

Thesis Title           The Relationship of the Nutritional Status to the  
Deciduous Tooth Eruption and Caries Condition of  
Thai Children

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#### Abstract

Although many studies indicated that the body and dental growth associated with nutrition, it is apparent that dental caries disease is related as well. The purpose of this study was to determine the relationship and the influence of gender, birth order, maternal age at delivery and nutritional status on the number of deciduous teeth erupted and dental caries status of pre-school children.

1,872 children, age 7-36 months were selected by purposive sampling from the immunization clinics in 28 Health Service Centers, 12-sub-centers and 4 day-care centers. These children were divided into 9 aged group i.e. 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18, 19-21, 22-24, 25-27, 28-30 and 31-36 months. Weight and height (or length) of the children were measured and recorded, oral examination was also conducted to determine the deciduous teeth eruption, the extent of dental caries disease and the deposition of soft debris on tooth surfaces. The personal data and sickness history of both children and their mothers were interviewed from the mothers.

In finding out the variable to explain the variability of the numbers of erupted teeth, the results showed that, child age was the first variable to significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) explain approximately 84%, whereas other variables could explain all together only 1.69%. According to dental caries status, the results showed that, soft debris and child age

were the first and second variable to significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) explain approximately 27.46% and 11.01% respectively while weight for age in percentage, birth order, height for age in percentage and gender could explain all together only 1.34%.