



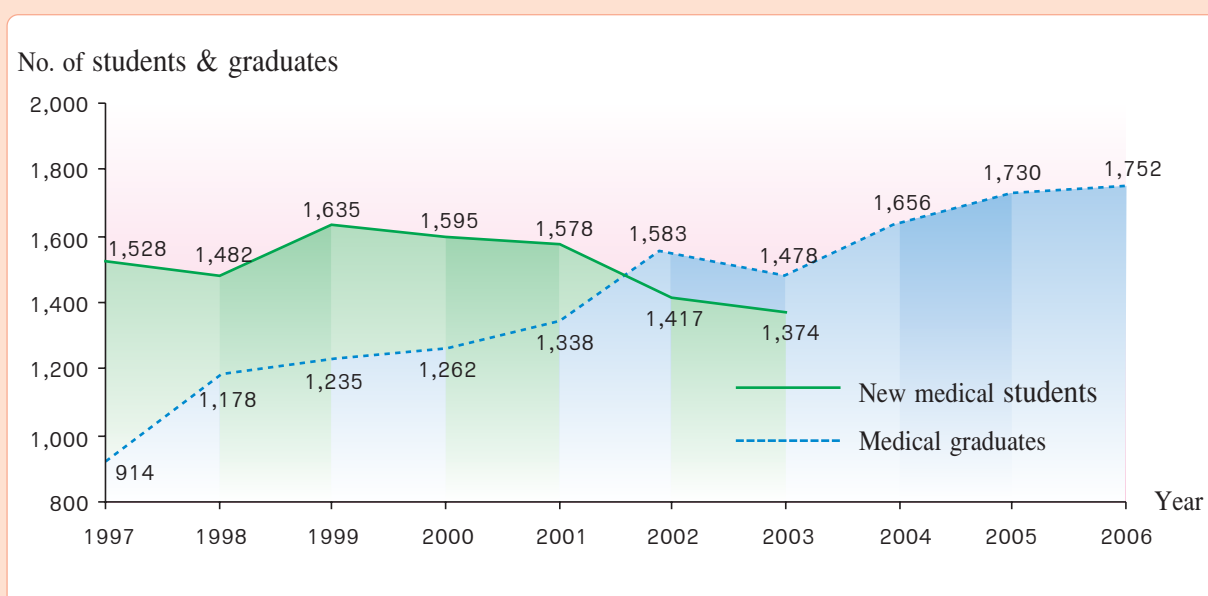
1.2 Production and Distribution of Health Manpower

1.2.1 Production of Doctors

At present, there are 14 medical schools in Thailand: 13 public and 1 private. Beginning in 2007, there will be another four state-run universities that will be producing medical graduates: Burapha, Princess of Naradhiwas, Walailak and Kasetsart universities.

Regarding the admission of medical students and the number of newly graduated doctors each year, there has been a rising trend. Between 1999 and 2001, there was a significant increase in the number of medical student admissions, as a result of the Project on Increased Production of Medical Doctors for Rural People, to approximately 1,600 students each year. And the number of newly graduated doctors has risen since 2002 to more than 1,500 each year. However, recently the number of student admissions has a declining trend to only around 1,400 each year (Figure 6.17).

Figure 6.17 Numbers of medical student admissions and newly graduated doctors, 1997-2006



Sources: Student admissions data, from the Bureau of Policy and Planning, Office of the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

Notes: Number of medical students actually admitted.

Medical graduates data, from the Medical Council of Thailand and the Project on Increased Production of Medical Doctors for Rural People, MoPH.

Notes: Number of medical graduates registered with the Medical Council of Thailand.

When considering by the medical training institution, it was noted that the number of student admissions under the Office of Higher Education Commission tended to decline in 2002 and 2003, while the trend under other agencies seemed to be steady. In connection with the number of medical graduates, there was a rising trend before 2002 in all institutions, but since then it seems to be steady (Tables 6.1 and 6.2).

