

Youth sexuality Current trends and ASRH in Japan

Osaka International School
(High School)
30th January, 2008
Dr Beverley Anne Yamamoto



Introductions

- Associate Professor
- Graduate School of Human Sciences
- Osaka University

- Lecture in sociology and area studies
- On sexuality, gender, multicultural society
- Field: Japanese society (NE Asia)



Introductions

- Current research projects:
- Gender and conflict – politics of memory in North East Asia
- Multicultural families living in Japan – identity and educational issues.
- Youth sexuality
- Women in contemporary Asia



Content of today's talk

- Trends in youth sexuality in Japan
- Trends in adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH)
- Provision of ASRH in Japan
- International standards for ASRH provision
- Gender construction and sexuality – barriers to ASRH
- Empowering youth in the sexual domain



Lead in

Japan's sexual contradictions

- Largest sex industry in the world
- Major receiving country for trafficked women
- Frequency of marital sex lowest in the world
- Satisfaction with marital sex – lowest with China
- No government family planning or SRH budget
- Only one family planning clinic nationwide
- Conservative attitudes towards youth sexuality
- Liberal attitudes towards abortion
- Took 34 years to legalize contraceptive pill
- Only developed country with an upward trend in HIV/AIDS

Trends in youth sexuality

- Upward trend in sexual experience during teen years
- Lowering of the age of first sexual experience
- Female high school students report higher 'experience' levels than males
- Changes not linked to a change in age of physical maturity

