

Gender Development: Similarities and Differences



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supported by

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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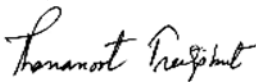


Preface

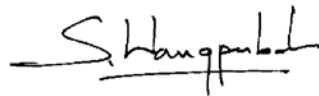
Gender study presents facts and situations on the similarities and differences between women and men which is a significant dimension of social equity. Such study needs data from many sources. The Report **“Gender Development: Similarities and Differences”** is a collaboration between the National Statistical Office (NSO) and the Office of the Women’s Affairs and Family Development (OWAFD). The NSO is the national focal point on the production of key national statistics to support policy planning, monitoring and evaluation of national socio-economic development and the government’s urgent policies.

The OWAFD is the national focal point and has the expertise on the promotion of gender equality. The OWAFD is both the user and producer of gender data. This collaboration represents an important step to fill the gender data gaps both in terms of coverage and relevance. Data collection involves many agencies and organizations, many of them have not collected or processed data in a gender-disaggregated manner. It takes time but it is very important to ensure that all parties recognize the importance and benefits of gender-disaggregated data.

This report represents the beginning of an inter-agency collaboration, which will lead to further collaboration on sectoral statistics as envisioned by the National Statistical Master Plan. The Plan calls for the NSO and other government agencies to establish a consolidated national statistical system that integrates data of all government agencies to facilitate an efficient use of data to support various aspects of national development.



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Introduction

The National Statistical Office in cooperation with the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, prepares the report "Gender Development: Differences and Similarities". The report presents the NSO's survey data and administrative (back office) data from many government agencies.

This report presents an analysis of gender-disaggregated data on the role and development of women and men in 7 aspects: 1) health, 2) education, 3) employment, 4) income and poverty, 5) family life and reproductive health, 6) violence, and 7) leadership, to highlight the differences in terms of opportunity, role, and gender equality, sex-specific behaviours. For example, the ratio of women's to men's income in waged employment in non-agricultural sector was 0.92. Women had higher computer literacy rate, but constituted a small part in the ICT employment; the female/male ratio was only 0.13. More women became victims of sexual violence. Women outnumbered men in the civil service, but a very small number managed to reach high-level executive positions. These data clearly reflect the gender situation and gender equality in the Thai society.

Many thanks are owed to various data sources as indicated in the report, and the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is hoped that this report will stimulate initiatives on gender equality among all sectors of the Thai society whose collaboration is essential to the pursuit of much needed changes toward a balanced society.

National Statistical Office
Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development

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1. Health



Good health provides a fundamental basis for human development. Women and men are genetically and biologically different. They face different kinds of risks, partly due to nurturing and socialization.

1.1 Child's Health

Men outnumbered women at birth.

In 2007, Thai population consisted of 32 million women and 31.1 million men. There were 0.9 million more women than men. This population trend emerged since the 1970 census when women outnumbered men for the first time. Several factors contributed to this demographic change, including medical progress that reduced risks associated with pregnancy and birth delivery.

In 2007, there were 386,667 female live births and 410,921 male live births. Sex ratio (male/female) at birth has remained approximately 1.06 for over a decade, and there is no noticeable difference across the regions. This ratio is in line with those in other countries, except for some where there are cultural and gender biases.

More female newborns were underweighted.

By Thai standard, any newborn that weighs less than 2,500 grammes is considered underweighted, which may be a result of insufficient prenatal care. Underweighted newborns carry a high risk of infection and slow or stunt growth.

During the past five years, the percentage of underweighted newborns increased from 9.84% in 2003 to 10.97% in 2007. (The 2007 data include newborns that weighed 2,500 grammes). Problem still persisted in the North. Female newborns had a considerably higher underweight rate every year and in every part of the country.

Figure 1 Newborns weighed under 2,500 grammes by sex, 2003–2007

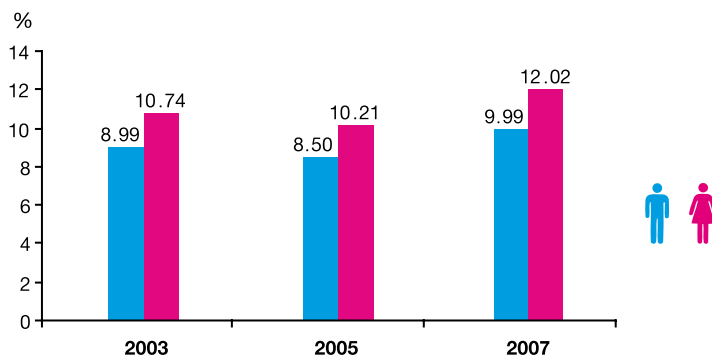


Table 1 Newborns weighed under 2,500 grammes by sex and region, 2003–2007

Region	2003			2005			2007		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Whole Kingdom	8.99	10.74	9.84	8.50	10.21	9.33	9.99	12.02	10.97
Bangkok Metropolis	8.55	10.42	9.45	8.64	10.37	9.47	9.43	11.08	10.23
Central Region	8.60	10.09	9.32	8.27	9.90	9.06	9.56	11.49	10.50
Northern Region	11.69	13.47	12.55	10.22	12.08	11.12	12.32	14.40	13.33
Northeastern Region	8.56	10.48	9.49	7.99	9.75	8.85	9.98	12.47	11.19
Southern Region	8.29	9.95	9.09	8.12	9.70	8.88	9.19	10.84	9.99

Source: Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health.

Gender-disaggregated data processed by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development.

But the mortality rate was lower among female infants.

In 2007, 5,781 infants died before they reached the age of one. The infant mortality rate (IMR) was 7.25 per 1,000 live births, which was about the same rate during the past five years. IMR remained highest in the South. Female IMR was also consistently lower than male IMR all over the country. Important causes of death for female infants were premature birth, underweighted birth, congenital heart disease, pneumonia. Important causes of death for male infants were premature birth, underweighted birth, pneumonia, and septicemia.



Table 2 Infant mortality rate by sex and region

Region	2003			2005			2007		
	Unit: per 1,000 live births								
	♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total	♂	♀	Total
Whole Kingdom	7.62	6.77	7.21	8.28	6.95	7.64	7.96	6.50	7.25
Bangkok Metropolis	7.92	7.09	7.52	8.29	7.39	7.86	7.93	6.58	7.28
Central Region	6.85	6.20	6.53	7.79	5.74	6.79	7.14	6.22	6.69
Northern Region	8.29	7.24	7.78	8.09	6.83	7.48	8.38	6.30	7.38
Northeastern Region	7.35	6.43	6.90	8.47	7.45	7.97	7.81	6.49	7.17
Southern Region	8.29	7.46	7.89	8.90	7.72	8.33	9.10	7.03	8.10

Source: Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health.

Gender-disaggregated data processed by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development.

In 2007, 7,984 children died before they reached the age of five. The underfive mortality rate (U5M) was 10.01 per 1,000 live births, which represented a steady drop from 11.96 in 2003. As about 70% of U5M take place during the first year of age, the U5M follows the IMR pattern; female rate was lower than male. Important causes of death were drowning and pneumonia.



Figure 2 Mortality rate among children under five years of age by sex, 2003–2007

Unit: per 1,000 live births

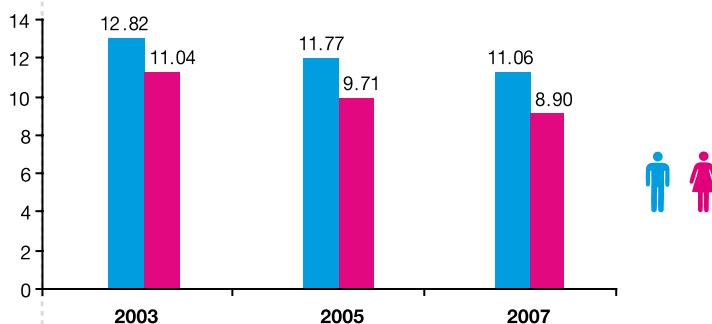








Table 3 Mortality rate among children under five years of age by sex and region, 2003–2007

Unit: per 1,000 live births

Region	2003			2005			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	12.82	11.04	11.96	11.77	9.71	10.77	11.06	8.90	10.01
Bangkok Metropolis	10.61	9.40	10.03	10.77	9.27	10.05	10.18	8.37	9.31
Central Region	13.01	11.08	12.07	11.74	8.40	10.12	10.48	8.71	9.62
Northern Region	13.39	11.95	12.69	11.77	9.72	10.78	11.48	8.75	10.16
Northeastern Region	12.91	10.78	11.88	11.97	10.50	11.25	11.05	8.99	10.04
Southern Region	13.91	12.14	13.06	12.33	10.73	11.55	12.32	9.58	10.99

Source: Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health.

Gender-disaggregated data processed by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development.



This is only the beginning. Male mortality rate is higher in all age groups. As a result, the number of men and women are equal around the age of 27. Before that, men outnumber women. After 27, women outnumber men. Biological factors play an important role in exposing men to higher risks than women.

Source: Promote Prasartkul and Pattama Wapatanawong, "Gender imbalance in Thai population" in Kritaya Archavan ijkul and Kanjana Tangcholathip, *Population and the society 2008: Gender dimension in population and the society*, Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, June 2008





Malnutrition was more prevalent among boys.

Nutritional condition is determined by weight or height for age. There are several indicators for child malnutrition. Weight for age is an overall indicator. Height for age indicates chronic malnutrition. Weight for height is an indicator for short-term malnutrition. In 2003, 11.3% of children under five years old were underweight. Malnutrition was higher among boys in both the rural and urban areas in all regions. The Northeast had the highest malnutrition rate, followed by the South. The rate was also higher among rural children. This pattern was also observed for the “almost underweight” category.



Table 4 Children under 5 years old that are almost underweight and underweight by sex, administrative area, and region, 2003

Unit: %

Region	Almost underweight (%)			underweight (%)		
			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	13.6	11.9	12.8	12.6	10.0	11.3
<i>Municipal area</i>	12.8	9.6	11.2	8.3	7.5	7.9
<i>Non-municipal area</i>	13.8	12.5	13.2	13.8	10.8	12.4
Bangkok Metropolis	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Central Region	11.5	9.1	10.3	9.6	4.3	7.0
Northern Region	12.0	8.9	10.5	8.8	8.1	8.5
Northeastern Region	14.9	13.8	14.4	14.8	12.5	13.7
Southern Region	13.9	12.9	13.4	13.9	11.4	12.7





Source: Thailand diet and nutrition survey, Nutrition Division, Department of Health.

Underweight was not the only nutritional problem. A large number of Thai children were overweighted. There were more girls under the category of "overweighted", but more boys under the category of "almost overweighted".



Table 5 Children under 5 years old that are almost overweight and overweight by sex, administrative area, and region, 2003

Unit: %

Region	Almost overweight (%)			overweight (%)		
			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	2.3	1.6	2.0	4.8	5.1	5.0
<i>Municipal area</i>	2.4	2.8	2.6	6.2	4.6	5.4
<i>Non-municipal area</i>	2.3	1.3	1.8	4.4	5.2	4.8
Bangkok Metropolis	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Central Region	3.2	1.4	2.3	8.7	6.7	6.5
Northern Region	3.2	2.4	2.8	6.0	6.9	6.5
Northeastern Region	1.7	1.4	1.6	3.4	4.3	3.9
Southern Region	2.2	1.5	1.9	3.5	3.5	3.5

Source: Thailand diet and nutrition survey, Nutrition Division, Department of Health.

A number of children in school ages died of drowning.

In 2006, death from drowning was 7.5 per 100,000 population. The rate remained at this level during the past 3 decades. 31.8% of the deaths were children aged 0–14 years old, and three-fourths were male. This may be because boys were more risk-taking than girls. They did not learn about safety measures and could not help themselves. Accidents were likely to take place in natural water resources in the neighbourhood. The risk was highest in the Northeast and lowest in the South.

1.2 Healthy and Unhealthy behaviours

Few women were smokers, but the number was growing.

The smoking rate of Thai population was on a decline until 2006, but there was a noticeable increase in 2007. Smoking rate among population 11 years and over dropped from 21.1% in 2004 to 20.3 in 2006, but rose to 25.8 in 2007. Smoking rate among female population aged 11 and over increased from 2.4% in 2004 to 2.7 in 2007. Urban population smoked less than those in the rural area. The rate was higher in the North, Northeast and the South. Among women, the smoking rate was distinctly high in the North at 7.6%.

Figure 3 Smoking rate among population 11 years and over by sex, 2004–2007

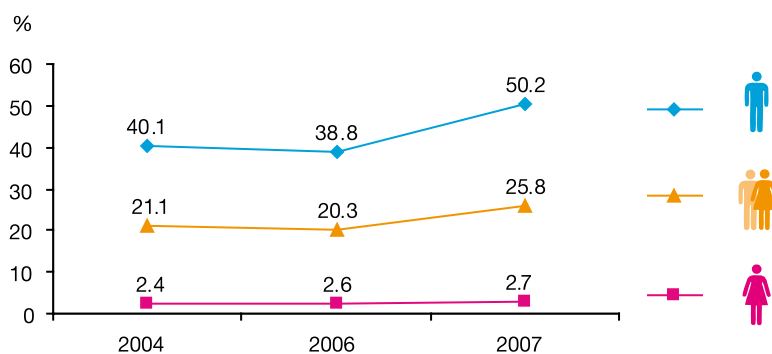


Table 6 Smoking rate among population 11 years and over by sex, administrative area, and region, 2007

Region	Unit: %		
	Male	Female	Total
Whole Kingdom	50.2	2.7	25.8
<i>Municipal area</i>	<i>41.5</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>20.8</i>
<i>Non-municipal area</i>	<i>54.0</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>28.1</i>
Bangkok Metropolis	32.9	1.5	16.1
Central Region	45.0	2.5	23.1
Northern Region	52.2	7.6	29.4
Northeastern Region	57.0	0.9	28.6
Southern Region	54.0	1.7	27.3

Source: Cigarette smoking and alcohol drinking behaviour survey 2004, and Health and welfare survey 2006, 2007, National Statistical Office.

