

Thesis Title	Health Care Services Utilization Among the Elderly in Muang District, Loei Province
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ABSTRACT

A descriptive cross-sectional study about health care service utilization among the elderly in Muang District, Loei Province was conducted in Muang Loei Municipality Area and eight villages of three tambons using multi-stage simple random sampling to choose the research area.

The objectives were to determine the utilization of health care service among the elderly in Muang District of Loei Province and to examine the associations between health care service among the elderly and related factors. Two-hundred samples were collected for this study by accidental sampling.

The results of the study showed that there was no significant association between socio-demographic characteristics and health care service utilization. One explanation may be that the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents were the same. Regarding the self-assessment of health status of the elderly and self-health care in the case of common illness, a strong significance associated with the health care services utilization was found (p-value $< .05$). The analysis also reported that most of the respondents had high satisfaction with government health care service and their accessibility even though the chi-square test did not give a statistically significant result.

According to these results it is suggested that all government health institutions need to provide free health care service to the elderly in order to support government policy. Also it is noted that health personnel should act as important stimuli to promote the health of the elderly in terms of home visit and more explanation of benefit of having elderly card to utilize health

care service free of charge. Increasing level of health care service utilization among the elderly in the responsible area should be more focused.