

3936243 PHPH/M : MAJOR : PUBLIC HEALTH LAW ADMINISTRATION ; M.Sc
(PUBLIC HEALTH)

KEY WORDS : SURVEILLANCE / COMMUNICABLE DISEASE ACT BE.2523 /
THE CHIEF OF HEALTH CENTER / KAMNAN AND VILLAGE
HEADMAN

NORASAK NGOUNGAM : KNOWLEDGE AND OPINION OF THE CHIEF
OF HEALTH CENTER, KAMNAN AND VILLAGE HEADMAN ON SURVEILLANCE
ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE ACT BE.2523: A CASE STUDY
IN CENTRAL REGION. THESIS ADVISORS : VAJIRA SINGAKAJEN M.A.
(DEMOGRAPHY), LUMSAK CHAWANICH M.S., CHAIYA MACHAENG, M.Sc. (PUBLIC
HEALTH) 133 p. ISBN 974-663-400-3

This survey research aimed to study the knowledge and opinion of health center chiefs, Kamnan and Village Headmen on surveillance according to the Communicable Disease Act. The study samples included 383 Health Center chiefs. Additional data were collected by mailed questionnaires and interview with 583 Kamnans and Village Headmen during October and December 1997. Data was analyzed by using percentage, mean standard deviation, t-test and chi-square.

The study results showed that 50.7 % of Health Center chiefs were trained in surveillance techniques and 73.4 % of them had reported a such diseases. Additionally 4.44 % of Kamnan and Village Headmen had notified health centers about such diseases. Health Center chiefs lacked knowledge about communicable disease, notification and legal procedures for communicable disease according to the Communicable Diseases Act. Health Center chiefs also did not know that Kamnan and Village Headmen were inspectors for disease control, and did not agree on notification of communicable diseases to the health centers within 24 hours. Moreover, it was found that age and notification were significantly related to the knowledge of surveillance (P-value = 0.0242, 0.0215, respectively). In 37.9 % of cases notification was by Kamnan and Village Headmen, but only 12 % were reported by themselves. They had no knowledge of the signs and symptoms of infectious disease and gastrointestinal tract infection. Only 37.7% of Kamnan and Village Headmen knew themselves as inspectors of disease control. Sex and notification were significantly related to the knowledge of surveillance (P-value = 0.0029, 0.0222, respectively). Health Center chief, Kamnan and Village Headmen knowledge and opinion of surveillance were significantly related (P-value = 0.0001, 0.0014, respectively). These results suggest a Communicable Diseases training program shall be developed.