

### III. Results

All persons interviewed stated that study was the first time they had talked openly about contraception and associated topics. However, despite this lack of discussion, they shared many common views about knowledge of contraception, opinions about OCP policy, and hesitance to talk about intercourse. Most interviewees in rural China failed to acknowledge the role contraception plays in HIV/AIDS prevention.

Results are split among three sections. The first section provides all applicable survey data gathered. The second section presents the results of contraceptive use and preference determined among participants from ranges of current sexual intercourse activity. The third section deals with the core categories that emerged from participants' open ended discussion on contraception and relevant topics.

#### Survey Data

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Both Guangdong residents and emigrants showed a trend in regards to sex of their children. The average number of female children in Guangdong was 1.7, compared to 1.24 males. The average number of female children of those residing in the U.S. was 1.08, compared to the much lower 0.52 males. Based on the average male: female (M: F) ratios shown in table 1, both locals and emigrants showing bias towards females, with emigrants, 0.31, showing a stronger bias than current residents, 0.77.

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Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:43 AM

**Comment:** The results section is very tricky. It is extremely difficult to separate the discussion and the results. Sometimes it's as small as the type of word choice used; other times, my elaborations turned into my own interpretation of the results. You want to give the most unbiased account in the results section.

Many parts of this section are omitted here to maintain confidentiality. For that reason I cut out the "Contraceptive Use and Preference" section.

Wing Yu 6/10/09 11:33 PM

**Comment:** With public health papers, you often see that the results section is split up into sections. This allows for better flow, and often times it allows for better organization. Because my data came in three parts—survey data, quantifiable data on contraception, and qualitative data—it made sense for me to split it in this manner.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:45 AM

**Comment:** This is quantifiable support for the favoritism towards male heir (something that I mentioned and discussed in the background section. Notice though that in this section I don't make any of those interpretation ties; I just state the facts of the study. I will later pull this in the discussion, where I can interpret these findings and tie them back, ultimately, to the bigger picture.

## In-Depth Interviews

### Social Context and Policy

#### *One Child Policy*

The majority of residents interviewed had many ill experiences with the One Child Policy. When approaching the issue, interviews often mirrored each other in tone and accounts of corruption:

"In one particular instance, they found a woman who was almost nine months pregnant, with three daughters. Someone had ratted the family out after a bad argument, and officials came the very next day. She was immediately taken to the closest family clinic, where they discovered that she was carrying twin boys. Not only did they tie her fallopian tubes right then and there, but they pulled the two boys out of her early. The family, her husband and her mother-in-law arrived in time to see the officials were retrieving the chemicals to put on the boys, and the mother-in-law fell to the floor, begging for them to take all the girls instead. The officials laughed and grinned evilly and spit at her face, applied the chemicals to the twins. The mother upon seeing this committed suicide by jumping out the window; the father then stormed out and went to jump in the sea. The old lady, upon seeing her family gone and left with only three little girls, ran to the sea also and committed suicide. We still to this day do not know what became of the girls."

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Several answers to the open ended opinion questions offered additional insights unexposed through the structured questions. One woman responded:

"...sad how women are hunted. Men could get castrated but their ego is just too big, eh?"

Children of immigrants spoke differently on the predominance of contraception in their community. Male immigrants proclaimed that at times "condom is most preferred, more easily to get and put the blame on the guy if it fails," though admitted that demand was low due to the importance of male heir.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:46 AM

**Comment:** This part took me the longest, as it combined some coding work I had to do. This section is actually the bulk of my "data"; it's the one that I took the most time on, as well as the section that has the meat of my research. It's separated into the sections that were described in the background.

Quotes are very important, and trying to report quotes without giving some sort of explanation was difficult. But please, read as many journal articles as you can to see when and how to quote! That's how you can get a better feel for the format and the flow!

Wing Yu 6/17/09 12:30 AM

**Comment:** This quote has a lot to do with the importance of a male heir, but notice the difference in representation in the results section. Still, I do not give an interpretation, but the reader is allowed to conclude much of what I am going to discuss in the discussion section.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 12:32 AM

**Comment:** Same with this quote, but notice the difference in how it is stated. This shows the variability that you can get with more open-ended questions.

