



ALCOHOL AND PREGNANCY

FACT SHEET

The purpose of the posters is an attempt to raise awareness among our youth to the factors associated with the use of alcohol, possibly leading to engaging in unprotected sex and the potential impact this could have on an unborn fetus if a young woman engages in alcohol use while pregnant.

It is also important to note for the year 2006, there were 280 teenage pregnancies (between ages 13-19) in Newfoundland and Labrador. (Center for Health Information)
For the complete report:

http://www.nlchi.nf.ca/pdf/Live_Birth_Trends_2002-2006_Jan08FINAL.pdf

The posters also offer a web site where young people can access further information related to teen pregnancies, factors that may contribute to alcohol use and damage to the fetus, as well as support from Addictions Services. www.fetalhealth.ca
They can also access information on addiction services at <http://www.getuponit.ca/>

The *2007 Newfoundland and Labrador Student Drug Use Survey* involved collaboration among the Department of Health and Community Services, the Department of Education and Dalhousie University. It was released in November of 2007. Among its' many findings were those listed below which have a direct relationship between young people's attitudes towards alcohol use and sexual behaviour.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Drug Survey Report (2007) can be found at:
<http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publications/atlanticdrugreport.htm>

Alcohol, Drugs & Sexual Behaviour

- Students in Grade 9, Level I, and Level III responded, where comfortable, to questions on sexual behaviour.
- In 2007, 21.2% of students in Grade 9, 35.1% in Level I, and 56.1% in Level III reported to have engaged in sexual intercourse at least once in the course of the year.
- Males and females were equally likely to have engaged in sexual intercourse.
- Sexual intercourse was more common among senior than junior high school students.
- Of the students who had sexual intercourse, 35.3% reported having had unplanned sexual intercourse under the influence of a substance on at least one occasion in the course of the year. 46.3% of level III students reported having done so compared to 27.1% of students in Grade 9.
- Of those who had sexual intercourse, 61.2% of students reported to have used a condom at the time of their last sexual intercourse. This rate is unchanged from the 2003 survey.
- In 2007 the rate of reported condom use was lower among females (54.8%) than males (68.5%). This pattern is consistent with the 2003 report.

In 2007, 21.2% of students in Grade 9, 35.1% in Level I, and 56.1% in Level III engaged in sexual intercourse. Of the students who had sexual intercourse, 35.3% had unplanned sexual intercourse under the influence of a substance on at least one occasion in the course of the year, compared to 39% in 2003. Given the health and social risks associated with sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy, continuation of sexual health education and its integration with substance use education and intervention is warranted.

In 2007, more than half (52%), of Newfoundland and Labrador students reported alcohol use, compared to 57.9% in 2003. The use of alcohol more than once per month was reported by 31.1% of students and 29.7% reported consuming five or more drinks at one sitting in the 30 days prior to the survey.

The number of students who report being drunk in the month before the survey went down from about 36% in 2003 to 27.7% in 2007. Despite this reduction, almost one third of Newfoundland and Labrador students reported being drunk in the month before the survey. Despite a slight decrease, the use of alcohol by our youth population continues to be an area of concern.