

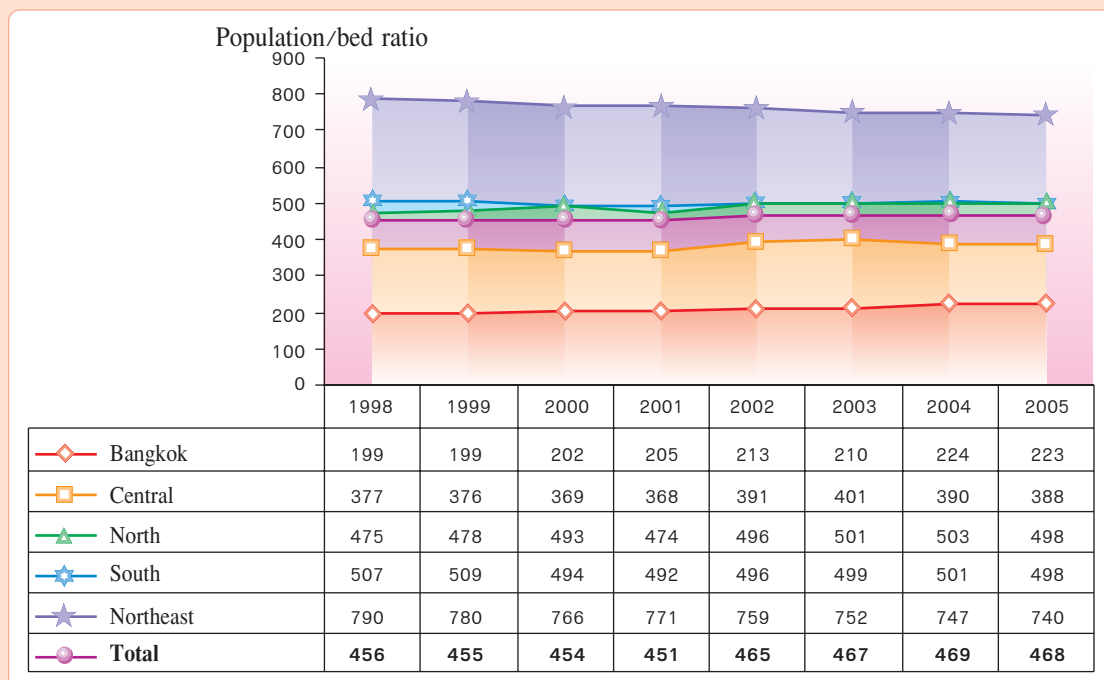


2.2 Distribution of Health Facilities

2.2.1 Geographical Distribution of Hospitals

Trends in population to hospital bed ratio during the 1998-2005 period fell slightly in the Northeast (with more beds), while those for other regions including Bangkok seemed to be stable or rising slightly (Figure 6.50).

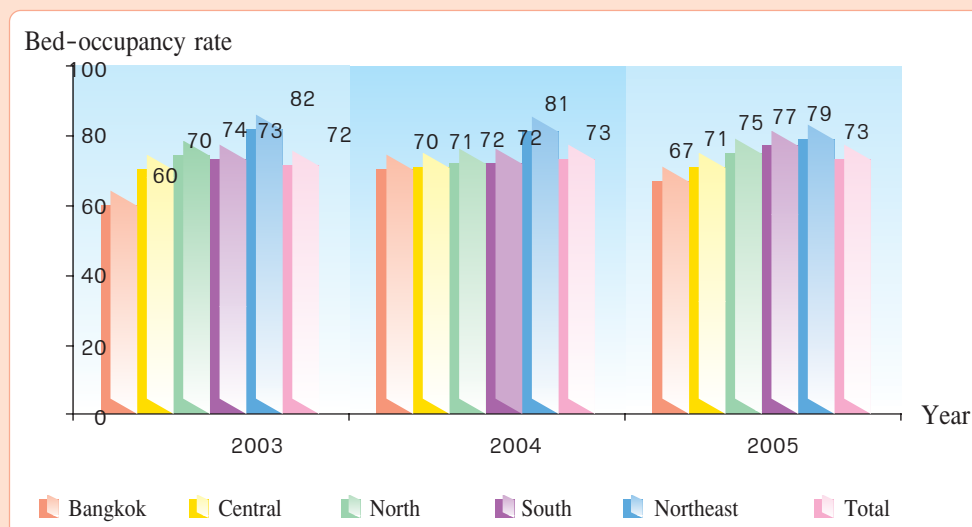
Figure 6.50 Population/bed ratios by region, 1998-2005



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

In addition, the Northeast had the highest bed occupancy rate (Figure 6.51), reflecting a higher burden of the hospitals in that region, compared with other regions.