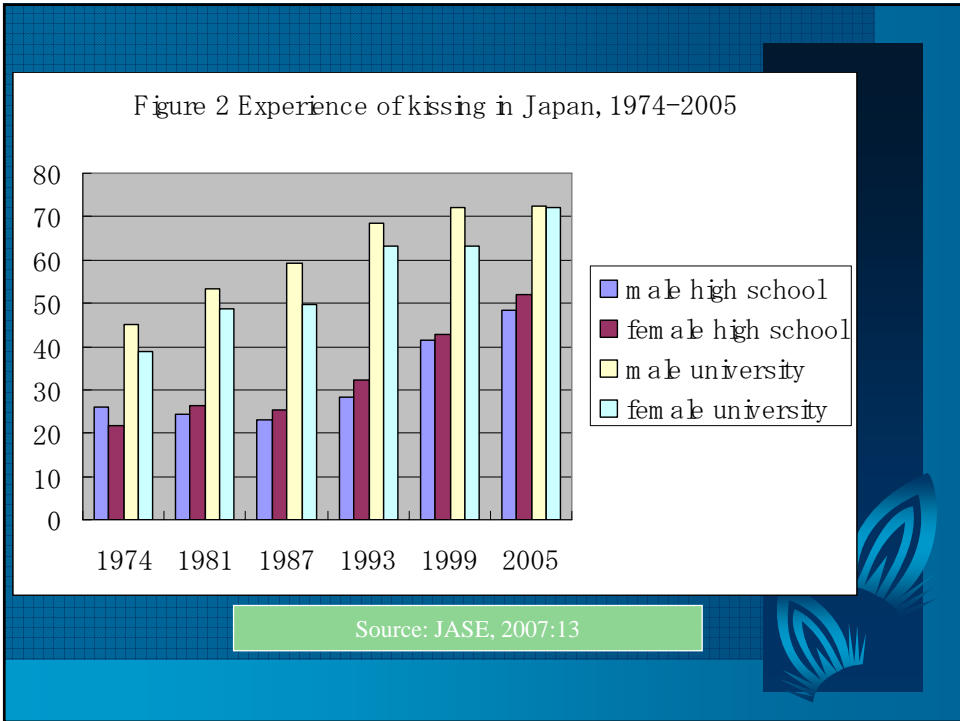
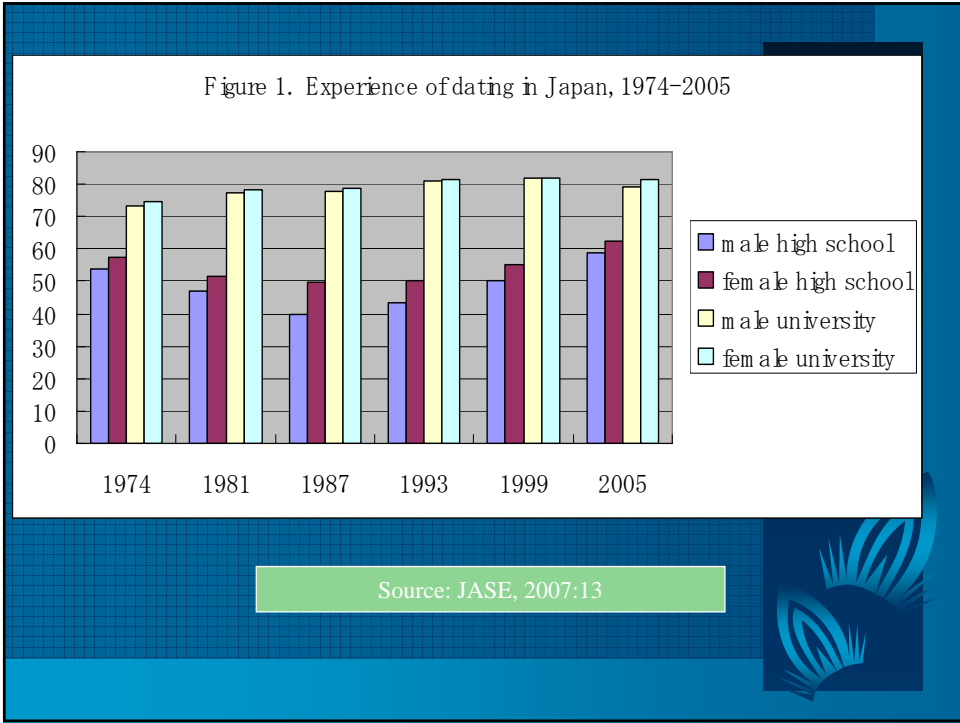
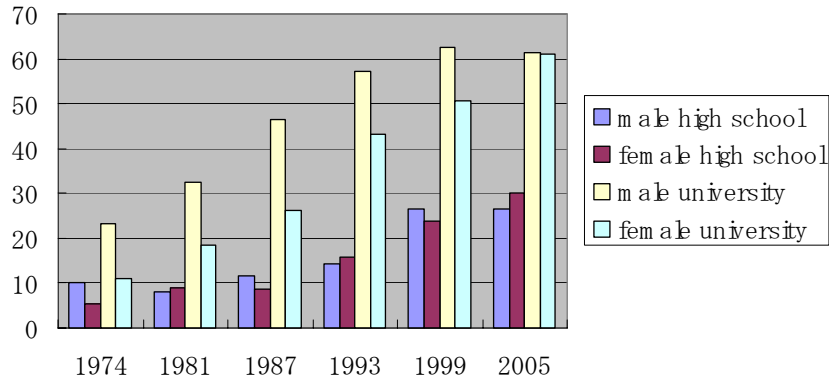


Figure 3 Percentage of Japanese students reporting experience of sexual intercourse, 1974-2005



Source: JASE, 2007:13

Age at which 50 % of female students had experienced the following events

	1987	1993	1999	2005
~11yrs	Menstruation	Menstruation	Menstruation	Menstruation
12yrs				
13yrs				
14yrs	Sexual interest	Sexual interest	Sexual interest	
15yrs				
16yrs			Dating	Sexual interest/dating
17yrs	Dating	Dating	Kissing	Kissing
18yrs				
19yrs		Kissing		
20yrs	Kissing			Sexual intercourse
21yrs			Sexual intercourse	Masturbation
22yrs	Sexual intercourse	Sexual intercourse	Masturbation	
23yrs~	Masturbation		Masturbation	

