What You Need to Know

HIV/AIDS
Cartoons for children
9-12 years of age
by the Children’s Voice
Independent Children’s Media Center

Children’s Voice Team

Illustration, design and graphics by:
Bohdana Serebryan and Dmytro Aksyonov

Texts by:
Denys Stepura and Bohdana Serebrian

Project Coordinator:
Tetyana Bila

This publication has been made possible with the financial support of UNICEF within the framework of project by International Organization “Foundation of Youth Culture and Education”.

We are grateful to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine for the information and guidance provided within the course of the project.

Also, we express our gratitude to UNICEF Ukraine for their support in the realization of children’s rights of free access to information, freedom of speech and creative development.

All rights reserved © IO “Foundation of Youth Culture and Education”

3/12 Bastionna Str., Kyiv, Ukraine, 01014,
E-mail: fyce@fyce.relc.com
www.fyce.org
HIV and AIDS...

Today we often come across these two words in posters, newspapers and magazines, on radio and TV, or hear them from adults.

Unfortunately, many of us neither know, nor realize what HIV/AIDS is and how it affects our lives and the lives of our family members; why it is so dangerous for people throughout the world.

AIDS is the disease that affects you as well as the entire humanity!

How can you protect yourself against HIV/AIDS?

The most important weapon is your knowledge!

You have the right to know EVERYTHING about HIV/AIDS.

This publication will give you the idea of what HIV and AIDS are; how HIV gets into human body and what the effects are; what should be done to avoid the infection and many other useful information.

We hope that this knowledge will help you make wise decisions in difficult situations.
Our comics features:

**HIV** – human immunodeficiency virus – an extremely dangerous virus resulting in AIDS;

**T- lymphocyte** – is a good blood cell helping the organism

**Anti-bodies** – soldiers of immune system who fight infections that get into human body.

**Immune system** – the system of self-protection against infections and diseases of human body.

**HIV** – human immunodeficiency virus – an extremely dangerous virus resulting in AIDS;

**AIDS** – Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome - incurable disease
Once upon a time, an extremely dangerous and wicked virus called HIV decided to rule the Earth.

He developed his evil plan - to establish big army of viruses to enslave as much people as possible.

HIV Virus is searching for any possibility to get into human body.

He hides in needles thrown away by drug addict and abusing drugs, and is waiting for the right moment...

It does not really matter who picks up the needle - a street cleaner or a kid playing a doctor...and as soon as he pricks himself..."
HIV is wandering along blood vessels. Anti-bodies take notice of him. They know that HIV Virus is dangerous for the organism they are protecting. The Anti-bodies capture HIV...

To make his evil plan come true he needs an assistant.

...and they take him to the Immune System to destroy.

On their way to the Immune System HIV sees Lymphocyte - the good blood cell.

“He come, the assistant of mine!”

“You miserable Anti-bodies! Do you think you can stop me?”
”Don’t be afraid, my dearest Lymphocyte, it won’t hurt at all.

Maybe…”

HIV Virus gets inside of T-Lymphocyte…

T-Lymphocyte starts changing…

The good blood cell is turning into a strong assistant to evil HIV Virus.

Being controlled by evil HIV the new T-Lymphocyte starts making numerous copies of HIV.
The number of HIV viruses - copies of HIV - is increasing rapidly. They are getting big and strong and eventually come to form a powerful army.

To strengthen and grow they start hunting other blood cells.

Some turn the captured cells into “safe boxes” where they can hide from medicine.
The HIV army starts its siege of the Immune System...

Lengthy and furious struggle between the two armies takes place. Anti bodies - soldiers of the Immune System - fight the HIV army.

while the infected person does not even suspect it.

Some years pass. The Anti-bodies are eventually defeated.
Now HIV captures the Immune System. It distresses the entire organism. Long and horrible disease - the AIDS - starts destroying the body.

Unfortunately so far no medicine to treat HIV/AIDS has been invented, but scientists and doctors from all over the world strive to help people defeat this disease!

Your weapon is your knowledge. So read carefully and remember our advice to you!
It is important to

HIV is transmitted:
by blood and other blood substances when:
- utilizing used needles;
- having unsafe sexual relations (like those adult men and women have);
- transfusion of already infected blood
- infected mother gives birth to a child

HIV is not transmitted when:
- sneezing and coughing
- sharing room - kissing
- shaking hands
- hugging
- bitten by insects
- from pets
- sharing tableware sheets and towels
- sharing bath tube, toilet, sauna, water pool
- sharing desk, stationery and books

Even if your friend is HIV-positive, it will not ruin your friendship!
Key Safety Rules

- Be careful! Never play with needles you find at street. Don’t even touch them.

- If you accidentally pricked yourself with the needle tell adults about it immediately

- Avoid any contacts with blood of strangers. If such contact does happen wash your skin under running water tell adults about it immediately

- Be sure that medical sisters and doctors use rubber gloves and disposable syringes
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM?

The easiest way to achieve it is through healthy way of life

DO MORNING EXERCISE
Sport tempers and strengthens your body

SAY FIRM "NO" TO BAD HABITS!
Smoking and alcohol weakens your system and makes you catch diseases

EAT FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
They are rich in vitamins and other useful elements that strengthen immune system

SMILE MORE
Smile and good mood make your life longer!