

THESIS TITLE The Factors Influential Infant
 Mortality in Thailand

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to identify the determinants of infant mortality, in order to reduce it. This study used secondary data from "Impact of Contraceptive Practice on Fertility Pattern: A Multiple Regression Analysis of Birth and Open Intervals of Urban and Rural Thai Women, February - March 1982". The samples included 1203 and 809 married women of reproductive age (15 - 44 years old) in Bangkok and Srisaket province respectively. The history of

births, contraceptive practice, breastfeeding and mother's age at delivery were taken for every case. The infant deaths cover the whole period from 1962 - 1981.

In the analysis, various factors were investigated for their effects on infant mortality. The place of residence was the most important factor influencing infant mortality. Previous birth interval and breastfeeding had a strong association with infant mortality. Birth order and birth control practice were also the determinants of infant mortality in rural, but were not in urban women.

In the future, to reduce infant mortality and to narrow the rural-urban difference, health services in rural areas should be improved. Promotion of breastfeeding and adoption of modern contraceptives to increase the length of birth interval is recommended.