

2. Health Facilities

2.1 Situation and Trends of Health Facilities

Health facilities, both public and private, have the following trends:

2.1.1 Health Facilities in the Public Sector

Public sector health facilities play a crucial role in the health service system as they provide health services to the people in all localities with good accessibility and coverage, particularly in remote areas. State services include those provided by the MoPH at specialized hospitals, regional hospitals, general hospitals, community hospitals, and subdistrict health centres, and by other ministries such as the Ministry of Education (medical schools), the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, state enterprises, local administrative organizations (including Bangkok Metropolitan Administration), and community primary health care centres, which can be divided according to the administrative level as follows (Table 6.6).

In Bangkok Metropolis, there are five medical school hospitals, 26 general hospitals, 14 specialized hospitals/institutions, and 68 public health centres (with 77 branches) in all BMA districts.

Region level. There are six medical school hospitals, 25 regional hospitals, and 47 specialized hospitals.

Provincial level. There are 70 general hospitals covering all provincial areas (previously there were 67 general hospitals; and now Hua Hin Community Hospital has been upgraded as a general hospital, two other hospitals have been transferred to MoPH. i.e. Chonprathan Hospital of the Agriculture Ministry and the Northeastern Region Infectious Disease Hospital of the MoPH Disease Control Department) and 59 hospitals under various military bases and combat units of the Ministry of Defence.

District level. There are 730 community hospitals, covering 91.7% of all districts, one extended OPD or branch hospital, and 214 municipal health centres.

Tambon (subdistrict) level. There are 9,762 health centres, covering all Tambons; several Tambons have more than one health centre.

Village level. There are 311 community health posts, 66,223 rural community primary health care centres, and 3,108 urban community primary health care centres.

Table 6.6 Health facilities in the public sector, 2007

Administrative level	Health facility	Number	Coverage
Bangkok Metropolis	Medical school hospitals	5	
	General hospitals	26	
	MoPH	4	
	Royal Thai Police	1	
	Ministry of Justice	4	
	Ministry of Defence	5	
	BMA	8	
	State enterprises	4	
	Specialized hospitals/institutions	14	
	Public health centres/branches	68/77	
Regional level and branches	Medical school hospitals	6	All districts under BMA
	Regional hospitals	25	
	Specialized hospitals:	47	
	Health promotion hospitals	12	
	Psychiatric hospitals	13	
	Neurological hospital	1	
	Rajprachasamasai Institute	1	
	Bamrasnaradura Institute	1	
	Chest Disease Institute	1	
	Cancer prevention & control centres	6	
	Drug dependence treatment centres	5	
	Metta Pracharak Hospital	1	
	Centre for elderly care	1	
	Dermatology Centre	1	
	Dental Institute	1	
	Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre	1	
	Thanyarak Institute	1	
	Maha Vajiralongkorn Centre at Thanyaburi	1	
Provincial level (75 provinces)	General hospitals, under MoPH	70	100%
	Military hospitals under the Ministry of Defence	59	
	Hospital under the Royal Thai Police	1	
796 districts	Community hospitals (Mar, 2007)	730	91.7%

Administrative level	Health facility	Number	Coverage
81 minor districts	Branch hospital	1	100%
	Municipal health centres (Oct, 2003)	214	
7,255 subdistricts	Health centres (2006)	9,762	
74,435 villages	Community health posts	311	89.0%
	Community PHC centres (2003)		
	Rural	66,223	
	Urban	3,108	

Sources: 1. Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.

