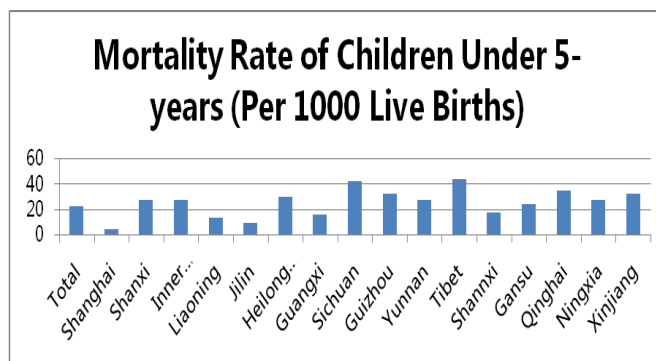


Program Background

China has experienced spectacular economic growth in recent years, averaging 8-9% per year. As a result, on average, the standard of living is higher than ever before in China's history. However, uneven economic development and disparities in health status also widened significantly during this period. For example, National statistics (2003) show that the mortality rate of children under 5-years old varies from 27.87‰ to 54.9‰ in less developed provinces, while the mortality rate is 7.02‰ in Shanghai. Further data (2005) indicate that mortality rate of children under the age of 5-years is 10.7‰ in urban areas while 22.5‰ in the countryside.



To address the need for improving pediatric care in the less developed areas in China, Project HOPE and its long-time partner Shanghai Children's Medical Center (SCMC) collaboratively launched a Rural Training Program in 2002. The program aims to build pediatric care capacity through fellowship training at SCMC and outreach training and on-site coaching in the less developed areas.

Program Description

Each year, the program selects 25-30 health service providers from less developed areas to participate in a year long fellowship training at SCMC. In addition to providing group training sessions, the program works with each fellow to design an individualized training plan and curriculum to address each participant's needs for classroom training, clinical practice and skill strengthening. The program also assigns each fellow an experienced clinical mentor who coaches, supervises and provides daily guidance. While the fellowship training is underway at SCMC, the program also periodically conducts outreach training to hospitals in the less developed areas.

To ensure quality and track progress, the program uses monitoring and evaluation tools. Furthermore, communications with program alumni are conducted to obtain feedback and track program outcomes.



Fellow checking a patient

