

C.K. CHEN, S.W. CHENG, H.M. HUA. *Medical service and job stress in Taiwan correctional officers*. *Gerontechnology* 2012;11(2):244; doi:10.4017/gt.2012.11.02.468.00

Purpose The resident population aged over 65 at in 2010 numbered 2,444,760, or 10.90% of the population in Taiwan. Official statistics allow an analysis of ageing index changes in the Taiwan population from 1956 to 2011. During this period the ageing index values went from 5.60% to 72.20%, i.e. the ageing index range increased thirteen-fold. The total population aged over 65 will increase to 30% by the year 2040 in Taiwan¹. Correctional officers especially in Taiwan are under a great deal of stress related to a variety of occupational stress factors². High risk of occupational stress factors and contributes to organizational inefficiency, high staff turnover, and decreased job satisfaction³. One of the stress factors is the rapidly growing group of elderly inmates. The elderly inmate total population increased by 41% between 1999 and 2010⁴. These inmates often have many health problems when at the correctional facility⁵. Therefore, the situation of aging is an important issue in the correctional institution. The aim of this article is to review studies on job stress for those that provide medical services. **Method** This study aimed to review and analyze past research on job stress issues from journals derived from the PerioPath Index to Taiwan Periodical Literature System from 2002 to 2010, with reference to correctional officers in Taiwan. **Results & Discussion** On the basis of the studies included in our review, we conclude that availability of medical services, risk of violent threats, safety and health in work environment are important factors related to job stress⁶. We found that backgrounds of personnel can be categorized into three main groups: the judiciary, police and social work. However, to date, no effective criminal policy, research or intervention strategies are available to reduce stress. This is an urgent issue that needs to be discussed at government level. For further research, it is suggested that researchers should consult articles of internationally recognized journals to expand knowledge on the diverse issues related to correctional institutions, officers, and elderly inmates.

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