

Special News Issue

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Japan AIDS Prevention
Awareness Network

Young People Account for 40 Percent of HIV-Infected in Japan

Associated Press (08.06.02)::Kozo Mizoguchi

People in their teens and 20s account for nearly 40 percent of all Japanese newly infected with AIDS, according to new Health Ministry figures that officials say underline a disturbing new trend. While the overall number of Japanese infected with HIV remains low compared to other countries, the Health Ministry said lax condom use has caused infection rates to spike among young people.

A record high 621 people were newly infected with HIV last year in Japan, an increase of 34 percent over 2000, ministry official Makoto Iwakura said Tuesday citing the annual report of the ministry's disease control division. Of those new cases, 525 were Japanese nationals - with about 40 percent being teenagers and people in their 20s. The others were foreigners living in Japan. Japanese AIDS experts said the new trend should be seen as a wake-up call and warned that the actual number of Japanese infected with HIV is probably about five times higher than the reported figures. An official from the Japanese AIDS Foundation said on condition of anonymity that the increase is spurred by casual attitudes toward sex among young people as well as misconceptions about the risks. Prejudice against people with AIDS also discourages many young people

from getting tested for the virus. To boost awareness of the danger of HIV, the Health Ministry began airing television commercials this month under the slogan "Stop AIDS" and featuring national soccer team goalkeeper Seigo Narazaki, who gained recent popularity in the 2002 World Cup hosted by Japan and South Korea.

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77 Newly Reported AIDS Patients over Last 3 Months

Japan Weekly Monitor (07.29.02)
The numbers of newly reported AIDS patients and people infected with HIV in Japan between April and June were 77 and 149, respectively, the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry Panel on HIV/AIDS said Wednesday. Six HIV/AIDS-related deaths were reported during the period, the ministry said, adding the death toll from the virus has reached 1,270. Both the numbers of AIDS patients and people infected with HIV are similar to those of the same three-month period last year. Five teenagers were infected with HIV, the ministry said. It said this was the highest number since the ministry began releasing the statistics every three months.

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AIDS News updates in this issue of the JAPANetwork Newsletter, unless otherwise marked, are from the CDC Daily AIDS Update, <http://aidsinfofbs.org/library/cdcsums>

Japan's Casual 'Sex Friends' Risk More Than Broken Hearts

Newsweek (09.16.02)::Amy L. Webb Surveys suggest that many young Japanese now maintain multiple sekusutomo - literally "sex friends" - who themselves enjoy numerous liaisons. A joint study by the University of California-San Francisco and Hiroshima University recently found that of 602 teens ages 15 to 19 surveyed in the Shibuya section of Tokyo, 43 percent said they kept five or more sex friends at a time. A similar survey of 16-year-olds in two rural prefectures found 20 percent of boys and 18 percent of girls said that they have at least five sex partners. In the aftermath of the collapse of Japan's early 1990s "bubble economy," many corporations have stopped hiring new university and high school graduates, so ever-greater numbers of young Japanese matriculate each year to the economic margins. They form social groups that - like their jobs - are part-time, low stress and temporary. Their logic: Japan is largely HIV-free, so by having sex within a closed circle of cohorts they can enjoy lifestyles reminiscent of the West after the advent of the birth control pill and before the emergence of AIDS. That flawed reasoning reflects the unwillingness of

older Japanese, particularly parents and teachers, to educate kids about the risks of promiscuous behavior. The result, new research shows, is a significant rise in STDs among young Japanese. According to the Ministry of Health, between 1998 and 2000, the STD infection rate rose 21 percent for Japanese men under 24 and 14 percent for women in the same age group. While Japan's HIV rate remains one of the world's lowest, the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific has forecast that AIDS cases in Japan, now at 14,000, could top 50,000 by 2010. Condom sales have dropped 25 percent over the last decade: "Young adults refuse to use them," said a spokesperson for Japan's largest maker of condoms. Japan's abortion rate has nearly doubled since 1999 to 13 per 1,000. Japan's Ministry of Education has outlined a broad sexual education curriculum for high schools, but it is optional.

Editor's note: This article cites the number of AIDS cases in Japan at 14,000. The number published by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (see p. 11) is 2,388. 

