

CHINA: Government Spending on Contraceptives Quadruples in Two Decades in China

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Government purchases of contraceptives, including condoms, have almost quadrupled in China over the last two decades, the National Population and Family Planning Commission said Wednesday. Orders grew to 582 million yuan (US \$91.6 million) in 2011, a 431 million yuan (US \$67.7 million) increase over 1990, NPFPC said. "We should improve the medical instruments management and distribution service, and ensure drug safety," said Chen Li, NPFPC's deputy director. Free contraceptives, which China has distributed since the 1970s, can be obtained through a routine door-to-door service in rural areas, through villagers' committees and clinics. Urban residents can access free condoms by swiping their ID card through self-service machines, or arrange for home-delivery for one yuan (US \$0.16) after ordering online or by telephone.

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