

2020 Taiwan Health and Welfare Report

Audiobook in English

Foreword

Taiwan has strived for the ideal of "promoting the health and well-being of all people." As such, her Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) has carefully integrated social welfare, public health and medical resources to protect doctors and patients' rights, to deepen international health collaboration, to protect disadvantaged/vulnerable groups, and to establish well-received services.

At the initial outbreak of the COVID-19 in December 2019, Taiwan instituted onboard quarantine of passengers on direct flights from Wuhan to minimize the number of imported cases. In the same year, Taiwan upgraded her flu shot from a trivalent (three-strain) vaccine to a quadrivalent (four-strain) one to provide better protection.

To lend confidence to the healthcare system, resident physicians have been covered under Taiwan's "Labor Standards Act" since 2019. Simultaneously, the nurse to patient ratios has been legislated to ensure the quality of medical care. Since June 2019, Taiwan has implemented the "Suicide Prevention Act." and her "suicide prevention hotline" has been changed to a four-digit 1925, a phonetic that resembles "still love me" in Chinese to enable easier memorization and dialing for the public.

As for healthy food and effective medications, MOHW will continue to promulgate its "Five Rings of Food Safety" initiative while enacting the Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy Development Act. Additionally, Taiwan has also established a regional joint anti-epidemic network with the New Southbound Policy partner countries to cooperate in medicine, food, traditional medicine, mental health, oral hygiene, etc.

Moreover, Taiwan's National Health Insurance has promoted tiered medical care and NHI MediCloud systems to better prevent duplicated prescription of drugs and tests. Taiwan's " My Health Bank " system provides updated data about self-paid health exams and dependent management function to give people control of their health information.

In 2019, 15.28% of Taiwan's population was over the age of 65. MOHW has thus expanded the services and capacity of Long-Term Care Plan 2.0, creating a guardian network centered on people with dementia and caregivers. The plan aims to create a career path for care workers and to retain more of them.

Considering the increasing number of people with disabilities, MOHW proposed an action plan in response to the concluding observations made by the international review committee on the initial national Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) report in 2019 to protect the human rights of people with disabilities.

Concerning maternity benefits and children's rights, Taiwan continues to provide childcare allowances for children under the age of 2, and to promote public and quasi-public childcare to lessen the burden of childcare. In April 2019, "The Protection of Children and Youth Welfare and Rights Act" was amended offering a more comprehensive buttress for children's safety and rights.

A solid healthcare system serves as a foundation for a prosperous nation. In 2019, MOHW held the "World Health Day Now - 10,000 Steps for All and Walk Our Way into WHA!" campaign to demonstrate the Taiwanese resolve to become an active member of the World Health Organization.

Finally, MOHW will gather inputs from all segments of society and to integrate central and local resources to become "a respected, trusted agency" that strives for Taiwanese health and well-being.

Part 1 Health and welfare policy

The organizational structure of the Ministry of Health and Welfare is as follows: with the minister overseeing ministry affairs, he is aided by two deputy ministers, one vice minister and one secretary-general. The Ministry of Health and Welfare consists of nine departments, six administrative departments and 45 affiliated agencies.

The ministry's financial statement for 2019 came to a little over 220 billion NTD, with social insurance expenses making up the largest portion at 81.26% of the total budget.

Guided by a mindset of globalization, localization and innovation, the Ministry shall integrate social welfare and healthcare resources to formulate integrated and consistent policies on relevant issues including welfare services, caring for the disadvantaged, medical care, national health insurance, health promotion, disease prevention and food and drug administration so that we can deliver comprehensive, one-stop services that will enable all citizens to lead more joyful and healthier lives.

In response to current international trends, we have endeavored to incorporate gender perspective in all our policies, plans and measures. Not only that, the ministry has also embraced gender equality policies and CEDAW in the hopes of improving gender equality in all aspects of health and welfare.

Part 2 Health and welfare indicators

Rising incomes, advances in medicine and health care, and greater health awareness have led to a gradual increase in Taiwan's life expectancy. Nevertheless, relevant issues of health and care that come with an aging population may affect not only national health expenditure (NHE) and

resource distributions, but also the rate of economic growth. In this chapter, we will present a summary of key indicators in health and welfare statistics.

