

Lesbian Teens at Higher Risk for Pregnancy

A recent study published by the *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality* found that lesbian, gay and bisexual youth had higher rates of pregnancy than their straight peers. The study, led by University of British Columbia professor Elizabeth Saewyc, examines the self-reported data of teens surveyed in 1992, 1998 and 2003. Over the 11-year period, overall rates of teen pregnancy went down, but sexually active LGB youth consistently reported disproportionately higher rates.

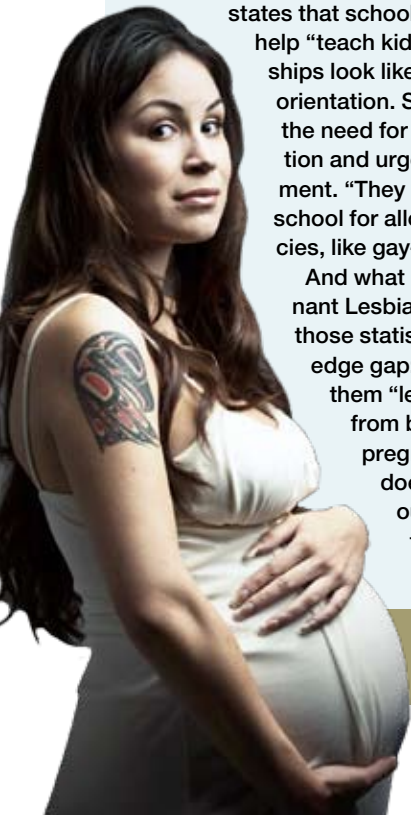
The youth polled were also asked about their age when their first sexual activity occurred, their total number of partners, substance abuse before sex, condom use and sexual abuse history. In many areas, LGB youth engaged in more risky sexual behavior than their peers. For example, sexually active self-identified lesbian teens reported their first sexual activity occurred prior to age 14 at a rate of 48 percent in 2003—down from their 1998 rate of 68 percent but higher than that of their bisexual (26 percent) or straight (13 percent) peers.

When asked what factor contributes most to these results, Saewyc expressed the need for further research and policy development, as both Canada and the United States have “unacceptable levels of sexual abuse. We need to pay more attention.”

The research on risky sexual behavior in teens remains sparse. In broad terms, Saewyc states that schools and communities can help “teach kids what healthy relationships look like,” regardless of their orientation. She heavily emphasizes the need for substantive sex education and urges parental involvement. “They can advocate with the school for allowing supportive policies, like gay-straight alliances.”

And what becomes of the pregnant Lesbian and bisexual teens in those statistics? Another knowledge gap: Pregnancy makes them “less visible.” They go from being LGB teens to pregnant teens. “What does that do in terms of our care of them and their children?” asks Saewyc. **[Andrea Millar]**

Read our full interview with Elizabeth Saewyc at curvemag.com



THE RUMBLE DOWN UNDER

If you’ve ever dreamed of holding up a 7-Eleven and going down on the clerk, the Smodnoc is the perfect pleasure weapon for you. Basically a sex mask that turns your tongue into a latex puppet, the Smodnoc is the latest in safe-sex innovation. Of course, it looks completely ridiculous, but a little humiliation is a small price to pay for protecting your health. How does the Smodnoc compare to the classic dental dam? **[Heather Robinson]**

SMODNOC



Cost: 20 units for \$40

DENTAL DAM

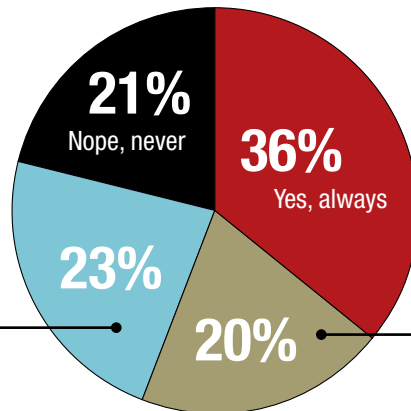


(grape flavored by Line One Laboratories)

About \$1.50 a dam

Sexiness of name:	“Smodnoc” may mean “hot oral pleasure” in Ork, but in English it just sounds like the name of a bad thrasher band.	I’m not sure what’s more sexy, thinking of your dentist or thinking of your vagina as a potential flood that needs to be dammed.
Ease of use:	The Smodnoc is easy to use. Getting the girl to stop laughing might be more of a challenge.	It’s easy to use, but it’s not always easy to use well.
Perks:	The textured surface adds some extra “ahhh” to the receiver’s experience. Because it straps to the face, it leaves your hands free for other endeavors.	Improved communication skills. Because you’ll have no idea where her clit is, you will be forced to talk about it.
Summers:	The tongue pocket tends to fill up with saliva and drowning in one’s own spit is not particularly sexy. The mask also makes it difficult to speak, so get your sweet nothings in before you get it on.	In my opinion, using a dental dam, even a good one, is like trying to paint the <i>Mona Lisa</i> through a garbage bag.

DO YOU PRACTICE SAFE SEX WITH WOMEN?



Sometimes, depending on the sex act (Dental dams? Too much trouble)

Sometimes, depending on my partner

According to a curvemag.com poll