



City and County of San Francisco  
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## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**September 12, 2012**

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### **Advocates Observe First Global Female Condom Day, September 12, 2012**

#### **San Francisco's FC2 (female condom) Program Leads the Way to Greater Access and More Education on Importance of FC2**

**San Francisco, CA** –For the first time ever, people from all over the world are invited to observe **Global Female Condom Day** on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012.

The purpose of this dedicated day of action is to demonstrate the need for these important underutilized safer sex tools. Advocates and organizations — spanning 22 states and 21 countries — are promoting female condoms through community education, distribution of **FREE** female condoms, and a call for greater access at clinics, businesses and pharmacies.

Currently, female condoms comprise only 1.6 percent of total condom distribution worldwide, according to the United States Agency of International Development (USAID). Though called “female condoms,” these products offer people of all genders who engage in vaginal or anal sex greater ability to protect their health and the health of their partners.

In response to the wide range of sexual identities and behaviors in San Francisco, and in order to provide more options for sexual health, San Francisco's Department of Public Health (SFDPH), STD Prevention and Control Services and HIV Prevention Sections have expanded access to the new and improved female condom, the FC2, among women, men, gay men, and other men who have sex with men, and transpersons. The FC2 is a novel sexual health tool and it is the only receptive partner-initiated, physical barrier method available in the US that protects against HIV/STDs and pregnancy.

The San Francisco “FC2-Get Turned On To It” Program ([www.fc2sf.org](http://www.fc2sf.org)) first launched on Valentine's Day 2011 and continues to provide free FC2 condoms and user-friendly materials and instructions to front-line service providers and their clients. “The FC2 is not only for vaginal sex but it is a great prevention option for anal sex as well,” says Director of STD Prevention and Control Services, Susan Philip, MD. “We felt it was important to make the FC2 available and accessible to people of all genders in San Francisco and we want to make sure that everyone knows about the different options they have to protect themselves and their partners.”

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**The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.**

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~  
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all

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In San Francisco, the support for female condoms is substantial and growing. Participating organizations for the Global Female Condom Day include SFDPH, City Clinic, Planned Parenthood, Alliance Health Project, New Generations Health Center, Magnet, Wicked Grounds, STOP AIDS Project, TRANS- THIRVE, Lyon Martin Health Services, Housing and Urban Health Clinic, Women's Community Clinic, EROS, Walden House and many others.

Throughout the city, the FC2-Get Turned On To It Program partners will distribute condoms, custom made fortune cookies, give-aways and information about the FC2. "The FC2 has given our clients another great tool in staying healthy AND staying SEXY! Come get 'em!" says Alliance Health Project.

For information about where to get free FC2 condoms and education, go to [www.fc2sf.org](http://www.fc2sf.org).

More than 130 organizations around the world are involved in the day of action.

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