

# The prevention measures of the risk groups of HIV during COVID-19 pandemic in Taipei

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**17th Conference on Countermeasures to Combat Infectious Diseases in Asia**

# Taipei City Hospital

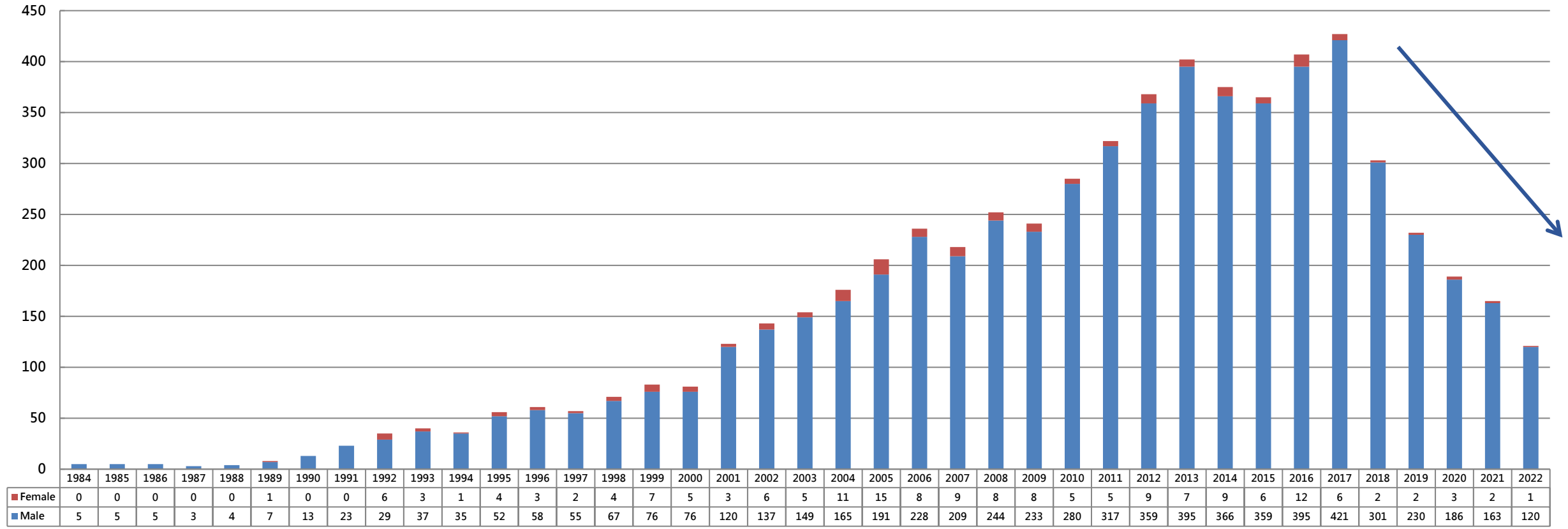
- Linsen, Chinese Medicine, and **Kunming** Branch (Clinical service)
- Kunming Prevention and Control Center, KPCC (Public Health service)
- First specialized **Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) clinic** (1968) and **HIV/STD clinic** (1988) in Taipei
- Located in the Ximen area (Kunming Street, Wanhua District, Taipei)



# Newly diagnosed HIV cases in Taipei (1984-2022)

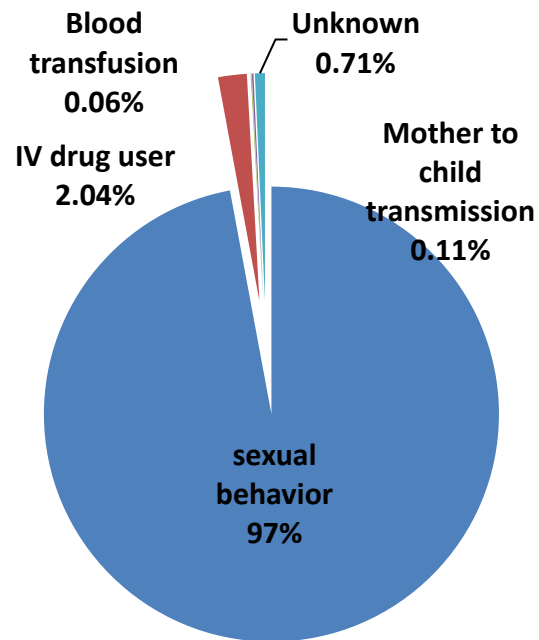
Male: 6109 (97.2%)
  Female: 177 (2.8%)