Most worrisome was the rather high smoking rate among male youth – at 0.8%, 18.1%, and 45.1% for the 11–14, 15–19, and 20–24 age-groups, respectively. The rate among female youth was still low at 0.0%, 0.2%, and 0.8% respectively.

More men, women, and the youth became alcohol drinkers.

Among population 11 years and over, alcohol drinkers increased from 27.2% in 2004 to 34.1% in 2007. The increase was from 45.8% to 58.4% among men, and the increase could be observed in both urban and rural areas and in every region. Female drinkers increased from 8.9% to 11.1%. The rate was higher among rural than urban women.

Alcohol drinking rose according to ages. Among the 11–15 years old, the rate was very low at 0.5%. It became 14% and 34.6% in the 15–19 years old and 20–24 years old age groups, respectively. Among the youth, the male rate was 7–10 times higher than female rate.

Women in the North had a higher alcohol consumption rate at 20.7%, followed by Northeastern women. Men in the North was also on top at 68.4%, followed closely by those in the Northeast at 67.8%. The rate was lowest in the South where a large number of population were Muslim.



Figure 4 Alcohol consumption rate among population 11 years and over by sex, 2004–2007

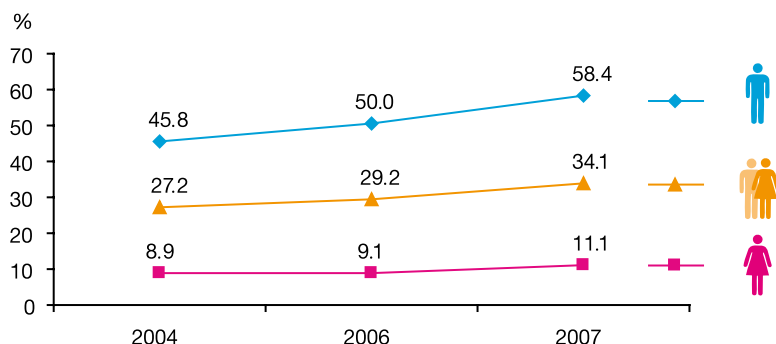




Table 7 Alcohol consumption rate among population 11 years and over by sex, administrative area, and region, 2007

Region	Unit: %		Total
			
Whole Kingdom	58.4	11.1	34.1
<i>Municipal area</i>	52.1	9.0	29.4
<i>Non-municipal area</i>	61.0	12.1	36.2
Bangkok Metropolis	43.9	5.9	23.5
Central Region	54.9	8.8	31.2
Northern Region	68.4	20.7	44.0
Northeastern Region	67.8	13.1	40.1
Southern Region	38.9	2.1	20.1

Source: Cigarette smoking and alcohol drinking behaviour survey 2004, and Health and welfare survey 2006, 2007, National Statistical Office.



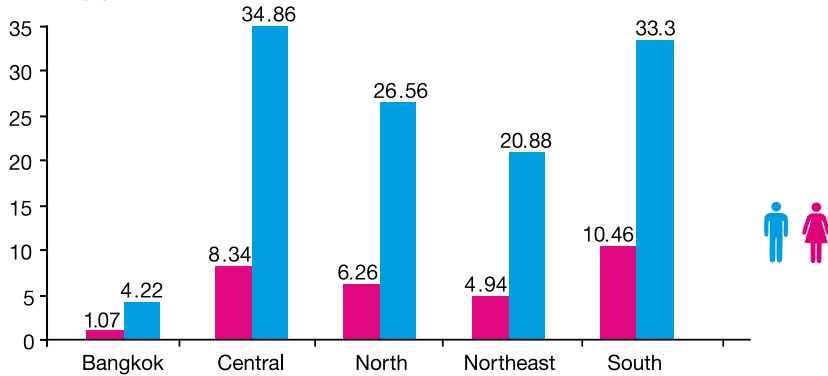
Traffic accident was an important cause of death for male adolescents and men in working ages.

Transport accidents, largely road accidents, were the number two cause of death for Thais, second only to cancer. In 2007, transport accidents claims 9,989 lives, 2,046 female and 7,943 male. The death rate was 15.9 per 100,000 live births, a drop from 16.7 in 2006. Death rate among men was about 4 times higher than among women. The Central Region posed the highest death rate.

It is interesting to note that road accidents have immense impacts as most victims are in their school or working ages. Many are family breadwinners. Hence, long-term impacts are likely to fall on women who have to take care of the family on their own.

Figure 5 Transport death rate by sex and region, 2007

Unit: per 100,000 population



Source: Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health

It should also be noted that appropriate prevention and precautionary measures can reduce the risks of accidents. But the people have not paid attention to safety measures. Thai men and women still show similar risk behaviours. Motorcycle helmets were more popular among men as most men were riders while women were passengers.



Table 8 Risk behaviours

Risk behaviours	Population with risky behaviors		
	2003	2004	2006
Never wear helmet while ride or travel on motorcycle	33.4	19.5	21.6
- male	30.8	17.5	19.1
- female	36.1	21.5	24.2
Occasionally	50.3	38.1	59.8
- male	51.8	38.7	61.1
- female	48.8	37.5	58.5
Always	16.3	42.4	18.6
- male	17.4	43.7	19.8
- female	15.2	41.1	17.3
Never use safety belt while drive or ride in front seat	35.3	19.5	22.5
- male	33.3	23.4	22.2
- female	37.5	25.0	24.7
Occasionally	40.6	28.8	45.2
- male	41.7	35.6	44.9
- female	39.5	35.9	45.4
Always	24.0	51.7	31.4
- male	25.0	64.4	32.9
- female	23.1	64.1	29.9

Source: Health and welfare survey 2003, 2006 and Cigarette smoking and alcohol drinking behaviour survey 2004, National Statistical Office.

Accidents that incurred most severe casualties were those involved motorcycles. The high risk group was male adolescents. In 2005, three-fourths of severe injuries from road accidents were male, and one-third was in the 15–24 age group.

Table 9 Characteristics of severe injuries from road accidents

	2004		2005	
	Number (persons)	%	Number (persons)	%
Sex				
- Male	58,897	75.0	59,143	75.0
Age				
- 15-19 years old	14,627	18.6	14,304	18.1
- 20-24 years old	11,943	15.2	11,795	15.0
Occupation				
- worker	29,147	39.4	30,281	40.3
- student	16,544	22.4	16,734	22.3
Position in vehicle				
- driver/rider	53,756	69.6	55,133	70.8
- passenger	19,364	25.1	18,857	24.2
Type of vehicle				
- motorcycle	59,830	81.8	61,002	82.8

Source: Major injuries in Thailand 2005, Injury Prevention Group, Bureau of Non-Communicable Disease, Department of Disease Control

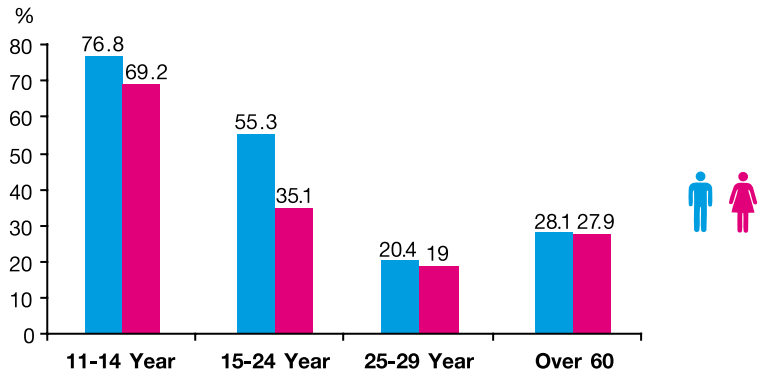
Men exercised more.

Exercise is an important part of healthy behaviour. Since 2003, there has been little change in Thai population's exercise behaviour. In 2007, 29.7% of population exercised. Men exercised more in every region and in all age groups. 32.7% of men exercised while only 26.8% of women did. Urban dwellers exercised more than rural dwellers who had more physical activities in their daily routine. People in the South and Bangkok exercised more than those in the rest of the country, and those in the Central Plain exercised the least.

Children 11–14 years old exercised more than other groups. The gap between men and women was largest for the 15–24 age-group. Men continued to exercise while women exercised less. Working age represented the period when exercise drastically dropped for both sexes. After the age of 60, men and women started to exercise more. There was little difference between men and women in these two age groups.



Figure 6 Exercise rate among population 11 years and over by sex and age group, 2007



Source: Survey of exercise behaviour of the population, National Statistical Office.

1.3 Diseases

Women and men were threatened by different health risks.

Different behaviours lead to different health risks and burden of disease (indicated by number of healthy years lost). The top 5 health risks and burden of disease for men and women can be reduced if they adopt more healthy behaviours.



Table 10 Health risks and burden of disease by sex, 2004

Women		Men	
Health risk	Burden of disease	Health risk	Burden of disease
unsafe sex	stroke	alcohol consumption	AIDS
obesity	AIDS	unsafe sex	road accidents
blood pressure	diabetes	smoking	alcohol dependence
cholesterol	depression	not wearing helmet	stroke
not wearing helmet	ischaemic heart	blood pressure	liver and bile duct cancer

Source: Burden of diseases and injuries in Thailand 2004, February 2007, International Health Policy Programme, Ministry of Public Health

Ministry of Public Health's policy is to step up surveillance on diabetes, hypertension, and ischaemic heart disease. The 2006 surveillance result indicated that more women, especially elderly women, suffered from these diseases.

More women than men were also admitted to hospitals for these chronic diseases, except for cerebrovascular disease.



Table 11 In-patients for non-communicable chronic diseases by sex and disease

		Unit: per 100,000 population			
Disease		2004	2005	2006	2007
hypertension	Total	535	700	819	983
	Male	419	552	643	778
	Female	648	845	990	1,184
Heart disease	Total	533	655	721	826
	Male	499	619	680	774
	Female	567	691	761	876
diabetes	Total	461	590	664	763
	Male	309	399	452	530
	Female	610	777	870	991
cancer	Total	317	439	465	517
	Male	338	403	423	474
	Female	405	475	506	559
cerebrovascular disease	Total	128	145	148	160
	Male	138	159	161	176
	Female	112	131	134	144

Source: Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health



Women had higher risks of mental illness, but more men committed suicide.

A national epidemiological survey on mental health by the Department of Mental Health in 2003 found that women had higher risks of mental illness than men. But data from the Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health shows that men consistently outnumbered women as in-patients diagnosed for mental and behavioural disorder. In 2007, there were 110,267 male in-patients and 77,428 female in-patients.

Men also had a much higher suicide rate. In 2007, death from suicide was 5.48 per 100,000 population, a steady drop from 7.1 in 2003. This included 2,703 men and 755 women. The North and the Northeast had the highest suicide rates.

Table 12 Suicide rate in top five provinces

Unit: per 100,000 population

2003		2005		2007	
Province	Number	Province	Number	Province	Number
Kingdom	7.1	Kingdom	6.34	Kingdom	5.48
Lamphun	25.0	Lamphun	18.0	Lamphun	16.3
Chiang Mai	21.3	Chiang Mai	18.0	Chiang Mai	13.6
Phayao	20.0	Rayong	15.8	Mae Hong Son	12.4
Phrae	14.9	Phayao	12.9	Chantaburi	11.9
Chaing Rai	13.7	Phrae	12.3	Phayao	11.1

Source: Department of Mental Health, citing data from Department of Provincial Administration's death certificates

Death rate from leading diseases was higher among men.

Data from the Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Ministry of Public Health show that death rates from leading diseases were higher among men, except for diabetes.

Table 13 Cancer and heart disease death rate

Unit: per 100,000 population

Death rate		2003		2005		2007	
		Number of deaths	Death rate	Number of deaths	Death rate	Number of deaths	Death rate
cancer	Total	49,682	78.94	50,622	81.39	53,434	84.91
	Male	28,848	92.47	29,543	96.18	31,099	100.15
	Female	20,834	65.63	21,079	66.96	22,335	70.06
Heart disease	Total	17,462	27.74	17,539	28.20	18,452	29.32
	Male	9,697	31.08	9,795	31.89	10,197	32.84
	Female	7,765	24.46	7,744	24.60	8,255	25.89

Source: Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health.

Gender-disaggregated data processed by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development.

Cancer is the number one cause of death for Thai people, and the death rate has consistently increased for both sexes. Thailand has the highest liver cancer incidence in the world as people often eat uncooked food, especially uncooked river fish which may cause Opisthotchiasi, which in turn may lead to liver cancer.

Death rate from cancer rose among women and men. But men had a higher death at 100 per 100,000 population. In 2007, 31,099 Thai men succumbed to cancer, half of which were liver and bile duct cancer, and trachea and lung cancer, largely induced by smoking.

In 2007, cancer claimed the lives of 22,335 women, a death rate of 70 per 100,000 population. One-third was also related to these two types of cancer. Others were breast, uterus, cervix ovary cancer, etc.

