

# RELATIONSHIP AMONG MATERNAL DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS, GENDER DIFFERENCES AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS IN THAI ADOLESCENTS.

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**Abstract :** To examine the pattern of relationships among factors related to depressive symptoms in adolescents of mothers with depressive symptoms, the structural equation model of adolescent depressive symptoms was tested. The conceptual framework, for this study, drew on the Interpersonal Theory of Depression. Through use of stratified sampling, 400 Thai adolescents, and respective mother, were selected for participation. All adolescents completed the: Demographic Data Questionnaire; Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale; Rosenberg's Self-esteem Scale; Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support; Maternal Supportive Behaviors Questionnaire; Negative Event Scale; and, Parental Bonding Instrument. Each mother completed the: Demographic Data Questionnaire; and, Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale. Data were analyzed using LISREL. A goodness of fit was obtained with the model. The adolescents' depressive symptoms accounted for over 60% of the variance. A strong effect of maternal depressive symptoms on depressive symptoms among Thai adolescents, as well as on mediation by intervening variables, was found. The results also enhanced understanding of how to develop and target nursing interventions to prevent development of depressive symptoms, and optimize mental health, among Thai adolescents, when their mother suffers from depressive symptoms.