

A Behavioral Survey of Thai Prostitutes

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OBJECTIVE: a) To collect behavioral information from a prostitute population concerning attitudes and knowledge about venereal disease (VD), b) to correlate these with certain concurrently collected laboratory data and c) to determine what difference exists between these variables for women soliciting Americans and those women who do not have contact with Americans.

BACKGROUND: The prevalence of venereal disease among American troops seems to many observers to be too high. Considerable man-hours and money are spent on treatment of VD in American troops and on programs for the control of VD among prostitute populations. An evaluation of the variables under study will provide information on the effectiveness of US military sponsored venereal disease control programs directed at these prostitute populations.

DESCRIPTION: Laboratory and interview data were collected from 520 women. Four hundred and forty-four of these solicit US military personnel and 76 solicit only from the local national (Thai) population. Most women were selected from those attending VD clinics, but 20% were selected from other sources in order to gain information most representative of the entire population.

PROGRESS: Data are currently being analyzed. It is anticipated that analysis and write-up will be completed by July 1975.

SUMMARY: Laboratory and interview data were collected from a total of 520 Thai prostitutes. This will provide unique behavioral and laboratory information on VD in this population and effectiveness of VD control programs. Data analysis and write-up are currently being conducted.