JASE, 2007:32

Age at which 50% of male students had experienced the following events

	1987	1993	1999	2005
~11yrs				
12yrs				
13yrs				
14yrs	Sexual interest First ejaculation	Sexual interest First ejaculation	Sexual interest First ejaculation Masturbation	First ejaculation
15yrs	Masturbation	Masturbation		Masturbation/ sexual interest
16yrs				Dating
17yrs		Dating	Dating	Kissing
18yrs	Dating		Kissing	
19yrs		Kissing		Sexual intercourse
20yrs	Kissing	Sexual intercourse	Sexual intercourse	
21yrs	Sexual intercourse			
22yrs				
23yrs ~				

Source: JASE, 2007:32

Trends in ASRH

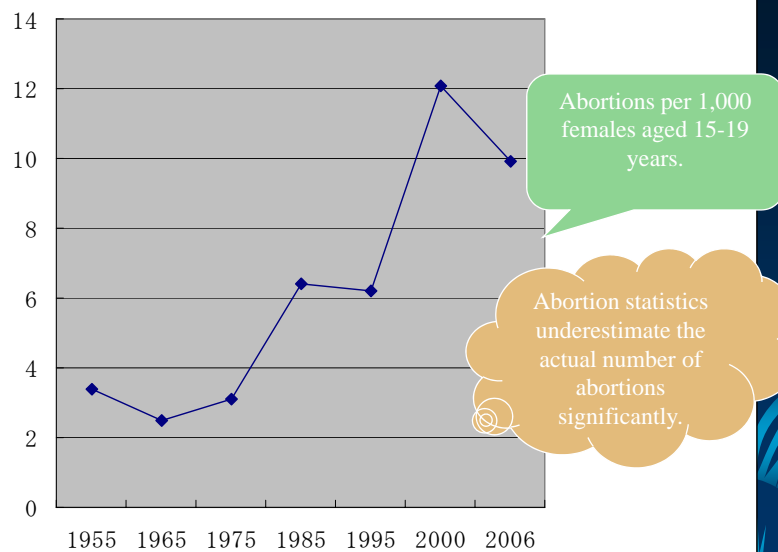
Upward trend in

- teenage pregnancy
- teenage abortion
- Out-of-wedlock childbearing
- Sexually transmitted infections (STI)
- HIV/AIDS
- Use of contraception at first sexual intercourse

