

# The hill tribes of Thailand: Their opium use and addiction

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## ABSTRACT

A medical survey team from the Institute of Health Research, Chulalongkorn University made a survey of the health status and opium use in seven of the UN/Thai PDAC villages in 1976 and 1977. In this survey, socio-economic background, health status, opium use, environmental contamination with opium, opium addiction and prospect for the future were reviewed. The health problems and reasons for opium use were identified and discussed. Regarding to opium addiction, the rate of addiction among hill tribes, the pattern, cause and effect of addictions were concerned and emphasized. The health care programme for the villagers needs to be a comprehensive one including family planning, health education, sanitation, preventive measures and care for the sick as well as the treatment of addicts. Considering the limited national resource, the villagers should be helped to be able to help themselves.

Key words : Drug dependence, Opium, Addiction, Hill tribes Socio-economic, Health problems

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Technical Report No. DH-4/77. 1977.