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Coverage

England and Wales

Theme

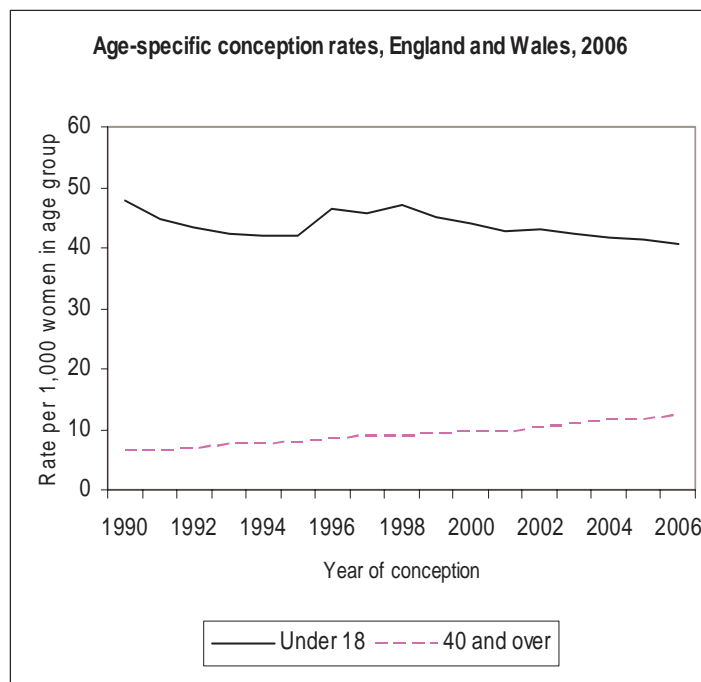
Health and Care

Conception rate for women aged 40 and over reaches record high

The conception rate in England and Wales rose between 2005 and 2006 for all women aged 19 and over.

A new report published today by the Office for National Statistics shows that the overall conception rate rose by nearly three per cent between 2005 and 2006 from 76.0 to 78.0 conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-44.

The rate for women aged 40 and over increased fastest, by over six per cent from 11.5 per 1,000 women aged 40-44 in 2005, to 12.2 in 2006. During the same period, the under-18 rate fell from 41.4 to 40.7 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 15-17.



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There were an estimated 866,800 conceptions in England and Wales in 2006, compared with 841,800 in 2005, an increase of 3 per cent.

In 2006, conception rates increased steadily by age for women under 30 years and they then decreased with age. The rate was highest for women aged 25-29, at 129.0 per 1,000 women in the age group.

As in previous years, nearly four-fifths of all conceptions resulted in a maternity.

Since 1995, conceptions outside marriage have increased (from 47 per cent to 56 per cent in 2006). Much of this increase was in conceptions where both the maternity and conception were outside marriage but the birth was registered by both parents.

The underage conception rate in 2006 was 7.7 conceptions per 1,000 girls aged 13-15 compared with 7.8 in 2005, a decrease of 1 per cent.

More information is available free on the National Statistics website:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15055>

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
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