43% of those teens surveyed have at least five sex partners

Condom sales have dropped

Japan's abortion rate has doubled since 1999

Opponents say, "the best way to avoid these troubles (disease infection and unwanted pregnancy), is to refrain from having sex."

Sex Education Booklet Spawns Controversy in Japan

Agence France Presse (09.09.02)::Miwa Suzuki A sex-education booklet for Japanese teenagers has triggered a dispute about whether teaching them contraceptive methods in detail is too radical as abortions among the young continue to rise. At the center of the controversy is the 32-page "Love and Body Book," compiled by the Mothers' and Children's Health and Welfare Association, a privately funded organization supervised by the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry. Using diagrams of male and female anatomy to demonstrate what physical changes teenagers experience through adolescence, the booklet also explains contraceptive measures with matter-of-fact illustrations explaining how to use male and female condoms. The asso-


ciation had distributed 1.27 million copies of the booklet to municipal governments across the nation as of early May targeting students at junior high schools ages 12 to 15. It is part of the ministry's project to curb unwanted pregnancies, the spread of STDs and other sex-related problems among teenagers. The number of abortions among girls under 20 years old reached 46,511 cases in 2001 to hit a record high for the sixth consecutive year, according to a health ministry survey. The number means nearly 13 girls in every 1,000 ages 15 to 19 underwent abortion operations, and eight in 1,000 ages 12 to 19 underwent the procedure.

(cont'd next page)

Sex ed booklet controversy (cont'd from p, 2)

The number of pregnancies brought to term by teenagers less than 19 years old numbered 20,966 in 2001, according to a preliminary report by the health ministry, up 34 percent from 15,621 five years ago.

The controversy prompted some local governments to have second thoughts and stop handing the booklet out to children, while the association scrapped plans for further distribution and collected

unwanted copies. Contraceptive methods are not in the ministry's list of items to teach junior high school students. In a bid to appease opponents, the association distributed inserts for the booklet to the local governments in August arguing, "the best way to avoid these troubles (disease infection and unwanted pregnancy), is to refrain from having sex." 

The number of abortions among girls under 20 years old hit a record high for the sixth consecutive year



Need information about **HIV testing** in Japan? Call the HIV Center Hotline for information about test sites near you.

Tokyo 03-5259-0256

Osaka 06-6882-0282

Nagoya 052-831-2228

Reading Comprehension

Read the two stories on pages 2-3. Write 3 comprehension questions for each article. With a partner, ask and answer each other's questions to make sure you have understood the two stories, then discuss the following questions.

Questions for Discussion

"Sex Friends"

1. Did any of the information surprise you? If so, what?
2. What do young people who have sex friends believe about HIV in Japan?
3. Why is this belief dangerous?
4. Why are parents and teachers reluctant to teach young people about the risks associated with having many sex partners?

"Sex Education Booklet"

1. Do you feel that you received adequate sex education in junior high school?
2. Do you agree or disagree with this kind of booklet being distributed in schools? Give some reasons to support your opinion.
3. If students do not receive sex education in school, where do you think most students will learn it?
4. Do think the statement "The best way to avoid disease infection and unwanted pregnancy is to refrain from having sex" is appropriate advice for Japanese young people? Why or why not?

The Need to Introduce a Culturally Relevant Response to HIV/AIDS

By Belinda Woodhead

It was good to see various newspapers in Japan contain a number of articles about the issues discussed at the AIDS 2002 Conference in Barcelona this July. However, little coverage was given to the rising problem at home in Japan. The classification of Japan as being a country with a low prevalence of HIV/AIDS has tempted complacency and an alarming increase in HIV cases have been witnessed in school and university students. There is a general consensus amongst health professionals that certain beliefs and sexual practises which are prevalent in the Japanese culture have encouraged this increased emergence of HIV/AIDS.

These include:

1. Low public awareness of HIV/AIDS (the lowest of all industrial nations)
2. Social Stigma and discrimination
3. Gender inequality
4. Taboos concerning the discussion of sexual behaviours
5. Large scale prostitution (the largest of all developed nations)
6. Widespread unprotected sex amongst youths
7. The increase of Internet dating crimes involving rape and the purchasing of sex from minors
8. Compensated dating
9. Widespread 'network' sex involving core sexually promiscuous individuals

Those of us living in Japan can no longer turn a blind eye to the emergence of HIV/AIDS in our own backyard. There is an immediate need to target these particular social risk factors by effective health education interventions.

