

## Editorial note on parent's perceptions and practices towards child drowning prevention.

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### Editorial

In this editorial the discussion is on Parents perceptions and practices toward child drowning prevention. Drowning is a major public health problem and a leading cause of death of a child worldwide and in Thailand. Child Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention Research Center from 2000 to 2018, Thai children under the age of 15 years died from drowning, up to 22,700 per year. In children aged 1-4 years, the rate of drowning deaths is up to more than 10.0 per cent of 100,000 children in the same age group [1-3].

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In this editorial the discussion is on Parents perceptions and practices toward child drowning prevention. Drowning is a major public health problem and a leading cause of death of a child worldwide and in Thailand. Child Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention Research Center from 2000 to 2018, Thai children under the age of 15 years died from drowning, up to 22,700 per year. In children aged 1-4 years, the rate of drowning deaths is up to more than 10.0 per cent of 100,000 children in the same age group. Drowning in young children often occurs at home and around the neighborhood as a child living with parents or caregivers. According to the development of children at this age are curiously and fond of surrounding exploration. However, they cannot care themselves and care less. They also have inadequate of vigilance and awareness toward the hazard. Therefore, if the children are careless, an unintentional accident would simply happen to the child [4,5].

Child drowning is the critical public health problem across the world. Although Thailand has learned from experiences of developed nations, Thai parents may encounter huge challenge on reducing risks of child accidental drowning. We therefore aimed to understand Thai parents' perceptions and practices of their child drowning prevention in and around their home. A qualitative study was conducted amongst seven parental Mother/Father couples from a municipality of one Thai province. All participants consented to take part in the study through 50 minutes in-depth individual interviews, providing

a wide range of data. Thematic analysis was undertaken and brings about three main themes relating to their perceptions and practices. The perceptions and practices of 14 participants are expressed in three themes and three sub themes. The results show that parents' awareness and practices towards child drowning prevention were inadequate. Parents often taught and supervised the child to keep safety from drowning. However, the participants also revealed the requirement of education support need from health professionals. Participants illuminated their understanding and daily behaviour regarding child drowning prevention based on their perceptions and experiences. The findings of the study have strongly evidenced that drowning could be preventable by parents and caregivers by developing their understanding, awareness, and supervision behaviours for unintentional drowning prevention in young children underlying with the changes in Thai national policy and in nursing education frameworks. This study can therefore be an essential contribution to the further development of evidence based parental behaviour regarding child drowning prevention across Thailand.

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