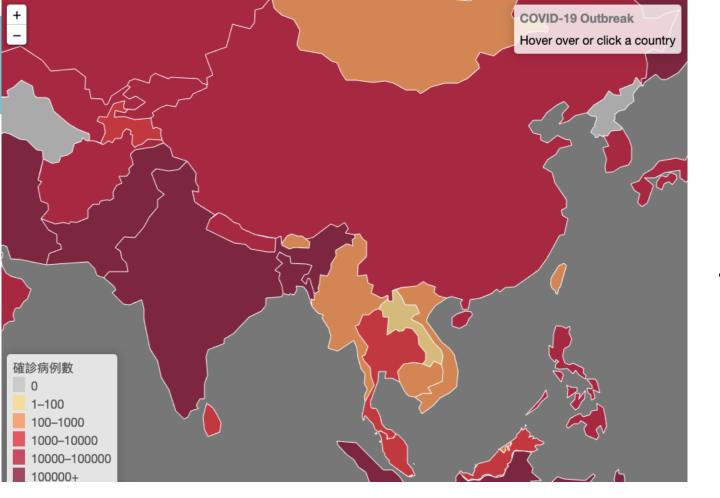


# Nation's Mental Health Change under COVID-19 Pandemic -- Taiwan perspectives

Su-Ting Hsu, MD, ScD. <sup>1</sup> & Frank Huang-Chih Chou, MD, PhD. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Director, Department of Community Psychiatry, <sup>2</sup> Professor & Superintendent, Kaohsiung Municipal Kai-Syuan Psychiatric Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

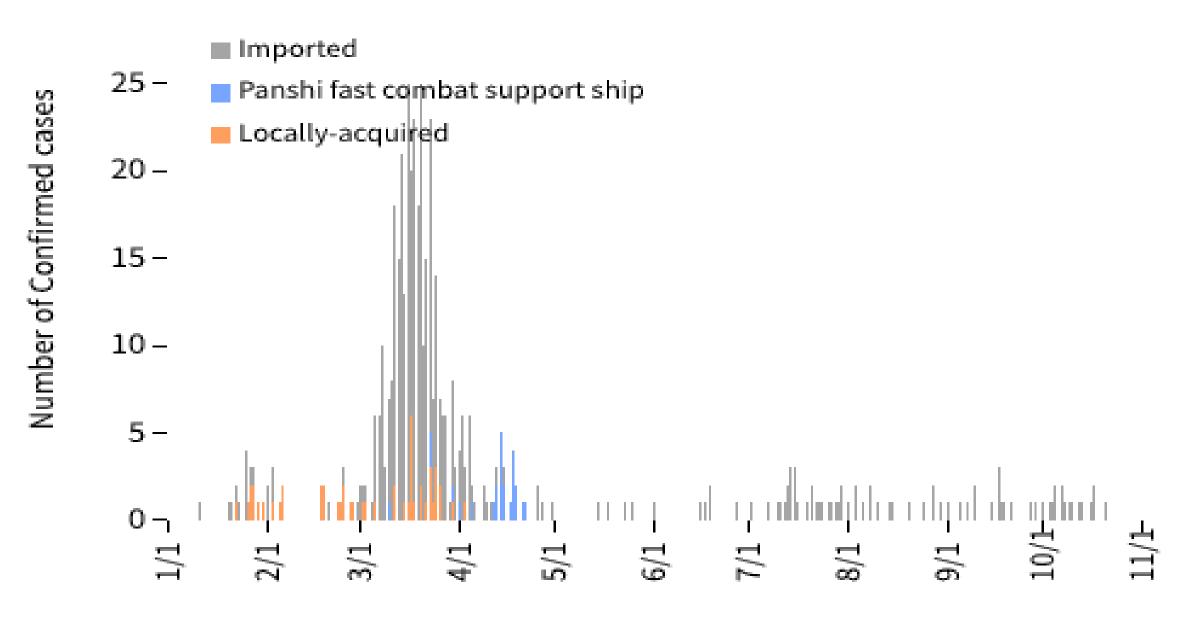
3<sup>rd</sup> International Mental Health Training Center Taiwan Online Conference "Nation's Mental Health Change Under the COVID-19" November11, 2020. Online Conference at Kai-Syuan Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.





