



***Reduction in unwanted
teenage pregnancy rates –
are we achieving enough?***

**Presentation by
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Introduction

- 1 in 10 babies born in England is to a teenage mother
- Girls from poorest background are 10 times more likely to become teenage mothers than girls from professional background
- Infant mortality rates of teenage mothers are twice the national average



Background

- Tackling teenage pregnancy is central to the government's work to prevent health inequalities, child poverty and social exclusion
- Under 18 conception rate for England in 2004 is 41.5 per 1000 girls
- In Hull, Yorkshire, the rate is 70 per 1000 of which 32.3% require surgical termination



Background

- National Institute for Clinical excellence, NICE, published guidelines to reduce unintended pregnancies
- Increasing the use of Long acting reversible contraception, LARC will reduce unwanted pregnancies
- We report our experience in implementing this guideline



Methods

- All patients who underwent surgical termination of pregnancy between Mar 2006 till May 2006 were included
- Date collected from the OPCS database
- Contraception method, if deployed, was noted



Results

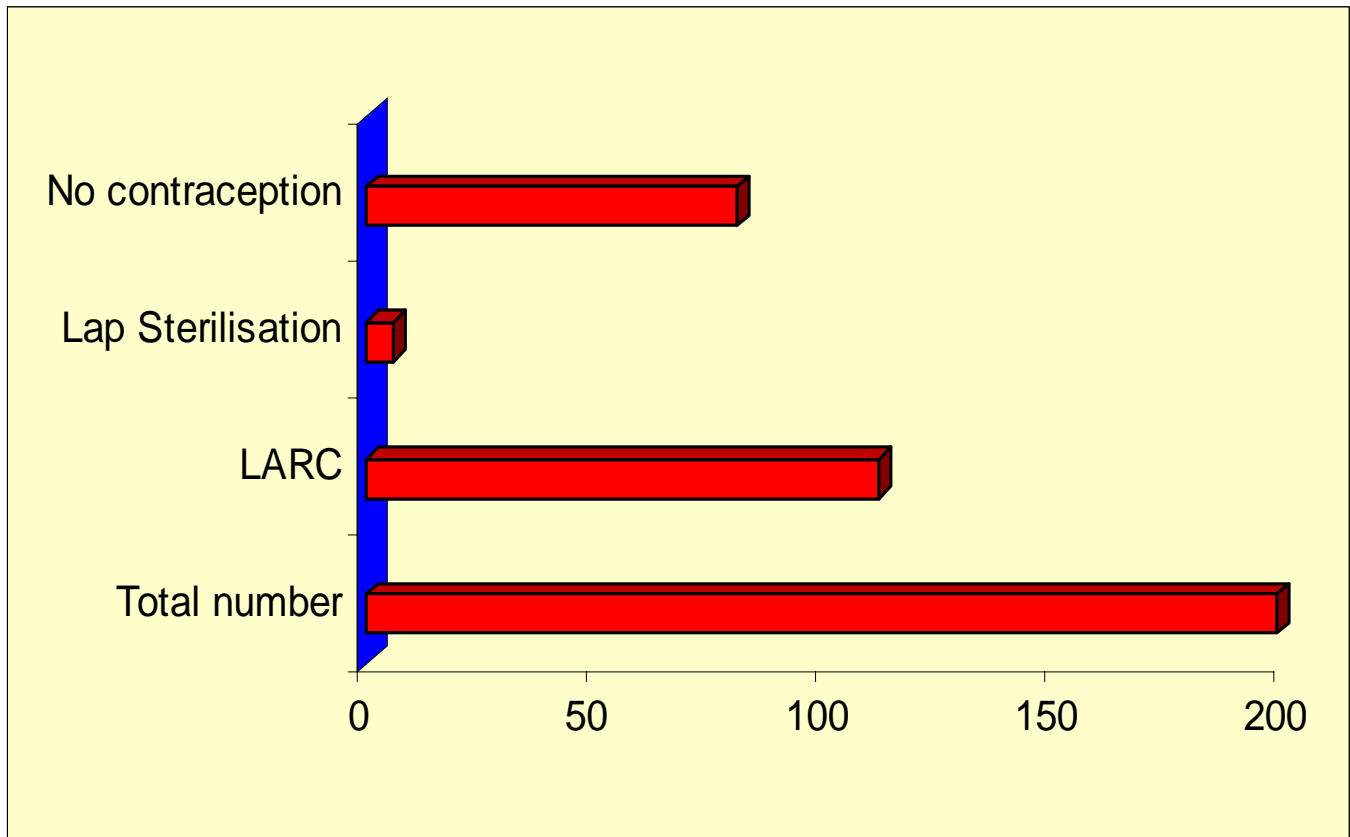
- 199 patients underwent surgical termination of pregnancy in the study period
- Mean age of patients was 23.1, range being 14 to 41 years
- Of the 199, 56 patients were teenagers (28.1%)