Works Consulted

1. ICAAP Australia (2001) Advocacy guide: Asia-Pacific Ministerial statement in HIV/AIDS [www.sea-aids@healthdev.net]
2. Japan AIDS Foundation (2002) Regional AIDS news Japan [www.utopia-asia.com/aidsjp.htm]
3. The Japan Times. Net dating crimes shoot up: young females main targets (Aug 23rd, 2002: Friday)

Questions

- Where was the recent conference on AIDS/HIV?
- Are students in Japan at risk of contracting HIV?
- Can you list three cultural sexual risk factors for HIV/AIDS?
- Can you list three cultural belief risk factors for HIV/AIDS?
- Can you name an Internet site where you could find out more information about this topic?

How do Your Students Measure Up?

The article below reports on research conducted in the U.S. on junior and senior high school students' knowledge of basic AIDS facts.

How about your students? How knowledgeable are they on some simple AIDS basics? Write these T/F questions on the board and have them answer.

Quick AIDS Knowledge Quiz


TRUE or FALSE?

1. The immune system (免疫) is the part of your body that fights diseases.
2. HIV and AIDS are two different diseases.
3. AIDS is more dangerous than HIV.
4. HIV is transmitted through the exchange of bodily fluids.
5. HIV supports the immune system.
6. Dirt is a cause of AIDS.
7. If you don't wash after sex, you are at risk of catching AIDS.
8. The body gets rid of HIV through urine and sweat.
9. 40% of HIV infections in Japan in 2000 were among teenagers and people in their 20s.
10. The correct use of condoms can reduce your risk of catching HIV.

Many Teens Still Can't Tell HIV Fact from Fiction

Reuters Health (08.12.02)::Charnicia E. Huggins

Researchers who surveyed 20 junior and senior high school students from two inner-city New York schools found that, despite six hours of HIV education every year in city schools, many students still had difficulty sorting HIV fact from fiction. Some students were unaware that HIV is the virus that causes AIDS; some were unaware HIV is transmitted through the exchange of bodily fluids; and some referred to HIV and AIDS as two different diseases and thought that one was more dangerous than the other, according to findings presented last Friday by Drs. Alla Keselman and Vimla L. Patel of Columbia University during the 24th annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society in Fairfax, Va. Part of the problem may be that HIV education classes address HIV risks and prevention but do not address the actual biology of the body's immune system and the virus - leaving students vulnerable to misinformation, Keselman and Patel said. "With biology taught separately from factual HIV education and introduced in later grades, adolescents have little understanding of the concepts of virus and immune system, which are critical to building accurate conceptual models of HIV," they said.

Of the 20 junior and senior high school students, 11 were categorized as naive in their knowledge of HIV; six were intermediate; and three were advanced. Nine naive-level students did not seem to have a basic understanding of the immune system and did not know that HIV is a microorganism that attacks immune system cells; two mentioned dirt as a cause of AIDS and thought not washing after sex was a risk factor. Five intermediate-level, and all advanced-level, students understood the virus' effect on the immune system and recognized it as the precursor to AIDS. Four intermediate-level and nine naive-level students went along with a myth that HIV could be rid from the body through urine and sweat, though all the advanced students rejected the idea. "School science instruction can and should play an important role in preparing adolescents for dealing with HIV and other real world issues around sexuality and health," Keselman and Patel said, adding, "Just say no' campaigns are likely to have minimal effect; maybe it should be 'Say no and know why.'" 

A word to EFL teachers...

A lot of people in Japan think that AIDS is not a problem here. The articles on the first three pages of this newsletter should make people – especially teachers – sit up and take notice. Why teachers? And why EFL teachers in particular? Because we are in the unique position of being able to assist our learners in their acquisition of English AND raise awareness about AIDS, and, hopefully, to prevent further infections from occurring in our communities.

In this issue of the JAPANetwork Newsletter, there are variety of articles that deal with the problem of AIDS in Japan and in other countries. I encourage you to read these articles carefully to gain some background information on the global impact of the epidemic. If possible, share these articles with your students and your colleagues. Do whatever you can in your classes to make your students aware of the growing infection rates here in Japan.

