

## Free pills and condoms 'boosts promiscuity'

Date : 5 April 2004

Source : The Times

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

Venereal disease increase shows failure of sex education policy

GOVERNMENT attempts to reduce high-risk sexual behaviour among teenagers have had exactly the opposite effect, according to an authoritative new study.

Expanding contraceptive services and providing the morning-after pill free to teenagers have encouraged sexual behaviour rather than reducing it, according to economists at Nottingham University.

In a study which throws into question the Government,s entire teenage sexual health strategy, they discovered that sexual activity and sexually transmitted diseases have risen fastest in those areas where the Government,s policy has been most actively pursued.

Critics said that the findings exploded the official line that the best way to tackle rising teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) was by making contraception more easily available. Robert Whelan, of the independent think-tank Civitas, said: „The method which the Government,s teenage pregnancy strategy relies upon is almost guaranteed to produce these results. They have always promoted condom use, but have never contemplated the possibility of teaching young people abstinence.%

For full article go to

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1063324,00.html>

*This information is provided by Church Society for the benefit of users of the www.churchsociety.org and EVNEWS mailing list. Information is provided free of charge. The Society does not claim to be the source of the information and where possible this will be indicated in the text. The Society cannot guarantee the accuracy of news and the views expressed in articles forwarded does not express the views of the Society unless actually stated. Other conditions are in accordance with the policies set out on www.churchsociety.org.*