2. Bureau of Health Service System Development, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

3. Primary Health Care Division, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

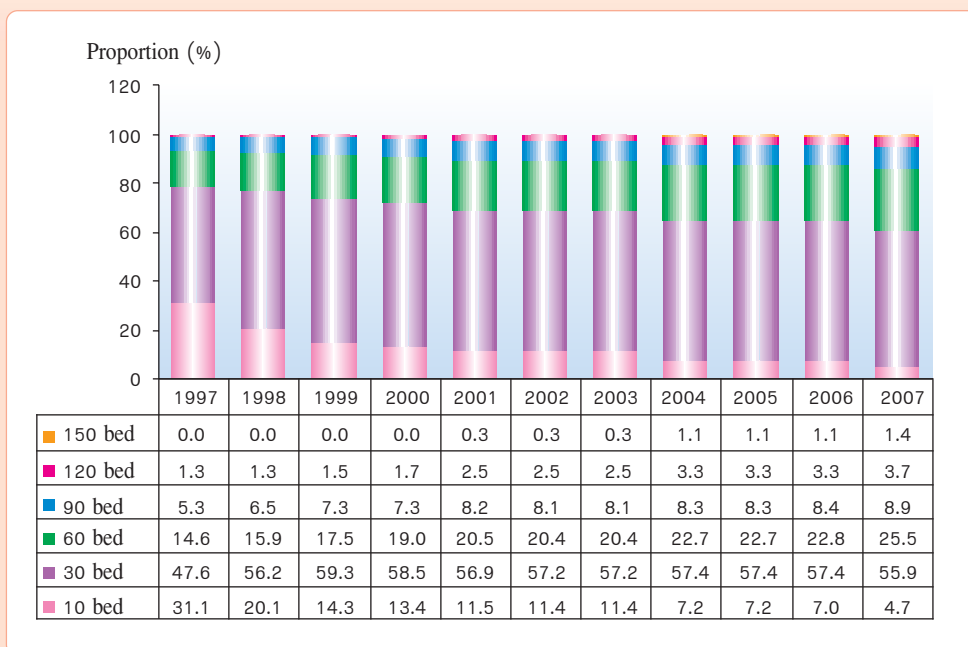
4. Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior.

5. Department of Health, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA).

District-level hospitals are community hospitals, each with 10 to 150 beds, and located in all district towns across the country. For the past several years, community hospitals have been expanded steadily, particularly from 10 beds to 30 beds. In 2007, there are only 34 10-bed hospitals while there are as many as 408 30-bed hospitals among 730 community hospitals. The proportion of 10-bed hospitals is only 4.7% in 2007, while that for 30-bed hospitals has increased to 55.9% and the proportions of 60-bed, 90-bed, 120-bed, and 150-bed hospitals have also risen (Figure 6.39).



Figure 6.39 Proportions of community hospitals by size, 1997-2007



Source: Bureau of Health Service System Development, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

2.1.2 Health Facilities in the Private Sector

Private health facilities play a significant role in providing health services in urban areas, especially those with a good economic status. With people's high purchasing power, there are investments in providing health services to the people in the locality. However, private health facilities are not only located in Bangkok, but they are also located in provincial areas, both in Mueang and nearby districts, particularly drugstores and private clinics (health facilities with no inpatient beds). In 2006, private health facilities are divided into three categories (Table 6.7). as follows:

- (1) Pharmacies or drugstores: 8,801 modern pharmacies, 4,528 pharmacies selling only packaged drugs, and 2,096 traditional medicine drugstores.
- (2) Clinics: 16,800 clinics without inpatient beds.
- (3) Hospitals: 344 private hospitals with inpatient beds.



Table 6.7 Private health facilities, 2006

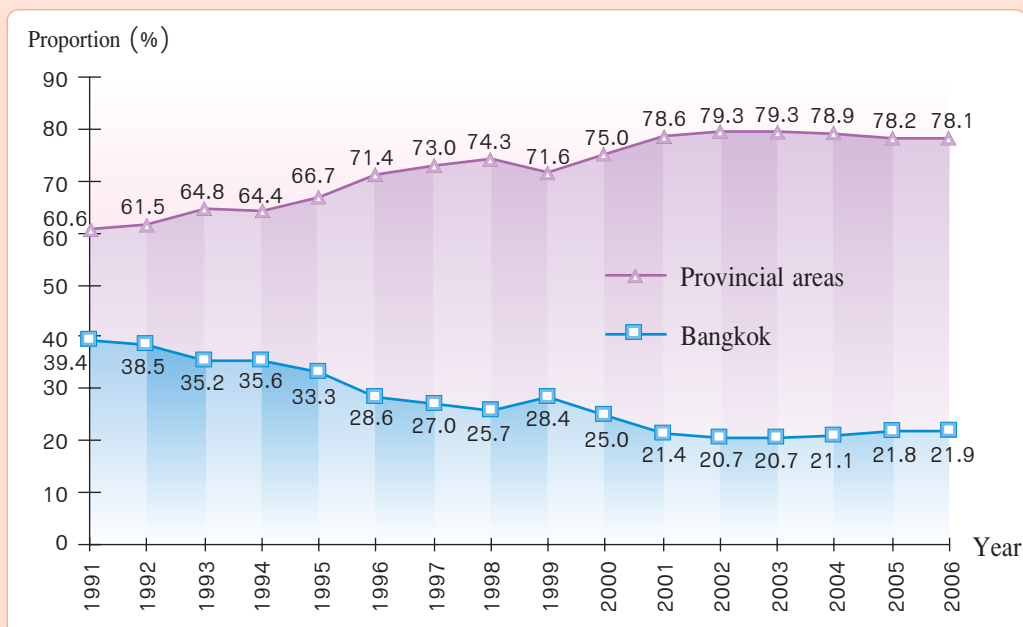
Health facility	Bangkok		Provincial areas		Total
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	
1. Pharmacies					
1.1 Modern pharmacies	3,615	41.1	5,186	58.9	8,801
1.2 Modern pharmacies selling only packaged drugs	497	11.0	4,031	89.0	4,528
1.3 Traditional medicine drugstores	400	19.1	1,696	80.9	2,096
Total	4,512	29.2	10,913	70.8	15,425
2. Medical premises without inpatient beds (clinics)	3,687	21.9	13,113	78.1	16,800
3. Medical premises with inpatient beds (private hospitals)	3,603	21.8	12,944	78.2	16,547
- No. of hospitals	102	29.7	242	70.3	344
- No. of beds	15,500	43.3	20,306	56.7	35,806