Table 6.1 Number of medical students admitted in Thailand, academic years 1997-2003

Institution	No. of new students							
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
1. Public sector	1,426	1,382	1,539	1,498	1,501	1,315	1,274	9,935
1.1 HEC	1,152	1,147	1,169	1,132	1,130	959	911	7,600
1.2 MoPH & HEC	150	143	277	272	276	293	301	1,712
1.3 Other agencies	124	92	93	94	95	63	62	623
2. Private sector	102	100	96	97	77	102	100	674
Total	1,528	1,482	1,635	1,595	1,578	1,417	1,374	10,609

Source: Bureau of Policy and Planning, Office of the Higher Education Commission.

Notes: 1. Number of medical students actually admitted.

2. Other agencies include the Phramongkutklao College of Medicine, and the BMA Medical College at Vajira Hospital.

Table 6.2 Number of medical graduates, academic years 1997-2006

Production agency	No. of graduates										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
1. Public sector	877	1,148	1,177	1,222	1,272	1,504	1,422	1,575	1,659	1,677	13,533
1.1 HEC	852	1,073	1,089	1,124	1,140	1,250	1,206	1,231	1,296	1,291	11,552
1.2 MoPH & HEC	-	-	-	8	31	134	137	249	255	292	1,106
1.3 Other agencies	25	75	88	90	101	120	79	95	108	94	875
2. Private sector	37	30	58	40	66	79	56	81	71	75	593
Total	914	1,178	1,235	1,262	1,338	1,583	1,478	1,656	1,730	1,752	14,126

Source: Medical Council of Thailand and the Project on Increased Production of Medical Doctors for Rural People, MoPH.

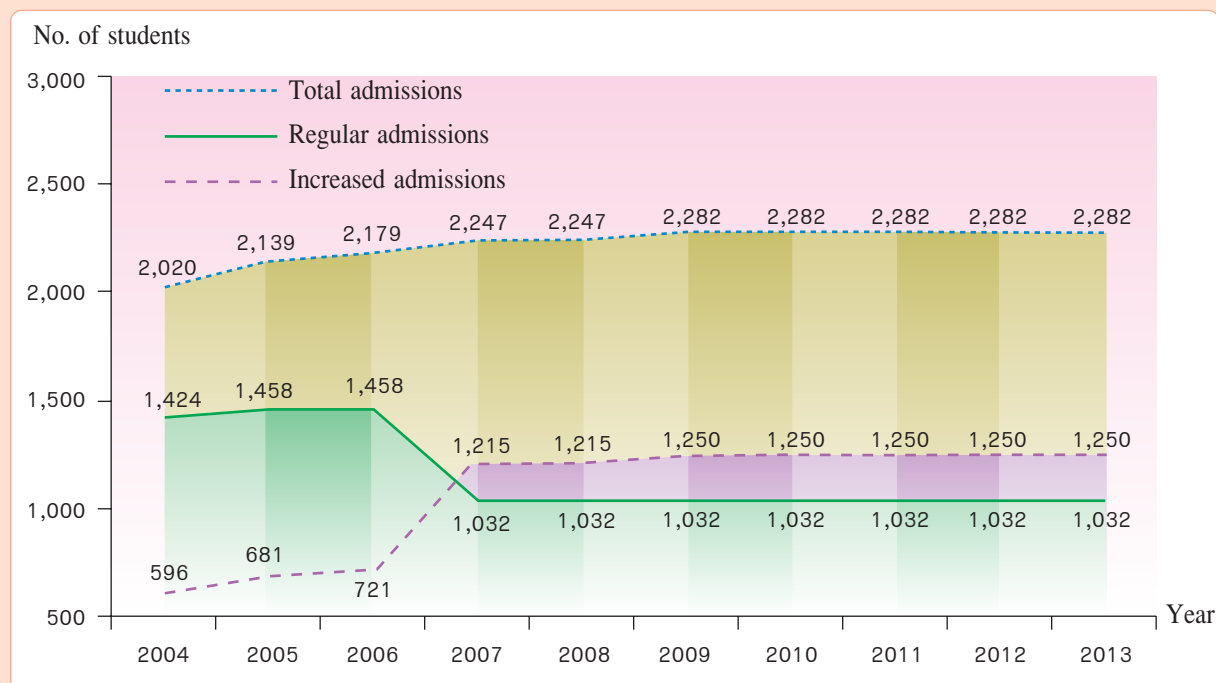
Notes: 1. For academic years 1997-2006, numbers of graduates registered with the Medical Council of Thailand.

