

A teenage pregnancies audit in a small North London district

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Government statistics show an increasing teenage pregnancy rate, resulting in the specific targeting of this problem within the National Sexual Health Strategy. Harrow has been running young people's clinics since 1986 and had a good teenage pregnancy record. Research shows that young people presenting with an unplanned pregnancy have traditionally taken risks rather than used contraception and presented at a late stage of gestation or concealed it until it has been too late for a termination of pregnancy (TOP). Confidentiality is a high priority with teenagers, and because of this they often chose a family planning clinic for contraception rather than the family doctor. Recent cuts in local family planning services and more funding enabling easier access for a TOP, has led us to the hypothesis that as with national figures, our local teenage pregnancy rates have increased. This audit will examine the number of teenage TOP and take a random sample of 50 teenagers under the age of 19yrs, requesting a TOP and ask the following questions: Was this their first visit to the service? What was the gestation of pregnancy? Did they return to the service for follow up contraception? Was there a further pregnancy? The ethnic groups break down? Was contraception being used before the pregnancy? What method of contraception was chosen post TOP? We will also do a comparison with local authority figures for general referral rates. Expected results are that the service is providing most of the TOP referrals for these teenagers, that they are for the most part attending early in the pregnancy and returning to the young peoples clinics for contraception.