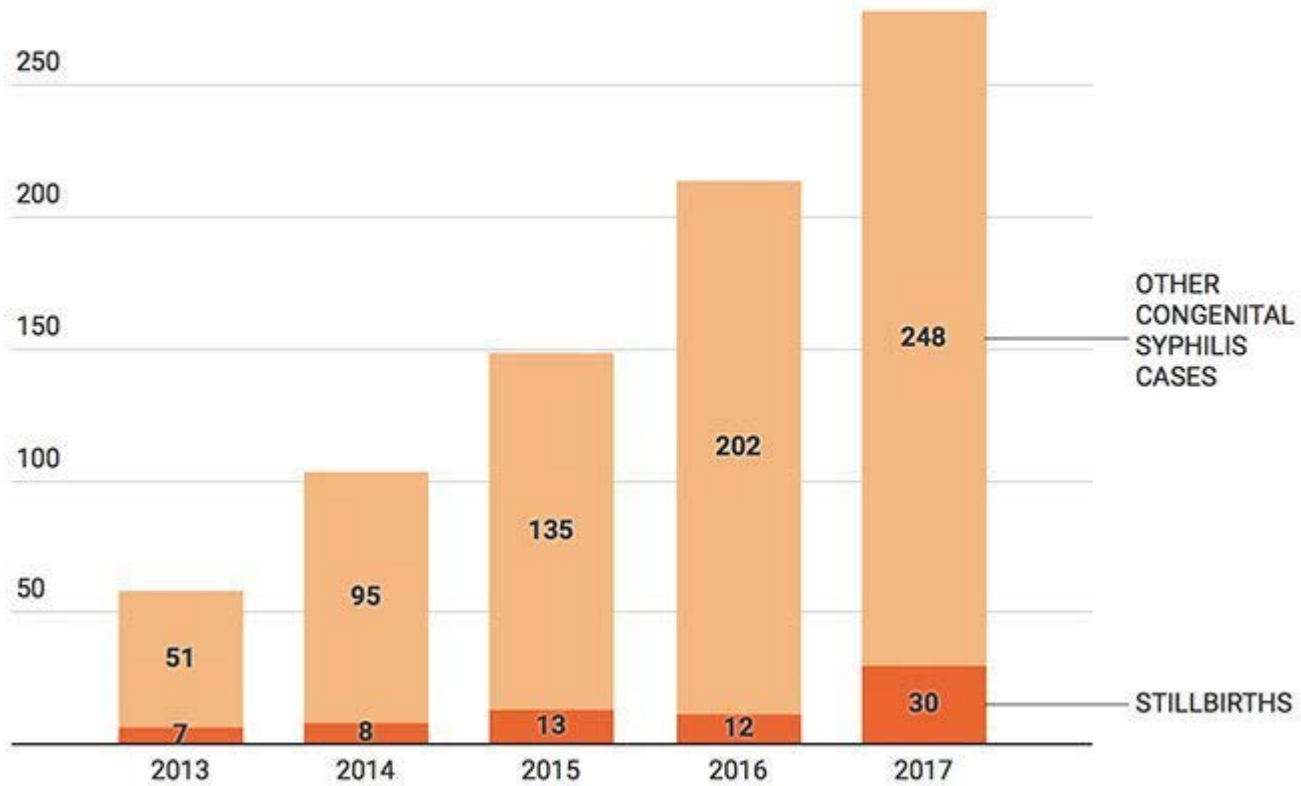


Chlamydia Rates by Gender, 1990-2017



Congenital Syphilis And Stillbirths In California

The numbers of diagnoses and fetal deaths have surged over five years.



Medscape

Source: California Department of Public Health



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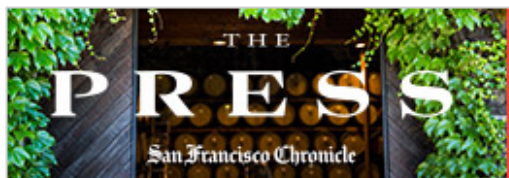
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Sexually transmitted diseases dramatically increase in California



Peter Fimrite

May 14, 2018

Updated: May 14, 2018 5:03 p.m.



