

**Sexual Health Problems
in the
Central and Eastern Europe**

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Sexual health definition (WHO, WAS)

„Sexual Health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experience, free of coercion, discrimination and violence“.

(www.who.int)

Sexual behavior - Reproductive behavior

Sexual behavior

is not the same as

Reproductive behavior

Both are substantially connected, but not identical. It is the reason for which it is obvious to discuss together sexual and reproductive health

„Sexual Rights“, a post-modern phenomenon

Declaration of Sexual Rights WAS (World Association for Sexual Health, Hong Kong 1999), right to:

- **Sexual Freedom**
- **Sexual Autonomy, Integrity and Safety of the body**
- **Sexual Privacy**
- **Sexual Equity and Equality**
- **Sexual Pleasure**
- **Emotional Sexual Expression**
- **Sexually Associate Freely**
- **Make free and responsible Reproductive Choices**
- **Sexual Information, based upon scientific inquiry**
- **Comprehensive Sexual Education**
- **Sexual Health**

Indicators of sexual and reproductive health

Reproductive Health:

- **contraception use**
- **childbearing habits**
- **induced abortions policy**
- **demography**
- **STD inclusive HIV/AIDS prevalence**

Indicators of sexual and reproductive health

Sexual Health:

- age of consent
- age at first sexual intercourse
- teenage pregnancies
- sex education
- children and youth protection against sexual abuse
- „sexual minorities“ situation
(gays, lesbians, transgendered)

What is known about sexual and reproductive health?

To gather reliable facts about situation within Central and East European Countries is not easy, because in many indicators it is difficult to have valid and comparable data from all countries.

In some aspects the variability is surprisingly high

Postponing Childbirth

Mean Age of women at childbirth

	1998	2009
CZ	26,6	29,4
EST	26,3	29,0
HU	24,2	29,1
LAT	27,1	28,4
LIT	26,3	28,6
PL	27,2	28,6
RO	25,4	26,9

The process still continue

(EUROSTAT 2011)

Natalité in Europe 2009



Oral Contraception Prevalence

High

CZ 48%

HU 52%

Medium

SLO 33%

PL 27%

EST 28%

SK 22%

Low

RO 13%

LAT 18%

(EU Reprostat 2011)

Legally induced abortions

(per 1000 women aged 15 – 49 years)

PL:0,1

SK:8,0 SLO:10,2 CZ:10,2 LIT:10,3

HU:18,0 LAT:18,0

BG:20,0 EST: 25,1 RO:23,4

In most countries substantial reduction within last two decades

(EU Reprostat 2011)

HIV+ Prevalence

CZ, HU:	0,05%
PL	0,1%
LIT	0,11%
RO	0,3%
LAT	0,8%
EST	1,25%
UA	1,6%

(WHO, UNAIDS 2011)

Age of consent to sexual intercourse

14 : BG, EST, HU, LIT

14/16: LAT

15: CZ, PL, ROM, SK, SLO

16: UA

(www.avert.org 2011)

Proportion of 15 year-old girls, who have had sexual intercourse:

SK, LIT, RO: 12% **PL ?**

SLO: 17%

CZ: 18%

LAT: 19%

BG: 31%

(EU Reprostat 2011)

Teenage pregnancies

(% of births among women in 15 – 19 years of age)

SLO:1,3%

CZ:3% PL:4,9% EST:5,4% LIT:5,6%

HU:6% SK:6,5% LAT:7%

RO:11,4%

EU:4,2%

(EUROSTAT 2011)

Sexual education

There are not any reliable and comparable data about sex education level in particular european countries

„Swedish paradox“:

- high level of the sex education**
- high level of sex and reproductive services**
- relatively high prevalence of abortions among teenagers**

Sexual minorities

There are not reliable informations about situation in particular states EU

- **Homosexuality is today demedicinalised**
- **We are in the process of socialization**
- **Some transgendered people need medical help (transsexuals)**
- **Accessibility and level of specialized medical care differ substantially**

Sources

- www.reprostat3.eu
- www.avert.org
- www.who.int
- www.worldsexology.org
- www.issm.info

Thanks for your attention !