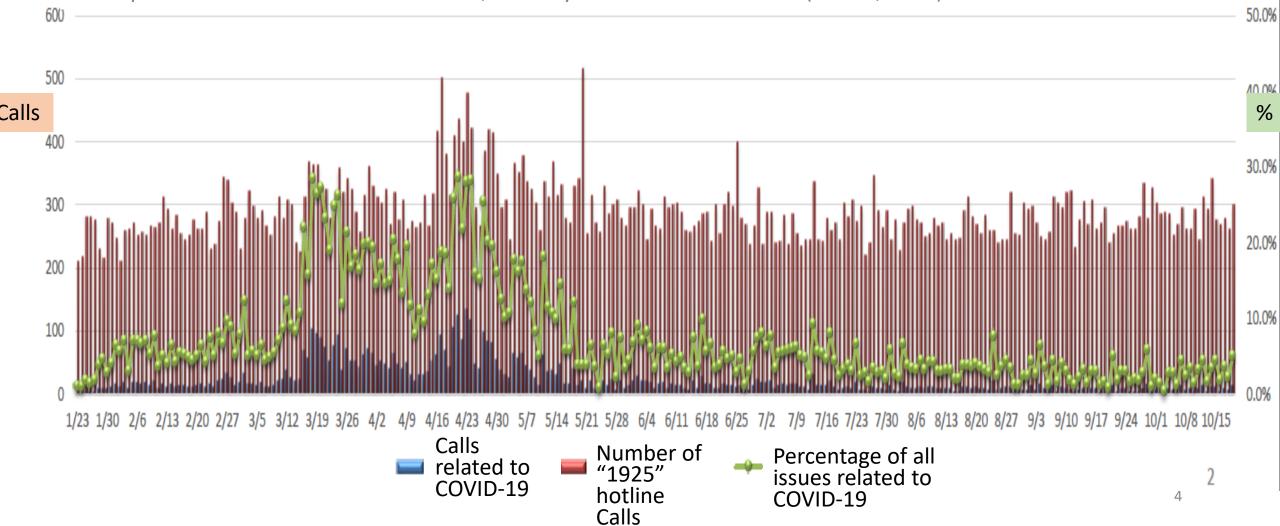
Snapshots of Mental Health Status Related to COVID-19 in Taiwan

#### Number of Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 - By Date of Onset



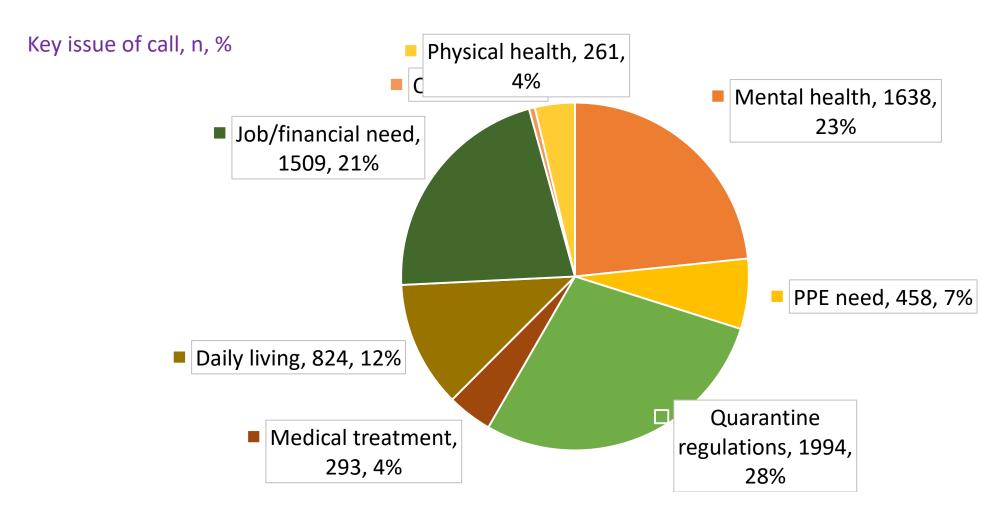
## National Mental Health Hotline "1925" statistics

