



Am I putting Myself at risk?

Drugs and Alcohol can effect whether you make good or bad decisions about your health

Over half – 57% youth in this survey said they were using drugs or alcohol the last time they had sex

- As youth get older, they are less likely to use a condom
- About half (53%) of 18 year olds used a condom last time they had sex
- Compared to 2 out of 3 14 year olds
- 19% or almost one in four, youth who have had sex said they have had an STI

STI stands for Sexually Transmitted Infection. Some STIs include :

- Chlamydia
- Genital Herpes
- Gonorrhea
- Genital Warts
- Pubic lice (Crabs)
- Scabies,
- Syphilis
- Yeast Infections
- Hepatitis B and C
- HIV Aids



Want to talk?

There are clinics all over B.C. where you can speak *confidentially* with a doctor, nurse or counsellor about your sexual health questions and concerns

Go to the OPT website (below) to find a clinic near you

On line Information on Sexual Health:

OPT optionsforsexualhealth.org

Information on STIs, birth control, sex, pregnancy and where to find a clinic near you.

sexualityandu.ca

For sexual health, games, tips, and links

Facts of Life Line:

To talk about your concerns around sex toll free at 1-800-SEX-SENSE (1-800-739-7367)

Youth in BC

http://youthinbc.com/help_sexuality.html

Other Fact Sheets from Against the Odds:

- Sexual Exploitation
- Substance Use
- Moving On
- Mental and Physical Health

Available at www.msc.bc.ca

Sexual Health



Youth living in homelessness, living on the streets, living in an abandoned building, a tent or car. Youth who are walking on the streets, trading sex for drugs, money, clothes, food or shelter. Youth who are using or selling drugs on the streets, or exchanging sex for shelter. Youth who have recently moved from any of these situations into a more stable environment.

Against the Odds



A profile of street involved and marginalized youth in BC



The McCreary Centre Society

This information is from:

Against the Odds – A profile of marginalized and street-involved youth in BC

Lots of people have the wrong idea about why some youth are street involved.

This research was done to learn about what life is like for street involved youth. And to give youth a chance to voice their opinions and concerns.

762 youth from nine communities in BC participated in the Against the Odds survey in 2006

Youth included in this survey were those who are:

- Homeless
- Living on the street
- Couch surfing
- Staying in a: tent, car, abandoned building, or squat
- Using or Selling Drugs on the street
- Involved in the Sex Trade
- Or anyone who has recently moved from these conditions to a more stable environment

McCreary Centre Society

www.mcs.bc.ca

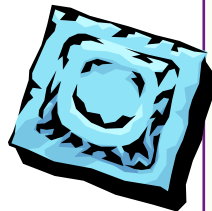
Some symptoms of an STI are:

- Burning, itching or pain in your genital area
- Pain or burning while you pee, during or after sex,
- Discharge from, or sores on your genital area

Some STIs can cause infertility and serious, or life threatening health problems. All STIs should be treated

If you have any of these symptom or others you are concerned about, or if you have had sexual contact with someone that you know has an STI go see a doctor at a clinic near you.

Youth in this survey were less likely to use a condom than youth surveyed in schools



•Wear a condom !
It can help protect against diseases carried in blood and bodily fluids such as Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, and other STIs. It can also protect against unwanted pregnancy.

Almost 1 in 3, or 32% of street-involved youth reported ever being pregnant or causing a pregnancy

72% of street involved youth used effective methods of contraception to prevent pregnancy the last time they had sex



What are effective contraceptives?

To prevent pregnancy you can use:

- Birth control pills
- Condoms (male or female),
- The patch
- The ring/The Nuva Ring
- Diaphragms
- And Depo Provera



Take responsibility! A sexual health checklist:

- Wait until you are ready to accept risks and responsibilities that come with sex
- Wear a condom
- Try to limit the number of sexual partners you have to decrease your risk of getting an STI
- Talk to a doctor about your options