Sources: 1. Drug Control Division, Food and Drug Administration, MoPH.

2. Medical Registration Division, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

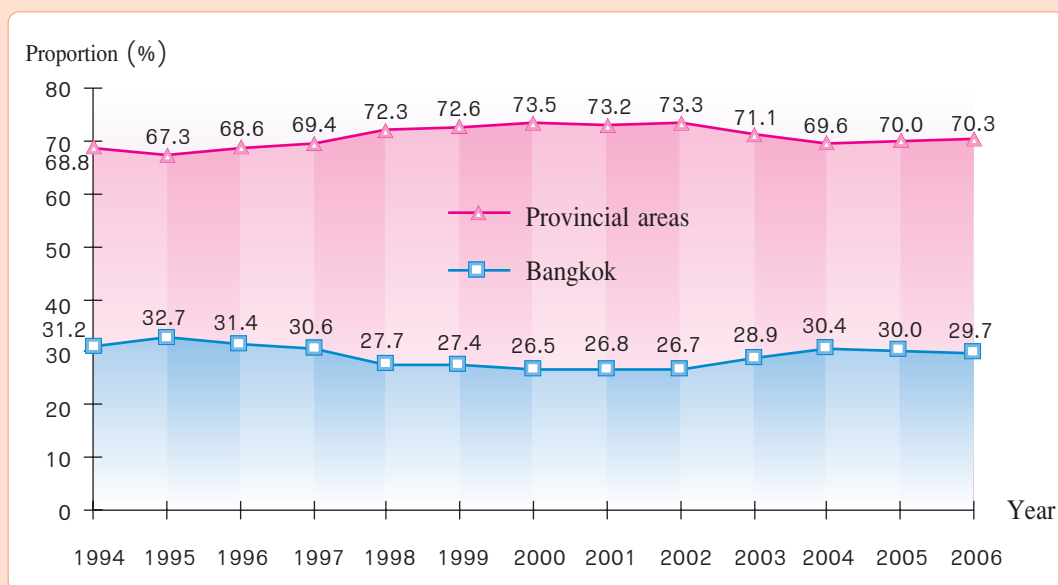
In analyzing the proportions of private clinics in Bangkok and provincial areas, it is noted that most clinics (78%) are located in provincial areas and only 22% in Bangkok (Figure 6.40). Similarly, most private hospitals (70%) are located in provincial areas and the rest (30%) in Bangkok (Figure 6.41).