If you think your students may not be interested in using AIDS as a topic, ASK THEM. There is not usually a lot of press coverage in Japanese about the increase of HIV infection here in Japan, so many students are probably not aware of the problem, nor believe that they may be at risk. Discussing the lead story with them, even the title, will be enough to pique their interest in the topic.

If you've never taught AIDS in your classes, it might help you to know that in my seven years of teaching the issue of AIDS I have had only positive reactions from students. They become more active learners. And they feel more comfortable talking about AIDS in English than in Japanese. There are materials available to help teachers who are teaching AIDS for the first time. You are not alone. There are MANY teachers in Japan who have dealt successfully with this topic.

Why not give it a try?

aidsed@gol.com

Disturbing News of AIDS 'Superinfection'

Thursday, 5 September 2002

GENEVA -- Doctors once assumed that after initial HIV exposure and infection, the body's immunity response would prevent a second reinfection should the patient be exposed to another strain of the deadly virus. Swiss researchers have proven this assumption false.

According to a report published in this week's New England Journal of Medicine, researchers in Geneva have documented a case in which a 38-year-old man acquired a second strain of H.I.V. through unprotected sex more than two years after he was first infected in 1998.

The study not only complicates the search for an AIDS vaccine, it makes unprotected sex between two HIV-infected partners even more problematic than previously believed. Exposure to another strain after initial infection can overwhelm treatment regimens and make surviving the disease much more difficult.

"Superinfection may precipitate more rapid progression of the disease," said Doctors Philip Goulder and Bruce Walker of Massachusetts General Hospital, in an

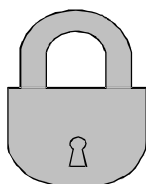
editorial in the Journal. "Infected and noninfected persons should therefore exercise the same degree of vigilance to prevent HIV-1 exposure," they said.

Because sexual activity seems to be increasing among people infected with HIV, they added, "this is a public health message that needs to be broadcast loud and clear."

One researcher, Dr. Bernard Hirschel of the University of Geneva, said the authors had been able to document the case because the patient was enrolled in an AIDS drug study to test early treatment of the virus.

That discovery, said Goulder and Walker, provided "convincing evidence that HIV-1 superinfection can occur long after an initial infection is established."

Because strains of HIV can vary significantly, they said, finding a vaccine against the various forms of the virus "is likely to be a formidable task." Health experts say more than a dozen strains of the virus have been detected around the world.



Russia on the Brink of AIDS Explosion

San Francisco Chronicle
(07.28.02)::Anna Badkhen

Russia is on the brink of a sub-Saharan-type AIDS catastrophe, experts say, and the government is doing next to nothing to avert the disaster. Russia has the world's fastest growing HIV epidemic, UNAIDS reported last month, with a dramatic rise among heterosexuals practicing unsafe sex. If the infection continues at its current rate, of the nation's 146 million people, more than 5 million could have HIV by 2007, said Vadim Pokrovsky, Russia's top AIDS researcher and director of the Center for AIDS Prevention and Treatment.

Russia's government devotes \$5 million to HIV treatment annually - a sum that Pokrovsky and other experts say is too small. Pokrovsky said \$65 million is needed immediately for programs to prevent and treat HIV. According to government figures, HIV infections leaped from about 87,000 cases in 2000 to more than 201,000 cases now. Since 1997, the infection rate increased more than 500 percent. UNAIDS estimates there are 700,000 HIV cases. Pokrovsky believes it is closer to 1.4 million. At this rate, between 5 million and 10 million people may be dead from AIDS by 2015, according to estimates by the Center for Strategic and International Studies

(CSIS) in Washington.

The Russian health system spends \$45 per reported HIV case per year, compared with the \$10,000 to \$15,000 spent per HIV patient annually in the United States, CSIS reported in February. Many government officials think HIV/AIDS only affects "the scum of the earth," said Alexander Goliusov, head of HIV/AIDS prevention in Russia's Health Ministry. Foundations that fund AIDS prevention programs have appeared in Moscow, St. Petersburg and throughout Russia, but they are usually non-governmental groups existing on shoestring budgets.

