Learning the basics

As in many areas, education is key to giving women more control over their reproductive lives. In China, census data from 2015 show that, with some exceptions, **provinces with greater female middle-school education rates are also those with higher rates of female contraceptive use.**

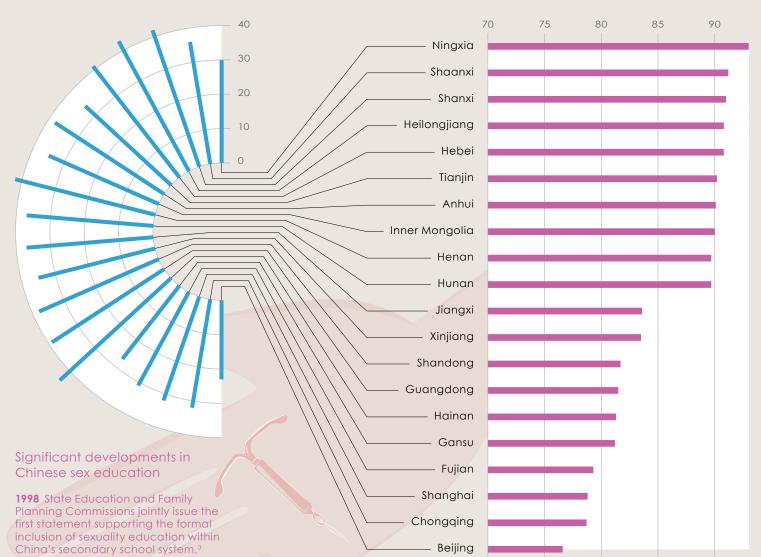
United Nations studies have demonstrated that this correlation holds in other countries too¹, and a recent UN briefing called on countries to "address and measure the strong connections between sexual and reproductive health and education"². Sex education may help as well, though China's sex-education system is not very well-developed by international standards.

Female middle-school education rate

Defined as the % of middle-school educated girls and women out of the broader population.

Female contraceptive use rate

Defined as the % of married women of childbearing age who are using contraception.



1994 Beijing Capital Normal University launches the first teacher-training programme on sexuality education.⁴

2000-2002 Shanghai A controlled study shows that young people receiving comprehensive sex education use contraceptives more often than those that don't.⁵

2005-2006 Wuhan In a comprehensive survey, less than 30% of female college students are able to correctly answer at least 50% of questions about sexual health and contraception.

Sources:

2016 China Statistical Yearbook, 2016 China Statistical Yearbook for Health and Family Planning, Economist Intelligence Unit calculations.

¹UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2003. ²UN Economic and Social Council. ³UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 2010. ⁴Ibid.

⁵International Family Planning Perspectives, 2005. ⁶Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health, 2010.

