

博士論文 (要約)

Assessment of progress towards Universal Health

Coverage in China from 1989 to 2011

(1989 年から 2011 年の中国におけるユニバーサル・
ヘルス・カバレッジの進捗に関する研究)

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Objective: China rapidly expanded health insurance coverage in the last decade to ensure access to care for all citizens and achieve universal health coverage (UHC) by 2020. It is essential to assess the progress towards UHC and estimate the effectiveness of current health systems. This study assessed the trends in three dimensions of UHC in China: access to health services, financial hardship due to out-of-pocket (OOP) payment, and inequalities in the current health care system.

Methods: Datasets from the population-based China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS) were used to assess trends in UHC components from 1989-2011. Multi-level analysis was employed to identify determinants of utilization of health services and financial hardship due to OOP payments. For inequality analysis, absolute and relative indices of inequality were estimated to analyze the socio-economic inequalities in the distribution of health services and financial hardship due to OOP payments.

Results: This study found that health service coverage in China increased from the 1980s, regardless of income and region, but the control of NCDs was still inadequate. Despite the expansion of health insurance coverage, the protection of financial hardship due to OOP has not yet been achieved. The proportion of catastrophic payment increased from 3.4% in 1989 to 9.4% in 2011, and the proportion of impoverishment due to OOP payment increased from 1.6% to 3.8%. Among the three public health insurance plans, Urban Employee-based Basic Medical Insurance performed better in protecting insured people from financial hardship. Income-related inequalities were not reduced by the expansion of health insurance. The poor population also still had higher risk of experiencing catastrophic expenditure due to OOP payment than their richer counterparts in 2011.

Conclusion: China has made great progress in providing basic health services by expanding health insurance coverage. However, income-related inequalities, urban-rural disparities, and catastrophic health expenditure due to OOP payment remain major challenges in China's health care systems. Further efforts are needed to improve primary care, promote non-communicable disease management, and expand financial support for health insurance packages to achieve the goal of UHC by 2020.

Keywords: Universal Health Coverage, China, health insurance, health financing