

Teenage Pregnancy & Sexual Health

Summary of AYPH Research Update No.3 July 2010

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Articles in the full Research Update include:

Conception Statistics

Sexual Health Statistics

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

Teenage Pregnancy and Ethnicity

Reducing Conception

US declines in Teenage pregnancy

Sexual Health Information Websites

Sexual Debut and Educational Attainment

Sexual Orientation and Bullying

Emergency Contraception

Sex and Relationships Education

Current NICE guidance

A themed index of useful references

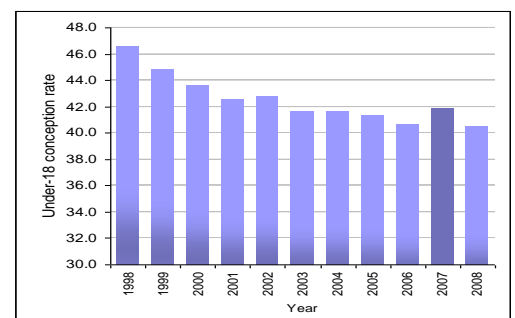
Introduction

Welcome to the summary of the third AYPH research update. Our research updates are produced quarterly for AYPH members and provide an overview of current research and policy developments on a particular health theme. The focus of this issue is on the latest research developments into Teenage Pregnancy & Sexual Health. We have published updates focusing on Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing (Jan, 2010) and Diet, Nutrition and Eating Behaviours (April, 2010) and our next issue will focus on Alcohol and Substance Use (Oct, 2010) To source the latest developments in an area, we review current research in peer reviewed journals and consult members on their current activities.

We hope that you find this summary useful it includes four articles and lets you know what is included in the full update. If you would like to receive the full paper along with past and future updates you can join AYPH. Member benefits include a monthly member's newsletter, resources on our member's only area of our website, free copies of Key Data on Adolescence 2009 and discounts for our events. For more information about joining AYPH visit our website www.youngpeopleshealth.org.uk or email info@youngpeopleshealth.org.uk.

Under-18 Conception Statistics for England

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) conception statistics are used for monitoring progress towards the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy's target, which is to halve England's under-18 conception rate by 2010, from a 1998 baseline. The provisional 2008 under-18 conception rate for England was 40.4 per 1000 girls aged 15-17 – a decrease of 3.2% from the 2007 rate and the **lowest rate for over 20 years. Since the 1998 baseline, the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 13.3%.** The graph shows the declining conception rate since 1998. The statistics also show an increase in the abortion ratio, leading to a reduction in births amongst women who conceived before they were 17 by 25% (Source: Office for National Statistics and Teenage Pregnancy Unit, 2010. Rate per thousand females aged 15-17, 2008 data are provisional). The teenage conception statistics for England for 1998-2008 are available to download <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00200/>



Under-18 conception rate for England: 1998-2008

The importance of friends in young people's experience of emergency contraception

This paper in the journal *Sociology of Health and Illness* presents the findings of a qualitative study that explored adolescent experiences of accessing emergency hormonal contraception. The paper focuses on the theme of friendship and the crucial role that friends played in the young person's experience. It highlights how the judgments that young women anticipated from service providers and peers and the associated feelings of embarrassment and shame were dealt with through friendship. The researcher emphasizes the role that peer education may have in providing crucial non-clinical information. This study demonstrated how adolescents were able to recommend particular services, encourage and accompany anxious friends and motivate those who hesitated. For the full article see Fallon, D (2010) Accessing emergency contraception: the role of friends in the adolescent experience. *Sociology of Health & Illness* 32, 4, pp.1-17.

The Relationship between Sexual Orientation and Bullying

This article in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* examines the relationship between sexual orientation and reports of bullying victimization and perpetration in a study of 7599 adolescents aged 14-22 years. The study employed four categories of sexual orientation groupings: heterosexual, mostly heterosexual, bisexual, and lesbian/gay. Amongst the girls in the study, the results showed that those females identifying as mostly heterosexual and bisexual were at an increased risk of both victimization and perpetration of bullying compared with heterosexual females. Lesbians were more likely to report victimization than heterosexuals. For the males in the study, those that identified as mostly heterosexual and gay were more likely to report victimization compared with heterosexual males and gay males were significantly less likely to report that they bullied others compared with heterosexual males. On the whole gay and lesbian young people were more likely to have experienced bullying and less likely to have been a perpetrator of bullying. The authors suggest that clinicians working with adolescents should be aware that young people with a minority sexual orientation may be at a higher risk of victimization by bullying. For the full article see: Berlon, E.D., Corliss, H.L., Field, A.E., Goodman, E. and S.B. Austin (2010) Sexual orientation and bullying among adolescents in the Growing Up Today study *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 46, 366-371

Other themes from the research update:

- Data on teenage pregnancy outcomes by ethnic group in England
- The relationship between age of first sexual intercourse and participation at university

Increased contraceptive use is key to recent declines in teenage pregnancy in the United States

A study conducted by Santelli et al. has explored the role of improved contraceptive use and the delay in initiation of intercourse in the reduction in teen pregnancy rates in the US. The study found a dramatic improvement in contraceptive use occurred between 1995 and 2002 with improvements in contraceptive use among 15-17 year olds even larger than changes for 15-19 years olds. The data suggests that declining adolescent pregnancy rates in the U.S. between 1995 and 2002 were primarily attributable to improved contraceptive use. The decline in pregnancy risk among 18-19 year olds was entirely attributable to improved contraceptive use. Decreased sexual activity was responsible for about one-quarter (23%) of the decline among younger teens (15-17 years old) and increased contraceptive use for the rest (77%). Improved contraceptive use included increases in use of many individual methods, increases in multiple method use, and substantial declines in no method being used at last intercourse. These data suggest that the U.S. appears to be following patterns seen in other developed countries, where increased availability and use of modern contraceptives were primarily responsible for declines in teen pregnancy rates. For the full article see: Santelli, J.S., Duberstein Lindberg, L., Finer, L.B., & S. Singh (2006) Recent Declines in Adolescent Pregnancy in the United States: More Abstinence or Better Contraceptive Use? Heilbrunn Department of Population & Family Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.