

Young People in 2004

The Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire
results for 40,439 young people between the ages of 10 and 15

STIs, Contraception & HIV/AIDS

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Sexually transmitted diseases

6-12% think HIV/AIDS can be treated or cured

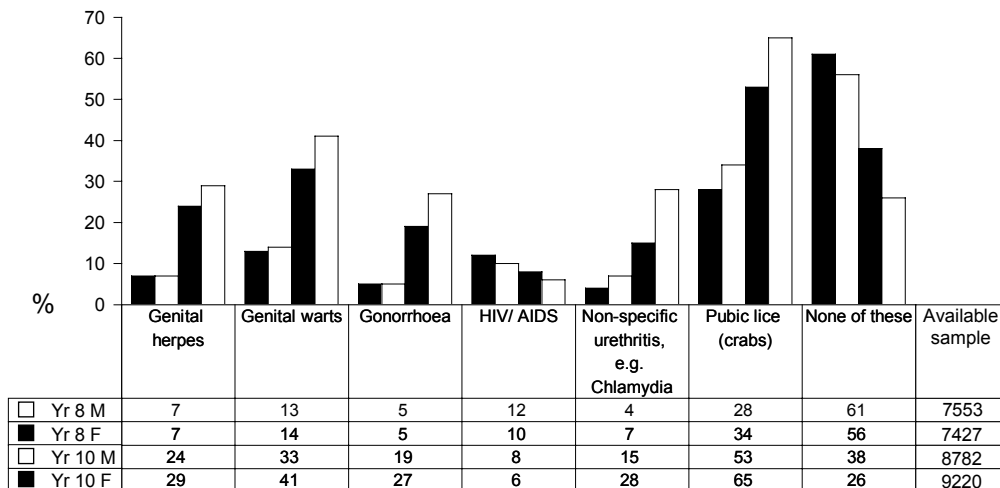
What you know about sexually transmitted diseases and infections?

Responses to 'Can be treated and cured'.

1. Most commonly identified treatable infections are warts and pubic lice.
2. Between 6-12% of pupils think that HIV/AIDS can be treated and cured.
3. Older females, compared with males, responded most frequently across categories.

Comments

1. This was a new question in 2002 that provides four possible options: *Never heard of it. Know nothing about it. Can be treated but not cured. Can be treated and cured.* Responses *Can be treated and cured* are shown in the chart opposite. This need not mean that young people think sexually transmitted diseases/infections (STDs and STIs) cannot be treated and cured, they may have opted for one of the other options.
2. Should the apparent knowledge of the 12-15 year olds, and in particular the older females, in this sample cause us concern? For information about STDs and STIs contact the Health Protection Agency (www.hpa.org.uk).



Methods of contraception

Up to 81% of males selected *Condoms*, up to 77% of females selected *The Pill*

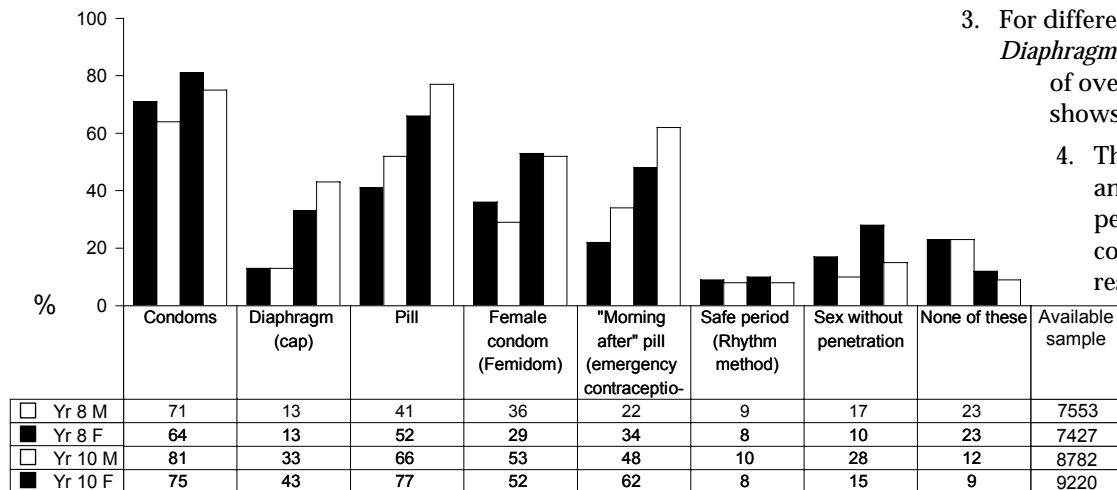
What do you know about methods of contraception?

