

Supplementary Materials

Appendix 1 Details of Sampling

Our survey questionnaire asked about respondents' life circumstances; health and health-care utilization; health-care performance evaluations, values and trust, and finally about their income and expenditure. The survey was conducted by the Research Centre for Contemporary China at Peking University. Its target population was mainland Chinese citizens aged 18–70 years residing for more than 30 days in family dwellings in all 31 provinces. The survey used the GPS 'assisted area sampling method' to project a grid onto 2855 counties, county-level cities or urban districts of the same status (Landry and Shen, 2005). This method is internationally recognized as enabling robust representation of China's large population. Post-fieldwork stratification and weighting by age and gender was based on population statistics from the 2010 census. The result was a sample of 5,424 dwellings in which 3,680 valid interviews were completed, giving a response rate of 67.8 %. This is similar to the response rates of other randomly sampled public surveys in China. We obtained ethical approval through the University of Glasgow, and we also obtained the free and informed consent of the subjects.

Appendix 2 Questionnaire Design, Pilot and Quality Control

Before drafting the questionnaire, we conducted nine focus groups in urban and rural China to better understand how ordinary citizens experience the health-care system. Native speakers from RCCC served as moderators, and members of our team read the transcripts in both English and Chinese. We also checked existing survey instruments to identify possible items for inclusion or adaptation, and to determine where we needed to develop new questions. Where possible we used questions from major China health surveys including the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS), the China Economic, Population, Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS), and the China Urban Labor Survey (CULS). Native Chinese speakers with knowledge of the Chinese health system translated our questionnaire into modern standard Chinese, and we then back-translated it into English. Where an instrument had already been used in a major previous survey, we used the same Chinese wording. We discussed individual questions at length with native speakers to ensure that the translation tapped the relevant concepts and intentions and made sense in Chinese. We then piloted the survey using face-to-face interviews with a sample of 50 respondents near Beijing, 26 with “non-agricultural” and 24 with “agricultural” household registration. After analysing the responses to the pilot and reviewing feedback from our interviewers on interviewees’ level of understanding and problematic questions, we revised the questionnaire. In our full survey, interviewers evaluated respondents’ cooperativeness, level of understanding, and level of interest in the interview using a five-point scale. The measures showed that 97.7% (or 3,595 of 3,680 respondents) were at or above the mid-point on cooperativeness, 95.4% (3,512 respondents) on level of understanding, and 92.1% (3,389) on level of interest. Interviewers also evaluated respondents’ level of doubt about the interview before it started and recorded their impression of the reliability of respondents’ replies on a three point scale: 97.3% (3,583 respondents) were at or above the midpoint in terms of the absence of doubt and 96.1% (3,538) were above the midpoint in terms of perceived reliability.

Appendix 3 Descriptive Statistics

Table A3.1 Descriptive Statistics of Variables Used

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
Trust in the central government	1 Not at all	4 A lot	3.36	0.62
Trust local government	1 Not at all	4 A lot	2.65	0.80
System support statement (1)	1 Strongly disagree	4 Strongly agree	2.85	0.71
Has any kind of public insurance (2)	0 No	1 Yes	0.89	0.31
Health care system satisfaction	1 Very dissatisfied	4 Very satisfied	2.81	0.62
Age	2 18-29	6 60+	3.61	1.33
Female	0 No	1 Yes	0.50	0.50
Married	0 No	1 Yes	0.83	0.38
Agricultural <i>hukou</i>	0 No	1 Yes	0.63	0.48
Non-local <i>hukou</i>	0 No	1 Yes	0.11	0.32
Urban district (3)	0 No	1 Yes	0.33	0.48
GDP per capita (ten thousand yuan)	0.79	14.76	3.51	2.71
Socio-economic status	1 Lowest	7 Highest	3.35	1.19
Communist Party membership	0 No one in family	2 Self a member	0.48	0.70
Education	1 None	9 PhD	3.43	1.78
Leave everything to upright leaders (4)	1 Strongly disagree	4 Strongly agree	2.62	0.82
Obey unreasonable parents (5)	1 Strongly disagree	4 Strongly agree	2.23	0.79
Pride in country (6)	1 Not at all proud	4 Very proud	3.24	0.61
National economy rating (7)	1 Very bad	5 Very good	3.78	0.68
Household economy compared to five years ago (8)	1 Much worse now	5 Much better now	3.94	0.73

