Hearing Health in China:
Development of Hearing Loss
Prevention Education in China Using
Dangerous Decibels®

(S)

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#### **Presentation Outline**

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Hypothesis
- 3 Methods
- 4 Results
- 5 Discussion
- 6 Conclusion
- 7 Reflection

#### 1 Introduction

- Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) and related tinnitus are irreversible but entirely preventable
- Important to educate people regarding knowledge of NIHL, sound exposure and hearing protection strategies
- In China, little has been done
- Dangerous Decibels® program

1 Introduction

#### Objectives:

- 1. Determine the <u>type and extent</u> of noise exposure
- Obtain preliminary information on <u>current level</u> of knowledge, attitudes and intended <u>behaviours</u>
- 3. Evaluate the <u>effectiveness</u> of Dangerous Decibels®

#### 2 Hypothesis

 Knowledge, attitudes, and intended behaviours regarding sound exposure and appropriate use of hearing protection strategies will improve



3 Methods

### 13 classes

Minimum 39 students each class

## Primary 3 to 5

Aged 8 to 12, mean 9.9, median 10

## 548 students

3 students excluded from data analysis

3 Methods



#### 10 minutes

35 minutes

5 minutes

Baseline questionnaire

Dangerous
Decibels
Program

Postquestionnaire

3 Flow of each class



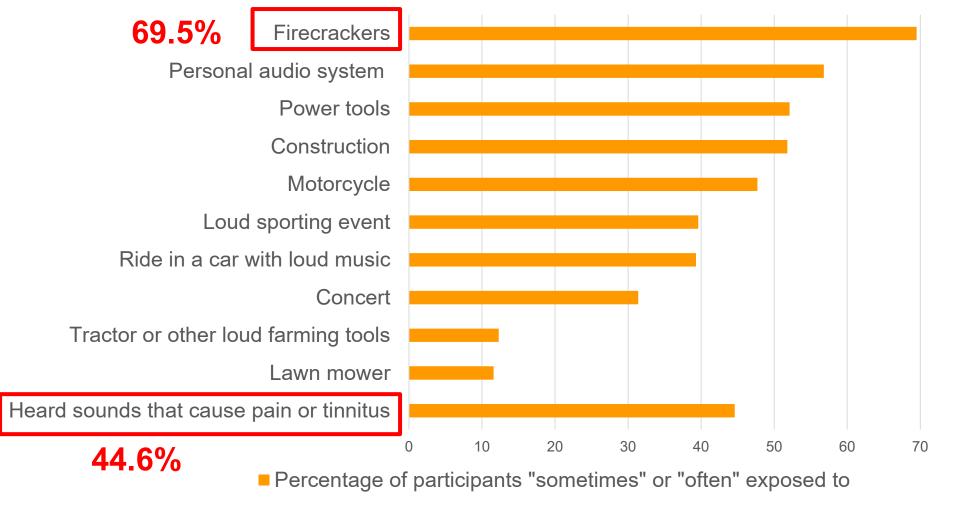
## 4 Results

Data analysis

During the past year, about how often did you do each of the following activities?

□ Never □ Sometimes □ Often

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#### Which sounds can be loud enough to damage your hearing? (check all that apply)

