Taking Charge:
Female Condom Facts
Empowering women around the globe
Female Condoms: Reaching Populations Around the World

Women dance to demand female condoms around the world: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW602Vic414
Origins of Female Condoms

- Wisconsin Pharmcal introduced female condom to the US in 1993

- Called the Chasm Phantasm, it was a polyurethane pouch that reduces a woman's risk of contracting HIV by 94 to 97 per cent if used correctly

- The invention was largely dismissed by clinicians and women alike

- Journalists compared the product to: "a jellyfish, a windsock, a fire hose, a colostomy bag, gumboots, a concertina, a plastic freezer bag, something to line Boston's Inner Harbour with, a cross between a test tube and a rubber glove, Edvard Munch's The Scream, something designed for a female elephant, something out of The Jetsons, a raincoat for a Slinky toy, or a 'contraption used to punish fallen virgins in the Dark Ages'."
Innovations in Female Condoms

- In 2015, 89 organizations wrote a letter to urge the FDA to downgrade female condoms from a Class III to a Class II device, in order to lead to more innovation. Right now, because the regulations for producing these are so strict in the US, there is only one brand available. This severely limits innovation, competition, and choice for consumers.

- Development of new technologies have led to a greater variety of female condoms.

- Dissolving applicator would make it as easy to insert as a tampon.
Female Condoms Around the Globe

- Today, only 1.6 per cent of all condoms distributed worldwide are of the female variety.

- After female condoms were added to a male condom distribution program, STI prevalence among sex workers in Madagascar fell by 13%, and protected sex numbers increased by 10%.

- Although female condoms are more expensive than male condoms, when the female condom is offered in programs, it is cost-effective. One model estimated that the use of 4 million female condoms in South Africa, at an estimated unit cost of US$0.77 for product and program costs, would prevent 1,740 HIV infections, with a net savings to the health care system of about $980,000.
Pathfinder International

Pathfinder International is an organization that works to promote sexual and reproductive health without fear or boundaries.

Pathfinder’s Work in Mozambique:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW602Vic414
Support is a team of health professionals specialized in FC2 condom programming and training.

Support offers 2 training manuals.

Support works with a variety of countries in South America and Africa.

In 2015, Support’s partner in Brazil, Semina, ordered over 15 million female condoms.
Female Health Company

https://vimeo.com/106205294
Female Health Company’s Work in Kenya (begins at 14:00):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0V-KYyTza8
NYS Condom Program

To increase the availability of condoms to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases

Non-profit organizations, health care facilities, and government facilities are eligible to receive male and female condoms

There are no formal limits on the amount of condoms that can be ordered
Celia’s story

Celia is a maternal and child health nurse in the Machava Area of Mozambique.

Celia participated in a Pathfinder course on family planning.

After, Celia organized a female condom empowerment group.
**Patience’s story**

*Personal Story:* Patience Kunaka, who taught nursing and midwifery in Zimbabwe, was concerned about the HIV/AIDS epidemic and decided to give female condoms a try.

At first..."I had problems inserting it and felt discomfort from the inner ring"

After some practice, Kunaka even began to like the device, especially "the fact that I don't have to beg my partner to use a condom".

"In my African context, where men are at liberty to have as many partners as they can have, they give me power to negotiate for safer sex"
Female condoms empower women!

- Female condoms promote the empowerment of women
- They make it so that a woman can be immediately ready for sex if she so desires
- They do not depend on the male erection to function properly
- When used correctly and consistently they are reliable protective tools against most sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancy.
Cost

Female condoms are expensive compared to male condoms

- This can be combatted by creating more competition
- Increase volume of distribution
- The WHO is attempting to combat this problem
Effectiveness: Failure Rates of Different Female Condoms

Female Condom Products: Total Condom Failure and Total Clinical Failure

FC2 3.43%, 2.88%
Cupid 4.52%, 3.87%
Woman’s Condom 3.85%, 3.05%
VA wow 3.02%, 2.49%

If women always use the female condom correctly it will be 95% effective but if women only sometimes use the female condom correctly it will be 79% effective
Female Condoms at Colgate

FC2 female condoms are available at a variety of locations on campus, including the Shaw Wellness Institute!
Female condoms demonstration: Ask Peer Health Educators!

Buzzfeed shows women trying female condoms for the first time:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMePZyeadNQ
Benefits

Preventing the exchange of bodily fluids - female condoms help to protect against many STIs, including HIV.

Reliable method of preventing pregnancy.

There are no medical side effects from using condoms.

Can be inserted up to eight hours before sex, and mean that women share the responsibility for using condoms with their partner.
Drawbacks

Expense: The average female condom costs more than $3 for just one when male condoms cost an average of less than $1

Availability: Significantly more stores carry male condoms than carry female condoms

Familiarity: Many people are not as familiar with female condoms as they are with male condoms

Size and Appearance: Female condoms are also roughly double the size of male condoms

Sound Effects: Some couples report their female condoms make a whistling or squeaking sound

Insertion and Removal: they have to be inserted into the vagina
Discussion

Do you think female condoms are good or bad?

Would you honestly use a female condom?

Why are a lot of people on Colgate’s campus scared of female condoms?/ Why are female condoms looked at as something weird?

Could female condoms be a good way to ensure protection is in place correctly prior to engaging in drunk sex?

Do the benefits of female condoms hold the same among all groups of people all over the world?

What are important precursors that need to happen to ensure that female condoms are a strong tool for women around the world?