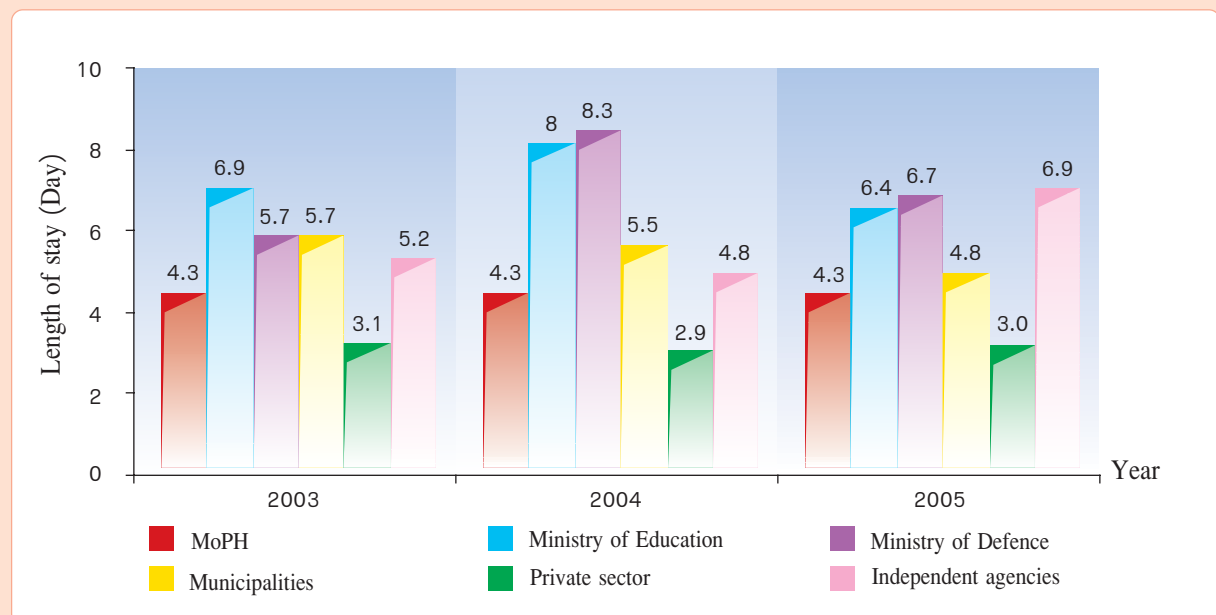


6.2 Length of Stay of Inpatients

An analysis of the length of stay of inpatients may help reflect the efficiency of inpatient care to a certain extent. If all patients have an equal severity of illness, a longer length of stay will result in a higher treatment cost, meaning less efficient treatment.

Data from the health resources survey revealed that private hospitals had the shortest length of stay of three days, while those under universities and the Ministry of Defence had the longest, approximately 8 days, in 2004, which dropped to 6 or 7 days in 2005 (Figure 6.85). Such characteristics might be due to the severity of patients; hospitals with a high level of efficiency tend to admit patients with complexity resulting in a longer length of stay, especially in university hospitals.

Figure 6.85 Average length of stay of inpatients by agency of hospitals, 2003-2005

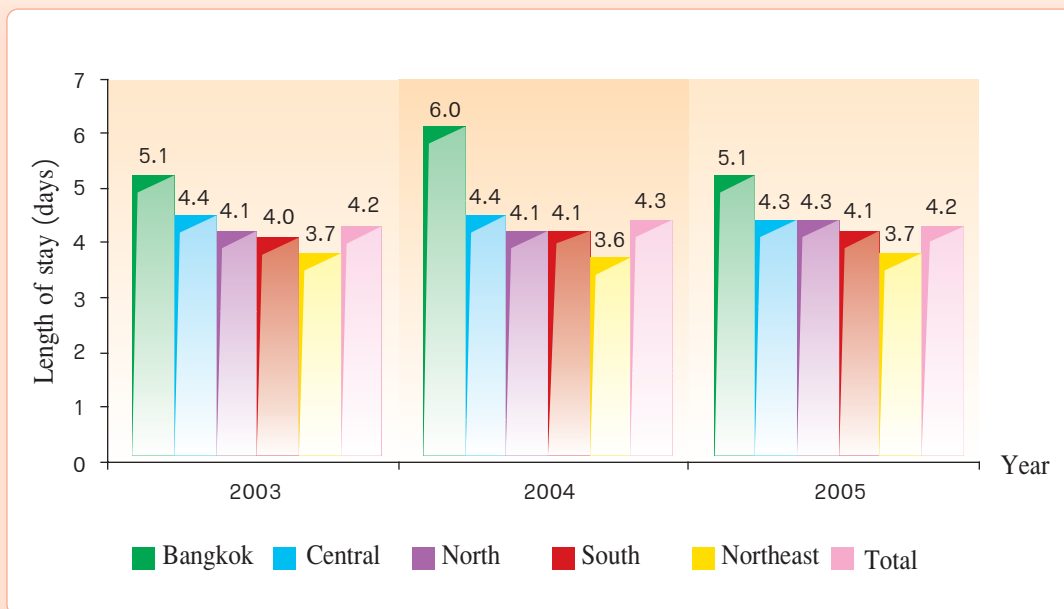


Source: Report on Health Resources Survey, Bureau of Policy and Strategy, MoPH.

A regional analysis reveals that the length of stay for Bangkok is longest (5-6 days), while it is shortest (3.7 days) for the Northeast (Figure 6.86). Factors related to hospital capacity might make high-capacity hospitals in Bangkok admit patients with complexity and longer hospitalization. The same is true for provinces that are the centres of regions and some provinces in the Central, North and South (Figure 6.87).

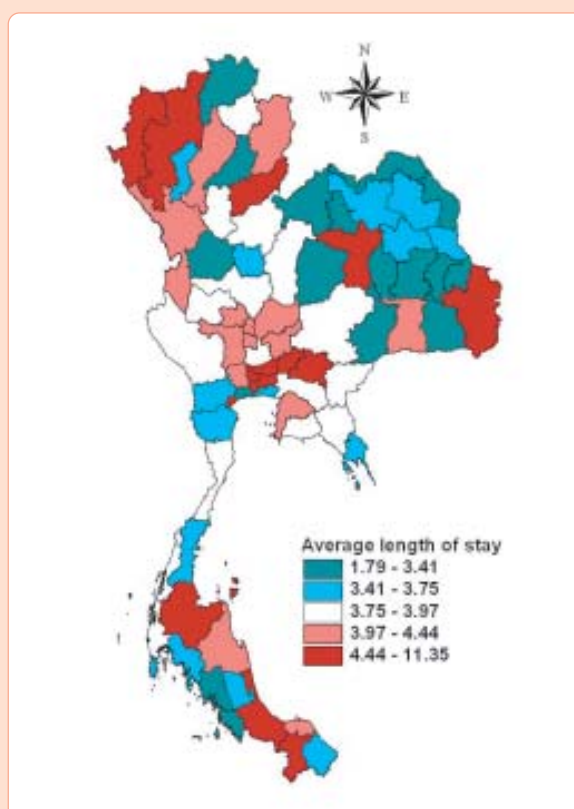


Figure 6.86 Average length of stay of inpatients by region, 2003-2005



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

Figure 6.87 Geographical distribution of average length of stay by province, 2004



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