

# CURRENT TRENDS IN ABORTIONS AND CONTRACEPTION IN LITHUANIA and EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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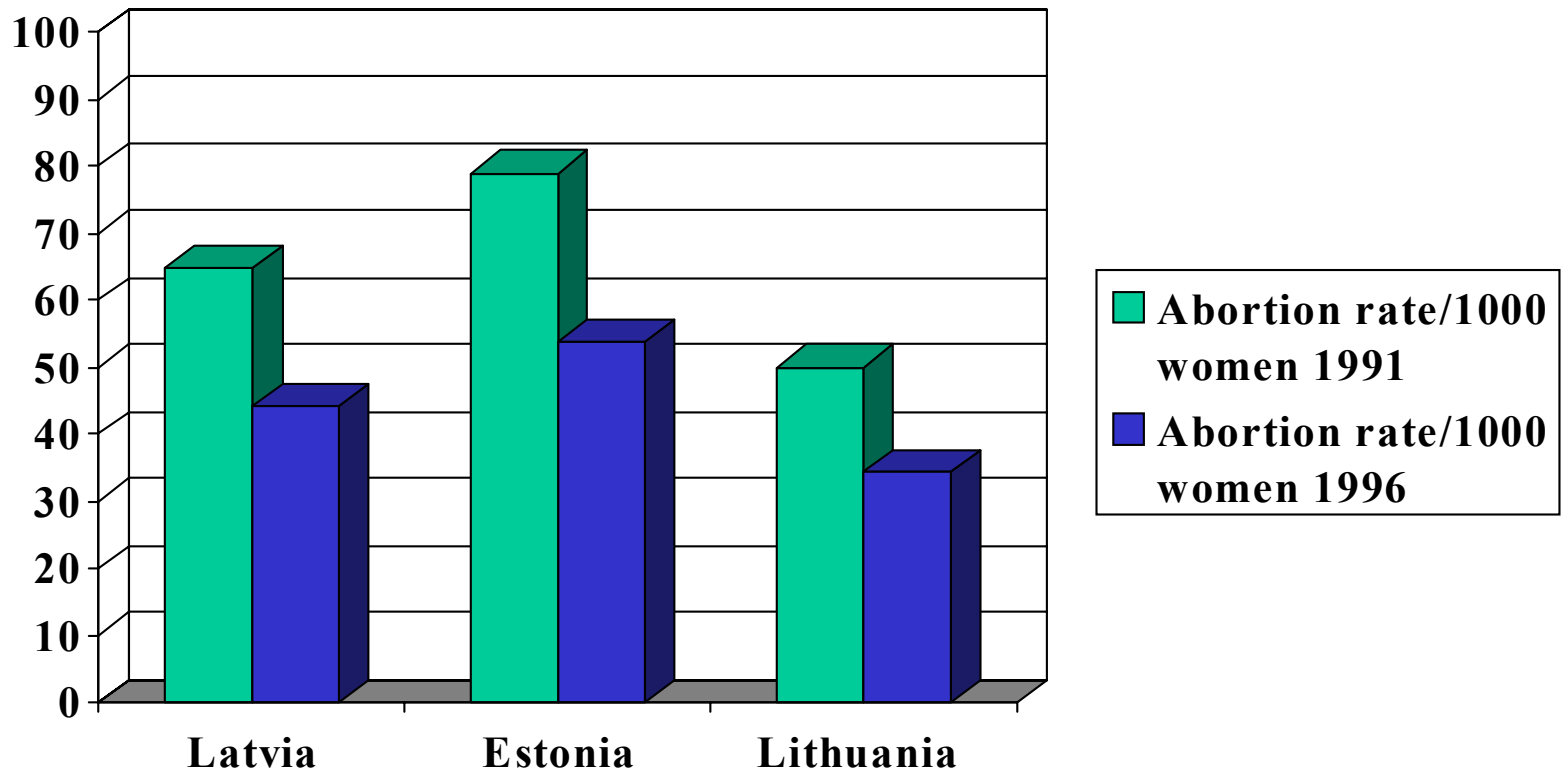
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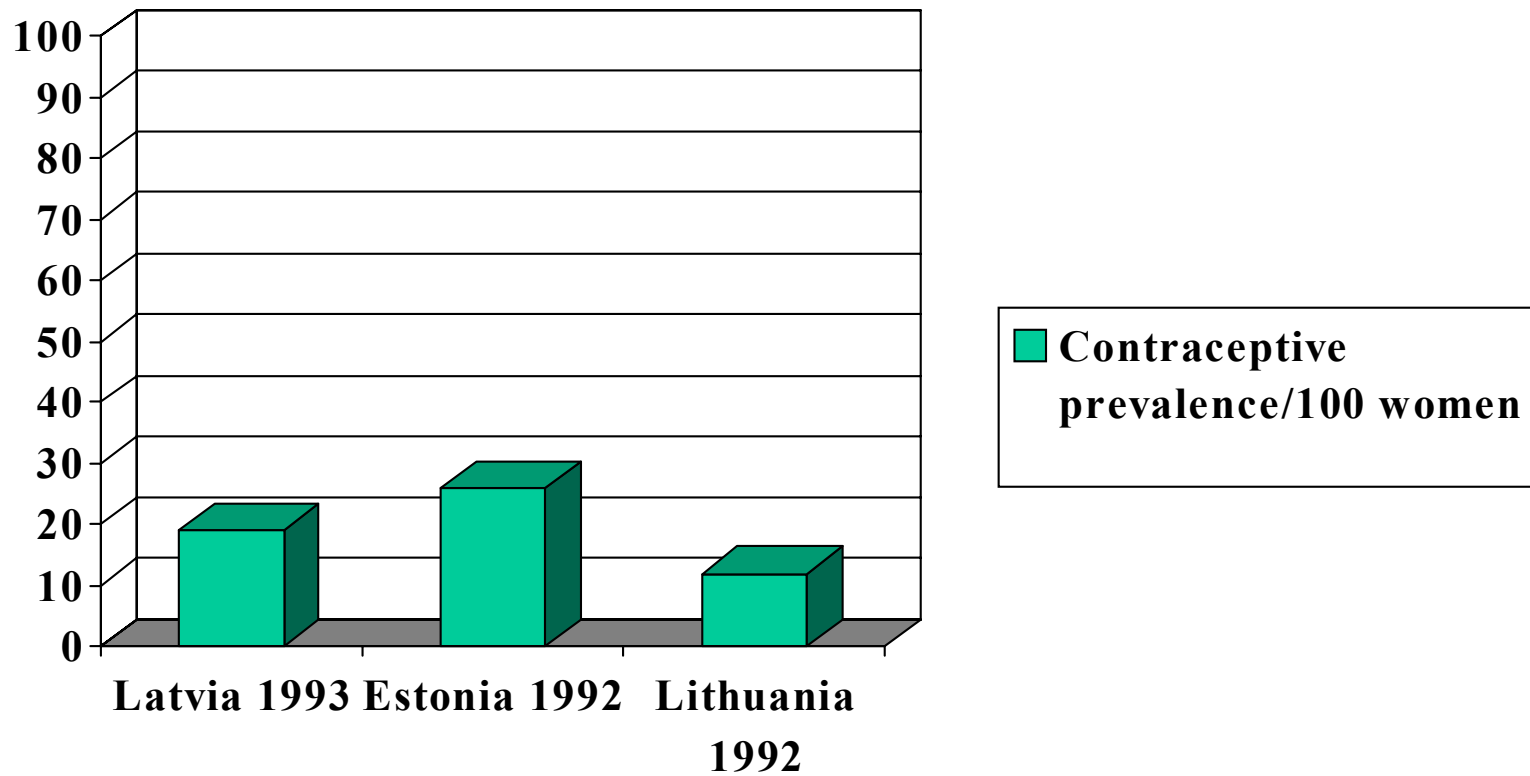
# Introduction

