

Abstract

Patterns of Household Expenditure on Health Care in Thailand

Woottipong Satayavongthip

Objective of this study was to investigate the patterns of household expenditure on health care according to region, administrative area (municipal, sanitary, rural), income, and occupation of the household head. The study emphasized on the pattern of expenditure and the pattern of health service purchasing. This study was an analysis of secondary data. The unit of analysis was the household. The Socio-Economic Survey 1996 conducted by the National Statistical Office was the database.

The results showed that there were 71 percent from 25,110 households that had health expenditure in 30 days before the survey. The average monthly health expenditure for the households that paid for health care was 144.05 baht per household. Almost half of the households (48 percent) were in the pattern of self-treatment only, one-third (33 percent) were in the pattern on principal treatment in the private sector and/or health examination, and one-fifth (20 percent) were in the pattern of principal treatment in the public sector. The average monthly health expenditure and health purchasing patterns were different among households according to household characteristics such as region, area of residence, income, and occupation of the household heads.