2. Other agencies include the Phramongkutklao College of Medicine, the BMA Medical College at Vajira Hospital, and foreign institutions.



Between 1997 and 2003, Thailand could produce 1,300-1,500 medical graduates each year. It is expected that during the ten-year period of 2004-2013 the production of doctors will be accelerated to meet the needs of the country; each year there will be 1,000-1,400 students admitted under the regular programme and an additional 600 students under the accelerated production programme (Figure 6.18).

Figure 6.18 Planned admissions of medical students in Thailand, 2004-2013



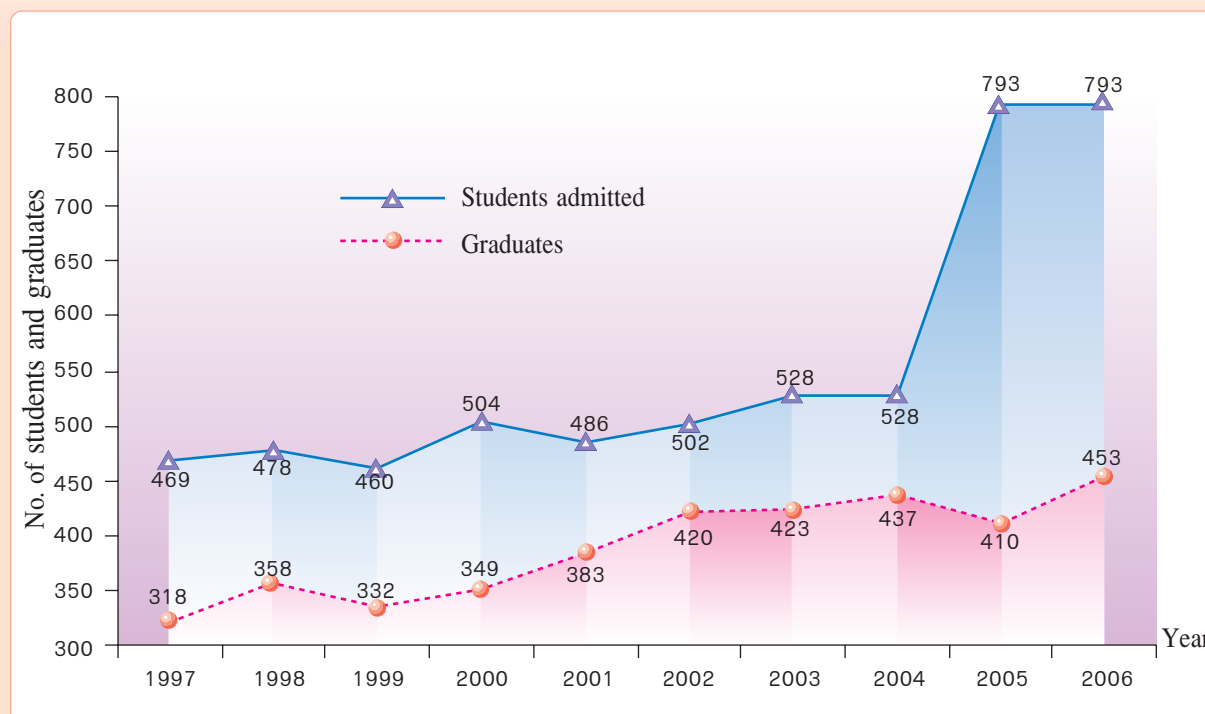
Source: Bureau of Policy and Planning, Office of the Higher Education Commission.

1.2.2 Production of Dentists

At present, the production of dentists in Thailand is undertaken by ten public and private institutions (nine public and one private); the private one is Rangsit University, starting the production in 2005.

