

Health Indicators

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Work methods

1. A working group was established consisting of qualified people from organizations that collect reliable health data. The members of the working group contributed entries for the Indicators section. Each entry was required to do the following things:
 - Explain why the topic is important to the general public
 - Give contextual information about the selected indicators
 - Provide up-to-date, trustworthy data
2. After members of the working group had completed drafts, the Management Committee for the Thai Health Report provided feedback, with the assistance of relevant experts. The aim was to identify any gaps, and to ensure that the entries conformed to the objectives of the report. The Management Committee also wrote summaries for each entry.
3. The entries were checked by experts.
4. The Management Committee made a final revision, and, together with a graphic designer, put the data in a form that is easy to understand.

Process for choosing indicators

The indicators were chosen by the Management Committee, under the guidance of the Steering Committee. The principles used for choosing the indicators were as follows:

- The data were reliable, and were available at a national or regional level
- Research cited in the text must be relevant to the selected indicators
- Some of the indicators should be chosen based on recommendations from experts
- The data had to reflect conditions at the time of the report

10 + 10 Health issues

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The 10 + 10 Health Issues section has discussions of important health issues from the past year, ranked from 1 to 10, plus brief summaries for 10 additional issues. Every year there are also updates on the 10 main health issues from the previous issue, to see if there have been any significant changes. The principles for selecting and ranking the issues are as follows:

1. Choice of issues

- The issues arose during the previous year
- The issues have broad implications for the health of Thais, including people's safety and security
- The issue may be a policy affecting health that has been introduced or implemented during the past year
- The issue is new
- The issue arose often during the past year

2. Ranking of issues

- Members of general public. This year a new method was used. Brief summaries of the issues were provided to respondents. The respondents then rated the importance of the issues using a Likert Scale. This method provided more detailed information than previous methods, since weights were given to all issues. In the past, respondents simply indicated whether or not an issue should be included.
- Health workers and health communicators, in the public and private sectors. At least two meetings were held with each type of personnel.
- Steering Group and experts. Once the

Special Topic for the Year

data from the previous two sources had been analyzed, a meeting was held to make the final decisions.

Special Topic for the Year

Special topics can be issue-oriented, or target group-oriented, with the type alternating from year to year. The topic may be chosen from the 10 Health Issues of the year before. The principles for selecting a topic are as follows:

- The topic is important to policy
- The topic is important to the general public
- The topic is complex

Procedure

1. The Steering Committee chooses the special topic for the year
2. The Thai Health Report team constructs an outline for the chapter
3. Experts are commissioned to write reports on aspects of the topic, in close collaboration with the Thai Health Report team
4. The Thai Health Report team combines the reports, and rewrites them in a way that will be easily understood by the general public. The results are then checked by experts.