



2006

Taiwan Public Health Report



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Department of Health, R.O.C. (Taiwan)

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Foreword

Health of all directions is one of the main goals of the people in pursuing a satisfactory and harmonious life. For this, the Executive Yuan specifically made in 2005 the six dimensions of "physical and mental health of the population, sustainable health of the environment, healthy constitution of the government, healthy economic systems, healthy mutual trust of the society, and healthy quality of life" as the blueprint of government administration to strive jointly for by all citizens of the society.

When I assumed the post of Minister of Health on February 17, 2005, I presented in accordance with the above administration blueprint the "healthy Taiwan ; promising the people of Taiwan a healthy and safe life" as the vision of the Department of Health. I promised to adhere to the two main values of "abide by law and be practical; cherish life and love people" to bear on shoulders the four important missions of "enhancer of health for all, educator of healthy life, promoter of bio-medical industries, participator in international health" to lead the health teams on the basis of the existing foundations towards these goals all-heartedly.

To build a healthy Taiwan and to direct the people marching towards a physically and mentally healthy life, we must strive to construct and implement several policy plans that are life-loving. They include:

Activating Organizational Efficacy and Upgrading Administrative Efficiency

Gradual adjustment of the internal organization will be made to activate the organization of the Department of Health to make it an administratively-simplified, people-oriented, and high-efficiency administrative organization.

Building a Healthy Life and Practicing Healthy Behavior

Health fitness will be promoted; community action will be strengthened; healthy cities will be developed; a healthy life will be built; high-quality child-bearing and health promotion supporting environments will be created; healthy public policies will be established; care networks for chronic diseases will be improved; and integrated preventive healthcare services will be realized.

Constructing a Disease Control System to Free People from Threats of Diseases

Nosocomial infection control systems will be improved; medical care systems for emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases will be established; disease monitoring systems will be integrated and strengthened; and a national laboratory network for disease control will be set up.

Realizing Food and Drug Safety to Protect the Safety of the Public

Management of food and drugs will be promoted; laboratory testing and research will be unified; an international mutual recognition system will be established; control of drug abuse will be strengthened; monitoring of food and drugs after marketing will be implemented; and development of the bio-technology industries will be supported.



Establishing a Patient-Physician Partnership to Safeguard the Safety of Patients

A safe and healthy medical care environment will be promoted; the holistic healthcare policy will be realized; a community-minded hospital accreditation system will be established; diversified long-term care service systems will be developed; and medical care for the less privileged groups will be actively promoted.

Improving the National Health Insurance System to Create a Utopia of Health

The pluralistic fine-tuning plans will be implemented to resolve the financial crisis of the National Health Insurance; its constitution will be improved; financial indexes will be set up; and a forward-looking reform of the National Health Insurance system will be promoted.

Promoting International Health and Realizing the Internationalization of Health

Participation in the World Health Organization will be promoted; international cooperation and exchange and humanitarian medical aid will be strengthened; a specific unit fully responsible for international cooperation in health and foreign aid will be planned and established; manpower for international health will be developed.

Developing Biotechnological Medical Care and Promoting Health Industries

Evidence bases for health and medical care will be established; high-quality health policies will be realized; infrastructures for bio-medical industries will be constructed; national science and technology plans will be promoted; and infrastructures for the national health information system will be built.

Health work never ceases. They are adjusted constantly along with changes of the internal and external environments. They should be closely linked to the needs of the population to motivate them to self-care for their own health and also to become concerned with the health policies of the nation. The Department of Health will continue to do its best to protect the health of the people on the spirits of holistic care, carefulness and fairness.

M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.

Minister of Health

May 2007

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Chapter 1.

Health Policies



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Chapter 1. Health Policies

The formation of health policies requires a macroscopic field of vision, a long-term planning and concrete conceptions. The best decisions are made on the basis of the forward-looking trends of health issues and wisdom of scholars and experts consolidated. The various health policies implemented by the Department, therefore, focus as its goals the health and welfare of the people.

Work under the responsibilities of the Department, medical affairs, disease control, health promotion and protection, management of food, drugs and cosmetics, and the National Health Insurance, is highly related to every one. The major issues at present are how to utilize effectively the available resources and organization to provide the people with healthcare of all directions and to safeguard their health.

However, the health budget as percent of the total central government budget is generally low, only 2.6% as shown in Figure 1-1. Furthermore, the budget of the Department has not grown accordingly along with the aging of population and the increasing needs of the public (see Figure 1-2). The health teams, however, have continued all the way by their consistent enthusiasm and consideration to strive to promise the

people a healthy and safe life. In 2005, the approval rate of the health policies, as shown by public polls, was around 60%.

