



# China Youth Reproductive Health Project

## Impact Evaluation Studies

The China Family Planning Association (CFPA) and PATH are implementing an innovative adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) initiative in China with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The China Youth Reproductive Health Project began in April 2000 and ends in 2005. The project operates in 14 sites across 12 Chinese provinces.

To reach the overall goal of improving ASRH, the project staff adopted a youth-development approach to providing life-planning skills (LPS) training to youth in various settings. LPS training includes the topics of values; adolescent development; interpersonal relationships; drug abuse prevention; reproductive health, including contraception; decision-making; sexually transmitted infection and HIV/AIDS prevention; negotiation and self-protection skills; and planning for the future. Additional components of the project's strategy include policy and advocacy, youth-friendly services, media involvement, and informational materials.



The objectives of the project include:

- Increasing adolescents' self-esteem, awareness of positive gender and human rights values, and safer sexual practices.
- Increasing adolescents' access to and utilization of high-quality sexual and reproductive health services and counseling (youth-friendly services).
- Creating a safe and supportive environment for programming at the national, community, and school levels.
- Improving the national-level response to ASRH issues by building the capacity of the CFPA and other agencies to advocate for, plan, implement, and evaluate innovative health interventions for adolescents.

Through the formation of a monitoring and evaluation technical advisory group, the project solicited the help of key Chinese population research institutes in both formulating and implementing the project's monitoring and evaluation plan. In addition to improving overall monitoring to capture youth-related statistics, the program implemented seven impact evaluation studies in five sites to evaluate key program interventions. The seven studies were designed by a research team that included three research advisors (Dr. Zhenzhen Zheng, Dr. Ersheng Gao, and Dr. Yongliang Liu) and by the PATH/CFPA team (Kate Bond, Qian Geng, Lisa Mueller, and Yongfeng Liu). Jianhua Yang, a PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins University, and Qian Geng led the research team's development of the questionnaires. Research at each site was conducted and monitored by research advisors, local research partners, and local family planning associations.

Site	Characteristics	Primary study objective	Key research partners
<b>Shenzhen</b>	First project site to target migrant youth. Urban population is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrant: 72% of the population come from elsewhere.</li> <li>• Young: average age of 30.8 years; 40% of population are youth between 15 and 24 years.</li> </ul>	Assess the impact of LPS training provided by the China Youth Reproductive Health Project on young unmarried migrant workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shenzhen FPA</li> <li>• Institute of Population and Labor Economics at CASS</li> <li>• Shenzhen Reproductive Health Service Center</li> </ul>
<b>Harbin</b>	Team in this northeastern city government successfully advocated for multisectoral team to guide program implementation, resulting in institutionalization of program in the middle and primary school system.	Document the process of institutionalizing LPS training within a school system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harbin FPA</li> <li>• Harbin Education Department</li> <li>• Educational Research Institute of Harbin Normal University</li> <li>• Institute of Population and Labor Economics at CASS</li> </ul>
<b>Tianjin</b>	One of the first project sites to directly target parents with communication skills and youth reproductive health.	Assess the impact of parent training on parent knowledge, parent-child communication, and student training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tianjin FPA</li> <li>• Municipal Research Institute for Family Planning</li> <li>• Institute of Population and Labor Economics at CASS</li> </ul>
<b>Shangcai County</b>	One of two rural pilot counties; high HIV prevalence.	Evaluate the impact of LPS education among senior high school students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shangcai County FPA</li> <li>• Shanghai Institute for Planned Parenthood Research</li> </ul>
<b>Shanghai (3 studies)</b>	Key municipality; pioneer in adolescent sexuality and reproductive health programming in China; broad-based comprehensive project site.	<p><b>LPS study</b> Evaluate the impact of LPS training, peer education, and YFS among vocational school students</p> <p><b>Policy study</b> Evaluate the impact of the China Youth Reproductive Health Project on policy environment in Shanghai in the last four years.</p> <p><b>YFS study</b> Evaluate the status and the quality of YFS at different levels of the Shanghai YFS network.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shanghai FPA</li> <li>• Shanghai Institute for Planned Parenthood Research</li> </ul>

Note: CASS, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; FPA, Family Planning Association; LPS, life-planning skills; YFS, youth-friendly services.

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