

Thesis Title	Determinants of Diarrhoeal Disease Occurrence in Children under Five Years of Age in Mukdaharn Province, Thailand
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ABSTRACT

This study is designed to explore the determinants of causes of diarrhoeal diseases in children under five years of age in Thailand. A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted targeting a rural community in northeastern Thailand. The sample population size was 707 caretakers from Mukdaharn province, and the research was conducted in February, 1997.

The results of the study, according to univariate analysis, revealed that the child's age and breastfeeding were statistically significantly associated with diarrhoeal

disease occurrence in children under five years of age. The children at the age of two years and under had a risk of having diarrhoeal diseases 1.5 times greater than those age over two years, and that non-breastfed children had a risk of having diarrhoeal diseases 2 times greater than breastfed children. According to multiple-logistic regression analysis, there were two variables, child's age and breastfeeding, that had statistically significant association with diarrhoeal disease occurrence in children under five years of age at p-value $<.01$ and $<.001$ respectively. The determinants of diarrhoeal disease occurrence in children under five years of age were: children aged two or under carried a risk of having diarrhoeal diseases 1.7 times greater than those aged over two years, and children who lack of breastfeeding carried a risk of having diarrhoeal diseases 2.9 times higher than breastfed children.

The findings suggest that breastfeeding must be strongly promoted and encouraged, and that more emphasis should be placed on strategies to encourage prevention and early treatment of diarrhoeal diseases, particularly focusing on caretakers of children under two years of age building their capabilities in these areas.