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JOURNAL REVIEW

Trends in sexually transmitted infections (other than HIV) in older persons: analysis of
data from an enhanced surveillance system. Bodley-Tickell AT, Olowokure B, Bhadani S,

There are few data concerning sexually
transmitted infections (STIs) that are specific to
those aged 45 years and over and this age group
is often excluded from studies as researchers
and policymakers focus on young people. This
Health Protection Agency study in the West
Midlands compared STI attendances in
different age groups and found that rates for
five STIs (i.e. syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhoea,
herpes and genital warts) in those aged over
45 years were significantly higher in 2003
compared to 1996, and the cumulative rate of
infection in this group more than doubled from
16.7 per 100 000 in 1996 to 36.3 per 100 000 in
2003. Rates for the following infections in
women were significantly higher in 2003
compared to 1996: genital warts (148.2
per 100 000 in 1996 to 349.3 per 100 000 in
2003; significance level 0.001), chlamydia
(12.9 per 100 000 in 1996 to 20.2 per 100 000 in
2003; significance level 0.037), syphilis (0.8
per 100 000 in 1996 to 1.1 per 100 000 in
2003; significance level 0.369) and gonorrhoea
(0.2 per 100 000 in 1996 to 0.3 per 100 000 in
2003; significance level 0.228). The data
suggest that education programmes around
sexually transmitted infections need to
focus on older age groups because infection
rates are increasing in these age groups.

NEWS ROUNDPUP

Women’s Health Concern Appeal
Women’s Health Concern is launching an appeal to
raise funds for its free and confidential telephone
health advice and personal e-mail response
services, via specialist nurses. This helpline is for
women who do not seek help from their general
practitioner because of embarrassment or other
reasons. These health problems can impact on their
partner, family and ability to go to work. The
charity offers help and advice to women on a wide
variety of gynaecological, sexual health and
reproductive issues, promoting knowledge and
awareness of specific diseases and medical
conditions and has a range of fact sheets to
download from their website.

Source: www.womens-health-concern.org

Cervical Cancer Prevention Week
18–24 January 2009
The European Cervical Cancer Association (ECCA) in partnership with the European
Cancer Organisation, the Association of European Cancer Leagues and the International
Union against Cancer are collecting signatures for the STOP Cervical Cancer
Petition (www.CervicalCancerPetition.eu). This calls on the European Commission and
national governments to support the implementation of organised cervical cancer
screening programmes across Europe. The objective of the petition is to obtain 1 million
signatures and then use it to draw attention in the European Parliament to the issue of
cervical cancer prevention. Although the UK screening programme has been very successful, the UK is
among a small minority of countries that benefit from organised screening programmes. Every
year in Europe 50 000 women develop and
25 000 women die from cervical cancer. Effective prevention programmes could prevent
the vast majority of these cases; sign the petition and help to bring this fact to the attention of
politicians across Europe.

Source: www.CervicalCancerPetition.eu

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