



Experiences of Vietnamese Immigrant Women in Taiwan Who Do Not Undergo Pap Smear Tests

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Overview

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- ☞ Background of the study
- ☞ Purpose
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Profile of Taiwan

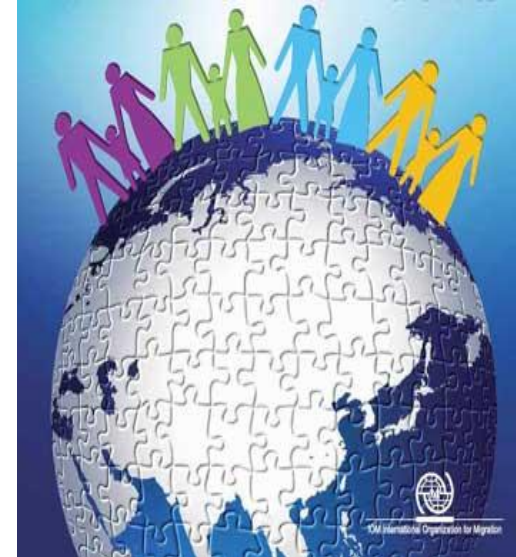
- Population: 23.05 million (2012)
- Population aged over 65: 10.94% (2012)
- Life expectancy M 75.98; F 82.65 (2011)
- GDP per capita: US\$ 20,859 (2012)
- GNP per capita: US\$ 21,437 (2012)
- NHE: US\$ 1,217 (2010)
- NHE as % of GDP: 6.6% (2010)





Background of the Study

- ☞ UN declaration
- ☞ WHO statement
- ☞ Global migration
- ☞ Current situation in Taiwan





UN-Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

- ☞ The UN has made significant progress in advancing gender equality, including through landmark agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the CEDAW.
- ☞ Taiwan government has implemented CEDAW since Jan. 2012.
- ☞ Gender equality is not only a basic human right, but its achievement has enormous socio-economic ramifications. Empowering women fuels thriving economies, spurring productivity and growth.



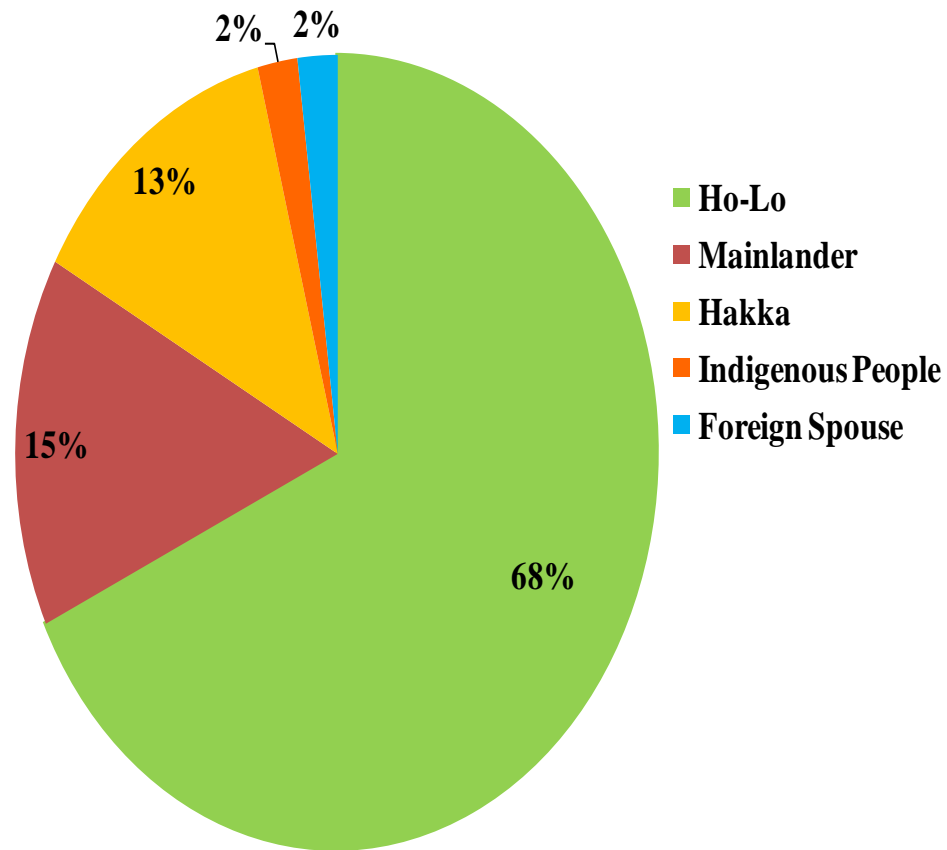
WHO-Advancing the field of gender, women and health

- ☞ The goal of the WHO Department of Gender, Women and Health is to create, sustain and support evidence-based policies and programs in WHO and Member States with partners to achieve gender equality, health equity and improve women's health.