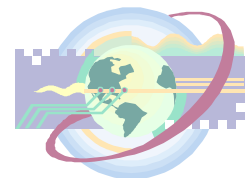
Because the virus only appeared in Russia relatively recently, few HIV-positive people have progressed to AIDS so far. Only 2,095 Russians have died of AIDS since the epidemic began, according to official statistics. Up to 43 percent of people infected in 2001 had no idea how they contracted the disease, according to official figures. Judging by the rate of other STDs, such as syphilis, Pokrovsky said many people who express ignorance about how they contracted HIV probably became infected through unsafe sex. By his calculations, infections attributed to unprotected heterosexual relations grew from 2 percent in 2000 to 15 percent of new diagnoses in the first six months of this year.

"According to government figures, HIV infections leaped from about 87,000 cases in 2000 to more than 201,000 cases now."

More Than 3,500 New HIV Cases Registered Every Month in Russia

Associated Press (08.28.02)
More than 3,500 new HIV cases are registered every month in Russia, the State Statistics Committee reported recently. Interfax reported that in June, 3,573 HIV cases, including 30 children, were registered. In May, the government registered 3,569 HIV cases. The Russian Research Center for Prevention and Treatment of AIDS said the number of HIV-infected

people could be five times higher than the official 200,000 figure quoted. St. Petersburg and the surrounding Leningrad region registered the most new cases, with 17.7 percent of 24,550 newly registered HIV patients; 10.6 percent of the new patients live in Moscow; while 10.3 percent were registered in the Sverdlov region in the Urals Mountains.



AIDS in the Developing World: Don't Overlook the Ounce of Prevention

San Francisco Chronicle (08.08.02)::Malcolm Potts; Russell Green ...[At] the recent International AIDS Conference in Barcelona... Peter Piot (director of UNAIDS), Jeffrey Sachs (director of the Columbia University Earth Institute), Nelson Mandela and Bill Clinton all declared that there is a moral imperative for developed nations to provide the funds to make [HIV] treatment available.

"...What if the money doesn't come? Notably absent from the many public announcements coming from Barcelona was any further pledge of funds from donor countries or organizations. The financing for the fight against AIDS is far

short of the UN's goal of \$10 billion a year for global coverage of treatment and prevention....

"Even if AIDS drugs were free, the goals of prevention and treatment of HIV cannot be fully met with existing resources. Inevitably, the expense of government-sponsored treatment programs will cut into activities to prevent HIV. Using the cost-effectiveness analysis that is under attack, \$1 spent on prevention can save 100 times as many years of life as \$1 spent on treatment. Yet, most African countries are still woefully behind in providing HIV prevention programs, let alone providing AIDS

(cont'd p. 9)


Diaphragm Put to Test Against HIV

San Francisco Chronicle(08.28.02)::Sabin Russell

Taking a new, low-tech tack in the battle against AIDS, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plans to spend \$28 million in southern Africa to test whether the simple latex diaphragm used for birth control also can reduce a woman's risk of HIV infection. The grant ends an eight-year quest by University of California-San Francisco researcher Nancy Padian to win funding for a never-tried approach that, in theory, could block the virus about as effectively as a much more expensive AIDS vaccine. The goal is to achieve at least a 33 percent reduction in new infections among women in developing countries.

Padian's project will get the lion's share of \$48 million in new Gates grants, which also will support a study in Uganda to test whether male circumcision - another low-cost intervention - can cut the risk of HIV infection among males by at least 50 percent, as some earlier research suggests. The concept of using a diaphragm to protect against HIV infection was first raised in 1989 by AIDS research

pioneer Dr. Jay Levy of UCSF. "I felt certain that if you could block virus-infected cells from the cervix, you could reduce transmission dramatically," he said.

The Gates Foundation already has committed \$100 million to research on the elusive AIDS vaccine. The four-year diaphragm study, which will enroll 4,500 women in Zimbabwe and South Africa, was approved after Padian presented research at the 14th International AIDS Conference in Barcelona showing that women in Zimbabwe who could not get their partners to wear condoms would use latex diaphragms as an HIV-prevention tool. Perhaps the most valuable attribute of the diaphragm is that women may often be able to use it without their sexual partner's knowledge. Padian insists that many of the women in the study in Zimbabwe successfully used the devices clandestinely - meeting the test of a long-sought "female-controlled" barrier to HIV. 

VIDEOS

- Everything You Should Know (with Whoopie Goldberg)
- AIDS: The Teen's Guide to Living
- Gone Tomorrow: AIDS Awareness
- In Our Own Words

PAMPHLETS

- HIV/AIDS – gives basic info
- HIV/AIDS - sliding Q & A info card
- The Facts about Sexually Transmitted Diseases

LISTENING & SPEAKING ACTIVITIES

GAMES

and

MORE!

