

# **Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission: A Responsibility Shared Equally between Women and Men**

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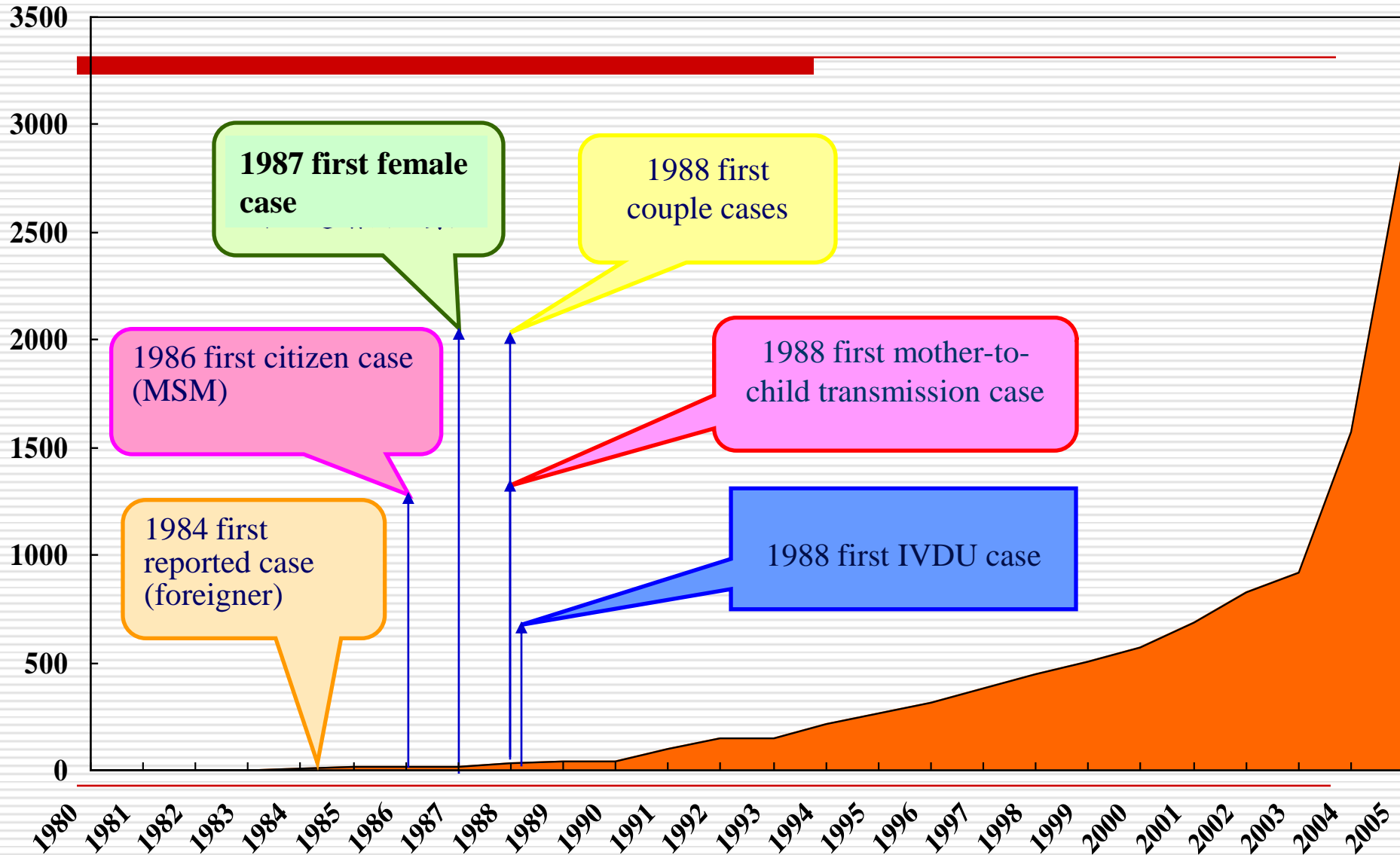
The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NYA Committee of the  
Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations

