Status of Leprosy Awareness

Awareness of leprosy: 64.4%

- By sex, awareness is slightly higher among males, at 66.4%, compared with 62.5% for females, but the difference is not significant.
- By age, awareness is 52.3% for persons aged 18 to 29, but above 80% (at 80.7%) for persons aged 60 to 69. Awareness increases with age for both males and females.
- By geographic region, awareness is 62.2% in Hokkaido and Tohoku, and rises to 72.4% in Kyushu and Okinawa. A trend of higher awareness in western Japan is seen.

Of persons aware of leprosy, respondents rating level of knowledge as "low": 70%

- More than 70% (71.0%) of respondents had a "low" knowledge of leprosy, indicating that even among persons aware of leprosy, the level of knowledge is low.
- By age group, the percentage with a "high" knowledge of leprosy was largest among those aged 18-29, at 10.9%, indicating that even though overall awareness among this group is low, the level of knowledge is relatively high.
- By geographic region, the percentage with a "high" knowledge of leprosy was largest in Kyushu and Okinawa at 10.4%, followed by Chugoku and Shikoku at 7.1%. As with the level of awareness, the level of knowledge is higher in western Japan.

Awareness of leprosy via "newspapers and television": above 80%

- The source of awareness was overwhelmingly "newspapers and television," at 83.9%, followed by "classroom instruction" at 18.9%.
- The percentage of respondents aged 18-29 who replied "newspapers and television" was 65.3%, which was almost 20 percentage points lower than for other age groups, but the percentage of this age group that replied "classroom instruction" was 49.3%, which was more than 30 percentage points higher than for other age groups.