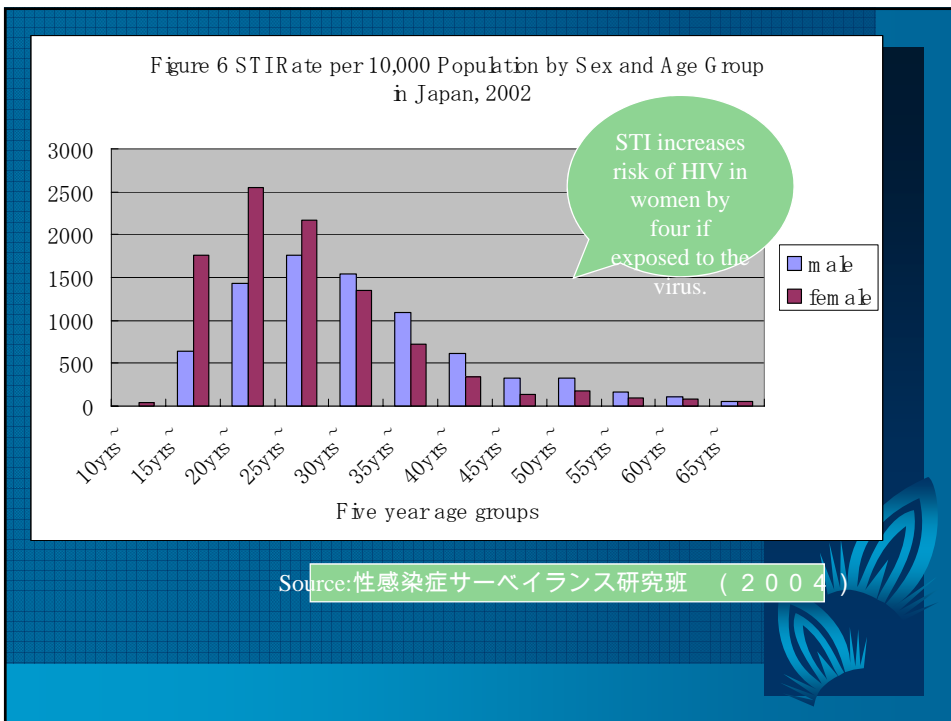
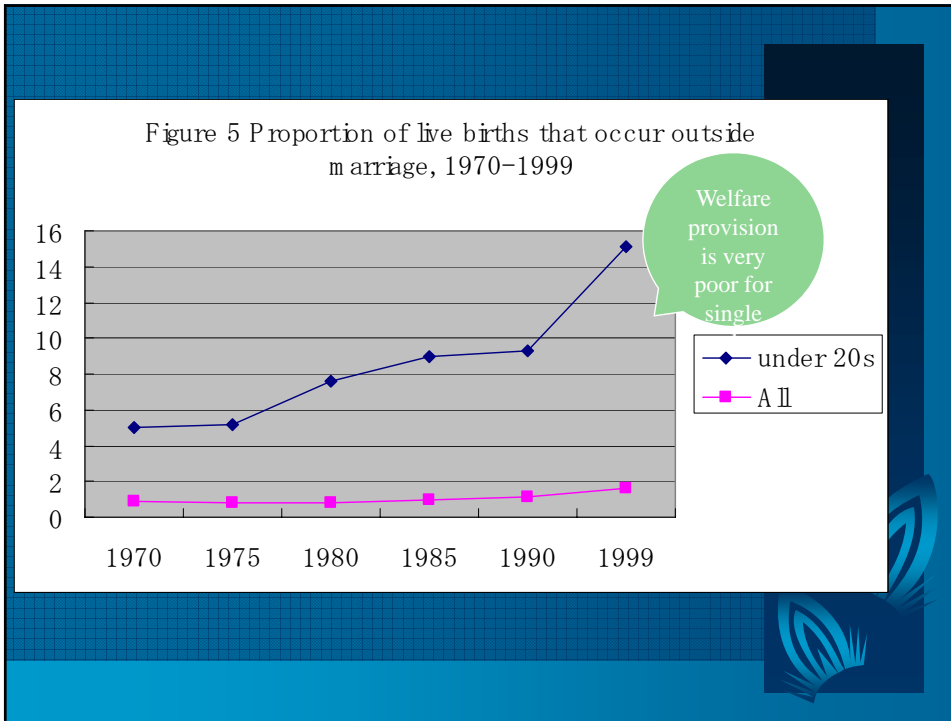
Trends in ASRH

Downward trend in:
 Consistent use of contraception
 Safer-sex practices

Figure 4 Abortion rate for under 20s in Japan, 1955–2006



Source: <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/eisei/06-2/kekka5.html>



Source: 性感染症サーベイランス研究班 (2004)

