

MEASURE Evaluation in China

Although China's overall HIV/AIDS infection rate is low, certain groups and localities face a high risk of infection, and recent data suggests that the disease is spreading to the general population. An estimated 0.1% of adults carry the virus. China's most at-risk group has been injecting drug users traditionally. China has the world's largest population of injecting drug users at 2.4 million people. Forty-four percent of the country's HIV-positive population became infected by injecting drugs. Commercial sex workers also face a higher risk of infection than the general population.

Heterosexual transmission has surpassed drug injection as the primary mode of HIV infection in recent years, though. Infections acquired through heterosexual transmission tripled between 2005 and 2007, and infections through homosexual transmission are on the rise. HIV cases have doubled in the past decade, and the virus now exists in all of China's provinces.

MEASURE EVALUATION IN CHINA

Given the rapidly changing nature of China's HIV epidemic, strengthening the country's national surveillance system is one of USAID's major priorities. MEASURE Evaluation began providing technical assistance along these lines during Phases I and II of the project. Its work has continued into Phase III.

During earlier phases of the project, MEASURE Evaluation worked with the provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offices in Guangxi and Yunnan provinces to strengthen their health management information systems, as well as the HIV reporting systems that monitor and evaluate HIV services. In 2010, Chinese provincial officials presented findings from a self-assessment of progress towards strengthening the HIV/AIDS reporting project in



COUNTRY FLAG



DEMOGRAPHY

Population: 1,336,718,015

Population Growth Rate: 0.493%

Age Structure:

0–14 years: 17.6%

15–64 years: 73.6%

65 years and over: 8.9%

Death Rate: 7.03 deaths/1,000 population

HIV-RELATED DATA

Adult HIV Prevalence: 0.1%

People Living with HIV: 740,000

OTHER RELEVANT DATA

Infant Mortality Rate: 17 infant deaths/1,000 live births

Total Fertility Rate: 1.8 children born/woman

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 34 maternal deaths/100,000 live births (2009 est.)



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Guangxi at the Fourth International RHINO workshop in Mexico. The assessment was based on a baseline and follow up application of the PRISM tool. The Project's HMIS activities were transitioned to provincial authorities and MEASURE Evaluation technical assistance for HMIS ended in March 2011.

In 2009, Liuzhou province in China provided the setting for a research study involving the collection on non-routine data relevant for HIV/AIDS/STI prevention programs. The study compared two methods for sampling hard-to-reach populations in order to assess gaps in prevention program coverage, the Priorities for Local AIDS Control Efforts (PLACE) and Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS). The PLACE method identifies locations and events where people meet new sexual partners and interviews a representative sample of

people at the venues about their sexual behavior and the exposure to prevention programs. The RDS method identifies initial respondents who are members of the target population and asks each respondent to recruit an additional respondent for interview. Each method has its strengths and weaknesses, but the two had never been directly compared. The PLACE/RDS study compares behavior and syphilis prevalence among female sex workers sampled by PLACE to those of female sex workers sampled by RDS. While the study yields useful methodological information, the main aim was to identify gaps in the province's HIV prevention programs and document recent trends in sexual behavior. A rapid test for syphilis was included in the study protocol, and findings will serve as baseline estimates of syphilis prevalence for a syphilis prevention initiative to be implemented in the region.