It should be noted that half of Thai women have never had pap smear and mammo-gram, which are effective early detection measures.

Table 14 Percentage of women having used early detection measures for breast and cervix cancer by age group

Screening test	2004				Unit: % 2006
	15-29 years old	30-44 years old	45-59 years old	Total	
Pap smear	29.0	62.2	55.0	48.5	49.8
Breast self examination	35.0	58.3	53.5	48.7	24.6
Breast examination by health personnel	13.2	28.1	27.9	22.7	23.5
mammogram (for 40–59 age group)	-	-	-	4.0	-

Source: Survey of health situation of Thai population by physical examination 2003–2004, Health Systems Research Institute, and Health and welfare survey 2006, National Statistical Office.

Men are also more exposed to heart disease. In 2007, 10,197 men and 8,255 women died of heart disease. The death rate was 32.8 and 25.9 per 100,000 population, respectively.















1.4 Longevity

Women lived longer than men. Consequently, there were more elderly women and many of them lived alone.

Considering all the risk factors, it is understandable that in most countries, women lived longer than men. In 2005, life expectancy was 75.4 years for Thai women, and 68.4 years for Thai men.



Table 15 Life expectancy at birth by sex and region









Region	Unit: Year											
	2000		2005		2010		2015		2020		2025	
												
Whole Kingdom	67.16	74.56	68.43	75.36	69.6	76.08	70.55	76.74	71.44	77.34	72.22	77.89
Bangkok Metropolis	66.73	74.54	67.92	75.27	69.0	75.96	69.99	76.6	70.9	77.19	71.73	77.75
Central Region	67.15	75.87	68.45	76.46	69.6	76.99	70.61	77.49	71.5	77.94	72.28	78.36
Northern Region	65.04	72.2	66.73	73.42	68.22	74.51	69.51	75.48	70.64	76.35	71.63	77.13
Northeastern Region	68.14	74.51	69.23	75.32	70.21	76.05	71.08	76.71	71.85	77.32	72.53	77.87
Southern Region	68.39	76.06	69.54	76.72	70.54	77.31	71.42	77.82	72.17	78.27	72.83	78.66

Source: Thailand's population projection 2000–2025, Health Systems Research Institute and Institute of Population and Social Research, January 2003.

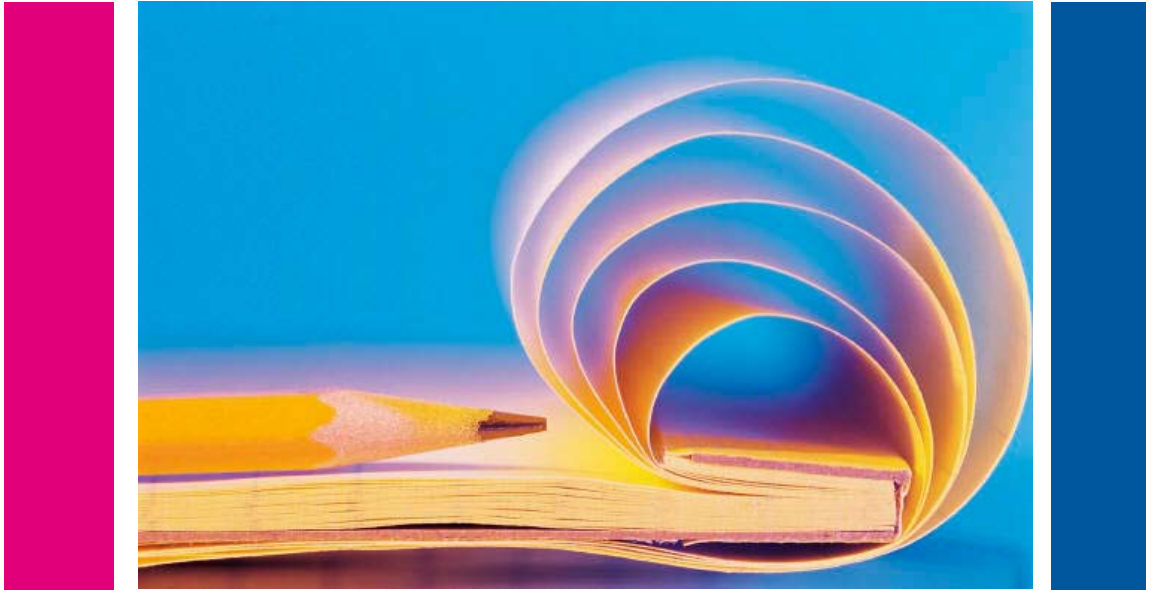
Hence, women outnumbered men in the elderly age group. In 2007, out of 7 million elderly or 10.7% of the population, there were 3.9 million women and 3.1 million men. 538,000 of them lived alone. Two-third of this number were women, and almost half (48%) lived in the Northeast.

Health problem and the ability to care for one self is an important challenge for these elderly, especially some female elderly who cannot read or write. This challenge will intensify as Thailand becomes an aging society.

Table 16 Number and percentage of the elderly and elderly living alone by sex, 2007

Region	Number of the elderly			%		Number of elderly living alone			Unit: Persons	
			Total					Total		
Whole Kingdom	3,130,737	3,890,225	7,020,962	44.6	55.4	190,234	347,768	538,002	35.4	64.6
<i>Municipal area</i>	868,790	1,136,430	2,005,220	43.3	56.7	52,830	96,920	149,750	35.3	64.7
<i>Non-municipal area</i>	2,261,947	2,753,795	5,015,742	45.1	54.9	137,404	250,848	388,252	35.4	64.6
Bangkok Metropolitan	273,103	374,263	647,366	42.2	57.8	17,062	22,885	39,947	42.7	57.3
Central Region	722,777	930,695	1,653,472	43.7	56.3	47,834	77,563	125,397	38.1	61.9
Northern Region	681,411	786,189	1,467,600	46.4	53.6	54,249	86,984	141,233	38.4	61.6
Northeastern Region	1,052,168	1,306,936	2,359,104	44.6	55.4	48,634	117,977	166,611	29.2	70.8
Southern Region	401,278	492,142	893,420	44.9	55.1	22,455	42,359	64,814	34.6	65.4

Survey: Survey of the Elderly, National Statistical Office.



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2. Education

Education is basic human rights as it is the most effective measure to develop the capacity to fulfill human potentials. Education also plays an important role in building a peaceful and equitable society. Non-discrimination in the provision of education is essential for girls and boys to have an equal opportunity to learn and obtain accreditation. Girls' education is also key to the improvement in health, nutrition, and education of their family. It also empowers women to participate and contribute actively in economic and social development.

2.1 Formal Education

Girls and boys had equal access to basic education

Gross enrolment rate is an overall indicator of the government's capacity to provide education to the people. Thailand's gross enrolment rates showed an upward trend at all levels. Owing to the government's policy to expand the mandatory education to 9 years, lower secondary enrolment increased from 82.23% in 2002 to 96.37% in 2007. Upper secondary and tertiary enrolment also recorded a steady improvement. Tertiary gross enrolment jumped from 43.81% in 2002 to 67.06% in 2007



Figure 7 Gross enrolment rate by education level, 2002–2007

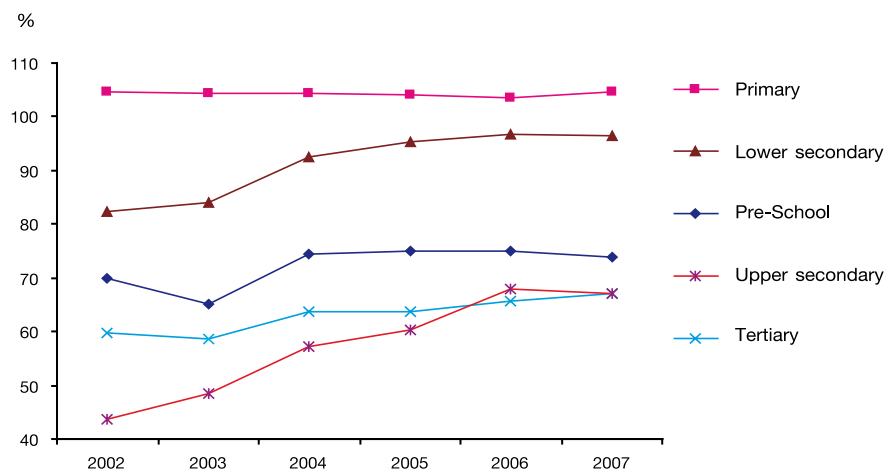


Table 17 Gross enrolment rate by education level

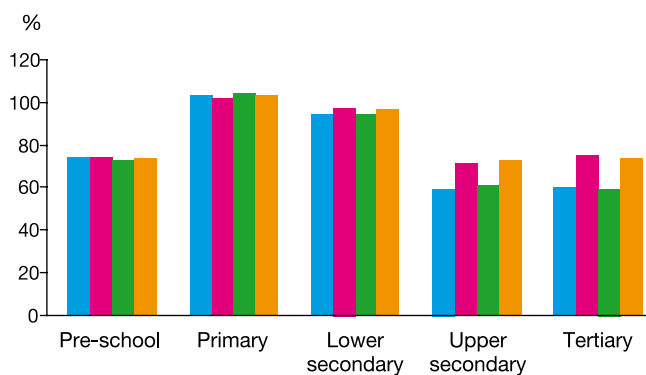
Education level	Unit: %					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Pre-school	69.94	65.00	74.44	74.95	75.03	73.77
Primary	104.77	104.49	104.24	104.17	103.47	104.51
Lower secondary	82.23	84.01	92.47	95.45	96.64	96.37
Upper secondary	59.82	58.73	63.82	63.80	65.78	67.16
Tertiary	43.81	48.56	57.11	60.38	68.03	67.06

Source: Education Statistics in Brief 2006, Education Management Information System and Communication, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education.

Girls outnumbered boys in upper secondary and tertiary education

Girls and boys had equal access to primary and lower secondary education, but girls fared better at upper secondary and tertiary levels. In 2007, tertiary gross enrolment was 74.41% for girls and 59.95% for boys.

Figure 8 Gross enrolment rate by sex and education level, 2006–2007











	2006	74.9	104.1	95.4	60.1	60.9
	2006	75.1	102.8	97.9	71.8	75.3
	2007	73.7	105.0	95.3	61.1	60.0
	2007	73.9	104.0	97.5	73.5	74.4

Table 18 Gross enrolment rate by sex and education level

Education level	Age group (years)	Academic year 2006			Academic year 2007		
				Total			Total
Total	3-21	82.3	87.2	84.7	82.1	87.3	84.6
Pre-school	3-5	74.9	75.1	75.0	73.7	73.9	73.8
Primary	6-11	104.1	102.8	103.5	105.0	104.0	104.5
Lower secondary	12-14	95.4	97.9	96.6	95.3	97.5	96.4
Upper secondary	15-17	60.1	71.8	65.8	61.1	73.5	67.2
Tertiary	18-21	60.9	75.3	68.0	60.0	74.4	67.1

Source: Education Statistics in Brief 2006, Education Management Information System and Communication, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education.

At tertiary level, women outnumbered men in services, health and welfare, education, humanities and arts, social sciences, business and law and science, while men outnumbered women in engineering, manufacturing and construction and agriculture.



Figure 9 Percentage of students by sex and ISCED, 2007

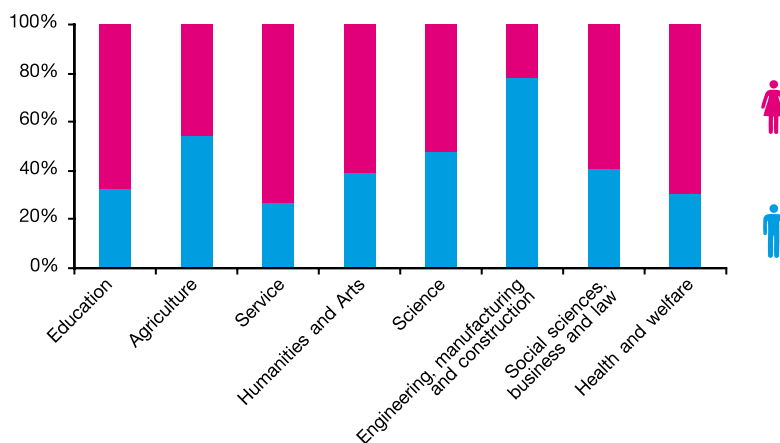




Table 19 Number of students by sex and International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), 2007

FIELDS OF EDUCATION (ISCED)			Total
Education	30,608	63,398	94,006
Agriculture	27,850	23,547	51,397
Agriculture	9,325	5,069	14,394
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	17,031	15,952	32,983
Veterinary	1,494	2,526	4,020
Services	17,241	47,679	64,920
Transport services	284	329	613
Security services	55	47	102
Personal services	15,843	45,700	61,543
Environmental protection	1,020	1,513	2,533
Services	39	90	129
Humanities and Arts	63,630	98,855	162,485
Humanities	28,870	70,890	99,760
humanities and Arts	3,795	4,167	7,962
Arts	30,965	23,798	54,763
Science	95,169	102,963	198,132
Mathematics and statistics	3,687	7,370	11,057
Computing	57,290	48,069	105,359
Science	17,367	12,518	29,885
Physical sciences	9,454	16,334	25,788
Life sciences	7,371	18,672	26,043
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	143,792	40,286	184,078
Manufacturing and processing	23,972	16,301	40,273
Engineering and construction	18,904	5,297	24,201
Engineering and engineering	76,176	11,163	87,339
Architecture and building	24,740	7,525	32,265
Social sciences, business and law	410,203	594,733	1,004,936
Business and administration	171,341	382,662	554,003
Law	91,795	54,813	146,608
Journalism and information	19,759	36,954	56,713
Social, Business and Law	9,021	16,421	25,442
Social and behavioural science	118,287	103,883	222,170
Health and welfare	26,930	62,146	89,076
Social services	5,282	4,381	9,663
Health	21,269	56,750	78,019
Health and welfare	379	1,015	1,394
Total	815,423	1,033,607	1,849,030

Source: Data as of October 3rd, 2007 from student's individual records, academic year 1/2007. Data are from 139 institutes (26 state universities, 26 Rajamongkol institutes, 40 Rajabhat institutes, 64 private universities and colleges), out of a total of 145 tertiary institutes.

