

Thesis Title	Patterns of Health Service Utilization of Villagers in a Rural Area, Chantaburi Province
Name	Pham Le Tuan
Degree	Master of Primary Health Care Management
Thesis Supervisory Committee	Pantyp Ramasoota B.Sc., M.P.H., Dr.PH. Boongium Tragoolvongse M.P.H, Dr.P.H. Somsak Wongsawass M.Sc. (Biostatistics)
Date of Graduation	18 May B.E 2538 (1995)

#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to gain an understanding of the people's behavior in utilizing different health services facilities in the rural area. A random sample of 276 households including 1303 individuals was selected from three villages in Klong Yai Tambon, Pongnumron District, Chantaburi Province. Data were collected by using interview schedules and analysis of descriptive and inference statistics.

The result of this study showed that most villagers mainly used government health services rather than private services. Almost every household ever used health center when they had health problems, especially for curative purposes. Most respondents chose health center services on the first visit, community hospitals on the second visit, provincial and community hospitals on the third visit. The rate of self treatment was low. There is significant association between the utilization of health center services and perception of severity of illness, age and marital status of respondents. The perception toward the health organization and health worker in the health center were noted as important stimuli to increase the level of utilization of health center services.

It is suggested that to meet the villagers' demands and their expectations the health authority needs to increase the quality of services in health centers, improve health worker's performance as well as promote preventive activities.