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China syphilis infections up 30% each year: report



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Sat Jun 12, 2:31 am ET



AFP/File - An advertising board for glowing in the dark condoms is seen in Beijing. While advertisements for condoms ...

BEIJING (AFP) - Rampant prostitution which has accompanied China's rapid economic growth is fuelling a 30 percent increase in syphilis infections each year, state media reported on Saturday.

Syphilis was almost wiped out in China 50 years ago, but has increased 10-fold over the past decade to emerge as one of the country's top five infectious diseases, the China Daily said, quoting the ministry of health.

The rate of mother-to-child transmissions jumped alarmingly to 57 cases per 100,000 newborns between 2003 and 2008, from a previous seven cases per 100,000, it said.

The report follows an article in the New England Journal of Medicine last month that said one child was born with syphilis in China each hour as infected men pass it onto their wives, who in turn pass it to their fetuses.

It added that at least a third of homosexual men were also married due to social pressures, further increasing transmission to spouses.

Syphilis is a bacterial infection which can be easily treated with antibiotics if diagnosed early, but if left untreated can lead to paralysis, blindness and death.

However, the spread of syphilis in China is further fuelled by a social stigma that discourages sufferers from seeking treatment, experts have said.

China had 32,000 new reported infections in May alone, including two deaths, the China Daily said.

China's rapidly growing economy has spurred huge population movements and a massive prostitution industry that have led to the resurgence of syphilis, the newspaper quoted experts saying.

"Massage parlours" and other venues for prostitution are ubiquitous in Chinese cities, despite it being illegal.

The newspaper said six million Chinese women were believed involved in the sex trade, but other independent estimates have put the figure twice as high.

No other country has seen such a rapid rise in syphilis cases since the discovery of penicillin, the New England Journal of Medicine article said.

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Well, they are blocked from internet porn so I guess they have to do something for entertainment. I'm curious though if the chinese doctors tell those guys just to wait until it falls off because they have no cure for it?

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Edmond D 23 hours ago | [Report Abuse](#)

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Those 'horny' Chinese and their social problems, AGAIN.
Introduce them to sheep or something. Oops, that's where Syphilis started.

How wrong of me...

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William Sun Jun 13, 2010 02:57 am PDT | [Report Abuse](#)

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@ carl.. thats funny considering almost all condoms come from china.

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Goldenrule Sat Jun 12, 2010 08:15 pm PDT | [Report Abuse](#)

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Thousands of women disappear all over the world each year kidnapped into sex slavery. These are our daughters, our next generation and our futures. Shame on us and what we have become that these crimes proliferate.

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that's some kind of nasty!

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Cass Sat Jun 12, 2010 02:52 pm PDT | [Report Abuse](#)

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Attention White Men

Avoid going to China for Sex!

When there is an increase in money there is also an increase in wicked deeds.

cass

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They'll continue to have this problem. After aborting a disproportionate amount of females, communist Chinese men have two choices. They can visit prostitutes or turn to homosexuality. Is this caused by the hookers or from the exploding homosexuality in communist China?

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Bob Sat Jun 12, 2010 11:56 am PDT | [Report Abuse](#)

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I guess we better not be screwing with the Chinese. Funny ... Hillary was just over there.

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Carl Sat Jun 12, 2010 11:43 am PDT | [Report Abuse](#)

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Chinese men refuse to use condoms.

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