Figure 6.40 Proportions of clinics in Bangkok and provincial areas, 1991-2006



Source: Medical Registration Division, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

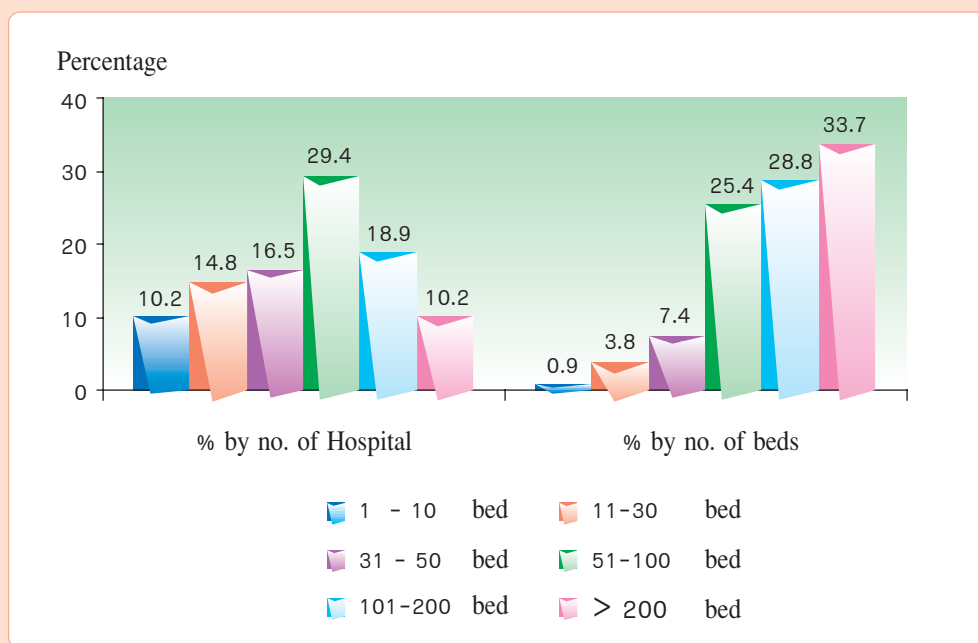
Figure 6.41 Proportions of private hospitals in Bangkok and provincial areas, 1994-2006



Source: Medical Registration Division, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

For private hospitals, in 2006 most of them were medium-sized hospitals with 51-100 beds, but if the number of all beds was considered, most of the beds were in large hospitals (each with more than 200 beds), see Figure 6.42.

Figure 6.42 Proportion of private hospitals by size, 2006



Source: Medical Registration Division, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

If the numbers of hospitals and beds were classified by hospital size and by region, it was noted that in 2006, most of large hospitals with over 200 beds were located in Bangkok (25 out of 35) (Table 6.8).

Table 6.8 Number of private hospitals by number of beds and region, 2006

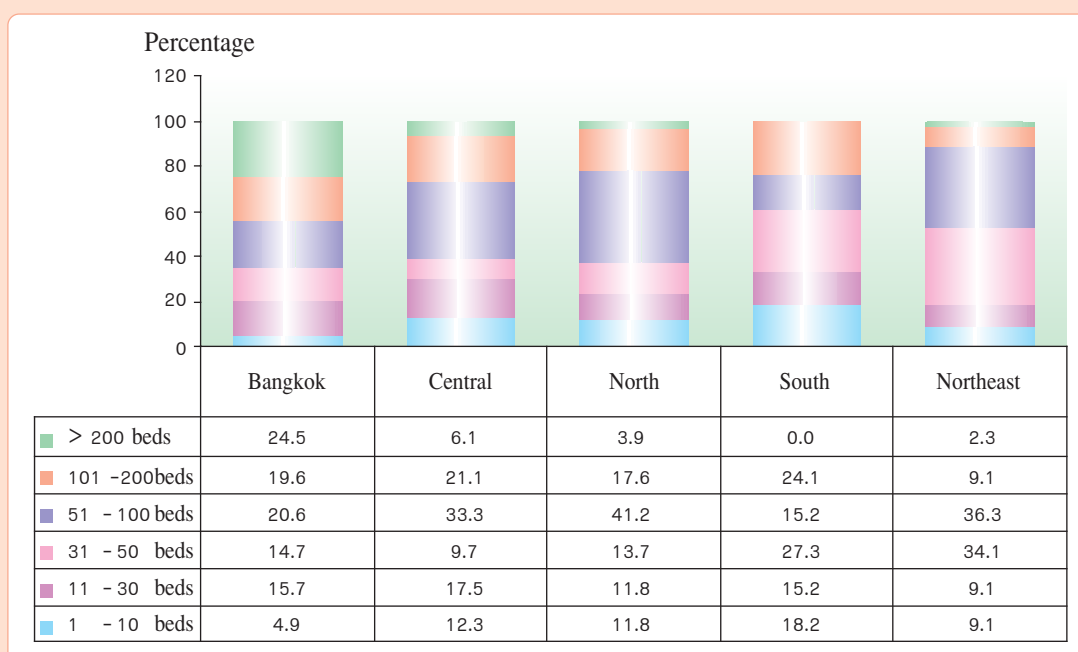
Region	1-10 beds		11-30 beds		31- 50 beds		51-100 beds		101-200 beds		>200 beds		Total	
	Hos-pitals	Beds	Hos-pitals	Beds	Hos-pitals	Beds	Hos-pitals	Beds	Hos-pitals	Beds	Hos-pitals	Beds	Hos-pitals	Beds
Bangkok	5	57	16	412	15	673	21	1,912	20	3,318	25	9,128	102	15,500
Central	14	136	20	516	11	488	38	3,499	24	3,910	7	2,108	114	10,657
Northeast	4	39	4	112	15	716	16	1,440	4	560	1	214	44	3,081
North	6	60	6	168	7	336	21	1,798	9	1,224	2	620	51	4,206
South	6	47	5	136	9	432	5	448	8	1,299	-	-	33	2,362
Total	35	339	51	1,344	57	2,645	101	9,097	65	10,311	35	12,070	344	35,806

