

# One in ten kids in SA 'have had sex'

**CORRESPONDENT**  
IN CAPE TOWN

MORE than one in 10 boys and one in seven girls have had sex by the time they turn 15, according to a report released yesterday. The report was compiled by the Human Sciences Research Council from data collected in 2008 for a national HIV prevalence survey.

The survey covered 15 000 households across the country. In the 12 to

14 age group, 10,8 percent of boys, and 14,5 percent of girls, said they had already had sex.

Most boys in the survey – which covered children from birth to 18 – tended to have sex with partners in their own age groups.

However, more than a quarter of girls had most recently had sex with males who were five or more years older than themselves. This put the girls at risk of contracting HIV at an early age because older

male partners were more likely to be HIV-positive.

Among those who were sexually active in the 15- to 18-year group, just under one in three had had more than two sexual partners in the last year. The figure was lower – 9,5 percent – for girls.

However, it appeared that most of this sex was protected by condoms, with usage at last sexual encounter as high as 92,1 percent for boys.