"Women may often be able to use it without their sexual partner's knowledge"


Ounce of Prevention (cont'd from p.8)

drugs to large numbers.

"AIDS funding is still a zero-sum game between competing needs - those with HIV and those at risk of infection. Advocates of treatment correctly state that treatment makes prevention more effective. It also makes it much more expensive. Thailand and Uganda have proven that the HIV epidemic can be turned around without huge budgets and without treatment, so the implication that prevention can only be effective with treatment is inaccurate.

"AIDS advocates may be afraid that planning for continued funding shortfalls will make it easier for donors to shirk their duty to provide more resources. But this

kind of all-or-nothing strategy is gambling with millions of lives. "...This epidemic is too dangerous not to have a plan B. What should be done? AIDS advocates - and all reasonable people - should continue to advocate more funding for fighting HIV worldwide. But until that money arrives, we need a plan B. And that should be to continue to focus primarily on the prevention efforts that we know to be effective."

Obstetrician Malcolm Potts is a Bixby Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of California-Berkeley and co-director of the Bay Area International Group. Russell Green is a PhD candidate in economics. 




70 Percent of Chinese Teenagers Get Sex Education from Porn

"70 Percent of Chinese Teenagers Get Sex Education from Porn" Agence France Presse (08.15.02)

Nearly 70 percent of Chinese teenagers get their information about sex from pornography, prompting experts to worry they may pick up skewed ideas, the China Daily reported last Thursday. The problem is a lack of sex education in the classroom and at home, forcing many youngsters to seek knowledge about sex from adult websites and porn videos.

"Both schools and families should set up appropriate channels and provide easy access to sex education for pubescent children," said Zhang Chungai, a Beijing-based psychologist. Teachers and parents currently fail miserably in performing that duty, according to a recent survey of

youths ages 15-17 in Beijing, Shanghai and other large cities. The survey showed that just 1.7 percent got most of their sex education in school. Even fewer - 1.3 percent - said their parents had provided them with any useful knowledge about sexual matters, the survey indicated. The issue of sex education is becoming increasingly urgent, because better health conditions mean most Chinese now reach sexual maturity at age 12 or 13, one year earlier than a decade ago, the paper said. Lack of sex education can have severe consequences, Zhang warned. China faces what the UN labeled in June a potential "AIDS catastrophe," due in part to ignorance about the spread of HIV via sex. 

China faces a potential "AIDS catastrophe,"

Contact JAPANetwork for materials

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In Tokyo: donald@sundaigaigo.ac.jp

In Nagoya: aidsed@gol.com

JAPANetwork's website has materials you can download

<http://www.japanetwork.gol.com>

Grave Warnings in UN AIDS Report



This news taken from DataLounge at <http://www.datalounge.com/datalounge/news/record.html?record=20039>

(07/02/02) NEW YORK -- The 2002 United Nations report on the global impact of AIDS projects a worsening of the pandemic in the hardest hit and poorest nations if more aid and assistance are not immediately provided.

The U.N. report contained the following findings:

An estimated 68 million people will die of AIDS between 2000 and 2020 in the 45 countries most affected by the disease if assistance is not greatly increased. The figure is five times the number of people who died in those countries over the last two decades.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most ravaged area on Earth in terms of AIDS mortality, and the situation continues to worsen. In Botswana, which suffers the world's highest HIV rate, 39 percent of adults are living with the virus, a 3 percent increase from two years ago.

Nearly a third of Zimbabwean adults have the virus, and five additional countries in sub-Saharan Africa now have HIV prevalence rates higher than 20 percent.

In the sub-Saharan countries with the highest rates of infection, half of all mothers could die. Of the 14 million children orphaned by AIDS worldwide, 80 percent, or 11 million, are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Infection rates are increasing in Central and West Africa, which until recently had maintained high but consistent rates of infection.

Countries such as Cameroon and Nigeria, where infection rates were 2 percent or less in the late 1980s and early 1990s, now have infection rates of between 6 percent and 12 percent. The U.N. cautions these estimates are conservative.

In South Africa, which has the highest number of people living with HIV in the world, death rates among people aged 15 to 34 are 17 times higher than before the outbreak of the epidemic two decades ago.