Source: Medical Registration Division, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.



If the proportion of hospitals was computed according to hospital size for each region, it was found that one-fourth of private hospitals in Bangkok had more than 200 beds each, only 5% of them had 10 beds or less. In the central region, one-third of private hospitals had 51-100 beds each, while 41% in the North had 51-100 beds each. For the South, most of them had 31-50 beds each, followed by those with 101-200 beds, whereas in the Northeast only 11% had 101 beds or more (Figure 6.43).

Figure 6.43 Proportions of private hospitals by number of beds and by region, 2006



Source: Medical Registration Division, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

Regarding the expansion and closure of private health facilities which are also important issues, based on the data on applications for establishing new facilities (medical premises with inpatient beds), it was found that the trends were declining while the number of closures were rising during the period 1998-2003, when as many as 70 hospitals were shut down in one year. After that period, the number of hospitals closing down was declining to about the same level as that applying for setting up new ones (Figure 6.44), reflecting the economic recovery to the balanced condition.

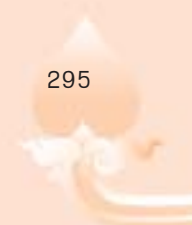
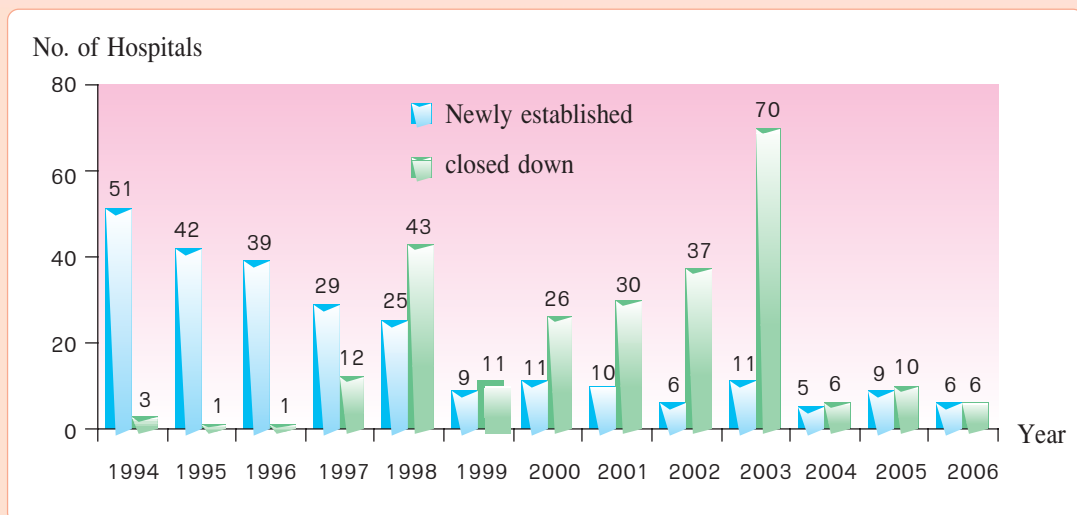