The production output in 2005 was approximately 500; since 2005 the annual student intake has been increased by 200. The only private institution has enrolled another 80 dentists annually. The numbers of dental students admitted and dental graduates are shown in Figure 6.19.

Figure 6.19 Numbers of dental students admitted and dental graduates, 1997-2006



Sources: **Student admissions data**, from the Bureau of Policy and Planning, Office of the Higher Education Commission.

Note: Number of dental students actually admitted.

Dental graduate data, from the Dental Council of Thailand.

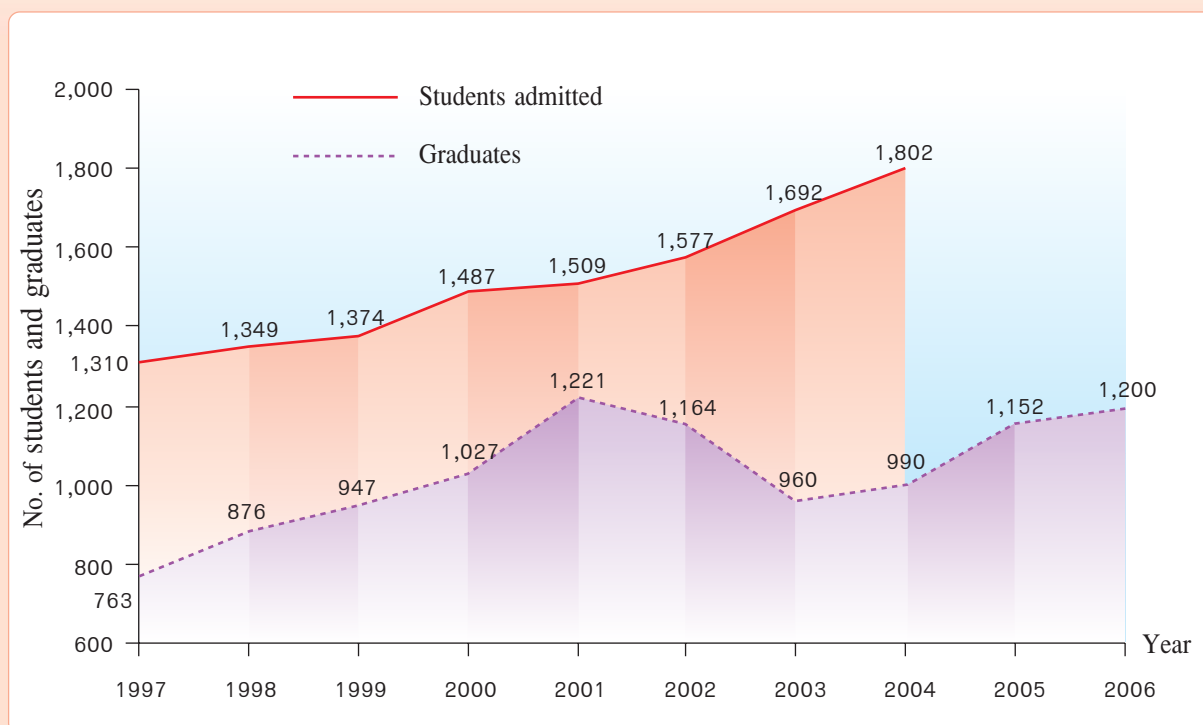
Note: Number of new dental graduates registered with the Dental Council of Thailand.

1.2.3 Production of Pharmacists

At present, Thailand has 13 schools of pharmacy: 11 public and 3 private. Between 1997 and 2006, the production capacity in the public sector increased slightly, but tended to decrease in the private sector, from 2003 onward from 300 graduates to 220 graduates annually. The numbers of pharmacy students admitted and graduates are shown in Figure 6.20.



Figure 6.20 Numbers of pharmacy students admitted and graduates, 1997-2006



Sources: **Student admissions data**, from the Bureau of Policy and Planning, Office of the Higher Education Commission.

Note: 1. For academic years 1997-2002, number of students actually admitted.

