

Community Outreach Cervical Screening Service in Tackling Health Inequality in Rural Eastern Taiwan

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Introduction (1)

- In Taiwan, national cervical screening program was launched in 1996
- 95.5% of all pap smears of Eastern Taiwan are taken by physicians in hospitals or in private clinics.
- In rural villages, 47.93% of pap smears samples are taken by public health nurses
 - Public health nurses are also responsible for promoting annual pap smears and other necessary exams including mammograms.



Introduction (2)

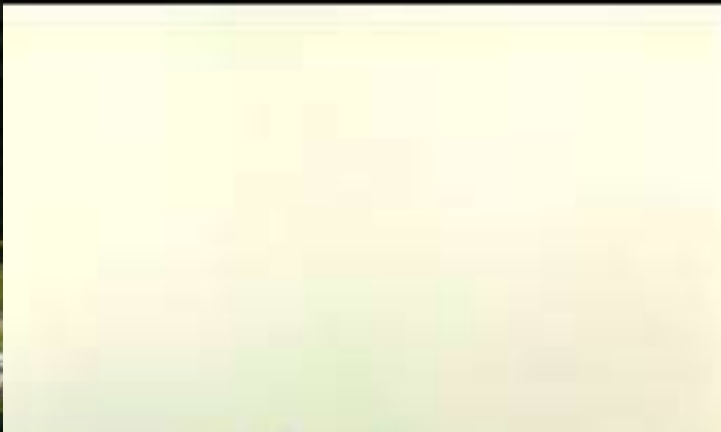
- In rural, mountainous areas, a caravan of mobile screening unit or temporary screening stations have been organized.
- They are rotated throughout different villages annually to facilitate cervical sample taking
- The outreach project is a joint venture between the County Health Bureau, the local Public Health Center, and the regional pathology laboratories
- This screening project is funded by the National Health Insurance



Introduction (3)

- This project targets women over the age of 30, although all women who are sexually active are welcome to register for the service.
- When abnormalities are detected, the case are tracked and referred to the appropriate treatment centres.
- Underserved and marginalised population, mostly indigenous people, is reached.
- Data were taken from the centralised Cancer Registry Report





Purpose / Methods:

- There have been 5,444 smears taken from the registered residents in remote villages of Eastern Taiwan from January 2004 to March 2009, .
 - 649 out of them were smear taken in the mobile clinics
- The quality and their compromising factors of the smears taken in the mobile clinics was compared with the smears taken in the office.

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|---------------------------|
| No endocervical component |
| Poor fixation |
| Thick a/o bloody |
| Low cellularity |
| Inflammation |
| Foreign bodies |
| Lysis |

