

**4136514 RACN/M:MAJOR: COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING ;
M.N.S.(COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING)
KEY WORDS: RESILIENCE FACTORS / PERCEIVED LIFE ADVERSITIES /
SUBSTANCE USE BEHAVIOR / ADOLESCENT
BUSSARIN LHIMSOONTHON: THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
RESILIENCE FACTORS, PERCEIVED LIFE ADVERSITIES, PERSONAL
CHARACTERISTICS, AND SUBSTANCE USE BEHAVIOR OF SLUM
ADOLESCENTS LINGERING IN A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND. THESIS
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This correlation study aimed to explore relationships between adolescents' resilience factors, perceived life adversities, personal characteristics and their substance use behavior. The study participants were 232 adolescents ages 11-20 years who were lingering in a slum public playground from 3-6 p.m. April 1-30, 2000. Somchit's "Children's Resilience Factors Assessment Tool" which was based on Grotberg's resilience concepts was modified for this study. Study subjects completed self-report questionnaire. Data were analyzed by using independent t-test, Chi-square test, and partial correlation.

T-test analysis found that there were statistically significant differences between adolescents who refused substance use and those who experienced substance use in scores on resilience subscales of External Supports and Resources (I Have) ($t = -2.346$, $p < .05$) and in scores on Perceived Life Adversities ($t = 4.156$, $p < .001$). However, there were no statistically significant differences of the scores on Internal Strengths (I Am), Social and Interpersonal Skills (I Can) and total resilience factors between the same two groups. In addition, there was a statistically significant difference in adolescents' age ($t = 4.529$, $p < .001$), available money per month ($t = 3.016$, $p < .01$), and educational levels ($t = 1.99$, $p < .05$) between the two described groups.

Results also showed a statistically significant relationship ($\chi^2 = 13.02$, $p < .001$) between gender and substance use behavior. Statistically significant relationships were not found between gender and resilience factors as well as between gender and Perceived Life Adversities. Partial Correlation Analysis found that Perceived Life Adversities were significantly positively related to age ($r = .181$, $p < .01$) and inversely related to educational levels ($r = -.152$, $p < .05$). Resilience factors were significantly positively correlated to educational levels ($r = .190$, $p < .01$).

This study has implications for community health nursing interventions for prevention of substance use and abuse in young people. Further research of resilience as an important factor in wellness and health is needed.