Treatment as Prevention, Early Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART), Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

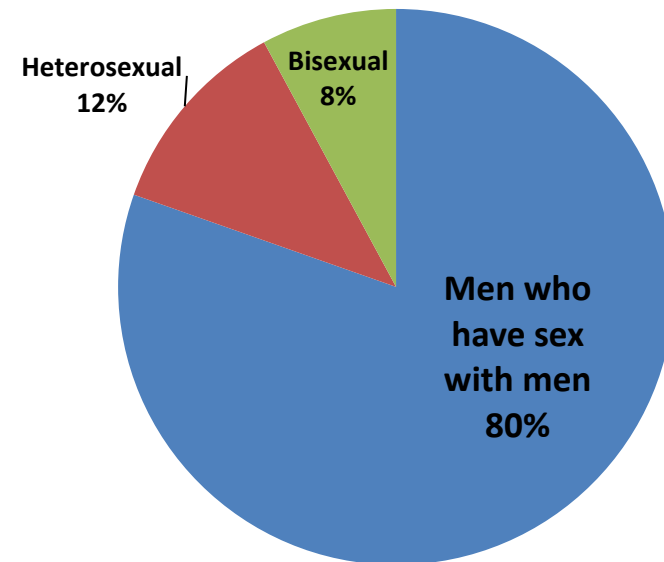


# Risk factors analysis of HIV cases in Taipei

Major risk factors: **Sexual behavior (97%)**, IV drug users (2.04%), Mother to Child transmission (0.11%), recipient of blood transfusion (0.06%)



Sexual behavior: **Men who have sex with men (MSM) 80%**, Heterosexual 12%, Bisexual 8%



# Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Taipei in 2021/05-08

Outbreak started in sex worker  
hot area of Wanhua community

HIV voluntary and  
counseling testing

200

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Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) in **sex worker** hot area of Wanhua district before outbreak

on 7th May 2021, we carry out a HIV screening test of sex worker in Wanhua area, **219 cases** are screened totally.

Retrospectively analyzed, there are **23 cases** (22 female, 1 male) COVID-19 PCR+ 10 days later.

**4** of our colleagues also get COVID-19 infection confirmed by PCR after this activity.



# COVID-19 **Alert level 3** in Taipei in May, 2021

- **Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC)** raises epidemic alert level for Taipei City and New Taipei City to Level 3 and strengthens national restrictions and measures, effective from **May 15 2021**, in response to **increasing level of community transmission**

## A. **National epidemic prevention measures:**

- **1. Closure of leisure and entertainment venues:** singing and dance venues, bars and clubs, KTVs, MTVs, hair salons, massage parlours, bowling alleys, pool halls, gyms, fitness and recreational centers (including facilities offering Shiatsu massage services, sauna rooms), arcades, Internet cafes, majiang clubs and other similar venues.
- **2. Religious rites and rituals:** A halt to all pilgrimages and processions associated with temples or churches. Other events should ensure contact-information registration, social distancing and heightened disinfection measures;
- **3. Campuses** in elementary and middle schools to be **closed to the public**;
- **4. A halt to all activities** involving the handover of leadership of all **sports** and **social clubs** and **societies**.

# COVID-19 **Alert level 3** in Taipei in May, 2021

B. Measures imposed on **Taipei City and New Taipei City**, which are under a Level 3 epidemic alert, effective from May 15 2021

- 1. Closure of leisure and entertainment venues and other venues listed below:  
**Sports, Exhibition** venues and **Educational** facilities
- 2. Wear a **mask outdoors**
- 3. **Avoid** unnecessary movement, activities or **gatherings**
- 4. All family or social **gatherings** involving **5** or more people **indoors** or **10** or more people **outdoors** (those living together not included) are **suspended**
- 5. **Self-health monitoring** (those with symptoms should seek medical attention)



