

II. Study Procedures and Methods

Primary Literature

Due to the lack of research about rural Guangdong, especially in respect to contraception, this study had to rely heavily on primary literature. Literature, or references to appropriate literature, on contraception in Guangdong was partially found through the means of PubMed, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations (UN), World Bank, and Global Health Council. Numerous sources were contacted directly, such as the Asian Coalition of Chicago, Chinatown Clinic, practitioners of eastern medicine in Arizona, and Guangdong government officials in a rural area to gain access and direction to better information. Primary media sources also include, but are not limited to, Guangdong news sources such as China Daily, newsgd.com, People's Daily Online, and Guangdong Reporter. Statistical information came mostly from Guangdong Statistical Yearbook of 2006, and interview data.

Interview Process:

Purposive sampling was adopted to select the 55 participants for the study in order to optimize the quality of the findings. Those recruited must be residing in rural Guangdong currently or have previously resided. Semi-structured interviews were conducted in person and on site in Guangdong, China, sometimes with the aid of a translator.

Approval from the Northwestern University Institutional Review Board was received for interviewing participants. The same protocol was followed in all interviews. To protect the interviewee's right to privacy, no personal identifiers such as name, personal address, or phone number were collected as a part of the study. Those interviewed were given an in-depth explanation before the interview regarding the purposes of the interview. All participants were given an opportunity to ask questions and to decline interview. Participants were assured the confidentiality of their responses and their right to withdraw from the study at any time.

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Coding was then applied to the model of analysis as noted in the background. This framework was crucial in showing the multitude of factors that fueled ideas about contraception in both the U.S. and China populations.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:38 AM

Comment: In terms of methodologies—the one big advice I can give is to make sure to read up on your journals (and textbooks). I prefer journals because there is easier access to them (with many of them being online). But read them not only for “how to conduct the research” but rather how to write. Often people skip the methods section and go straight to the results, but it's actually very worthwhile to read (especially if you're just beginning). It's full of useful content, formats, and writing jargon, that will come very useful when it's time for you to write your own.

That being said, I only include minimal amounts of this section because it is important that you research and read what your style should sound like (see some of the sample research articles on this site). Borrowing my language would not be advantageous as not only would the research not be the same, but you might be using the wrong format altogether.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 12:22 AM

Comment: Coding is very important in terms of how you define and organize both your results and discussion.

