

RESEARCH TWITTER

Minmin Zhu, Jian Wang, Hassan H. Dib, and Zengzhen Wang. **"Enhancing the Management of Cross-Regional Transfer of Floating Tuberculosis Cases by Active Follow-up and Communication."** *European Journal of Public Health*, Advance Access.

This paper analyzes the effects of an intervention on cross-regional transfer of tuberculosis (TB) patients among migrant populations. On 1 October 2008, the 1-year intervention started by strengthening patients' health education, supervising medical treatments at critical phases, assisting in the transference of TB patients and persisting communication with TB dispensaries outside Shenzhen city. Primary outcomes were compared between the pre-intervention (from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008) and intervention periods. This paper finds that compared with those at the pre-intervention period, the rate of patients' informing doctors before leaving Shenzhen increased significantly (61.8% vs. 39.4%), the rate of successful transference mildly improved (60.0% vs. 50.0%), while the rate decreased dramatically for the re-registered patients at TB dispensaries outside Shenzhen (51.5% vs. 93.6%). This paper concludes that the intervention improves patients' adherence and enhances collaboration between TB dispensaries, establishes more practical mechanisms, which could be useful for TB control in China.

Jiun-Hau Huang, Yen-Yu Miao, and Pei-Chun Kuo. **"Pandemic Influenza H1N1 Vaccination Intention: Psychosocial Determinants and Implications from a National Survey, Taiwan."** *European Journal of Public Health*, Advance Access

A national computer-assisted telephone interview survey using random digit dialing was conducted during 28-30 October 2009 among residents of Taiwan aged ≥ 15 years. Of the 1079 participants interviewed, 70.1% reported intention to receive pH1N1 vaccination. Multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that participants who perceived pH1N1 in Taiwan to be much more severe than that in other countries, who agreed or strongly agreed that contracting pH1N1 would have a great impact on their daily life, who perceived pH1N1 vaccination to be very effective in preventing pH1N1 and who considered receiving vaccination not very difficult or not at all difficult were more inclined towards getting vaccinated against pH1N1. These specific and modifiable health beliefs have practical implications for prevention and policy making, and highlight the importance of minimizing perceived barriers while convincing the public of the seriousness of the disease and effectiveness of vaccination when promoting vaccination programmes.

Bright I. Nwaru, Reija Klemetti, Huang Kun, Wang Hong, Shen Yuan, Zhuochun Wu, and Elina Hemminki. **"Maternal Socio-Economic Indices for Prenatal Care Research in Rural China."** *European Journal of Public Health*, Advance Access.

The authors constructed the socio-economic status (SES) indices for women in rural China for prenatal care research, and examined their relation to perinatal care and outcomes. This study utilized data of 4364 rural women having recently given birth, collected by a cross-sectional survey in three rural Chinese provinces in 2007. Principal component analysis (PCA) was used to construct the SES indices and multilevel logistic regression was used to relate the indices to low birthweight, short exclusive breastfeeding, childbirth at the county or higher level health facility, caesarean section, inadequate prenatal care and no postnatal care. Three separate SES indices (wealth, occupational and educational indices) were obtained from the PCA analysis. After adjusting for individual level factors, village and township wealth, higher levels of the indices were inversely associated with inadequate prenatal care. Higher occupational status was positively associated with short exclusive breastfeeding and childbirth at the county or higher level health facility, but inversely associated with no postnatal care. Higher educational status was positively associated with no postnatal care.

Hongwei Xu and Susan E. Short. **"Health Insurance Coverage Rates In 9 Provinces In China Doubled From 1997 To 2006, With A Dramatic Rural Upswing."** *Health Affairs*, 2011, 30: 2419-26.

The authors examined the distribution of health insurance in China during 1997–2006, a period when government interventions were implemented to improve access to health care. They analyzed data from a survey that follows households in nine provinces that are home to more than 40 percent of China's population. The analysis shows that the percentage of individuals with insurance increased from 24 percent in 1997 to 28 percent in 2004 and then rose dramatically, to 49 percent in 2006. Rural and urban levels of insurance coverage became more similar, reflecting a dramatic upswing in coverage in rural areas. The analysis also suggests that health insurance reimbursement rates to consumers for inpatient care might have declined in rural villages. Future efforts to reduce rural-urban disparities should address the quality of health insurance and the level of reimbursement in addition to coverage rates.

Hong Wang, Licheng Zhang, Winnie Yip, and William Hsiao. **"An Experiment in Payment Reform for Doctors in Rural China Reduced Some Unnecessary Care But Did Not Lower Total Costs."** *Health Affairs*, 2011, 30: 2427-36.

The authors conducted an experiment in rural China in which they changed the existing fee-for-service method of paying village doctors to a mixed payment method that included a salary plus a bonus based on performance. The new payment method also removed a feature that previously allowed doctors to purchase medications to prescribe to patients and earn a markup on each prescription. Changing these payment incentives reduced spending at the village level, curbed unnecessary care for healthier patients, and also decreased the prescribing of unnecessary drugs. However, other features of the arrangement encouraged doctors to refer sicker patients to township and county facilities, where costs were higher. As a result, total health care spending was not significantly reduced. The findings underscore that policy makers should design payment methods carefully to both contain costs and improve quality.

