Taiwan approach to HIV testing

In Reaching 95-95-95 Targets for Ending the HIV Epidemic

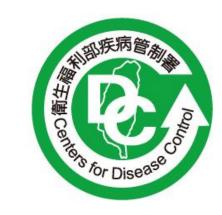
Yi-Chen Tsai

Associate Researcher

Division of Chronic Infectious Diseases

Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC)

June 23, 2023



Outline

- Overview of HIV epidemic status in Taiwan
- Continuum of HIV care in Taiwan, 2022
- Taiwan HIV testing approaches, linkage to care & prevention





Medical infrastructures:

- **✓** UHC: the NHI covers 99.9% population
- √ ~400 hospitals and 22000 clinics
- ✓ 29 physicians and 71 hospital beds per 10,000 population

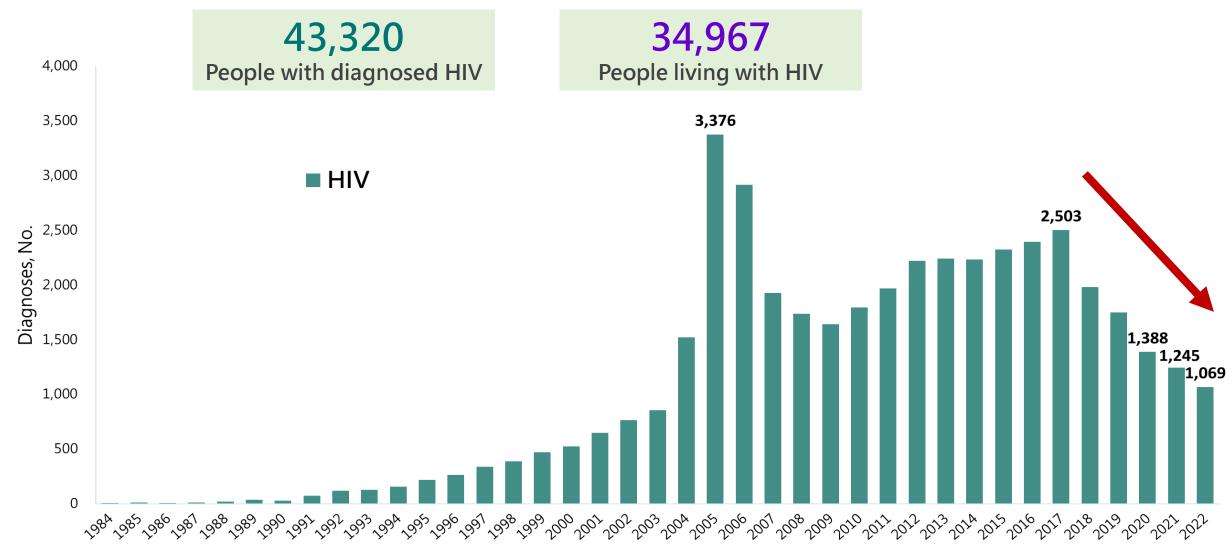
Laws & regulations about HIV/AIDS:

- ✓ HIV Infection Control and Patient Rights Protection Act
- ✓ Communicable Disease Control Act

Timely disease surveillance and case management systems

- ✓ National notifiable diseases surveillance and statistics
- ✓ Information system for HIV case management
- ✓ Information system for HIV testing programs

Diagnoses of HIV Infection, Taiwan (1984–2022)