At the end of 2019, Taiwan had a registered population of 23.6 million, which is an increase of 0.6% compared with the previous year. Life expectancy in Taiwan has been increasing over the years and reached 80.9 in 2019. Women live longer than men.

In 2019, there were 175 thousand deaths and the crude mortality rate was 743 per 100 thousand - an increase of 1.4% compared to the previous year. The top three leading causes were cancer, heart disease and pneumonia. Being the leading cause of death, cancer claimed 50 thousand lives and on average, 138 people were dying of cancer each day. Further calculation indicates that every 10 minutes and 27 seconds, a person would die because of cancer. The duration is 12 seconds shorter compared to that from 2018.

Taiwan's National Health Expenditure (NHE) has shown steady growth, the figure has reached NTD 1.2 trillion in 2018. NHE as a share of GDP increased from 6.3% in 2008 to 6.6% in 2018, while per capita NHE increased from NTD 36,000 to NTD 51,000 .

By the end of 2019, there were 260,000 low-income and middle-low-income households, with a total of 640,000 people and the government Ministry provided 5.3 billion NTD in living subsidy to children from low-income families and children and youths from vulnerable families.

Part 3 Health Supporting Environment

In order to achieve the goal of “health for all”, the Health Promotion Administration planned health promotion policies to benefit people at different stages of life (i.e. from cradle to paradise), creating an environment that is conducive to health.

In terms of health promotion, we have actively promoted healthy lifestyles in different domains to raise health literacy for the general public. We collaborate with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and 22 municipal governments to promote various plans for health promoting schools, healthy workplace, healthy hospitals, healthy cities and so forth. Guided by the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, we endeavor to build healthy public policy, create supportive environments, strengthen community action, offer health services and enhance personal healthy lifestyles as pillars that steer our system of health services. Our services shall be people-centered and enable the general public to systematically reduce risk factors to health, such as tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy food, lack of exercises and so forth, so that people can lead healthier lifestyles. As of the end of 2019, there are 374 Health Promoting Schools, 22,193 Healthy Workplaces, 202 Healthy hospitals and 34 National Community Nutrition Promotion Centers. More importantly, 12 municipalities have committed to the promotion of health city as a priority in their administration.

With regards to measures of health protection, we offer a variety of services including pregnant woman prenatal care, hearing screening for newborns, children's preventive healthcare services and health education guidance services, vision healthcare, adult preventive healthcare services, cancer screening, chronic disease prevention, tobacco hazards prevention through methods and so forth. Through these services, we stand a better chance of early discovery of symptoms so that preemptive care can be administered to protect the health of the general public. Taking the four-leading cancer screening as an example, we served approximately 5.015 million people in 2019 alone and helped 60,000 people discover precancerous lesions and cancer.

In addition, in light of population aging, we are committed to helping seniors to improve the quality of their lives by mitigating the threat of chronic diseases, promoting better health for seniors, preventing frailty,

delaying disability and aging, and promoting age-friendly cities. In 2019, 22 municipalities took part in our age-friendly cities campaign, with 645 healthcare organizations certified as age-friendly healthcare institutions. By transforming our society to respect senior citizens' rights to healthy aging, our senior citizens will be able to age in place and enjoy better health.

Part 4 Healthcare

In our promotion of the healthcare network project, the Ministry has sought to balance resources available at hospitals in each region, fortified the network for emergency care through joint regional defense. This will in turn increase the capacity for medical services in remote regions and achieve local healthcare. As of the end 2019, there are 22,992 medical institutions in Taiwan. Among these institutions, 480 are hospitals and 428 are qualified with hospital accreditation. In addition, in an effort to safeguard patients' rights to a good death, the Hospice Palliative Care Act was promulgated in 2000, followed by Patient Right to Autonomy Act" in 2019, making Taiwan the first in Asia to legislate such a law. Furthermore, the Ministry continued to provide dental health services to young children along with better dental care for the disabled.

