

# NEWS

## Emergency contraception: A 'second chance'

Emergency contraception offers women a 'second chance', preventing pregnancy after unprotected intercourse or when a couple's regular method is used incorrectly or fails to work properly. Unprotected intercourse may include coerced sex as well as situations when no method is used.

"Emergency contraception can help reduce unwanted pregnancies, many of which result in unsafe abortion and take a large toll on women's health" says Dr Paul Van Look of the World Health Organization (WHO), former chair of the international Consortium for Emergency Contraception steering committee, a group of health experts who are promoting public awareness of this important family planning option.

Every year unintended pregnancies lead to at least 20 million unsafe abortions, resulting in the death of some 80 000 women, according to WHO. Still more maternal deaths result from unintended pregnancies that do not involve abortion, according to the current issue of *Network*, a health bulletin published by Family Health International.

*Source: Family Health International.*

*URL:* <http://www.fhi.org>

## Pledges to support global health fund

The UK is to provide \$200 million to a new global health fund for infectious diseases, which will tackle HIV, malaria and tuberculosis.

The 5-year pledge was announced by UK International Development Secretary Clare Short at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS.

Ms Short explained that the fund should be modelled on the success of GAVI, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, which had increased the availability and reduced the price of vaccines in the poorest countries. "We believe the Global Health Fund can bring down the price and increase the supply of drugs and commodities for TB, HIV/AIDS and malaria and will also encourage research for new drugs".

But the Secretary of State warned that the fund should not be used for the development of health systems. This should be provided by governments with the help of development agencies.

*Source: Department for International Development.*

## New publication launched as survey reveals sex on school trips is commonplace

Over one third of teenagers have had a sexual experience on supervised school trips, according to the findings of a major international survey released by reproductive health agency Marie Stopes International (MSI).

Scantel International interviewed 907 respondents across the UK for the survey. To ensure the accuracy of their

responses, respondents were recruited on the basis that they were aged 17-19 years and had been on a supervised school trip at the age of 16 or under, that involved one or more overnight stays.

Key findings of the research are as follows:

- Over one third (35%) of respondents had had a sexual experience during school trips involving at least one overnight stay.
- One in five respondents reported having full penetrative sex.
- One in four of those who had had penetrative sex used no contraceptive protection, but 75% did use contraception – 66% used a condom.
- More young men reported having a sexual experience (45%) than young women (26%).
- The most frequently mentioned age at which sex occurred was 15, mentioned by 39% of those who had a sexual experience on a school trip.

*Source: Marie Stopes International.*

*URL:* <http://www.mariestopes.org.uk>

## The non-schoolmistress approach to tackling teenage pregnancy: 'Trust me'

'Trust me', a 35-minute VHS video, incorporates humour and originality with serious sex and relationship education. The accompanying teaching manual aims to convey information about the sexual and emotional health of young people. 'Trust me' is the first in a series of educational videos launched by MultiMedia Education and Training for use by school teachers and health educators.

Review copies of the 'Trust me' programme are available now, please contact MultiMedia Education and Training by phone (01626 821226), fax (01626 821804) or email ([info@multimediaeducationandtraining.co.uk](mailto:info@multimediaeducationandtraining.co.uk))

*Source: MultiMedia Education and Training.*

*URL:* <http://www.multimediaeducationandtraining.co.uk>

## Your passport to sexual health – schools edition

'Your passport to sexual health –schools edition', produced by Marie Stopes International (MSI), covers the following issues:

- Resisting peer pressure to have sex
- Safer sex and sexually transmitted infections
- Sexuality
- Contraception (including emergency contraception)
- Practical advice about periods, thrush and cystitis
- Where to go for help when away from home.

Free copies can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Marie Stopes International (Schools' Passport), 153 Cleveland Street, London, W1T 6QW. It can also be downloaded from the MSI website at [www.mariestopes.org.uk](http://www.mariestopes.org.uk).

*Source: Marie Stopes International.*