Figure 6 Trends in HIV infection by age and nationality status

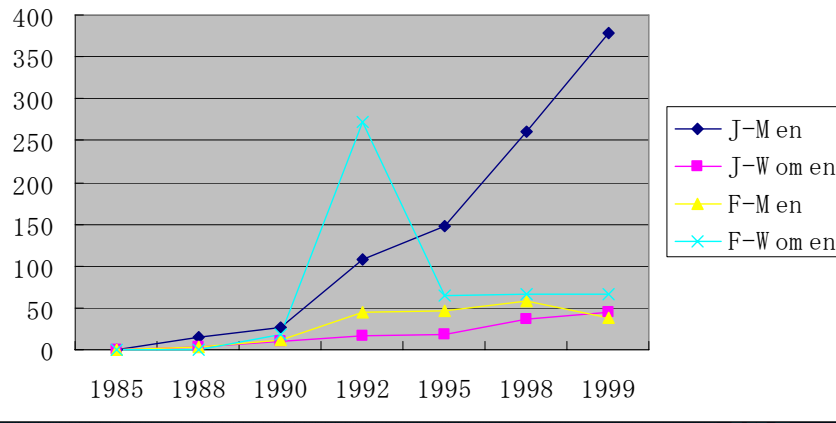
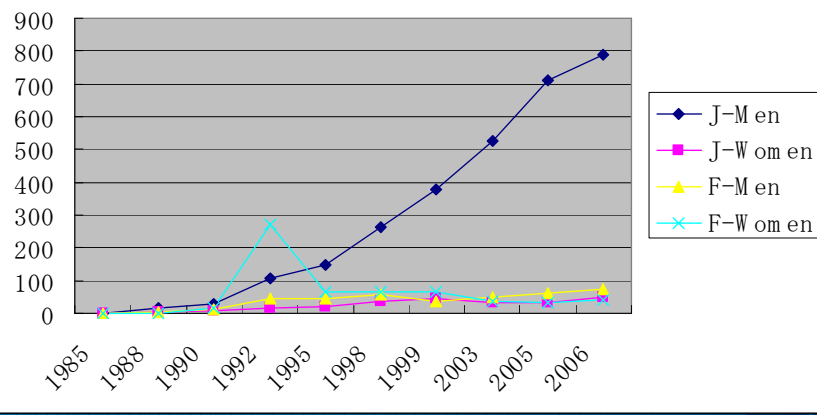
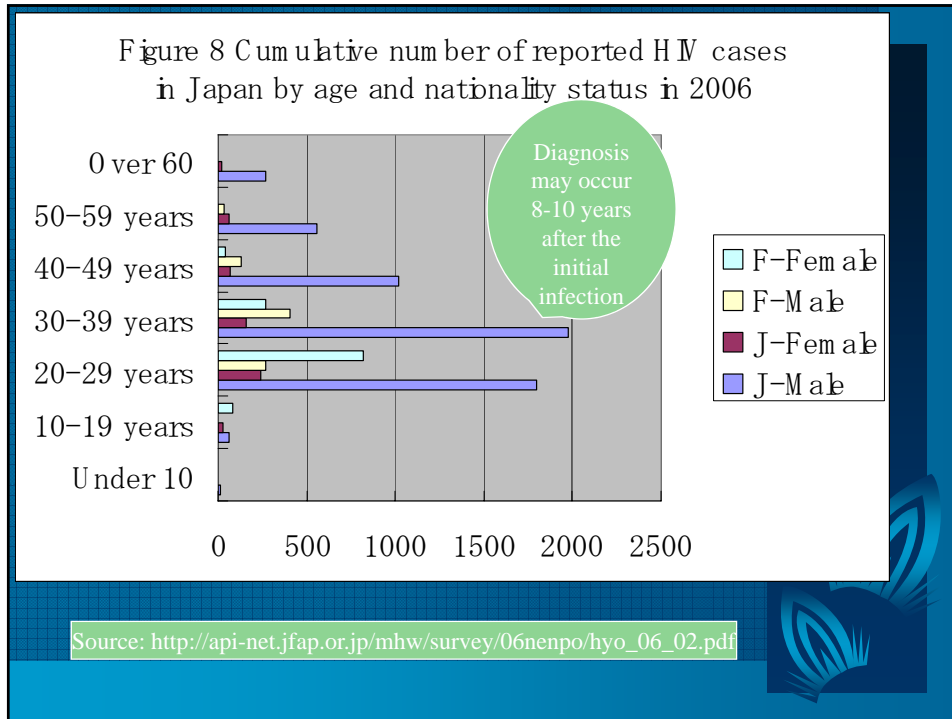


Figure 7 Trends in HIV infection by age and nationality status



Source: http://api-net.jfap.or.jp/mhw/survey/06nenpo/hyo_08.pdf



Provision of ASRH in Japan

- Very poor indeed.
- No youth clinics.
- Almost no family planning clinics.
- Girls forced to go to Obstetric-gynecology clinic and boys to urology clinics.
- There are HIV testing centres in all large cities.

