

# Turbo talk

## **HEALTH PROBLEMS AMONG MYANMAR AND LAOS WORKERS AT SAMUT SAKHON, THAILAND**

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# HEALTH PROBLEMS AMONG MYANMAR AND LAOS WORKERS AT SAMUT SAKHON, THAILAND

- Background:
  - Increased numbers of workers from Myanmar and Laos migrated to Thailand
  - No previous data of health problem and health care seeking behavior
- Objectives:
  - To identify prevalence of health problems in migrant workers
  - To compare health problems and health care seeking service among Myanmar and Laos workers.
- Methodology: A prospective study
  - Questionnaire-based survey
  - Physical examination by doctors, urine analysis, CXR, VDRL test
- Study site:
  - Migrant Check-Up Clinic, Krathumbaen Hospital, Samut Sakhon

# Results

## Prevalence of health problems among immigrant by nationalities (N=767)

Prevalence of health problems	Total (N=767)	Nationalities		P-value
		Myanmar (N=600)	Laos (N=167)	
Health problems	208 (27.71%)	115 (19.2%)	93 (55.7%)	<0.001
Upper respiratory tract infection	105 (13.7%)	45 (7.5%)	60 (36.0%)	<0.001
Diarrhea	101 (13.2%)	47 (7.8%)	54 (32.3%)	<0.001
Tooth decay	97 (12.6%)	63 (10.5%)	34 (20.4%)	0.001
VDRL positive	4 (0.5%)	3 (0.5%)	1 (0.6%)	0.875
CXR abnormality	5 (0.7%)	4 (0.7%)	1 (0.6%)	0.923

# Results

Health care seeking behaviors of immigrants by nationalities and health problems (n=767)

Health problems	Nationalities						P-value
	Myanmar (600)			Laos (167)			
	Total	No/ self-treatment N (%)	Required treatment N (%)	Total	No/ self-treatment N (%)	Required treatment N (%)	
Health problems	115	62(53.9)	53(46.1)	93	57(61.3)	36(38.7)	<0.001
Tooth decay	63	47(74.6)	16(25.4)	34	24(70.6)	10(29.4)	0.003
Diarrhea	48	40(83.3)	8(16.7)	54	46(85.2)	8(14.8)	<0.001
URI	45	28(62.2)	17(37.8)	60	40(66.7)	20(33.3)	<0.001
Viral exanthem	7	6(85.7)	1(14.3)	7	4(57.1)	3(42.9)	0.013
Prolong cough > 14 days	4	2(50.0)	2(50.0)	4	1(25.0)	3(75.0)	0.102
Musculoskeletal	9	4(44.4)	5(55.6)	27	23(85.2)	4(14.8)	<0.001
Work-related accident	11	5(45.5)	6(54.5)	10	4(40.0)	6(60.0)	0.014

# Conclusions

- Prevalence of health problems among migrant workers was 27%
- Laos workers had a higher prevalence of health problems compared to Myanmar (55.7% vs 19.2%)
- Top three health problems
  - Upper respiratory tract infection
  - Diarrhea
  - Tooth decay
- 46.1% of Myanmar and 38.7% of Laos required health care services
- Health problem and health care seeking behavior different among nationalities.