At upper secondary level, girls and boys were on par in educational achievement.

According to the Ordinary National Education Test (O-NET) administered on 8 subjects, girls obtained higher average scores in Thai, arts, and English, while boys fared slightly better in mathematics. Their scores were very close in other subjects.

Best performance belonged to Bangkok students. Students, especially those in the North, Northeast and the South, obtained very low scores in English, mathematics and sciences.

Figure 10 Upper secondary students' O-Net average scores by sex and subject, academic year 2007

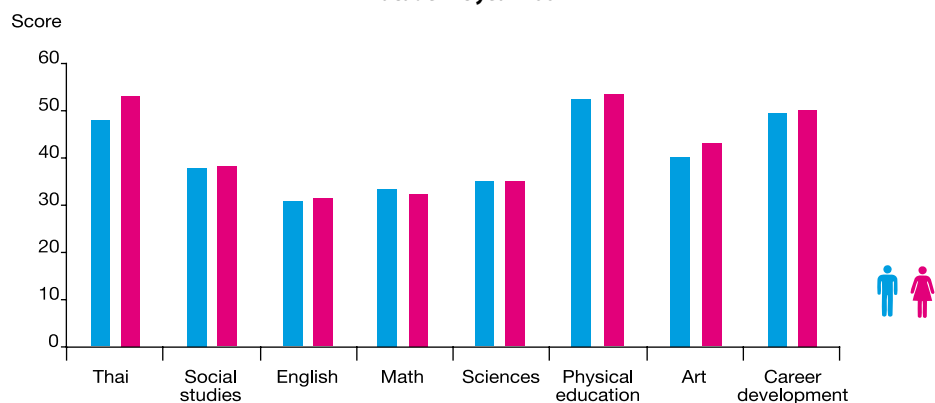


















Table 20 Upper secondary students' O-Net average scores by sex, region, and subject, academic year 2007

Region	Thai		Social studies		English		Mathematics		Sciences		Physical education		Arts		Career development	
																
Whole Kingdom	47.62	52.74	37.63	37.86	30.40	31.28	33.12	32.11	34.66	34.62	52.16	53.09	39.95	42.70	49.13	49.81
Bangkok Metropolis	56.85	63.03	42.61	44.55	39.47	41.97	40.55	39.01	41.57	41.91	53.89	54.92	42.79	47.29	52.27	53.21
Central Region	49.71	55.28	38.45	38.70	30.71	31.66	34.19	32.94	35.80	35.59	53.17	53.55	40.97	43.94	50.45	50.89
Northern Region	46.95	52.45	37.42	37.69	29.28	30.48	32.24	31.81	34.36	34.83	52.48	53.36	39.90	42.61	49.54	50.16
Northeastern Region	43.27	48.88	35.52	36.04	27.34	28.34	30.15	29.82	31.65	32.08	50.90	52.47	38.55	41.30	47.18	48.58
Southern Region	45.89	50.18	36.37	35.75	29.11	29.85	31.81	31.03	33.17	33.00	51.37	52.10	38.81	40.68	47.91	48.06

Source: National Institute of Education Testing Service (Public Organization).

Thai workforce was better educated, but average years of schooling remained slightly above the primary level.

Education leads to higher productivity, better job opportunities, and higher income. Years of schooling of the Thai workforce increased from 7.2 in 2002 to 7.7 in 2007, only 0.5 year improvement over 5 years.

Men were slightly better educated than women. A more noticeable gap was among different regions. In 2007, the Bangkok workforce spent 10.1 years in schools, while those in the North had the lowest level of education – 6.8 years. Gender gap was largest in the North, followed by the Northeast.

Figure 11 Years of schooling of population 15 years and over, 2005–2007

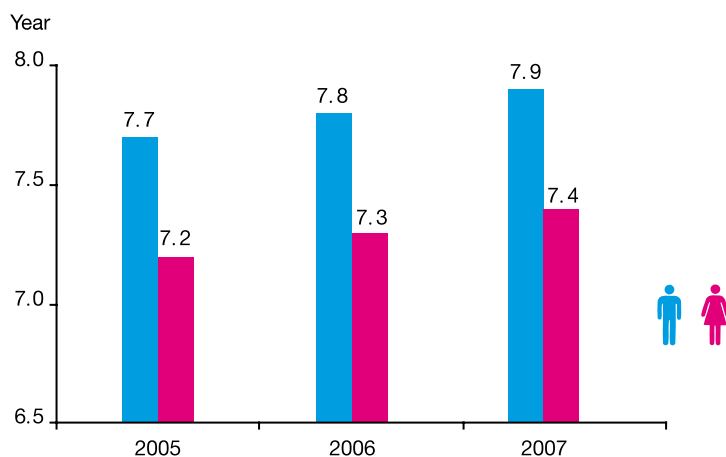


Table 21 Years of schooling of population 15 years and over by sex and region

Unit: Year

Region	2005			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	7.7	7.2	7.4	7.8	7.3	7.6	7.9	7.4	7.7
Bangkok Metropolis	10.2	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.4	9.9	10.1
Central Region	8.1	7.6	7.8	8.2	7.7	7.9	8.3	7.8	8.1
Northern Region	6.9	6.2	6.5	7.0	6.3	6.6	7.1	6.5	6.8
Northeastern Region	7.0	6.5	6.8	7.2	6.7	7.0	7.3	6.8	7.1
Southern Region	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.4	7.6	7.9	7.5	7.7

Source: Labour force survey 3rd Quarter), National Statistical Office.

2.2 Learning and Self-Development

Women had slightly less learning opportunity.

Literacy is a fundamental communication and learning tool toward human resource development and the well-being of the population. Literacy of population 6 years and over increased from 90.8% in 2000 to 93.1% in 2005, largely as a result of the expansion of basic education. Literacy rate was higher among men in every part of the country. The North recorded the lowest literacy rate for both men and women. Gender gap became larger among old age groups. In 2005, literacy rates of men and women 40 years and over were 92.7% and 85.2%, respectively. The lowest rate for both sexes was in the North, followed by the South.

Figure 12 Literacy rate of population 6 years and over, 2000 and 2005

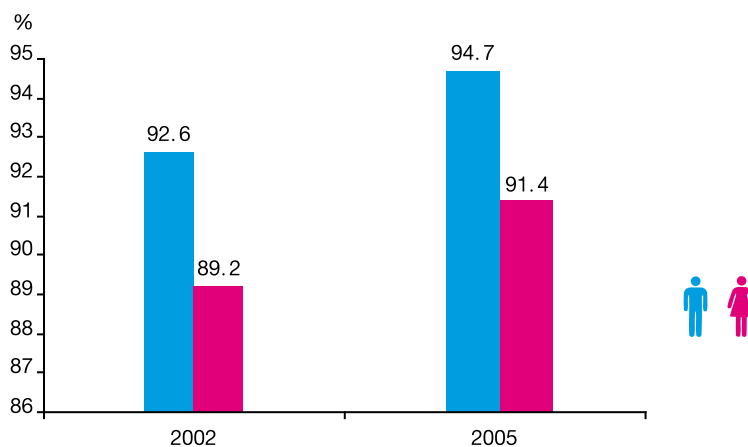






Table 22 Literacy rate of population 6 years and over by sex and region

Unit: %

Region	2000			2005		
			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	92.6	89.2	90.8	94.7	91.4	93.1
Bangkok Metropolis	96.7	94.5	95.6	98.0	96.3	97.1
Central Region	94.2	90.5	92.3	96.5	93.0	94.7
Northern Region	88.2	82.7	85.4	91.5	86.1	88.8
Northeastern Region	93.6	91.1	92.3	96.0	94.0	95.0
Southern Region	90.0	86.5	88.3	94.0	90.8	92.4

Source: Population and housing census 2000, and Survey of population change 2005–2006, National Statistical Office.

Figure 13 Literacy rate of population 40 years and over, 2000 and 2005

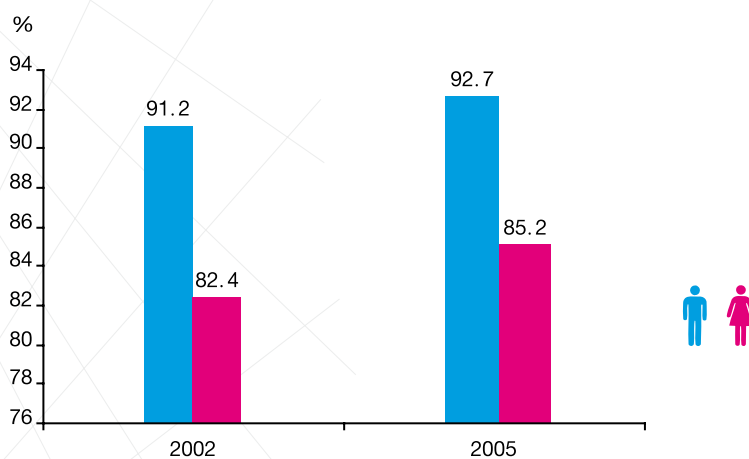






Table 23 Literacy rate of population 40 years and over by sex and region

Unit: %

Region	2000			2005		
			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	91.2	82.4	86.6	92.7	85.2	88.7
Bangkok Metropolis	94.9	88.6	91.5	97.2	93.2	95.0
Central Region	93.9	84.2	88.7	95.2	87.4	91.0
Northern Region	4.7	73.2	78.8	88.0	77.8	82.7
Northeastern Region	94.1	87.1	90.4	93.6	86.7	90.0
Southern Region	86.8	76.4	81.4	90.2	81.8	85.8

Source : Population and housing census 2000, and Survey of population change 2005–2006, National Statistical Office.

Women's reading dropped with ages.

Women and men read at about the same rate until they reached 29 years old. Then, women's reading dropped and the gap continued to grow. Women's household responsibility accounted for this drop. Women spent approximately 6 hours a day, compared with men's 3.5 hours, taking care of the family, the household, and the community. As a result, women had less time for work, study and self-improvement. (Time use survey 2005, National Statistical Office)

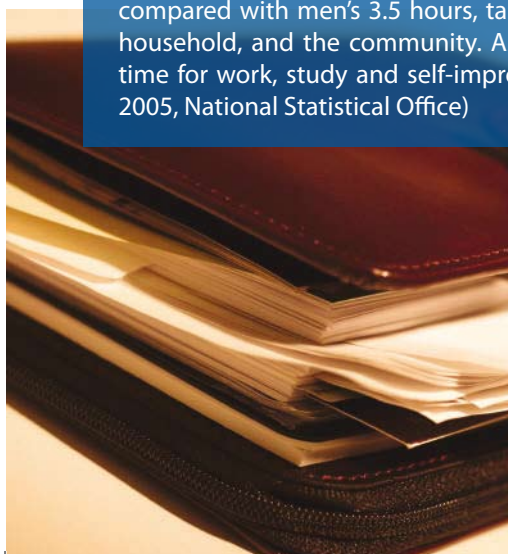


Figure 14 Population 6 years and over who read regularly by sex and age group, 2005

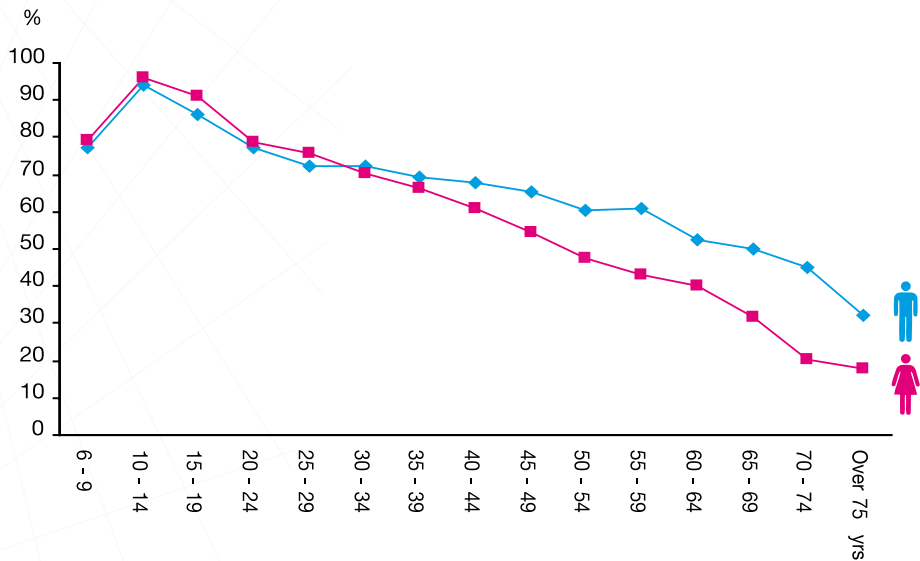




Table 24 Population 6 years and over who read regularly by sex and age group, 2005

Age group	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 Up
	77.1	94.3	85.9	77.1	72.3	72.4	69.3	67.8	65.4	60.2	61.1	52.2	50.2	45.2	32.2
	79.1	96.1	91.1	78.9	75.7	70.2	66.5	60.7	54.3	47.5	43.2	40.0	31.8	20.5	17.8

Source: Survey of reading behaviors of the population 2005, National Statistical Office.









