

Public Health Infrastructure and Role of the Universities in China

Qingyue Meng, MD, PhD

School of Public Health, Shandong University, China

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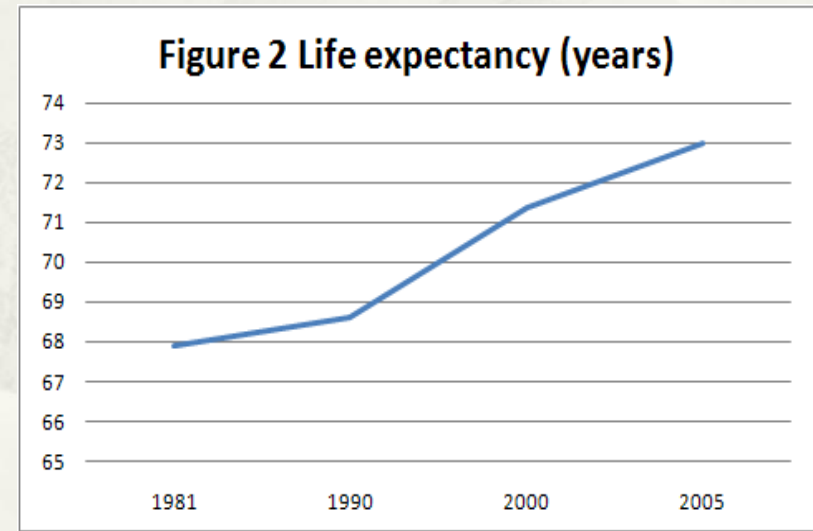
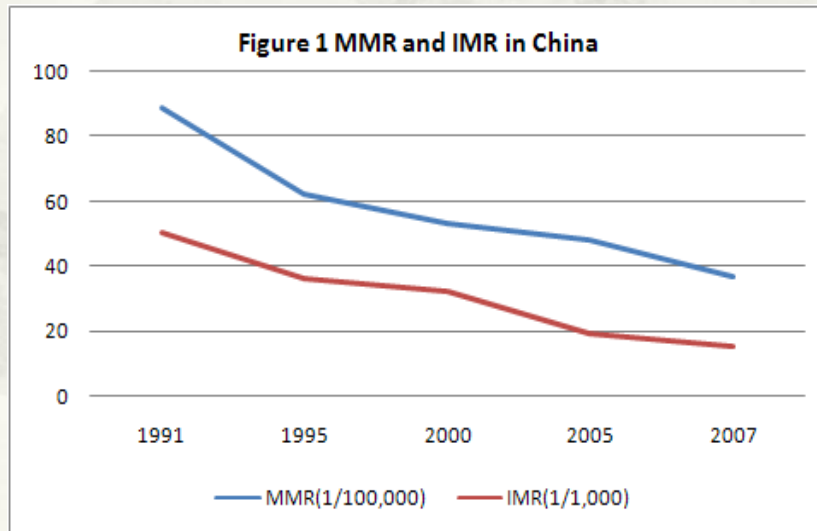
In this presentation.....

- Overview of the China's public health infrastructure
- Performance of the public health infrastructure
- Role of the universities

Overview of the public health infrastructure

➤ Health status of the population

Health status in China has been greatly improved over the past decades. Public health plays a leading role in improvements of the health status.



