

importance of the outbreak by school officials, normalizing school activities as soon as possible, and limiting publicity. Outbreaks of psychogenic illness may be prevented by taking measures to reduce stress such as de-emphasizing the importance of examinations and avoiding discipline techniques which tend to raise student anxiety levels. Prompt reporting of such outbreaks to health officials is important to rule out infectious and toxicologic causes of illness, and to implement control measures as quickly as possible.

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Trends in Sexually Transmitted Diseases in a Taipei City Clinic

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are an important and rapidly changing public health problem in many developing countries. In Taiwan, STDs are not included in the list of reportable or notifiable diseases, and surveillance data are available only from a few clinics. In the following article, we report data on STD trends from the Taipei Municipal Venereal Disease Control Institute (VDCI) clinic.

Patients seen at the VDCI clinic can be divided into three groups: 1) registered prostitutes required by law to visit the clinic once a week for screening; 2) non-registered prostitutes referred by police authorities; and 3) others including self-referred patients, military recruits required to have an induction examination for syphilis, and sexual contacts of STD cases referred through the public health system. In the past decade, the number and type of patients visiting the clinic has changed considerably. In 1974, There were more than 40,000 patient visits by registered prostitutes compared with approximately 10,000 in this category in 1984 (Table 1). During the same period, visits by non-prostitutes increased by 10-fold. Approximately 80% of patients in the non-prostitute category were male. *(Continued on page 62)*

Table 1 Patient visits by registered prostitutes, non-registered prostitutes, and non-prostitutes, Taipei Municipal Venereal Disease Control Institute, 1974-1984

Year	No. registered prostitutes	No. non-registered prostitutes	Others	Total
1974	42,410	290	2,746	45,446
1975	42,282	618	6,382	49,282
1976	41,045	472	6,907	48,424
1977	37,316	730	7,014	45,060
1978	31,966	769	7,901	40,636
1979	27,306	1,625	6,685	35,616
1980	15,107	1,484	6,926	33,517
1981	12,635	1,254	8,553	32,442
1982	10,790	1,115	16,483	28,388
1983	10,448	780	24,074	35,302
1984	10,115	1,327	26,571	38,013