Women had higher computer and internet literacy.

Having computer and/or internet literacy means having used computer and/or internet. Computer literacy of population 15–24 years old steadily increased from 48.9% in 2005 to 51.8% in 2007. Bangkok had the highest computer literacy rate, followed by the North. Computer literacy was higher among women in almost every part of the country. Southern men had the lowest computer literacy rate.

Figure 15 Computer literacy of population 15–24 years old by sex, 2005–2007



Table 25 Computer literacy of population 15–24 years old by sex and region

Region	2005			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	45.9	51.9	48.9	47.5	53.5	50.4	48.3	55.8	51.8
Bangkok Metropolis	61.7	66.5	64.2	63.1	58.8	60.9	64.7	70.6	67.8
Central Region	41.8	49.8	45.7	43.2	49.1	46.1	46.3	53.3	49.7
Northern Region	50.9	53.6	52.3	54.7	58.6	56.7	52.8	56.8	54.8
Northeastern Region	44.4	48.7	46.5	46.0	52.3	49.0	47.3	53.6	50.3
Southern Region	40.9	50.9	45.8	40.5	53.9	47.1	39.9	51.4	45.6

Source: ICT household survey, National Statistical Office.

Internet literacy was lower than computer literacy, but continued on an upward trend from 31.3% in 2005 to 39.7% in 2007. The Bangkok rate was considerably higher than the rest of the country, largely due to the more convenient accesses. Internet literacy was higher among women in almost every region. Southern men had the lowest rate. Southern men had the lowest rate.



Figure 16 Internet literacy of population 15–24 years old by sex, 2005–2007

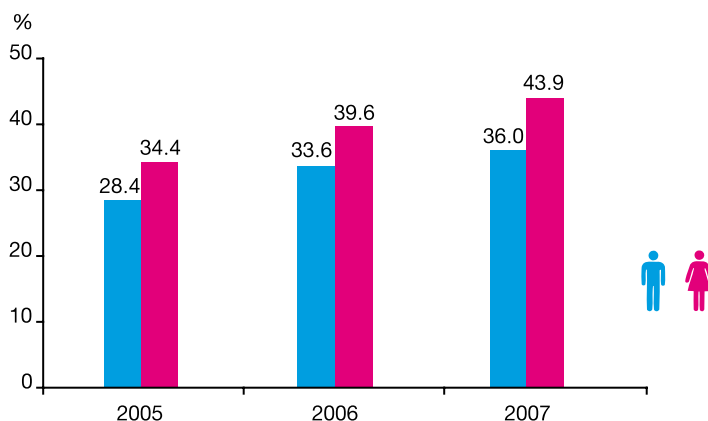








Table 26 Internet literacy of population 15–24 years old by sex and region

Region	2005			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	28.4	34.4	31.3	33.6	39.6	36.5	36.0	43.9	39.7
Bangkok Metropolis	49.8	53.2	51.6	51.7	49.1	50.4	55.7	61.9	58.9
Central Region	24.4	32.6	28.4	29.5	34.4	31.9	35.2	40.6	37.8
Northern Region	38.0	37.9	38.0	44.5	48.5	46.5	43.2	48.2	45.7
Northeastern Region	24.2	30.0	27.0	29.9	36.9	33.3	32.9	40.9	36.8
Southern Region	20.6	30.2	25.3	25.8	37.5	31.5	25.7	37.4	31.5

Source: ICT household survey, National Statistical Office.

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Table 37 Number of home workers 15 years and over by sex and region	54

3. Employment

Women's participation in the workforce has increased. So has their share of the household income. But women continue to shoulder a large part of unpaid household work.



3.1 Employment

Men had higher labour participation rate.

The workforce consists of population 15 years and over who are employed, unemployed, and seasonably unemployed (but does not include those who do unpaid household work, most of whom are women). The workforce is an important driving force of the economy. Labour participation rate was 73.7% (36.8 millions) in 2005 and 73.6% (37.6 millions) in 2007. The rate was highest in the South.

Thai women constitute an important part of the workforce. Female labour participation was over 60% during 2004–2007. A large number of women were in the agricultural and service sectors. Their average working hours was approximately 45 hours per week – not different from men's, but women made less money. (Social Indicators 2007, National Statistical Office)

Male labour participation was higher in every region. In 2007, men's rate was 81.7%, compared with women's 66.0%.

Figure 17 Labour participation rate, 2005–2007

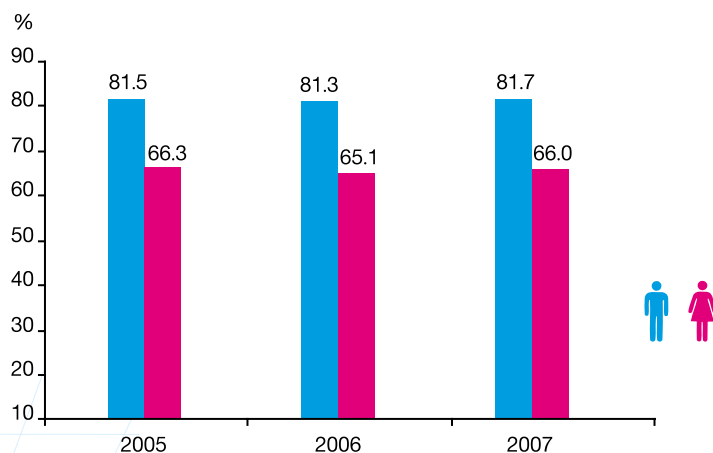








Table 27 Labour participation rate by sex and region

Unit: %

Region	2005			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	81.5	66.3	73.7	81.3	65.1	73.0	81.7	66.0	73.6
Bangkok Metropolis	78.8	62.6	70.1	78.1	62.8	69.9	78.4	63.7	70.5
Central Region	82.1	67.1	74.3	82.5	66.7	74.4	82.6	67.1	74.6
Northern Region	81.0	67.1	73.9	79.7	65.8	72.6	80.5	67.1	73.6
Northeastern Region	81.6	66.2	73.8	81.2	64.1	72.5	81.6	64.7	73.0
Southern Region	83.1	67.3	75.0	83.8	65.6	74.5	84.3	67.1	75.5







Source: Labour force survey, National Statistical Office.

Employed men outnumbered employed women.

In 2005 and 2007, employed persons increased from 36.3 millions or 72.6% to 37.12 millions or 72.6% of population 15 years and over. Men outnumbered women. They worked as employers, government employees, private employees, and own account worker. Women were largely involved in family businesses and producers' cooperatives.



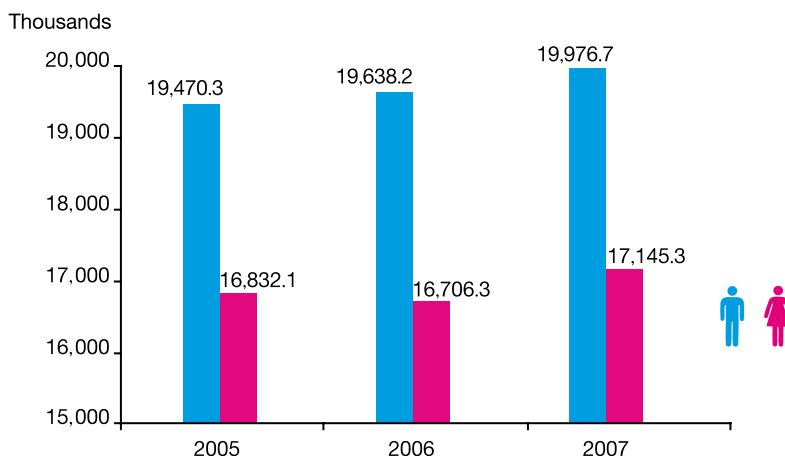
Table 28 Number of employed persons by sex and employment status

Work status	2005			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Total	19,470.3	16,832.1	36,302.4	19,638.2	16,706.3	36,344.5	19,976.7	17,145.3	37,122.0
Employer	874.0	255.6	1,129.6	827.4	264.9	1,092.3	840.1	261.2	1,101.4
Government employee	1,670.1	1,393.5	3,063.5	1,720.5	1,405.7	3,126.2	1,852.3	1,393.6	3,245.8
Private employee	6,985.8	5,797.5	12,783.3	6,988.0	5,755.4	12,743.3	7,048.0	5,881.1	12,929.1
Own account worker	7,280.3	4,167.3	11,447.6	7,365.3	4,161.7	11,527.0	7,408.2	4,458.3	11,866.5
Unpaid family worker	2,635.5	5,191.4	7,827.0	2,725.6	5,095.5	7,821.0	2,806.7	5,120.9	7,927.6
Members of producers' cooperatives	24.5	26.8	51.4	11.5	23.1	34.6	21.4	30.2	51.6

Unit: thousands

Source: Labour force survey, National Statistical Office.

Figure 18 Number of employed persons by sex, 2005–2007



But unemployment rate was lower among women.

Unemployment rate steadily dropped from 2.6% in 2001 to 1.2% in 2007. In 2007, the Central Region had the highest unemployment rate at 1.4% while the Northeast posed the lowest rate at 1.0%. Men's unemployment rate was 1.3%, compared with women's 1.1%. The largest gender gap was in Bangkok. The highest female unemployment rate was in the Central Region and the North.

Figure 19 Unemployment rate by sex, 2005–2007

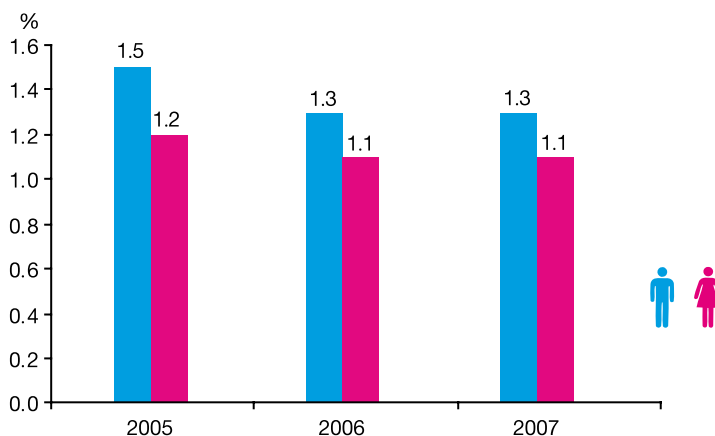


Table 29 Unemployment rate by sex and region

Unit: %

Region	2005			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
Bangkok Metropolis	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.6	1.7	0.9	1.3
Central Region	1.8	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4
Northern Region	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3
Northeastern Region	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.0
Southern Region	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1

Source: Labour force survey, National Statistical Office.



Women also had lower underemployment rate.

Those who work less than 7 hours per day or 35 hours per week and are ready to work more are considered “underemployed”. During 2005–2007, underemployment was lower among women.

In 2007, 29.49 million people or 81.3% of the workforce worked 7 hours a day or more. 6.76 millions or 18.7% of the workforce were underemployed. Female underemployment was 1.3%, compared with 1.6% for men.

Figure 20 Underemployment rate by sex, 2005–2007

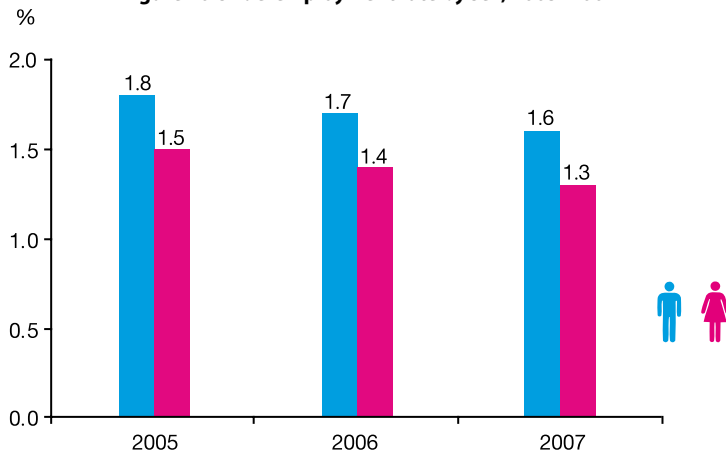








Table 30 Underemployment rate by sex and region

Region	2005			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.5
Bangkok Metropolis	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Central Region	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.8
Northern Region	2.1	1.9	2.0	3.2	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3
Northeastern Region	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.3
Southern Region	3.1	2.6	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.3

Source: Labour force survey, National Statistical Office.

ICT was still very much the men's world.

Those working in ICT sector are classified as high-skilled, e.g. computing and computer associate professionals, optical and electronic equipment operators, and low-skilled, e.g. electrical and electronic equipment mechanics and fitters. Despite women's ICT skills, they constituted a small part of the ICT workforce, especially in the low-skilled group. In the high-skilled group, women accounted for only half of men.