Session CSW 53: The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities of Women and  
Men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS

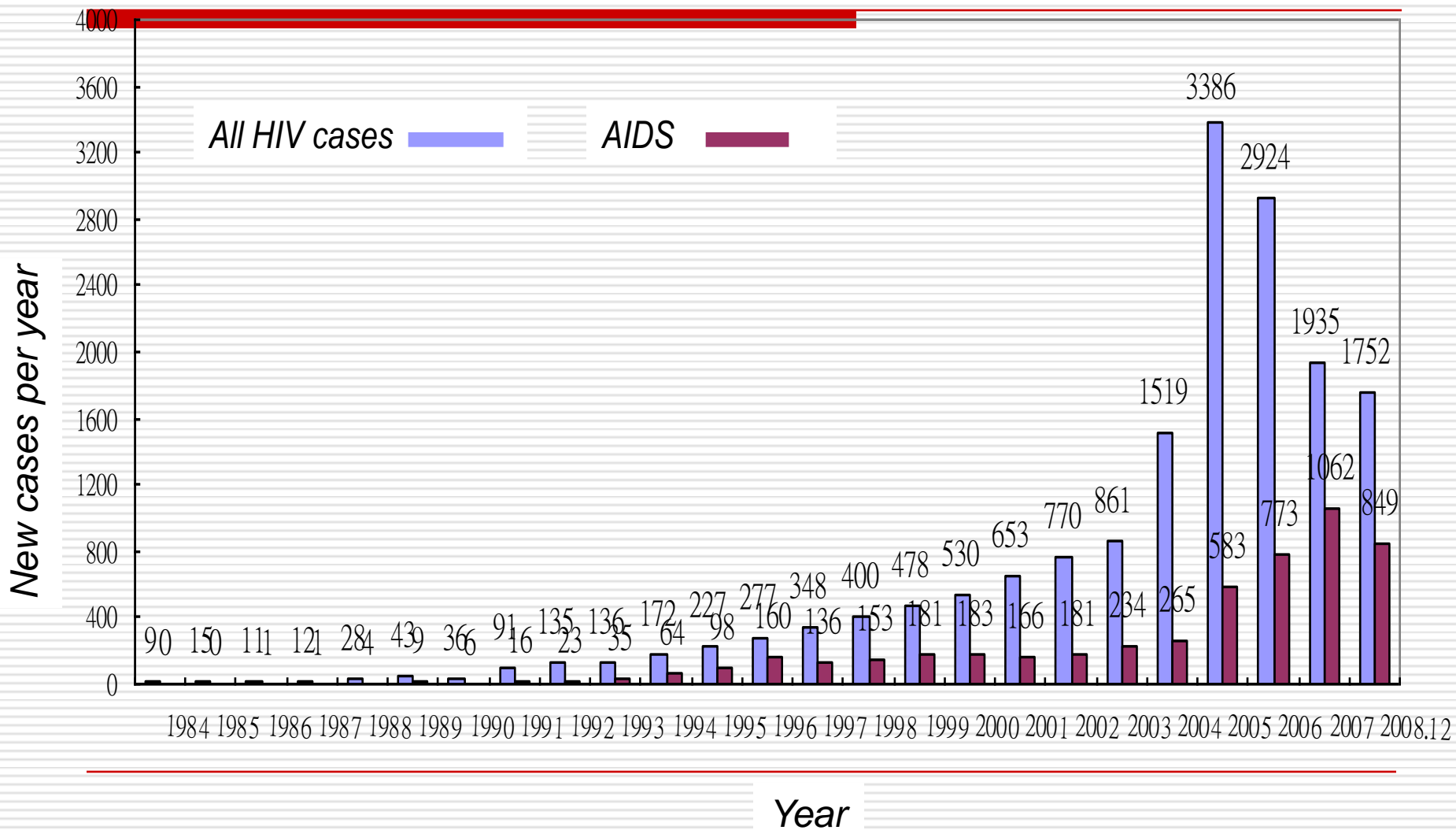
March 1, 2009

New York

# History of HIV case accumulation in Taiwan, 1980-2005



# Numbers of reported new HIV cases in Taiwan 1986 - 2008



## *Number of people living with HIV & AIDS, 2008*

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<b>Gender</b>	<b>HIV &amp; AIDS</b>	
	<b>Number of people</b>	<b>percent</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>1455</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>15293</b>	<b>91.3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,748</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

