

Importance of Preparedness for the City of Guangzhou to Enhance Response Capabilities Related to Disease Outbreaks

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Introduction

The response challenges experienced during the Covid-19 Pandemic emphasizes the need to concentrate on public health preparedness at all levels. Like other cities around the world, the City of Guangzhou in China also experienced physical, social, economic, and psychological impacts due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, these impacts were more severe and long lasting for the city. This research study therefore focuses on Guangzhou City and argues that the city should incorporate better public health preparedness activities in order to enhance response capabilities for disease outbreaks. The study further provides strategies to enhance preparedness and to build resilience at the local level.

Research Argument

The City of Guangzhou should incorporate better preparedness activities to enhance response capabilities for future public health emergencies.

Method

Systematic Literature Review Process

Formulating the Research Argument

Locating Studies (within past 5 years)
Used ATU's Library & Google Scholar
Key Words used: "Public health preparedness", "Covid-19 preparedness", "Covid 19 pandemic preparedness"

Reviewing Relevant Studies & Synthesizing the Findings

Figure 1. Adapted from Kilubi, 2016

Study Area



Figure 2. Map showing the location of Guangzhou City
Source: Travel China Guide, 2023

Findings

Challenges

- The City of Guangzhou followed strict anti-COVID-19 measures such as mass lockdowns, quarantines, and mandatory daily testing.
- Strict policies had severe psychological impact and hardship on the residents of Guangzhou.
- Lockdowns also interrupted people's lives, caused businesses to close, and prompted public outrage.
- Lockdown resulted in riots and protests from people.
- The medical system faced challenges such as shortage of health personnel, shortage of drugs, hospital beds, ventilators, masks, and personal protective equipment (Kuo et al., 2021).



Figure 3. Picture showing the riots in the City of Guangzhou
Source: Reuters, n.d.

Findings

Solutions

- Develop and regularly update emergency plans.
- Training and exercises vital to enhance response.
- Stockpiling personal protective equipment, medications, and other resources is crucial.
- Use technology to identify the nature and severity of disease outbreak.
- Develop and implement policies that reduce disease spread and lower the impacts to the public, such as policies like work from home, home quarantine, use of masks etc. (Su & Han, 2020).
- Focus should also be on mental health wellbeing of the public (Cullen et al., 2020).
- Incorporate lessons learned and research findings to enhance preparedness and response capabilities.

Conclusions

- Failure to prepare for public health emergencies can have severe impacts in a community.
- Preparedness activities are critical for effective public health response and recovery.
- Focus should also be on addressing the public's needs and challenges, and their mental wellbeing.

References

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