

INCOME, EDUCATION, GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES AND HYPERTENSION IN THAILAND: RESULTS FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC SURVEY

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Abstract

Whether socioeconomic status has any impact on hypertension is unclear. This study aimed to identifying the association between socioeconomic status (SES) with hypertension in Thailand.

This cross-sectional study analyzed the data from the national socioeconomic survey by the National Statistical Office, Thailand. The survey was conducted in the samples that were randomly selected from the population in all 76 provinces in Thailand. The multiple logistic regression was used to determine the association between the SES and hypertension.

There was a total of 16,488 samples. Their mean age was 43.04 (\pm 17.39 S.D) years old. Majority was female (53.58%), finished primary education (53.27%). Most of them (89.57%) earned less than 10,001 Baht/month, lived in rural areas (62.77%), 28.03% were from the Northeast region, 18.53% were smokers. The overall prevalence of hypertension was 10.19% (95%CI: 8.23–11.76%). The multivariate analysis indicated that there were significant relationships between socioeconomic factors and hypertension that included primary education attainment (OR_{adj} = 1.18; 95%CI:1.01 to 1.38), got monthly income < 10,001 Baht (OR_{adj} = 3.71; 95%CI:1.97 to 7.00), urban living (OR_{adj} = 1.38; 95%CI:1.18 to 1.62) and lived in Bangkok when compared to the Northeast region (OR_{adj} = 2.38; 95%CI:1.89 to 3.03) when control other covariates.

The study indicates that socioeconomic factors had influences on hypertension. Low education, income and metropolitan residents were vulnerable for hypertension.

Keywords: hypertension, socioeconomic, geographic, urban, disparity, Thailand