Osaka: Ame-mura (アメ村サンサンサイト 日曜日常設即日HIV抗体検査)
 4F Shinzu Sankaku Tower
 1-7-8, Nishi-Shinsaibashi, Chuoku,
 Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu
 Tel: 06-6253-3339

* Only open on Sundays from 3PM-5PM. English speakers present.

Map to Amemura, Osaka, HIV Testing Centre:

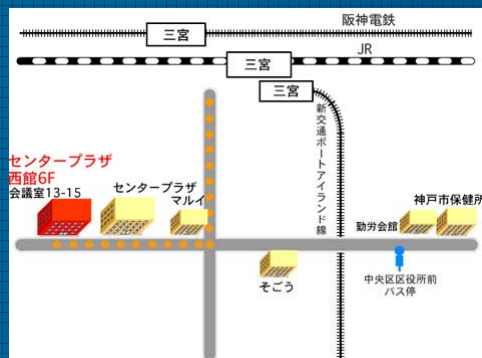


Kobe: Sannomiya (神戸市保険所)

Room 13-15, 6F Sannomiya Center Plaza Nishikan
 2-11 Sannomiya, Chuoku, Kobeshi, Hyogo-ken

- Open between 6-8PM every Monday night. No appointment necessary.
- Also tests for Chlamydia and syphilis.

Map to Sannomiya, Kobe, HIV Testing Centre:



Reproductive health concept

- Within the framework of WHO's definition of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, reproductive health addresses the reproductive processes, functions and system at all stages of life. Reproductive health, therefore, implies that people are able to have a **responsible, satisfying and safe sex life** and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.
- Implicit in this are the right of men and women to be informed of and to **have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of fertility regulation of their choice**, and the right of access to appropriate health care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant.
- http://www.who.int/topics/reproductive_health/en/



Reproductive health concept

- International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, Egypt in September 1994 reproductive health was a central issue.
- Sections of the ICPD Programme of Action relevant to the issue of youth sexuality education appear in chapter seven, especially section e.
- http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/icpd_poa.htm



ICPD Programme of Action

- **Paragraph 7.3** The promotion of the responsible exercise of these rights for all people should be the fundamental basis for government– and community-supported policies and programmes in the area of reproductive health, including family planning. As part of their commitment, full attention should be given to the promotion of mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and **particularly to meeting the needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality.**

ICPD Programme of Action

- Paragraph 7.41 The **reproductive health needs of adolescents as a group have largely been ignored to date** by existing reproductive health services. The response of societies to the reproductive health needs of adolescents should be based on information that helps them attain a level of maturity required to make responsible decisions. In particular, **information and services should be made available to adolescents that can help them understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and subsequent risk of infertility. This should be combined with the education of young men to respect women's self-determination and to share responsibility with women in matters of sexuality and reproduction.**

Gender construction and sexuality

- Castro-Vázquez's recent study of high school students in Tokyo shows how stereotyped the ideas of these young people were.
- See [In the Shadows: Sexuality, Pedagogy, and Gender among Japanese Teenagers](#)



Gender construction and sexuality

- Male high school students when asked what sex means all responded in a similar way.
- Example: page 123
- Q: What does sex mean?
- A: From the males point of view...you insert your organ into the female organ.
- Q: When does it finish?
- A: When the male ejaculates?
- Q: ...what about the female point of view?
- A: I don't know if there is such a point of view.



Gender construction and sexuality

- P125 Stereotypes and ignorance!
- Q: What does sex mean?
- A: well, the male penetrates the female, and the intercourse finishes when the male ejaculates.
- Q: Is there any other possibility to have sex? Is sex restricted to a male and a female?
- A: Well, no there's male-to-male sex. I think that kind of sex is not common. In Japan, its almost non-existent'.

