

FHS Data Analysis Workshop, Beijing July 2009

In the phase 1 study of the China FHS-RPC team, household surveys were conducted in 3 pilot counties and NCMS and MA data was collected intensively. After analyzing data with technical support from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, a knowledge gap in household research design, data collection methodologies and data analysis methodologies was identified. Therefore, in June 2008, the China team invited experts to hold a training workshop for Chinese FHS-RPC researchers on household survey methodologies, with a focus on research design, data collection and data analysis. In the phase 2 study, the China team has continued to collect household data in 3 old pilots and 3 newly-included pilot counties. It has been found that data analysis methodologies are crucial to make good use of the large amount of data collected and produce meaningful results which can serve as evidence for policy making. Meanwhile, the junior researchers in the China team wanted to gain knowledge of advanced research theories and thinking, to strengthen their global health research capacity.

Against this background, China FHS team organized a data analysis workshop during July 16-19, 2009, right after the iHEA World Congress on Health Economics. About 15 Chinese Health Economics Institute (CHEI) researchers participated in the workshop. On July 16, a seminar on advanced thinking on research design was held. FHS researchers, Barun Kanjilal, Elizabeth Ekiracho-Kiracho, Henry Lucas, Gerry Bloom, and Hafiz Rahman presented briefly the FHS work they are focusing on and explained their thinking behind the design of the specific research. This was followed by a three-day training workshop on data analysis methodologies. Hafiz Rahman and Antonio Trujillo designed a syllabus based on the CHEI workshop proposal, and prepared lectures to meet the needs of the Chinese researchers. Mornings were for lectures, while the afternoons were for hands-on exercises and group work. Multilevel data analysis and longitudinal data analysis methods were taught with practical exercises on the actual data collected by CHEI researchers. After the workshop, the participants said that they had a deeper understanding of the statistic methodologies, and that it had enhanced their capacity in using STATA in data analysis.

