BACKGROUND: BV is now days diagnosed in younger ages than it used to be. We aim to determine the prevalence and incidence of BV and evidenciate risk factors in these young sexually active women in Albania.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: We followed a group of 559 women, aged 17 - 26 yrs old. Participants completed a questionnaire, regarding sexual orientation, sexual encounters, use of contraceptive, education, previous infections etc. Vaginal swabs were collected. The smears were analysed using Nugent criteria (primary endpoint was NC 7-10, second endpoint 4-10). CI were derived and OR were adjusted.

RESULTS: At baseline, 11.8% had BV, but no symptoms. 17.2% had abnormal flora (CI 9.4-14.2 vs 15.1-19.5); use of OCC was associated with reduced risk (AOR = 0.6; 0.4-0.9); women with >4 male partners in 1yr (AOR=1.8; 1.2-2.5); detection of C.trachomatis or M.hominis (AOR 2.1%; 1.0 - 4.5). Incidence for BV and Abnormal Flora, ARR were respectively (ARR= 1.5; 1.1-2.2 and ARR= 1.5;1.1-2.2);

CONCLUSION: The study clearly sustains that BV and AF prevalence and incidence is affected by sexual behaviours whereas contraceptive use in young Albanian women shows a reduced risk for developing these shift in normal vaginal flora.