Yao Lu, Peifeng Hu, and Donald J. Treiman. **"Migration and Depressive Symptoms in Migrant-Sending Areas: Findings from the Survey of Internal Migration and Health in China."** *International Journal of Public Health*, Online First™.

China has experienced large-scale internal migration and growing mental health disorders. Limited research has examined the relationship between the two processes. The authors examined the association between labor out-migration and depressive symptoms of family members left behind in migrant-sending areas. The authors conducted a multistage probability sample survey of Chinese adults in 2008, including 787 people in rural migrant-sending areas. They used multivariate regressions and adjusted for a wide range of confounding factors and for the complex sampling design. They found that adults in households with labor out-migrants were more likely to report depressive symptoms than those in households without out-migrants. However, monetary remittances from labor migrants buffered the mental health costs of out-migration. The authors conclude that labor out-migration has important consequences for the mental health in migrant-sending communities and there is an urgent need to address the psychological costs of migration and to promote regular remittances.

Shu-Hui Chuang and Song-Lih Huang. **"Changes in Smoking Behavior among College Students following Implementation of a Strict Campus Smoking Policy in Taiwan."** *International Journal of Public Health*, Online First™.

This study was conducted in the third to sixth month after the implementation of the revised Tobacco Hazard Prevention Act in Taiwan. In-depth interviews were conducted with 22 smokers who were second and third year students of a college in Taiwan. Thematic analysis was used to categorize ideas into concept themes. In interviews, most smokers revealed some modification in their smoking behavior and attitude. The reasons cited by the students for behavior change were grouped into four major themes: a changed smoking experience, change in social norm, the respect for law, and concern for others' health. This study concludes that implementation of a strict smoking policy in college prompted smokers to markedly reduce smoking on campus.

SangNam Ahn, Hongwei Zhao, Ming Tai-Seale, Charles Huber, Matthew Lee Smith, Marcia G. Ory and Charles D. Phillips. **"The Longitudinal Effects of Behavioral, Health, and Socio-Demographic Factors on Body Mass Index among Older Chinese Adults."** *International Journal of Public Health*, Online First™.

Based on panel data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey, the authors used all available information on adults aged 60 years or older surveyed in 1997, 2000, 2004, and 2006 (N = 3,591). Body mass index (BMI) was dichotomized as normal (18.5–24.9 kg/m²) and overweight (25.0–29.9 kg/m²)/obese (≥30 kg/m²). Generalized estimating equations were used to estimate population-averaged (marginal) effects. The authors found that the combined prevalence of overweight or obese was approximately 33%. Moderate or heavy non-leisure physical activities and smoking decreased the odds of being overweight or obese, while drinking alcohol increased the odds. For individuals in all income levels, the amount of non-leisure physical activity strongly affected the BMI among the older Chinese adults. The authors concluded that active lifestyle interventions may help counter what could otherwise be a growing obesity epidemic in China.

Yuyu Chen and Ginger Zhe Jin. **"Does Health Insurance Coverage Lead to Better Health and Educational Outcomes? Evidence from Rural China."** *Journal of Health Economics*, In Press.

Using the 2006 China Agricultural Census (CAC), the authors examine whether the introduction of the New Cooperative Medical System (NCMS) has affected child mortality, maternal mortality, and school enrollment of 6-16 year olds. Raw data suggest that enrolling in the NCMS is associated with better school enrollment and lower mortality of young children and pregnant women. However, using a difference-in-difference propensity score method, the authors find that most of the differences are driven by endogenous introduction and take-up of the NCMS. While the NCMS does not affect child and maternal mortality, it does help improve the school enrollment of six-year-olds.

Hui Cao, Qingwen Qian, Tingting Weng, Changjiang Yuan, Ying Sun, Hui Wang, and Fangbiao Tao. **"Screen Time, Physical Activity and Mental Health among Urban Adolescents in China."** *Preventive Medicine*, 2011, 53(4-5): 316-20.

This research tests the association between screen time (ST), physical activity (PA) and self-reported psychological problems among urban adolescents aged 11 to 16 years. In 2010, total 5003 boys and girls were analyzed from 4 junior high schools in Bengbu city of China. The Depression Self-rating Scale for Children, Screen for Child Anxiety Related Emotional Disorders and School Life Satisfaction Rating Questionnaire were administered to obtain information on current mental health. Self-reported ST, PA and dietary intake were also assessed. Logistic regression analyses were used to explore the effects of ST and PA on psychological problems. This research finds that high ST was a risk factor for depressive, anxiety symptoms and school life dissatisfaction. Sufficient vigorous PA (VPA) was a protective factor for depressive symptoms and school life dissatisfaction. The combination of high ST and insufficient VPA was associated with the highest prevalence of various psychological problems.