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Does social media play a role in this dramatic increase in STIs?

- “...Dr. James Watt, chief of the division of communicable disease control for the [California] Department of Health, said social media played a significant role by helping people find anonymous sex partners.
 - ‘It makes it easier for people to meet people they don’t already know to have sex,’ Watt said. ‘The internet allows for a broadening of sexual networks, and the broader that gets the more opportunity you have for sexually transmitted diseases to spread...The levels we are seeing now are higher than they’ve been since 1990...We’ve been seeing increases for all three diseases for the last five or six years. It’s concerning because that slope, that uptick, doesn’t seem to be coming down. In fact, it seems to be getting steeper.’

Women's fertility regulation strategies may have unintended consequences

- These may not be readily apparent at the time of decision-making
 - “At different points in their lives, women may rely on opposite fertility regulation strategies...young women need information on the possibility of future infertility at a later age”¹⁰
- For example, the use of abortion as a fertility regulation strategy may be a risk marker for future infertility¹⁰, or difficulty carrying to term
 - Abortion is known to be associated with increased risk for future preterm birth¹¹⁻¹⁴
- Women may also contracept beyond their natural fertility¹⁵⁻¹⁸

¹⁰Hemminki E1, Klemetti R, Sevón T, Gissler M. Induced abortions previous to IVF: an epidemiologic register-based study from Finland. *Hum Reprod* 2008 Jun;23(6):1320-3. doi: 10.1093/humrep/den101. ¹¹Zhou W, Sørensen HT, Olsen J. Induced abortion and subsequent pregnancy duration. *Obstet Gynecol*. 1999 Dec;94(6):948-53; ¹²Preterm Birth: Causes, Consequences, and Prevention, National Academy of Science Press, July 06, <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11622.html>, accessed 21 May 2018; ¹³Iams JD, Berghella V. Care for women with prior preterm birth. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2010 Aug;203(2):89-100; ¹⁴Saccone G, Perriera L, Berghella V. Prior uterine evacuation of pregnancy as independent risk factor for preterm birth: a systematic review and metaanalysis. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2016 May;214(5):572-91. ¹⁵Hewlett SA. *Creating a life: professional women and the quest for children*. New York: Hyperion, 2002. ¹⁶Grossman M, *Unprotected*. New York: Sentinel, 2007. ¹⁷Kemkes-Grottenthaler 2003. Postponing or rejecting parenthood? Results of a survey among female academic professionals. *J. Biosoc. Sci.* 35, 213–226. ¹⁸Schmidt L, Sobotka T, Bentzen JG, A. Nyboe Andersen, on behalf of the ESHRE Reproduction and Society Task Force. Demographic and medical consequences of the postponement of parenthood. *Human Reproduction Update*, Vol.18, No.1 pp. 29–43, 2012.

Health consequences of the sexual revolution: changes in women's fertility strategies

- Much attention has been directed to the effects of various contraceptive methods on women's health. For example,
 - Women using hormonal contraception maybe at increased risk for blood clots (in the legs and/or lungs), stroke, and heart attack (especially in smokers, older women, women with cardiovascular disease and women with complicated migraine), and breast cancer
 - Medroxyprogesterone acetate (DepoProvera) has a black box warning regarding risk of decreased bone density

Health consequences of the sexual revolution: changes in women's fertility strategies

- However, little to no attention has been paid to the effects of hormonal contraception on oocytes, and hence a woman's possible future offspring
 - As an example, one hypothesis correlates the prevalence of oral contraceptive pill use with that of autism¹²

¹²Strifert K. The link between oral contraceptive use and prevalence in autism spectrum disorder. *Medical Hypotheses* 83 (2014) 718–725.

