

# Taiwan UHC Review with Population Statistics including Foreign Residents

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In East Asia, including Japan, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has mostly been achieved or is well underway. One of the conditions for achieving UHC is the extent to which the health care system covers the population. However, foreigners may be excluded from the coverage of the health care insurance system depending on their status of residence. Looking at East Asia, Taiwan has achieved UHC with "National Health Insurance" in 1995. Many foreign-born workers are covered by the NHI. Therefore, in this paper, I have reviewed the Taiwan UHC with population statistics that include foreign residents. In particular, I have estimated the numbers of foreign workers and foreign spouses who were not covered by the health insurance.

The Taiwan National Health Insurance covered about 98% of the population including foreigners in 2017. On the other hand, the number of foreign workers and foreign spouses who were not covered by the national health insurance was estimated to be about 31,000 in 2017. It is a small number in comparison to Taiwan's population. However, foreign spouses accounted for more than 60% of this number. In addition, foreign spouses living in Taiwan, both for less than two years and for ten years and over, shared a high percentage of foreign spouses not covered by the NHI.

With population statistics, we can review the UHC of each country and region that has achieved it. The review result will show us the challenges of the health care system, such as the individuals not covered by health insurance. Analysis with population statistics is useful for the review of UHC.