

# Financing rural health services in China in the context of economic reform

Gerald Bloom, Tang Sheng-Lan, Gu Xing-Yuan

First published: May/June 1995

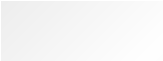

<https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3380070307>

## Abstract

The changes which have taken place in the Chinese economy since the late 1970s have affected rural health services in a number of ways: local prepayment schemes have collapsed and most people pay in cash for medical care; health facilities have more autonomy from the government; and political mobilization for health has decreased. In the less developed parts of the country poor households cannot get the health services they require and health facilities face financial problems. China's policy makers face an imposing agenda of issues which could lead them towards a fundamental redefinition of the relationships between users and providers of health services, third-party payers, local government health departments and local professional and community organizations.

## References

Besley, P. (1994). ' The demand for health care and health insurance.' In A. McGuire, P. Fenn and K. Mayhew (eds) *Providing Health Care: The Economics of Alternative Systems of Finance and Delivery*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

 [Google Scholar](#) 

---

Bird, R. and Wallich, C. (1993). Fiscal decentralization and intergovernmental relations in transition economies, *Policy Research Department Working Paper WPS 1122*. Washington, D.C., World Bank.

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential

Croll, E. (1994). *From Heaven to Earth: Images and Experiences of Development in China*. London, Routledge.

[Google Scholar](#)

Eklund, P. and Stavem, K. (1990). Prepaid financing of primary health care in Guinea Bissau: an assessment of 18 village health posts. *Africa Technical Department* World Bank, Washington, D.C.

[Google Scholar](#)

Gu, X. et al. (1993). "Financing health care in rural China: preliminary report of a nationwide survey", *Social Science and Medicine*, 36 (4), 385-391.

[CAS](#) | [PubMed](#) | [Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Henderson, G. et al. (1994). "Equity and the utilization of health services: report of an eight-province survey in China", *Social Science and Medicine*, 39 (5), 687-700.

[PubMed](#) | [Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Hillier, S. and Xiang, Z. (1991). "Township hospitals, village clinics, and health workers in Jiangxi Province: a survey", *China Information*, 2, 51-61.

[Google Scholar](#)

Hussain, A. (1990). The Chinese enterprise reforms. *The Development Economics Research Programme*, CP No. 5. London, London School of Economics.

[Google Scholar](#)

Hussain, A., and Stern, N. (1992). Economic reforms and public finance in China. *The Development Economics Research Programme*, CP No. 23. London: London School of Economics.

[Google Scholar](#)

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential

---

Parker, R. (1992). Designing and financing health services for the poor. Presentation to the International Poverty Workshop, Beijing.

[Google Scholar](#) 

---

Riskin, C. (1987). *China's Political Economy*. New York, Oxford University Press.

[Google Scholar](#) 

---

Shue, V. (1984). The fate of the commune", *Modern China*, 10 (3), 259–283.

[Web of Science®](#)  [Google Scholar](#) 

---

Song, L. and Du, H. (1990). The role of township governments in rural industrialisation.' In W. Byrd and Liu, Q. *China's Rural Industry: Structure, Development and Reform*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

[Google Scholar](#) 

---

State Statistical Bureau of the People's Republic of China (SSB) (1993). *China Statistical Yearbook 1993*. Beijing: China Statistical Information Consultancy Center.

[Google Scholar](#) 

---

Tang, S., Bloom, G., Feng, X., Lucas, H., Gu, X. and Segall, M. (1994). Financing rural health services in China: adapting to economic reform. IDS Research Report No. 26. Brighton: Institute of Development Studies.

[Google Scholar](#) 

---

S. Tang, H. Lucas, and G. Bloom (eds) (1995). Reports on the health services in three poor rural countries in China, *IDS Working Paper*. Brighton, Institute of Development Studies.

[Google Scholar](#) 

---

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential

World Bank (1990). Long-term issues and options in the health transition, Report No. 7965-CHA, Environment, Human Resources and Urban Development Division, Asia Country Department HI. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

 | [Google Scholar](#)  |

World Bank (1992). *China: Strategies for Reducing Poverty in the 1990s*. Washington, D.C., World Bank.

 | [Google Scholar](#)  |

Young, M. (1989). “Impact of the rural reform on financing rural health services in China”, *Health Policy*, 11, 27–42.

 | [Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#)  |

Yu, D. (1992). ‘ Changes in health care financing and health status: the case of China in the 1980s, *Innocenti Occasional Papers*, Economic Policy Series, No. 34.

 | [Google Scholar](#)  |

Zhou, S. Q. (1992). “Comparison of different models of health care finance in rural China, *Chinese Primary Health Care*, 8, 9–13 (Chinese language publication).

 | [Google Scholar](#)  |

Zi, W. (1990). “Financial inducement for improving the efficacy of immunization”, *World Health Forum*, 11, 173–8.

 | [PubMed](#)  | [Google Scholar](#)  |

## Citing Literature

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

- Manage Preferences
- Accept All
- Reject Non-Essential

[Manage Cookies](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Wiley Research DE&I Statement and Publishing Policies](#)

## HELP & SUPPORT

[Contact Us](#)

[Training and Support](#)

[DMCA & Reporting Piracy](#)

[Sitemap](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES

[Subscription Agents](#)

[Advertisers & Corporate Partners](#)

## CONNECT WITH WILEY

[The Wiley Network](#)

[Wiley Press Room](#)

Copyright © 1999-2026 John Wiley & Sons, Inc or related companies. All rights reserved, including rights for text and data mining and training of artificial intelligence technologies or similar technologies.

**WILEY**

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

[Manage Preferences](#)

[Accept All](#)

[Reject Non-Essential](#)