Section 1. Health Organization

1. Health Organization at the National Level

Currently, there are in the Department of Health of the Executive Yuan, bureaus of Medical Affairs, Pharmaceutical Affairs, Food Safety, Nursing and Health Care, International Cooperation, and Planning; and the NHI (National Health Insurance) Task Force, Information Management Center, Science and Technology Unit, and Hospital Management Committee. The subordinate organizations include the Bureau of National Health Insurance, Center for Disease Control, Bureau of Health Promotion, Bureau of Food and Drug Analysis, Bureau of Controlled Drugs, Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy, NHI Supervisory Committee, NHI Dispute Mediation Committee, and the NHI Medical Expenditure Negotiation Committee. There are also the Corporate National Health Research Institutes, Corporate Center for Drug Inspection and Examination, Taiwan Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation, Corporate

Figure 1-1

DOH Budget as Percent of Central Government Budget, 2001-2005

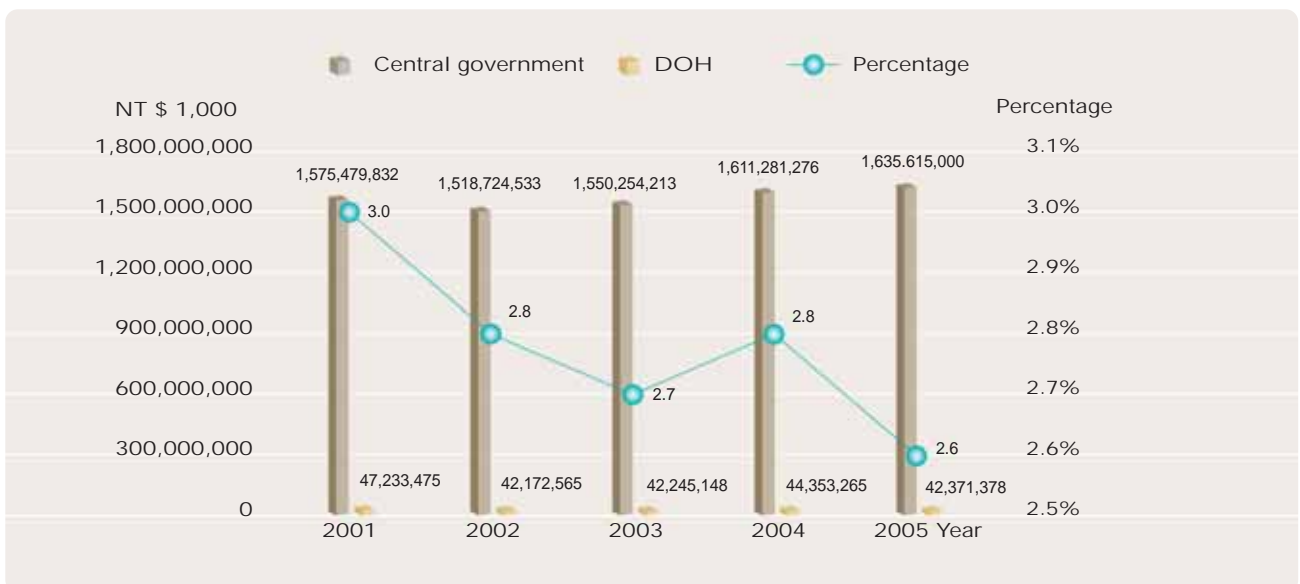
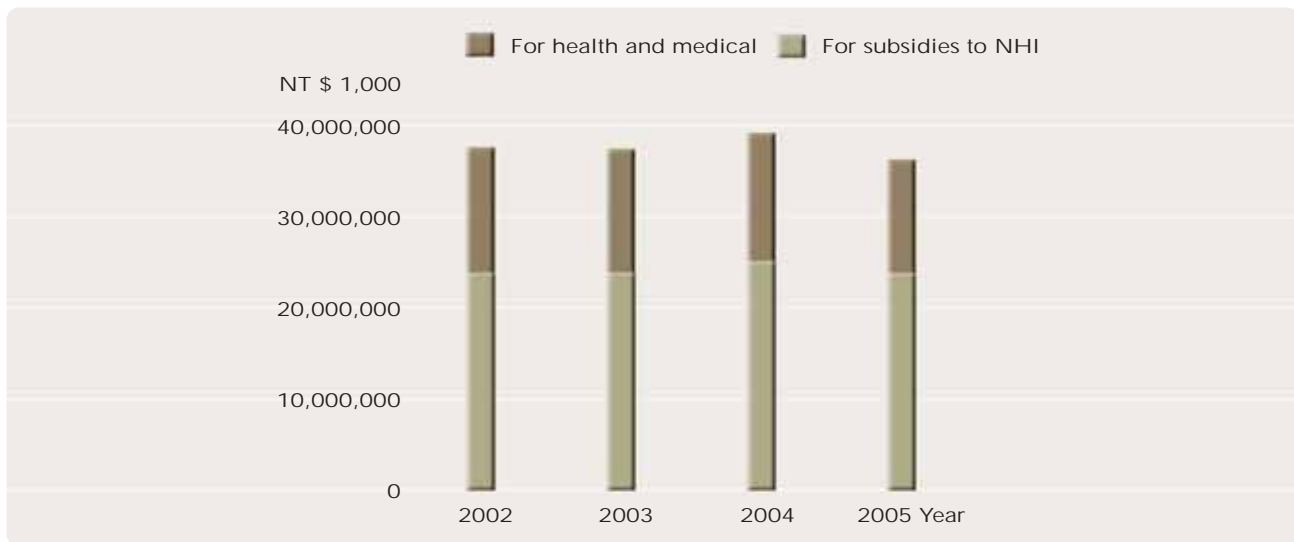