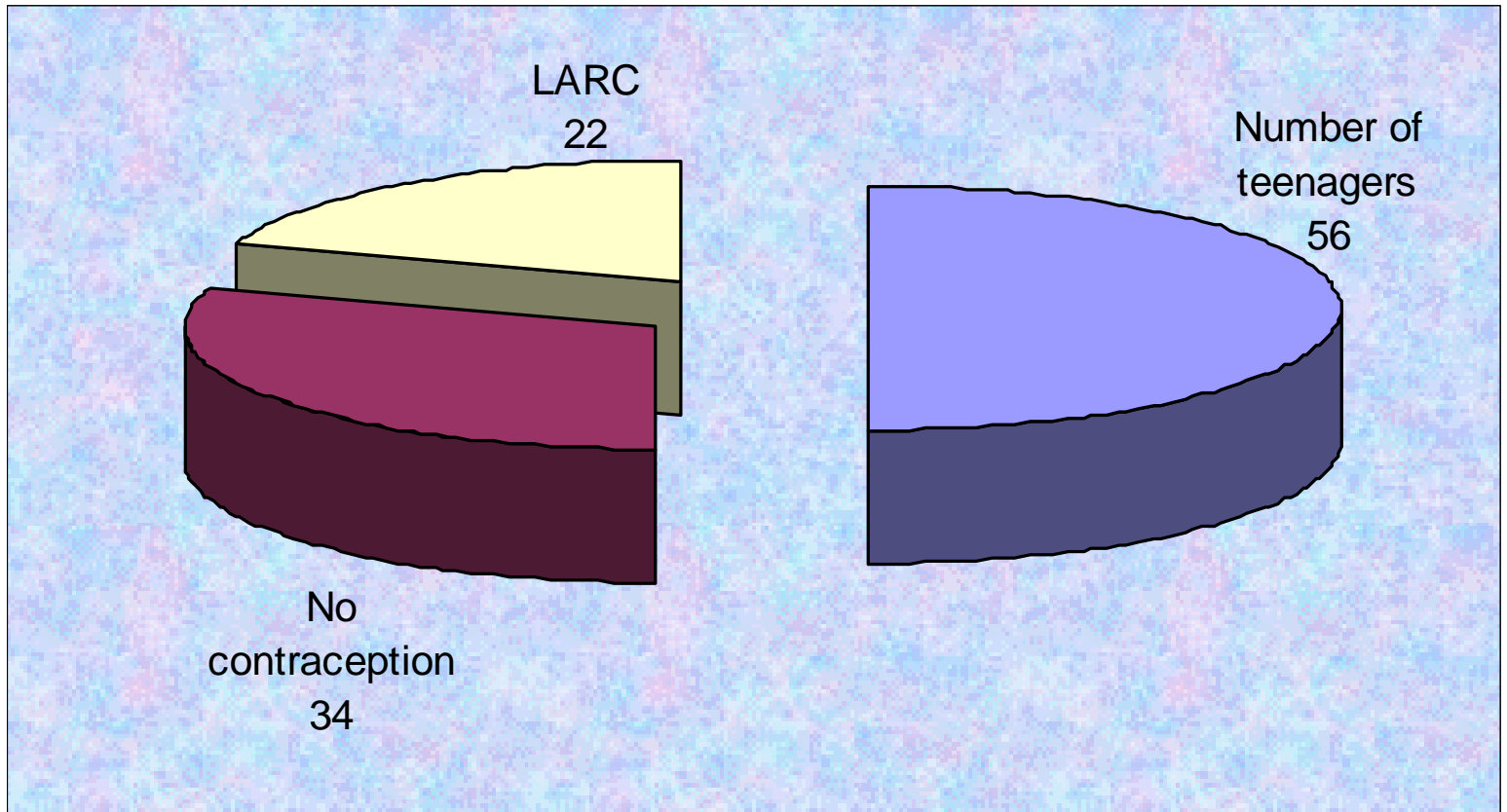
Results

- 112 patients chose LARC
- 6 patients had laparoscopic sterilisation
- 81 patients did not opt for any contraception of which 34 were in the age range of 14 - 19 years

