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IMMIGRANT – WORKERS

SASIPORN TUTCHANANUSORN : THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS , LIFESTYLE AND HEALTH STATUS OF
IMMIGRANT – WORKERS IN SAMUTSAKHON PROVINCE : CASE STUDY IN
SAMUTSAKHON HOSPITAL THESIS ADVISORS : PIMPAN SILPASUWAN, Ed.D.,
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Illegal immigrant - workers in Thailand have an influence on economic, social, political, and public health issue especially issues about health status, which cause many problems. The purpose of this research is to study the relationships between demographic factors, lifestyle and health status of immigrant – workers in Samutsakhon province. Samples (n=130) were immigrant - workers who attended health services at Samutsakhon Hospital in October 1999. Interview techniques by researcher and interpreter were used for data collection. Secondary data were collected from immigrant – worker patients' database of Samutsakhon Hospital from October 1998 through September 1999.

The results of this study showed that the majority (96.9 %) of the immigrant - workers had lifestyle rated at medium level. But some had high risk lifestyle, for example, alcohol consumption, smoking habits, drug using and drug addiction, sexual risk behavior, hard labour, work hazards and long working hours, lack of health information, poor housing condition, unsanitary disposal of garbage and sewage, and inadequate latrines. Causes of morbidity and mortality were pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, diseases of respiratory system, certain infectious and parasitic diseases, accident and assault. 60.2 % of the expenditure of health services were the burden of the hospital. The bed occupancy rate was 3.5 %. There was no significant relationship between demographic factors and health status but lifestyle was significantly related to health status.

The findings in this study confirm the theory of health and theory of migration. Consequently the results of this study recommended that those concerned should strengthen the health surveillance. Additionally, the owners should be concerned about human rights and their employees' health. They should promote, support and provide a better quality of health care such as the condition of working, living and shelter, health promotion, family planning, sanitary measures and adequate latrines, and environmental management. Furthermore they should increase the coverage of health insurance among illegal immigrant - workers to reduce the expenditure of hospital health services.