Department of Mental and Oral Health, Ministry of Health and Welfare. (Oct 19, 2020)



#### Issues related to COVID-19

National Mental Health Hotline "1925", Feb 18-Oct 19 (N=44977)



#### Psychiatric morbidities of COVID-19

Online survey

Anxiety symptoms 52.1 %

(Wong, Hung, Alias, et al. 2020)

Facebook survey

Sleep disturbance 55.8 % Suicidal thoughts 10.8 %

(Li, Ko, Chen, et al. 2020)

Local psychiatric clinics

Visits 7.5 %
Reimbursement 8.0 %

(UDN News. April 15, 2020)

#### Ongoing Projects

IRB approved
Applying grant of Department of Technology

Individuals, families, and communities PI: Angela Huei-Wen Lo Community primary care clinics PI: Joh-Jong Huang Community hospital PI: Chia-Chi Yen, Su-Ting Hsu Psychiatric hospital PI: Frank Huang Chih Chou Pl: Shun-Sheng Chen **Medical Center** 

COVID-19 impact and risk management

PI: Frank Huang Chih Chou Co-PI: Vincent Shieh, Shun-Sheng Chen, Angela Huei-Wen Lo, Joh-Jong Huang, Chia-Chi Yen, Su-Ting Hsu

### COVID-19 Impact on people living or working in Kai-Syuan Psychiatric Hospital

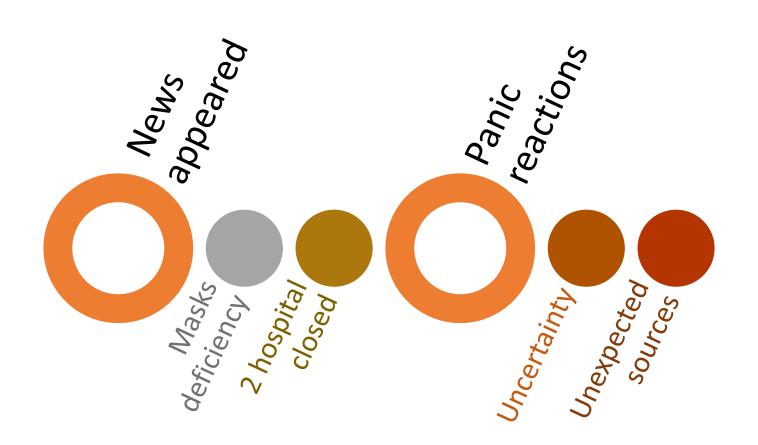
- Survey methodology
- Convenient sampling
  - 155 community residents (including family members and outpatient patients)
  - 557 institutionalized patients
  - 109 lower exposure employees
  - 565 higher exposure employees
- Self-administered questionnaire:
  - Demographic data
  - Disaster-related Psychological Screening Test (DRPST)
  - Disaster Coping Screening Scale
  - Short Form-12 v2 Health Survey (SF-12v2)





