

Sexual and Reproductive **Health Expenditures**

In Sichuan And Fujian

Executive Summary



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Published by the United Nations Population Fund, China

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Cover designed by: Beijing Hanxiang Ruisheng Graphic Design Co., Ltd

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United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is an international development agency that delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every child birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

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Background

Financing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is one of the critical determinants which influence health outcomes. Creating an understanding of the sources and the manner in which financing takes place and identifying barriers that exclude vulnerable populations to accessing essential services is crucial in ascertaining the equitability and efficiency of the sector. It can guarantee strategic investment and guide evidence-based policy-making, particularly relevant considering the on-going reforms in China's health system.

A framework which monitors these financial flows was not available in the Chinese context. Therefore, this study was developed with the overall objective to establish an initial picture of SRH financing and develop a framework for tracking financial flows. Specific objectives of this study included:

- Identifying the kinds of SRH goods and services consumed, including preventive and curative care and governance and health system and financing administration, including hospitals and primary health care institutions
- Identifying which health care providers deliver these SRH goods and services
- Identifying which financing scheme(s) pay(s) for these SRH goods and services. Of particular interest were the government schemes, voluntary and compulsory insurance schemes and household out of pocket payments
- Identifying the inputs used in the process of provision of health care, for example labor, taxes and services, etc.
- Identifying the age (5-year age bracket), gender and diseases related to the goods and services consumed

This study was conducted jointly by the China National Health Development Research Center (CNHDRC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). As the first of its kind in China, it was conducted on a provincial level, namely in Sichuan and Fujian (see areas of study below). It followed the standard National Health Account methodology developed by the OECD, Eurostat and WHO and was adapted to the local context and topic of interest.

Areas of study



Summary of Key Findings

Overall SRH expenditures

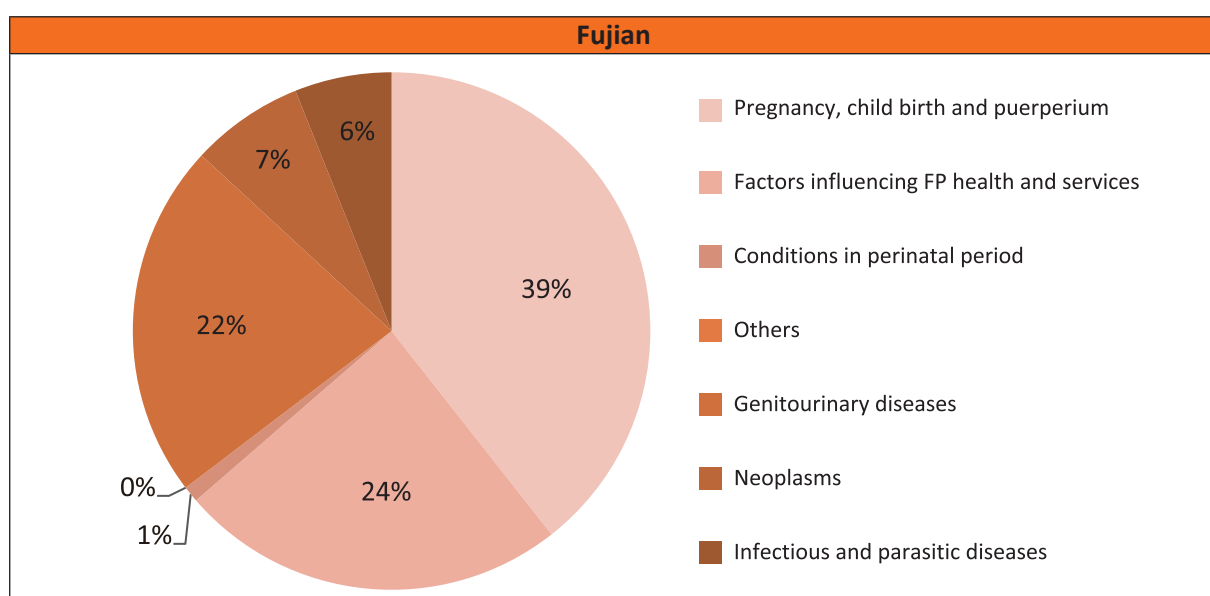
The total health expenditure in Fujian in 2014 amounted to 88,896 million RMB. Roughly 16% of this was spent on sexual and reproductive health (SRH). This is equivalent to 0.6% of the gross domestic product. In Sichuan, total health expenditure was equivalent to 185,751 million RMB, of which 13% was spent on SRH representing 0.8% of the province's gross domestic product.

