

CHINA RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

A monthly series from East View that highlights Chinese research and resources on key topics.

A Comparative Approach to Children's Well-being

With most elementary and middle schools in the US and Canada either closed or about to close for winter break, we at EVIS look forward to engaging with the children in our lives. **We hope all children get to experience warm and joyful holidays.**

After the past few years, we need to do all that we can for the young people in our communities. Remote learning and an uncertain future have impacted the social, physical, emotional, and academic skills of children. According to child psychiatric epidemiologist Tamsin Ford, the pandemic heightened pre-existing struggles with emotional well-being and scarcity. The impacts of the pandemic on children's health are as broad as they are deep, from a rise in musculoskeletal issues in children whose classes have been moved online to a worsened achievement gap based on socioeconomic background. **We must find comprehensive solutions to the problems faced by young people today.**



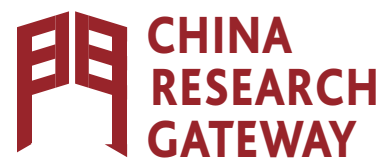
China's Unique Perspective

China has had the longest school closures of any major country. While Shanghai faced a two-month lockdown, most Chinese cities have faced some form of extended lockdown. Psychologists are just starting to understand the impact of these lockdowns on children. Helping psychologists to best serve children post-lockdown are studies of another group of children in China: left-behind children. Left-behind children are the millions of children who are left with older generations while their parents migrate to cities to work. While COVID-19 is too recent to allow for longitudinal studies, left-behind children have been studied for decades. These studies have dealt with loneliness, peer rejection, academic achievement, and self-esteem. Although many children spent more time with their parents than usual during the pandemic, left-behind children, who have the opposite experience, still face similar challenges: social isolation, lack of structure and engagement, and, in the realm of physical health, infrequent doctor's visits. **Leveraging prior findings on left-behind children can help identify solutions for the challenges faced by children returning to school in North America.**

From CRG's China Yearbooks: "Caring for Left-Behind Children." Nanfeng Yearbook, 2021.

How to Access Research on Chinese Children's Health

Through East View's China Research Gateway, researchers can access valuable information from leading Chinese education, psychology, psychiatry, and medical journals. **CRG has over 48,000 publications on left-behind children, including almost 15,000 journal articles, over 5,000 theses and dissertations, over 1,000 conference proceedings, over 3,000 newspaper articles, and over 11,000 yearbook entries.** Of particular relevance to North American classrooms is China's research on targeted poverty alleviation. Journal articles on the efficacy of special programs to improve rural teacher quality and provide healthcare by neighborhood can be of use to North American researchers, particularly those exploring how to tackle education and health at the community level. CRG also has several monographic serials and even patents related to left-behind children. Patents range from learning and therapeutic platforms to devices to help young children and the elderly open cans of food and squeeze toothpaste tubes. Scholars armed with the best research available on children's physical and mental health will help us foster resilient future generations.



21-12 进城务工子女和农村留守儿童在校情况 (2021年)
Statistics on Children of Migrant Workers and Rural Left Behind Children in Schools (2021)

单位: 人 (person)

项目 Item	进城务工人员 随迁子女 Children of Migrant Workers	外省迁入 From Other Provinces	本省 外县迁入 From Other Counties of the Same Province		农村 留守儿童 Rural Left-Behind Children
普通小学 Regular Primary Schools					
毕业生数 Graduates	1532122	658914	873208		1262665
招生数 Entrants	1590972	667989	922983		1071499
在校生数 Enrolment	9841120	4185169	5655951		7779315
♀女 Female	4475086	1888379	2586707		3613528
初中 Junior Secondary Schools					
毕业生数 Graduates	1136205	448935	687270		1317593
招生数 Entrants	1342791	553073	789718		1403043
在校生数 Enrolment	3883013	1578647	2304366		4212677
♀女 Female	1756590	705746	1050844		1955415

From CRG's China Yearbooks: "Statistics on Children of Migrant Workers and Rural Left Behind Children in Schools (2021)." *China Statistical Yearbook*. 2022.

See the below links for further reading on children's health, including in China.

- **Musculoskeletal complaints and associated factors in school children aged between 6 and 13 years in Istanbul during the COVID-19 pandemic: A cross-sectional study – National Library of Medicine** <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36463481/>
- **Snapshot of pandemic's mental health impact on children – The Harvard Gazette** <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2022/04/early-snapshot-of-pandemics-impact-on-childrens-mental-health/>
- **Mass mental health crisis looms for young Chinese after 3 years of lockdowns, home school and zero-Covid – South China Morning Post** <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3202120/mass-mental-health-crisis-looms-young-chinese-after-3-years-lockdowns-home-school-and-zero-covid>
- **'It felt like my insides were crying': China COVID curbs hit youth mental health – Reuters** <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/it-felt-like-my-insides-were-crying-china-covid-curbs-hit-youth-mental-health-2022-08-29/>



China Research Gateway (CRG) presents the full spectrum of Chinese research, with exhaustive representation of STEM, social science, and humanities disciplines. Featuring an unparalleled breadth of sources, including scholarly journals, monographs, statistical publications, government documents, newspapers, dissertations, conference proceedings, patents, and many other content types, CRG offers a centralized means for discovery and access to this rich trove of research, specifically tailored to serve the needs of North American scholars and institutions.