

# **Contraceptive Use in Rural Guangdong Province**

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## Abstract

**Background:** While the Chinese government's "One Child Policy" (OCP) is one of the most debatable human experiments, many have yet to expose its effect on contraception usage and understanding in rural areas of China. One of the most problematic provinces today is Guangdong, the largest province of China, where, within 10 months of 2006, 4823 new HIV cases were reported, raising the total to over 40000.

**Methods:** This semi-structured interview-based study is concentrated in rural Guangdong, with purposive sampling adopted to optimize the quality of the findings. From a total of 55 participants (~95% women), 25 in-person in-depth interviews were conducted with U.S. emigrants from Guangdong and 30 were interviews with current residents in the rural areas.

**Results:** All persons interviewed stated that this 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 willingness to talk about intercourse. Their readiness to talk appears to have a positive correlation with how far they lived from Chinese rural areas. Abstinence is the predominant method used in prevention. Other methods of contraception, such as IUDs, carry negative connotations. Most interviewees in rural China failed to acknowledge the role contraception plays in HIV/AIDS prevention.

**Conclusion:** This study shows a demand for improved dialogue about modern contraception in rural Guangdong among current residents of Guangdong Province and among Guangdong immigrants living in the U.S. Results of this qualitative study lay the groundwork for further research and targeted programming for counteracting the taboos regarding contraceptive practice and HIV/AIDS among both Guangdong residents and immigrants to the U.S.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 10:22 AM

**Comment:** This abstract was written in the traditional format that you see published in the American Public Health Association Journal, as well as many other prestigious journals of public health. The abstract itself is usually split into four sections, about 500 words in length (this will be about the length that it needs to be in order for submission to a conference).

Notice that while each section is only a couple sentences in length, it does give a clear synopsis of the problem, the research base, the results, and conclusion of study. Further information of course would have to be divulged in the paper itself.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 10:23 AM

**Comment:** Just a writing comment: Be aware of "jargon" in your paper (key words, phrases, issues, policies, research terms, etc.). It is easy to fall into the trap of using acronyms, but remember that your audience might not be aware, or, worse, associate the acronym to something entirely different.

A term like "OCP" is fine for the abstract, but if this was in the body of the paper this term would need to be defined better. And there is an entire section of the background devoted to just what this policy is. From that point forth it will be fine to just use "OCP" because you have familiarized your audience with the meaning.

Wing Yu 6/17/09 10:25 AM

**Comment:** This sentence is good, because it captures the problems well, giving enough detail to engage the audience.

If I were reading this critically as a reviewer, (not the writer) I would want perhaps a clearer picture of what "reported" means in this sentence. There are many types of reporting, some more credible than others (primary—news sources, data collection agencies, secondary—research, journal articles). Watch out for confounding factors that could easily skew these numbers.

Granted, this is just the abstract, so I would just read on and hope these points will be addressed.

Wing Yu 6/16/09 11:47 PM

**Comment:** Very heavy jargon in this sentence, although my anticipated audience of this paper (public health/science professors) should have an idea of what this entails. So just to define (and this might be useful):

Semi-structure interviews: These interviews can contain questionnaires at the beginning, but more often the name is describing the types of questions being asked during the study. For a semi-structure, participants are given more open ended questions in which they not only answer, but can elaborate and infiltrate with their own opinions. This is a very basic definition, and this is just one type, so if ... [1]

Wing Yu 6/17/09 10:27 AM

**Comment:** Results—make sure you do not go into any discussion or interpretations. This section is strictly limited to a structured presentation of findings.

Wing Yu 6/16/09 11:51 PM

**Comment:** This conclusion is a summary of what you would typically see in the discussion section.