

Thesis Title Factors Related to Dental Care Utilization in Public
 and Private Hospitals in Bangkok Metropolis.

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ABSTRACT

Dental caries and Periodontal diseases are among important public health problems in Bangkok Metropolis. Reports showed that the rate of dental care utilization in public hospitals has decreased as compared to private hospitals. Therefore, the main objective of this research was to study factors related to dental care utilization in public and private hospitals in Bangkok Metropolis. A total of 385 dental service users, 188 from public hospitals and 197 from private hospitals were selected and interviewed. Descriptive statistics, chi-square, t-test, and contingency coefficient were used to analyze the data by the SPSS^x program.

It was found that the main reason for using dental care service in public hospitals was an inexpensive service fees (19.1%) while closed distance to their houses and offices was mostly mentioned among users

(39.4%) in private hospitals.

Age, education, individual income, family income, perceived susceptibility, perceived severity, perceived benefits, convenience, quality of care, dental care costs, courtesy, information, distance between hospitals and houses/offices, data on dental care utilization, demand for dental care utilization, and the main reason for choosing dental care utilization of users in public and private hospitals were found significantly differences at $p < 0.05$.

Family income and treatment cost subsidy were found significantly related to the use of dental care service in public hospitals while perceived benefits, health motivation, quality of care, courtesy, and convenience of transportation were significantly related to the use of dental care service in private hospitals.

It is suggested from the study that public hospitals improve the quality of dental care service by providing better courtesy and more information about the services.