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LUONG NGOC KHUE: DENTAL HEALTH PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR  
AMONG MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE IN  
DONKA SUBDISTRICT, U THONG DISTRICT, SUPHANBURI PROVINCE,  
THAILAND. THESIS ADVISORS: BOONYONG KEIWKARNKA Dr.P.H,  
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This cross - sectional, descriptive study is about the preventive behavior among mothers with children under 6 years of age in order to ensure dental health. It was conducted from March until April, 2000 in a selected Donka Subdistrict, U Thong District, Suphanburi Province, Thailand. 150 randomly selected mothers completed the confidential, interview-questionnaire. The instrument elicited information about socio-demographic characteristics of the mothers, i.e., knowledge, attitudes, sources of information regarding dental health and dental health preventive behaviors of the mothers.

The findings revealed that the majority of the mothers had a high and moderate level of knowledge and attitude towards dental health. Around two-thirds of the mothers had good dental health preventive behavior (62.7%). Among, them 71.3 % of the mothers brushed their children's teeth two to three times a day, and 76.0 % cleaned their children's teeth after meals. Most of the mothers used fluoride toothpaste to brush their children's teeth ( 86.0%). However, misconceptions still existed. More than two-thirds of the mothers didn't know the advantage of pit and fissure sealant; the appropriate time to brush their children's teeth, and the effect of Tetracycline on their child's teeth. Only 32.7% of the mothers brought their child to see the dentist for check-up and 15.3% did so at an appropriate time which was every six months. Television was the most frequent source of information about dental health that the respondents were exposed to (89.3%). The result of the study showed a significant association between knowledge of dental health and dental health preventive behavior with P value = 0.031; and the level of mother's education and dental health preventive behavior with a P value = 0.033.