## Strategies of Promoting Mental Health in Taiwan under COVID-19

#### SARS 2003: Negative impact

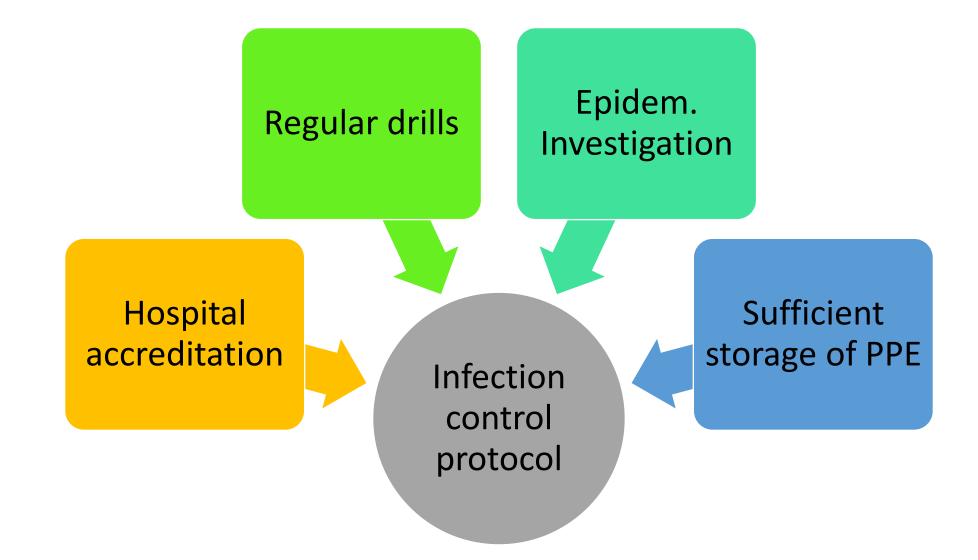


Prevalence of depressive symptoms

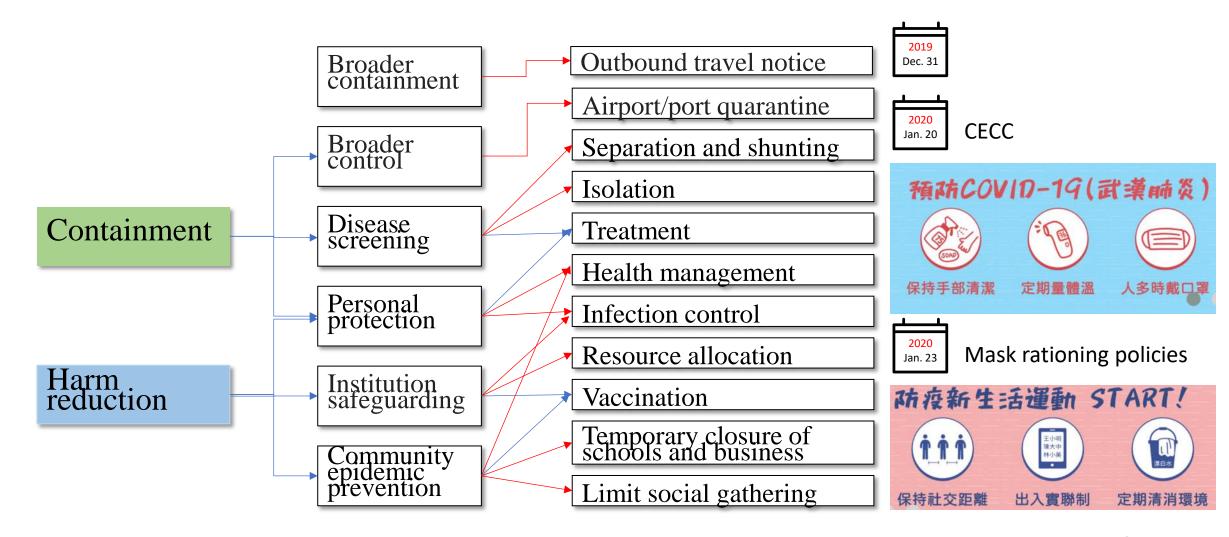
3.7%

(Ko, Yen, Yen, & Yang, 2006)

#### SARS 2003: Positive impact



#### National strategies of infection control in Taiwan



#### National mental health strategies in COVID-19 outbreak









Policies and health information

Psychoeducation Mental health screening

### Vulnerable populations

- children, the elder
- front line health workers
- the suspected, the ill, in quarantine

#### Health information provided in 10 languages





Photo from UDN News, April 3, 2020, https://health.udn.com/health/story/120950/4465745

中央流行疫情指揮中心指揮官陳時中今宣布,為了防堵有極端的個案,今起,搭乘捷運必須要戴口罩,第一時間沒有佩戴將會柔性勸導,若是屢勸不聽,將可依法開罰3000元以上、1萬5000元以下罰鍰。記者侯永全/攝影

#### 防疫心理健康5大招

安

Psychoeducation and Hotline Provision

做好防護·積極重新投入生活吧













promotes mental health information for

different populations, and provides hotline.



