

Maine middle school to offer birth control
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(<http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/10/18/middleschool.contraception.ap/index.html>)
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The King Middle School in Portland Maine will begin to offer birth control pills to middle schoolers aged 11 to 13. Condoms have been available since 2000. Across the nation one-fourth of the 1,700 schools reporting to a Washington-based organization report providing similar types of services to school populations aged 11 and older.

King is one of three middle schools who also have a health center because a large percentage of its attendees qualify for free or reduced price lunches. Middle schoolers must have parent's permission to seek medical care at the health center, but the treatment received is confidential.

Seventeen pregnancies have been reported in Portland's three middle schools and that does not include miscarriages or terminated pregnancies that went unreported.

In most Western and Asian cultures where a high level of literacy and education is essential for participation in the world's economy, the years of necessary school attendance continue to climb. Where one hundred years ago an eighth grade education may have been adequate; today four years of college are barely enough. Yet biology has changed little. "Children" are still capable of and biologically driven to reproduce at ages that are now socially labeled "inappropriate."