In terms of mental health, "Wellbeing" mental health learning website is launched, the 24-hour 1925 suicide prevention hotline is provided for mental health consulting, and "Mental Health Network Promotion Project" is promoted for suicide reporting cases visiting and caring. In addition, the Ministry subsidized municipal governments to promote several mental health affairs which stipulated by law, such as paying follow-up visits to psychotic patients in the community and enforcing mandatory hospitalization/community treatment and so on. The Ministry has also continued to provide diverse resources to bolster medical care for

addicts and subsidies for the treatment and therapy for those struggling with substance/alcohol addiction.

In terms of medical manpower, Taiwan currently has 15 laws and regulations governing the licensing requirements of medical personnel and the Ministry has continued to organize and host talent training, incubation project and OTJ training for different medical personnel, specialist physician certification programs and general post-graduate medical training programs. As of 2019, Taiwan had 326,691 practicing health professionals. In addition, effective from September 1 2019, resident physicians shall be applicable to the Labor Standards Act in conjunction with amendments to the Medical Care Act by incorporating clauses on the labor rights of physicians. In an effort to improve the quality of child birth services and improve physician-patient relationship, the Ministry has been providing relief for childbirth accidents and resolved a total of 291 applications in 2019 while actively promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the hopes of reducing the number of litigations, thereby a better environment for practicing physicians. On top of that, in order to create an effective clinical training system for doctors of traditional Chinese medicine, the MOHW assisted 95 training hospitals to provide training for 530 trainees and selected 11 teaching hospitals to implement the experimental program for traditional Chinese physicians.

With regards to improving the quality of medical care, the Ministry sought to promote a patient-centered hospital accreditation system, annual objectives for healthcare quality and patient safety and a patient safety reporting system. By promoting organ donation and establishing a database for organ transplant data, the Ministry is committed to facilitating effective utilization of donated organs and improve the health of citizens. In addition, the Ministry maintained the operation of EMR Exchange Center to enable inter-institutional exchange of records to spare people from having to go between different hospitals. Furthermore, the Ministry has also pushed for

Bureau of Labor Insurance, the Centers for Disease Control and the Ministry's Department of Mental and Oral Health to be automatically connected to the EMR Exchange Center to improve the efficiency of information flow.

Utilizing telemedicine technology from medical specialists, the MOHW has committed to actively supporting hospitals in offshore islands and rural regions to improve their service quality and promote rural medical care to safeguard local residents' health rights. Besides, the Ministry has been actively nurturing local medical personnel in indigenous area and offshore islands and encouraging medical personnel to set up their clinics in these regions. In addition, we have also subsidized the rebuilding of existing public health centers, upgrading of relevant medical and imaging equipment and increasing internet bandwidth so as to speed up telemedicine services. The Ministry has also provided transportation subsidies for the general public so as to have better local healthcare and facilitating access to medical services; by deploying the immediate medical helicopter transportation and aircraft standby mechanism, patients from offshore islands and rural regions the emergency aid able.

The Ministry has implemented improvement strategies to eradicate health disparity for aboriginal communities in an effort to promote tribal health and equality. committed to the training of publicly-funded medical personnel and reconstruction/renovation of health stations and purchasing of new medical devices; subsidized transportation expenses for general public seeking medical help/taking pregnancy tests and thereby making medical care more accessible;

In addition, in an effort to safeguard the health of general public and eradicate the discrepancy in healthcare standards, the Ministry has endeavored to improve prenatal health of new immigrants and reduce life and treatment difficulties caused by language barriers. Not only that, for patients of illnesses such as chronic diseases, cancer and other rare diseases,

the Ministry has also helped by bringing medical care and subsidies to those in need in order to ensure their rights to receive medical help and thus promoting equality in healthcare.

For individuals with special needs such as PCB-poisoned patients, patients with Hansen's disease, and people infected with HIV, an effort has been made to ensure their rights and privileges to proper care through DOTS or case management to provide the required care and services at designated hospitals.

