searchers concluded that the benefits of intensive insulin therapy outweighed this risk.

**Rice-based rehydration therapy**

Rice-based, oral-rehydration therapy (ORT) solutions for infants with severe diarrhea are, in some respects, more effective than conventional rehydration with glucose oral-rehydration salts (ORS), according to a recent study reported in *Archives of Diseases in Childhood*.

In a study of 52 infants, younger than 6 months, with moderate to severe diarrhea, rice-based ORT was more effective in reducing diarrheal stool volume in the first 24 and 48 hours of therapy than treatment with glucose ORS. Infants consumed less of the rice-based solution and showed no digestive problems. Duration of diarrhea was the same for both treatment groups.

**Teens weigh AIDS against pregnancy risks**

Adolescents are more likely to use condoms to prevent pregnancy rather than to prevent AIDS, according to a study reported in the July/August *Familiy Planning Perspectives*.

Approximately 2,900 Miami high-school students were surveyed to determine their attitudes toward pregnancy prevention as opposed to AIDS prevention and subsequent condom use. Females (55 percent) were more likely than males (46 percent) to regard pregnancy and AIDS prevention as equally important.

Both males and females who said they were in “steady relationships” were more likely to report pregnancy prevention as more important than AIDS prevention. Hispanics and blacks were more concerned about avoiding pregnancy, whereas white adolescents saw AIDS prevention as equally or more important than risking pregnancy.

White high-school students had more knowledge about AIDS (53.7 percent) than did black or Hispanic students (50.4 and 50.8 percent, respectively). As students’ AIDS knowledge increased, less importance was placed on using condoms to prevent pregnancy.

Condom use decreased as the importance of preventing pregnancy decreased, suggesting that condoms are associated more with pregnancy prevention than AIDS prevention, researchers reported.

**Lead-poisoning prevalence**

Urban children of high socioeconom-ic status might be as likely as poor children to be exposed to unsafe lead levels, according to a study in the *August Clinical Pediatrics*.

Some 165 infants of high socioeco-nomic status, between ages 6 months and one year, were tested for unsafe blood lead levels. Sixty-seven percent of children lived in a large city, had par-ents who were college graduates (67 percent) and had private medical insurance (85 percent). The overall prevalence of lead poisoning was 29 percent.

The most common sources of lead poisoning were household renovation and/or combining boiled, lead-contami-nated water with powdered or concentrated infant formula. The study results reinforced 1991 CDC recommenda-tions for universal lead screening for all infants, regardless of socioeconomic status, researchers stated.

**Divorce publication**

The Center for the Future of Children offers a new publication, *Children and Divorce*. The journal focuses on the process and consequences of divorce, which affects approximately 26 percent of U.S. children younger than 18 years.

Topics include: the financial impact of divorce on children and their families; high-conflict divorce; deter-mination of child custody; and the role of the father after divorce.

The book is made available through The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. For copies, contact: Circulation Department, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Center for the Future of Children, 300 Second Street, Ste. 102, Los Altos, CA 94022; (415) 948-3696.

Editor’s note: *Health Briefs* summarizes journal and magazine articles, news reports, child health statistics, and new resources of interest to pediatrics and parents. To submit a Health Brief, contact: Laurie Larson, news writer, AAP News, 141 Northwest Point Blvd., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007; (800) 433-9016, ext. 0791.