



NEWS RELEASE

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BASSH response to new Health Protection Agency STI figures for UK

Commenting on the 6% increase in the total number of new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed in 2007 compared to 2006 reported by the Health Protection Agency yesterday, Dr Immy Ahmed, President of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) said:

“Making sure the UK’s population is aware of its sexual health is crucial to tackling this worrying rise in sexually transmitted diseases. The Health Protection Agency’s report points to a 10% increase in the number of people being screened for STIs compared with the previous year. This increased awareness is very welcome news but it also means that the demand on GUM services will continue to grow quickly.

GUM services are meeting Government targets on waiting times despite extreme pressures. As more and more people are screened and treated for STIs it becomes vital that we have a network of well-funded clinics working to agreed standards to ensure that patients continue to be seen within 48-hours and clinicians are able to reach those groups most at risk.”

Dr Ahmed added:

“BASSH must again express disappointment that despite a 7% increase in genital warts infections shown by the HPA’s figures, the Government has decided against using a vaccine that would have protected young women against cervical cancer *and* genital warts, as part of it’s national cervical cancer screening programme.”

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