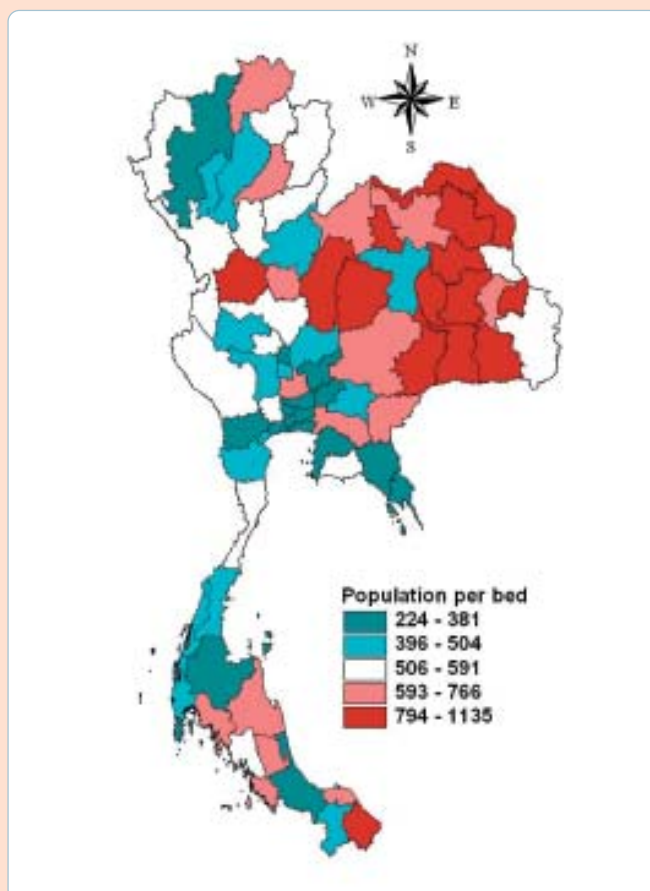
Figure 6.51 Bed-occupancy rates by region, 2003-2005



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

An analysis of bed distribution by province revealed that most provinces in the Northeast had a higher population/bed ratio, compared with that in other provinces in other regions the distribution of beds was similar to that for healthcare providers (Figure 6.52).

Figure 6.52 Geographical distribution of population/bed ratios by province, 2004



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

2.2.2 Geographical Distribution of Health Centres

Health centres have been built and distributed to cover all subdistricts (tambons) across the country since the last decade. In 2006, there were 9,762 health centres nationwide.

The health centre to population ratio rising in the last decade had a rising trend in all regions of the country, from 1:10,064 in 1979 to 1:5,106 in 2006. Although health centres are mostly clustered in the Central Region, the regional disparities have actually decreased as shown in Table 6.9 and Figure 6.53.



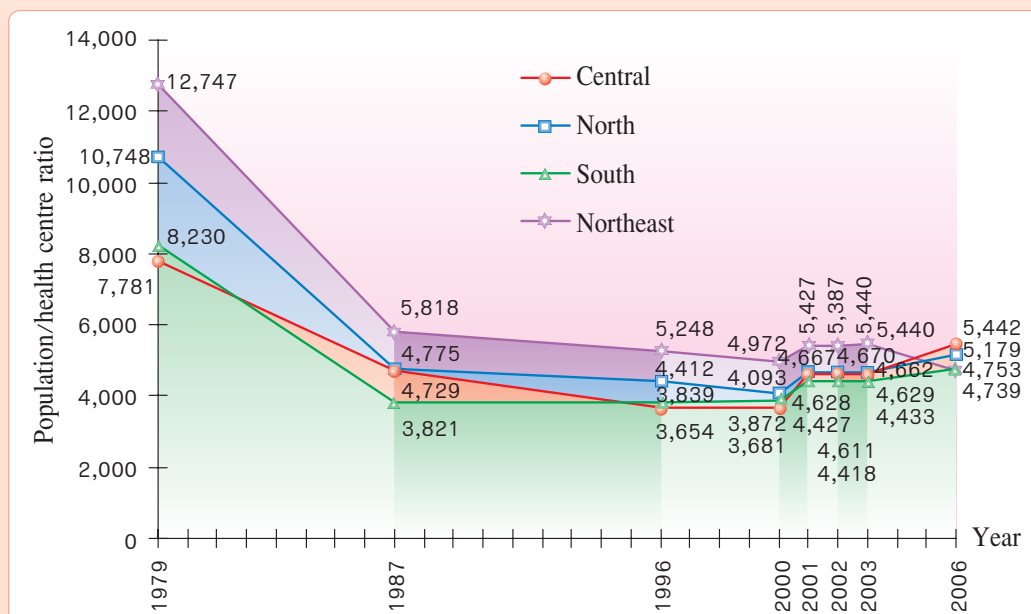
Table 6.9 Distribution of health centres by region in 1979, 1987, 1996–2003, and 2006