Part 5 Long-term Care Services

Taiwan's population structure is affected by low birth rate and an increase in life expectancy. The population aged 65 years and older has been growing rapidly. As of the end of March, 2018, Taiwan officially became an aged society and by 2025, the population aged 65 and over is expected to reach 20.1%, consequently making Taiwan a "super-aged" society. In light of this trend, there's greater urgency to establish a sound long-term care system, to develop human resource and facilities, and to ensure service quality. Consequently the Ministry began its implementation of the MOHW's National Ten-Year Long-Term Plan Care 2.0 (hereafter referred to as "Long-Term Care Plan 2.0) from January, 2017 to promote an integrated Community Care Service Network as a response to the long-term care needs of Taiwan's aging population.

Improving upon Long-Term Care Plan 1.0, Long-Term Care Plan 2.0 has increased the number of care recipients and service items. The plan has been extended to prevent disability and delay its onset. Not only that, it has also integrated home hospice and home-based medical care with the purpose of achieving the vision of "aging in place" to meet the growing demand for seniors' services. The plan therefore called for establishing a community-based care service system that would support diversified

services in a family-based, home-based, community-based and residential cares that are closely knit in order to create a long-term care service system that is premium in quality, affordable in costs and easily available to all.

The MOHW has been working to integrate different services into community-based integrated care service network based on the basic concept of cultivating community integrated service center (“A”), combined service center (“B”), and LTC stations around the blocks (“C”) throughout Taiwan. All municipalities have been encouraged to work with long-term care service providers, medical institutions, nursing homes and Non-profit organizations to realize this vision. The Long-Term Care Hotline “1966” offer efficient assistance for those seeking for extra help. The long-term-care manager will access your home-care needs, and link you with trustful long-term care resource to meet your further needs.

Part 6 Communicable disease prevention

When it comes to managing communicable diseases, it is vital to implement disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, preparedness, research and proper immunization. Additionally, relevant regulations must stay abreast with current global trends and changing health needs through appropriate revision in order to construct a solid framework that will ensure the health and wellbeing of the people.

The Communicable Disease Control Act and HIV Infection Control and Patient Rights Protection Act serve as key regulations governing infectious disease prevention and control. With regards to administrative framework, the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC) under the Ministry of Health and Welfare (the Ministry) is responsible for the formulation and review of communicable disease control policy while local governments formulate and implement specific disease control plans.

In the event of an epidemic, health units at various administrative level may decide to initiate the activation of the command center with Taiwan CDC functioning as the International Health Regulations Focal Point to liaise with other countries.

The major communicable diseases in Taiwan include TB, enterovirus, acute hepatitis A and other communicable disease of the enteric tract, dengue fever and other vector-borne diseases, HIV infection and other blood-borne diseases, and seasonal influenzas. For communicable diseases that can be prevented by vaccination, with the exception of public-funded influenza and pneumococcal vaccine for adults, Taiwan CDC provides 10 routine vaccines for infants and children free of charge that will protect them against 15 communicable diseases. Through diversified surveillance systems for communicable diseases, integrated notification system and epidemic investigation, our national communicable disease inspection network enables real-time detection and diagnostic tests for emerging and imported communicable diseases in conjunction with relevant quarantine for ships, aircraft and people. On top of that, prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 when relevant information was still scarce, Taiwan preemptively activated corresponding response measures in December 2019, and implemented onboard quarantine of direct flights from Wuhan to prevent confirmed imported cases from spreading the virus locally

To prepare for major epidemic and urgent incidents of public health, the Ministry continues to maintain the communicable disease medical network and implement periodic inspections of isolation beds at hospitals responsible for epidemic response; regular training and drills are also conducted to enhance preparedness. Besides that, the Ministry also maintains a Level III Inventory Management System for anti-epidemic supplies while ensuring healthcare-associated infection control and laboratory biosafety management along with continual improvement in epidemic research and expansion of relevant international collaborations.

