HCW: Evidence for Policy Seminar Series

Introduction

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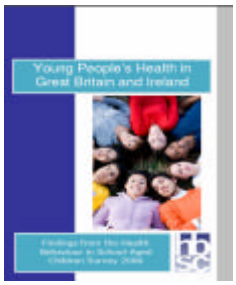
Chris Roberts
Dept of First Minister & Cabinet

Health Challenge Wales – Evidence for Policy Seminar Series

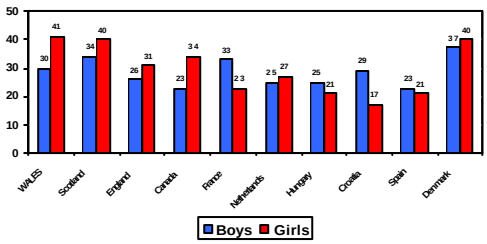
- Series launched October 2005
- Integral part of PHIRN's activities
- Promote engagement between research, policy and practice to develop high quality research proposals with potential to inform policy and practice
- PHIRN supported by colleagues in Health Improvement Division and WORD, within Department of Public Health and Health Professions

Young people's sexual health – a few observations

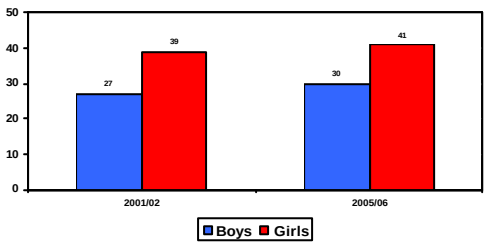
- CYP Cabinet Committee paper
- HBSC study
  - GB & Ireland report (2009)
  - IJPH supplement (2009)
  - WHO international report (2008)
- Secondary school based study
- Useful population based surveillance information to assess risk, understand patterns, examine trends etc.
- Not full story but contribute to picture



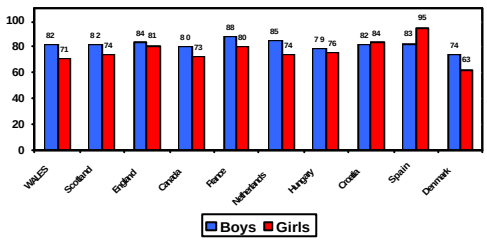
15-year-olds reporting to have had sexual intercourse, 2005/06, selected countries



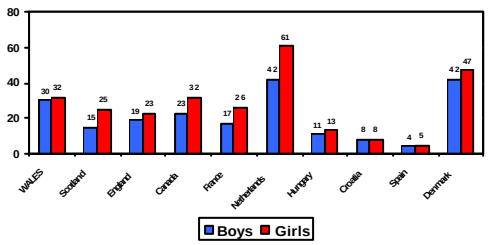
15-year-olds reporting to have had sexual intercourse, 2001/02 and 2005/06, Wales



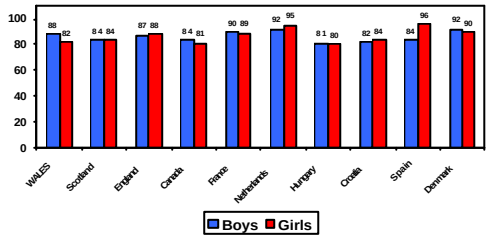
15-year-olds reporting condom use at last intercourse, 2005/06, selected countries



15-year-olds reporting contraceptive pill at last intercourse, 2005/06, selected countries



15-year-olds reporting condom, contraceptive pill or both at last intercourse, 2005/06, selected countries



Emerging themes

- Substantial minority of 15-year-olds have engaged in sexual intercourse
- Condom use most widely reported form of contraception, followed by dual use of contraceptive pill and condom and contraceptive pills only
- Proportions of poorly or unprotected young people is an issue (estimated across HBSC countries that around 1 in 6 report no contraceptive use at last intercourse)
- Clear implications for teenage pregnancy and STIs

(See Godeau et al., 2008, Arch. Pediatr. Adolesc. Med. and Nic Gabhainn et al., 2009, Int J Public Health for more detail)

Policy messages?

- BMJ paper by Harden and colleagues last week
- Systematic review of trials and qualitative studies around early parenthood
- Small but reliable evidence base:
  - Early childhood interventions and youth development programmes to tackle social disadvantage can reduce teenage pregnancy rates
  - Importance of tackling factors such as school enjoyment and raising aspirations
  - Tackling disadvantage to complement not replace high quality sex education and contraceptive services
- Clear indication of importance of social context and the need for cross sector working

Harden A. et al. (2009) Teenage pregnancy and social disadvantage: systematic review integrating controlled trials and qualitative studies. British Medical Journal, 339, b4254.

Chris Roberts

Chris.Roberts@wales.gsi.gov.uk