

Questionable Ethics Statements on Two Article from Shanghai Jiaotong University

The ethics statements on two article [1, 2] are found to be questionable.

DOI	Authors	Participant Recruitment	Ethical Approval
10.3389/ijph.2025.1606726	Jianlin Ji Hanlin Yang Chengxi Zeng Ouyao Chen Qunfeng Lu	The study included fathers or mothers aged 18 or older who accompanied their children aged 0–3 to a tertiary children’s hospital in Shanghai from June to August 2023.	The studies involving humans were approved by the Ethics Committee of the Shanghai Children’s hospital, China (Reference number: 2023R086-E01).
10.3390/ijerph22071068	Ping Tang Qin Fan Jingmin Sun Jianlin Ji Liling Yang Wenjuan Tang Qunfeng Lu	This cross-sectional study was conducted in Shanghai from November 2021 to October 2023 and involved parents of preschool children from nine kindergartens and childcare centres ... By cluster random sampling method, parents from one kindergarten in each of the seven administrative districts of Huangpu, Xuhui, Changning, Jing’an, Putuo, Hongkou, and Yangpu in downtown Shanghai were selected.	This study complies with the Helsinki Declaration. Informed consent was obtained from participants prior to data collection, and the study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Shanghai Children’s Hospital on 11 September 2023, with the following approval number: 2023R086-E01.

These two articles [1, 2] share the same ethical approval from Shanghai Children's hospital, however, the different participants were recruited in these studies. In study [1], participants were recruited from the parents accompanied their children aged 0-3 to Shanghai Children's hospital between June and August 2023; while in study [2], participants were recruited from parents in one kindergarten in each of the seven administrative districts of Shanghai between November 2021 and October 2023.

Furthermore,, according the statement in the article [2], the ethical approval was granted on 11 September 2023, after both of the participant recruitment in studies [1] and [2] were completed, suggesting that the authors in these articles violated the ethics management regulations in China.

No authors from Shanghai Children's Hospital were listed in article [1], although which state that the ethical aprival was granted from the Shanghai Children's Hospital.

The article [2] states that over 55% of families with children in preschool ages were exposed to a high rick home environment for unintentional injuries. Due to authors' violation against the ethics management regulations in China, it remains unclear whether such conclusion in article [2] is solid. The 5GH Team is seeking a volunteer team to replicate the study. If any group is interested, they are welcome to contact the Team at 5GH@5gh.org.cn.

[1] 10.3389/ijph.2025.1606726

[2] 10.3390/ijerph22071068

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