

Press Release

1 March 2011

Hackney leads the way in reduction in teenage pregnancies

Hackney is leading the way in terms of lowering teenage conceptions, with recent data showing that Hackney's under-18 pregnancy rate has decreased by 37% from 1998 to 2009; well beyond the decrease in England (18%) or London (20%) over the same period.

NHS City and Hackney believes this reduction is due to a combination of factors which has led to teenagers making better informed choices.

Deputy Director of Public Health, Dr Jose Figueroa, said: "Organisations working under the umbrella of Hackney's Teenage Pregnancy Partnership work collaboratively to ensure local young people have access to good education about sex and relationships, and high quality clinical services. These figures show that 10 years of hard work has really paid off."

Hackney's primary care services and community pharmacies offer a comprehensive range of options for sexual health and contraception; young people in Hackney can join one of the best condom distribution schemes around. They can also access a dedicated holistic health service for teenagers called CHYPS Plus in Lower Clapton.

NHS City and Hackney introduced a new approach in early 2009, taking a mobile sexual health bus right out into the community. More than 5,000 Hackney residents visited the bus which offered free condoms, contraceptive advice, Chlamydia, HIV and pregnancy testing.

Education has also played a key role; since 2001 the award-winning Christopher Winter Project has trained over a thousand local teachers to deliver sex and relationships education. Good local information, via the SHO-me website, has also been available since November 2008 and the website now attracts more than 7,000 unique visitors per month.

But Dr Figueroa said that all this is just half of the story: "These figures show that more and more young people in Hackney are seeking out information about contraception, and making informed choices.

"However, we cannot be complacent as we still have much more to do if we are going to ensure the best possible outcomes for all teenagers in Hackney. We encourage all young people to take a proactive approach to sexual health – to talk about it with their parents, partners and professionals."

For more information: www.sho-me.nhs.uk

ENDS

For media enquiries please contact:

Esme Gibbins

Communications Manager - Commissioning, NHS City and Hackney

Email: Esme.Gibbins@chpct.nhs.uk

Notes to Editors

- After a period of sustained decline, teenage pregnancy rates in Hackney showed a slight increase in 2007 and 2008. The 20.5% decrease between 2008 and 2009 is the greatest year-on-year reduction seen during the strategy's lifetime and as a consequence, Hackney's performance against the 1998 baseline has markedly improved.
- The provisional 2009 under-18 conception rate for City and Hackney was 48.6 per 1000 females aged 15-17 – a decrease of 36.9% from the baseline (1998) compared with a national decrease of 18.1% and a London decrease of 20.3%.
- Teenage pregnancy numbers are small at a local level and therefore rates can vary greatly. However, the decreasing trend in teenage conceptions seen in Hackney is greater than any of Hackney's statistical neighbours.

Region	2008 Number	2009 Number	2008 Rate	2009 Rate	% change 2008- 2009	% change 1998- 2009
Hackney	212	163	61.1	48.6	-20.5%	-36.9%
Haringey	185	171	53.0	51.1	-3.6%	-18.0%
Lambeth	267	218	71.0	59.5	-16.2%	-30.2%
Lewisham	296	235	68.8	55.6	-19.2%	-30.5%
Southwark	254	233	67.8	63.2	-6.8%	-27.5%
London	5,514	4,977	44.6	40.7	-8.8%	-20.3%
England	38,783	35,966	40.5	38.2	-5.7%	-18.1%

Teenage Pregnancy Rates 1998-2009