- Changes in abortion rates and data on contraception prevalence in Lithuania in the 1990s.
  - Abortion data
  - Contraception prevalence data
  - Knowledge and attitudes towards oral contraceptives

# Abortion in the Baltics



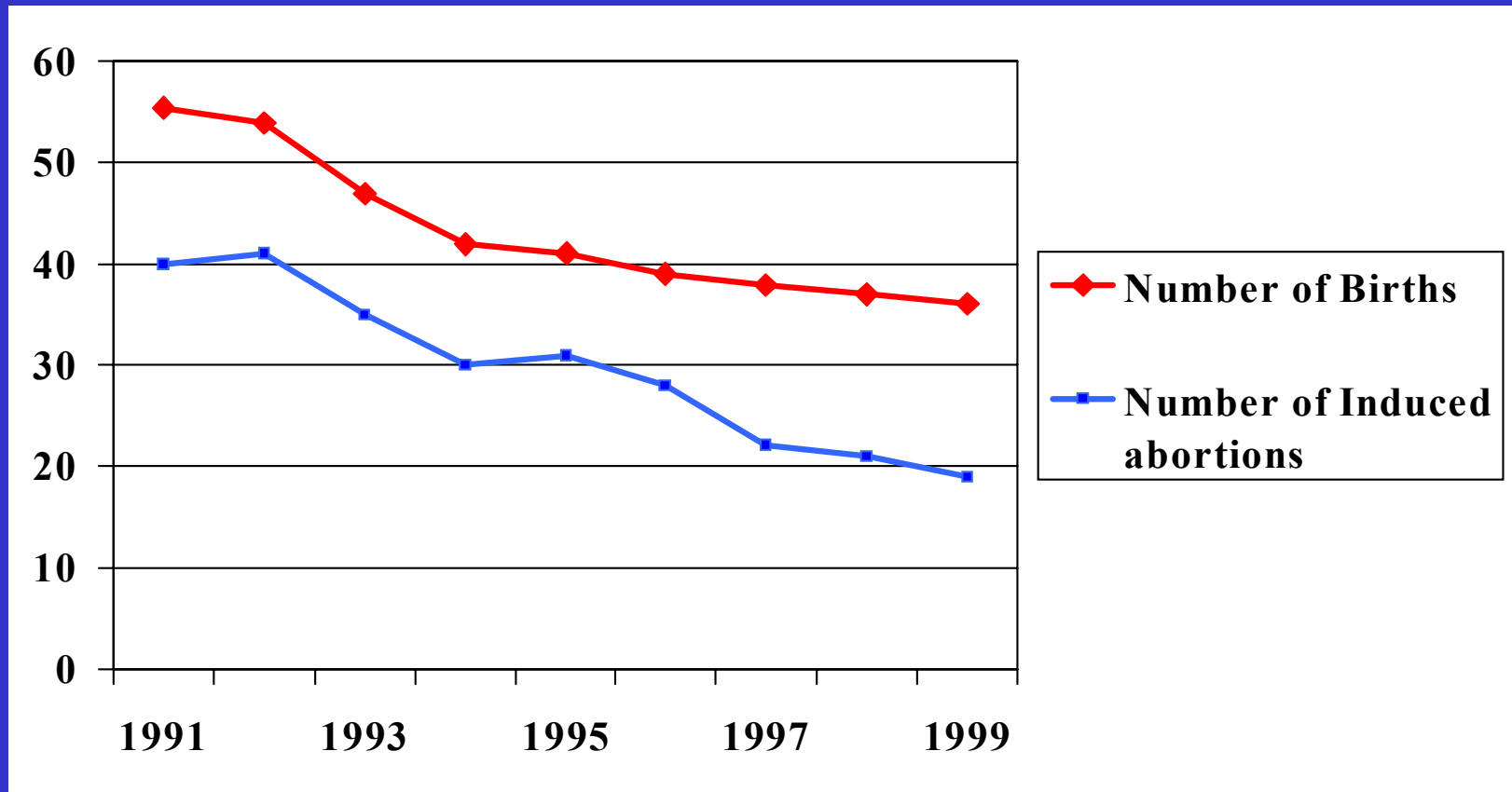
# Contraceptive Prevalence in the Baltics