# COVID-19 **Alert level 3** in Taipei in May, 2021

- 6. **Business** venues and places where personal business is conducted should implement **crowd and flow control** and enforce the wearing of **masks** and **social distancing**
- 7. Workplaces should follow the epidemic prevention rules in the Guidelines for Enterprise Planning of Business Continuity in Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019, and put individual and work place health management mechanisms into action, as well as measures to maintain business continuity (like **working in multiple offices**, **distance working** and **flexible working hours**)
- 8. **Food and beverage** vendors should use **epidemic prevention measures**, such as contact-information registration, social distancing and dividers. Those that cannot adopt those measures are urged to offer **take-out services**
- 9. **Weddings and funerals** should implement contact-information registration, social distancing and enhanced disinfection
- 10. **Enhanced disinfection** of public places and public transport

# Intravenous drug user under methadone maintenance therapy (MMT)

Methadone is a synthetic opioid agonist used for chronic pain and also used to **treat addiction to heroin** or other opioids

Methadone is schedule 2 regulated drug, the patient needs to take the medicine **daily** in the hospital

Methadone clinic at Taipei City Hospital Kunming Branch serves about **350 people/per day**

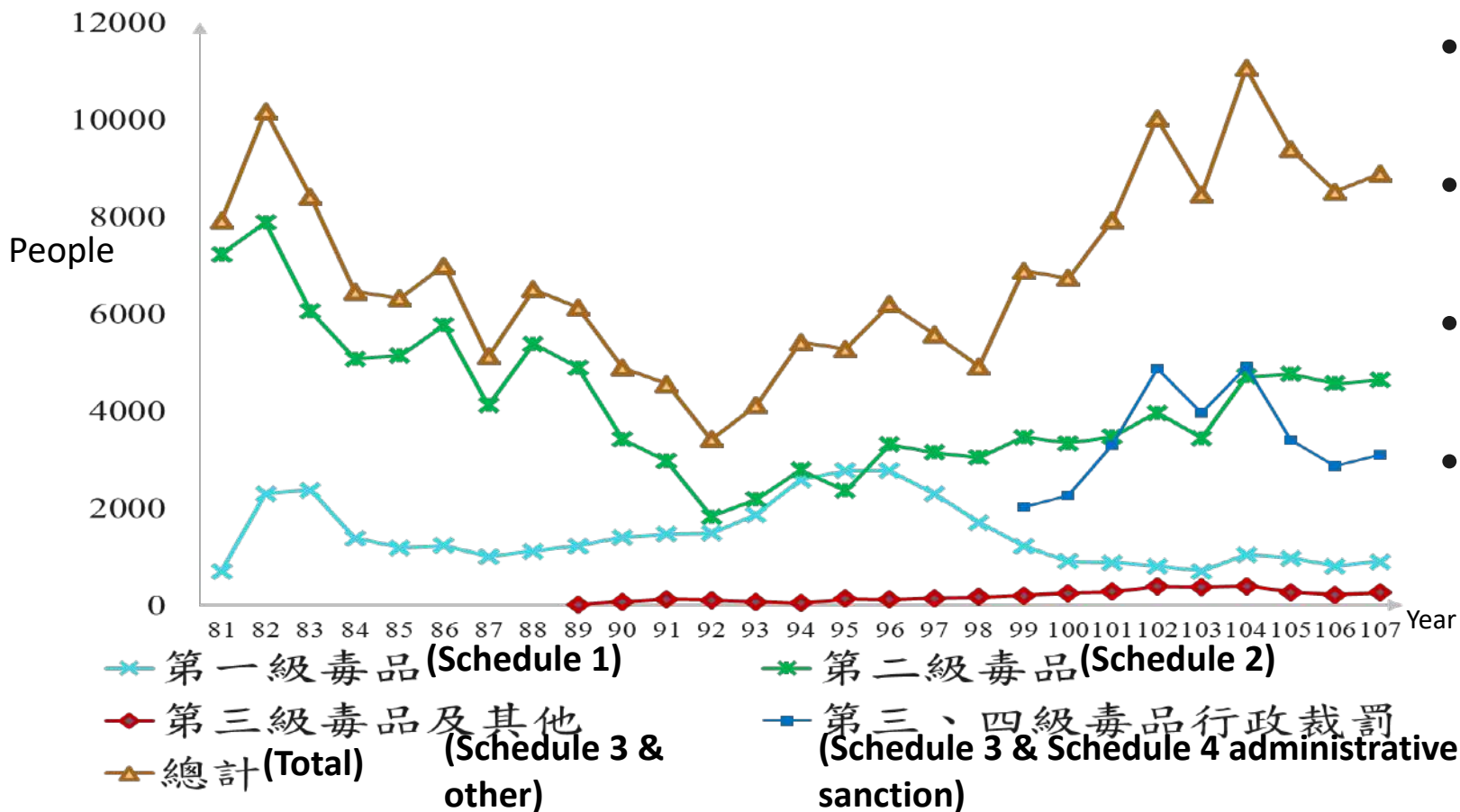
Open 365 days/year

Close to the needs of patients

Independent elevator and exit to keep privacy



