

3836412 PHPH/M : MAJOR : PUBLIC HEALTH LAW ADMINISTRATION ;

M.Sc. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

KEY WORDS : KNOWLEDGE/OPINION/CHIEF OF HEALTH CENTER/PUBLIC  
HEALTH COMPETENCE/PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. B.E.2535

KAMOL SRILOM : KNOWLEDGE AND OPINIONS OF CHIEFS OF HEALTH  
CENTERS ON PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCE TOWARD THE AUTHORITY OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH ACT.B.E.2535. ADVISORS : DECHA DEJAKAISAYA M.PH., SUVONG  
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MACHEANG M.Sc.(PUBLIC HEALTH). 114 P. ISBN 974-664-012-7

This survey research was studied the knowledge and opinions of chiefs of health centers on public health competence toward the authority of public health Act. B.E.2535. The study sample was composed of 1,040 chiefs of health centers in 11 provinces covering all regions of Thailand. The data collection was done by using a questionnaire during 1-31 December, 1996.

The result revealed that 69.2% of subjects lack knowledge on the power of health officers who were empowered under the Public Health Law. In regard to opinions, 72.9% of the subjects agreed on the power of health officers. Knowledge and opinions were significantly related to news and information. The problems and obstacles were confiscation and attaching anything that may cause harm to the health of the population (50.2%). This research suggests the chiefs of Health centers should be provided with a seminar and information about the authority of public health officials.