

Thesis Title UTILIZATION OF PNC (POST NATAL CARE)
SERVICES : CASE STUDY OF UTHAI RAT, A
COMMUNITY CONGESTED AREA NEAR SUPON KOI
IN SAMSEN-NAI DISTRICT, BANGKOK

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ABSTRACT

A study on utilization of post natal care services was conducted through the use of a household survey of Uthai Rat, a community congested area near Supon Koi, Bangkok. A total of 161 eligible mothers (those delivering a live birth within the last 5 years in Bangkok) comprised the study population.

The specific objectives of the study were to elaborate on the patterns of PNC services utilization in a segment of Bangkok's low socio-economic population group, to identify the factors which influences such utilization, and to describe some selected characteristics of mothers who went for PNC at a particular facility. An understanding of these components would provide basic

informations for the planning, evaluation, and monitoring of post natal care services.

A structural questionnaire employing both closed and opened ended questions was used to enquire into utilization patterns of post natal care services, the factors that influences utilization, and selected characteristics of mothers that went for a particular facility.

The findings revealed a high rate of post partum check up of 82.6%. Those that did not attend for post partum check up comprised 17.4%. The main reasons for not having a post natal check up were no time or inconvenience and no need or not necessary. Amongst the various factors studied, mother's age, family income, and knowledge of what to be done at the post partum check up were significantly associated with post partum check up. The factors not associated with post partum check up were mother's and husband's educational attainment, mother's and husband's occupation, household size, mass media exposure, perceived benefit of post partum check up, knowledge of abnormal signs of post natal period, complications during delivery and post natal period, and health insurance. It was also found that there was no difference between hospitals and health center use for post natal care services. However, the proportion paying more for post natal care services is higher for mothers that went to the hospital than those that went to the

health center.

Thus, it is recommended that health education be launched with particular attention to young mothers, and more emphasis on topics such as proper nutrition, importance of post natal care, knowledge of what to be done at the post partum check up, as well as abnormal signs of the post natal period. Furthermore, clinic schedule should be modified to improve utilization of post natal care services such as opening clinics after hours or on weekends and finally, for employers to offer some form of social security (for example sick leave) so that mothers can have the opportunity to go for post partum check up.