

# HIV/AIDS: An Introduction

## 1. Vocabulary Building

infection	感染	spread	広がる
Ministry of Health	厚生省	developing countries	発展途上国
increase	増える	trend	傾向
rate	速度	decrease	減る
accelerate	加速する	accurate	正確な



## 2. Reading

### JAPAN: "Japan Reports Record Number of New HIV Infections in April-June" Associated Press (08.23.06):: Chisaki Watanabe

Japan's Health Ministry recently announced an increase in new HIV infections that may indicate the infection rate is accelerating. In three-months, from April to June of this year, 248 cases were found. This was the largest number since July-September in 2004, when 209 infections were reported, according to ministry official Yasuaki Hashimoto. The ministry did not give a cause for the increase. There was an increase in the number of infections among middle-aged Japanese. One reason for this may be that more people in this age group are being tested. HIV testing is widely available in Japan.

Japan has 17,000 HIV/AIDS patients, a low number compared to many other countries. According to UNAIDS, Japan's infection rate is 1 in 7,529, much lower than the 1 in 110 rate in Thailand. However, the rate at which HIV has spread in Japan in the past 10 years is similar to that of developing countries. Japanese tend to have low HIV knowledge and to view it as a foreign problem. "We are greatly concerned about the trend," said Hashimoto.

According to the ministry's AIDS Surveillance Committee (エイズ動向委員会), two-thirds of newly infected patients (患者) are in their 20s and 30s, but infections among older people are also increasing. The ratio of those newly infected in their 40s and 50s rose to 31 percent in April-June, up from 22 percent in the previous quarter, said the committee's statement.

Hashimoto said the increase could be due to June's awareness campaigns that included longer clinic hours so that older people, often in managerial positions, could be tested.

Reported cases of HIV, which have been rising since 2002, hit a record high of 832 cases in 2005. The number of reported AIDS cases decreased in 2005 after a two-year increase. Experts say that an accurate number of cases in Japan is not known, estimating the number to be two to four times the reported totals.

## 3. Reading Comprehension

Partner A: Ask your partner these questions. (Partner B, turn to page 3)

1. In Japan, is the rate of HIV infection going up, staying steady, or going down?
2. When was the largest number of new cases reported?
3. According to the article, how many HIV/AIDS cases have been reported in Japan?
4. According to the article, do most Japanese people know a lot about AIDS?
5. How many cases of HIV were reported in 2005?

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### 4. Song: **I'm Beautiful** by Brinsley Evans, sung by Bette Midler from the album "Bathhouse Betty", Warner Bros. 1998

"That's it, baby! When you got it, flaunt it, flaunt it!"

This is the Divine Miss M and I'm here to share with you some rare and stimulating insight into my cosmic fabulousity. It's really very simple. I simply believe with all my heart:

I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, dammit!  
I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, dammit!  
I'm beautiful, so beautiful, I'm beautiful, dammit!  
I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, dammit!

"Go away, little girl," they used to say.  
"Hey, you're too fat, baby, you can't play."  
"Hold on, Miss Thing, what you trying to do?  
You know you're too wack to be in our school."

Too wack, too smart, too fast, too fine,  
too loud, too tough, too, too divine.  
I said you don't belong. You don't belong.  
Too loud, too big, too much to bear,  
too bold, too brash, too prone to swear.  
I heard that song for much too long.

Ain't this my sun? Ain't this my moon? Ain't this my  
world to be who I choose?  
Ain't this my song? Ain't this my movie? Ain't this my  
world? I know I can do it.

I'm not too short, I'm not too tall, I'm not too big, I'm not  
too small.  
Ooh, don't lemme start lovin' myself!  
Ooh, don't lemme start lovin' myself!  
I'm not too white, I'm not too black, I'm not too this, I'm  
not too that.  
Ooh, don't lemme start lovin' myself!  
Ooh, don't lemme start lovin' myself!