Figure 1-2 DOH Budget, 2002-2005



Foundation for Compensation for Drug Hazards, Corporate Organ Donation Registration Center, and 29 hospitals and branch hospitals, 5 sanatoriums, and one chest hospital as shown in Figure 1-3. Throughout the country, there are 25 county/city health bureaus, 373 health stations and 497 health rooms.

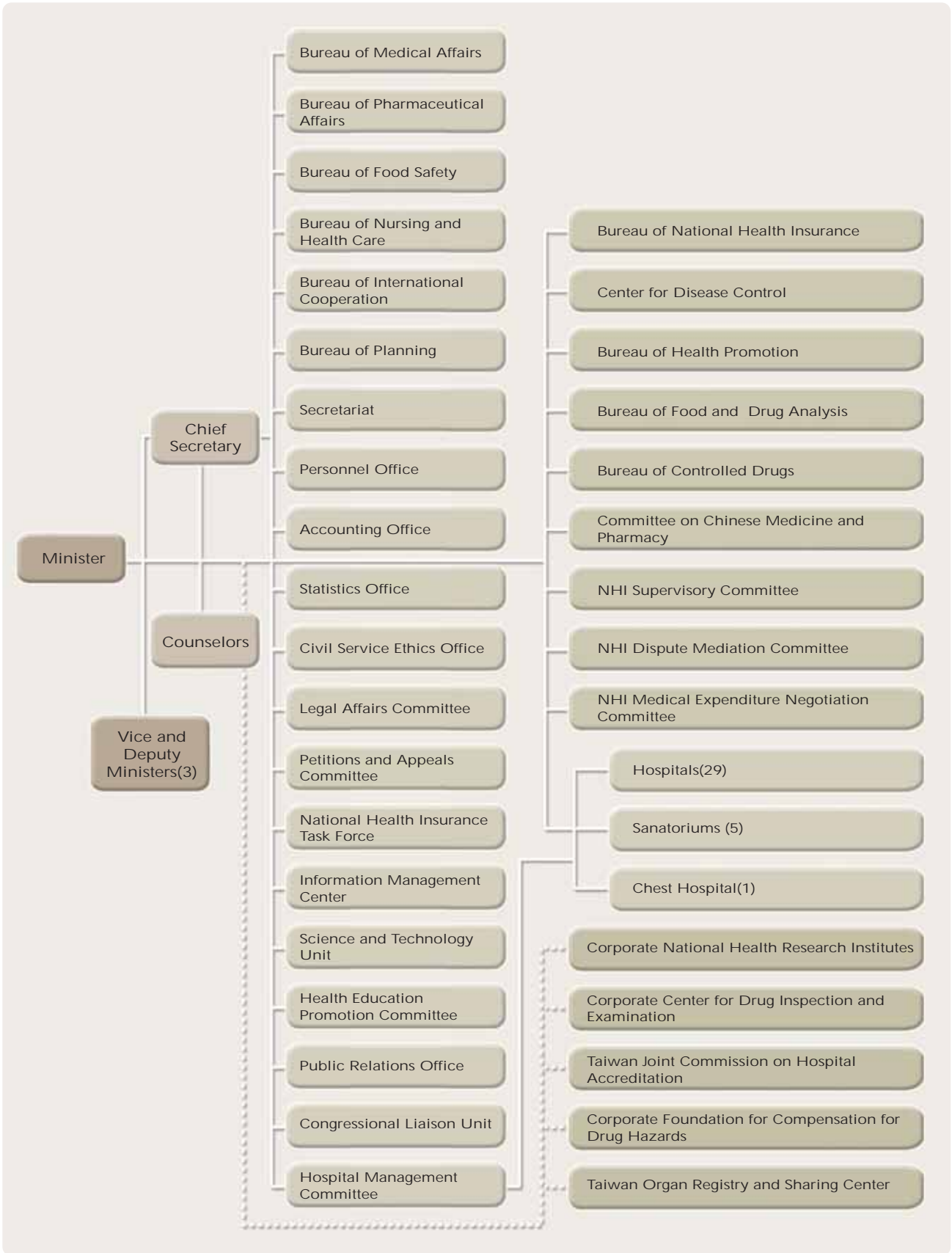
2. Restructuring of Organization

To elevate national competitiveness, countries such as the US, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, and even the mainland China, since the 1980s, have one by one drastically devoted to the reconstruction of their governmental organizations. In view of this, the government reconstruction in Taiwan began in 1993, though was interrupted several times for external reasons. In 1998, after the Executive Yuan promulgated the "Outlines of Government Reconstruction" as the highest guiding principles, reconstruction of the administrative organization speeded up. In July 1999, the Executive Yuan completed the major operation of downsizing the Taiwan Province to reduce Taiwan's administrative levels from the original four of the central, provincial, county/city and township to three, the central, county/city and township. In March 2001, a Government Reconstruction Committee was set up to expedite the reconstruction of the central government. In October 2002 and March 2005, the Ministry of the Interior and the Department of Health respectively

proposed a preliminary plan for a Ministry of Health and Social Security. Soon after the Organization Act of the Executive Yuan is amended, relevant laws and regulations governing the reconstruction of the Department will be formulated.

To activate the administrative organization of the Department, since 1999, action has been taken, on the principles of "simplifying organization, improving administrative efficiency, constructing an active government", "responsibility-sharing in policy-making and execution", and "integrating available resources and realizing the unification of duty and responsibility", to adjust the internal organization. Major work done in the last years are: 1) integration of the three disease-control systems to create a Center for Disease Control in July 1999; 2) consolidating four health promotion systems to set up a Bureau of Health Promotion in July 1999; 3) reconstructing the tuberculosis control system to reassign the public health aspects to the disease control system, and to reorganize the original Bureau of Chronic Disease Control into thoracic medicine hospitals; 4) establishing in 2005 the Bureau of International Cooperation to develop international health affairs; 5) establishing the Bureau of Nursing and Health Care in 2005 to be fully responsible for the promotion of special medical care services; and 6) establishing in 2005 the Hospital Management Committee for the supervision and management of the DOH-affiliated hospitals.

