

A Survey on Health Status and Health Care Demands of Chinese Urban Elderly Residents



Basic Circumstance of the Whole Investigation Sample

This article presents the findings of a study on the health status and medical security for urban elderly aged 60 years or over in three cities of China.

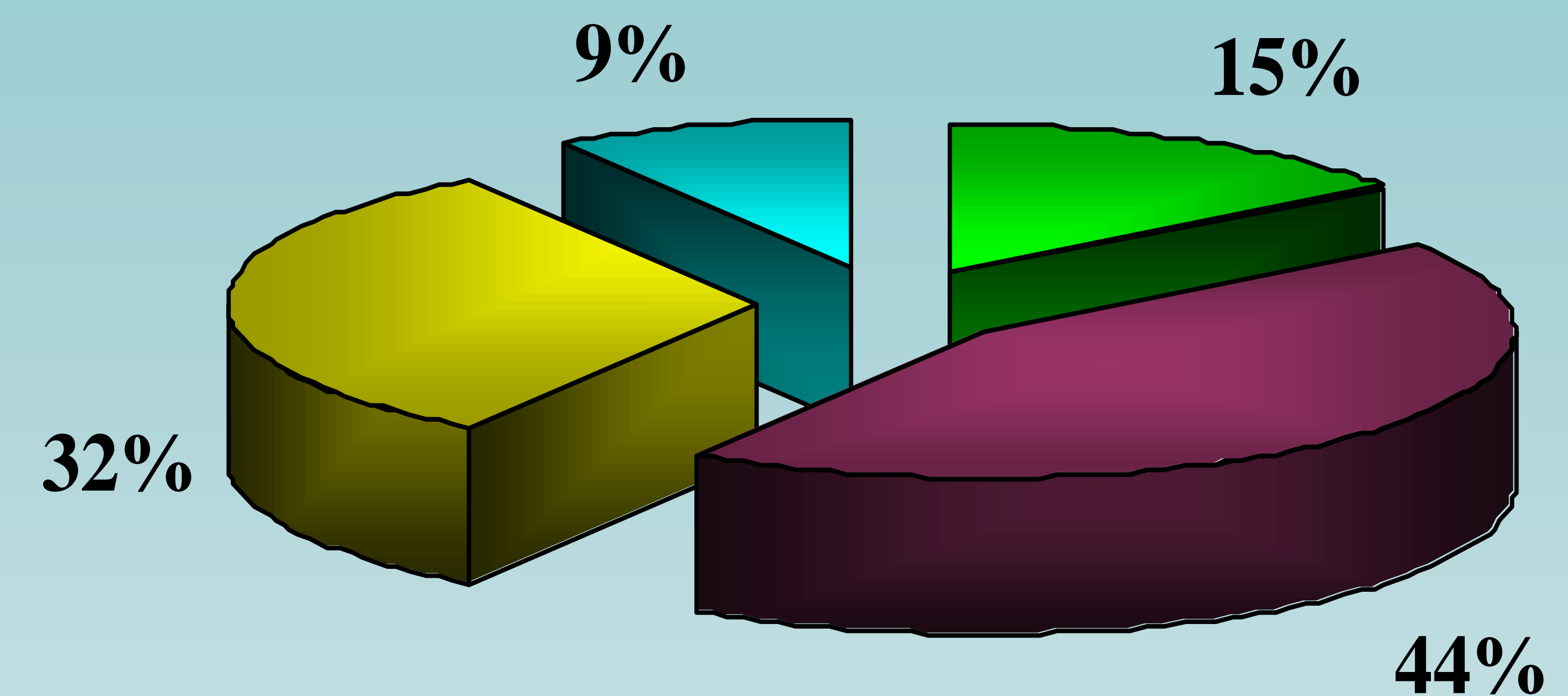
The data came from an survey conducted in 2011-2012 in Xi'an, Shanghai and Wuhan. Based on cluster random sampling, totally 943 questionnaires were collected giving the effective rate of 96.5%.

