

# Introduction to drug use and treatments in Thailand

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## ABSTRACT

This paper reviews research concerned with drug use and treatment in Thailand. It was found that there have been three major pieces of legislation in the 20th Century concerning the control of drugs:- Thailand Act of B.E. 2502 which banned opium, Thailand Act of B.E. 2518 which principally ratified the International Convention of Psychotropic Substances, and Thailand Act of B.E. 2539 which rescheduled amphetamine to Class 1.

Of those using drugs in Thailand, the majority in treatment, use heroin. However, the last year has seen a large increase in those seeking help for amphetamine use. Drug treatment ranges from herbal medicine to current developments in the use of methadone. The rehabilitation of ex-drug users is less developed than detoxification services. Very few centres exist. Of those which do exist, most favour a therapeutic community approach to rehabilitation. HIV is a major factor in the drug using community with around 33% in some treatment centres testing positive. Research has tended to focus on patterns of drug use. Evaluation studies remain relatively undeveloped which leads perhaps to a weakness in overall knowledge.

Key words : Treatements, drug use, narcotics

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