# Drug Issue in Taipei



- Schedule 1 drug abusers are likely to take **Heroin**
- Schedule 2 drug abusers are likely to take **Methamphetamine**.
- Schedule 3 drug abusers are likely to take **Ketamine**.
- From 2016 schedule 2 drug abusers are the most common cause of recreational drugs use, schedule 1 drug abusers **decrease** gradually

(1) Patient enters the station



(2) Using the iris recognition technology for patient identification



(3) Confirming the dosages



(4) Confirming that the patient takes the drug at the station



(5) Discard the cup to the recycling bin



(6) Confirming that the drug has been swallowed



(7) Signature on prescription paper



(8) The patient leaves the station



# Harm Reduction: Needle-Syringe Program (NSP)

The Collectors of the used syringe ↓



The educational package ↓



Syringe vending machine ↑

# Continuation of the methadone maintenance service during COVID-19 pandemic outdoor service



Outdoor service, social distancing, traffic control



Automatic temperature check



Plastic curtain protect the health care worker



Health care worker personal protective equipment (PPE)



Pharmacists deliver the methadone to isolated cases at home

# Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Taipei in 2021/05-08

Outbreak started in sex worker  
hot area of Wanhua community

HIV voluntary and  
counseling testing

Increase COVID-19 cases  
comorbidity with HIV in MSM

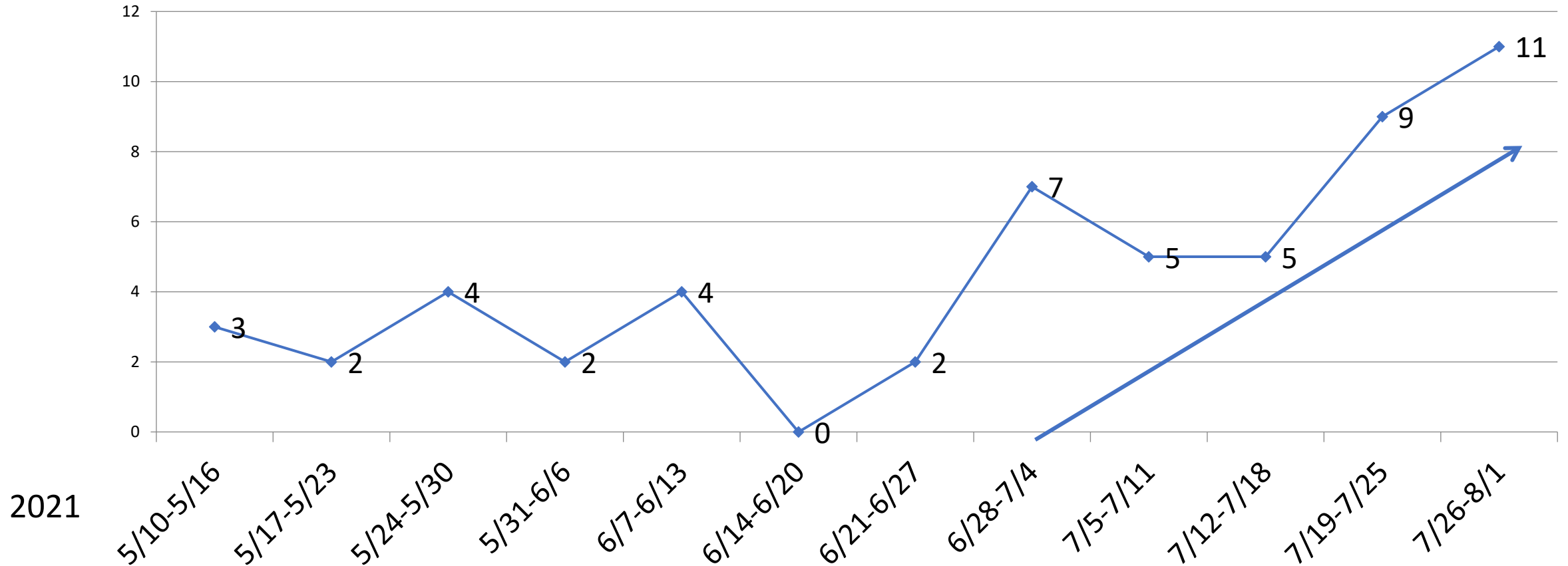
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# Confirmed COVID-19 in People living with HIV (PLHIV) in Taipei in 2021/05-08 (most MSM)