Changes in women's fertility strategies have consequences for women's health

- As noted above, several studies suggest an association between abortion and risk for subsequent preterm birth
- The Institute of Medicine (2006) noted that “The numerous efforts to prevent preterm birth have had little success...These risk factors are detailed in Table B-5.”¹²

TABLE B-5 Immutable Medical Risk Factors
Associated with Preterm Birth

Previous low birth weight or preterm delivery
Multiple 2nd trimester spontaneous abortion
Prior first trimester induced abortion
Familial and intergenerational factors
History of infertility
Nulliparity
Placental abnormalities
Cervical and uterine anomalies
Gestational bleeding
Intrauterine growth restriction
In utero diethylstilbestrol exposure
Multiple gestations
Infant sex
Short stature
Low prepregnancy weight/low body mass index
Urogenital infections
Preeclampsia

The tale of this ill-advised but ultimately, er, successful liaison is recounted in “**Madame Claude: Her Secret World of Pleasure, Privilege, & Power**,” by William Stadiem (St. Martin’s Press).

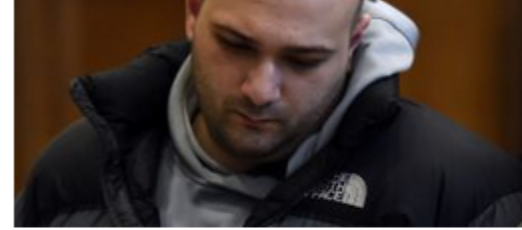
Madame Claude, born Fernande Grudet on July 6, 1923, in Angers, France, was one of the world’s most successful madams.

Starting in 1957, she ran an exclusive, high-class prostitution ring that offered a very specific type of woman — tall, supermodel-gorgeous, classy and upscale (or at least trained to appear so) — to the world’s richest and most powerful men.

The young women who worked for her were known as Claude girls, which became a well-known and powerful brand. She scouted them carefully, paid for plastic surgery if needed, and ultimately hoped to marry them off to aristocracy.

“A date with a ‘Claude girl’ was one of those pinnacle Paris experiences,” writes Stadiem, “like staying at the Ritz or dinner at Maxim’s or wearing a Lanvin suit . . . an apotheosis of luxury that the French do better than any other nationality.”

According to Stadiem, Madame Claude’s client list included the world’s most successful men of the time: Kennedy, Frank Sinatra, Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Sammy Davis Jr., former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, three generations of Gettys, the Shah of Iran, Marlon Brando, Darryl Zanuck, Groucho Marx. If you were rich, famous and male in the 20th century, chances are Madame Claude knew what you liked in bed, and provided exactly that.



NYPD cop accused in road rage beating 'never should have been hired'

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From the Magazine

“OH MY GOD, THIS IS SO F---ED UP”: INSIDE SILICON VALLEY’S SECRETIVE, ORGIASTIC DARK SIDE

Some of the most powerful men in Silicon Valley are regulars at exclusive, drug-fueled, sex-laced parties—gatherings they describe not as scandalous, or even secret, but as a bold, unconventional lifestyle choice. Yet, while the guys get laid, the women get screwed. In an adaptation from her new book, *Brotopia*, Emily Chang exposes the tired and toxic dynamic at play.

BY EMILY CHANG

JANUARY 2, 2018 5:00 AM



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From *Brotopia* by Emily Chang

- “ ‘It’s awesome,” says Founder X. At work, he explains, ‘you’re well funded. You have relative traction.’ Outside work, ‘why do I have to compromise? Why do I have to get married? Why do I have to be exclusive? If you’ve got a couple girls interested in you, you can set the terms and say, ‘This is what I want.’ You can say, ‘I’m happy to date you, but I’m not exclusive.’ These are becoming table stakes for guys who couldn’t get a girl in high school.’

From *Brotopia* by Emily Chang

- “Another female entrepreneur described the unfair power dynamic that’s created. ‘There is this undercurrent of a feeling like you’re prostituting yourself in order to get ahead because, let’s be real, if you’re dating someone powerful, it can open doors for you. And that’s what women who make the calculation to play the game want, but they don’t know all the risks associated with it,’ she said”.
- (What does this sound like?)

What do the behaviors described by Steinem and Chang, and the abuse described by women in the #MeToo moment, have in common?

- Might they have occurred as a result of the sexual revolution?
- Moreover, were they made possible by contraception and abortion?
- What needs to change?

Conclusion

- Human behavior has not changed, but it has been facilitated, sometimes at its worst, by the sexual revolution
- It seems reasonable to ask if the sexual revolution has been an aggregate good for both women and men.