Basic Circumstance of the Whole Investigation Sample

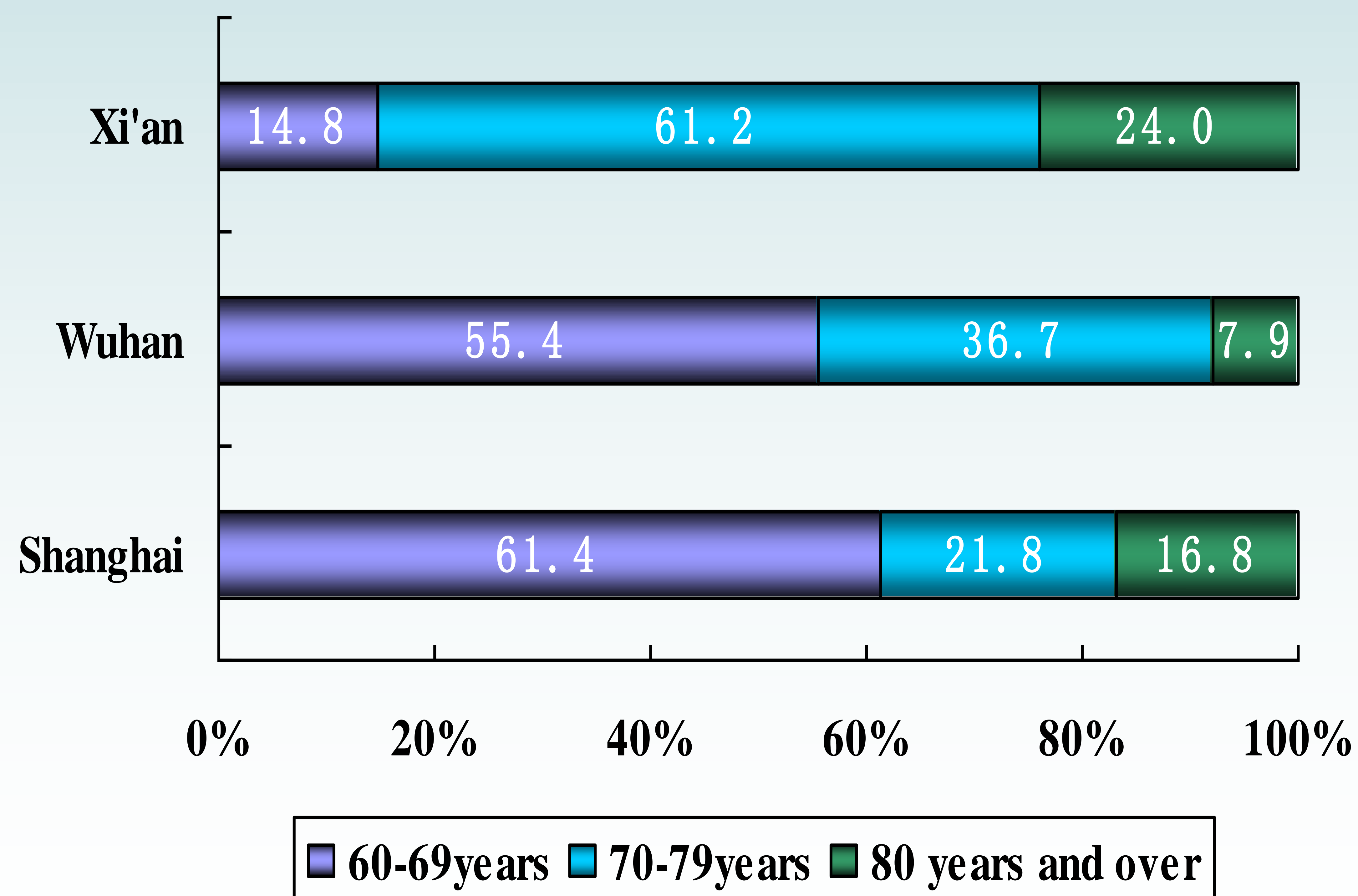
Sample size and Sex ratio

City	Size	Male/Female
Shanghai	338	0.84
Wuhan	329	0.80
Xi'an	310	0.63

Monthly income



Age distribution



Average monthly income of those surveyed was RMB 1946 Yuan. Most seniors have low pensions in China. Poor financial condition is one of the main reasons restricting the aged to seek medical services.

