Indonesia to Promote Condoms to Youth, At-Risk Groups

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Indonesia’s health ministry has embarked on a campaign to distribute condoms to young people ages 15 to 24, the Jakarta Globe reports. The campaign is aimed squarely at Indonesia’s HIV epidemic, which is one of the fastest-growing in Asia. Unprotected sex accounts for three-quarters of the nation’s HIV cases. While information on youth sexuality in Indonesia is scarce, studies indicate that three out of five teens ages 14 to 18 have had sex, while one out of five girls ages 14 to 18 have had an abortion. Opponents described the program as an “adultery campaign,” saying that while premarital sex is an issue in Indonesia, the solution is to strengthen religious attitudes and enforce obedience rather than promote contraceptives.

To read the Globe article, click here.

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