Part 7 Food and Drug Management

The Taiwan Food and Drug Administration is abbreviated as TFDA, committed to ensuring food safety and has therefore continued to implement its “Five-Point Food Safety” policy to achieve inter-domain integration of five major aspects: source management, production management, market inspection, vendor accountability and total supervision in order to create a comprehensive network of food safety. In addition, TFDA has launched a nation-wide inspection project and audited approximately 150,000 domestic businesses, tested 460,000 samples of food and relevant products with a passing rate of over 90%.

To ensure the safety and quality of medicinal products, TFDA actively promotes drug administration reform to improve the process of medicinal products regulations and registration. In addition, TFDA implements quality and safety monitoring and source management such as border inspection for imported active ingredients to improve the safety of pharmaceutical use. TFDA has also utilized new media to strengthen the dissemination for drug abuse prevention and built the spectroscopic database for drugs and new ingredients as part of the new-generation anti-drug strategy. The violation rate for illegal drugs has decreased significantly from 11.81% in 2010 to 2.66% in 2019. Furthermore, the Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy Development Act has been promulgated on December 31 2019. MOHW promotes tighter border control for Chinese medicinal materials and the quality of monitoring for Chinese medicines available in the market. MOHW has also assisted Chinese herbal medicine factory in implementing the TCM Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practice Validation.

To ensure the health safety for medical devices and cosmetics and facilitate industrial development, TFDA has promoted for the legislation and promulgation of “Medical Devices Act” and “Cosmetic Hygiene and Safety Act.” In order to strengthen the quality control for medicinal

products and medical devices, TFDA has participated in 16 inspection proficiency tests and announced a total of 78 inspection methods as of 2019. Moreover, TFDA has continued to ensure that all medicine and medical device manufacturing and distribution operations are conducted in accordance with international PIC/S GMP and ISO13485 standards. Thus far, 144 food, medicine, medical device, and cosmetics inspection bodies have been certified by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, for a total of 1,718 items.

In March 2019, TFDA LINE@ was created to utilize new media for real-time dissemination of knowledge and policies on food, medicine, medical device, and cosmetics to help the general public cultivate literacy when TFDA actively organized “Risk Management and Crisis Handling Workshop” to strengthen organizational risk management. In addition, TFDA African Swine Fever Response Taskforce was also established to tackle the situation at hand.

Part 8 National Health Insurance and National Pension

Taiwan’s National Health Insurance (NHI) is well known for its advantages such as accessibility, affordability, convenience and high customer satisfaction. It has maintained not only a satisfaction rate of close to 90% domestically but also attracted hundreds of foreigners each year to visit Taiwan and learn about its advantages. As of the end of 2019, the total number of insured people came to 24.02 million and the NHI coverage rate hovered around 99.84%. As much as 92.6% of the medical institutions in Taiwan have contracted with the National Health Insurance Administration (NHIA) enabling improved healthcare access. Health insurance funding mainly derives from insurance premiums paid by the insured, their

employers and the government; a small portion also comes from external financial resources.

In 2019, the average number of outpatient visits per person per year was 15.37; the number of hospitalizations per person per year was 0.15 and the average length of hospital stay was 1.38 days. The NHIA has been actively promoting differentiating levels of care and vertical integration of the healthcare system along with the innovative establishment of “NHI MediCloud System” to achieve cross-medical institutions sharing of medical records. This will effectively prevent duplicated prescription and medical examinations and facilitate sustainable development of NHI.

To enhance public control over their own health, people can now register with the “My Health Bank” system to query their personal medical information including outpatient, inpatient, medication, surgery, allergies, medical examination results, medical images and so on. In 2019, new features including self-paid health examination results, dependent management functions and major illness/injury reminder functions were added in 2019. As of the end of 2019, My Health Bank had been used by 1.63 million people.

Taiwan’s National Pension Insurance (NPI) was established to cover citizens aged between 25 and 65 years old who do not participate in relevant social insurances for military personnel, civil servants and teachers, laborers or farmers. As of the end of 2019, there were more than 3.23 million insured persons and 1.83 million benefit recipients of NPI, which operates at a scale over 369.2 billion NTD. In 2019, the Return on Investment for NPI came to 12% and the Ministry will continue to review the NPI schemes to ensure its sustainable development.