*<2000 Male : Female =14:1*

2008.12.31

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*2008 Male : Female =10 :1*

## *Serious Change in Taiwan*

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Drug addiction

## *Will only homosexuals get HIV?*

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**As of the end of 2008, all accumulated cases are:**

**Drug users      6007 people(36%)**

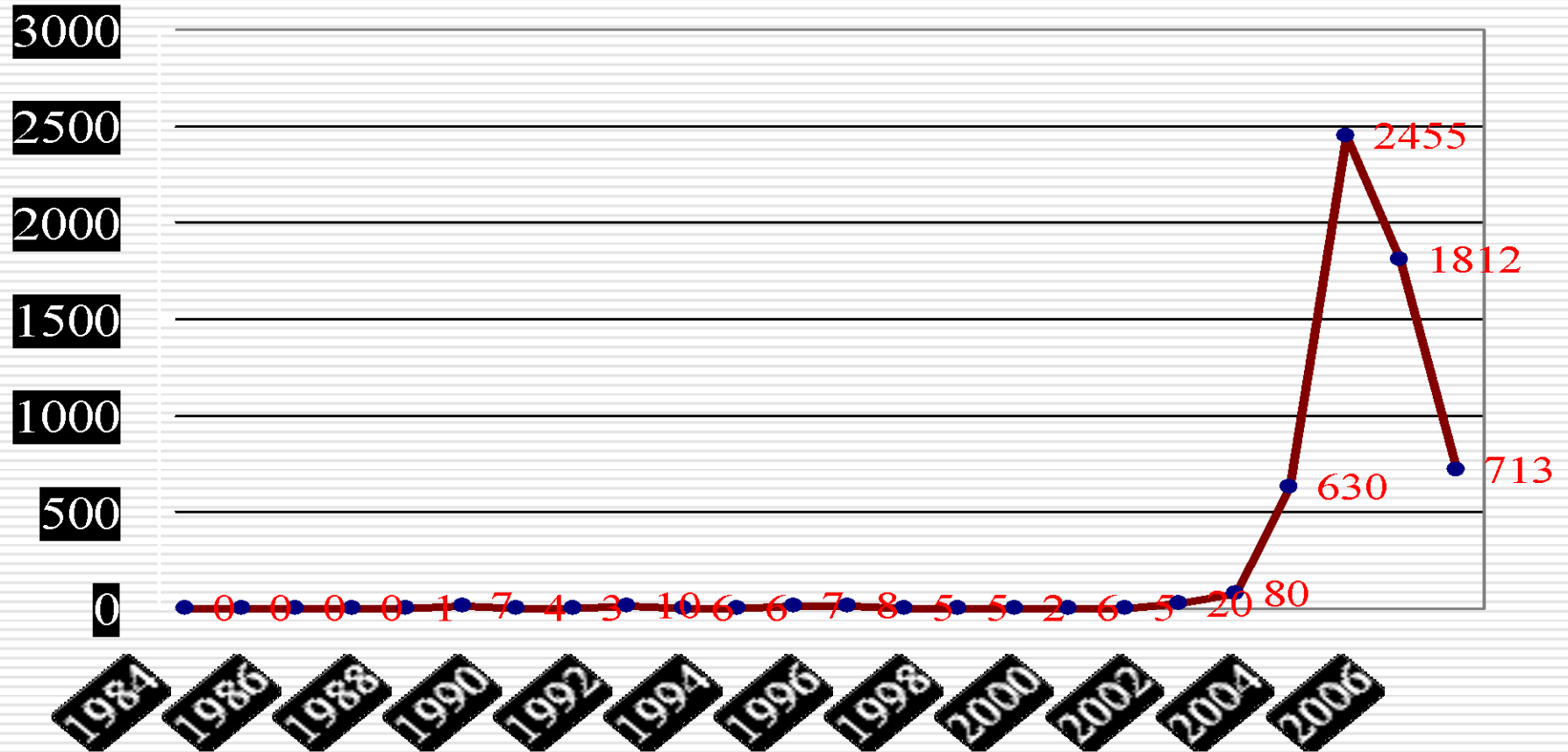
**Homosexuals    5228 people(31%)**

**Heterosexuals   4035 people(24%)**

**But** statistics for 2005-2006 show, new cases of HIV are 80.2% drug users, indication a rapid increase in transmission among drug users.

