

Disability Welfare Services in Institutions: Resources Distribution and Utilization in Taiwan

Jin-Ding Lin^{1*}, Chia-Feng Yen², Ching-Hui Loh³, Chia-Lin Chang¹

¹School of Public Health, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan

²Research Center for Intellectual Disabilities Taiwan, Chung-Hua Foundation for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Taipei Country, Taiwan

³Department of Family and Community Medicine, Tri-Service General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan

*Corresponding address: School of Public Health, National Defense Medical Center, Taiwan, No. 161, Section 6, Ming-Chun E. Rd., Nei-Hu, Taipei, Taiwan 114 ; E-mail: a530706@ndmctsgh.edu.tw

Abstract

Aims: The purposes of the present paper were to examine the welfare service resources and distribution for people with disabilities, particularly in the analysis of the resource of the institutional residence and day care services in Taiwan. **Methods:** We analyzed the service resources based on the data of *The Profile of Disability Service Institutions and Personnel in Taiwan in 2004* which were published by the Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan. **Results:** We calculate the disability resource with the general population, there was 54.9 institutional residential beds per 100,000 general population in Taiwan. Comparing the institutional care resource to the population with disabilities, there were averagely 13.7 beds per 1,000 persons with disabilities in Taiwan. The average use rate of the institutional care was 81.3%. In term of the day care resource, the results shown that the overall service capacity of day care was 7,683 clients with disabilities according to the data of the Ministry of the Interior in 2004. The data illustrated that there was an average of 8.5 clients in service capacity per 1,000 persons with disabilities. The utilization of day care services showed that the overall use rate was 71.4%. We also calculated the distribution of residential and day care services in different geographic areas in Taiwan. **Conclusions:** The present study was the first study to examine the distribution of disability welfare resource in Taiwan. The further study should follow the results to analyze the affected factors of uneven disability welfare distribution in Taiwan.

Key words: Day care, Disability welfare institution, Residential care, Resource, Utilization

Introduction

There has been a tremendous increase in the number of people with disabilities supported in the community settings in U.S. (Baker et al., 2002). A continuing trend in services to persons with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) through the past decade has been the downsizing, and in some cases closure of large state institutions in the United States. During 1987 to 2001, residents of large state facilities made up 74.6% of all residents of large facilities decreased to 59.5% of that population, declined at an average annual rate of 3.69% (Coucovanis et al., 2003). The community residential services have been developed to the main stream of disability services; the U.S. increased the number of persons receiving community residential services by 150% from 1977 to 2002 (Lakin et al., 2003). Indexed for the size of the U.S. population, the number of residential service receipts per 100,000 of the general population increased from 105.2 in 1982 to 120.7 in 1993 to 142.9 in 2003. Among the factors moderating the growth in residential services demand has been the rapid increase in supports provided to individuals with ID/DD living with family

members (Lakin et al., 2004). However, with the issue of the cost of community residential services, the provider organizations are faced with the question of whether they should grow in size or not (Baker et al., 2002).

However, the institutional care still dominates the service markets for people with disabilities in many countries, particularly in the Asia countries. Taiwan is an example, the number of disability welfare institutions is still increasing in the past few years even though the society and the governments support the community living of people with disabilities, there were 173 institutions in 2001 increased to 227 institutions in 2004 (MOI, 2004a). There are many factors to affect this trend. Such as the case in U.S., several factors underline the continued use of large facilities including the institutional bias produced by the entitlements in Medicaid programs along with the pace of community expansion and the characteristics of the individuals themselves (Walsh et al., 2003). The characteristics of individuals remaining in institutional facilities tend to be older and have more problems in daily living skills and in walking independently (Prouty et al.,

2001).

To ensure the quality of care for people with disabilities in the society, it is necessary to describe the service provision and distribution for them. The purposes of the current paper are to examine the service resources and distribution for people with disabilities, particularly in the analysis of the resource of the institutional residence and day care services in Taiwan.

Methods

The present study evaluates the service resources for people with disabilities in Taiwan. We analyzed the service resources based on the data of *The Profile of Disability Service Institutions and Personnel in Taiwan-Fuchien Area in 2004* (MOI, 2004b). The data includes the resources of institutional residence services and day care services, the service capacity and current service provision. The institutional care means the people with disabilities living and caring in the institution for continuing 24 hours per day. The day care refers to the settings providing services in day-time or hours per day, the people with disabilities did not living in the institutions.

Results

The distribution of disability welfare service resource

Institutional care resource

There was over twenty-two millions population and the persons with disabilities was 907,451 at the end of the year 2004 in Taiwan, the disability rate is nearly 4 percent of the general population. Those people with disabilities were registered in the National Disability Registry System which was accredited through the health care system and registered by the social welfare system. From the analysis of the table 1, we found that there were 12, 416 institutional beds in Taiwan, the average institutional care resource was 540 beds each administrative area (city or county). The distribution of the institutional care varied from 0 to 2,024 beds across the island. There were three administrative areas owned more than 1,000 beds of institutional care resource, Taoyuan County (2,024 beds), Tainan County (1,784 beds) and Taipei County (1,110 beds). Many areas such as Chiayi City (0 bed), Penghu County (30 beds) and Hsinchu City (80 beds) were less than 100 beds within their communities.