Figure 21 Number of ICT professionals and workers by sex, 2005–2007

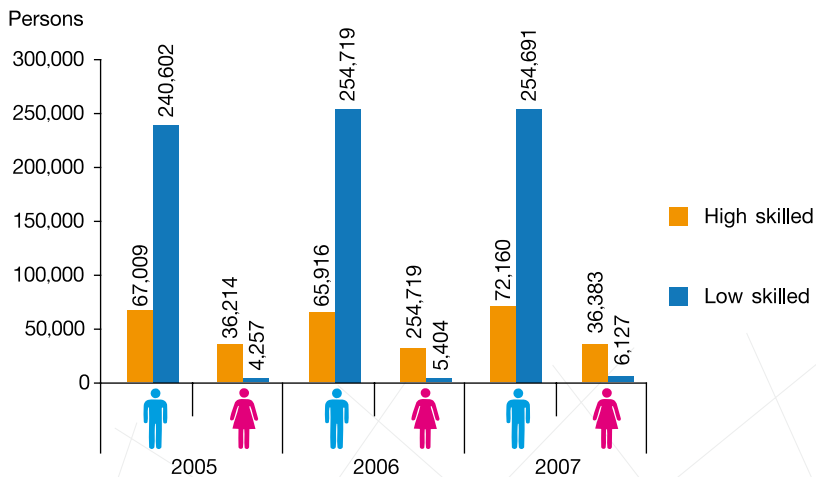


Table 31 Number and ratio of ICT professionals and workers by sex

ICT occupation	2005				2006				2007			
	Number (in thousands)		ratio		Number (in thousands)		ratio		Number (in thousands)		ratio	
	Male	Female	Female/male	Total	Male	Female	Female/male	Total	Male	Female	Female/male	Total
Total	307,611	40,471	0.13	348,081	320,635	38,692	0.12	359,328	326,851	42,510	0.13	369,361
1. High skilled	67,009	36,214	0.54	103,222	65,916	33,288	0.51	99,204	72,160	36,383	0.50	108,543
Computing professionals	19,699	14,706	0.75	34,405	20,890	9,165	0.44	30,055	22,713	10,074	0.44	32,787
Computer associated professionals	17,148	13,215	0.77	30,364	17,058	15,944	0.93	33,002	17,754	16,071	0.91	33,825
Optical and electronic equipment operators	30,162	8,293	0.27	38,454	27,968	8,180	0.29	36,147	31,692	10,238	0.32	41,931
2. Low-skilled	40,602	4,257	0.02	244,859	254,719	5,404	0.02	260,124	254,691	6,127	0.02	260,818
Electrical and electronic equipment mechanics and fitters	240,602	4,257	0.02	244,859	254,719	5,404	0.02	260,124	254,691	6,127	0.02	260,818

Source: Labour force survey, National Statistical Office.

3.2 Salaries and Wages

More men were involved in waged employment in non-agricultural sector.

A large part of women were engaged in unpaid farm and collective works, family businesses, while men were employers, government and private employees, and own account workers. Ratio of women to men in waged employment in non-agricultural sector was therefore lower than 1 across the country, with an exception of Bangkok. The lowest ratio was in the Northeast.



Figure 22 Ratio of female to male in waged employment in non-agricultural sector by region, 2005–2007

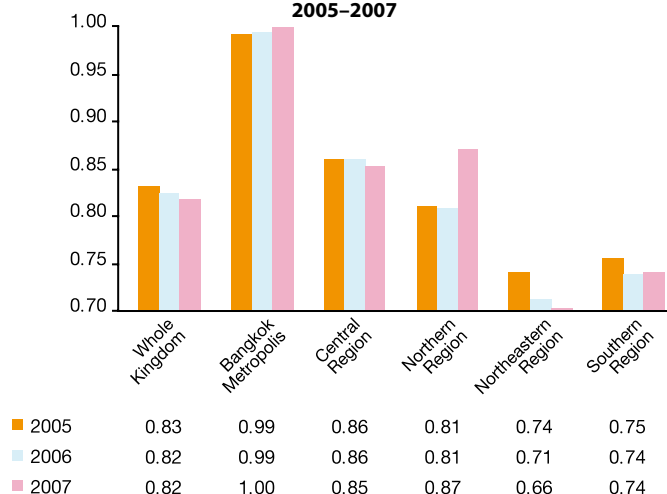


Table 32 Ratio of female to male in waged employment in non-agricultural sector by region

Region	2005	2006	2007
Whole Kingdom	0.83	0.82	0.82
Bangkok Metropolis	0.99	0.99	1.00
Central Region	0.86	0.86	0.85
Northern Region	0.81	0.81	0.87
Northeastern Region	0.74	0.71	0.66
Southern Region	0.75	0.74	0.74

Source: Labour force survey, National Statistical Office.

Women's non-agricultural waged income was lower than men's.

In non-agricultural sector, workers are paid individually for their skills and experience. Although men and women are paid the same wage for the same job as required by law, women's average income was lower than men's as women had fewer promotion opportunities, despite the fact that they were as competent as men in both the public and private sectors.



Figure 23 Ratio of female's to male's average income from waged employment in non-agricultural sector by region, 2005–2007

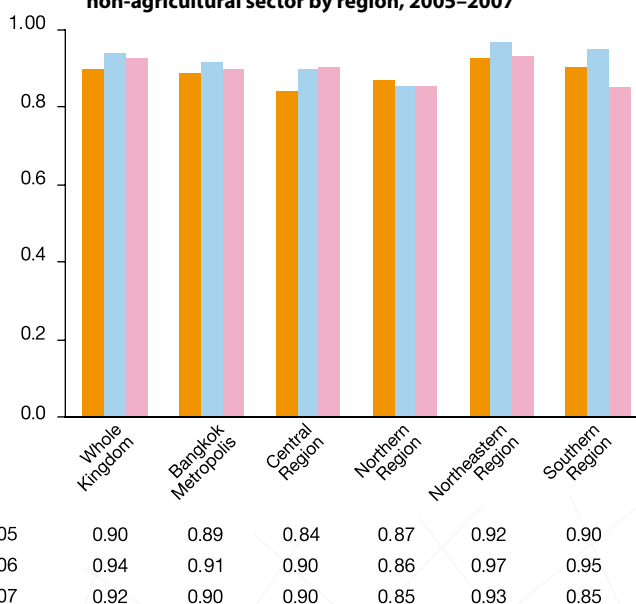


Table 33 Ratio of female's to male's average income from waged employment in non-agricultural sector by region

Region	2005	2006	2007
Whole Kingdom	0.90	0.94	0.92
Bangkok Metropolis	0.89	0.91	0.90
Central Region	0.84	0.90	0.90
Northern Region	0.87	0.86	0.85
Northeastern Region	0.92	0.97	0.93
Southern Region	0.90	0.95	0.85

Source: Labour force survey, National Statistical Office.

3.3 Occupational Training

Women and men had equal opportunity for skills training.

The workforce's demand for skills training and occupational training showed a diminishing trend from 23.2% or 11.54 millions in 2005 to 16% or 8.21 millions in 2008. The demand was highest in the Northeast, and lowest in Bangkok and the Central Region. Number of people desiring skills training was 4.06 millions for women and 4.15 millions for men.

Figure 24 Number of population 15 years and over desiring skills training by sex, 2005–2008

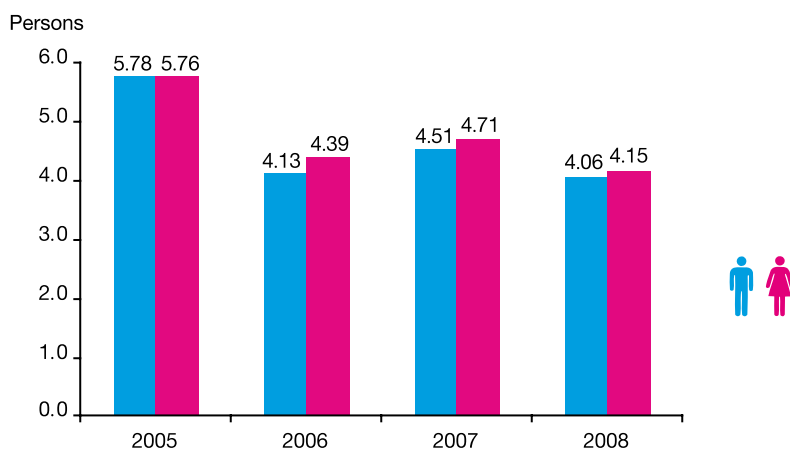


Table 34 Population 15 years and over desiring skills training by sex and region



Region	2005			2006			2007			Unit: millions 2008		
			Total			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	5.78	5.76	11.54	4.13	4.39	8.52	4.54	4.71	9.25	4.06	4.15	8.21
Bangkok Metropolis	0.45	0.59	1.04	0.15	0.25	0.39	0.16	0.24	0.41	0.11	0.13	0.24
Central Region	0.64	0.72	1.36	0.52	0.58	1.10	0.62	0.70	1.32	0.53	0.59	1.12
Northern Region	1.18	1.09	2.27	0.87	0.96	1.83	0.95	1.01	1.96	0.84	0.86	1.70
Northeastern Region	2.94	2.77	5.71	2.16	2.14	4.30	2.34	2.17	4.51	2.13	2.10	4.23
Southern Region	0.57	0.59	1.16	0.43	0.47	0.90	0.46	0.59	1.06	0.44	0.48	0.91

Source: Survey of skills training needs, National Statistical Office.

Skills training for unskilled or semi-skilled labour to have appropriate skills, competency and industrial working attitude enhances workers' capacity to take care of themselves and their family and plays an important role in boosting labour productivity and career advancement opportunity.

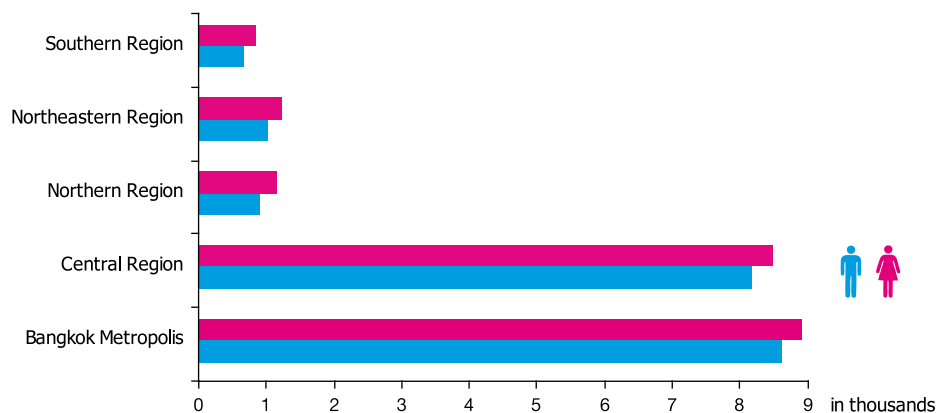
In 2008, the numbers of workers participating in skills training in the North, Northeast, and the South were noticeably lower than those in Bangkok and the Central Region, although the need survey indicated the opposite. Women outnumbered men in all regions. Popular skills training courses for female workers were for self-employed careers, for employment in tourism and other service sectors, for skills upgrading, and on-the-job training.

Table 35 Number and ratio of female to male participants in skills training courses, fiscal year 2008

Skills training course			Total	Female/ male
Skilled training for skilled labour				
For career enhancement and better job opportunities	28,474	39,185	67,659	1.4
For self-employed careers	1,028	7,379	8,407	7.2
New skilled labour and industrial work habit				
Skills upgrading for new skilled labour	10,216	4,886	15,102	0.5
Skilled training to upgrade skill standard and competitiveness				
Skills upgrading	51,936	43,873	95,809	0.8
Skills upgrading for foreign workers	153	28	181	0.2
Training and skills standard test	29,117	18,642	47,759	0.6
Training of trainers for skills training	6,326	6,476	12,802	1.0
On-the-job skills training	1,789,655	1,911,620	3,701,275	1.1
Skills training for skilled labour to enhance the competitiveness in the logistics and service sector				
Skills training for logistics personnel	7,385	4,195	11,580	0.6
Skills training to enhance the competitiveness in the service sector				
Skills training for tourism workers	7,279	19,132	26,411	2.6
Total	1,931,569	2,055,416	3,986,985	1.1

Source: Skills Development Department

Figure 25 Number of trainees in skills training courses by sex and region, fiscal year 2008



3.4 Informal Workers

Men outnumbered women in the informal sector.

Workers in the informal economy lack protection; they do not benefit from social security. Two-thirds of the Thai workforce is in the informal sector. In 2006, the informal sector employed 21.8 millions or 61.5% of the employed. This number increased to 23.3 millions or 62.7% in 2007. The largest number of informal workers was located in the Northeast. Men outnumbered women in every region. A large part of the informal workers were in agriculture and fishery where they were most exposed to occupational accidents and injuries. Most informal workers worked 50 hours per week or more.

Out of 10 male workers in 2007, 6.2 worked in the informal sector, compared with 6.3 female workers. Women worked in the service sector and had more problems in terms of low payment, long working hours. They were not entitled to leaves or holidays, etc.



