

SEXtalk)))

Answers to Your Questions about Sex and Relationships

Have a ??? Email sextalk@u.arizona.edu

factoid

The Pill first became available in the U.S. in May 1960.

Q. How effective are condoms in preventing HIV, HPV and Herpes?

A. Several studies have demonstrated that latex condoms are highly effective in preventing HIV transmission when used correctly and consistently. These studies looked at uninfected people considered to be at very high risk of infection because they were involved in sexual relationships with HIV-infected persons. The studies found that even with repeated sexual contact, 98-100% of those people who used latex condoms consistently and correctly remained uninfected. For more information on these studies, including free written materials, call the CDC National AIDS Hotline at 1-800-342-2437 (English) or 1-800-243-7889 (TTY).

Regarding Human Papilloma Virus (genital warts) and Herpes Simplex, condoms when used correctly from start to finish each time a person has sex may help provide minimal protection -- but only for the skin that is covered by the condom. Since condoms do not cover all genital skin, they don't protect 100%. Using latex condoms for genital-to-genital contact **reduces** risk of transmission of these viruses. It does not eliminate risk completely.

Q. Where can I buy quality low-priced condoms?

A. The Campus Health Service Pharmacy sells many brands and styles of condoms in 3, 6, and 12 packs. Recently, the pharmacy began selling condoms in larger packages to encourage on-campus student groups to save money by purchasing in greater quantity. The cost is \$10.00 for 100 condoms or \$25.00 for 250 condoms. Campus Health is located on the Mall at Cherry Avenue.

Resources: CDC, American Social Health Association, and Herpes Resource Center.

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