

EFFECTS OF MATERNAL HEALTH-SEEKING PRACTICES ON PREGNANCY OUTCOMES OF NULLIPAROUS ADOLESCENT AND ADULT MOTHERS IN KANCHANABURI DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

In adolescent pregnancies, there is still a debate about whether the risks are attributable to physiological factors, socio-economic factors, or health-seeking factors. This study aimed to investigate maternal health-seeking practices of nulliparous adolescent mothers compared with nulliparous adult mothers and determine effects of maternal health-seeking practices on their pregnancy outcomes. The data were derived from Survey of Pregnancy, Birth, and Early Life conducted in Kanchanaburi province, 2003. Nulliparous adolescent mothers aged 15-19 (n=117) and adult mothers aged 20-29 (n=193) who had delivered singleton live births within two years were included in the study.

Adolescent pregnancy rate in the study area represented 13.1% of all pregnancies. Adolescent mothers were significantly less likely to have had proper maternal health-seeking practices and more likely to experience adverse pregnancy outcomes than adult mothers. However, maternal health-seeking practices had no significant effect on pregnancy outcomes in both groups. Adolescent mothers had twice the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes than adult mothers after controlling other variables. The results point out that adolescent pregnancy is a high risk pregnancy and prevention of adolescent pregnancy should be given a great priority.

KEYWORDS: ADOLESCENT MOTHERS/ ADULT MOTHERS/
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