

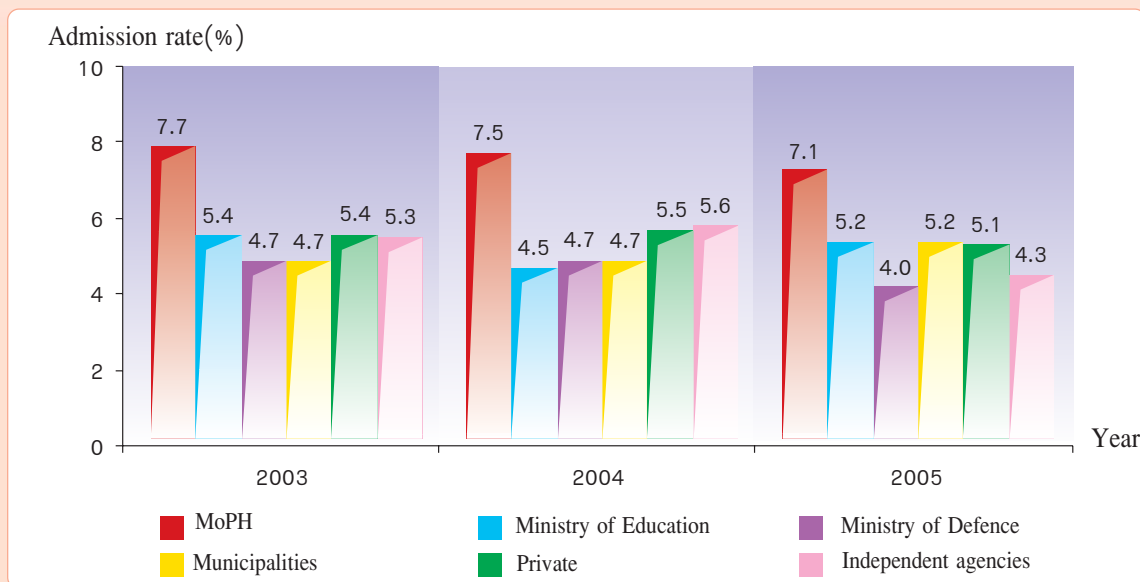
6. Efficiency and Quality of Health Service Delivery

6.1 Admission of Inpatients

Admissions of patients for medical treatment in hospital can be analyzed in terms of inpatient/outpatient ratio which reflects the chance of being admitted as inpatients for all outpatients (visits). With respect to the efficiency of inpatient care, if each patient has an equal health need, a greater number of admissions will reflect a lower level of efficiency as inpatient care will require more resources and higher healthcare costs. However, the severity of patient will have to be taken into account and it is associated with the accessibility to healthcare. A good access to health care will make outpatients less severe and there will be fewer admissions.

The health resources survey reveals that MoPH hospitals have the highest inpatient/outpatient rate, followed by hospitals under other agencies, with rates being close to each other (Figure 6.83).

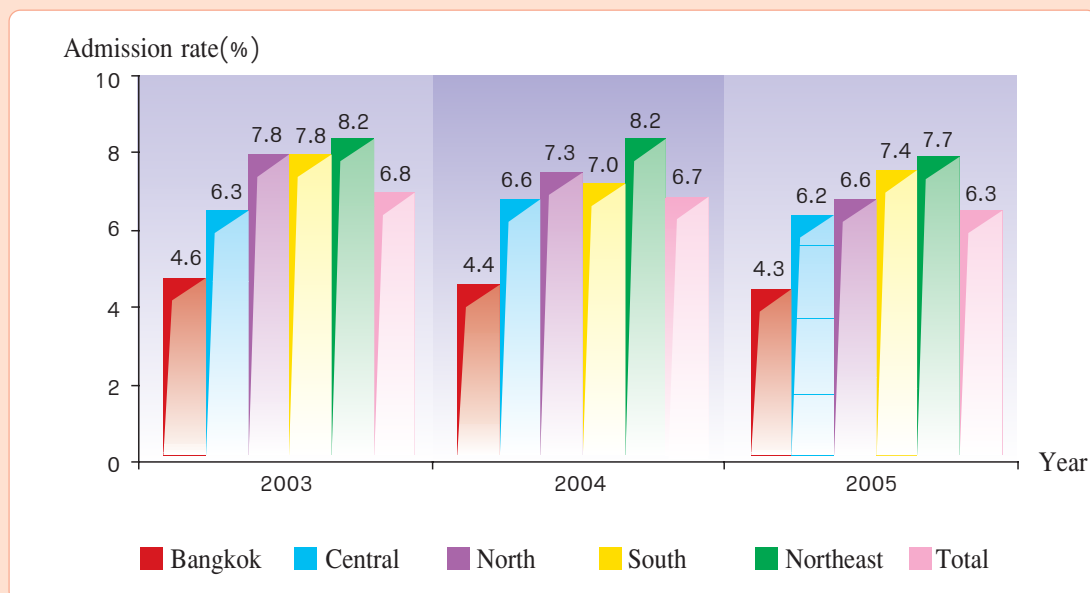
Figure 6.83 Rate of admissions (inpatients/outpatient) by agency of hospitals, 2003-2005



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

A regional comparison of admissions indicates that the Northeast has the highest inpatient/outpatient rate, while Bangkok has the lowest rate (Figure 6.84). Regarding efficiency, it may be interpreted that the Northeast has a tendency to have more admissions than other regions. But in reality such a situation may be a result of the difference in access to health care, i.e. outpatients in the Northeast may be more severe than those in other regions, thus a larger number of them will require inpatient care, due to lower level of access to curative care.

Figure 6.84 Rate of admissions (inpatient/outpatient) by region, 2003-2005



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