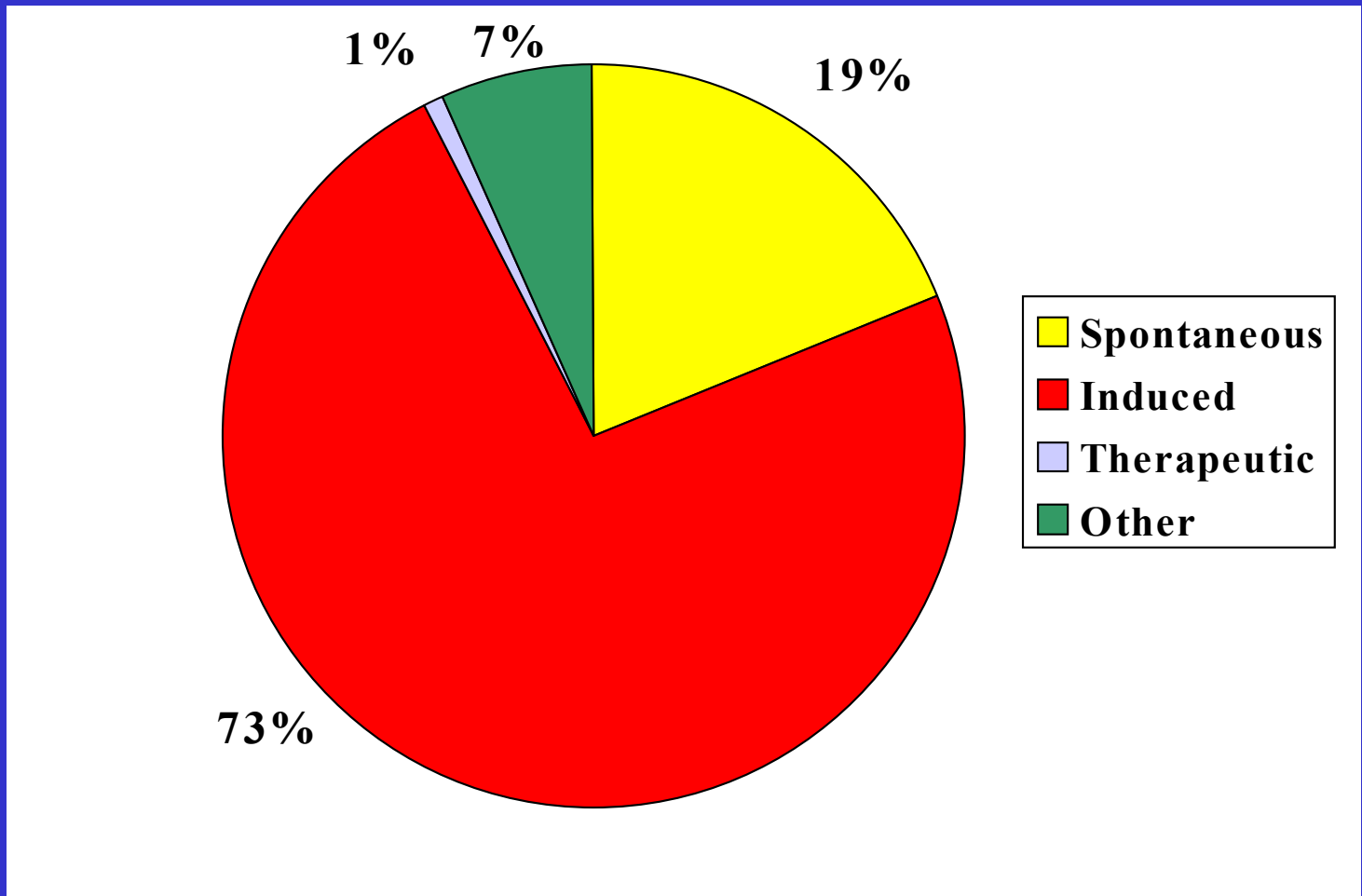
# VITAL STATISTICS FOR LITHUANIA

- **Population in Lithuania (1997) - 3,705,600 (100%)**
  - females (age 15 - 49) - 1,957,600 (47.1 %)
- **Live born - 37,812**
  - birth rate per 1000 population - 10,2
- **Deaths - 41,143**
  - mortality per 1000 population - 11.1
- **Infant deaths per 1000 live births - 10.3**
- **Natural increase per population - -0.9**
- **Marriages per 1000 population - 5.1**
- **Divorces per 1000 population - 3.1**

