

Abstract

Survival Differentials among the Thai Elderly, 1964–1996

Patama Vapattanawong

Pramote Prasartkul

Varachai Thongthai

Philip Guest

During the last four decades Thailand has experienced the process of population ageing caused by both declining fertility and mortality. Although there is evidence that both the number and proportion of Thai elderly are increasing, the longevity among these elderly is not clear. Thus, this study aims to scrutinize the trends, patterns and sex differentials of survival among the Thai elderly. The series of Surveys of Population Change (SPC) from the year 1964 are used. Life table techniques and survival estimations are employed.

It is found that the longevity of the Thai elderly, both males and females, has increased as indicated by their life expectancy at birth, at age 60 and 80. Females have longer lives than do males. However, the increase in years lived was greater among males than females. An acceleration of life expectancy among the elderly had been occurring since 1985. It is also found from the analysis of survival curves that the ages at death of the Thai elderly are not concentrated around the mean age at death. Programs to increase survival rates among the elderly are recommended.