

Promoting Various Strategies for 2023 Dementia Prevention and Care Policy and Action Plan 2.0

Strategy 1: Recognize Dementia as a Public Health Priority

- I. The Ministry of Health Welfare (MOHW) already held “Dementia Prevention and Care Policy and Action Plan 2.0” review meeting in April 2023. Implementation outcomes and achievements have been announced in the Long-term Care Zone of the Ministry once every six months and the mechanism to allow external feedback is in place. The nationwide dementia action results presentation was held in December 2023; relevant ministries and departments and local governments were invited to share and present their accomplishments and to collaborate in the implementation of the dementia prevention and care policy agenda.
- II. Respective local governments have defined their dementia action plans and have been announced on their website. MOHW has had respective local governments reflect upon their action plans and release implementation outcomes each year.
- III. Regarding laws and regulations on the protection of human rights for people with disabilities (including people with dementia), 98% of amendments have been completed. For the remainder, regulatory authorities have disseminated official communications and issued public statements on response measures.
- IV. The Ministry of Labor already finished defining the “Employment Program for People with Dementia (2021-2025)” in December 2020. It helped 12 in-service people work steadily and provided 122 people with dementia with career services in 2023. Eighty-one of them successfully found a job; the employment rate was 66.39%.
- V. The Financial Supervisory Commission formulated the “Economic Security Protection Program for People with Dementia” in 2021, and continued to supervise financial institutions to promote insurance products for the elderly, eldercare trusts, and commercial reverse mortgages, and disseminated the information about dementia awareness, fraud prevention, and property trusts.

- VI. The Ministry of Transportation and Communication (MOTC) compiled and distributed the Traffic Safety Handbook for Seniors in August 2023. Also in 2023, it launched the Cross-Agency Traffic Safety Promotion Project for Senior Citizens in a continuation of its efforts to promote traffic safety for elderly individuals.
- VII. In 2023, the National Police Agency under the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) received 1,854 missing persons reports involving people with dementia and successfully resolved 1,838 of these cases, for a recovery rate of 99.14%.

Strategy 2: Raise Dementia Awareness and Friendliness

- I. The Health Promotion Administration (HPA), MOHW has implemented a comprehensive plan to facilitate a correct understanding of dementia by the entire population. As of 2023, over 3.83 million citizens and professional caregivers, or 16.4% of the total population in Taiwan, have participated in dementia advocacy courses and related activities.
- II. The HPA, MOHW has offered courses on dementia prevention and the establishment of dementia-friendly communities on the Civil Service e-Learning Platform. A total of 152,000 individuals have completed these courses, and as of 2023, 281,000 public sector employees have undergone dementia awareness training.
- III. The Ministry of Education (MOE) has integrated concepts related to dementia into learning content, and incorporated them into textbooks for elementary and junior high schools. Moreover, to enhance teaching professionals' understanding of dementia, talent courses have been conducted to implement curriculum instruction focused on dementia issues.
- IV. The HPA, MOHW subsidizes 22 local governments to implement dementia-friendly community plan, resulting in 169 dementia-friendly communities in counties, cities, townships, and villages by the end of 2023. In 2023 alone, over 81,373 people have been newly recruited as dementia-friendly angels, reaching 534,000 individuals all over Taiwan. Furthermore, a total of 3,549 groups became dementia-friendly organizations, achieving 15,000 groups finally.
- V. In terms of reinforcing the assistance provided by transport

practitioners to people with dementia in taking public transportation and education and communication projects, related units of the MOTC have included public literacy of people with dementia as a part of their educational training, including the shipping business, the Taiwan Railways Administration, the Directorate General of Highways, and the Taiwan International Ports Corporation, Ltd. so that transport practitioners can assist people with dementia in taking public transportation and educate and communicate to them.

- VI. Regarding the management of senior people's driver's licenses (those who are 75 and older), from July 1, 2017 to the end of 2023, Motor Vehicles Offices had sent out 610 thousand replacement notices in total and 547 thousand drivers had completed the process (among them, around 113 thousand people turned in their driver's licenses). The completion rate as a whole was 89.6%.
- VII. The National Police Agency, MOI has formulated a set of questioning procedures for suspects to establish standard procedures that support the handling of cases of people with dementia who are mistakenly taken into police custody for legal violations. The procedures specify that if a suspect is deemed unable to provide a complete statement due to mental impairment, legal aid organizations shall be notified to assign lawyers to defend them.
- VIII. The Department of Civil Affairs, MOI is collaborating with the principal coordinators and co-organizers to raise awareness of the Dementia Prevention and Care Policy and Action Plan.