Figure 6.44 Numbers of private hospitals newly established and closed down, 1994-2006

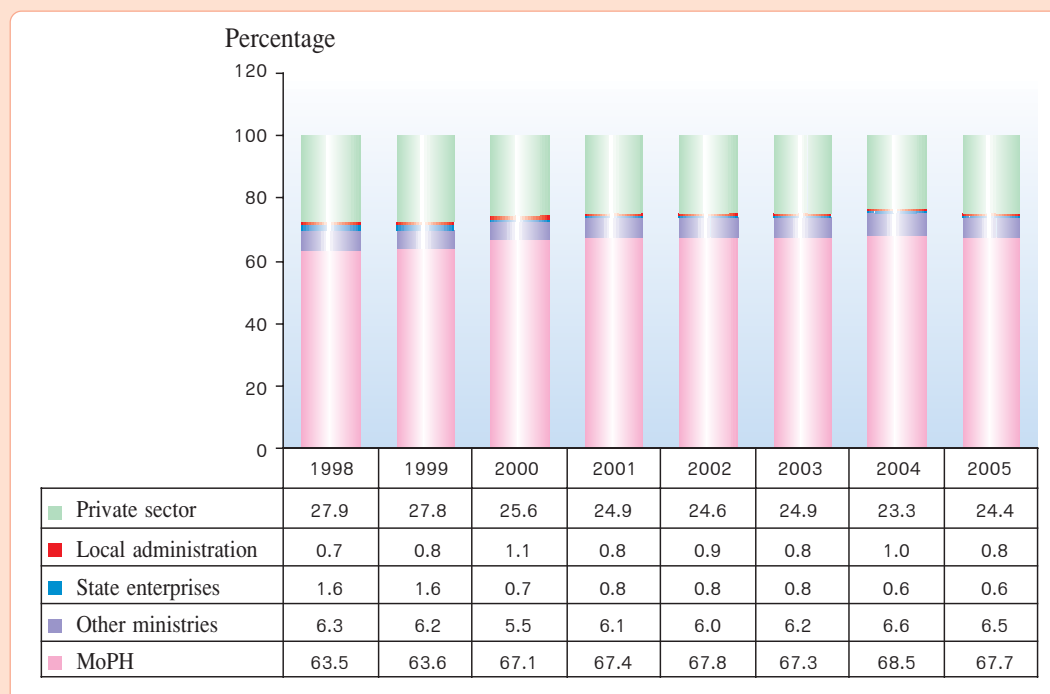


Source: Medical Registration Division, Department of Health Service Support, MoPH.

3) Proportions of Health Facilities by Agency

There was a rising trend for hospitals under the MoPH, while that for private hospitals was falling; the same was true for the proportions of hospital beds (Figures 6.45 and 6.46).

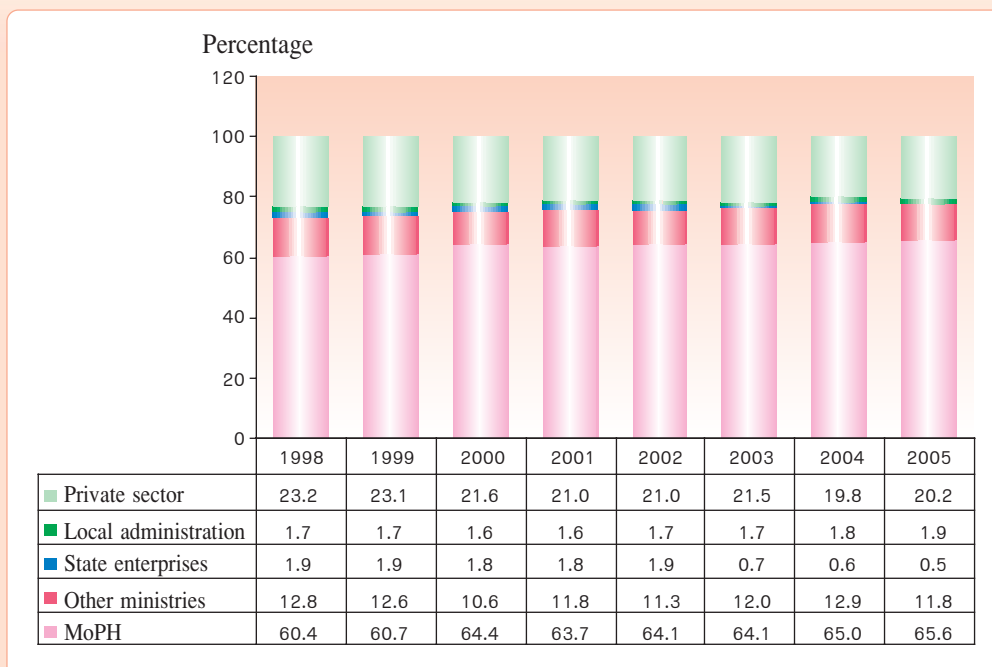
Figure 6.45 Proportions of hospitals by agency, 1998-2005



