

## Supplementary Materials

### **Periconception folic acid supplementation and risk of parent reported asthma in children at 4-6 years of age**

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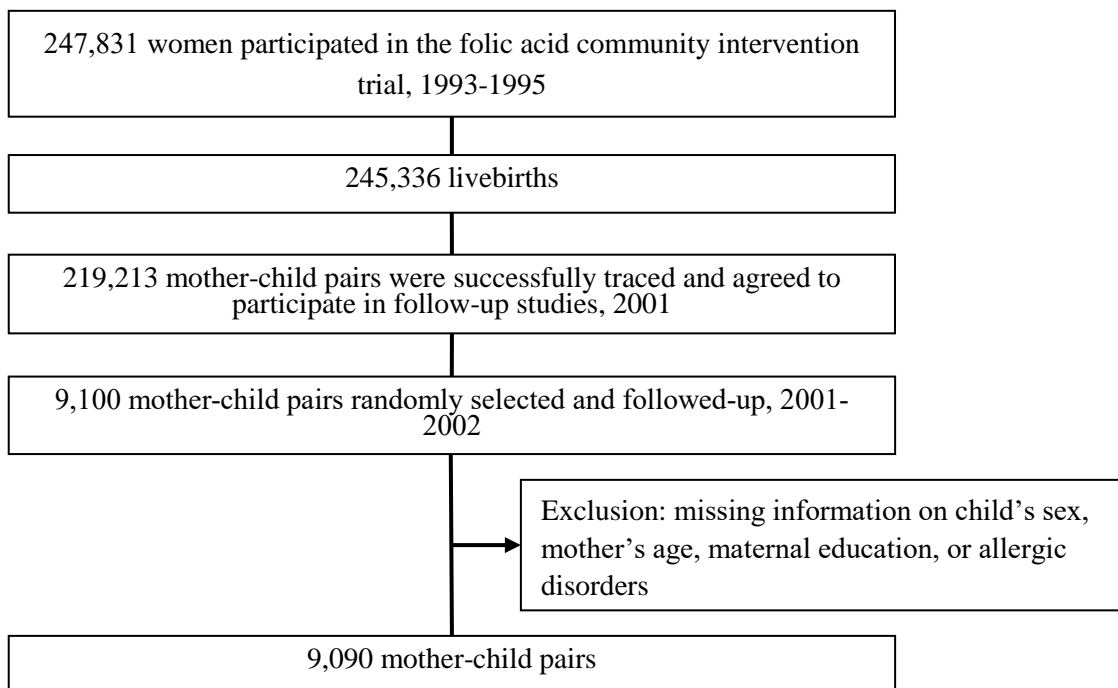
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Figure S1. Flowchart of participants



Supplementary CBCL questionnaires (In part)

The following items describes the symptoms of the child within the past 6 months. There are three figures after the item, "0 indicates not true, 1 indicates somewhat or sometimes true, and 2 indicates very true or often true." Circle the option which could appropriately reflect your child:

CBCL Item 2: allergic symptoms 0 1 2

CBCL Item 4: asthma disease 0 1 2

Table S1 Characteristics of subjects by region and maternal folic acid supplementation, China, 1993-1995

Characteristics	North					South				
	Folic acid users (N=904)		Non users (N=845)		<i>P value</i>	Folic acid users (N=3,638)		Non users (N=3,703)		<i>P value</i>
	n	%	n	%		n	%	n	%	
Age at child birth ( $\bar{x} \pm sd$ , ys)	24.5	2.7	26.5	3.9	<0.001	24.9	2.5	25.9	3.4	<0.001
Only child	712	60.0	475	40.0	<0.001	3392	93.3	3070	82.9	<0.001
Education				79.0						
High school or higher	129	14.8	161	19.8	<0.001	896	27.1	1053	30.7	<0.001
Junior high school	587	67.5	414	50.9		1738	52.5	1598	46.5	
Primary school or lower	154	17.7	238	29.3		675	20.4	784	22.8	
Occupation				6.2						
Farmer	716	79.2	608	72.0	0.001	863	23.7	977	26.4	<0.001
Factory worker	113	12.5	130	15.4		1658	45.6	1485	40.1	
Other or unknown	75	8.3	107	12.7		1117	30.7	1241	33.5	
Sex of infant										
Male	457	50.6	437	51.7	0.627	1925	52.9	1953	52.7	0.882
Female	447	49.4	408	48.3		1713	47.1	1750	47.3	

Note: SD, standard deviation. Values for some characteristics may not be equal to total numbers in each group because of missing values.

Table S2 Rate of allergic symptoms and asthma, hospitalization due to asthma among offspring by region, China, 2000-2001, n (%)

Disease	North (N=1,749)	South (N=7,341)	<i>P value</i> *
Allergic symptoms	13(0.7)	150(2)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Asthma	1(0.1)	81(1.1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
Hospitalization due to asthma	1(0.1)	26(0.4)	<b>0.040</b>

\* Compared between north and south, P<0.05.

Table S3 Rate of allergic symptoms and asthma, hospitalization due to asthma among offspring by region and maternal folic acid supplementation, China, 2000-2001, n (%)

Folic acid	Yes (N=904)	No (N=845)	<i>P value</i>	Total (N=1,749)	Yes (N=3,638)	No (N=3,703)	<i>P value</i>	Total (N=7,341)
Allergic symptoms	7(0.08)	6(0.07)	<b>0.876</b>	13(0.07)	63(1.7)	87(2.3)	<b>0.061</b>	150(2)
Asthma	1(0.01)	0	<b>0.333</b>	1(0.01)	41(1.1)	40(1.1)	<b>0.848</b>	81(1.1)
Hospitalization due to asthma	0	1(0.01)	<b>0.301</b>	1(0.01)	11(0.3)	15(0.4)	<b>0.459</b>	26(0.4)

Table S4 Odds ratio of allergic symptoms, asthma and hospitalization due to asthma among offspring by region and maternal folic acid supplementation, China, 2000-2001

Disease	Unadjusted odds		Adjusted odds	
	ratio(95% CI)		ratio(95% CI)*	
	North	South	North	South
Allergic symptoms	1.09(0.37-3.26)	0.73(0.53-1.02)	1.22(0.37-3.98)	0.78(0.55-1.09)
Asthma	1.79(0.01-)	1.04(0.67-1.62)	-	1.03(0.66-1.60)
Hospitalization due to asthma	0.00	0.75(0.34-1.63)	-	0.83(0.37-1.87)

\* Adjusted by age, only-child, education, and occupation.