Political performance rating (9)	1 Worst	4 Best	2.63	0.64
Reads print media for news	1 Never	5 Daily	2.38	1.42
Watches TV news	1 Never	5 Daily	4.11	1.20
Trusts mainstream media (10)	1 Not at all	4 A lot	2.76	0.66
Trusts people in general (11)	0	1 Yes	0.60	0.49
Item non-response rate, %	0 None	40% or more	11.84	8.77

Notes: (1) Agreement with the proposition that ‘Whatever its faults may be, our form of government is still the best for us.’ (2) Includes NCMS, UEBMI, URBMI, government medical insurance, reimbursement through the work unit and special insurance for veterans’ spouses. (3) Out of 60 PSUs, 20 are urban districts, 10 are county-level cities and 30 are rural counties. (4) Responses to the following statement: ‘If we have political leaders who are morally upright, we can let them decide everything.’ (5) Responses to: ‘Even if parents’ demands are unreasonable, children should do what they ask.’ (6) Responses to: ‘Are you proud to be a citizen of China?’ (7) Responses to: ‘How would you rate the overall economic condition of our country today?’ (8) Responses to: ‘How would you compare your family’s economic situation with what it was five years ago?’ (9) Mean response to four statements: ‘Our current courts always punish the guilty even if they are high-ranking officials’, ‘Everyone is treated equally by the government’ and ‘People are free to speak what they think without fear.’ Replies to these questions correlate strongly (Cronbach’s alpha .74). (10) Average for TV and newspapers. Cronbach’s alpha 0.85. (11) Responses to the question: ‘Generally, do you think people can be trusted or do you think that you can’t be too careful in dealing with people?’

Sources: China National Health Attitudes Survey, 2012–2013, fieldwork 1 November 2012–17 January 2013, N 3680. GDP per capita is calculated from GDP and population as reported in provincial yearbooks compiled by China National Knowledge Infrastructure. n.d. “China Data Insights.” cdi.cnki.net, accessed 22.03.20. For districts within provincial-level metropolis, the GDP per capita of the entire metropolis was used to avoid excessive influence by districts with a high volume of business transactions, such as Beijing’s central business district in Chaoyang or the Tianjin Binhai New District. Substitution of city for district or county GDP was also made for 13 districts and six counties where the GDP data was not available at district or county level.

Appendix 4 Estimates for Three Separate Dependent Variables Differentiating Insurance Types

Table A4.1 Estimates for System Support Differentiating Insurance Types

	Objective variables		All Variables		Impact (C.I.)		
	<i>Est.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>Est.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>			
<i>System support on:</i>							
New Cooperative Medical Scheme	-0.02	0.17	-0.07	0.18			
Urban Employees' Basic Medical Insurance	0.56	**	0.22	0.42	0.22		
Urban Residents' Basic Medical Insurance	0.38		0.21	0.31	0.22		
Any other form of public insurance	0.11		0.22	0.08	0.21		
<i>Health care system satisfaction</i>	-	-	0.23	**	0.08	1.15(1.04, 1.27)	
<i>Age in deciles</i>	0.17	***	0.05	0.13	**	0.05	1.19(1.06, 1.34)
Female	-0.12		0.07	-0.12		0.08	
Education	-0.02		0.04	0.04		0.05	
Agricultural <i>hukou</i>	0.40	**	0.14	0.25		0.13	
Non-local <i>hukou</i>	-0.11		0.14	0.11		0.13	
Urban district	-0.03		0.19	0.06		0.20	
<i>Communist Party membership</i>	0.03		0.08	0.01		0.07	
Married	-0.20		0.12	-0.25		0.12	
Socio-economic status	0.03		0.05	-0.01		0.06	
<i>Item non-response rate, %</i>	-0.02	***	0.01	-0.01		0.01	
<i>GDP per capita (ten thousand yuan)</i>	-0.24		0.40	-0.20		0.31	
<i>Leave everything to upright leaders</i>	-	-	0.46	***	0.09	1.45(1.26, 1.67)	
<i>Obey unreasonable parents</i>	-	-	0.24	**	0.09	1.20(1.05, 1.37)	
<i>Pride in country</i>	-	-	0.33	***	0.09	1.22(1.10, 1.35)	
<i>National economy rating</i>	-	-	0.26	**	0.09	1.19(1.06, 1.34)	
<i>Political performance rating</i>	-	-	0.88	***	0.10	1.76(1.55, 1.99)	
<i>Trusts mainstream media</i>	-	-	0.21	*	0.09	1.15(1.02, 1.28)	
Trusts people in general	-	-	-0.04			0.10	
<i>Household economy compared to five years ago</i>	-	-	0.03			0.07	