Source: Report on Health Resources Survey, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.



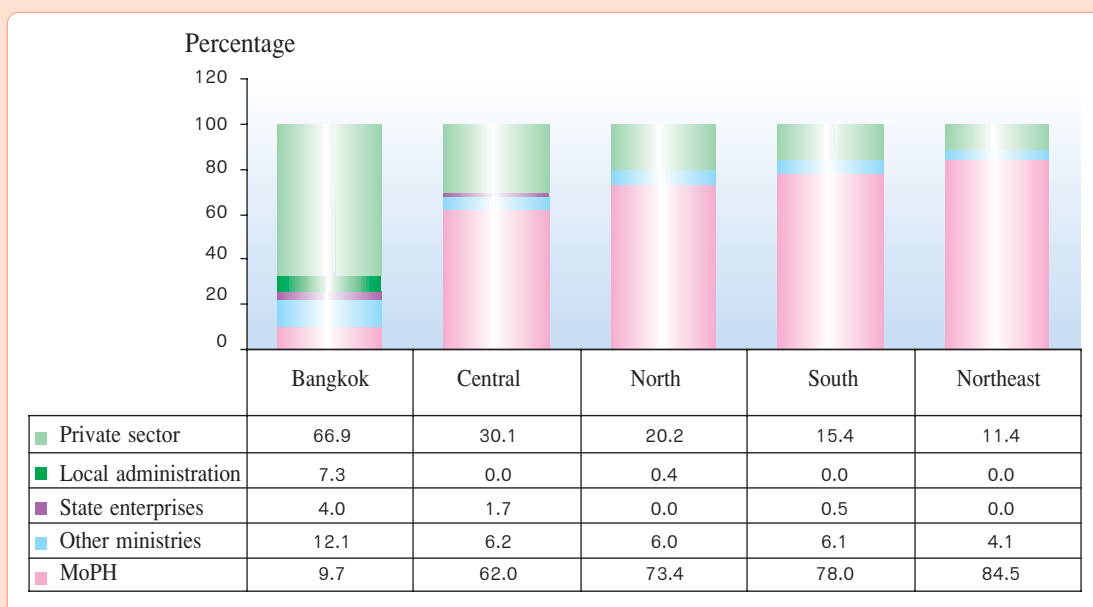
Figure 6.46 Proportions of hospital beds by agency, 1998-2005



Source: Report on Health Resources Survey, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.

