

# American Cancer Society

## Stance on Contraception

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/latest-news/birth-control-cancer-which-methods-raise-lower-risk.html>

- This article, published in 2016, on the American Cancer Society’s page states that while the birth control pill could increase chances of developing breast and cervical cancers, they claim that the pill can also lower your chances of endometrial and ovarian cancers. American Cancer Society does promote women to use an IUD (Intrauterine Device) as another alternative to the birth control pill.

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/risk-and-prevention/lifestyle-related-breast-cancer-risk-factors.html>

- The American Cancer Society’s statement on breast cancer factors:
  - ◆ **“Oral contraceptives:** Most studies have found that women using oral contraceptives (birth control pills) have a slightly higher risk of breast cancer than women who have never used them. Once the pills are stopped, this risk seems to go back to normal within about ten years.
  - ◆ **Birth control shots:** Some studies have suggested that getting long-acting progesterone shots (such as Depo-Provera) every three months for birth control might increase breast cancer risk, but not all studies have found this.
  - ◆ **Birth control implants, intrauterine devices (IUDs), skin patches, vaginal rings:** These forms of birth control also use hormones, which in theory could fuel breast cancer growth. Some studies have suggested a link between use of hormone-releasing IUDs and breast cancer risk, but few studies have looked at the use of birth control implants, patches, and rings and breast cancer risk.”

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/ovarian-cancer/causes-risks-prevention/prevention.html>

- The American Cancer Society’s statement on oral contraceptives and cancer:

- ◆ **Oral contraceptives-**“Using oral contraceptives (birth control pills) decreases the risk of developing ovarian cancer for average risk women and BRCA mutation carriers, especially among women who use them for several years. Women who used oral contraceptives for 5 or more years have about a 50% lower risk of developing ovarian cancer compared with women who never used oral contraceptives. Still, birth control pills do have some serious risks and side effects such as slightly increasing breast cancer risk. Women considering taking these drugs for any reason should first discuss the possible risks and benefits with their doctor.”

### **Stance on Abortion**

<https://pressroom.cancer.org/SCOTUS-2022>

- In 2022, The American Cancer Society published the following article on *Dobbs v. Jackson* and the effect the decision has on those with cancer:
  - ◆ **“Cancer treatment for pregnant patients-**When someone receives a cancer diagnosis, it is critical they receive immediate care. Up to 1 in 1,000 pregnant women each year receive a cancer diagnosis. We know timely cancer treatment improves a person’s chances of survivorship. As some states signal a determination to define personhood at fertilization, we are concerned about potential threats to a pregnant woman’s ability to receive rapid cancer treatment. Every patient should be able to increase their likelihood to survive cancer by having the option to start cancer therapy immediately, regardless of pregnancy status.
  - ◆ **Fertility preservation-**Cancer patients should also have the right to preserve fertility prior to initiating cancer treatment. More than 60,000 young adults aged 20-39 are diagnosed with cancer each year in the US. Treatments for many of the younger adults may directly impact their ability to conceive children. For this population, fertility preservation becomes an important medical consideration. Approximately 5%-6% of the population in childbearing age consists of cancer survivors. Experts recommend freezing fertilized embryos for fertility preservation. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) currently

supports state policies to expand insurance coverage of fertility preservation services for cancer patients.

- ◆ **Screening and prevention**-We also understand the vital importance of early screening and detection of cancer in improving a person's chances of surviving the disease. We oppose any action that results in limiting the number of institutions or clinics where people can receive access to affordable screening and early diagnosis. We urge all states to consider the above ramifications for cancer patients. The American Cancer Society and ACS CAN will be actively monitoring the implications of the Supreme Court's decision and will continue to advocate for timely access to affordable screening services, evidence-based treatment, and fertility preservation for all, regardless of geography."

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/american-cancer-society-warns-fertility-preservation-cancer-patients/story?id=90400326>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-strict-abortion-laws-are-delaying-cancer-treatment#Not-all-treatments-safe-for-fetuses>

- Support of abortion by CEO Karen Knudsen: "Legislation that restricts reproductive rights is affecting cancer care," [Karen E. Knudsen](#), MBA, PhD, CEO of the American Cancer Society, told Healthline. "In addition to the cancer patient and oncologist, we've now got a third party in discussions around cancer care—and that's the government," she said. In particular, patients in states with anti-abortion laws may face challenges accessing radiation therapy, chemotherapy, or other treatments that can negatively affect fetal development and potentially cause miscarriage. Multiple organizations including the [ACS](#) and [American Society of Clinical Oncology](#) have issued statements urging lawmakers to protect cancer care access for pregnant patients. "We are nonpartisan, and our only lens is that of the cancer patient and their family," said Knudsen. "Our goal is purely to do what we believe is critical to improve the lives of patients and families coping with cancer. For that to be realized, we believe there should be no impediment at any time to adequate and quick cancer care."

## **Stance on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research/IVF**

[https://secure.acsevents.org/site/DocServer/Stem\\_Cell\\_Research\\_letter.pdf;jsessionid=00000000.app30033b?NONCE\\_TOKEN=18BB6A71D37B11ADC64A623A33198589](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/DocServer/Stem_Cell_Research_letter.pdf;jsessionid=00000000.app30033b?NONCE_TOKEN=18BB6A71D37B11ADC64A623A33198589)

- The American Cancer Society states that they do not approve of research grants using human embryonic stem cells or fetal tissue. However, they do say: “The American Cancer Society believes that human stem cell research, both embryonic and adult, holds significant potential in the fight against many diseases, including cancer,” which certainly doesn’t condemn the use of them.

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/managing-cancer/side-effects/fertility-and-sexual-side-effects/fertility-and-women-with-cancer/preserving-fertility-in-women.html>

- Support for IVF (updated in 2020).

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/managing-cancer/side-effects/fertility-and-sexual-side-effects/fertility-and-men-with-cancer/preserving-fertility-in-men.html>

- Promotion of sperm banks.

## **Stance on LGBTQ+ Lifestyle**

<https://www.fightcancer.org/lgbtq-and-allies-engagement-group>

- LGBTQ+ and Allies Engagement group with ACS' Cancer Action Network, which doesn't seem to have much to do with cancer, but instead promotes identity politics such as these:
  - ◆ “Ally-Specific Resources: An ally is someone who stands up for, supports, and encourages the people around them. Learn more about specific ways you can be an ally for the LGBTQ+ community.”

[An Ally's Guide to Terminology](#)

[Pronouns Matter](#)

[HRC's Being an LGBTQ Ally](#)



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