Responses to 'Reliable to stop pregnancy'

1. The most popular method chosen by the males, that is 'reliable to stop pregnancy', was *Condoms*. For older females, the most popular methods chosen were *The Pill*, *Condoms* and *The Morning After Pill* (emergency contraception used up to 3 mornings after).
2. Between 64%-81% of all pupils selected *Condoms*.

Comments

1. This is the third time we have asked this specific question. Pupils have a choice of four answers to describe best what they know about the list of contraceptive methods. The answers are 'Never heard of it', 'Know nothing about it', 'Not reliable to stop pregnancy', and 'Reliable to stop pregnancy'. Responses shown in the chart are from the last answer.
2. The data show clear gender and age differences. For many of the contraceptive methods there is a marked shift in response rates particularly between the females from 12-13 years old to 14-15 years old. The most noticeable – *Diaphragm* and *Morning After Pill* methods show a difference of over 28%. The most popular choice for the females, *Condoms*, shows a 11% difference between the age groups.
3. For differences, from the responses between younger and older males, the *Diaphragm*, *The Pill* and *Morning After Pill* methods show a difference of over 20%. The most popular choice for the males, *Condoms*, shows an 10% difference between the age groups.
4. This chart presents combined responses to several sub-questions and thus there is no single value for 'valid responses', the percentages of 'missing data' are included in the *None of these* column. With this in mind, up to 23% of young people did not respond to the answer option 'Reliable to stop pregnancy'.



Contraception and HIV/AIDS

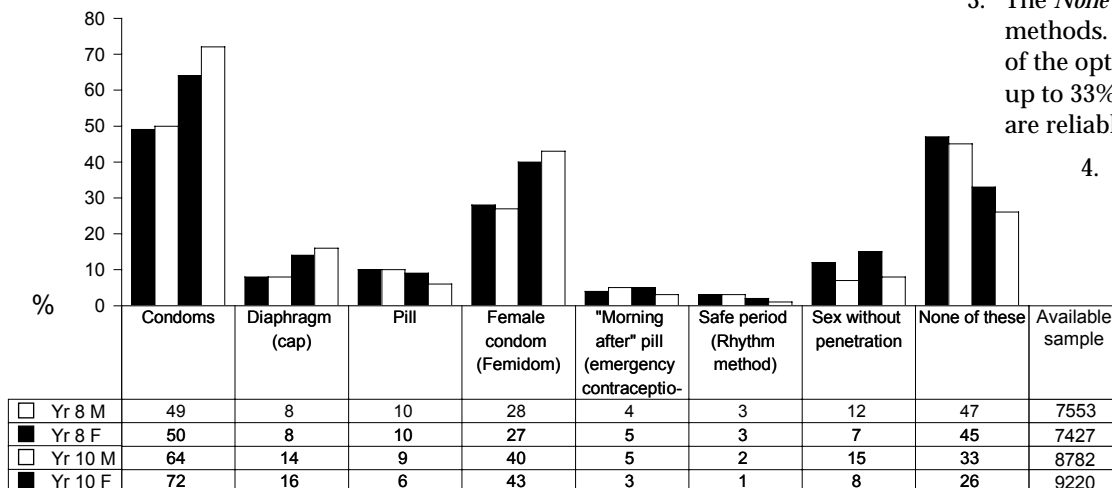
Up to 15% selected *sex without penetration*

Which contraceptive methods are reliable to stop infections like HIV/AIDS?

