

55pc of pregnant girls decide to abort

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More than half of pregnant teenage girls have chosen to abort their babies, according to a survey by the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

In 1994, 3,500 girls aged under 20 became pregnant; 55 per cent sought a legal abortion.

This figure dropped to 30 per cent for the 15,000 women aged 20 to 24 who became pregnant.

Of 95,074 would-be mothers in 1994, 20 per cent, or 19,300, aborted the babies.

Dr May Chan Yuk-may, conductor of the report, admitted the abortion rate among teenage girls was high. But she denied a law that legalised abortion in 1970 was too lax.

"The law requiring approval from two doctors is already adequate," she said. "If we make the law more stringent, mothers may be

lured to have illegal abortions, which might expose them to an even greater danger.

"In my opinion, the best solution is to promote the use of contraceptives among the young."

The study also showed more than 50 per cent of women with a pre-malignant form of cervical cancer were under 40.

Professor Ho Pak-chung suggested sexually active women have a smear test every three years.