	Unit	Fujian	Sichuan
Current health expenditure	million RMB	88,896	185,751
SRH expenditure	million RMB	14,008	24,001
As the share of current health expenditure	%	15.8	12.9
As the share of GDP	%	0.6	0.8

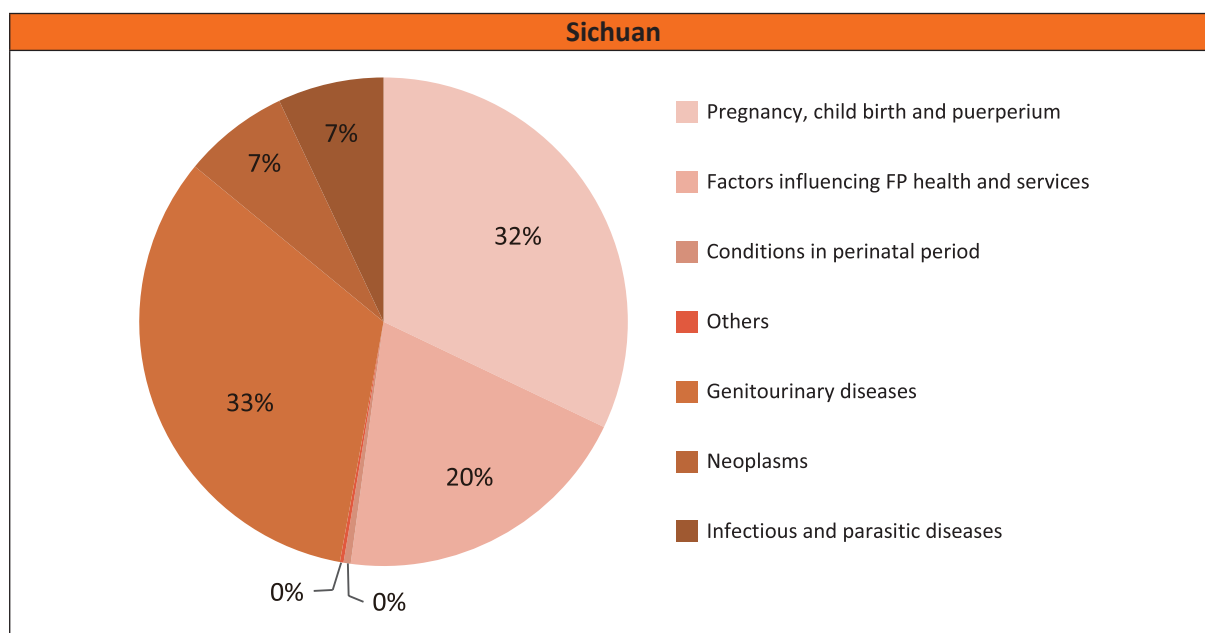
When considering per capita expenditure, about 370 RMB was spent on SRH in Fujian and 300 RMB in Sichuan. In comparison, per capita expenditure on health for these provinces was 2,580 RMB and 2,340 RMB respectively.

Expenditures by disease

When classifying the SRH expenditures by disease and related health problems (as detailed in annex 1), pregnancy, child birth and puerperium took up the largest share of expenditures in Fujian, with the latter totaling 5,528 million RMB or 39% of the total SRH expenditure. In comparison, the share of spending on pregnancy, child birth and puerperium in Sichuan was the second largest (32%), with 7,724 million RMB. The largest share of SRH spending in Sichuan was on diseases of the genitourinary system (7,964 million RMB or 33%) – larger than the share in Fujian where it numbered 22%. Besides this difference, the rest of the distribution by disease and related health problems followed a similar pattern.



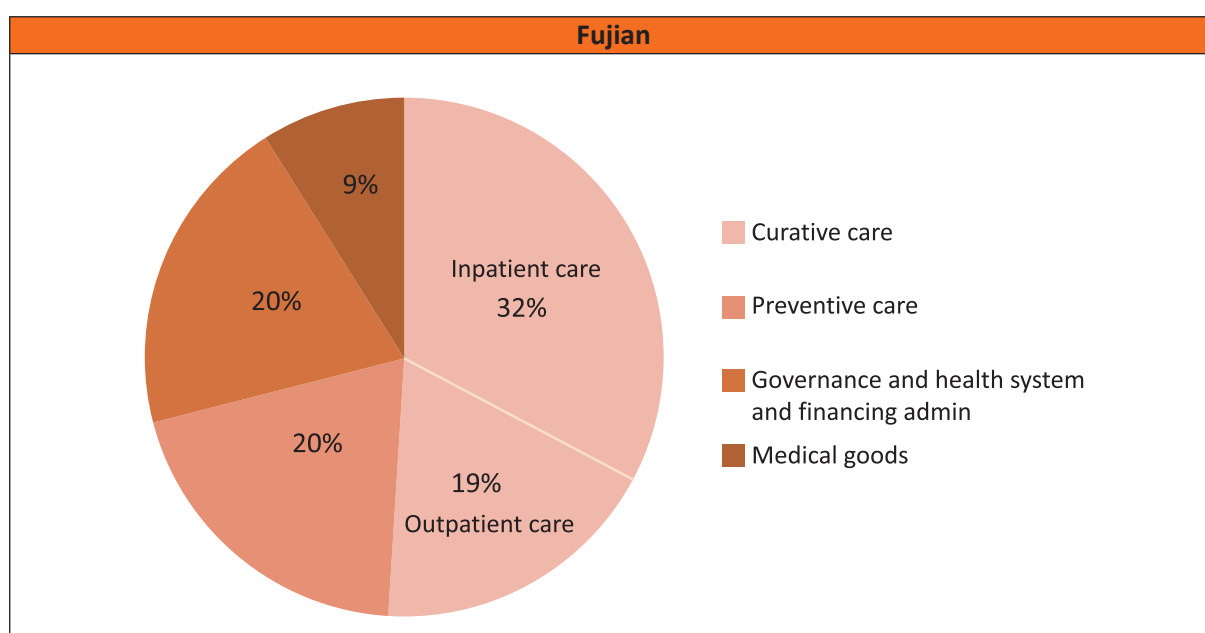
Note: numbers do not add up to 100% due to rounding

