China blocks access to sex education websites

China's government is looking to tighten restrictions on websites that discuss sexual health as part of broader regulations. The Ministry of Health says the rules are aimed at improving the accuracy and scientific basis of all medical websites on the Internet. The guidelines, which apply to topics including “sexual psychology, sexual ethics, sex medicine, and sex treatments”, state that only government-sanctioned medical institutions can provide sex-related content on websites, and that all such sites will have to be approved by provincial-level health authorities. Sex is a taboo subject in China, but rising incomes and increasing freedom of choice for how people behave have created more interest in sexual issues and in reproductive education. Many experts say education on the subject remains inadequate. Liang Peiding, who runs a site that examines which variables are most likely to influence the perceived need for further sex and relationships education among 14–22-year-olds in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia.

The study shows that regardless of their nationality, the younger a person is when they initially receive sex and relationships education, the less likely it is that they will feel the need for further sex education at later stages in their lives, particularly if the education is delivered by school teachers or health care professionals. The report concludes that preventative programmes in Eastern Europe should be formalised with widespread access to children under the age of 12 years.

Source: The Wall Street Journal, 26 June 2009

USA birth rate mirrors recession

The prospect of a ‘baby-bust’ with the current global recession mirrors the recessions of the 1930s and 1980s. Recent data from the US Census Bureau shows a strong slowdown in the birth rate that began in advance of the economic crisis. The figures have given rise to speculation that China may be having fewer children.

“If prospects look worse for families, they’re going to be very likely to have fewer kids”, said Mark Mather of the Population Research Bureau. The National Center for Health Statistics, which compiled the figures, said that it was too early to be sure why there were fewer pregnancies, but cited the economic slowdown and high house prices.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/business/8057236.stm

Studies stopped due to increased teen pregnancy rate

A multi-million pound project aimed at improving health outcomes in teenagers has been cancelled after initial reports showed that it was not reducing teenage pregnancy rates. The intervention group (n = 2724) aged 13–15 years at baseline declined by professionals as at risk of


Face of Global Sex Report

Durex have published a report entitled Sex and Relationships Education: Assessing the Gaps for Eastern European Youth, that examines which variables are most likely to influence the perceived need for further sex and relationships education among 14–22-year-olds in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia.

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Source: http://www.durexnetwork.org/en-GB/research/fac eofglobalsex/Pages/Home.aspx

Parents happy for teenage children to carry contraception

A poll commissioned as part of the government’s ‘Time to Talk’ campaign has shown that parents are no longer concerned about their children carrying contraception, with a fifth saying they have bought condoms to keep at home. The poll of more than 1000 people found that parents are no longer prudish about talking about sex. Just 4% of parents questioned said they would be anxious if they discovered their teenager, aged 16–19 years, was carrying contraception, with nine in ten saying they would want to talk to them about it. In addition, almost a quarter of parents (24%) reported making an appointment with their local GP for their teenagers to talk through the different types of contraception.

Source: The Scotsman, 15 June 2009

Maternal BV and vitamin D levels

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is widespread and is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes. A study investigating possible links with vitamin D status in pregnancy and BV in the first trimester of pregnancy found that BV declined as vitamin D levels rose, reaching a plateau at vitamin D levels of 80 nmol/l. Vitamin D deficiency is associated with BV, possibly via the immune system. Vitamin D deficiency is associated with BV and may contribute to the strong racial disparity in the prevalence of BV.


VF educational microsite

The first interactive educational microsite for fertility and reproductive specialists has been launched at CookARTLab.com. Sponsored by Cook Medical, the site includes a video tour of an assisted reproductive technology (ART) laboratory – guiding the user through the whole in vitro fertilisation (IVF) process from ovum collection to embryo transfer, which is of use for ART specialists who need to discuss techniques with patients or who are planning to work in an IVF unit.

Source: http://CookARTLab.com

Men having unprotected sex on ‘male pill’

A survey of 2000 people suggests that 64% of men would be more likely to have sex without a condom if they had taken the new male contraceptive injection. The survey also showed that over two-thirds of the men believed that they would have the new contraceptive injection. This risk increased for older men, with three-quarters of those over the age of 34 years likely to have the injection. Meanwhile, three in four women said they would not trust men to use the new contraceptive – and this lack of faith increases as women get older, with younger women more inclined to trust men on this issue.

Source: www.half-and-partners.com

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Self-triage at a sexual health clinic/News roundup