Part 9 Social Welfare Services

In order to ensure appropriate care for disadvantaged groups in light of the trends of low birth rates, population aging and rapid changes in social structure and family functions, the government has planned and integrated welfare policies that used to be divided into women, children and youth, the elderly, and the disabled persons. By pooling relevant family and community resources, we hope to realize our vision that provides guaranteed rights, supportive families, a friendly society and progress for all.

MOHW's Social and Family Affairs Administration operates to provide family-centered and community-based services to establish interdisciplinary, integrated platform in order to provide community-based, accessible and diversified services. At the same time, the Administration has also created an assistive mechanism involving the government and families working together to shoulder the burdens of childcare, support the different needs of different families, adhere to the Act of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, lighten the burden of childcare on families so as to safeguard the wellbeing of children and youths. Furthermore, the Administration is also committed to empowering children and youths to take part in public affairs by supporting them to speak out for their own rights.

Also, social services for women are aimed to empower women from their standpoint and the Ministry has been offering diverse services for women through the 30 women's welfare center around Taiwan. By operating the Taiwan Women's Center as a platform to facilitate interaction and connection between domestic and international women's

organizations and between public and private agencies to create and offer more opportunities for equal development for women.

At the end of 2019, the population of aged person in Taiwan came to 3.6 million, which accounted for 15.28% of the total population. In response to the trends towards an aged society, MOHW now seeks to promote a range of senior welfare services by focusing on aspects of economic security, health maintenance, living care and social participation. By expanding the number of community care locations and facilitating social participation for seniors, we aim to accomplish the goal of active aging.

There were 1.18 million persons with disabilities which account for approximately 5% of total population in Taiwan. In order to ensure the rights to live independently and be included in the community, the Ministry ensure the economic security, provide diverse and continuous services, improve accessible environments, and increase the opportunities for social participation for persons with disabilities.

Part 10 Social Assistance and Social Work

The social assistance provided in Taiwan involves the promotion of relevant measures, including life assistance for low-income households, medical subsidies along with employment services and poverty alleviating solutions to ensure that people in need will receive appropriate assistance.

Counseling and Shelter Service for vagrants offers three-stage services including “emergency service, transition service and stabilization service” to help vagrants rebuild their lives.

The Ministry has established the 1957 social welfare hotline to provide free consultation and referral services all year round (from 8 am. to 10 pm.) for the public.

The disaster relief services that MOHW provides encompass missions such as “residential relocation for victims”, “material preparation for people’s livelihood” and “consolation and care for victims”. In 2019, there are a total of 5,772 shelters across Taiwan that could accommodate up more than 2.49 million people.

In order to manage the behavior of contribution solicitation, and to properly utilize social resources, the government issued Charity Donations Destined For Social Welfare Funds Implementation Regulations in 2006. As of the end of 2019, the Ministry has approved 529 donations for 464 groups, with a total amount of 4.38226 billion NTD.

In an effort to establish a professional service system of social work and safeguard the welfare and rights of disadvantaged minorities, the Ministry has committed to the training and deployment of social work manpower and create a friendly environment for relevant works to be performed.

The Ministry has also been working with community development organizations to promote relevant welfare services and expand community service capabilities so as to promote community residents’ welfare and foster stronger sense of community affiliation.

To facilitate and encourage the development of volunteer services, the Volunteer Service Act enforced in 2001 along with the establishment of the information integration system for national volunteer services”and “management system of materials and volunteers for major disasters” to

manage volunteer data and assist disaster rescue. In 2019, the number of total volunteers in Taiwan has reached 1.1 million.

Pursuant to Article 21 of the Public Assistance Act, emergency aid shall be provided by competent authority at the local municipality for under any of the following situations for citizens in need of assistance due to difficult situations. In 2019, the number of beneficiaries who have received relief payment exceeded 40,000, with relief payment amount reaching 373.26 million NTD.

