

**DENTAL HEALTH SERVICE UTILIZATION AMONG THE  
ELDERLY PEOPLE IN CHIANG DAO DISTRICT  
CHIANG MAI PROVINCE  
THAILAND**



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**DENTAL HEALTH SERVICE UTILIZATION AMONG THE ELDERLY PEOPLE  
IN CHIANG DAO DISTRICT CHIANG MAI PROVINCE THAILAND**

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RAMASOOTA, Dr.P.H.**ABSTRACT**

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted on factors affecting the dental health service utilization among the elderly people in Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand with the aim of identifying patterns of dental health service utilization among elderly people in 2007 and the socio-demographic, enabling, perceive need factors which affect dental health service utilization.

Muang-Ngai sub-district was selected by multi-stage sampling technique from 7 sub districts in Chiang Dao district. Systematic random sampling was then used to select 208 elderly people. The research instrument used in this study was face-to-face interviewing using a structured questionnaire. Statistical analysis was performed using percentage, mean, median and standard deviation, Pearson Chi-square and Fisher Exact test with the significance level set at 0.05.

The dental health service utilization among elderly people in Chiang Dao District Chiang Mai was high (73.08%) but only 29% of the respondents utilized a routine check-up. There were 4 factors related to dental health service utilization: 1) Living arrangements, in that elderly people who lived with and received support from their family had a higher percentage of utilizing dental health services. ( $\chi^2 = 4.587, p = 0.032$ ) 2) Occupation was significantly associated with dental health service utilization, and was cited as the main reason when asked about reasons for not utilizing dental health services. ( $\chi^2 = 6.715, p = 0.035$ ) 3) Attitudes toward any dental health services found that positive attitudes influenced of dental service use. ( $\chi^2 = 13.199, p < 0.001$ ) 4) Convenience of transportation. ( $\chi^2 = 8.641, p < 0.001$ )

Dental health service utilization among elderly people in Chiang Dao District should be focused on the needs of elderly people, including concern with their daily life factors and barriers to receiving appropriate dental health services.

**KEY WORDS : DENTAL HEALTH SERVICE UTILIZATION / ELDERLY  
PEOPLE / RURAL AREA**

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