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## *Number of people living with HIV & AIDS –Drug User*



## *Number of Female HIV&AIDS cases, 1986-2008*

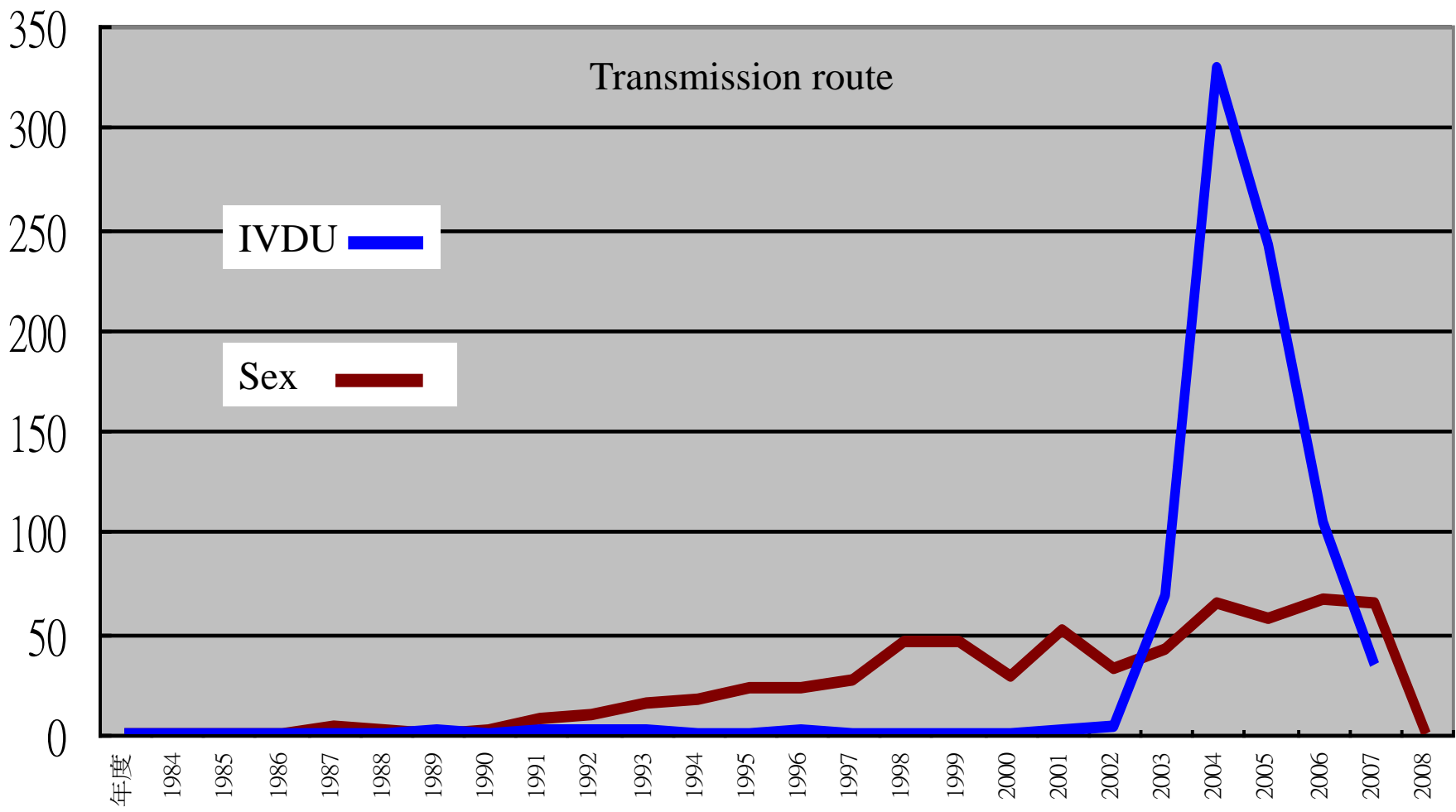
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<b>Transmission Route</b>	<b>Number of people</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Drug use</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Intercourse</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1455</b>	<b>100%</b>