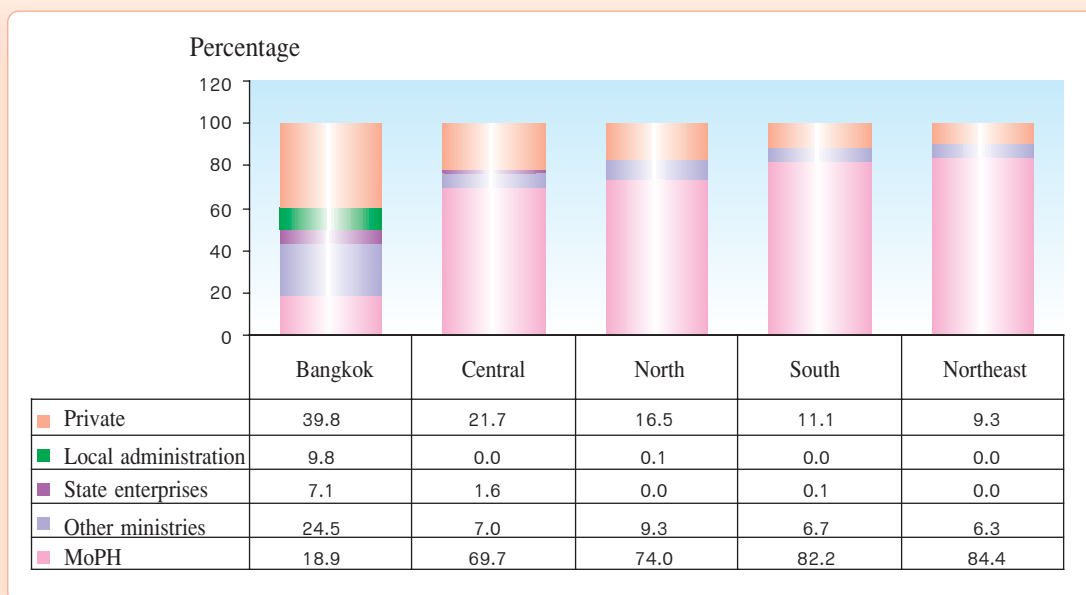
A regional comparison revealed that most hospitals in Bangkok are private hospitals, followed by those under other ministries, where as in provincial areas, most of them are under the MoPH (Figure 6.47). Regarding the proportions of hospital beds by region, they were actually similar to those for hospitals, but hospitals under other ministries have the highest proportion of hospital beds close to that for private hospitals (Figure 6.48), reflecting the fact that hospital under other ministries are large hospitals.

Figure 6.47 Proportions of hospitals by agency and region, 2005



Source: Report on Health Resources Survey, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.

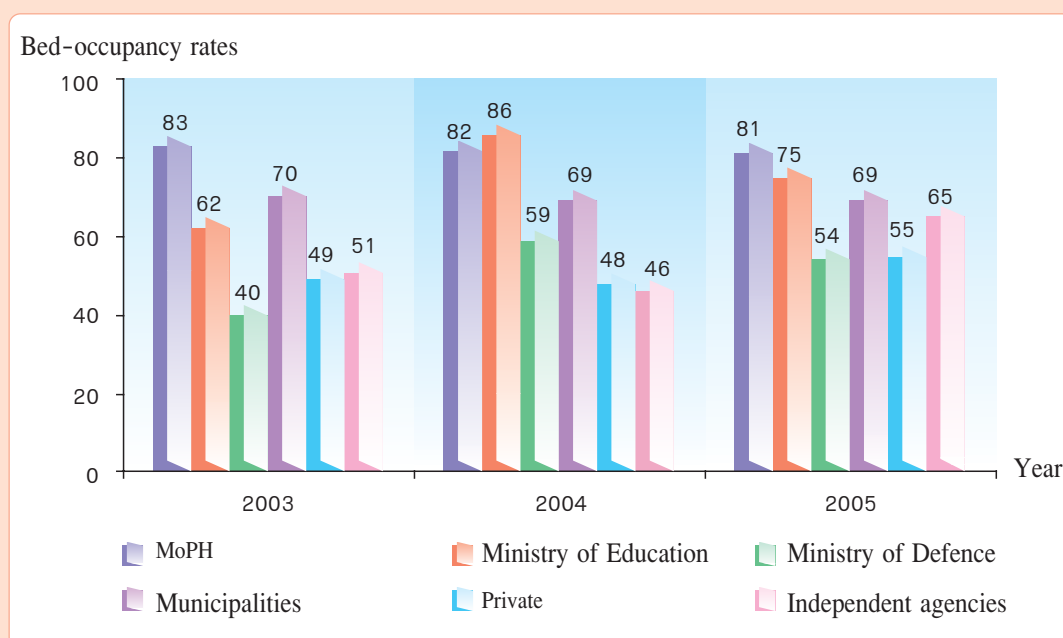
Figure 6.48 Proportions of hospital beds by agency and region, 2005



Source: Report on Health Resources Survey, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.

An analysis of bed-occupancy rates will reflect the efficiency in the use of existing beds and the burden the hospital has to take when admitting inpatients. Based on the 2005 data, MoPH hospitals had the highest bed-occupancy rate, followed by those under the Ministry of Education; while private hospitals and those under the Ministry of Defence had the lowest rates (Figure 6.49).

Figure 6.49 Bed-occupancy rates by agency, 2003-2005



Source: Report on Health Resources Survey, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.