Table 1 The Distribution of Disability Welfare Services Resource of the Year 20004 in Taiwan

	General Population (×1000) (A)	Population with disabilities (B)	Institutional care			Day care			Total		
			Beds(C)	Beds of general population (per 100,000) (C/A)	Beds of population with disabilities (per 1,000) (C/B)	Clients(D)	Clients of general population (per 100,000) (D/A)	Clients of population with disabilities (per 1,000) (D/B)	Clients(E)	Clients of general population (per 100,000) (E/A)	Clients of population with disabilities (per 1,000) (E/B)
Taipei County	3,708	105,858	1110	29.93	10.49	1292	34.84	12.21	2402	64.78	22.69
Yilan County	462	22,497	392	84.80	17.42	234	50.62	10.40	626	135.41	27.83
Taoyuan County	1,853	55,819	2024	109.23	36.26	228	12.30	4.08	2252	121.53	40.34
Hsinchu County	467	19,089	850	181.92	44.53	23	4.92	1.20	873	186.84	45.73
Miaoli County	560	25,932	550	98.10	21.21	153	27.29	5.90	703	125.39	27.11
Taichung County	1,527	58,678	418	27.37	7.12	103	6.75	1.76	521	34.12	8.88
Changhua County	1,316	54,826	783	59.46	14.28	294	22.33	5.36	1077	81.79	19.64
Nantou County	538	29,364	415	77.08	14.13	150	27.86	5.11	565	104.94	19.24
Yunlin County	736	48,566	200	27.15	4.12	50	6.79	1.03	250	33.93	5.15
Chiayi County	557	33,885	182	32.62	5.37	20	3.58	0.59	202	36.21	5.96
Tainan County	1,105	48,111	1784	161.35	37.08	322	29.12	6.69	2106	190.47	43.77
Kaohsiung County	1,238	48,144	318	25.67	6.61	328	26.47	6.81	646	52.14	13.42
Pingtung County	900	46,960	270	29.99	5.75	110	12.22	2.34	380	42.21	8.09
Taitung County	240	19,890	338	140.61	16.99	82	34.11	4.12	420	174.73	21.12
Hualien County	349	24,392	353	101.10	14.47	193	55.28	7.91	546	156.38	22.38
Penghu County	91	5,244	30	32.68	5.72	60	65.35	11.44	90	98.03	17.16
Keelung City	392	15,475	100	25.49	6.46	90	22.94	5.82	190	48.43	12.28
Hsinchu City	386	12,950	80	20.67	6.18	561	144.98	43.32	641	165.65	49.50
Taichung City	1,021	30,995	456	44.65	14.71	991	97.03	31.97	1447	141.68	46.68
Chiayi City	270	11,272	0	0.00	0.00	180	66.58	15.97	180	66.58	15.97
Tainan City	754	24,023	527	69.81	21.94	391	51.79	16.28	918	121.60	38.21
Taipei City	2,622	111,338	871	33.21	7.82	1271	48.47	11.42	2142	81.68	19.24
Kaohsiung City	1,512	54,143	365	24.13	6.74	557	36.82	10.29	922	60.95	17.03
Taiwan Area	22,615	907,451	12416	54.90	13.68	7683	33.97	8.47	20099	88.87	22.15

Source: Ministry of the Interior (2004b) The Profile of Disability Service Institutions and Personnel in Taiwan-Fuchien Area. (台灣地區身心障礙福利服務機構概況與工作人員數一覽表). 內政統計資訊服務網 (2005) 九十三年台灣地區現住人口數分配表 (Population by Age in Taiwan-Fuchien Area), www.moi.gov.tw/stat 內政部統計處。

We calculate the disability resource with the general population, there was 54.9 institutional residential beds per 100,000 general population in Taiwan. The distribution varied from 0 to 181.9 beds per 100,000 general population around the island. Hsinchu County (181.8 beds), Tainan County (161.4 beds) and Taichung County (140.6 beds) are the richest areas to have institutional care resources in Taiwan. Those areas such as Chiayi City (0 bed), Hsinchu City (20.7 beds), Kaohsiung City (24.1 beds), Keelung City (25.5 beds) and Kaohsiung County (25.7 beds) were the less institutional care resource in Taiwan.

Comparing the institutional care resource to the population with disabilities, there were averagely 13.7 beds per 1,000 persons with disabilities in Taiwan. The distribution varied from 0 to 44.5 beds, Hsinchu County (44.5 beds), Tainan County (37.1 beds) and Taoyuan County (36.3 beds) owned the most resources in Taiwan. Those areas such as Chiayi City (0 bed), Yunlin County (4.12 beds), Chiayi (5.4 beds), Penghu County (5.7 beds), Hsinchu City (6.2 beds), Keelung City (6.5 beds) and Kaohsiung City (6.7 beds) were the less institutional care resource per 1,000 persons with disabilities in Taiwan.