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# Numbers of Reported New Female HIV cases in Taiwan, 1986 - 2008



## *Reasons for the Rise in Female IVDUs cases*

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- ❑ Marginalization of IVDU (criminalized)
  - ❑ Stigmatization of HIV infection
  - ❑ Low education
  - ❑ Low female awareness-patriarchal society
  - ❑ Lack of knowledge and ability to protect oneself
    - Unsafe sex: unwillingness of men to use condom; penile enlargement implant (unable to wear condom)
    - Needle sharing
  - ❑ Economic dependence — **Candy girls**
  - ❑ Control by gangsters/sexual workers
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## *Impact of Drug addiction*

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- Cost of social welfare
  - Cost of medical service
  - HIV transmission through needle sharing
  - Babies born to HIV-positive mother
  - Organized crime
  - Threat to social order (“couple robber”)
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## *Public Health Intervention for HIV & AIDS in Taiwan*

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- ❑ Screening donated blood for HIV-1 from 1988
- ❑ Screening donated blood for HIV-2 from 1995
- ❑ Free HAART from 1997
- ❑ Harm reduction from 2005(needle exchange, methadone substitution, education/counseling)
- ❑ Screening all pregnant women from 2007

***Taiwan has had National Health Insurance since 1995!***

## *Effectiveness of HIV Control Programs in Taiwan*

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- ❑ Average expected survival of HIV has patients increased by 20 years
  - ❑ Reduction in transmission, with decrease in new female cases
  - ❑ Pregnancy screening up to 98% (Are 2% IVDUs?)
  - ❑ Decrease in numbers of new IVDUs
  - ❑ Decrease in babies born to HIV mothers
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## *Taiwan NGOs*

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- ❑ The first case of HIV carrier was found in 1986 in Taiwan.
  - ❑ From the first case (1986) till 2008 HIV infected cases total 16,748 people.
  - ❑ NGOs started to take up the HIV&AIDS issues in 1992.
  - ❑ There are 29 NGOs in Taiwan concerned with HIV&AIDS education (including Women's Federation for World Peace)
  - ❑ However, only one or two NGOs in Taiwan are involved in direct care of AIDS patients adults and babies.
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## *The Garden of Mercy Foundation -- Milestones*

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1999 Sept: The Garden of Mercy Foundation was officially founded in Taipei, Taiwan.



2000: The residential care facility for HIV patients (the Home of Mercy) was established to offer, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, a secluded and quiet place for homeless terminal AIDS patients to live.

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2005:Established counseling group for IVDU prisoners . Professional social workers enter prisons to offer prisoners prevention education and spiritual care.



2005: Established Infant Center. Professional nurses and baby sitters and volunteers take care of newborn babies and those up to one year old suspected of being infected with HIV.



