

Supplementary Table 1. Population prevalence of thalassemia in 6231 blood samples in Shantou and Chaozhou, two cities in the Chaoshan region, Southern China.

Parameters	Shantou (<i>n</i> = 2080)		Chaozhou (<i>n</i> = 4151)		Total (<i>n</i> = 6231)	
	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)	<i>n</i>	% (95% CI)
-- ^{SEA} deletion	29	1.39 (0.88-1.90)	131	3.16 (2.63-3.69)	160	2.57 (2.18-2.96)
Silent α -thal ^a	22	1.06 (0.63-1.49)	82	1.98 (1.55-2.41)	104	1.67 (1.36-1.98)
β -Thal trait and Hb E	15	0.72 (0.35-1.09)	38	0.92 (0.63-1.21)	53	0.85 (0.61-1.09)

^a Including two types of α -thal deletions ($-\alpha^{3.7}/\alpha\alpha$, $-\alpha^{4.2}/\alpha\alpha$).