Results



Results

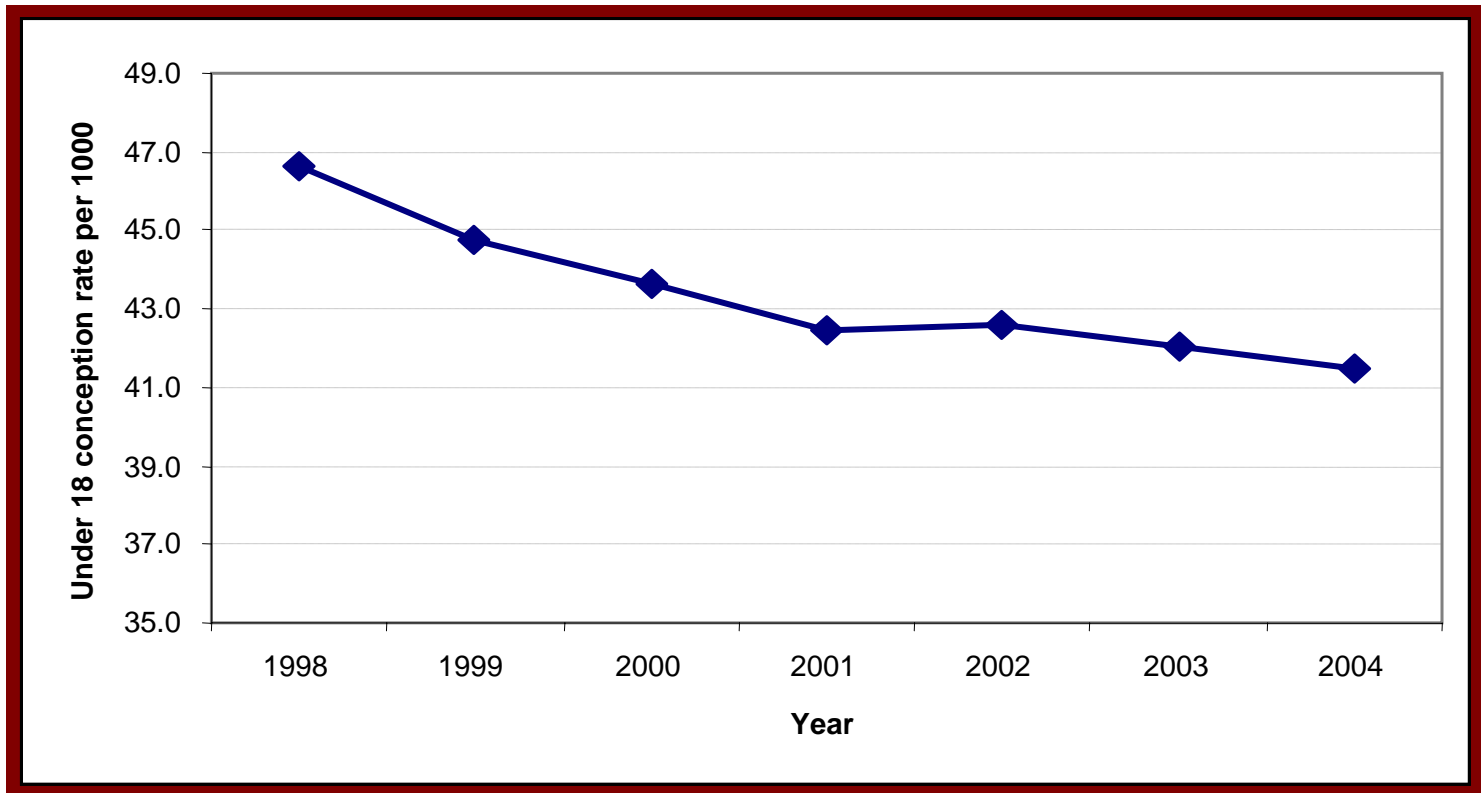




Discussion

- About 60% of teenage patients did not opt any form of contraception
- Big problem!!!

Under 18 conception rate for England 1998 - 2004



Source: Office for National Statistics and Teenage Pregnancy Unit, UK, 2006
Rate per thousand females aged 15-17



Discussion

- Why teenage pregnancy is high in UK?
- Some factors attributed are:
 - Alcohol
 - Low aspirations
 - Lack of self esteem
 - Behavioural problems
 - Lack of appropriate services
 - Culture that supports teen motherhood



Discussion

- 26% of boys and 295 of girls indulge in binge drinking at least 3 times a month (BBC)
- A local culture that supports teenage motherhood



Prevention strategies

- **Primary prevention**
 - Deferring sexual debut
 - Education
 - Tackling social determinants
- **Secondary prevention**
 - Contraception
 - STI protection
 - Education



Prevention strategies

- Tertiary prevention
 - Emergency contraception
 - Access to termination clinics
 - Education
- Quarternary prevention
 - Support parents of teens
 - Social inclusion
 - Education



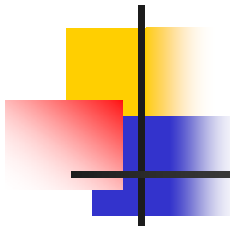
The National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

- Two national targets are:
 1. Halve the under 18 conception rate in England by 2010
 2. Increase the participation of teenage mothers in education, training or work to 60% by 2010 to reduce the risk of long term social exclusion



Teenage pregnancy unit

- A cross-government unit
- Includes a mix of civil servants and those experienced in teaching, health promotion, nursing, youth work, contraceptive services, information and research



Objectives of the Teenage Pregnancy Unit

- Oversee the implementation of the government's teenage pregnancy strategy
- Co-ordinate activity at national level
- Provide support for local activity



We need to work on

- Respect and relationship
- Alcohol in society
- Support for parents of teenagers
- Social inclusion
- Ambition and opportunity

Thank you

