

**FACTORS RELATED TO BREAST FEEDING PRACTICES  
AMONG MOTHERS IN SINGBURI PROVINCE, THAILAND**

**ENTOS**

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to determine the factors related to breast feeding practice among mothers in Singburi Province. The sample was 130 mothers who came to well baby clinics in two general hospitals and four community hospitals in Singburi province, Thailand, during 9<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004. Chi-square analysis was applied to measure the relationship between breast feeding practices and related factors.

Around half of the mothers worked at home, had good knowledge of breast-feeding, a positive attitude to it, and family incomes of less than 6,000 bath a month. Almost all had easy access to health services. However, they did not feel that there were many places available for breast-feeding, and almost half felt a lack of social support. Nearly 70% used artificial feeding, while only 12% breast-fed exclusively. Mothers who had higher incomes tended to use artificial feeding more, and those who worked at home tended to breast-feed exclusively.

More places need to be made available for women to feel comfortable breast-feeding and women need to be made aware of the advantages of breast-feeding. Occupation and family income would be critical factors to be considered for increasing exclusive breast feeding.

KEY WORDS : BREAST FEEDING PRACTICES/THAILAND

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