

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILD REARING AND CHILD NUTRITIONAL STATUS  
DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF LIFE IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive study was conducted to determine the relationship between child rearing and child nutritional status during the first year of life. A total of 4,245 children born between July 2000 and June 2002 were enrolled consecutively based on The Prospective Cohort of Thai Children project. Sixty twin infants and thirty five dead and abnormal children (including one of twin infant) were excluded. Then, the remaining 4,151 children were studied for data analysis. The statistics used were Chi-square tests and Multiple Logistic Regressions and were used for identifying influential predictor and child nutritional status by the first year of age.

The finding showed that 8.3% of the children were underweight (weight for age), 9.5% of the children were stunting (height for age) and 5.7% of the children were wasting (weight for height) according to The WHO reference. After adjusting the confounding factors in the final model, birth weight was the most significant risk factor related to all three child nutritional statuses such as underweight (AOR= 10.07, 95% CI= 2.87- 35.28), stunting (AOR= 4.49, 95% CI= 1.16- 17.39), and wasting (AOR= 3.94, 95% CI= 1.24- 12.49). For child rearing characteristics, motherly activities: singing (AOR= 0.31, 95% CI= 0.11- 0.87) and child rearing pattern and control of sleeping time (AOR= 4.71, 95% CI= 1.16-19.10) were the most significant factors for underweight children. It can be concluded that child rearing among this population affects child nutritional status. Therefore, health policy toward child rearing needs to be promoted early in child the life.

KEY WORDS: CHILD NUTRITIONAL STATUS / CHILD REARING / UNDERWEIGHT,  
STUNTING AND WASTING

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