

The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare welcomes a fall in abortions in England and Wales

In response to the Department of Health statistics published today (25.05.10) which reveal that the overall abortion rate for England and Wales has fallen by 3.2% since 2008, and represents the lowest abortion rate since 2006, Dr Kate Guthrie, of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare commented:

“The Faculty are delighted that the number of abortions in England and Wales have fallen compared to 2008. It is fantastic to see that the hard work put in by the sexual and reproductive health community, which was supported by some investment in services, is starting to pay dividends”

“The economic benefits of well rounded sexual and reproductive health services are well documented. Therefore, in this challenging economic climate it is crucial that sexual and reproductive health remains a public health priority, so that we can build on these achievements, and continue to innovate and provide high quality services that provide the full range of contraceptive choices for all women”.

“However, despite the overall decrease in abortions, the data shows that the abortion rate was highest for women aged 19 – 21. It is vital that people of all ages have access to both high quality, joined up contraceptive information and services, and a wide choice of contraception. I also welcome today’s launch of the NICE guidelines consultation on contraceptive services for socially disadvantaged young people, which once implemented will bring us one step closer to making unplanned teenage pregnancy a problem of the past”

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For further information, or if you would like to speak to the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, please contact Harriet Smith:

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Notes to Editors:

- The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (formerly called the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare) of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists was established on the 26th March 1993.
- It has approximately 12,000 medical members in the UK of whom 8,000 are general practitioners.
- It grants diplomas, certificates, fellowships and equivalent recognition of specialist knowledge and skills in family planning and reproductive health care.

- As a body it promotes conferences and lectures, provides members with an advisory service and publishes *The Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*.
 - For more information please visit www.fsrh.org
 - The Department of Health abortion statistics can be viewed online at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_116039
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