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Current Situation and Challenges of Primary Health Care in China (Post-print)

Authors: Qin Jiangmei, Lin Chunmei, Zhang Yanchun, Zhang Lifang, Qin Jiangmei

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Abstract

This paper systematically reviews the 45-year development trajectory of primary health care in China, utilizing primary health care-related data from the *China Health Statistical Yearbook* (2010–2012), *China Health and Family Planning Statistical Yearbook* (2013–2017), and *China Health Statistics Yearbook* (2018–2022), together with 2023 World Bank data on infant mortality, maternal mortality, and life expectancy for China and countries across low-, middle-, and high-income categories, to summarize the implementation progress and achievements of primary health care in China. The development process can be divided into four stages, with achievements including the gradual strengthening of the primary health care network, universal coverage of basic medical insurance, progressive expansion in the content, funding, and coverage of basic public health services, steady improvement in family doctor contract coverage, continuous enhancement of maternal and child health, and major health indicators ranking among the forefront of upper-middle-income countries. Current challenges include unbalanced infrastructure development across the primary health care system, a declining share of medical insurance funds, lack of vitality in operational mechanisms, and low compensation levels with insufficient incentives. This paper also distills insights from international experiences for China's primary health care and proposes future development directions and strategies.

Full Text

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<https://www.chinagp.net> E-mail: zgqkyx@chinagp.net.cn

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Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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