The Ukraine suffers the highest rates of infection in Eastern Europe. In Russia, more than 173,000 people were reported to have HIV in 2001, up from 10,993 in 1998. U.N. officials believe these numbers to be grossly inaccurate and estimate that the actual number of cases is closer to 700,000.

India is thought to be home to some 4 million people with HIV. China was singled out for special attention in the report; the Beijing government stands accused of burying its head in the sand as HIV races across China's interior. The U.N. estimates that the number of infected could reach 10 million in less than eight years.

The U.N. report warned of the need for renewed prevention efforts in the industrialized world, where epidemiologists have observed an increase in sexually transmitted infections. The trend is especially prominent among gay men, with rising numbers of sexually transmitted diseases occurring in cities such as Los Angeles, Amsterdam, London and Sydney.

-- Editor DataLounge weekly newsletter



Botswana 39% of adults, 1/3 of Zimbabwean adults are HIV +.

India may have 4 million, China could reach 10 million by 2010.

There are 14 million children orphaned by AIDS.

AIDS Statistics in Japan as of June 30, 2002*

1 . HIV infections in Japan to June 30, 2002.

	Males	Total males	Females	Total females	Total
Heterosexual transmission	932 (203)	1,135	335 (606)	941	2,076
Homosexual transmission *1	1,456 (134)	1,590	1 (0)	1	1,591
Injection drug use	10 (16)	26	0 (1)	1	27
Perinatal	11 (2)	13	7 (6)	13	26
Other *2	40 (13)	53	25 (11)	36	89
Unknown	287 (213)	500	41 (448)	489	989
Total HIV infections	2,736 (581)	3,317	409 (1,072)	1,481	4,798

() numbers in parentheses indicate foreign nationals

2 . AIDS cases to June 30, 2002.

	Males	Total males	Females	Total females	Total
Heterosexual transmission	751 (151)	902	86 (105)	191	1,093
Homosexual transmission *1	505 (56)	561	1 (0)	1	562
Injection drug use	5 (11)	16	1 (0)	1	17
Perinatal	8 (1)	9	3 (3)	6	15
Other *2	29 (12)	41	11 (7)	18	59
Unknown	332 (191)	523	35 (84)	119	642
Total AIDS cases	1,630 (422)	2,052	137 (199)	336	2,388

Infections due to unheated blood products *3	1,413 (-)	1,413	18 (-)	18	1,431
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Note : *1 Total includes bisexuals

*2 This is the figure includes cases of infection through blood transfusion

*3 Total infections as of May 31, 2001.

Deaths to date: 1,270.

* These totals are the latest reported figures as of June 30, 2002 on the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare Web Site at http://api-net.jfap.or.jp/mhw/survey/mhw_survey.htm

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.japanetwork.gol.com

Stats at a glance (for the period of 4/1/02 ~ 6/31/02)

HIV infections:	149
Age 10-19	→ 5
20-29	→ 49
30-39	→ 51
40-49	→ 23
50+	→ 21
Heterosexual	→ 49
Homosexual	→ 77
IV drug	→ 1
Perinatal	→ 0
Other	→ 1
Unknown	→ 21

New AIDS cases:	77
Age 10-19	→ 0
20-29	→ 8
30-39	→ 25
40-49	→ 18
50+	→ 26
Heterosexual	→ 33
Homosexual	→ 17
IV drug	→ 1
Perinatal	→ 0
Other	→ 1
Unknown	→ 25

Editor's comments on the latest figures

There were 77 new HIV infections among men who have sex with men, accounting for 52% of new infection during this 3-month period. These figures do NOT necessarily show that HIV infection is particularly high among this segment of the population. Gay and bisexual men generally may have more awareness that they are at risk, and therefore will be tested for HIV. Heterosexuals, for a variety of reasons, may not perceive themselves to be at risk, and may not seek testing. There is some evidence for this given the statistics for new AIDS cases, almost twice as many were heterosexual than homosexual, and only 2 of the 77 cases previously knew they had been infected with HIV.

About Our Organization...

JAPANetwork offers FREE HIV/AIDS lesson plans, games, articles and video lworksheets to EFL teachers. We also welcome articles, artwork, poetry, or lesson plan ideas, and accounts of teaching experinces from teachers and students. Send your contributions to the address on the left.