HIV is rising fastest among men who have sex with men in Japan/

Gender construction and sexuality

- Condoms as a mark of masculinity.
- Q: Are you carrying condoms with you?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Why?
- A: Well, I got a condom from friends. They said, 'let's carry condom in our wallets'. Then four or five of us are carrying them.
- Q: Why?
- A: You know, if you are carrying condoms it means you are having sex. Somehow it means you are not a boy anymore; that you are a man. (16 year old) P127.

Gender construction and sexuality

- Q: Who is the one to carry condoms?
- A: Well, I think males. After all, in having sex women are passive...Contrary to men that are active. As for having sex, both should talk about it, and decide whether they want to have sex or not...but males have to carry condoms....Anyway, in having sex males are the active part, they have the obligation to protect. They have to protect females, I think. P131.



Gender construction and sexuality

- Q: Who is the one who should carry condoms?
- A: The male. If he doesn't want to get her pregnant, I think he has to carry condoms.
- Q: What about STDs?
- A: I don't think you can get STDs, if you do not play around, if you sleep only with your girl friend. I don't think she is infected, that is why we are having sex. She's healthy, that's why she is my girlfriend. (p129)



Gender construction and sexuality

- So what do the girls think?
- I don't think I would ask him to wear a condom. You know, its like saying to him that you already know about condoms. He might think you are playing around...that your are loose. (Female 16 years old)p153.



Empowering youth

Keys to empowerment

- Information
- Communication
- Negotiation



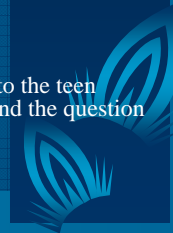
Finding out more

- UK Sites – general sex and SRH education resources
-
- RU Thinking
- <http://www.ruthinking.co.uk/>
- Highly recommended. It is an independent site, but funded by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit, Government of UK.
-
- Like it is (Also access to Australian site from same URL)
- <http://www.likeitis.org/>
- Highly recommended.
- Gives young people access to information about all aspects of sex education and teenage life. Run by Marie Stopes International
- Sexpression UK
- <http://www.sexpression.co.uk/default.php>
- Sex education webiste
-



Finding out more

- Japanese
- Dr Kitamura's JFPA Clinic (Japanese only)
- <http://www.jfpa-clinic.org/>
- Japan family Planning Clinic
- Rather limited next to UK sites.
-
- Orchid Club On-line Women's Clinic (Japanese only)
- <http://www.orchid-club.gr.jp/html/top.html>
Aimed at women rather than youth.
-
- International
- Avert HIV/AIDS
- <http://www.avert.org/yngindx.htm>
- This whole website is interesting, but URL the above gives the link to the teen pages. It tells you much more that about averting HIV. You might find the question 'what is sex' interesting on this page.
The answer was rather old fashioned I thought!



Finding out more

Gay and lesbian news and health issues - Japanese

- Occur – A Japanese gay and lesbian website
<http://www.occure.or.jp/>
- Sukotan – Japanese gay and lesbian website
<http://www.sukotan.com/index.html>
- Peer web – Japanese gay and lesbian news site
<http://www.taigaweb.jp/pf/0410new/top.htm>

Place Tokyo – sexual health and news

<http://www.ptokyo.com/>



Finding out more

- Trans-Net Japan - Japanese Transsexual and transgender – Japanese site
<http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/Villa/7797/home.htm>
- Gender Crash – English
- An American Transgender and Queer website.
<http://www.gendercrash.com/>
- Trans Youth Family Advocates
<http://www.imatyfa.org/>



References English

- Castro-Vázquez (2007) *In the Shadows: Sexuality, Pedagogy, and Gender among Japanese Teenagers*, Lexington Books.



References

- JASE (2006) 『「若者の性」白書』日本性教育協会
- 性感染症サーベイランス研究班 (2004) 「日本における性感染症サーベイランス — 2002年度調査報告」日本性感染症学会誌 15(1)。
- 厚生労働省エイズ動向委員会(2007) 『平成18年エイズ発生動向年報』。Available on line at:

http://api-net.jfap.or.jp/mhw/survey/06nenpo/nenpo_menu.htm

-

