Historical Dimensions of Women’s Health

WOMEN’S HEALTH: A PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

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Lecture Objectives

- Describe the history of women’s health
- Define feminism
- Describe why feminism relates to the history of women’s health
History of Women’s Health

Ancient Women’s Health
Medieval and Renaissance Women’s Health

Women’s Health in Early America
1830s – 1840s: The Health Movement

Elizabeth Blackwell
1847
Medical Schools for Women

Seneca Falls, NY 1848

1861-1865: The Civil War

Nursing Schools

Women Volunteering

Dorothea Dix & Clara Burton
Historical Context Prior to WWI

1890s – 1920s: The Progressive Era
1930s - 1950s: WWII and Post War Years

Women entered workforce WWII

Kinsey Report – sexuality more than reproduction for marriage

1950s

Do the job HE left behind

Cosmopolitan Ballyhoo

1950s
1960s-1970s: Grassroots Movement

- Civil Rights Act 1964
- Birth Control Pill 1960
- Roe v. Wade 1973
- Our Bodies, Ourselves 1970
- Civil Rights Act 1964

1972

Our Bodies, Ourselves 1970
Historical Context: WWII to 1980s

1980s: Changing Public Policy
21st Century

Women in Elective Office

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State Legislature</th>
<th>Governor</th>
<th>Congress</th>
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Ranking among state legislatures for the proportion of women:

- 1-10
- 11-20
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50

Colorado (CO) is ranked 1st with 36.2%, South Carolina (SC) is 50th with 10.2%.

Click on any state for more information.

The Affordable Care Act

Addressing the unique health needs of women

What is Feminism?
Feminism Definitions

- **Feminism:**
  - A collection of movements aimed at *defining, establishing, and defending equal political, economic, and social rights for women.*
  - A feminist is “an advocate or supporter for the rights and equality of women.”

- **Patriarchy:**
  - A social system in which the role of the male as the primary authority figure is central to social organization.
  - Can patriarchy harm men?

What Does Feminism Have to do with Women’s Health

- Many topics regarding women’s health have been shaped by political, economic, and religious forces.

- Which lack equal representation by women, people of color, and sexual minorities.

- Feminism is the movement which aims to give women **equal footing** in these discussions, where they historically have not or still do not have it.
Which constitutional amendment gave women the right to vote?
A.) 16\textsuperscript{th}
B.) 19\textsuperscript{th}
C.) 20\textsuperscript{th}
D.) 26\textsuperscript{th}
True or **False.** Patriarchy is a collection of movements aimed at defining, establishing, and defending equal political, economic, and social rights for women.

**Lecture Wrap Up**

- **Key Terms:**
  - Women’s Health, Feminism, The Popular Health Movement, The Women’s Health Movement, Margaret Sanger, Title IX,

- **Individual Health Importance:**
  - You should be an advocate for your own health

- **Public Health Importance:**
  - Women have had increasing access to better health care, but gaps and inequalities still exist

- **Social/Political Importance:**
  - Women’s health and feminism are tightly entwined.