Strategy 3: Reduce the Risk of Dementia

- I. The HPA, MOHW promotes the reduction of modifiable risk factors for dementia, which include obesity, diabetes, hypertension, insufficient physical activity, smoking, and excessive consumption of alcohol. The information is widely disseminated with the goal of increasing health literacy and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- II. Under the direction of MOHW, an effort was made to increase public awareness of mental health in 2023. City and county health bureaus across Taiwan organized a total of 1,654 activities to promote mental health among the elderly (including depression advocacy), and conducted 1,062 mental health promotion, suicide prevention, and

depression education and training sessions.

Strategy 4: Comprehensive Dementia Diagnosis, Treatment, Care and Support Network

- I. As of the end of 2023, the confirmed diagnosis rate was 74.03% for dementia. The number of people with dementia is inferred on the basis of the population released by the MOI at the end of 2023 and the survey findings of the dementia prevalence rate of the Ministry (about 317 thousand people). The number of people with a confirmed diagnosis of dementia, on the other hand, is calculated by the sum of people with dementia that are in control through the dementia system, the care management system, and the disability system created by MOHW, with the deceased excluded (about 240 thousand people).
- II. The MOHW has deployed 533 Support Centers for People with Dementia and their Families and 116 Integrated Dementia Care Centers. In terms of community-based care, there are 868 daycare centers (including centers for people with dementia and small-size multi-function services) and 31 group homes. In addition, 2,451 institutional dementia care beds have been allocated for dementia care in welfare institutions for the elderly, institutions for people with physical disability, nursing homes, veterans homes, and MOHW affiliated hospitals.
- III. For the case management service rate among people with dementia, around 64 thousand people were registered in the “dementia care service management system” of MOHW. Among them, 59 thousand people received case management service (those with a confirmed diagnosis and having received the consultation or referral service for the year); the case management service rate was up to 91%.
- IV. Regarding dementia staff trainings, as of the end of 2023, 63,260 long-term care workers have completed dementia training, accounting for 58% of the 107,649 long-term care medical professionals and care workers.
- V. The Ministry of Labor held focused, home, and digital learning and refresher training for foreign home-based care workers. In 2023, a total of 206 thousand people attended the training and acquired certification of learning hours , a growth rate of 44% compared to 2022. In addition,

accumulatively, a headcount of 1.627 million people browsed digital learning courses.

Strategy 5: Support and Assistance to Family Caregivers of People with Dementia

- I. The MOHW has promoted “Family Caregiver Support Service Stations” and has expanded to 123 locations across 22 local governments to provide 1,840 caregiving skill training, stress relief activities, and support groups.
- II. The Family Caregiver Hotline and the Dementia Care Hotline served 13,839 and 8,263 calls respectively.

Strategy 6: Construction of Dementia Information Collection and Analysis Platform

- I. A nation dementia registration and monitoring system has been established, encompassing the “Dementia Care Service Management System” and the “Dementia Care Policy Control System”, to monitor the implementation of dementia care policies.
- II. On August 1, 2020, the MOHW authorized the National Health Research Institutes (NHRI) to conduct the National Community Epidemiological Survey on Dementia. The survey has since been completed, with results indicating a dementia prevalence rate of 7.99%. This rate is similar to those of the dementia prevalence rate survey conducted by the Taiwan Alzheimer's Disease Association, which was commissioned by the MOHW in 2011 (8.04%).

Strategy 7. Promoting Innovative Dementia Research and Development

- I. With respect to national research on dementia, the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) funded NT\$ 59.8 million in grants to support 96 research projects on dementia in 2023. Furthermore, the Ministry of Economic Affairs’ Small Business Innovation Research program (SBIR) awarded NT\$ 4.13 million in grants to 6 proposals on innovative services for dementia. The Industrial Development Administration, MOEA, allocated NT\$ 1.5 million to fund home cooking fire safety systems for the elderly. The goal of the project was to reduce the risk of cooking fires through the use of devices that

automatically turn off the stove when older individuals forget to do so.

- II. In 2023, the NHRI introduced dementia care service management, 16-week multifaceted intervention video, photo uploading, and physiological monitoring visualization functions in 10 integrated dementia care centers and 11 support centers for people with dementia and their families. In the future their use will be expanded nationwide.