

**A PREDICTIVE MODEL OF NEONATAL TETANUS
PREVENTIVE INTENTION AMONG WOMEN IN NINH PHUOC
DISTRICT, VIETNAM**



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The objective of this study was to explore women's behavioral intentions in having tetanus vaccine for neonatal tetanus (NNT) prevention and to examine factors affecting women's intention regarding getting tetanus vaccine for NNT prevention based on the Theory of Planned Behavior. This study was used both quantitative and qualitative methods. For the quantitative approach, women who had children under one year old in six communes in Ninh Phuoc District, Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam, were chosen using multi stage sampling and systematic random sampling, and a total of 250 completed questionnaires were obtained. For the qualitative study, 12 women were purposively chosen from three different ethnic groups. For each ethnic group (Kinh, Cham, and Raclay) 4 women were chosen comprising 2 women who had completed the tetanus vaccination for these present children, and another 2 women who had not completed the tetanus vaccination.

The results showed that most of the women who had children under one year had moderate levels of attitudes and subjective norms, a low level of perceived behavioral controls, and a moderate level of intentions in having tetanus vaccine for NNT prevention. From the three predictors, using the multiple linear regression, only women's subjective norms were found to be a significant determinant of intention in having tetanus vaccine for NNT prevention. Regarding the analysis and interpretation, 27.4% of the variance in intention concerning having tetanus vaccine for NNT prevention should be predicted from the subjective norm. In addition, it was found that women's intentions were significant on direct and indirect effects for several factors, including family income, knowledge about NNT, and past experience regarding immunization site in having tetanus vaccine for NNT prevention. Diagram structure was used to establish the results and through this, ethnicity was found to have an indirect effect on women's intention in having tetanus vaccine for NNT prevention. Also, from both the quantitative and qualitative approaches, several factors were also found as barrier factors in having tetanus vaccine for NNT prevention, such as side-effects, transportation and distance, lack of material facilities, medical workers' behaviors, and women's beliefs.

This study provided partial support for the application of the Theory of Planned Behavior to NNT preventive intention among women who had children under one year old. Therefore, this needs to be studied further. The findings also suggested that interventions should be focused on subjective norms, such as peers/friends' education, suitable mass media campaigns, and detailed ethnic policies; sufficient finances from government or foundation sources should be used to overcome the barrier factors in getting the tetanus vaccination for NNT prevention.

**KEY WORDS: NEONATAL TETANUS PREVENTION/TETANUS VACCINATION/
WOMEN HAVE CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR/
TPB THEORY/INTENTION/VIETNAM**

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