

JAPAN Network

Japan AIDS Prevention Awareness Network Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2000

and i dance slowly
the aids poem

by sarah winslow
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a	i	d	s
and and abandoned alone, and	i i in isolated, incidentally	dance drift deep defenseless, dying.	slowly slowly spaces separated,
always armed with also and attempting and	interminable innovative into insidious, impossible imagining	doctors drugs, diets desperately defense discoveries	some some strange searching, strategies, succeeding.
am as an angered, able to an awareness are about any authority	i instrument of is ignore intensely is (indeed, immoral intervention of implies a	dismissed death? devoid of deliberately damning dismissed. determinedly) damnation, divine or denial of	simply society, sympathy, un- such scandal. some, sure suggesting spiritual salvation.
although any aware that against all answers away awesome	i illness, i'm incurable involvement incomplete, into a images,	don't death downward- disease, dwindles. drama dream of defying	see smiles. spiraling surely surrounded by slips savage sacrifice.
and and abandoned alone,	i i in isolated,	dance drift deep defenseless,	slowly slowly spaces separated,
and	i	don't	see

why.

INTERESTED IN HIV TESTING?

HIV antibody tests are free and anonymous at any public health office, "hokenjo", in Japan. You can call the JAPAN HIV Center Hotline Number for assistance in English:

Tokyo 03-5259-0255 Mon-Fri 12:00 - 14:00; Sat. 14:00 - 18:00
 Osaka 06-06882-0282 Sat. 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
 Nagoya 052- 831-2228 Sat. 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

They should have telephone numbers and possibly addresses for the hokenjos in your area. For Japanese, there is sometimes informational counseling or a short film before the test, for foreigners, perhaps a pamphlet, as there's no guarantee the staff speaks English. Generally, you get the results in a couple of weeks.

If you're in Tokyo, the Shinjuku Public Health Center offers counseling in English every Thursday 1:00 - 5:00 and testing every second and fourth Thursday 1:00-3:00.

From the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare Web Site

<http://www.mhw.go.jp/houdou>

Below are the latest TOTAL figures on the MHW Home Page as of 2/28/00. Figures in parentheses are foreign nationals.

These statistics are totals up to February 27, 2000.

AIDS PATIENTS	Men	Women	Total
Heterosexual	618 (111)	121 (67)	739 (178)
Homosexual*	373 (42)	0 (0)	373 (42)
IV drug contact	14 (10)	0(0)	14 (10)
Perinatal	8 (1)	4 (1)	12 (2)
Other	21 (6)	10 (4)	31 (10)
Unknown	363 (135)	87 (63)	450 (198)
Subtotal	1,397 (305)	222 (135)	1,619 (440)
Through Tainted Blood Products	624 (...)	7 (...)	631 (...)
Grand Total	2,021 (305)	229 (135)	2,250 (440)

* includes 30 bisexual men

HIV INFECTED	Men	Women	Total
Heterosexual	815 (155)	798 (545)	1,613 (700)
Homosexual*	909 (100)	0 (0)	909 (100)
IV drug contact	21 (14)	1 (1)	22 (15)
Perinatal	10 (2)	12 (6)	22 (8)
Other	34 (11)	28 (7)	62 (18)
Unknown	380 (169)	440 (416)	820 (585)
Subtotal	2,169 (451)	1,279 (975)	3,448 (1,426)
Through Tainted Blood Products	1,417 (...)	17 (...)	1,434 (...)
Grand Total	3,586 (451)	1,296 (975)	4,882 (1,426)

* includes 49 bisexual men

Deaths to date: 1,167