Figure 1-3 Organization of the Department of Health, the Executive Yuan



Section 2. Framework of Administration

In coordination with the four major administrative axes of the Executive Yuan, "in the Social Domain: completion of a security network for life", the Department has adopted as its vision, "promising the citizens a healthy and safe life", and planned mid-term and annual work plans to march toward, in the period 2005 to 2008, the goals of "healthcare of all directions, and safeguarding the health of all".

1. Mid-term plans

To realize the main administrative axes of the Executive Yuan, the Department has consolidated manpower and financial resources, with priority on cross-fiscal years and programs of importance and innovation, to assess the internal and external environments and issues of priority development. Goals for mid-term administration have been selected in accordance with the national long-term overall plans and the needs for forward-looking development and in coordination with the assessment of the program achievements of the past years, and strategic objectives and assessment indexes have been decided. In

coordination with the national mid-term financial goals and available resources, mid-term plans have thus been formulated as guidelines for the next four years.

The goal is to "promise the citizens a healthy and safe life" as the vision to march toward "healthcare of all directions, and safeguarding the health of all". The six major strategic objectives, as shown in Figure 1-4, are "reforming healthcare systems to upgrade care quality", "building a healthy life and promoting self-management", "strengthening disease control systems to free people from the threats of diseases", "strengthening management of food and drugs to protect the safety of the people", "developing medical science and technology and promoting biotechnology and health information industries", and "promoting international health affairs and participation in the World Health Organization"

2. Annual work plans

In accordance with the strategic objectives of the mid-term plans, program priorities of the year are decided and plans formulated. At the same time, values of the assessment indexes are determined and achievements are assessed to serve as a basis for future assessment and improvement.

Figure 1-4 Framework of Mid-Term Plans, 2005-2008