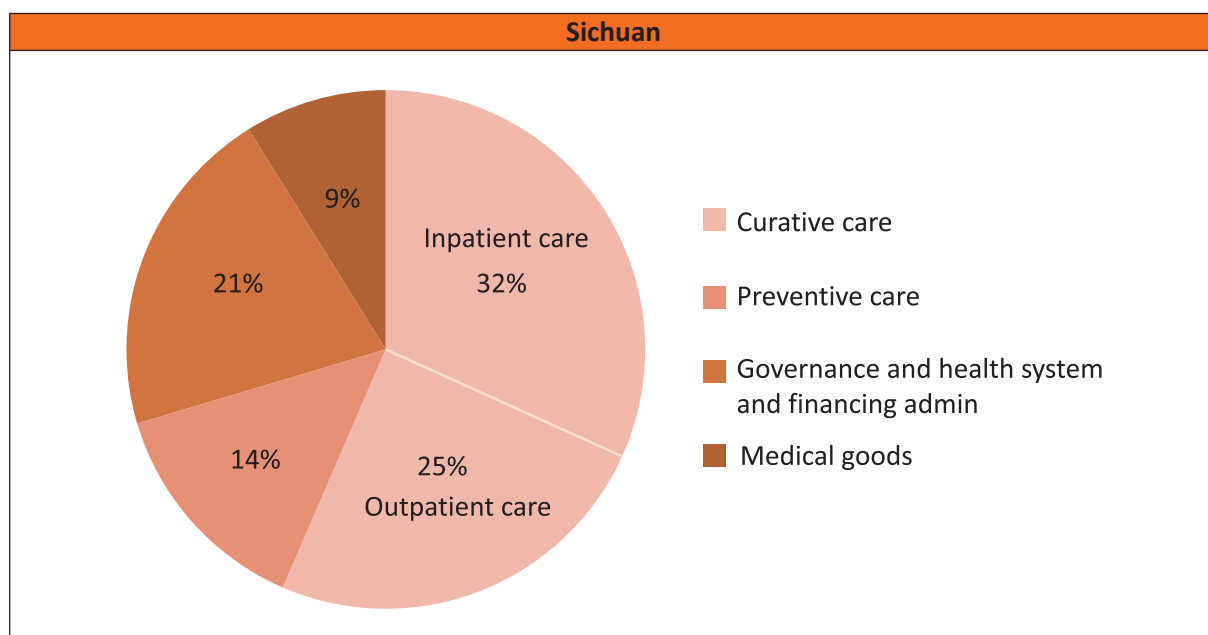


Note: numbers do not add up to 100% due to rounding

Expenditure by function

Making a comparison between the types of SRH goods and services paid for, curative care (including rehabilitative care) represents the largest share of the total SRH expenditure. Of the total expenditures on SRH in Fujian (14,008 million RMB) and Sichuan (24,001 million RMB), approximately 51% and 57% was spent on curative care. Within curative care, inpatient care accounts for the largest share in both provinces. Spending on preventive care stood at 20% and 14%. Ancillary services incurred were close to 0% and therefore not shown in the graphs.

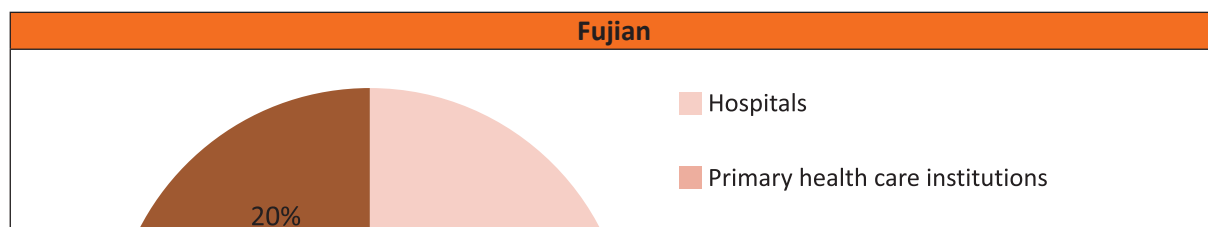




Note: numbers do not add up to 100% due to rounding

Expenditure by provider

On the health provider side, nearly half of the expenditures were made in hospitals: 6,723 million RMB in Fujian and 10,588 million RMB in Sichuan. The second and third largest SRH provider expenditures in Fujian and Sichuan were those of health care system administration and financing (around 20%) and preventive care (19% and 17%).



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