## *The need for the Infant Center*

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- ❑ There are 1,455 female HIV carriers (most are IVDUs). 1,042 (72%) are reproductive age 20-39.
  - ❑ Female IVDUs do not plan contraception and get pregnant easily (unstable economic resources).
  - ❑ Female IVDUs, if imprisoned, use pregnancy to cut the period of time in prison; they are released 2-3 months for birth, and may then escape.
  - ❑ Both government agencies and NGOs won't accept babies suspected of carrying HIV.
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## *Service Goal*

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*Professional nursing and social work treatment ...*

- Reduce baby's HIV transmission and death rate.
  - Improve health and life quality for babies.
  - Offer education for the carrier family, including parents and grandparents.
  - Counseling care and education strengthens the family's motivation and capacity to extend treatment to the unborn baby and prevent transmission.
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## *Service outcomes, Dec. 2005-Dec. 2008*

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### Babies referred from:

<b>Government Agency</b>	<b>Major Hospital</b>	<b>Private Clinic</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>

### Sex of babies:

<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>



## *Service outcomes, Dec. 2005-Dec. 2008*

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Medical treatment of babies:

All babies received at Garden of Mercy within 6 weeks after birth are given AZT treatment; if after 6 weeks, no medicine.

<b>Medicine (AZT)</b>	<b>No Medicine</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>
15 already certain not HIV-infected <b>Other babies are all under one year of age, and their blood tests are all negative – probably not HIV-infected.</b>	6 already certain not HIV-infected <b>Four blood tests are provided in the first year of life; by the last, it is certain there has been no transmission from mother.</b>

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*We expect 100% success in avoiding HIV transmission from mother!*

## *Service outcomes Dec. 2005-Dec. 2008*

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Destination of the 29 babies:

After one year of age, babies can be settled in long-term care or family. As of the end of 2008,

**8 babies went back to the government agency they came from**

**8 babies still live in The Garden of Mercy infant center**

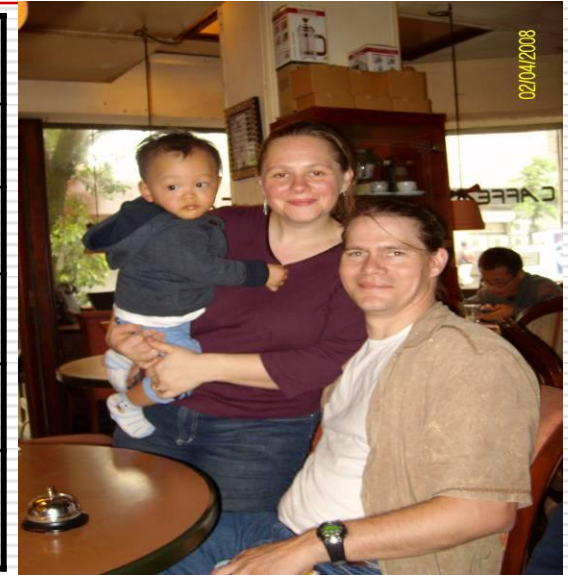
**7 babies went back to their families.**

**\*6 babies have been adopted by other families**



## *Service Outcomes, April 2007 ~ Dec.2008*

<b>Weekend Foster Care</b>	
<b>Taiwanese Family</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Foreign Family</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Mixed Taiwanese/Foreign Family</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Single Person</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>



- \* Garden of Mercy welcomes and trains volunteers who come to the infant center, and are later allowed to take babies home for the weekend.
  - \* 5 out of 6 babies already adopted have been adopted by families who took them for Weekend Foster Care
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## *Service Outcomes of Adult Center, 2002-2008*

	2001 (Apr-Dec)	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Numbers of cases	12	31	42	54	42	39	33	24
CD4 increased	0.0%	29.0%	23.8%	22.2%	23.8%	10.3%	18.2%	66.7%
HIV viral load decreased	0.0%	19.4%	19.1%	14.8%	16.7%	10.3%	15.2%	79.7%
Weight gain	0.0%	25.8%	35.7%	33.3%	33.3%	23.1%	54.6%	87.5%
Improved Barthel ADL Scale	0.0%	9.7%	7.1%	5.6%	11.9%	79.5%	12.1%	91.7%
Improved Karnofsky Performance Scale	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	54.6%	83.3%

*Thank you!*

*Please contact us if you want to know more.*

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