

Thesis Title	STUDY ON HOME FLUIDS AND ITS POPULARITY
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ABSTRACT

The survey was conducted during February 14, 1984 - March 9, 1984 in Lampang Province. The objectives are to determine types of home fluids and their popularity for diarrhea treatment by rural Thai people and factors associated with their use. The multi - stage random sampling was used, and 447 households were selected from which heads of households or the housewives were interviewed.

The study shows that 181 (55.0%) out of 447 households are using home fluids for treatment of diarrhea. The herbs which are most frequently used to prepare are rice or paddy (53.6%), guava leaf (48.6%) and pomegranate leaf (40.9%). There are 79 formulas of home fluids are identified in this study. The three most popular ones are: a mixture of guava leaf, pomegranate leaf and rice (17 households); guava leaf alone (11 households); and a combination of guava and pomegranate leaves (10 households).

'Preparation' method for home fluid is boiling of fresh or roasted herbs. The fluids are taken by the patients until diarrhea subside.

The factors found to be associated with the uses of home fluids are sex ($P=0.0563$), size of family ($P=0.0123$), average annual income ($P=0.0107$), average monthly expense ($P < 0.005$), economic status ($P=0.026$), history of modern drug use ($P=0.0107$), and history of the use of antibiotics or -anti-diarrheals ($P=0.0048$). There is no significant association between the use of home fluids with age, literacy, travel time from home to nearest health center, travel time from home to nearest hospital, and knowledge on using of Oral Rehydration Salts.