Figure 26 Percentage of informal workers by sex, 2006–2007

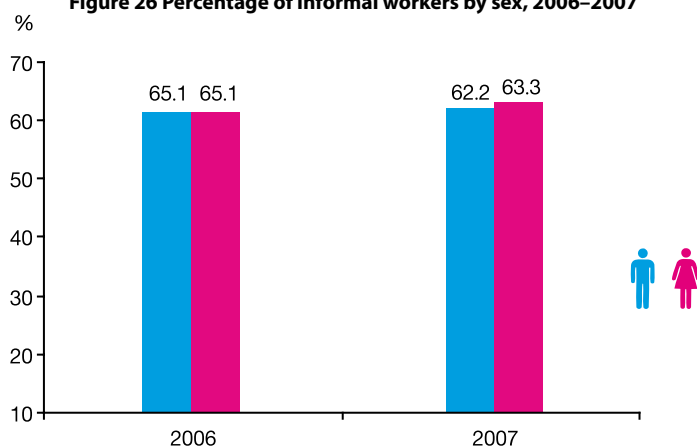


Table 36 Number and percentage of informal workers by sex and region

Region	2006						2007					
	Number (in thousands)			Informal workers (%)			Number (in thousands)			Informal workers (%)		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Whole Kingdom	11,942.8	9,875.4	21,818.2	61.5	61.5	61.5	12,431.5	10,849.2	23,280.7	62.2	63.3	62.7
Bangkok Metropolis	641.3	541.2	1,182.5	31.8	29.5	30.7	659.2	605.2	1,264.5	32.3	31.0	31.7
Central Region	2,355.9	2,033.4	4,389.3	48.2	47.5	47.8	2,417.1	2,093.8	4,510.8	47.7	47.5	47.6
Northern Region	2,549.6	2,150.9	4,700.5	72.6	73.6	73.0	2,661.9	2,324.6	4,986.5	74.6	74.4	74.5
Northeastern Region	4,904.8	3,845.9	8,750.6	7.0	79.1	77.9	5,126.2	4,428.3	9,554.5	77.9	82.2	79.8
Southern Region	1,491.2	1,304.0	2,795.2	56.4	60.4	58.2	1,567.0	1,397.3	2,964.3	57.6	61.5	59.4

Source: Survey of informal workers, National Statistical Office.

Women outnumbered men as home workers.

Women made up a large part of home workers. At present, the Government is attempting to extend the protection and social security to this group.







Number of home workers dropped 25.6% from 592,235 in 2002 to 440,251 in 2007, with the largest number living in the Northeast.

In general, home workers face unsafe working environment, low and late payment, insufficient work. They need steady work flow, fair payment, funding, skills training, equipments, and advice on occupational health and safety working environment.

Figure 27 Number of home workers by sex 2002–2007



Table 37 Number of home workers 15 years and over by sex and region

Region	2005			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	129,415	462,820	592,235	130,123	419,680	549,803	102,725	337,526	440,251
Bangkok Metropolis	33,975	64,655	98,630	33,312	58,649	91,961	1,079	31,039	52,118
Central Region	31,776	92,590	124,366	35,701	98,103	133,804	31,792	84,791	116,583
Northern Region	23,884	86,998	110,882	23,337	95,984	119,321	18,990	83,108	102,098
Northeastern Region	32,298	153,473	185,771	31,898	125,970	157,868	25,322	93,954	119,276
Southern Region	7,482	65,104	72,586	5,875	40,974	46,849	5,542	44,634	50,176

Source: Survey of home workers, National Statistical Office.

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4. Income and Poverty

Women's poverty is largely due to the lack of access to resources and social services, e.g. credit, land, assets, education, employment, social security. Thai women have played an increasing role in the economy. Through their paid and unpaid work in the household, the workplace, and the community, they have become instrumental in alleviating poverty and upgrading the well-being of their families.

4.1 Poverty and Income

Fewer women were poor, compared with men.

The proportion of poor population declined from 14.93% in 2002 to 8.48% in 2007. The highest poverty incidence was in the Northeast at 13.05%, followed by the North, the South, the Central Region, and Bangkok. In 2007, poverty incidence was lower among women, except for Bangkok where 1.2% of the women were poor, compared with 1.0% among men. Highest poverty incidence for women was found in Mae Hong Son at 64%, Sri Sa Ket 28.21%, Buri Ram 22.31%, Nan 20.96%, and Pattani 20.21%.



Figure 28 Poverty incidence (expenditures-based) by sex 2002–2007

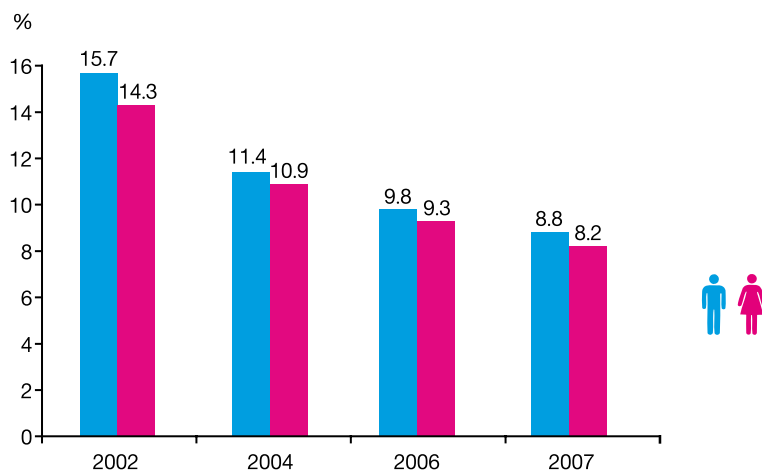










Table 38 Poverty incidence (expenditures-based) by sex and region

Region	2002			2004			2006			2007		
			Total			Total			Total			Total
Whole Kingdom	15.7	14.3	14.9	11.4	10.9	11.2	9.8	9.3	9.5	8.8	8.2	8.5
Bangkok Metropolis	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.1
Central Region	8.1	7.2	7.6	4.5	4.4	4.5	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.1
Northern Region	21.7	19.0	20.3	16.4	15.0	15.7	12.5	11.5	12.0	13.6	12.3	12.9
Northeastern Region	23.7	22.4	23.1	18.8	18.4	18.6	17.3	16.3	16.8	13.4	12.7	13.0
Southern Region	10.0	9.2	9.6	5.9	6.1	6.0	5.4	5.6	5.5	6.1	5.7	5.9

Source: Household socio-economic survey, National Statistical Office. Poverty incidence calculated by the Community Economic Development and Income Distribution Office, Office of National Economic and Social Development Board.

Female-headed households had less income, but fewer fell under the poverty line.

Average monthly income of Thai households increased from 14,963 Baht in 2004 to 18,660 Baht in 2007. 71.6% of the income was from employment, which can be broken down into 39.9% wage and salary, 20.8% business, 10.9% agriculture, 9.9% cash transfer, 2% interest, 14.5% welfare, in-kind commodities and services.

Average monthly income of female-headed households increased from 12,987 Baht in 2004 to 17,039 Baht in 2007, which represented 87.8% of male-headed household's income. The gender gap was largest in the South.

Figure 29 Average monthly income of female-headed and male-headed households 2004–2007

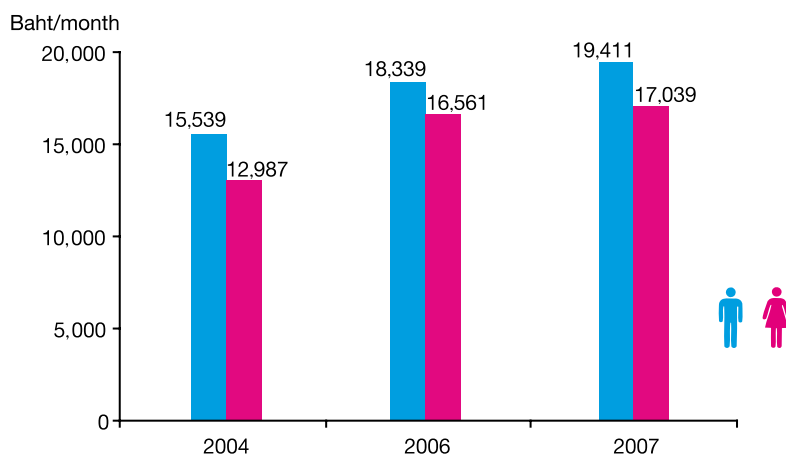








Table 39 Average monthly income of female-headed and male-headed households by region

Unit: Baht/month

Region	2004			2006			2007		
	head of households			head of households			head of households		
			Female/ male (%)			Female/ male (%)			Female/ male (%)
Whole Kingdom	15,539	12,987	83.6	18,339	16,561	90.3	19,411	17,039	87.8
Bangkok Metropolis	31,102	26,314	84.6	37,891	34,267	90.4	40,972	35,637	87.0
Central Region	18,572	14,865	80.0	21,801	18,208	83.5	21,939	18,002	82.1
Northern Region	11,273	9,362	83.1	13,384	12,573	93.9	14,005	12,614	90.1
Northeastern Region	10,399	8,707	83.7	12,254	10,735	87.6	13,577	11,556	85.1
Southern Region	15,111	11,748	77.7	19,765	15,997	80.9	21,215	15,871	74.8

Source: Household socio-economic survey, National Statistical Office.

Although female-headed households earned less, they managed to secure food and basic necessities to keep the family above the poverty line. At the national level, poverty incidence among female-headed households was lower than among male-headed households. But in Bangkok, the Central Region and the South, poverty incidence was higher among female-headed households.

Figure 30 Poverty incidence (expenditures-based) by sex of the head of household 2004–2007

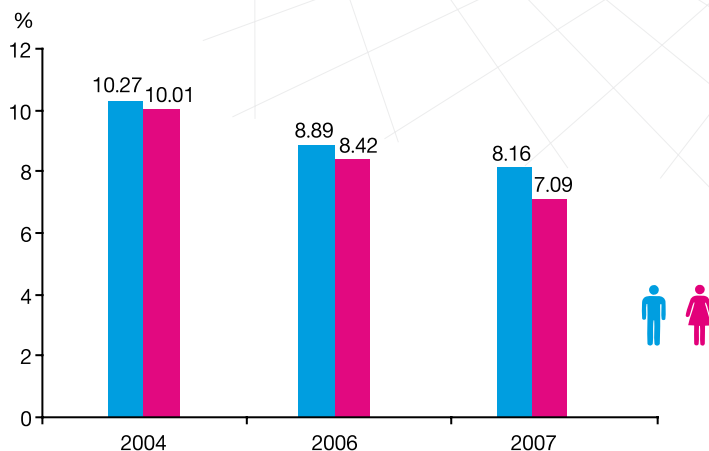








Table 40 Poverty incidence (expenditures-based) by sex of the head of household and region 2004–2007

Region	2004			2006			2007		
	head of households			head of households			head of households		
			Total households			Total households			Total households
Whole Kingdom	10.27	10.01	10.19	8.89	8.42	8.74	8.16	7.09	7.82
Bangkok Metropolis	1.01	1.12	1.04	0.47	1.08	0.68	1.03	1.51	1.21
Central Region	3.88	5.24	4.36	2.89	4.08	3.31	2.96	3.63	3.19
Northern Region	14.30	14.72	14.43	11.62	10.42	11.27	13.08	10.57	12.29
Northeastern Region	17.87	16.00	17.35	15.64	15.36	15.56	12.55	10.52	11.96
Southern Region	4.22	6.55	4.83	4.62	4.64	4.62	4.65	6.45	5.15

Source: Household socio-economic survey, National Statistical Office. Poverty incidence calculated by the Community Economic Development and Income Distribution Office, Office of National Economic and Social Development Board.

4.2 Assets

More men owned vehicles.

In 2007, women owned fewer vehicles than men in every part of the country. The proportion of vehicle owners was 41.04% female and 58.96% male. The proportion of female owners was lowest in Bangkok at 36.58%. Women in the North fared better than other regions.

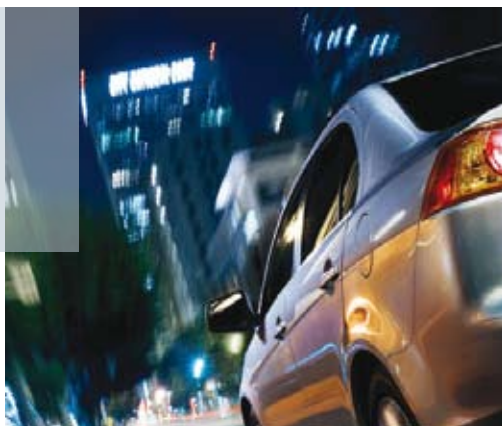


Figure 31 Percentage of vehicle ownership by sex and region, 2007

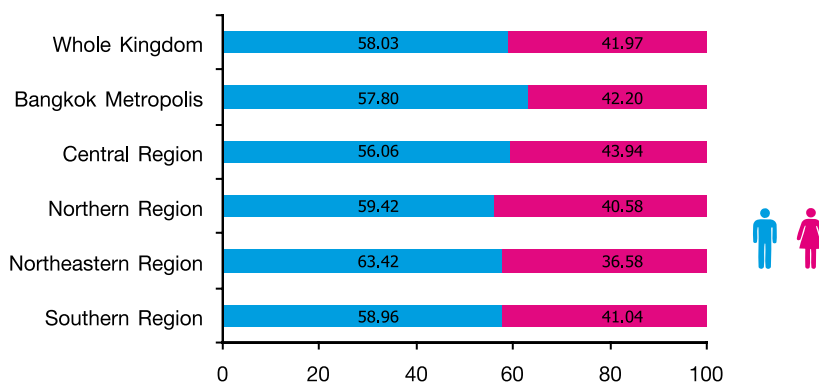






Table 41 Number and percentage of vehicle ownership by sex and region

Region	2007				
	Number of vehicle owners		Total	%	
					
Whole Kingdom	9,276,022	6,456,620	15,732,642	58.96	41.04
Bangkok Metropolis	1,859,279	1,072,249	2,931,528	63.42	36.58
Central Region	2,363,359	1,613,885	3,977,244	59.42	40.58
Northern Region	1,707,736	1,338,388	3,046,124	56.06	43.94
Northeastern Region	1,772,679	1,294,440	3,067,119	57.80	42.20
Southern Region	1,572,969	1,137,658	2,710,627	58.03	41.97

Source: Department of Land Transport

Figure 32
Number of hours per day spent
different activities by sex, 2004

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Figure 33
Percentage of birth control
methods 2006

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Figure 34
Maternal mortality rate
by region, 2003-2007

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Percentage of mothers below
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5. Family Life and Reproductive Health



Family is the smallest and most fundamental social unit. Women and men have important role in nurturing members of the family to be physically, emotionally, mentally and intellectually healthy. On the other hand, familial responsibility may also become an obstacle for self-development for the women.