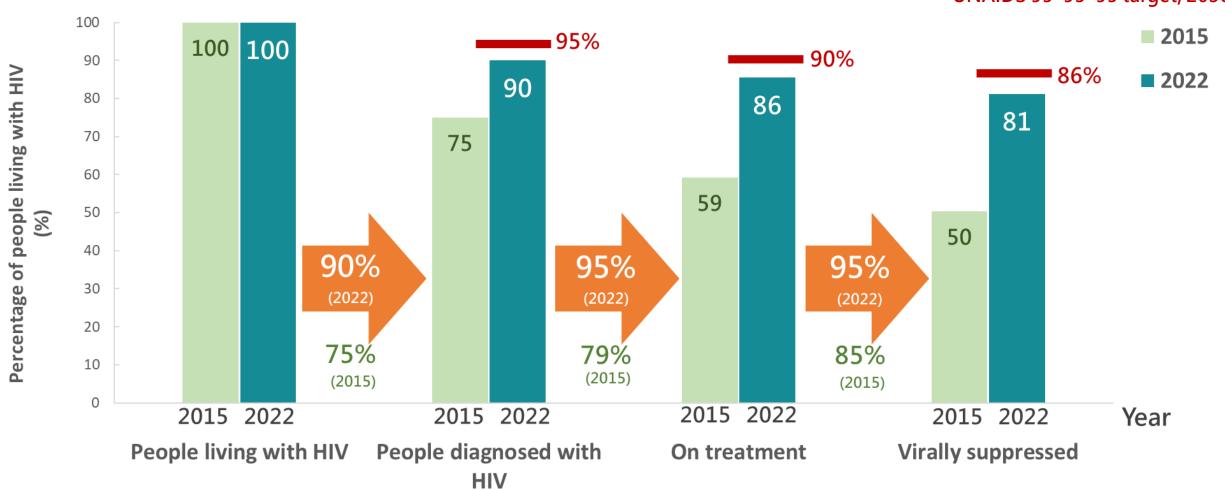
2023/5/1 updated

Year of diagnosis



Continuum of HIV care in Taiwan, 2022 estimates

UNAIDS 95–95–95 target, 2030



2022/12/31 updated



Taiwan HIV testing approaches, linkage to care & prevention



Taiwan CDC recommends people to get tested for HIV at least

once as part of routine health care

- More often to get tested if increased risk of getting HIV
- ✓ Sexually active: get tested for HIV at least once
- ✓ Unprotected sexual intercourse: be tested at least once a year
- ✓ For those at higher risk (e.g. sharing needles, multiple sexual partners, drug use, and STD): get tested every 3–6 months











Expansion of diversified HIV testing services in Taiwan



Facility-based HIV testing services

- Anonymous HIV testing program
- PrEP program
- Partner Services
- People diagnosed with STD, TB
- People using drugs
- Pre-natal screening
- Medical examination
- Blood donations
- Physical examinations of prisoners on admission to correctional facilities
- Physical examinations at military entrance processes



Community-based HIV testing services

- LGBTI+ friendly community health centers
- Outreach HIV testing services



HIV self-testing services

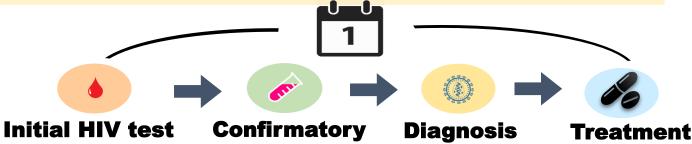
- Taiwan CDC HIVST program
- HIVST with on-line counselling services
- HIVST promotional project for high school & collage students



Anonymous HIV testing program in Taiwan



Provide rapid, free and confidential HIV testing



HIV Ag/Ab rapid test



00 M20

Noncox

test

ICT

(HIV immunochromatography confirm test)

Cepheid.

NAT

(Nucleic Acid Testing)

Provide risk behavior assessment, health consultation and referral to HIV confirmatory test, diagnosis, medical care or PrEP services

- ✓ Use HIV Ag/Ab rapid testing to reduce waiting times, and linkage to care timely
- ✓ In 2022, a total of **74** medical institutions provided the anonymous HIV testing services for **33,327** persons
- ✓ 0.8% were newly diagnosed with HIV





Call for consultation or to report a case : (1922

PrEP

Taiwan government subsidized PrEP program for people at high risk

As of Sep 2015, WHO recommends that people at substantial risk of HIV infection should be offered PrEP as an additional prevention choice, as part of comprehensive prevention.