<i>Watches TV news</i>	-	-	-0.04	0.05
<i>Reads print media for news</i>	-	-	0.03	0.05
Log likelihood	-92017		-46965	
Number of observations	3594		3594	
LR-chisq(df)	96096(14)		186200(25)	
Prob>chisq	0.000		0.000	

Notes: Results show ordinal logistic regression coefficients computed using maximum likelihood estimation with robust standard errors clustered at the level of the primary sampling unit (PSU), pooling five imputations of missing data, resulting in five complete data sets with 3,594 cases each. Impact is computed by multiplying the odds ratio by the standard deviation of the independent variable. Confidence intervals for impact are computed for 95% confidence. * means significant at .05 level; ** at .01 level; *** at .001 level. All variables are measured at individual level, except Urban District (which refers to the administrative category of PSUs in cities at prefecture level or above) and county or district GDP per capita. Variables in italics in the table are centred on their grand mean, and all other variables take a negative response (coded zero) as their reference category. Survey data from: China National Health Attitudes Survey, 2012–2013, fieldwork 1 November 2012–17 January 2013, N 3680.

Table A4.2 Estimates for Trust in Central Government Differentiating Insurance Types

	Objective variables		All variables		Impact (C.I.)
	<i>Est.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>Est.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	
<i>Trust in the central government on:</i>					
New Cooperative Medical Scheme	0.23	0.16	0.21	0.17	
Urban Employees' Basic Medical Insurance	0.57 **	0.18	0.52 **	0.18	1.22(1.07, 1.38)
Urban Residents' Basic Medical Insurance	0.58 **	0.20	0.66 **	0.20	1.26(1.10, 1.45)
Has another form of public insurance	0.16	0.36	0.27	0.23	
<i>Health care system satisfaction</i>	-	-	0.07	0.07	
<i>Age in deciles</i>	0.10 **	0.03	0.01	0.03	
Female	-0.001	0.08	0.03	0.08	
<i>Education</i>	-0.05	0.04	-0.03	0.04	
Agricultural <i>hukou</i>	0.54 ***	0.16	0.41 *	0.16	1.22(1.04, 1.42)
Non-local <i>hukou</i>	-0.26 *	0.13	-0.14	0.13	
Urban district	0.01	0.16	0.13	0.17	
Communist Party membership	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.07	
Married	-0.07	0.11	-0.07	0.12	
Socio-economic status	0.04	0.05	-0.01	0.05	
<i>Item non-response rate, %</i>	-0.02 **	0.01	-0.02	0.01	
<i>GDP per capita (ten thousand yuan)</i>	-0.31	0.29	-0.40	0.35	
<i>Leave everything to upright leaders</i>	-	-	0.19 **	0.07	1.17(1.05, 1.31)
<i>Obey unreasonable parents</i>	-	-	0.06	0.08	
<i>Pride in country</i>	-	-	0.52 ***	0.09	1.38(1.24, 1.53)
<i>National economy rating</i>	-	-	0.27 **	0.09	1.20(1.06, 1.35)
<i>Political performance rating</i>	-	-	0.43 ***	0.11	1.32(1.15, 1.51)
<i>Trusts mainstream media</i>	-	-	0.84 ***	0.11	1.74(1.50, 2.01)
Trusts people in general	-	-	0.24 *	0.10	1.12(1.02, 1.24)
<i>Household economy compared to five years ago</i>	-	-	0.05	0.06	
<i>Married</i>	-	-	-0.07	0.12	
<i>Reads print media for news</i>	-	-	-0.08	0.05	

