

# Information system of drug dependence treatment population in Thailand

Vichai Poshyachinda and Usaneya Perngparn  
Institute of Health Research, Chulalongkorn University.

## ABSTRACT

In response to the threat from the drug dependence problem, Thailand had created the Narcotics Control Board as central co-ordinating body chaired by the Prime Minister. The Office of the Narcotics Control Board was promulgated in 1976 to serve as secretariats to the board. A centralized information system was established to systematically compile and process information related to the drug dependence problem and the intervention implementation. Under the Treatment Division, a Central Registry Subdivision operated an information system of the drug dependence treatment population. It is a treatment event reporting system. The system was launched in 1978. The data base constituted of interviewed information at intake to the treatment services. A standard record form was adopted by all treatment units under the regulation of the Ministry of Public Health. The data items included demography, socio-economic status and drug use variables, history of drug dependence treatment and incarceration. The information system had since then generated substantial amount of information on the epidemiologic pattern of the drug dependence problem. Trend of changes in population characteristics, geographical distribution and pattern of drug use were continuously revealed. Some evidence on the efficacy of the treatment services among the relapsed cases were obtained to partially evaluate the treatment system. The information output was quite useful as basic information relevant to policy formulation and drug dependence treatment planning.

**Key words:** Information system, Drug dependence treatment, Thailand.

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