I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, dammit!  
I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, dammit!

It's time to call it what it is. Don't play the naming game.  
Become what you were born to be and be it unashamed.  
"Go away, little boy," I can hear them say,  
"Everybody on the block says they think you're gay.  
Hold on, my friend, do you think we're blind?  
Take a look at yourself. You're not our kind."

Too black, too white, too short, too tall,  
too big, too green, too red, too small.  
I said you don't belong. You don't belong.  
Too black, too white, too short, too tall,  
too blue, too green, too red, too small.  
I heard that song for much too long.

Ain't this my sun? Ain't this my moon?  
Ain't this my world to be who I choose?  
Ain't this my song? Ain't this my movie?  
Ain't this my world? I know I can do it.

People always ask me, "Miss M, how did you get so far  
on so little?" Shut up!  
Well, I woke up one morning, flossed my teeth and decided,  
"Damn, I'm fierce!" You look good!  
You can be just like me! A goddess? Yeah!  
Don't just pussy foot around and sit on your assets.  
Unleash your ferocity upon an unsuspecting world.  
Rise up and repeat after me: "I'm beautiful!"

I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful! (Can you say that?)  
I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful! (I don't hear you!)  
I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful! (Louder!)  
I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful, I'm beautiful! (Hey!)

That's it, baby, when you got it, flaunt it, flaunt it!

Ain't this my sun? My sun! Ain't this my moon? My moon!  
Ain't this my world to be who I choose?  
Ain't this our song? Ain't this our song? Ain't this our movie?  
Ain't this our movie?  
Ain't this our world to be who we choose?

I'm not too short, I'm not too tall,  
I'm not too big, I'm not too small.  
Ooh, don't lemme start lovin' myself!  
Ooh, don't lemme start lovin' myself!  
I'm not too white, I'm not too black,  
I'm not too this, I'm not too that.  
Ooh, don't lemme start lovin' myself!  
Ooh, don't lemme start lovin' myself!  
I'm beautiful, dammit!

Stop and think about how your  
words and actions can hurt  
someone else -  
or can help them.



## 5. Looking at YOU

How did people limit you when you were a small child? Write some phrases to express this. For example:

Example: When I was a child, my parents told me I couldn't ride the roller coaster because I was too short.

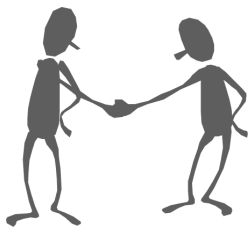
1. When I was a child...

2. When I was a child...

- The singer says that it doesn't matter what other people think about her. She knows that she is beautiful. How do people judge beauty in your culture?
  - Is beauty only the way someone looks? Is it only the way they dress? Do you think beauty is more than looks?
  - Tell your partner about someone you know who is beautiful, but not just their face or body. What makes that person beautiful to you?
  - How are YOU beautiful? Write THREE things about yourself that you think are beautiful: (you don't have to show these to anyone! :-)
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- What are your favorite lines in the song? Why?

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## 6. Putting it Together



### Questions for discussion

1. Where did you first hear about HIV or AIDS? (at school, on TV, from movies, your family, friends, etc.)
2. Did you study it in school? If so, about how many hours did you study about it?
3. What facts do you know about AIDS?
4. Where is it a problem in the world?
5. How often do you hear about it in the news?
6. Of all the information we studied in this class today, what information surprised you?
7. Do you think AIDS is a problem in Japan? Do you think it could become a big problem in the future?
8. YOUR QUESTION:

### Reading Comprehension Partner B: Ask your partner these questions.

1. How many new cases of HIV were found in Japan in the second quarter of 2006?
2. Give one reason why there are more cases of middle-aged people with HIV in Japan.
3. Is the infection rate in Japan higher or lower than countries like Thailand?
4. Which age group has a large number of new infections?
5. What is the real total of people who have HIV/AIDS in Japan?