



## **Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare**

### **Statement on the Office for National Statistics' release 'Conceptions in England and Wales: 2014'**

In response to the release of new Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures for conceptions in England and Wales, FSRH is concerned that, in comparison to 2013, these figures have revealed a rise in the percentage of conceptions leading to abortions in women of all ages under 40.

The FSRH believe that this rise in abortions is indicative of an unmet need for contraception amongst women of all ages that must be addressed. We believe that this unmet need is in part resulting from disinvestment in vital contraceptive services for women of all ages as public health funding is increasingly eroded by Government cuts.

FSRH Nevertheless welcomes the figures illustrating that conceptions rates among under-18s are at their lowest since 1969. Data shows that the rate of teenage pregnancy has halved since 1998<sup>1</sup>, which represents a huge advancement in the bid to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies in England and Wales, and demonstrates a likely improvement of teenage use and understanding of contraception.

Whilst this data shows significant progress, it is important to remember that although there are improvements in teenage pregnancy rates in England and Wales, we are still lagging behind the rest of Europe. Research conducted in 2012 found that the UK had lower teenage birth rates than only Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia out of the 28 member states of the European Union.

FSRH believes that this data demonstrates that there is still significant work to be done to ensure that women of all ages have access to the full range of contraceptive methods available to them and are empowered to make informed choices about their reproductive health.

Ends

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<sup>1</sup> 23 young women out of every 1000 under 18s fell pregnant in 2014 as opposed to the 47 in every 100 recorded in 1998

**Notes to editors:**

- The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (formerly called the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare). It grants diplomas, certificates, fellowships and equivalent recognition of specialist knowledge and skills in family planning and reproductive health care. It has over 16,000 doctors and nurses of whom approximately 10,000 are general practitioners. 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](http://www.fsrh.org)
- Office for National Statistics 'Conceptions in England and Wales 2014' available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/conceptionandfertilityrates/bulletins/conceptionstatistics/2014#main-points>
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