

MY TOWN CONDOM COUNT 2020!

WHAT IS THE CONDOM COUNT?

The My Town Condom Count is an initiative to identify access to condoms and dams by counting where they are available and by rating how accessible they are for young people in rural towns across Victoria. It is led by the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH), Youth Affairs Council Victoria and the Sexual Health Out and About (SHOUT) Working Party.

WHY DO WE NEED A CONDOM COUNT?

Condoms are a key means of prevention of STIs and unplanned pregnancy. However, there are still locations where it can be difficult to access condoms, particularly in smaller isolated towns and communities. Together, across rural Victoria, we will increase knowledge of where to access free and affordable condoms. Where we identify gaps, we can provide resources to local organisations to increase provision of condoms and promote healthy sexual relationships. Localised snapshots can be used for future planning and action.

RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE AND SEXUAL HEALTH

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmissible infection (STI) in Australia. Young people accounted for 75% of chlamydia cases in 2016. Over 30% of cases were from rural or regional communities.

Rural young people are disadvantaged when it comes to looking after their sexual health, mainly due issues around:

- Limited access to services and condoms
- Privacy and confidentiality issues which can impact health-seeking behavior
- Costs related to testing, treatment, travel, purchase of condoms
- Fear of stigma and discrimination related to sexual health

ACCESS TO CONDOMS FOR RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE IS EFFECTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Local councils, businesses and organisations in rural Victoria can take an important step in supporting sexual and reproductive health by providing condoms, dams and lube.

WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONDOM COUNT?

Local workers will be visiting sites where condoms may be available in your location and completing a survey. A broad range of organisations and workers across rural Victoria are participating including LGA Youth Workers, community health nurses, women's health workers, TAFE teachers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

EMAIL: CERSH-ADMIN@UNIMELB.EDU.AU | PHONE: KYLIE STEPHENS - 0417054040
VISIT: WWW.SHOUTRURAL.COM



Department of Rural Health
Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health

YACVIC Youth Affairs
Council Victoria

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