

Adolescent health services in Thailand
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The first adolescent health service at the hospital setting in Thailand was first established in 1974 by Dr. Varunee Amorndhat after she received the American Board of Pediatrics and Certificate in Adolescent medicine from Washington DC.

It was located at Children's Hospital, Bangkok under the pediatric services, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Public Health. The purpose was to serve children aged between 11-20 years with physical development and mental health problems. The service provided confidentiality and response to the adolescents' concerns as well as parental support using an interdisciplinary approach.

By the same time other adolescent health services integrated with Child and Adolescent psychiatry were developed, providing mainly mental health care services (Siriraj Medical School, Mahidol University and Chulalongkorn Medical School, Chulalongkorn University).

During the past twenty years there was expansion of adolescent health services all over the country especially at University Hospitals and Medical Centers belonging to the Ministry of Public Health. It led to the creation of a professional organization for adolescent specialists, the Committee of Adolescent Medicine, established in 2003 under The Thai Royal College of Pediatrics. However, there is no formal training for becoming a subspecialist in adolescent medicine in Thailand.

In the year 2010, national data from Thailand's 3 major health care systems, regarding the reasons for attending an outpatient clinic, in-patient admissions and mortality deaths in adolescents aged 13-18 years, were analyzed. It was found that the leading reasons for visiting a doctor were respiratory infections, diseases of the digestive system, injury and poisoning and the leading causes of inpatient admissions were teen pregnancy, injury and poisoning and arthropod-borne viral infection. The leading causes of hospital deaths were injury and poisoning, cancer and infections.

In 2013 the Ministry of Public Health delivered the policy "Stop Teen Mom" and tried to provide expanded coverage services for adolescents not only delivering sexual and reproductive health but also addressing the full range of adolescents' health and development needs.

At present there are several models of adolescent health services including mainstream services in hospitals, school health services, electronic health and mobile health. To make progress towards universal health coverage, the Ministry of Public Health and each health sector in particular will need to change the way how health systems respond to the health needs of adolescents. A number of transitions in service delivery, workforce capacity and financing should be addressed.