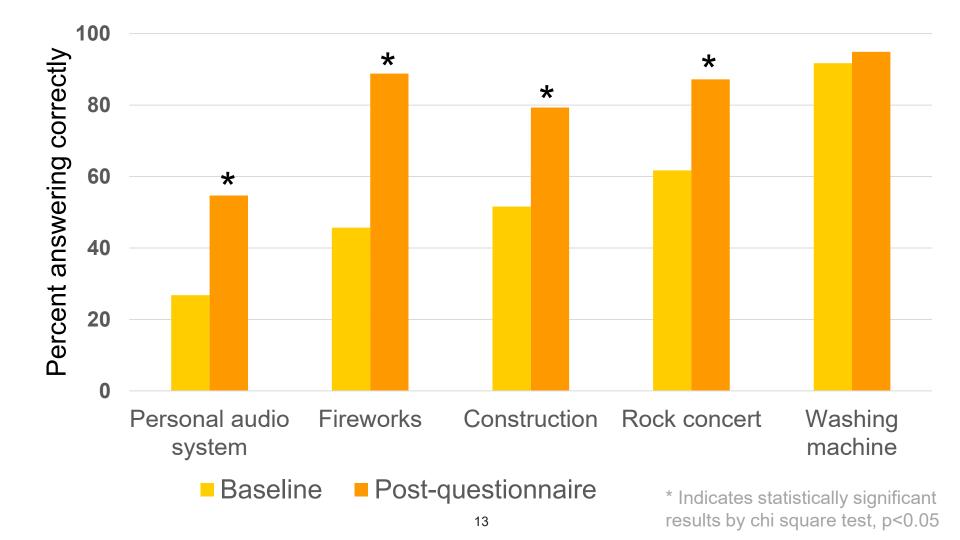












Which of these are good ways to protect your hearing from loud sounds? (check all that apply)

Walk away from the loud sound

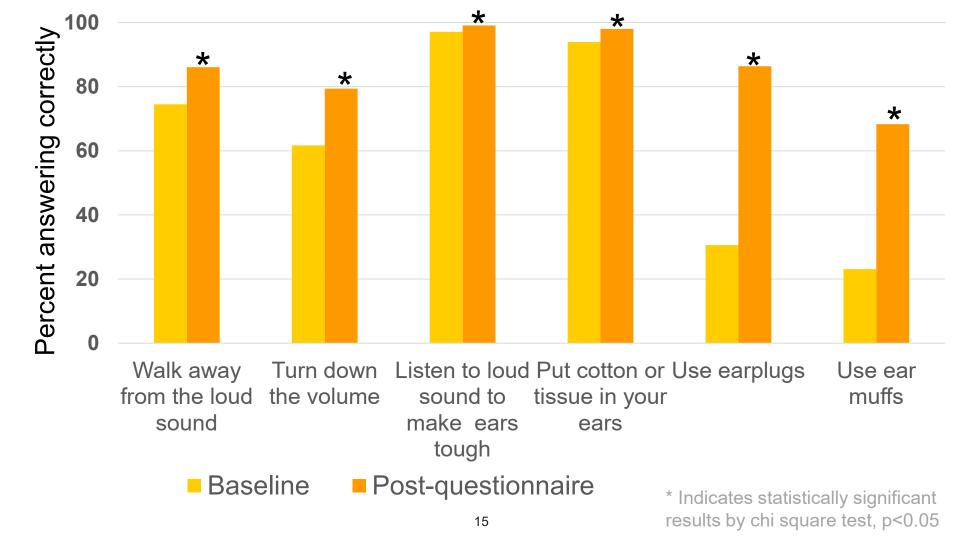
Turn down the volume

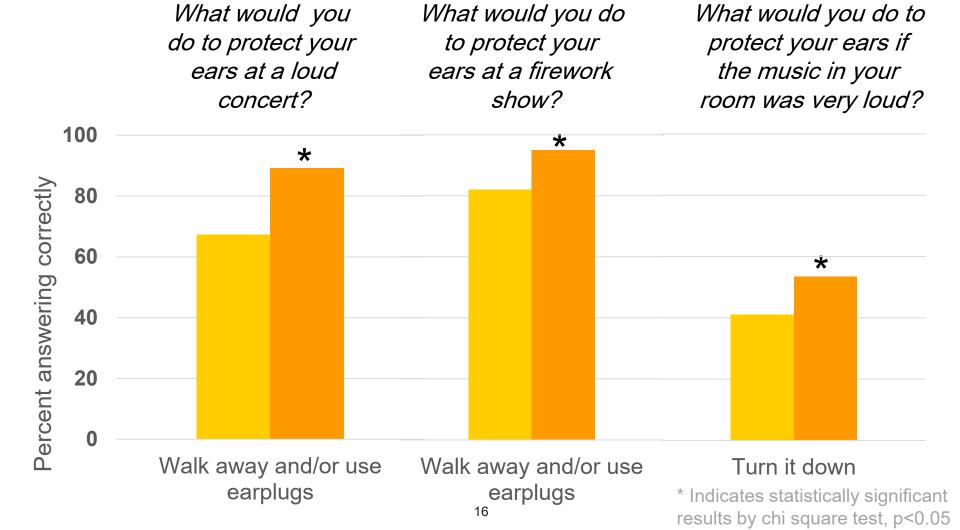
☐ Listen to loud sound to make your ears tough