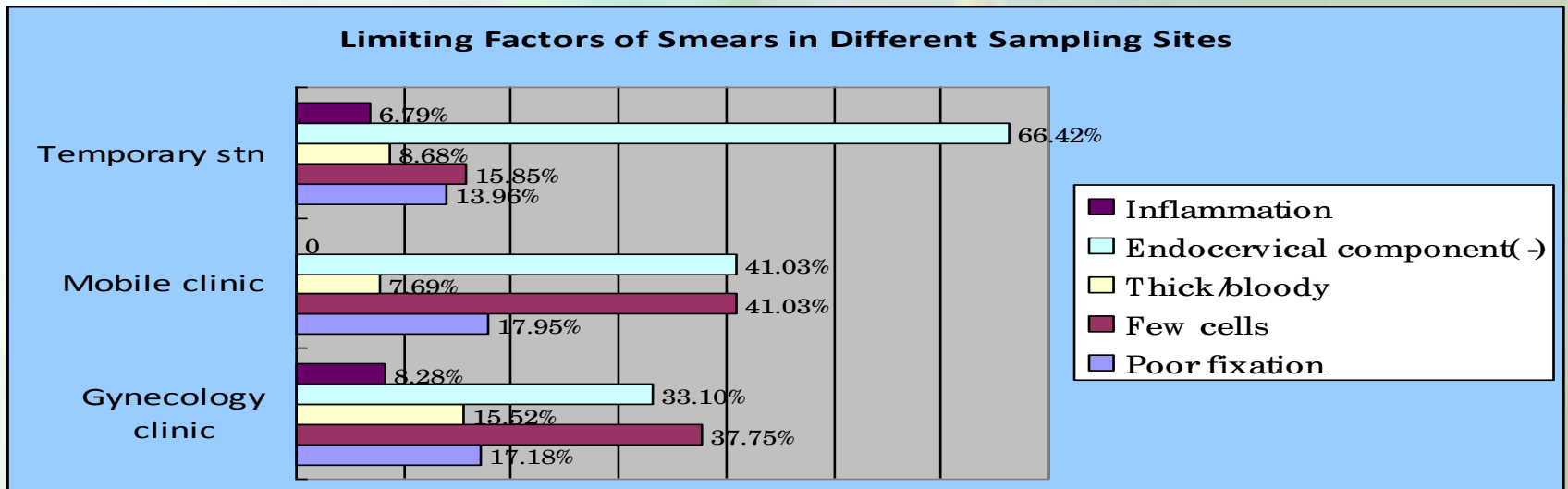
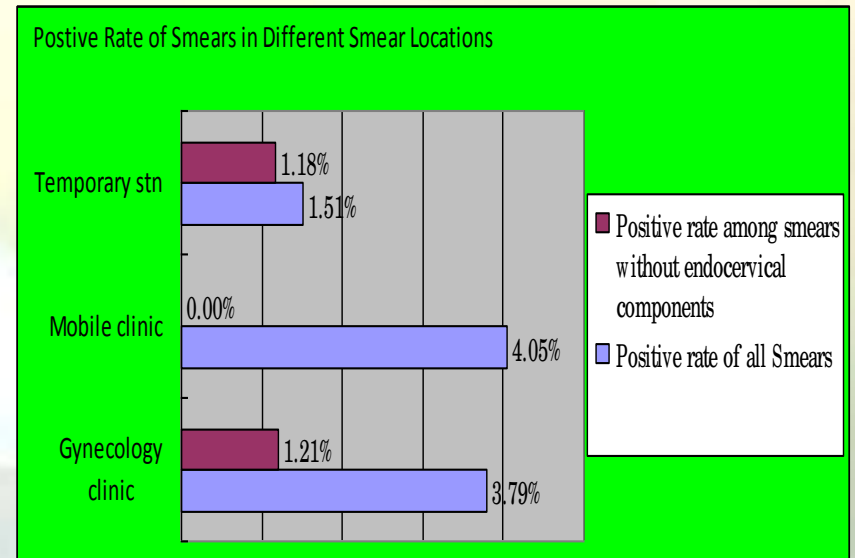
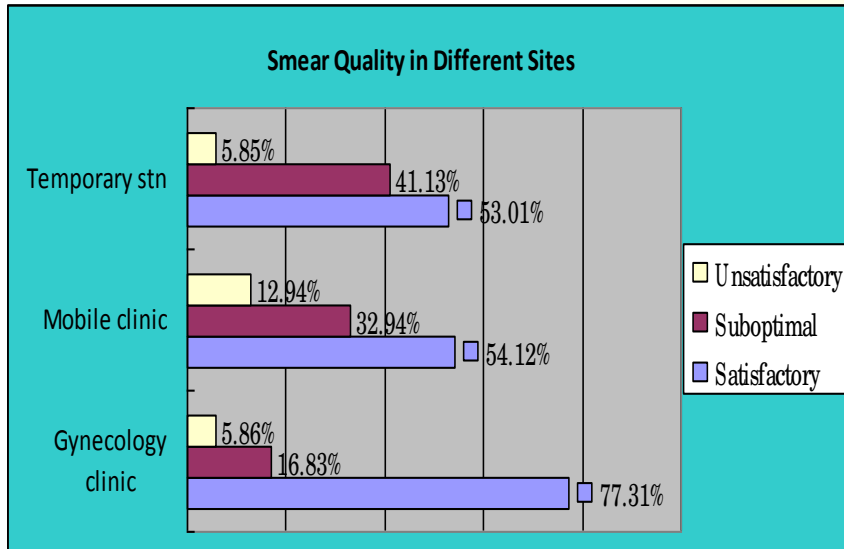


Result (1)

- The accessibility of the service
 - 11.34% of the patients have the first smear of their entire life taken with the program.
 - 62.84% of those who were smeared in 2007 have not been screened in the past 1-3 years, higher than the national average of 51.9%



Result (2)



Conclusions:

- ISSUES RAISED

- The outreach screening program have improved access to preventive service in the rural areas
 - Still a certain proportion of rural women were smeared for the very first time.
- The positive rate among the satisfactory smears vs. suboptimal smears
 - Issue of cost-effectiveness of outreach cervical screening programme



Conclusions:

- SUGGESTIONS

- Public health nurses as smear takers need further support such as training of sampling techniques.
- The difficulties encountered during smear taking in outreach or mobile clinics also need further investigation