### III. Discussion

This study offered a new perspective on OCP and contraception in rural Guangdong China. Unlike previous research done in Chinese urban areas on the impacts of OCP, prior and current residents of Guangdong demonstrate the dramatic impacts the policy had on their contraceptive method of choice, if any at all. Many also demonstrate a significant lack of understanding of contraception beyond the scope of the policy. The lack of discussion of contraception, or topics of intercourse, between peers, adults to children, overall demonstrates the prevalent social stigma that exists. Even many immigrants in the United States demonstrated the same pattern in answers regarding contraception as their residential counterparts, with the exception that they were more willing to discuss it.

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Interviewees, whether in the states or rural Guangdong China, are products of their time. The social and traditional realities that exist surrounding sexual intercourse and the importance of male heir still holds true in many families, as proposed by both the statistical and qualitative analysis in this study. The ability of institutional context to breach and control much of their individual lives shows the dominance of society. It also fuels the misconceptions regarding contraception, as the concept itself is void of self choice. As vulnerable as women already are in the familial settings to that of duty and child-rearing, the state's control over such an integral aspect of their being left many broken.

OCP also had a drastic impact in elevating the importance of male heir in families. The well established need to deliver a male child had already been engrained to Chinese culture for centuries. Hence the discrimination and elevation of female infanticide are unfortunately reflected highly in residents' accounts of OCP reinforcement. Mother-in-laws "begging for them to take all the girls instead," only shows the disregard for female children in many of these families. This trend, as also reflected in the female: male ratios compiled in this study, shows the male dominant state. Residents also showed favoritism to having at least one male child in the family: "male heir" was mentioned over 90% of the interviews.

This unspoken pressure on wives is unmistakable, and could account for the unease in which they see OCP. As the government controls much of their lives; it is hard to accept a policy that does clash greatly with their need for male heirs. Even family planning officials that were spoken to in this interviewed greatly discussed the difficulties in which they perform their jobs. The more Americanized immigrants during this study also had a hard time understanding how

Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:48 AM

**Comment:** The discussion section is where you pull everything together. You get to discuss the bigger themes of all your results, and try to arrange in a manner that flows similarly to your results. I drew my conclusions in this section, so I didn't need to repeat them in a separate section called Conclusion.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:48 AM

**Comment:** Review how the importance of male heir was shown in the results and how it is presented in an interpretive context here. The theme of male heir is in the background, results, and discussion sections, but notice the difference in writing, format, and style.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:48 AM

**Comment:** This interprets the quote given earlier in the results, and gives it more meaning.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:51 AM

**Comment:** Earlier, in the results section, my quantitative and qualitative data were presented as separate results. Here in the discussion section, where I could talk about them together, I could draw out their meaning.

the government could regulate and mandate permanent contraception in a culture that condones such behavior.

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The open ended questions showed much deeper insights, as participants offered candid responses that reflected a greater understanding than other more structural parts of the interview. One resident's comment regarding the lack of males that gets castrated shows her discontent towards the inequality between male and female treatment in her culture. She acknowledges in one simple, yet powerful, statement that men also have the capability of permanent contraception—castration—and acknowledges its lack of prevalence (compared to IUDs, for example).

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Nevertheless, these qualitative data from this project will lead to generation of hypotheses that will drive further studies and targeted programming. Future work and exploration will be needed both in rural China and abroad in regards to: the effect of age on types of contraception used; the prevalence of natural methods of contraception among other rural Guangdong areas; the current status of OCP and reinforcement currently in those areas; and westernization, if any in these areas. Educational aspects should be discussed, as exploration to perhaps semi-public discussions help residents understand and see benefits to modern contraception. These misconceptions on contraception must be resolved, as lack of acknowledgement of the problem only fuels more health disparities in the long haul.

## IV. Acknowledgements

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Finally, I would like to thank all the participants in the interview for this study. Without your stories, this work would never have come to fruition.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 11:51 AM

**Comment:** Always have acknowledgements!!!  
After this sentence, I listed the names of a number of mentors.

## References

### Appendix A

*Guangdong Interview Questions*

### Appendix B

Penny Hirsch 6/17/09 11:53 AM

**Comment:** Naturally, my thesis ended with a list of references and various appendices. Those are not included in these excerpts.