

# Incidence rate of alcoholic drink consumption in seven occupations of Surin Province

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## ABSTRACT

A community survey of the pattern of alcoholic beverage consumption was carried out in Surin Province of the North-eastern Region. The sample population included 4,259 subjects from four areas of different urbanization levels, the center and suburbs of central district (Amphoe Muang, which is the seat of provincial administration) and the center and remote areas of rural districts. Subjects were recruited from total households in sampling blocks by selecting from each household one resident of each sex according to four age groups, 15-19, 20-39, 40-59 and 60 years and above. The drop out rate from the target populations was less than 5 percent in each target area. There were general drinking patterns which prevailed over occupational influences. Mainly, higher drinking incidence among males than females. Males also started at younger ages. Residents of lower urbanization areas seemed to have a higher drinking incidence than those in urbanized centers. Drinking with friends was more common among males than females, particularly at younger ages. Females in general drank at social functions. Drinking alone in both sexes gradually increased with age. Those who drank alone also appeared to drink at higher frequencies of 4 or more days per week. Drinking patterns among various occupational groups demonstrated heavy drinking among male nongovernmental employees in all target areas and also the male heads of household, business owners and farm operators in most areas except in central district suburbs. Female non-governmental employees seemed to have a high incidence of heavy drinking only in the central district center, while female business owners and farm operators appeared to drink heavily across all target areas.

**Key words :** Alcoholic, Consumption, Occupations

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