2015 : 2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022~2023

Preparation

(2015-2016)

- Taiwan FDA approve PrEP of the indication of HIV prevention
- Issue PrEP guidance by Taiwan AIDS society
- Develop training materials for healthcare providers
- Deliver PrEP knowledge to the public and key populations

PrEP Pilot program

(2016/11/15-2017/8/31)

- 5 collaborative hospitals
- Recruit 302 PrEP users

PrEP program

(2018-2020)

- Over 42 collaborative hospitals
- Provide PrEP integrated preventive services
- Recruitments:
- √ high risk young people(< 30 y/o)
 </p>
- ✓ HIV sero-discordant couples
- A total of recruit 2176 PrEP users

PrEP program 2.0

(expand to age < 35 y/o with high risk)





https://gov.tw/KJ6

PrEP: Pre-exposure prophylaxis



PrEP program in Taiwan, 2016–2022

PLHIV: people living with HIV Appointment/ Regular **PLHIV's Partners** hospital visit Aged under 35 years old with high risk tracking **Providing** Request information Local health bureau referral 1.Health promotion Case 2.PrEP consulting management transferring Agencies of drugs addiction treatment and mental health referral **Drugs addiction** Mental health clinic treatment

Local health bureau-associated agencies

Dissemination of HIV prevention and safe sex

Assessment of drugs addiction and healthcare dissemination

Assessment of mental health condition

Healthcare dissemination/questionnaire/PrEP info consulting

Sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment

Assessment of PrEP applicability

(including HIV, Syphilis, liver and kidney function and Pregnancy testing)

PrEP prescription and regular hospital visit

Transfer to agencies of drugs addiction treatment and mental health

Change their risky behavior and allowing them a healthier life style

Integrated Preventive Services

PrEP: Pre-exposure prophylaxis

A total of recruit

5,147 PrEP users

in government subsidized PrEP program,

2016-2022

(Regular HIV testing rate: 95%)

Out-of-pocket PrEP prescriptions also have been promoting at the same time

(2022/12/31 updated)



LGBTI+ friendly community health centers in Taiwan 1

- **Provide LGBTI+ friendly health services**
- ✓ Medical consultation & health education
- ✓ Peer support services & free hotline of consultation
- Community-based HIV & STD testing, counselling and referral services
- ✓ Community clinics & medical services

Provide medical services in LGBTI+ friendly health centers

Linkage to care (Accompany, consultation, peer support services)



LGBTI+ friendly community health centers cooperate with designated hospitals/clinics



桃園市 桃緣彩虹居所

當我們同在一起 基隆市

G隆同學會

新北市

台北市

苗栗縣

新竹市

彩虹山城

台中市

性福巴士192-1號

宜蘭縣

小桃宜蘭的家

南投縣

彩虹部落

彰化縣

彩虹奇蹟

高雄市

彩虹逗陣聯盟

屏東縣

屏水相逢

12



LGBTI+ friendly community health centers in Taiwan 2

Expansion of diversified HIV&STD testing services



Gym



Party



Restaurant



Bar

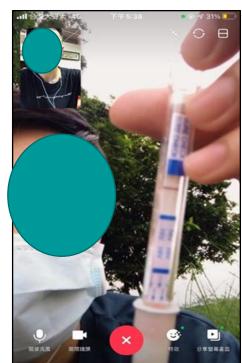


Sauna





Park



Outreach HIV testing services

HIVST with on-line counselling services



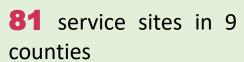
HIV self-testing program in Taiwan, 2016–2023

2016 pilot

2017

2018-2019

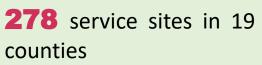
2020-2023



23 vending machines







24 vending machines

429 service sites nationwide **29** vending machines

> 400 service sites nationwide **68** vending machines

On-line order & Convenience Store Pickup Service























- Log-in test result on HIV self-testing website
- Get a coupon for buy one, get one kit free https://hiva.cdc.gov.tw/Selftest/





