

SEX AND ALCOHOL USE

44% fewer people use contraception when having sex after drinking (Alcohol Concern)

Heavy drinkers are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour than others (McEwan et al, 1991)

One fifth of all 16-24 year olds said that they had sex they later regretted after drinking or taking drugs (Ingham, 2001)

40% of 13-14 year olds were drunk or 'stoned' during their first sexual experience (Wight, 2000)

The relationships between alcohol and other drug use, non condom use and multiple sexual partners are strongly associated with both age of initiation of alcohol and drugs and lifetime substance use (Santelli et al, 2001)

People identified with substance use problems (includes alcohol) are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviours during adolescence and to continue risky sexual behaviours whilst substance problems persist. Sexual risk reduction education should be included with substance abuse treatment and education (Tapert et al, 2001)

Rates of sexually transmitted infections in the UK have increased significantly in recent years:

Chlamydia	up by 107%	between 1995 and 2000
Gonorrhoea	up by 102%	
Syphilis	up by 145%	

Approx 4,000 new diagnosis of HIV per year

(Public Health Laboratory, 2002)

There were 98,700 conceptions to teenagers in England and Wales in 1999 (Office for National Statistics, 2001)