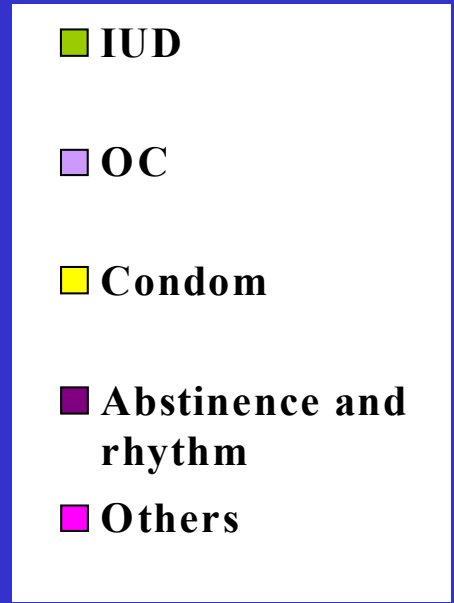
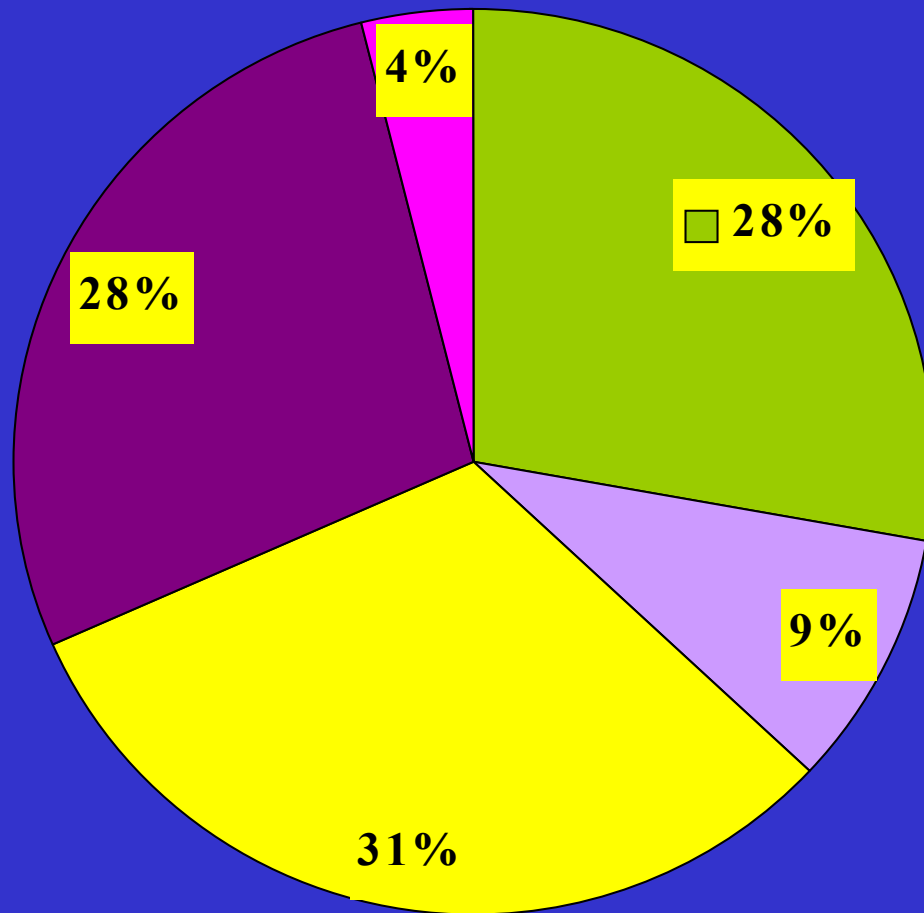
# Number of Births and Abortions in Lithuania (thousands)