防疫心理健康

安心專線:1925



☆維持原來的心理衛生服務

- 0 心理治療所



#### Other Issues

- Domestic violence (Lin, 2020)
- Substance use
- Gaming behaviors

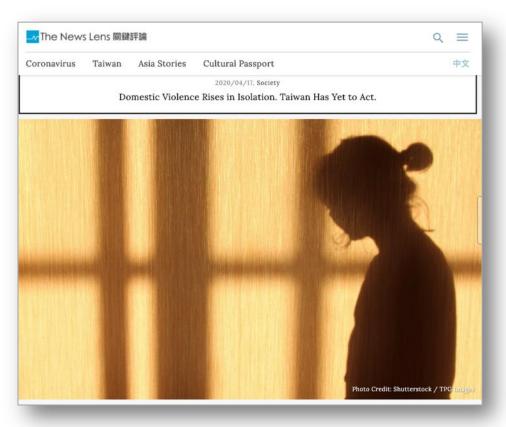


Photo from the News Lens, April 17, 2020, https://international.thenewslens.com/article/133990

#### Summary

Despite of experiences of SARS, evidence shows COVID-19 pandemic has impact on mental health to certain degree.

Unknown infectious sources lead to greater panic reaction.

Longer term sequela and maladaptive behaviors need to be paid attention.

#### References

- Department of Mental and Oral Health, Ministry of Health and Welfare. (April, May, and July, Oct, 2020). Statistics on mental health services provision. <a href="https://dep.mohw.gov.tw/domhaoh/cp-4740-52615-107.html">https://dep.mohw.gov.tw/domhaoh/cp-4740-52615-107.html</a>
- Ko, C. H., Yen, C. F., Yen, J. Y., & Yang, M. J. (2006).
   Psychosocial impact among the public of the severe acute respiratory syndrome epidemic in Taiwan. *Psychiatry and clinical neurosciences*, 60(4), 397-403.
- Ko, C. H., & Yen, J. Y. (2020). Impact of COVID-19 on gaming disorder: Monitoring and prevention. *Journal of behavioral addictions*, 10.1556/2006.2020.00040.
   Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1556/2006.2020.00040
- Hsieh, K. Y., Kao, W. T., Li, D. J., Lu, W. C., Tsai, K. Y., Chen, W. J., ... & Chou, F. H. C. (2020). Mental health in biological disasters: From SARS to COVID-19. International Journal of Social Psychiatry. (in press)

- Hsu, S. T., Chou, L. S., Chou, F. H. C., Hsieh, K. Y., Chen, C. L., Lu, W. C., ... & Tsai, K. Y. (2020). Challenge and Strategies of Infection Control in Psychiatric Hospitals during Biological Disasters—From SARS to COVID-19 in Taiwan. Asian Journal of Psychiatry, 102270.
- Li, D. J., Ko, N. Y., Chen, Y. L., Wang, P. W., Chang, Y. P., Yen, C. F., & Lu, W. H. (2020). Covid-19-related factors associated with sleep disturbance and suicidal thoughts among the Taiwanese public: a facebook survey. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(12), 4479.
- Lin, S. (April 17, 2020). Domestic Violence Rises in Isolation. Taiwan Has Yet to Act. The News Lens. Retrieved July 30, 2020 <a href="https://international.thenewslens.com/article/133990">https://international.thenewslens.com/article/133990</a>
- UDN News. (April 15, 2020). Visits to primary care clinics varies, National Health Insurance Bureau said. Retrived April 22,2020. https://health.udn.com/health/story/5999/4492791
- Wong, L.P., Hung, C., Alias, H. *et al.* Anxiety symptoms and preventive measures during the COVID-19 outbreak in Taiwan. *BMC Psychiatry* **20**, 376 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-020-02786-8





#### Thank You for Attention