

Senator NELSON. All new patients?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. All new patients. 67 percent were choosing the pill. After the hearings, it went to 47 percent.

Senator NELSON. They went to other methods?

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Or are not taking, not using anything, I do not know.

Senator NELSON. I would just like to point out that without any hearings at all, if you surveyed the women who started the pill today, according to this Chicago study of Dr. Franks, 2 months later, 40 percent will have quit the pill.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. I do not know that study. I know the study by Frank & Tietze on 15,000 patients of Planned Parenthood. 70 percent were still on the pill after 30 months of use. That is a very distinguished study. I do not know this study that you referred to. But that is an excellent study. And the number of people on the pill is surprisingly high in that study. It is the highest continuation rate that I know of, sir.

Senator NELSON. Well, this is the testimony of Dr. Hugh Davis:

In a Chicago study, Frank found that 40 percent of those patients started on oral contraceptives abandoned the method within two months.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Well, I hate to dispute my friend, Hugh, but I would love to see that article. Because if you got out the Frank-Tietze article, it is black and white that 70 percent or 15,000 patients were taking the pill 30 months after they had started it. This, to me, is an extraordinary figure.

Senator NELSON. He goes on to say:

In the Maryland Planned Parenthood Clinic—

Which he knows of first-hand—

half of the pill patients abandoned the method in less than a year.

So you have a massive dropout of pill users going on at all times without any reference to these hearings.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. Overseas you have more losses with the IUD, the patients discontinuing IUD, than pills. This has been the Korean results.

Senator NELSON. I just wanted to have it in the record, because most people do not realize that over half the people quit the pill in less than twelve months.

Dr. GUTTMACHER. This is true of all methods of contraception. One of the problems which we have is attempting to study the intellectual mechanisms that make people enthusiastic about contraception. We give them one or two good methods, then, for some reason or other, they abandon it. It is very strange. We have not solved this problem. But it is true of IUD, it is true of the pill, it is going to be true of the diaphragm as well. So they are not dealing with anything absolutely unique with the pill, sir.

I hate to be discourteous, but I have to catch a plane. I wonder whether it is going to be much longer that you wish me to stay.

Senator NELSON. You can run out on us any time you want. But I am all through. Senator Dole would like to ask some questions.