

3836891 SIEP / M : MAJOR : EPIDEMIOLOGY ; M. Sc. (EPIDEMIOLOGY)

KEY WORDS : ORAL HEALTH STATUS / THE ELDERLY / SOCIOECONOMIC
FACTORS / HEALTH BEHAVIOR / RELATIONSHIP

PATCHAREE SOMBATTO :THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIOECONOMIC
FACTORS,HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND ORAL HEALTH STATUS IN THE ELDERLY IN
PHRAE PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS : PRASERT ASSANTACHAI,M.D., F.R.C.P.
(London) , POTCHAMAN SINAVARAT , M.Sc.(Prosthetic Dentistry), PIANGCHAN
ROJANAVIPART, M.H.S. (Bio statistics). 119 p. ISBN 974 – 664 – 798 – 9

The Thai national oral health survey in 1994 revealed that dental caries, periodontitis and denture problems were the important oral health problems among the Thai elderly. The study of various risk factors, related to this oral health problem is therefore crucial to the strategic planning of the management of the above problems. This cross-sectional survey intended to explore the epidemiology of oral health problem i.e. dental caries, periodontitis, the remanning teeth and denture wearing, as well as their relationship with socioeconomic factors including the oral health behavior. Three hundred and eighty nine elderly persons aged 60 years or more living in Phrae Province were recruited. The oral examination was done by a local dentist and the interview was done by the author and colleagues. Chi-square test and pearson's product moment correlation were used for data analysis

94.6 % of the elderly has dental carries. There is statistically significant association between age ($p < .0001$), education ($p < .0001$), social activities ($p < .0001$), the exposure to oral health hygiene information ($p = .001$), oral heath behavior ($p < .0001$) and dental caries. 60.3 % have chronic gingivitis and 39.7 % have periodontitis. There is statistically significant association between family support ($p = .015$), as well as the exposure to oral health hygiene information ($p = .031$) and periodontal status. 10 % of these sample are totally edentulous. There is statistically significant association between age ($p < .0001$), education ($p < .0001$), social activities ($p < .0001$), the exposure to oral health hygiene information ($p = .023$), oral heath behavior ($p < .0001$) and the number of remaining teeth. Regarding the denture wearing, there are 28.8 % of the sample. There is statistically significant association between male gender ($p = .014$), as well as oral health behavior ($p = .048$) and denture wearing.

In conclusion the elderly should easily access the correct treatment provided by dentists or dental nurses. The basic dental management should be incorporated into the local health centers in the community. This includes oral hygiene, education and oral health promotion.