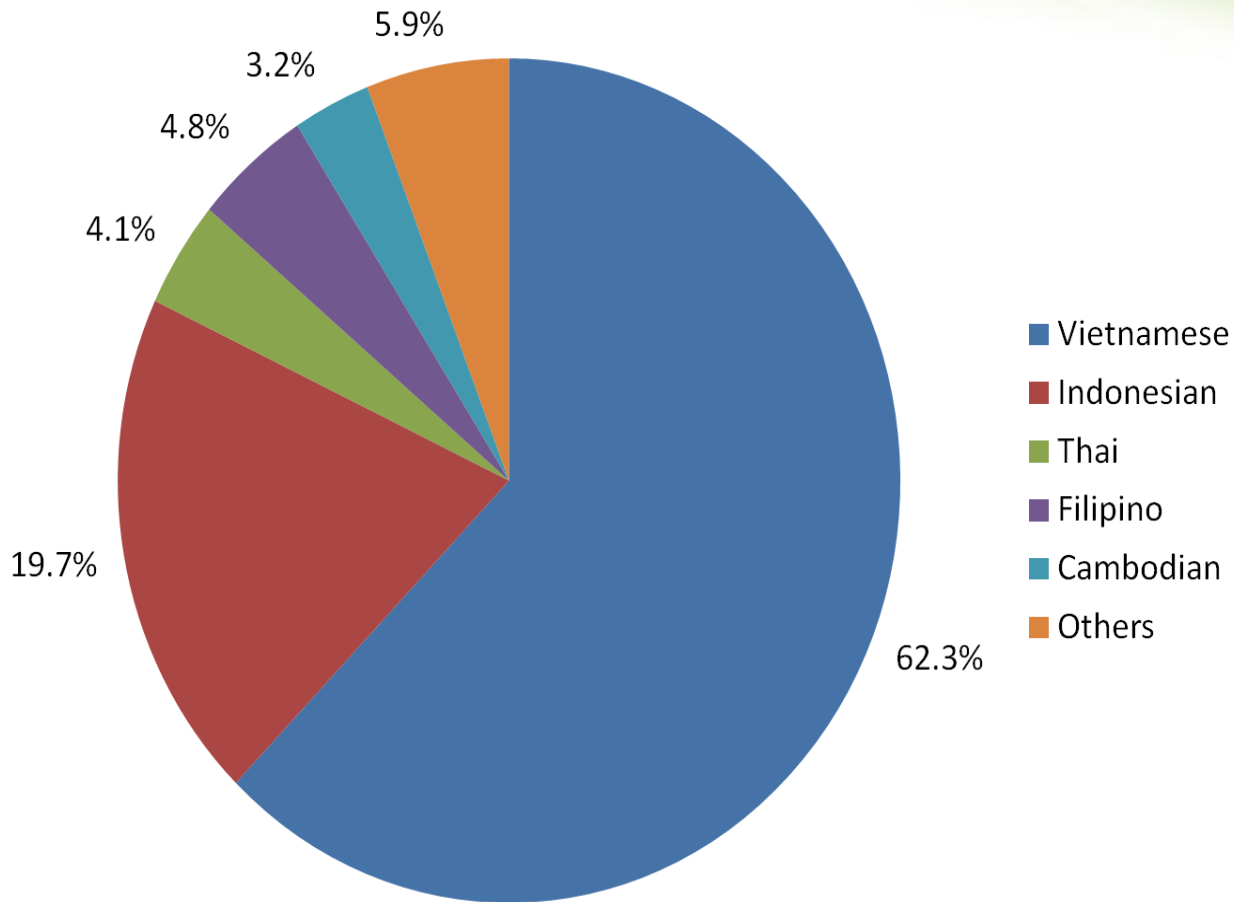
Demographic Structure in Taiwan



Source : Ministry of Interior, Taiwan (2011)



Percentage of Southeast Asian immigrant women in Taiwan



Taiwan National Immigration Agency (2011)

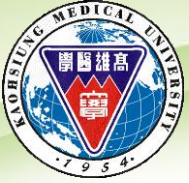


Trans-national marriage phenomena in Taiwan

- ☞ Due to the globalization and close economic relations between Southeast Asian countries and Taiwan, the phenomena of transnational marriage has occurred since 1987 in Taiwan, especially in rural areas.



Festival on Mother's Day



Population of trans-national married immigrants

- ☞ Total SEA immigrant women over 135,000
- ☞ SEA countries: Vietnam 62.3%
Indonesia 19.7%
Philippines 4.8%
- ☞ Trans-national/national marriages: 1:7





Life and Health Concerns

- ☞ Immigrant adaptation
- ☞ Communication difficulty
- ☞ Family continuity
- ☞ Barrier to healthcare system utilization

(Yang & Wang, 2003)



Background of the Study (1/2)

- ☞ Immigrants are generally regarded to have low utilization rates of healthcare services, especially for preventive health care services. (Bruce & Amish 2006, Johnson *et al.* 2008, Lin *et al.* 2008)
- ☞ Studies have shown that compared to women of other ethnicities, Vietnamese women are more likely to have cervical cancer. (Taylor *et al.* 2009)



Background of the Study (2/2)

- ☞ The National Health Insurance (NHI) program in Taiwan requires foreign residents to participate in the insurance system after receiving an alien residency certificate and staying in Taiwan for 4 months or over.
- ☞ For women covered by the NHI program and aged 30 years or above, a free Pap test is provided every year.