☐ Put cotton or tissue in your ears

✓ Use earplugs

✓ Use ear muffs

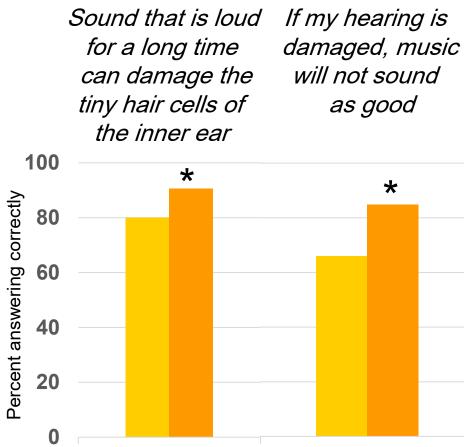




#### Statement

☐ Strongly ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly agree disagree

"

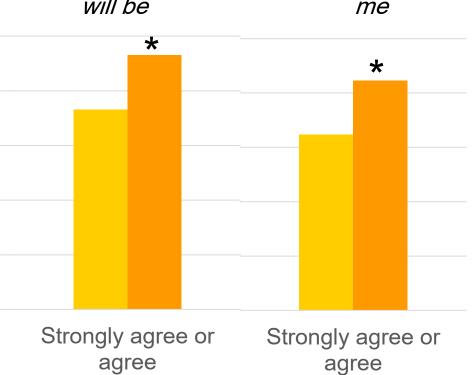


Strongly agree or

agree

The more time I spend around loud sound, the worse my hearing will be

If my hearing is damaged, it will be hard to understand people talking to me

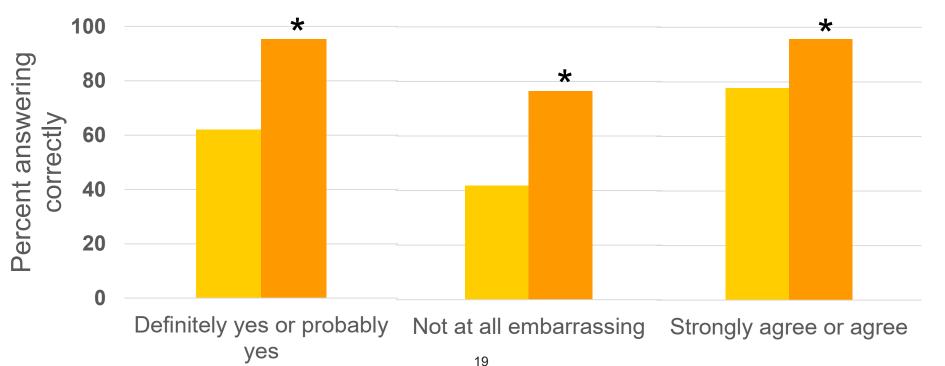


Strongly agree or

agree

If you went to a
loud concert with
your friends would you
use hearing protection?

Wearing earplugs around your friends (if no one else is wearing them) would be If earplugs were around when I needed them, I would use them.



#### 5 Discussion

Results analysis

# Is Dangerous Decibels effective?



Significant improvements were identified in 20 of 21 questions

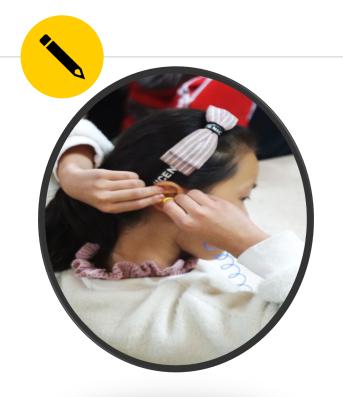
#### 5 Limitations

- Accuracy in translation
- Time constraints and class size
- Limitation of study designs
- Reliability of questionnaire



#### 6 Conclusion

The importance of this study



The present study is, to the best of our knowledge, the first to examine the effectiveness of a NIHL and tinnitus prevention program translated into Mandarin and culturally adapted for children in mainland China.



Dangerous Decibels was shown to be **effective** in promoting hearing health in primary school aged children in China.





## Important for the schools and relevant authorities in China to play an active and essential role

in regulation of noise exposure and implement strategies to raise the awareness of and prevent NIHL and noise-induced tinnitus.



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#### Reflection

It is more than a project for me, it is a learning experience...







## Thanks!