Health Status and Health Service Utilization

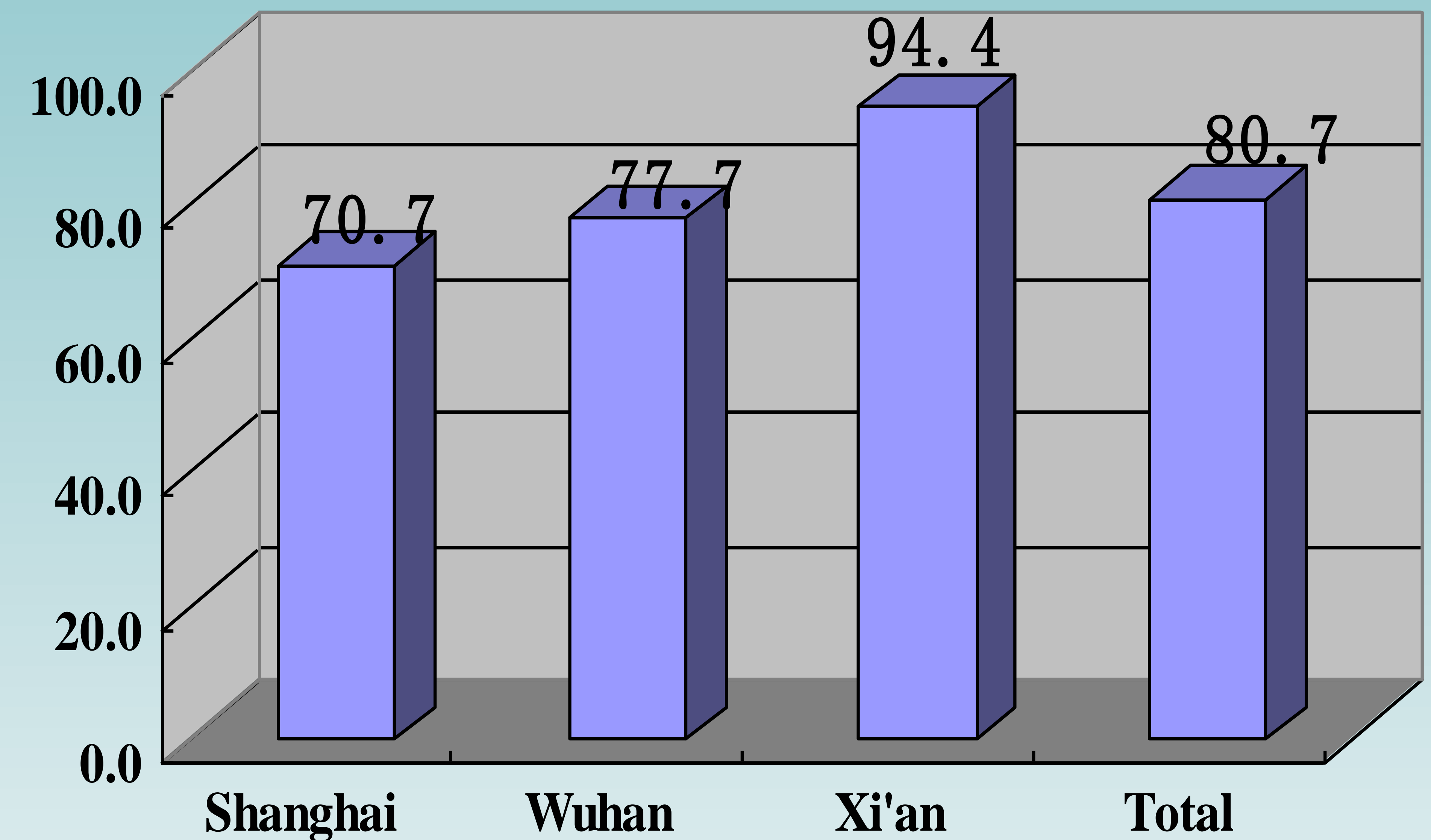
Disability

Disability	Percentage (%)
Unable to walk without help	10.7
Some loss of hearing	34.3
Poor vision	21.9

Health service utilization

- Two week prevalence rate 27.3%.
- Two-week GP-visit rate 23.4%.
- Annual hospitalization rate 60.8%.

Prevalence of chronic diseases



Prevalence rates of hypertension and diabetes were 52.5% and 15.2% respectively, and incidences of complications of both diseases were 40.4% and 51.9% respectively.

Health Service Demand and Medical Costs

Per capita medical expenses on chronic diseases within six months

City	Types	Total cost (Yuan)	Self-paid ratio (%)
Shanghai	Employees	4532	24.3
	Residents	5088	54.3
Wuhan	Employees	4669	25.8
	Residents	1311	100
Xi'an	Employees	5749	100
	Residents	5258	100

80.7% of individuals with chronic diseases, with per capita medical expenses of 4,688 Yuan in 6 months. Out of pocket paid 2786 Yuan per person, which accounted for 62.9% of total expenditure. The results reflected the low outpatient reimbursement.