Male/Female: 53/1 Age: 23-70, mean:39.8, death: 2



# Intervention measure

1. Contact tracing for special population (**MSM**)
2. Encourage screen for high risk group
3. Increase Vaccine Coverage rate

# Contact tracing for the MSM population

- The major risk factor of HIV infection in Taipei is MSM.
- They use internet, or mobile phone app to connect other people and use nickname.
- This route is difficult for the identification for COVID-19 contactor.
- On line education program
- Define MSM cluster infection is also household cluster infection
- Avoid stigma and discrimination

## On line e-learning training program for COVID-19 in MSM population

The screenshot displays the NSU e-learning interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the university logo and user information (e.g., 網站導覽, 魏玉芳(登出)). Below this is a main menu with options like 我的課程, 選課中心, 新手上路, 最新消息, 合作推廣, 鮮活電子報, and 客服中心. A prominent blue banner reads "大好課讀起來! 10月 英文大會考-測你的英語硬實力! 【Covid-19 防疫專區】課程上線!". The main content area is divided into three sections: "專區" (Special Area) with links for 實體班期專區, 公務人員學習時數查詢, 舊平台數位課程繳費紀錄, 養成學習公告, e等公務園+學習平臺, and 高處學習專區; "主選單" (Main Menu) with links for 我的課程, 選課中心, 個人資料, and 報表系統; and "客服專區" (Customer Service Area) with a link for 客服查詢. The right side of the page shows details for a specific course: "雲端隨行講堂-疫情調查人員教育訓練班(第1期)-特殊族群疫情調查". It includes the course name, a brief introduction, the course code (110年度 雲端隨行講堂-疫情調查人員教育訓練班 第1期), the course type (終身學習入口網類別), the instructor (臺北市立聯合醫院崑明院區行政中心莊萃主任), and learning recognition information (上課時間內, 上總時間滿30分鐘, 核發學習時數認證1小時). A red notice states: "本課程僅限臺北市政府公務人員訓練處【雲端隨行講堂-疫情調查人員教育訓練班(第1期)】之學員附之【選課密碼】選讀." At the bottom, there is a statistics table and a footer with the date 2021-10-0.

課程總數	線上人數	累計瀏覽人次	報名課程數
1441 門課	2735 人	505394740 人	208152

站資料開放宣告 關於我們 最後更新時間:2021-10-0

# Contact tracing for MSM population (HIV case managers)

- Cooperation of the surveillance system for COVID and HIV
- Identify the newly diagnosed COVID-19 case's HIV status
- If positive, connect with the newly diagnosed COVID-19 patient's HIV case manager
- Care about the patient's health status, provide the information of the disease
- HIV case managers assist to trace the possible contactor, and to check SARS-CoV-2

# Encourage screen for high risk group

- Provide **free self testing kits** for high risk group, (antigen or PCR) kits from Taiwan CDC or Taipei City Health Department
- Free PCR screen station in Taipei
- The HIV case managers will arrange special taxi for the patient to the appointed hospital, if the result is positive.

自我篩檢 | 確認健康狀況  
**COVID-19家用PCR試劑**  
(市價1800)

如有暴露風險，在暴露後的3~14天可使用  
COVID-19家用快篩試劑！

**免費索取 數量有限**

\*請將測試結果拍照回傳給個案師。

十 如果測試是陽性  
您很有可能已感染COVID-19，請立即至醫療院所進行進一步篩檢，前往醫療院所時勿搭乘大眾運輸工具，篩檢結果出來前請先自主管理，另使用過之採檢器材，請攜帶至醫療院所；交予院所人員。後續處置請依防疫人員指示。

