

TAPANEE PROHMBHADRA : SERVICE AREAS OF THE BANGKOK METROPOLIS  
HEALTH SERVICE CENTERS. THESIS ADVISOR : MR. CHALITPAKORN  
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The objectives of this thesis are to study the service areas of the Bangkok Metropolis 56 health service centers, to compare the socio-economic characteristics of those who have attended these centers and those who have not, and to study the reasons given by the attendant and the non-attendant groups to explain their decisions to utilize or not to utilize the services offered by these centers. The research primarily used data from the questionnaires which had been administered to the attendant and the non-attendant sample groups. The attendant sample group, comprising 300, were drawn from patients using accidental sampling method while the non-attendant sample group of 300 were drawn from the general public at various locations. The research also made use of addresses of the out-patient records to establish the actual service areas of these health centers.

The research has found the average distances between these centers and the attendant's residences to be approximately one kilometre. It also concludes that the service areas derived by this research are markedly different from those demarcated by the health centers themselves. The examination of the attendant and the non-attendant groups also reveals that they are socioeconomically different from one another. "Distance between residence and the center" is the most frequently cited reason behind the decision to attend the center while "unawareness of the existence of the center" is the most important reason given by the non-attendant sample group.