Purpose

- ☞ To describe the barriers of Vietnamese immigrant women who have never undergone or do not regularly undergo Pap tests.



Methods

- ☞ Qualitative descriptive study
- ☞ Semi-structured individual in-depth interviews



Interview Guide

- (a) Have you ever undergone a Pap test?
- (b) When was the last time you underwent the Pap test?
- (c) Describe the situations when you underwent the Pap test.
- (d) Describe the experiences when you underwent the Pap test.
- (e) For what reasons have you never undergone or did not regularly undergo Pap tests?



Inclusion Criteria

- (a) have never undergone or did not regularly (less than once a year) undergo a Pap test;
- (b) have national health insurance;
- (c) were at least 30 years old;
- (d) have not had a hysterectomy;
- (e) were able to communicate verbally in Mandarin or Taiwanese.



Sampling

- ☞ This study used snowballing to recruit Vietnamese immigrant women living in southern Taiwan.



Participants

- 20 participants
- Mean age: 36.4 years old
- Average stay in Taiwan: 9.2 years
- Average number of children: 1.6
- Did not regularly undergo Pap tests: 17/20
- Never received a Pap test: 3/20



Data Collection and Analysis

- Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Data were collected from February 2011 to July 2011
- Qualitative content analysis
- Data saturation was achieved for analyses
- Data were digitally voice-recorded



Rigor

- ⇒ Credibility
- ⇒ Transferability
- ⇒ Dependability
- ⇒ Conformability
- ⇒ Authenticity

(Lincoln & Guba 1985, Guba & Lincoln 2005).



Four Themes

- a. A lack of health literacy
- b. A lack of female healthcare providers
- c. Negative experiences of Pap test
- d. Personal Reasons



Outcome Themes - 1

A lack of health literacy

1. Unaware of the policy and purposes of the Pap test
2. Unaware of where the service is provided
3. Lack of the concepts of preventive care
4. Believing that a Pap test is not required when there are no symptoms



Outcome Themes - 2

A lack of female healthcare providers

1. Having To have a female physician/ female nurse perform the Pap test
2. Being unable to find a female physician



Outcome Themes - 3

Negative experiences of the Pap test

1. Lack of a reminder system in health centers and clinics
2. Insufficient explanations of the test
3. Uncomfortable feelings (pain, cold speculum)



Outcome Themes - 4

Personal reasons

1. Lack of a role model
2. Being busy; forgetting to do the test
3. Being embarrassed for taking the test
4. Being worried about the test results



Conclusions

- ☞ The NHI program in Taiwan offers free Pap tests, the study found that the utilization of this service among Vietnamese immigrant women was still affected by personal and healthcare delivery system-related factors.
- ☞ The results can provide government as references and healthcare providers in Taiwan to improve the Pap test rate, and enhance the effectiveness of healthcare services for Vietnamese immigrant women.



Acknowledgement

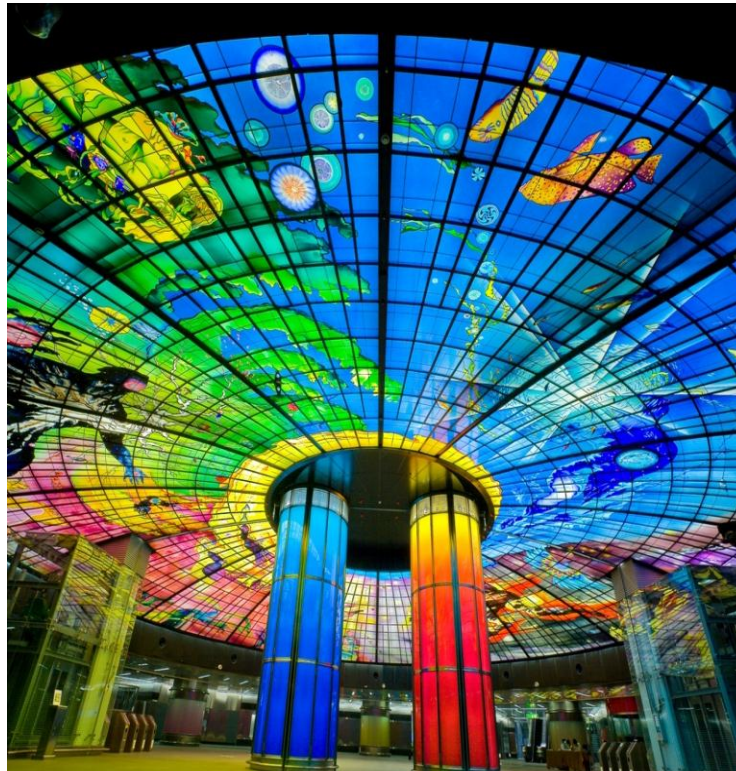
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Love River & Boat Tours,
Kaohsiung Taiwan





Thank you



Formosa Boulevard Station (Dome Of Light) of Taiwan's Kaohsiung MRT system is placed 2nd in the top 15 most beautiful train stations in the world