



Chinese Live Longer Thanks to Better Public Health Services

Human life expectancy gained six years over the past 22 years globally, with China's progress on par with the world average, according to the WHO's World Health Statistics 2014 Report. At 75, Chinese life expectancy is among the highest in the developing world. From 35 years to the current 75, this big jump over four decades has been achieved thanks to remarkable advances in China's public health sector. The national vaccination program, launched in 1978, has slashed the incidence and mortality rate of six deadly diseases – measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, polio, tuberculosis, and tetanus – by more than 99 percent. At an April meeting, Wang Guoqiang, deputy chief of the National Health and Family Planning Commission, disclosed that from 2000 to 2013, China's maternal mortality rate fell by 56.2 percent, to 23.2 per 100,000, and that the mortality

rates for infants and children under five were down 70.5 percent and 69.8 percent, respectively to 9.5 per 1,000 and 12 per 1,000 – advances that also contribute to longer lifespan.