Health Service Demand and Medical Costs

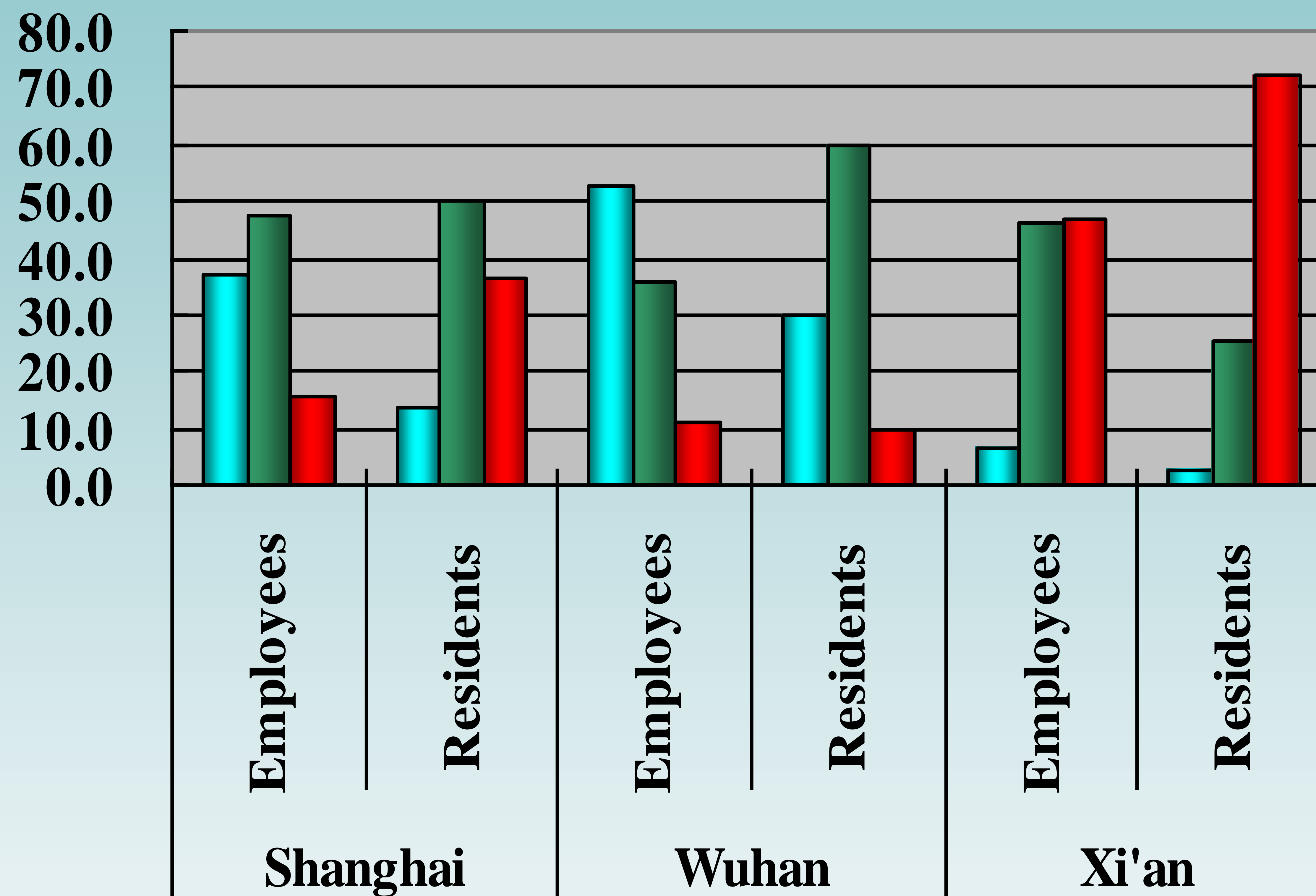
Per capita hospital costs in the latest admission

City	Types	Total cost (Yuan)	Self-paid ratio (%)
Shanghai	Employees	16360	34.2
	Residents	15967	47.8
Wuhan	Employees	7875	19.3
	Residents	5554	47.7
Xi'an	Employees	5844	33.9
	Residents	3739	51.7

In 1 year before survey, 29.5% individuals admitted to a hospital. Costs paid by patients themselves accounted for 31.6% of total expenditure. Obviously the inpatient reimbursement rate were much higher than that for outpatient. Even so, as high as 51.6% of people reporting difficulties in covering their hospital charges. The elderly who need to admitted to hospitals but didn't accounted for about 25.7%, among which 52.6% due to financial reasons.

Conclusions and Suggestions

Satisfaction rate with social medical insurance (%)



Satisfaction rate of residents among three cities is all lower than that of employees. Xi'an came in the last in the survey.

Factors affecting the satisfaction rate of medical insurance including income, basic medical insurance, disability, chronic-disease costs and number of children by using logistic regression analysis.

Conclusions and suggestions

- ❑ Overall, health conditions of urban elderly are not optimistic.
- ❑ Need to increase the reimbursements of outpatient services.
- ❑ Establish a new elderly security mode for health care.
- ❑ Strengthen the community-based home care.

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