

The purpose of this descriptive study was to determine depression levels among HIV/AIDS patients, and to define the correlation between depression and factors effecting counseling service and support group participation among HIV/AIDS patients in Wiang Chiang Rung Hospital, Chiang Rai Province. The population of this study was 60 HIV/AIDS patients. Data were collected through the Beck Depression Inventory Scale, translated and modified by Suwat Mahutnirunkul and team, and included an interview form, developed by the researcher. The content validity of the interview form was verified by a group of experts and tested for reliability by Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The content validity index was .97 and the reliability of the interview form was .93 . The data were analyzed by descriptive statistics and by using Pearson's Product Moment and Chi-Square for defining correlation coefficients.

The results of the study indicated that 53.3 percent of the patients with HIV/AIDS had depression at a high and severe level and 35 percent of them at a moderate level. The study showed that the depression level of the HIV/AIDS patients was statistically significantly negative related to the factor of counseling services in terms of frequency of counseling service, types of counseling and the experiences in counseling service at p - value $< .01$ and the factor of the support group participation among the HIV/AIDS patients in terms of time and frequency of participations as well as experiences of support group participation at p - value $< .01$, and $< .001$ respectively. However, the period of counseling service was not statistically significant with the depression level among the HIV/AIDS patients.

According to the results, this study revealed that counseling service and support group participation appeared to be key factors to reduce depression. Therefore, related organizations could pay attention to the significance of both continuing support group participation and counseling services for people living with HIV/AIDS.