Taiwan HIV self-testing program & linkage to care







Log in account on HIVST website &

report test result

User receive an online coupon from HIVST website

Encourage users to report their test results on Taiwan CDC HIVST website

Using coupon to redeem another complimentary

HIVST kit

え 試剤兌換券 COUPON

Community service sites



HIVST positive result

User provide barcode to attend raffle



Vending Machines



Persons with positive test results

Go to designated hospitals for HIV confirmatory tests and diagnosis

Providing barcode on HIVST kit

✓ Discount on medical cost

✓ Return the fee of HIVST kit

Linkage persons with positive test results to HIV diagnosis and medical care services





Each HIVST kit has its own unique barcode

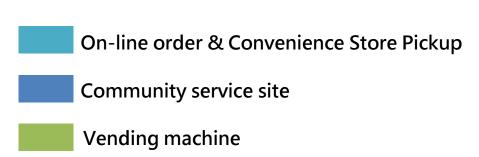


Convenient & accessible services for HIV self-testing in Taiwan

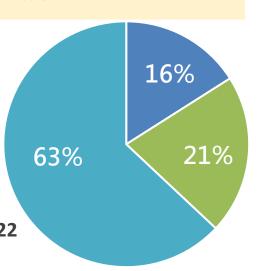


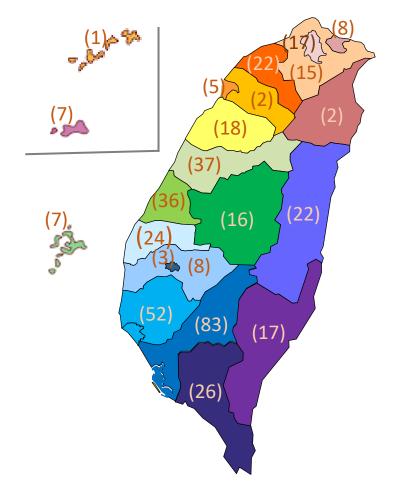
In 2022, a total of **54,217** HIV self-testing kits bought by individuals or distributed via NGOs

- 63% kits were ordered on-line
- 22% were the first time to HIV testing
- About 30% individuals disclosed their test results
- 0.4% had a positive HIVST test result
- 81 were newly diagnosed with HIV



The ways of HIV self-testing kits provided in Taiwan, 2022





The distribution of community service sites for HIV self-testing program in Taiwan, 2022 (> 400 service sites nationwide)

HIVST promotional project for high school & collage students

Taiwan CDC conducts the HIVST promotional project in Nov 2022–Dec 2023

Multiple advocacy of HIVST to young people (Taiwan CDC cooperates with the Ministry of Education, schools, local health departments,
 LGBTI+ friendly community health centers, and NGOs)

• Provide complimentary HIVST kits to every attending student who is willing to receive a free e-coupon via school

email (It is anonymous. The school email address is only for verifying student identity.)



2,243 students applied
(Nov 2022–May 2023)



Newsletter



FB & IG

Local health departments & schools HIVST promotional activities

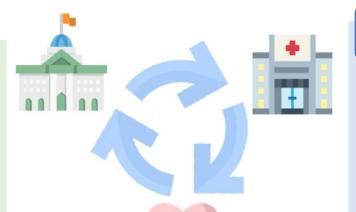




Collaborations for HIV testing, prevention and care in Taiwan

Public health authorities

- Community-based HIV & STD testing, counselling and referral services (Outreach testing services)
- Laboratory testing services
- HIV case management
- Partner services
- PrEP services
- Health education & consultation
- Increase linked to care & treatment adherence



Designated Hospitals/Clinics

- Facility-based HIV testing services
- Laboratory testing services
- Medical care services
- HIV case management
- Partner services
- PrEP services
- Increase linked to care & treatment adherence



NGOs

- Community-based HIV & STD testing, counselling and referral services (Outreach testing services)
- Provide supportive resources
- Increase linked to care & treatment adherence



Peer supportive resources





Outreach HIV testing services



HIVST with on-line counselling





Yi-Chen Tsai: loganita@cdc.gov.tw