# DISTRIBUTION OF ABORTIONS



# DISTRIBUTION OF CONTRACEPTION USAGE IN LITHUANIA

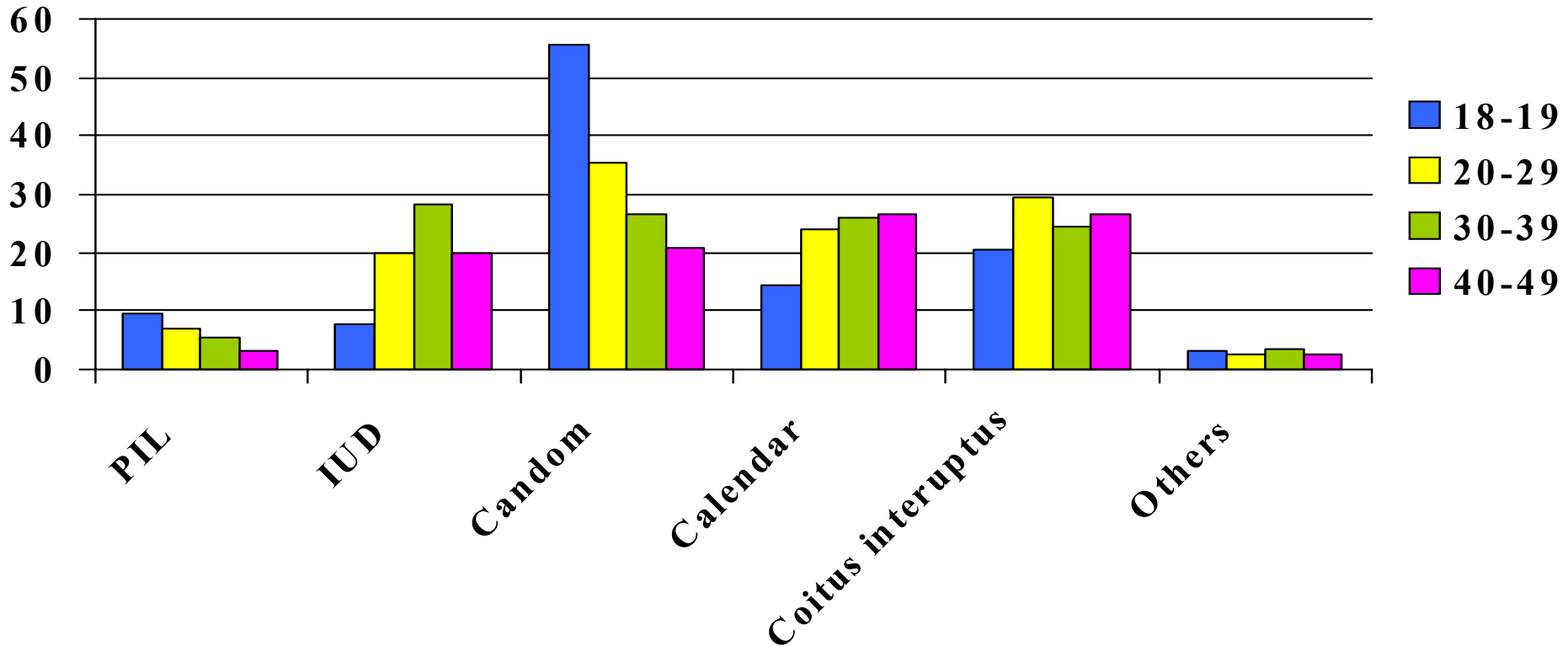




# USE OF CONTRACEPTION METHODS BY AGE GROUP

%

N=3000



# NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO HAVE GIVEN BIRTH AND WHO HAVE TERMINATED PREGNANCY (age group 18-19) in 1997

year	1997		
		number	%
* gave birth (younger than 18)		980	2,6%
** terminated pregnancy (younger 19)		1617	7,15%

35% terminated pregnancy for the first time (younger 19)

65% terminated pregnancy for the second time (younger 19)

\*calculated from total number of births

\*\*calculated from total number of artificial abortions

# **WOMENS PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING OCs (n=620)**

<b>Weight increase</b>	<b>80.5 %</b>
<b>Contraindicated during illness period</b>	<b>66.1 %</b>
<b>Induces cycle disorders</b>	<b>52.3 %</b>
<b>Induces various diseases</b>	<b>43.6 %</b>
<b>Forbidden by religion (Catholic)</b>	<b>43.3 %</b>
<b>Expensive</b>	<b>35.9 %</b>
<b>Doubts in efficacy</b>	<b>31.2 %</b>
<b>Complicated method</b>	<b>22.2 %</b>
<b>Causes infertility</b>	<b>12.8 %</b>
<b>Decreases sexuality</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>
<b>Impossible to stop using</b>	<b>4.7 %</b>
<b>Has no prevalence (in efficacy) over traditional methods</b>	<b>4.0 %</b>

# CONCLUSIONS

- **Number of induced abortions is decreasing, but is still 3 times higher than in Western European countries**
- **Usage of effective contraceptive methods in Lithuania is too small, some women continue to prefer abortion to contraception**
- **Education on family planning and reproductive health is insufficient (especially for adolescents)**

# CONCLUSIONS

- **Information for women and families about modern contraceptive methods should be improved.**
- **There are still doctors and midwives with negative attitudes towards contraception, especially OCs**
- **Women's opinion about effective contraceptive methods are often biased and based on incorrect information**

# References

- V.Sadauskas/ Lietuvos akuserija ir ginekologija/ Lithuanian Obstetrics and Gynaecology.2000, March, vol.III,N.1.p.14-16.
- Statistical Yearbook of Lithuania, 1997,1998,1999.