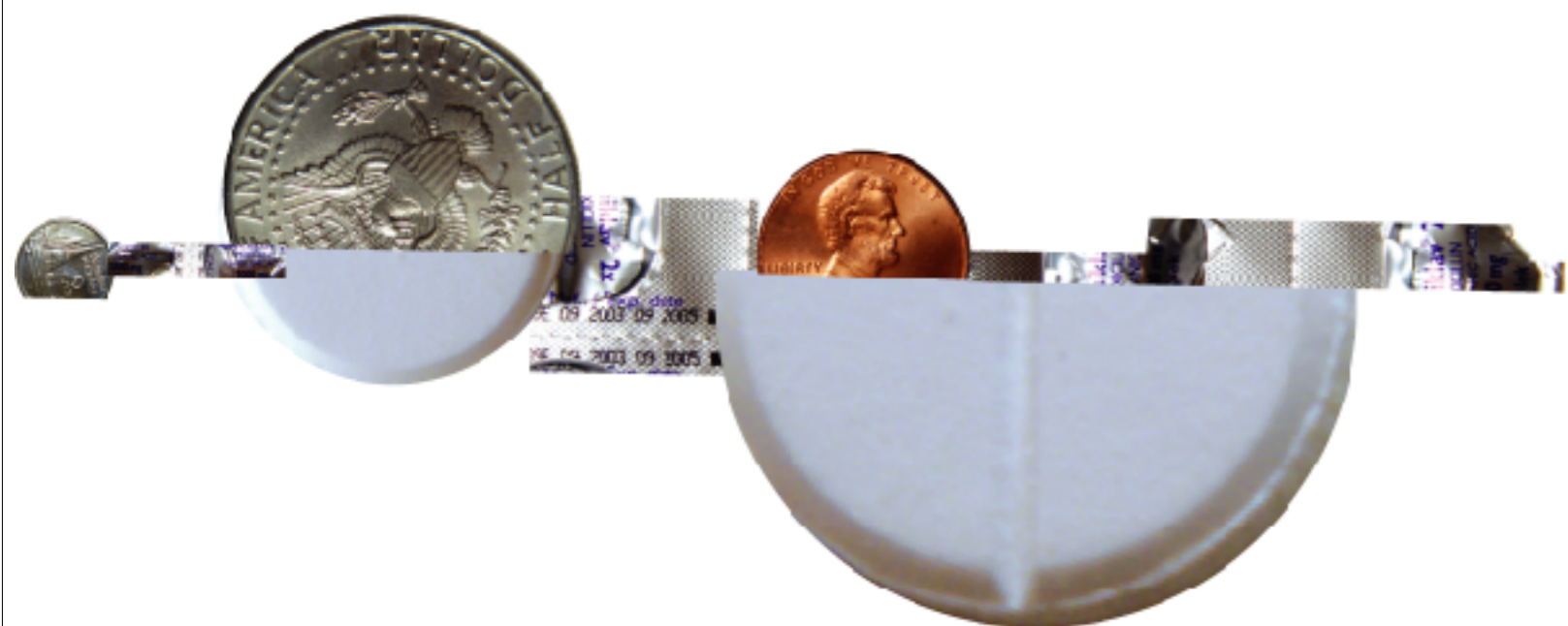


Choose Wisely Choose Health



Institute for Population and Social Research Mahidol University

Thai Health 2005

Thai Health Promotion Foundation



Thai Health 2005



Free Trade:
A Double-Edged Sword for
Thai People's Access to Drugs

12 Health Indicators
10+10 Health Issues



**Thai
Health**
2005

Cataloguing in Publication Data

Thai Health 2005 / Churnrurthai Kanchanachitra...[et al.]. -- 1st ed. -- Nakhon Pathom:
Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, under the Health Information System
Development Project of the Health System Research Institute, supported by the Thai Health Promotion
Foundation (Thai Health), 2005

(Publication / Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University; no.298)

ISBN 974-9930-12-6

Researchers: Churnrurthai Kanchanachitra, Chai Podhisita, Kritaya Archavanitkul, Wassana Im-em.

1. Health. I. Churnrurthai Kanchanachitra. II. Chai Podhisita. III. Kritaya Archavanitkul.
IV. Wassana Im-em. V. Mahidol University. Institute for Population and Social Research.
VI. Thai Health Promotion Foundation. VII. Series

RA776 T364 2005

[DNLM: 1. Health. WA100 T364 2005]

Translator: John Bryant

Cover and Layout Designs: Nat Roengmongkol

Graphics for Indicators Part: Thanavate Siriwattanagul, Thiraporn Ploymeeka

Publisher: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

Thai Health Promotion Foundation

Printed: Amarin Printing and Publishing Ltd.

