

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND PRACTICES IN THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF YOUTH IN THE NORTHERN REGION IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this paper is to study reproductive health knowledge, attitudes, practices and factors affecting contraceptive behaviors among youth in the Northern region in Thailand. This study investigates basic data of Payao province (with 475 observations from 5 districts) and a central district in Chiangrai province (452 observations). The total observations are 926, including 453 male youth and 473 female youth. The methodology is to conduct a survey to indicate reproductive health knowledge, attitudes, and practices among these youth. The main outcomes of the survey are as follows

1. Preliminary findings indicate that youth in the Northern region have low level of reproductive health knowledge (K), attitude (A), and practices (P). Compared to a total score of 100, youth from Payao and Chiangrai received similar scores in the three areas (KAP), approximately 52. Youth in Chiangrai receive higher average scores in knowledge and attitude than youth in Payao. ($\bar{X} = 61.1 > 56.2$ and $\bar{X} = 58.2 > 56.1$ respectively). Youth in Payao, however, are found to have higher scores in reproductive health practice ($\bar{X} = 46.3 > 43.1$).

2. Factors affecting contraceptive behaviors in Payao are gender, work status, income, and expenditure. In Chiangrai, the factors are found to be sex and the scores on reproductive health knowledge, attitudes, and practice. Overall, the factors affecting contraceptive behaviors are age, gender, and the scores on reproductive health knowledge, attitudes, and practice.