

8. Support for Women's Health

Support for Women's Maternity Health

- **Provision of comprehensive maternal and child health services from pregnancy to delivery**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare further promotes measures to provide medical services, including medical check-ups, health counseling and guidance services, medical assistance, from pregnancy to delivery, for daily life.

The Ministry also systematically implements "Healthy Parents and Children 21" – a national campaign for maternal and child health – to improve maternal and child health services.

- **Infertility counseling services**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare promoted a plan to set up a prefectural counseling center specializing in infertility, under the Child and Child Rearing Support Plan, to provide multidimensional information / counseling services to infertile couples, so they could make their own decisions based on accurate and appropriate information as to how they should address the issue. The Ministry also promotes research and studies on fertility treatments. The Government Subsidized Project is also being implemented to subsidize part of the expenses for fertility treatment for infertile couples, which can be expensive.

- **Increased perinatal care**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare promotes the Perinatal Medical Network Project to set up in prefectures a general perinatal maternal and child medical center which should be the core of the perinatal medical services, as well as to ensure coordination between local and high-level medical facilities, to properly provide advanced treatment to pregnant women and newborns who may require emergency treatment. Also, Pregnancy and Medicine Information Center set up in 2005 in the National Center for Child Health and Development collects domestic and international information about the safety of drug therapy on pregnant women.

- **Disseminate information about voluntary contraception by women**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare implements measures to disseminate information about the physical and psychological effects of abortion on women and about safe abortions, to prevent ill-considered abortions. The Ministry also supports efforts to disseminate information about contraception to allow women to voluntarily use contraceptives.

It also facilitates counseling/information services through public authorities for adolescent men and women about sex, contraception and abortion, and to provide opportunities for them to participate in medical check-ups for infants arranged at child welfare facilities such as child-care centers, by municipalities, so that they learn about the sanctity of life and sex.

Measures Against HIV/AIDS

- **Implementation of comprehensive measures against HIV/AIDS from prevention to treatment**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare systematically implements comprehensive measures against HIV/AIDS to prevent HIV infection and provide medical treatment appropriate patients with diseases, while giving consideration to the human rights of AIDS patients and HIV infected persons as well as social backgrounds, under the "National Guidelines for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care" (Guidelines for HIV prevention - No. 89 announcement by the Ministry of Health, Labour in 2006) and Welfare which was established by the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infections (the Infectious Diseases Control Law – Law No.114 of 1998), and conducts annual assessment on the implementation of the measures.

- **Promotion of education at school about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology continues its efforts to expand HIV education in school education in activities, such as the production and distribution of health information materials to lower- and upper - secondary school students that provide thorough explanations about sexually transmitted diseases, production/distribution of reference materials for teachers, and organizing training and education seminars for teachers.