Copies: 2,000

Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

999 Phuttamonthon Sai 4, Salaya, Phuttamonthon, Nakhon Pathom 73170, Thailand

Telephone +66 2 441 0201, +66 2 441 9666 ext. 219. Fax +66 2 441 9333

Email: directpr@mahidol.ac.th; website: <http://www.population.mahidol.ac.th>

Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth)

979, SM Tower (Floor 34), Phaholyothin Road, Samsen, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand.

Telephone +66 2 298 0500. Fax +66 2 298 0501

Website: <http://www.thaihealth.or.th/en>

Thai Health



2005



Preface

The Thai Health Report is the second in an annual series. The first volume, published last year, was called Thai Health Report 2003, and this one is called Thai Health Report 2005. The reader may wonder what happened to the year 2004.

We have decided that each year's report should be named after that year, to avoid confusion, and to prevent people from thinking that the report is out-of-date from the day it is published. The Thai Health Report 2003 should be regarded as covering both 2003 and 2004.

This report, like the first one, has three parts.

The first part, Twelve Health Indicators, has 12 sections. Six of these sections look at physical health: deaths, illnesses, disability, pregnancy and birth, cancer, nutrition. One section looks at mental health. Two sections look at particular populations: adolescents and elderly people. The final three sections discuss social health: poverty, environment, and human security.

The second part, Ten Plus Ten Health Issues, discusses some recent events and their effect on health. This part uses a new format: it looks at ten notable issues for the year, and then briefly summarizes ten additional issues. It also looks back at the ten notable issues from the previous report, and describes any recent developments.

The Ten Notable Issues

The Tsunami

Fire in the South

The Dilemma of the Bird Flu Epidemic

Rape and Thai Society

Sugar in Children's Milk and Snacks

Will Thai Traditional Medicine Fall into the Hands of Foreigners?

Pornography and Teenage Sex

Teenage Violence

Hazardous Waste

Thai kids in the 'legal' traps of vices

The ten issues that are briefly summarized are genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the Thirty Baht Scheme, obesity, police torture, foreign objects in food, the effect of industry on health and environment, the International Aids Conference, accidents among children, the green tea craze, and trafficking.

The ten plus ten issues were chosen after consulting 1,386 ordinary people, scientists, and health workers.

The third part of the report examines this year's Special Issue: Free Trade in Medicines.

This issue will have long-lasting consequences for Thai society, as medicines are important to all of us. The report discusses the meaning of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and its likely impact on our lives. How will it affect the way that Thai people use medicines? Pharmaceuticals are a complex topic, involving matters such as production, regulation, and copyright. We need to know a great deal more if we want to become self-reliant in the future.

After last year's edition of the Thai Health Report was published, we received many comments from readers. Most readers said that the report was valuable, particularly for school students, university students, and their instructors, who used it for teaching and presentations. All ten thousand copies of the report were distributed.

This year, a CD version of the report has also been produced. Additional electronic copies (in English or Thai) can be downloaded from the website www.thaihealth.or.th.

The comments we have received have encouraged us to continue producing issues of the Thai Health Report, each year better than the last.

We hope only that the report is a valuable source of data. But if it also encourages people to take an interest in their own health, that would be even better.

The research team

April 2005

12 Health Indicators

6	Preface
8	Contents
12	Pregnancy and Birth
14	Illness
16	Mortality
18	Disability
20	Cancer
22	Environment
24	Food
26	Poverty
28	Human Security
30	Mental Health
32	Teenagers
34	Elderly People

10+10 Health Issues

38	The Tsunami
42	Fire in the South
46	The Dilemma of the Bird Flu Epidemic
50	Rape and Thai Society
54	Sugar in Children's Milk and Snacks
58	Will Thai Traditional Medicine Fall into the Hands of Foreigners?
62	Pornography and Teenage Sex
66	Teenage Violence
70	Hazardous Waste
74	Thai kids in the 'legal' traps of vices
78	Ten Issues in Brief
80	Ten Issues from the Previous Report

Special Issue for the Year
Free Trade:
 A Double-Edged Sword for
 Thai People's Access to Drugs

Appendix

104	References
114	The Process of Producing the Thai Health Report
115	Names of Experts
116	Names of Steering Committee Members