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SOMSAK SRIMONGKON : THE PERFORMANCE ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS OF DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICERS AND CHIEFS OF HEALTH CENTERS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR: DECHA DEJAKAISAYA, M.P.H., VAJIRA SINGHAKAJEN, M.A. (DEMOGRAPHY), CHAIYA MACHANG, M.Sc.(PUBLIC HEALTH). 170 p. ISBN 974-662-991-3

This survey /research aimed to study the performance on Public Health Laws by District Health Officers and Chief of Health Centers in the Southern Region of Thailand. The study samples were composed of 80 District Health Officers and 427 Chiefs of Health Centers in 7 provinces covering in the Southern Region of Thailand. The data collection was done by questionnaire during October 1997 and January 1998.

The finding of this study showed that the knowledge of Public Health Laws by District Health Officers and Chiefs of Health Centers were at low levels ($\bar{X} = 8.65$, $SD = 3.97$) ($\bar{X} = 6.50$, $SD = 3.98$) respectively. The highest level of knowledge for both groups was Public Health Act B.E.2535. The highest knowledge about policies of Public Health Laws was Consumers Prevention Act, B.E. 2522. Knowledge development was found at medium level ($\bar{X}=1.80$, $SD=1.06$). The subjects have low activities in policy and method and administration and management ($\bar{X}=8.91$, $SD=5.41$). The study found that the position, age, sex, marital status and income were significantly related to knowledge on the powers under Public Health Laws and development ($P < 0.05$). The influencing factors of Public Health Laws enforcement were income, position, marital status, knowledge and development ($P < 0.05$). The problems found were mostly of materials and laws enforcement practice. From this study it is suggested that materials should be supported and law seminar and training program should be provided to both groups.