<i>Household economy compared to five years ago</i>	-	-	0.05	0.06
<i>Watches TV news</i>	-	-	0.04	0.04
<i>Socio-economic status</i>	-	-	-0.01	0.05
<i>Communist Party membership</i>	-	-	0.05	0.07
<i>Education</i>	-	-	-0.03	0.04
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0.03	0.08
<i>Watches TV news</i>	-	-	0.04	0.04
<i>Reads print media for news</i>	-	-	-0.08	0.05
Log likelihood	-94049	-47041		
Number of observations	3594	3594		
LR-chisq(df)	92032(14)	186048(25)		
Prob>chisq	0.000	0.000		

Note: Coding and sources as in Appendix Table A4.1.

Table A4.3 Estimates for Trust in Local Government Differentiating Insurance Types

	Objective variables		All variables		Impact (C.I.)
	<i>Est.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>Est.</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	
<i>Trust local government on:</i>					
New Cooperative Medical Scheme	-0.02	0.17	-0.16	0.17	
Urban Employees' Basic Medical Insurance	0.09	0.18	-0.04	0.17	
Urban Residents' Basic Medical Insurance	0.16	0.16	0.11	0.15	
Has another form of public insurance	-0.06	0.19	-0.03	0.16	
<i>Health care system satisfaction</i>	-	-	0.32	*** 0.07	1.22(1.11, 1.33)
<i>Age in deciles</i>	0.10	** 0.03	0.01	0.04	
Female	-0.11	0.08	-0.09	0.08	
<i>Education</i>	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.03	
Agricultural <i>hukou</i>	0.16	0.13	0.03	0.13	
Non-local <i>hukou</i>	-0.20	0.15	-0.05	0.14	
Urban district	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.17	
Communist Party membership	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.06	
Married	-0.17	0.12	-0.19	0.12	
Socio-economic status	0.03	0.04	-0.04	0.04	
<i>Item non-response rate, %</i>	-0.01	0.01	-0.02	0.01	
<i>GDP per capita (ten thousand yuan)</i>	0.28	0.34	0.19	0.30	
<i>Leave everything to upright leaders</i>	-	-	0.11	0.06	
<i>Obey unreasonable parents</i>	-	-	0.07	0.08	
<i>Pride in country</i>	-	-	0.29	*** 0.07	1.19(1.10, 1.29)
<i>National economy rating</i>	-	-	0.15	* 0.08	1.11(1.00, 1.23)
<i>Political performance rating</i>	-	-	0.61	*** 0.10	1.47(1.30, 1.66)
<i>Trusts mainstream media</i>	-	-	1.15	*** 0.12	2.13(1.84, 2.47)
Trusts people in general	-	-	0.13	0.09	
<i>Household economy compared to five years ago</i>	-	-	0.11	0.06	
<i>Married</i>	-	-	-0.19	0.12	
<i>Watches TV news</i>	-	-	-0.02	0.04	

<i>Reads print media for news</i>	-	-	0.04	0.03
Log likelihood	-92012	-46865		
Number of observations	3594	3594		
LR-chisq(df)	96106(14)	186400(25)		
Prob>chisq	0.000	0.000		

Note: Coding and sources as in Appendix Table A4.1.

Appendix 5 Who Has Public Health Insurance?**Table A5.1.** Logistic Regression of Public Insurance on Objective Variables

	Est.		S.E.
Age in deciles	0.02	**	0.01
Education	0.01		0.01
Agricultural <i>hukou</i>	0.09	***	0.03
Non-local <i>hukou</i>	-0.12	***	0.03
Item non-response rate, %	-0.004	***	0.00
Communist Party membership	0.01		0.01
Female	0.00		0.01
Married	0.02		0.02
Socio-economic status	0.01		0.01
Urban district	-0.06		0.05
GDP per capita (ten thousand yuan)	0.04		0.07
McFadden Pseudo-R2 (adjusted)	0.38		

Notes: coding and sources as described in Appendix 3. ** means significant at .01 level; *** at .001 level.