

SIX THINGS THEY DON'T TELL YOUNG PEOPLE

(From Life International)

Young People are often led to believe that sex
will bring love and happiness, security,
maturity and independence...

Here are some things that do not get talked about so often...

1. You are being exploited

As you grow up you are bound to be curious about sex. That's natural. But it also means you are vulnerable.

There will often be others around you who seem to know much more than you do and make you feel odd if you are not experimenting.

You may have been encouraged to do so by sex education which talked about how your bodies work, how wonderful sex is and how it can be 'safe' – all with pictures and diagrams, and information about confidential advice and friendly clinics for young people.

And the media – the tabloids, telly, cinema and mags – well, it's sex, sex, sex much of the time. They glamorise it all.

The trouble is that, once you get started, it can be difficult to stop.

Sex is addictive. You can get hooked. It can be like drugs and alcohol, and worse than tobacco.

All this is good news of the sex industry: for the people producing the porn mags and dirty films, for the abortion clinics and sex shops, for the multinational drugs firms and condom producers. They want you to become a consumer.

2. Contraception is big business

Contraception is a multi-million-pound industry.

International agencies like the International Planned Parenthood Federation, to which the British Family Planning Association belongs, receive enormous Government funding, have huge propaganda budgets and employ thousands of people dedicated to promoting contraception and abortion. They are supported by the United Nations and subsidised by rich US foundations.

Governments and agencies like the Health Education Council promote 'family planning' and 'sex education' (which are usually anti-family and pro-contraception campaigning) as a quick fix for things like rises in teenage pregnancy or single-parent families, and as an excuse for not tackling root problems like poor housing or permissive sex education.

Often the 'cure' makes matters worse.

Western governments spend millions on artificial birth control in the Third World, which these poorer countries see as racist and an attempt by the rich few to postpone giving others a fair share of the world's wealth.

Then, of course, the worldwide AIDS scare and all the talk about global over-population, much of it ill-informed, have given a huge boost to the contraception industry and especially the condom manufacturers.

3. Many contraceptives are really abortifacients

Many types of the pill do not prevent conception. They cause early abortion. They destroy a human life already begun – a few days old – before implantation, that is, before the newly created human being has implanted in the wall of the mother's womb.

The so-called coil, or intra-uterine device, acts in a similar way. But we are not told this.

The 'morning-after' pill and chemicals like RU486 (used up to 9 weeks after conception) also obviously cause early abortions. The manufacturers try to con up by inventing a new word for them. They call them 'contragestives'!

For a while the Department of Health and Family Planning Association even claimed that conception did not occur until implantation. So they tried to persuade us that the ordinary pill and IUD were indeed contraceptives because they prevented implantation. But the truth is that conception occurs at fertilisation.

4. More contraception means more unplanned pregnancy

The experience of the UK, every Western country and the USA is clear. We have never had more available contraception. In the UK it is the only thing that's still absolutely free on the NHS. Schools and colleges are bombarded with sex (contraception) education. Contraceptives are openly available in garages, chemists, pubs, student unions and railway stations.

Yet the rate of unplanned pregnancy, especially among teenagers, has risen steadily over the last 25 years, ending either in abortion or single motherhood.

Why? In large measures because readily and freely available contraception has encouraged sexual activity, especially among the young. But all contraception has a failure rate. Increased use of methods that fail inevitably means more failures. The figures speak for themselves:

Rates of recorded abortion per 1000 (residents) England and Wales			
	All women aged 15-44	Women aged 16-19	Women aged 20-24
1969	5.2	*	*
1970	7.5	10.3	10.5
1975	11.0	17.4	15.1
1980	12.6	20.4	18.7
1985	13.1	21.9	20.4
1990	15.8	25.9	28.2

* not available (source: *Abortion Statistics, HMSO 1994*)

So, between 1969 and 1990 the abortion rate rose fast, though this was precisely the time when contraception became more available. The English experience (that more contraception means more abortion) has been repeated in Western Europe, North America and Australia.

Recorded abortion rates have declined a little since 1990. This may be due to increased (unrecorded) use of abortion pills like the 'morning-after pill', or to changing moral attitudes. There is no evidence that it is due to contraception.

Live births to single women: Rates per 1000 babies (England and Wales)

1966	-	7.9
1971	-	8.5
1981	-	12.9
1986	-	28.3
1992	-	31.6

(source: *Population Trends 76, HMSO, 1994*)

Since a proportion of these births will presumably have resulted from unintended pregnancies, this dramatic rise in the number of single mothers also supports the claim that unplanned pregnancy has increased precisely as contraception has become more available.

5. Safe sex? There's no such thing

Sex in a loving relationship may be wonderful. But some bad things can happen to you once you become sexually active. Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have reached epidemic proportions in some of our cities and can cause severe long-term damage, especially to younger girls' bodies. AIDS is simply the best known.

The condom does not give much protection against any of them, even AIDS. Instead, by encouraging sexual activity, it may be making matters worse.

The various pills give no protection. They probably make matters much worse. And their long-term use can itself do serious harm to girls' bodies.

Another point: the earlier you start being sexually active, the more likely you are to pay a high price, because the more likely you are to have more than one sexual partner. A major cause of

cervical cancer, for instance, which kills thousands of women a year, is early sexual activity with several partners. All STD rates increase as the number of partners rises. Some STDs are incurable. Some can be passed on to children and do serious damage to them.

Above all, if you start having sex, sooner or later you are likely to get pregnant (or get someone pregnant), because there is no such thing as 100 per cent 'protection'.

That means that sooner or later a girl will have to make a frightening decision: either to go ahead or to have an abortion – which kills another human being and can do terrible damage, emotional and physical, to her.

The Government and the family planners used to talk about 'safe sex'. Now they talk about 'safer sex'. The truth is, there is no such thing for young people. Sex can seriously damage your health unless you have been and continue to be chaste, and are permanently committed to a chaste partner. But no one in the Government or the many advice agencies is honest enough to say this.

There is only one way of avoiding disease and trauma. That's by putting a very high price on yourself and saying 'no'.

6. The promises have not come true

The arrival of oral contraception in the early 1960s and of 'liberal' abortion (1967) ushered in the 'sexual revolution'. Enthusiasts promised this would mean:

- every child would be a wanted child
- illegitimacy
- abortion rates would be low and soon decline
- families would be happier and marriages stronger
- we'd all – especially women – be happier and healthier

Instead we have had:

- ever more unplanned pregnancies
- 4 million abortions, soaring abortion rates and ever more post-abortion trauma
- an unparalleled rise in single motherhood and one-parent families
- a surge in sexually transmitted diseases – some of them passed on to babies
- women's bodies having to cope with increasingly powerful chemicals and a serious rise in female infertility
- more sex-related crime against women and children
- more domestic violence, especially against women, and more teenage crime and violence
- rampant pornography
- declining marriage rates and now 40% of marriages breaking down.

Increased abortion and contraception have been the direct cause of some of these and are related to the others. Faced with them, the Government wants yet more contraception and more abortion – which is like trying to put out a fire with petrol?

The truth is that a social experiment, launched in the 1960s, has failed.

For further information

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