Day care resource

The day care service refers to the settings (institutions or other service providers) providing services in day-time or hours per day, the people with disabilities do not living in the institutions. The results shown that the overall service capacity of day care was 7,683 clients with disabilities according to the data of the Ministry of the Interior in 2004. The distribution varied from 20 to 1,292 clients, those areas of Taipei County (1,292 clients), Taipei City (1,271 clients) and Taichung (991 clients) have the most day care resources in Taiwan. The other areas such as Chiayi County (20 bed), Hsinchu County (23 clients), Yunlin County (50 clients) could provide the least day care services in Taiwan. With regard to the day care service clients of the general population, there was nearly 40 service client capacity per 100,000 in average in Taiwan, the distribution varied from 3.6 to 145 clients among different areas. Hsinchu City (145 clients) and Taichung City (97 clients) have the richest day care resource for the general population, Chiayi County (3.6 clients) and Hsinchu County were the least areas to provide day care services.

In term of the day care resource to

the number of people with disabilities, the data illustrated that there was an average of 8.5 clients in service capacity per 1,000 persons with disabilities. Hsinchu City has the most affluent day care resource in Taiwan, there were 43.3 clients per 1,000 of people with disabilities. Taichung City (32 clients) was the second, and Tainan City (16.3 clients) was the third. Those areas such as Chiayi County (0.6 client), Yunlin County (1 client) and Hsinchu County (1.2 clients) were the areas where have the most inadequate resource on day care in Taiwan.

Totally, the resource of disability welfare service shown that there were 20,099 persons with intellectual disabilities can receive the institutional care and day care service in Taiwan. The average service capacity was 88.9 clients per 100,000 general population, and 22.15 clients per 1,000 population with disabilities.

The utilization of disability welfare services

Table 2 shown that the utilization distribution of disability welfare services of the year 2004 in Taiwan. Overall, the average use rate of the institutional care was 81.3%, the offshore island – Pei-Hu outnumbered the service capacity to fifty

percent. There were many areas use rate over ninety percent such as Nanyou County (100%), Chiayi (99.5%), Yunlin (99%), Keelung City (98%), Taichung City (92.8%) and Kaohsiung City (91.5%). Taitung (58%) has the minimum use rate of institutional care service in Taiwan.

The utilization of day care services shown that the overall use rate was 71.4%. The variation in different areas was great, Taipei City (99.1%) has the greatest use rate and the Nantou (10.0%) was the least use of the day care services in Taiwan. In general, the use rate of disability welfare service was 77.5% in the institutional care and day care service in Taiwan. Those Chiayi (97.5%), Hsinchu City (92.5%), Yunlin County (92.4%), Taipei City (92.3%) and Keelung City (92.1%) were the top five areas to use the more disability welfare resource in Taiwan. Penghu County (58.9%) and Taichung City (59.6) used the least disability welfare resources in Taiwan.

Discussions

This paper's aims were examining the resource distribution and utilization of disability welfare services in Taiwan. In term of the institutional care resource, the results shown that there were 54.9 beds of

institutional care per 100,000 general population and 13.7 beds per 1,000 persons with disabilities. The distribution of institutional care is uneven in Taiwan, the most affluent resource area owns ten times of the meagrest area (Shi-Chi County to Yu-Ling County, 44.5 to 4.12 of service beds of 1,000 persons with disabilities). Moreover, one area (Chia-Yi City) has no institutional care resources at all. The resource of day care service also showed that the resource is uneven distribution in Taiwan.

With regard to the utilization of disability welfare services, the results showed that more than eighty percent of institutional care and more than seventy percent of day care services averagely has been used by the people with disabilities in 2004. The total disability welfare service average use rate was 77.5%. It is interesting to find that the Pei-Hu County where is an offshore city in Taiwan, the institutional care use rate is 150% and the day care use rate is 13.3%. In addition, Nan-Tow County, a remote area which institutional care use rate was 100% and day care was 10%. The possible reasons are the different culture or social welfare policy for people with disabilities, it is

needed to be further reviewed.

The present study was the first study to examine the distribution of disability welfare resource in Taiwan. We analyzed the data from the official Registry of Institutional and Day Care Resource, Ministry of the Interior, Taiwan. It is difficulty to say the adequacy of the resource of the disability welfare service, particularly in the indicators of service capacity and utilization. Many reasons to explain it, there are many previous study references to examine the results, the social service system are varied in different countries and finally, the classification and level of disabilities will affect the quality and quantity of care in the institutions or day care services. Although these limitations, the present study provide a brief review of the current profile of disability welfare resource distribution for people with disabilities in Taiwan. The further study should follow the results to analyze the affected factors of uneven disability welfare distribution in Taiwan.

Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge the research grant support from Chung-Hua Foundation for Person with Intellectual Disabilities, Taipei, Country, Taiwan.