Region	No. of health centres and health centre/population ratio										
	1979	1987	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2006
Central	1,219 (1:7,781)	1,635 (1:4,729)	2,377 (1:3,654)	2,471 (1:3,554)	2,508 (1:4,298)	2,523 (1:4,219)	2,524 (1:3,681)	2,559 (1:4,628)	2,559 (1:4,611)	2,549 (1:4,629)	2,564 (1:5,179)
North	914 (1:10,748)	1,616 (1:4,775)	1,965 (1:4,412)	2,151 (1:4,103)	2,203 (1:4,393)	2,225 (1:4,345)	2,231 (1:4,093)	2,210 (1:4,667)	2,216 (1:4,670)	2,220 (1:4,662)	2,227 (1:4,739)
South	688 (1:8,230)	1,252 (1:3,821)	1,400 (1:3,839)	1,488 (1:3,653)	1,505 (1:3,864)	1,513 (1:3,922)	1,516 (1:3,872)	1,507 (1:4,427)	1,526 (1:4,418)	1,521 (1:4,433)	1,510 (1:4,753)
Northeast	1,277 (1:12,747)	2,489 (1:5,818)	3,100 (1:5,248)	3,367 (1:4,900)	3,398 (1:5,063)	3,428 (1:5,102)	3,433 (1:4,972)	3,462 (1:5,427)	3,509 (1:5,387)	3,475 (1:5,440)	3,461 (1:5,442)
Disparity between Central's and Northeast's ratios	1:1.64	1:1.23	1:1.44	1:1.38	1:1.18	1:1.21	1:1.21	1:1.17	1:1.17	1:1.18	1:1.05
Total	4,088 (1:10,064)	6,992 (1:4,964)	8,842 (1:4,411)	9,477 (1:4,173)	9,614 (1:4,522)	9,689 (1:4,514)	9,704 (1:4,262)	9,738 (1:4,890)	9,810 (1:4,872)	9,765 (1:4,895)	9,762 (1:5,106)

Source: The Bureau of Central Administration, Office of the Permanent Secretary, MoPH, recalculated by Rujira Taverat, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.

- Notes:**
1. The figure in () is the ratio of health centre to population outside municipal areas and sanitary districts.
 2. Data on population outside municipal areas for 2001, 2002 and 2006 were derived from the Bureau of Registration Administration, Department of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior, and recalculated by Rujira Taverat, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.
 3. For 2003, data on population in 2002 outside municipal areas were derived from the Bureau of Registration Administration, Department of Provincial Administration.

Figure 6.53 Population to health centre ratios by region, 1979-2006



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

- Bureau of Central Administration, Office of the Permanent Secretary, MoPH.

2.2.3 Geographical Distribution of Pharmacies

The ratio of pharmacy to population has an improved trend for the past decade, from 1: 4,931 in 1996 to 1: 4,032 in 2005. Most pharmacies or drugstores are located in Bangkok and the Central Region (Table 6.10).



Table 6.10 Distribution of drugstores by region, 1996-2005

Region	No. of drugstores and drugstore/population ratio									
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Central	6,644 (1:2,908)	6,690 (1:2,925)	6,904 (1:2,869)	7,465 (1:2,675)	7,534 (1:2,665)	7,826 (1:2,590)	7,895 (1:2,547)	8,821 (1:2,350)	8,696 (1:2,373)	8,960 (1:2,295)
North	1,989 (1:6,004)	1,958 (1:6,149)	2,029 (1:5,976)	2,029 (1:5,984)	2,045 (1:5,923)	1,982 (1:6,111)	1,964 (1:6,180)	2,087 (1:5,808)	2,103 (1:5,690)	2,179 (1:5,444)
South	1,189 (1:6,534)	1,152 (1:6,837)	1,237 (1:6,472)	1,243 (1:6,524)	1,273 (1:6,430)	1,354 (1:6,104)	1,398 (1:5,983)	1,510 (1:5,601)	1,507 (1:5,618)	1,535 (1:5,521)
Northeast	2,303 (1:9,019)	2,396 (1:8,759)	2,378 (1:8,923)	2,536 (1:8,423)	2,253 (1:9,445)	2,148 (1:9,986)	2,166 (1:9,950)	2,566 (1:8,431)	2,574 (1:8,339)	2,751 (1:7,742)
Total	12,125 (1:4,931)	12,196 (1:4,958)	12,548 (1:4,874)	13,273 (1:4,639)	13,105 (1:4,713)	13,310 (1:4,665)	13,423 (1:4,660)	14,984 (1:4,200)	14,880 (1:4,202)	15,425 (1:4,032)

Source: Food and Drug Administration, MoPH.

Note: 1. Figures in () are drugstore/population ratios.

2. A drugstore means a modern drugstore, a modern drugstore selling only packaged medicines, or a traditional medicine drugstore.

3. The Central Region includes Bangkok.