

Social Aspects of Mortality in Young and Middle Adulthood in Thailand

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In many countries mortality risks are correlated with characteristics such as marriage, employment and parenthood. Possibly, poor health restricts entry into these states. A competing explanation is that valued social roles reduce the likelihood of risk. Differences in adult death risks that might be associated with social roles were examined using the Survey of Population Change in Thailand, 1995-96. The survey investigated 268,000 individuals in sample households over a twelve-month period.

Cox regression models controlling for age, sex and urban-rural location showed that never-married and widowed people were over twice as likely to die as married people. However, household heads and their spouses were at low risk compared with married or unmarried descendants in the same household. Marital status differentials almost disappeared in a multivariate model, while differentials in household relationships and employment remained strong.