

Prediction of Illicit Drug Use by United States Servicemen

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OBJECTIVE : For a description of the objectives of this study see the SEATO Annual Progress Report, March 1972.

PROGRESS : Interviews, at four-month intervals, of 425 soldiers in Thailand have been completed. We were able to obtain complete information on 345 of these men. The remaining individuals were interviewed only one or two times. Twenty-five additional individuals left Thailand within four months after arriving and were therefore not interviewed at all.

Data derived from these interviews have been collated and coded for automatic data processing. Analyses of these data are currently being conducted. These will be used to determine: a) the predictive validity of the questionnaire instrument, b) variables which relate to development of risk for drug use and c) variables which interfere with the ability of the instrument to predict drug use.

In addition to behavioral information concerning drug abuse, we have drawn bloods from these individuals and obtained medical histories. Review of medical and laboratory records was also conducted. This will provide unique data on development of inapparent disease in this population during a tour in Thailand.

SUMMARY : Interviews have been completed on 425 soldiers during their first year in Thailand. Drug use classifications based on the clinical interview and the questionnaire instrument will be compared to evaluate the predictive validity of the questionnaire. The analyses will focus on variables contributing to risk for drug use. Information concerning development of inapparent infection will provide unique epidemiological data on this population.