2. For academic years 2003-2006, data were derived from the pharmacy student admission plan.

Data on graduate, from the Pharmacy Council of Thailand.

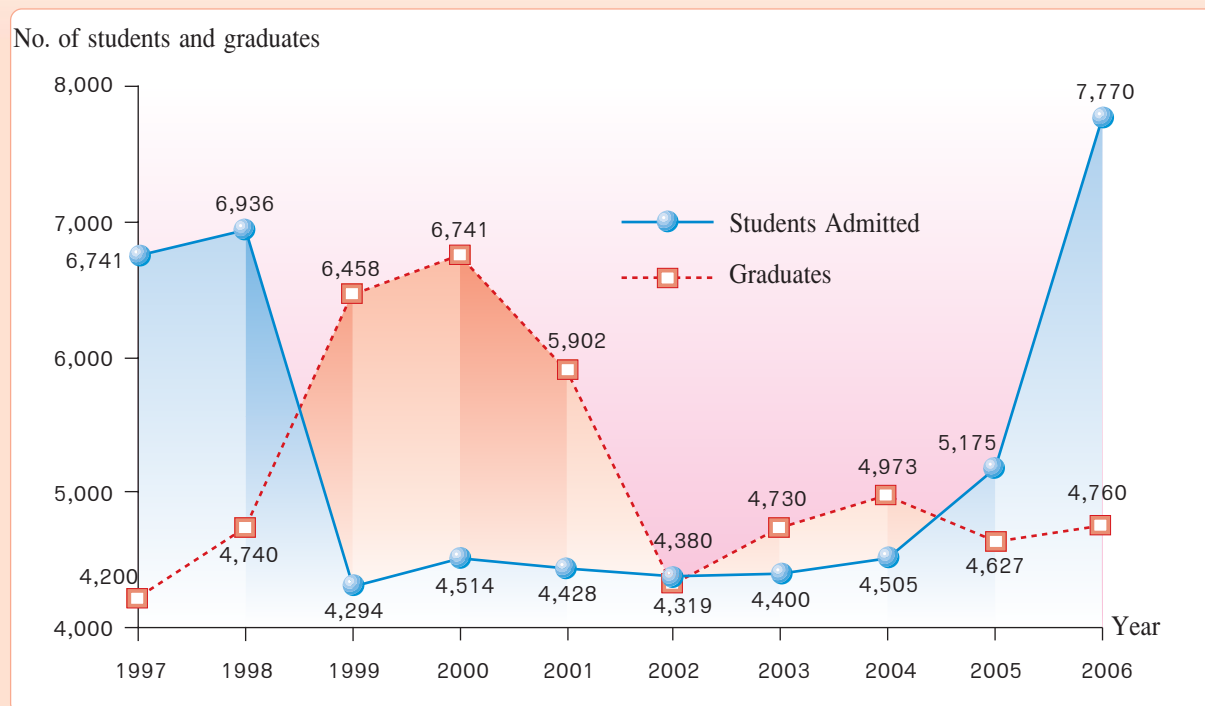
Note: For academic years 1997-2006, number of pharmacy graduates registered with the Pharmacy Council of Thailand.

1.2.4 Professional Nurses

At present, Thailand has 74 nursing colleges/institutions: 64 public and 10 private. Since 2004, another two public institutions (Kasetsart and Suranaree Technology Universities) have offered their nursing training programmes.

In the production of professional nurses, since 2005, the public sector, especially the MoPH, has had a tendency to increase its production capacity by 1,000 nurses from 1,500 nurses each year as the previously planned number did not meet the rising requirements. The numbers of nursing students admitted and graduates are as shown in Figure 6.21.

Figure 6.21 Numbers of nursing students admitted and graduates, 1997-2006



Sources: Student admissions data, from the Bureau of Policy and Planning, Office of the Higher Education Commission.

Data on graduates, from the Nursing Council of Thailand and Praboromrajchanok Institute, MoPH.

Note: For academic years 1997-2006, number of nursing graduates registered with the Nursing Council of Thailand.