Part 11 Sexual Violence Prevention and Protective Services

In 2019, the number of domestic violence victims that have called to report their situation came to 103,930; Among all the reported incidents, most fall into the category of intimate violence, with women being the majority of victims (81.8%). In order to promote domestic violence prevention and protect the rights of victims, the Ministry has promoted and supervised local governments to actively develop a variety of victim protection and assistance solutions along with the establishment of relevant service resources and strengthen offender intervention plans while developing preventive service programs and offer relevant education and training to strengthen the competency of service personnel. In addition, the Ministry has also enhanced its social security net enhancement program to ensure task division between public and private departments and mechanism for collaboration in order to upgrade the functions of the domestic violence protection network in order to improve the efficacy of case processing and relevant services.

In 2019, a total of 8,160 victims of sexual assault have reported their cases and 82% of the victims were women. The number of sexual harassment complaints received by relevant units and organizations came to 831 and 647 cases were established. Sexual assault and sexual harassment tend to be tied to issues of gender inequality, power control and so forth and the general public tend to have misconception and gender biases towards victims of sexual harassment and assaults. In order to help victims become more willing to receive assistance through our services, in addition to providing diverse and appropriate intervention services and implementing relevant prevention education, the Ministry has also sought to enhance the competence and techniques of service personnel and ensure the rights of service recipients.

In 2019, the total number of child protection victims came to 11,061. Among these victims, 43% were male and 57% were female. In terms of age distribution, the majority (51%) fell in the 12-18 year-old group, followed by the 6-12 year-old group (29%), with 0-6 year-old group being the least in number. To ensure the safety and welfare of children, the Ministry has integrated child protection, high-risk family reporting and relevant service systems as part of the enhancement for social safety net program by interconnecting diverse risk information and implementing full-scale assessment of child protection and risk factors. In addition, the relevant service procedures and structuralized assessment tools and quality control mechanisms have also been established to facilitate the handling of relevant cases. Furthermore, the Ministry has also subsidized local governments to collaborate with private organizations in the development of resources for parent education services and establishment of integrated centers of regional medical services and child protection in the hopes of strengthening child protection.

Part 12 Research, Development and International Cooperation

In 2019, the Ministry of Health and Welfare had 467 million NTD in budget for technological development. The budget has gone towards 1. task-oriented empirical policy researches and 2. development of innovative and translational research with a total of 787 projects being implemented. For task-oriented empirical policy researches, the projects include infectious disease prevention and control, public health promotion, food and drug management, research, development and promotion of traditional Chinese medicine, improved healthcare systems, omnidirectional reinforcement of National Health Insurance system, mental and oral health monitoring improvement, Gender-based violence prevention and protection resources and services, improving welfare service system and develop fundamental researches for social welfare, upgrading the national long-term service information system while innovative and translational researches involve the integrated platform of National Biobank Consortium of Taiwan (NBCT), cancer translational studies and promotion of clinical experiments. In addition, the Health and Welfare Data Science Center also provided big data on health and welfare and functions as a critical analytic platform for the assessment of government policies and academic research development.

The Ministry is committed to international health collaborations and exchanges by promoting and participating in international health organizations and talent training. The Ministry joins forces with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' medical diplomacy on international humanitarian aid.

Despite not being officially invited to attend the 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA), Minister of Health and Welfare, Shih-Chung Chen, led the WHA Action Team to Geneva to host 71 bilateral meetings with key countries, such as the United States and other international organizations, to share Taiwan's medical achievements.

Minister Chen served as the Life Sciences Innovation Forum (LSIF) Executive Board Chair and a keynote speaker to promote Digital Health at the 9th APEC High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy in Chile and also held bilateral meetings with economies, such as the U.S. and Japan. Besides, the Ministry successfully secured grants from APEC to host two international conferences in Taiwan.

Taiwan has launched the New Southbound Policy (NSP) since 2016. With global recognition for Taiwan's medical achievements, the Ministry collaborates with relevant government agencies to develop healthcare supply chains. As of 2019, we have managed to secure orders that worth approximately 4.4 million USD. In 2019, Taiwan's overall export to the 7 NSP partner countries fell by 12.6% while medical device exports growth increased by 7.5%, better than the overall exports, suggesting concrete achievements have been seen in the Medical and Health NSP.