Source: Digest of Health Statistics 2007, Ministry of Health

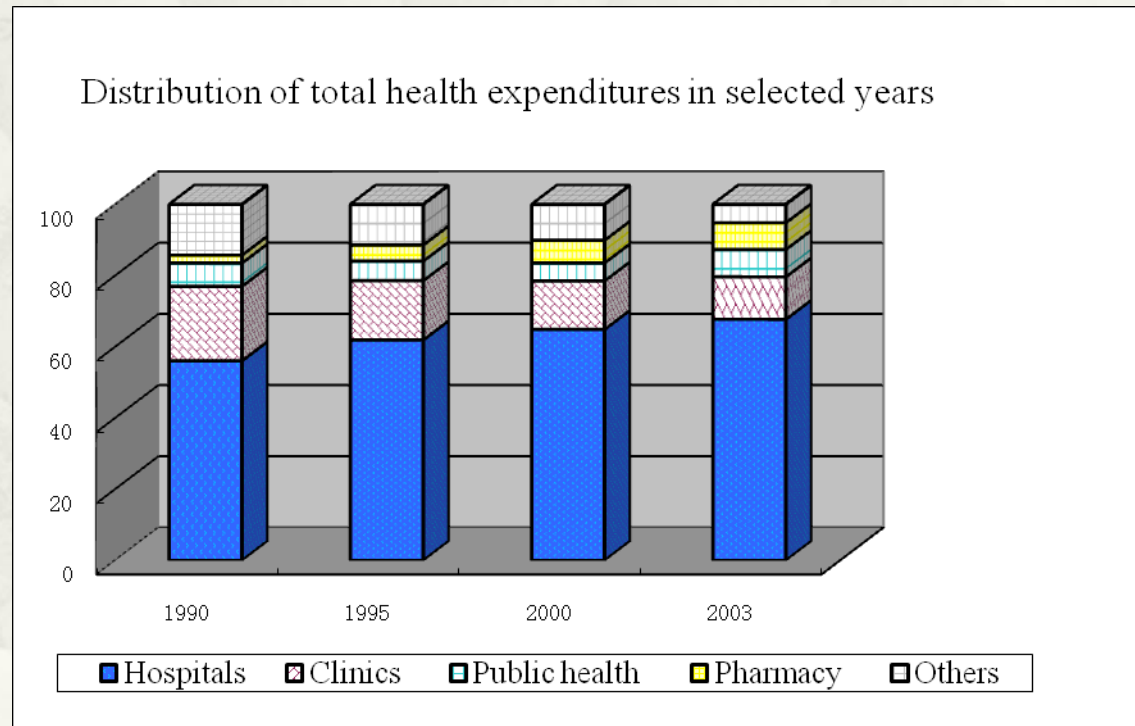
Overview of the public health infrastructure

➤ Public health infrastructure



Overview of the public health infrastructure

➤ Distribution of health expenditures



Source: Health Account Study, Ministry of Health, 2005

Overview of the public health infrastructure

➤ Public health infrastructure

Workforce

- CDCs: 0.2 million health workers
- Hospitals: 3.6 million professionals, <1% public health related
- MCH stations: 25 million health professionals, 1% of them public health
- Township health centers: 1.1 million health professionals, 10% public health
- Village clinics: 0.93 million health workers, 20% public health related

Information system

- Infectious disease reporting system (from township to central government)
- Publicity regulation from the MoH
- Shared information between CDCs and other health providers

Organization

- "Three tier health system"(County, township, village)
- CDC centered (3,585 CDCs in 2007)
- PPM (public-public and public-private mixes) (20,000 hospitals and 40,000 township health centers, in 2007)
- 13 health related departments (Health, FDA, Finance, Human Resource and Social security, etc))

Performance of public health infrastructure

➤ **Workforce**

- Availability of public health workers
- Basic knowledge and skills
- Highly committed teams

BUT

- High concentration of qualified health professionals in urban and high level health facilities
- Confined knowledge in traditional public health subjects
- Lack of supervision from high level health professionals

Performance of public health infrastructure

➤ Information system

- A preliminary reporting system from 2003
- Basic equipment of IT at and above township level
- More attentions paid to information system

BUT

- Lack of analysis and feedback system
- Not-friendly for primary health care providers
- Lack of integrated network within a region/area
- Lack of training on use of IT

Performance of public health infrastructure

➤ Organization

- The "three tier" health system exists
- Establishment of public health-related departments and institutions
- Enacts of public health regulations

BUT

- Poor coordination between departments and health providers
- Weak management capacity
- Disincentives to public health organizations/providers

The role of the universities

➤ What responsibilities universities can take

Areas for strengthening public health infrastructure	Responsibilities of the universities
Qualified public health specialties	Expanding public health education system
In-service training	Expanding public health training programs
Multiple disciplinary teams	Modifying current public health curriculum
Capacity of information management system	Technical supports
Equitable and efficient use of the infrastructure	Systems and policy research
Performance-based evaluation system	Development of methodologies

The role of the universities

- **How universities can support strengthening of public health infrastructure**
 - **Understanding the needs for strengthening**
 - **Regular communications with public health organizations**
 - **Create research opportunities**
 - **Reforming public health curriculum system**

Remarks

- Public health infrastructure is crucial for population health
- Public health infrastructure need to be strengthened
- Universities can contribute to improvement of public health infrastructure through education, training, technical support, and research

Thanks for your attentions!