Comments

1. The item *Condoms* was selected by up to 72% of all pupils and up to 43% selected *Female condoms*.
2. There are differences in percentages between some choices made by Year 8 and Year 10 pupils. For example, as they get older 22% more females choose *Condoms* and 16% choose *Female condoms*.
3. More males than females think *sex without penetration* is a reliable method to stop infections like HIV/AIDS. However, the maximum number choosing this option is 15% of older males.

1. This is the third year we have asked this specific question. In the questionnaire it follows the question on the previous page. Pupils are asked to circle each letter, corresponding with a list of contraceptive methods, that they think is reliable to stop infection like HIV/AIDS.
2. If we accept that the barrier contraceptive methods (male and female condoms) and 'sex without penetration' offer protection against infections (see www.fpa.org.uk and www.avert.org.uk) then should the apparent level of knowledge of the 12-15 year olds in this sample cause us concern?
3. The *None of these* data refer to those pupils who did not choose any of methods. For example, 26% of 14-15 year old females did not choose any of the options on the list. We do not know the reasons for this choice but up to 33% of older pupils could not decide which contraceptive methods are reliable to stop infections.
4. Often in a question we can distinguish between missing data and a definite *No* response. Because of the design of this particular question no such distinctions can be made.

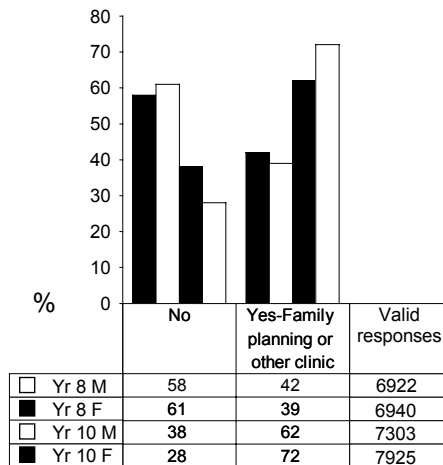


Free condoms

38% of the Year 10 males do not know where to get free condoms

Do you know where you can get condoms free of charge?

1. The increased knowledge, or belief, of the Year 10 respondents is clear.
2. In Year 10, two-thirds of the females say they know of a source, whereas fewer than half the males do.



Comments

1. 'Knowing of a source' does not mean that it will or could be used, and we in Exeter have no means of knowing if the information is accurate. The schools and health authorities examining the data from their own surveys should be in a position to judge.
2. Respondents were asked to write down the name of the source, rather than refer to a checklist. We only include a No/Yes response rather than a long list of sources.
3. This question needs to be considered together with question on page 122.
4. We quote, with respect to teenage pregnancy, 'boys are half the problem'.
5. Females are often considered to be 'more mature', dating older boys, and the gender difference observed here need not represent a reluctance on the part of the males to accept responsibility for contraception.

Birth control service

Up to 53% of 14-15 year olds don't know about local services

Is there a special birth control service for young people available locally?

1. The females were more likely to know if there was one, and knowledge was much greater in Year 10.
2. Up to 66% *don't know* about a local service and up to 53% are aged 14-15 years old.

Comments

1. With the continuing concern over teenage pregnancies, as well as the spread of AIDS, a lot of money and effort is being directed towards this area of health education. The charts on this and the preceding page are two measures of its success.
2. As with the previous question, local knowledge will be required to assess the responses. Districts vary in the amount of publicity given to contraceptive services for young people, as well as in the nature and scale of provision.
3. Is it a satisfactory state of affairs when up to 53% of 14-15 year olds don't know about local services — even the fact that there aren't any?

