

## EDITORIAL

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In this issue, many articles related to the reproductive health problems in adolescents were published, such as, “Unsafe abortion in Thailand: roles of RTCOG” by Prof. Kamheang Chaturachinda, “Thailand adolescent birth rate: Trend and related indicators” by Dr. Bunyarit Sukrat and “Menstrual patterns among upper secondary school students, Khon Kaen, Thailand” by Dr. Tatchai Kamonmooneechote, et al. There are a lot of reproductive health problems in adolescents such as unsafe sex, sex abuse, unsafe abortion, adolescent pregnancy and other gynecological problems. All of these problems are complex social, economic, medical, educational problems.

Adolescent pregnancy seems to be the most important problem. In reporting adolescent pregnancy rates, the number of pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 when the pregnancy ends is generally used. Worldwide, adolescent pregnancy rates range from 143 per 1,000 in some sub-Saharan African countries to 2.9 per 1,000 in South Korea.

From recent studies, there were 80,523 adolescent pregnancies, comprising 25.9% of all pregnancies. The pregnancy rate for 15-19 year-olds was 33.4 per 1,000. There were 188.8 adolescent deliveries per day. Nearly all pregnancies were unplanned. Therefore some of them were unwanted pregnancies.<sup>(1,2)</sup>

Thailand adolescent birth rate is still in the increasing trend. Adolescent unintended pregnancy can have profound effects on adolescents, their parents, family and society. Country action plan need to be improved for effectively reduce the adolescent birth rate.

In conclusion, adolescent problems should be considered a major public health problem that warrants immediate intervention at national level as a national agenda because it is a complex problem that involves many government, private sections and NGO. The Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has an important role in eliminating the problems. All research works for this problem are supported and facilitated to be published in Thai Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This Scientific meeting this year will be held at the Royal Golden Jubilee Building between 23-25 April 2014. The theme of this scientific meeting is “ADO-lescence”

### References

1. Areemit R, Thinkhamrop J, Kosuwon P, Kiatchoosakun P, Sutra S, Thepsuthammarat K. Adolescent pregnancy: Thailand's national agenda. J Med Assoc Thai 2012 ; 95 Suppl 7: S134-42.
2. Liabsuetrakul T. Trends and outcomes of teenage pregnancy. Thai J Obstet Gynaecol 2012;20:162-5.

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