

# The Impact of Condom Vending Machines

Attachment 10.7.1



There is a misconception in our communities that young people who receive sexual and reproductive health education and resources are more likely to have sex.

**This is not true.**

**FACT-CHECKED**

Research suggests that age-appropriate reproductive and sexual health information actually:

- Encourages young people to abstain from or delay the debut of sexual relations.
- Reduces the frequency of unprotected sexual activity.
- Reduces the number of sexual partners.
- Increases the use of protection against unintended pregnancy and STIs during sexual intercourse.

In the 2018 National Survey of Secondary School Students and Sexual Health, only 69.8% of secondary school students who were sexually active reported condom availability at their last sexual event.



Tomnay Jane E., Hatch Beth. Council-supported condom vending machines: are they acceptable to rural communities?. Sexual Health 10, 465-466.  
UNFPA, WHO and UNAIDS. Position statement on condoms and the prevention of HIV, other sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancy. 2015.  
UNFPA. Myths, Misperceptions and Fears Addressing Condom Use Barriers. 2007.  
Family Planning Victoria. 2021.  
Youth Affairs Council of Victoria. Young people and sexual health in rural and regional Victoria. 2013.

## Addressing barriers to condom access and provision of free condoms will help to support consistent condom use.

RACP Sexual and Reproductive Health Care for Young People Position Statement 2015.

Condoms are easy to use and cost-effective. They are the only contraceptive device that reduce both transmission of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and prevent unintended pregnancy. Their availability and use also save future healthcare and social services costs.

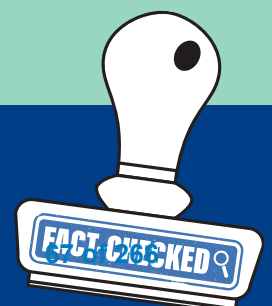
## To ensure efficacy, good quality condoms must be readily available at either no or low cost.

Condom vending machines installed in rural towns in North-East Victoria have been found to be cost-effective for councils, acceptable to the community, and provide confidential access to young people after-hours.

In a survey of Victorian rural health providers conducted in 2012, respondents were asked how living in a rural area impacted on access to condoms. The most common concerns highlighted were privacy / confidentiality (30.6%), cost (21.2%) and availability / access (15.5%).

## Condom vending machines provide a solution to each of these concerns.

**FACT-CHECKED**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

Department of Rural Health

Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health

Agenda - CM20211221 - Council Meeting - 21 December 2021 Attachments

26