臺北市七家醫院提供免費PCR篩檢：  
1. 篩檢地點：聯合醫院和平院區、聯合醫院中興院區、聯合醫院仁愛院區、聯合醫院陽明院區、聯合醫院忠孝院區、蘭潭醫院、萬芳醫院。  
2. 篩檢流程：透過上列七家醫院網路掛號系統，線上預約取號，並於指定時間至現場篩檢。

臺北市立聯合醫院 昆明防治中心 關心您

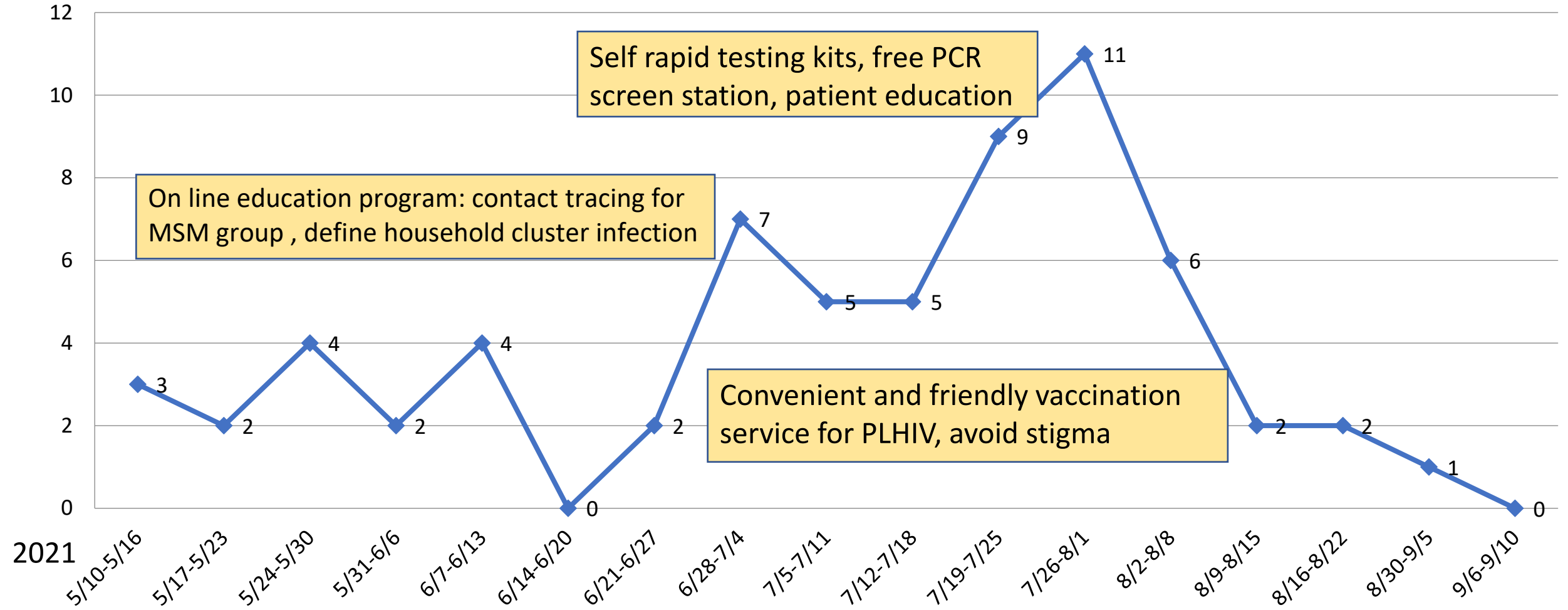
# Increase Vaccine Coverage rate

- HIV case manager **directly contact** with the case **one by one** to explain about the necessities of the COVID-19 vaccine for disease prevention.
- Arrange another designed vaccine injection hospital (Taipei City Hospital Kunming Branch, previous STD clinic in Taipei), provide **convenient and friendly service** only for the HIV cases



Vaccine injection site: separate space, keep privacy, avoid stigma for PLHIV

# Epidemic curve after intervention



# Summary

- **Different countermeasures** in different risk group of HIV during COVID-19 pandemic including **sex workers, IDU, MSM** with **rapid response** in Taipei
- Contact tracing for the MSM group, on line education program for health care worker, patient education for health monitor, free self testing kits, and free PRR screen station
- Convenient and friendly service for PLHIV COVID-19 vaccination
- Outdoor methadone maintenance therapy service for IDU
- **Avoid stigma and discrimination for the vulnerable groups**



# Thanks for your listening

