HEALTH OF JERSEY'S YOUNG PEOPLE

STEVE HARVEY Director of Health Promotion in Jersey. He has worked within health promotion for the past eleven years, six years in Jersey and before that within Devon. He manages the Health Promotion Unit which has six Health Promotion Officers, a Fitness Assessor, and a part-time Resources Officer. His key areas of health promotion work centre around young people, mental health promotion, illegal drugs (Jersey has recently introduced a strategy for "Working Together Against Drugs") as well as other generic areas of professional interest.

SUMMARY During February 1996, all the secondary schools in Jersey were invited to participate in a survey of the health related behaviour of young people in Year 8 and 10. This was the first time that such base-line data had been gathered in Jersey. Young people were asked to complete a "Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire" which has been developed by the Schools Health Education Unit, University of Exeter.

The survey was undertaken with four major objectives in mind:

1. To know about the health related behaviours of our young people
2. To provide a bse-line from which change can be measured
3. To raise awareness throughout the community of young people's health issues
4. To enable key professionals responsible for health education and related matters to be better informed when planning their inputs.

This presentation will elaborate upon the survey in Jersey and the potential for future comparative work between Jersey and other islands who have undertaken this exercise.

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