As mother, women have more responsibility and risks. Reproductive health is a vital component of a healthy-family. Both men and women should understand and share responsibility in this area.

5.1 Family

More women became heads of household.

An interesting trend is that more women have become heads of household, which means they have to take on more responsibilities. It also means that the society has recognized and accepted women's leadership.

Table 42 Characteristics of Thai households

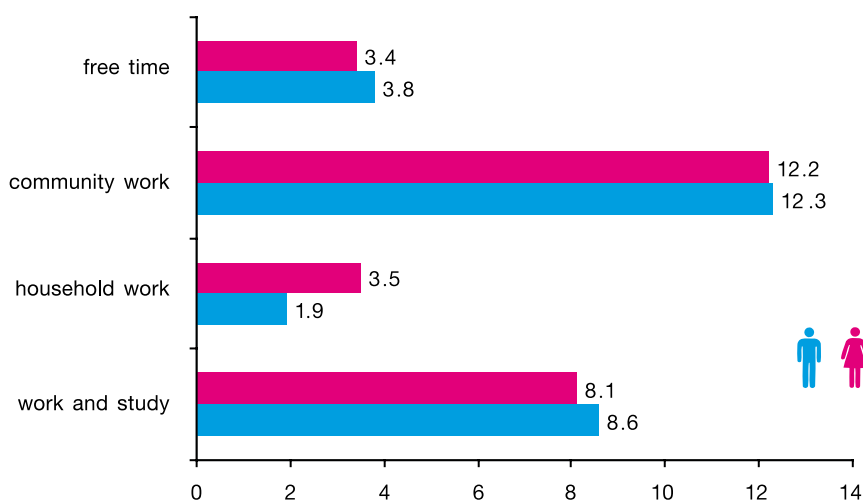
Characteristics	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Head of household	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	73.2	72.1	70.4	69.6	69.0
	26.8	27.3	29.6	30.4	31.0

Source: Labour force survey, National Statistical Office.

Household work placed a constraint on women's learning and self-improvement.

In Thai society, most women are responsible for taking care of the family and the household. Some women devote their time to this responsibility and are not engaged in any paid employment. But most also take on paid jobs, which means they have to allocate their time among many responsibilities, which often results in much less time for their own learning and self-improvement compared with men. In 2004, the gender gap was largest in the North, especially in the rural area.

Figure 32 Number of hours per day spent different activities by sex, 2004



Note: Number of hours spent on different activities do not add up to 24 hours because they are average hours spent by all the interviewees.

Source: Time use survey, National Statistical Office.

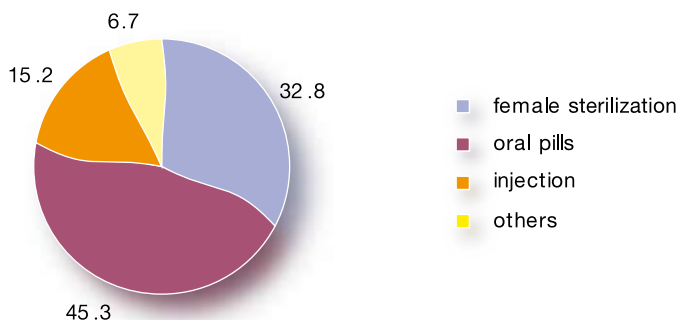
5.2 Reproductive Health

Birth control was practiced by most Thai families... or to be more specific... Thai women.

In 2006, 81.1% of married women 15–49 years old practiced birth control. The difference between urban and rural areas and across the regions was small, except for the South where birth control rate was considerably low at 69.7%. Most popular methods were oral pills, female sterilization, and injection. Male sterilization and condom accounted for only 1.1% and 1.5%, respectively.



Figure 33 Percentage of birth control methods 2006



Note: Others are male sterilization, condom, Norplant, IUD, safe period, others and unknown.

Source: Reproductive health survey, National Statistical Office

Risks involved in pregnancy and birth delivery abated in the North, but the situation in the South did not improve.

National maternal mortality rate remained stagnant, with a noticeable drop in the North but a significant increase in the South.

Figure 34 Maternal mortality rate by region, 2003–2007

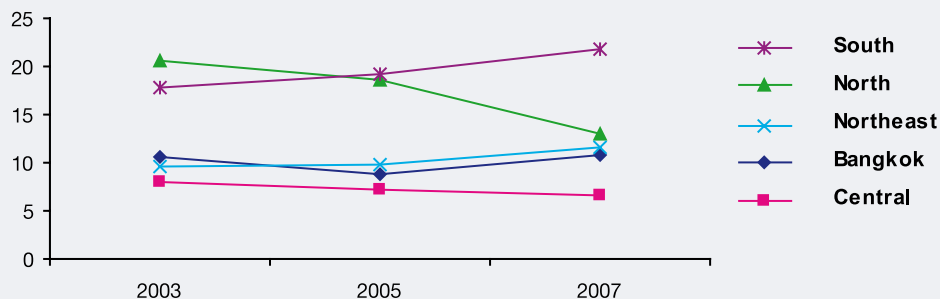


Table 43 Maternal mortality by region

Region	Unit: per 100,000 live births		
	2003	2005	2007
Whole Kingdom	12.40	11.86	12.16
Bangkok Metropolis	10.59	8.80	10.89
Central Region	7.96	7.17	6.63
Northern Region	20.63	18.65	13.08
Northeastern Region	9.64	9.84	11.63
Southern Region	17.80	19.26	21.77

Source: Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health.

Gender-disaggregated data processed by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development.

More women became pregnant when they were not ready.

An emerging problem is under-aged pregnancy. After 20 years of age a woman is physically, emotionally and mentally ready to become a mother. But the percentage of mothers below the age of 20 rose from 13.54% in 2003 to 14.88% in 2007. The increase was observed in all regions, except for Bangkok.

Figure 35 Percentage of mothers below the age of 20 by region, 2007

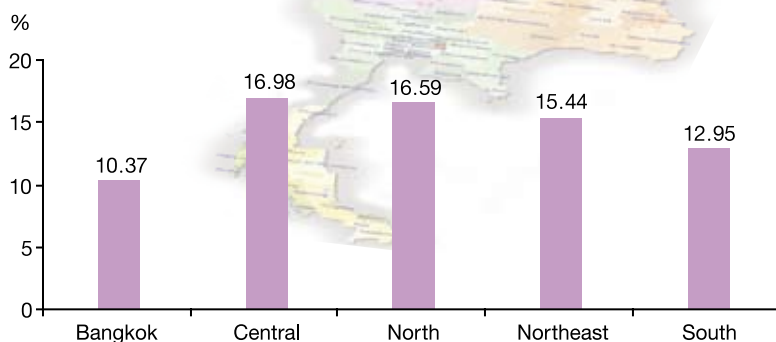


Table 44 Percentage of mothers below the age of 20 by region

Region	Unit: %		
	2003	2005	2007
Whole Kingdom	13.54	14.54	14.88
Bangkok Metropolis	11.17	10.93	10.37
Central Region	15.80	16.91	16.98
Northern Region	15.05	16.41	16.59
Northeastern Region	13.37	14.19	15.44
Southern Region	11.42	12.90	12.95

Source: Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health.
Gender-disaggregated data processed by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development.

Pregnancy check ups dropped, but women were less threatened by HIV.

Pregnant women should receive regular check-ups, at least 4 times during the pregnancy. During 2003–2006, the percentage of women receiving such care rose from 73.7% to 92.5%, but dropped to 87% in 2007. Most noticeable improvement was in the South that leaped from having the smallest coverage to the most extensive coverage.

HIV prevalence among pregnant women dropped from 1.18% in 2003 to 1.01% in 2005 and 0.76% in 2007. The Central Region and the South recorded the highest prevalence rates. High prevalence was often located in industrial areas, fishery communities, and border areas.

Table 45 Provinces with over 1% HIV prevalence, 2007

Unit: %

Bangkok Metropolis and the Central Region	Northern Region	Northeast Region	Southern Region
Trat 3.4	Chiang Mai 1.9	Roi Et 1.7	Chumporn 1.6
Saraburi 2.6	Phayao 1.6	Surin 1.5	Ranong 1.5
Ang Thong 2.3	Lampang 1.5	Mukdahan 1.3	Phang-nga 1.1
Samut Prakan 1.7	Tak 1.3		
Rayong 1.6			
Phetchaburi 1.5			
Lop Buri 1.4			
Prachuap Khiri Khan 1.3			
Ayutthaya 1.2			
Chon Buri 1.2			

Source: HIV prevalence in Thailand 2007, Department of Disease Control

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6. Violence

Violence against women and children constitutes a flagrant violation of human rights. It has profound impacts on the victim's physical and emotional well-being. Violence against women and children has become an important problem that transcends socio-economic status. This includes domestic violence, crimes and armed conflicts. At present, Thailand has developed a legal system to deal with sex-related crimes and domestic violence. The amendment of the Prevention and Suppression of Women and Children Trafficking Act 1997 is in the parliamentary review process.

6.1 Domestic Violence

Domestic violence was on the rise.

Provision of emergency shelters, legal counseling, and health care is an important first aid for victims of sexual, physical and emotional violence. The One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) in 297 state hospitals provided service to 19 victims per day in 2004 and 52 victims per day in 2007. Most cases concerned domestic violence inflicted by husband, father, mother, step-father, step-mother, or other family members. Alcohol or drug abuse, or jealousy was an important factor in most cases.



In 2006, the Reproductive Health Survey indicated that 1.044 million married women aged 15–49 years old were subject to physical or emotional abuses within one month's period prior to the survey. 64% of the victims lived in the rural areas. During 2004–2006, the number of women seeking counseling and/or assistance from non-governmental organizations, e.g. Friends of Women Foundation, Foundation for Women, and the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women increased from 2,172 to 2,716. Half of these cases were related to domestic disputes and domestic violence.

Figure 36 Number of women and children seeking assistance from OSCCs, 2004–2007

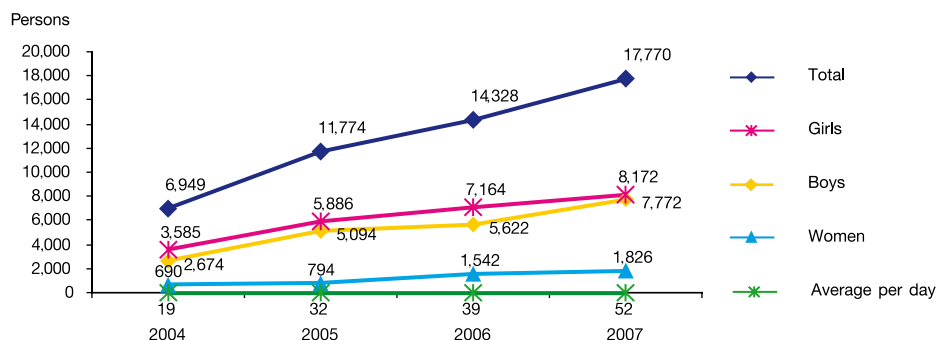


Figure 37 Percentage of married women 15–49 years old subject to physical or emotional abuses by administrative area, 2006

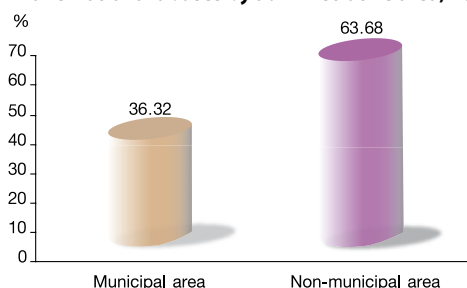


Table 46 Number of abused women and children

Number	Unit: persons			
	2004	2005	2006	2007
Women and children seeking assistance from 297 OSCCs	6,949	11,774	14,328	17,770
Girls	2,674	5,094	5,622	7,772
Boys	690	794	1,542	1,826
Women	3,585	5,886	7,164	8,172
Average per day	19	32	39	52
Women seeking assistance from private foundations	2,172	2,637	2,179	2,716
Friends of Women Foundation	507	484	439	858
Foundation for Women	99	114	108	143
The Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women	1,566	2,039	1,632	1,715
Women seeking temporary stay at emergency shelters	681	603	490	526
Married women 15–49 years old having been physically and emotionally abused	n.a.	n.a.	1,044,942	n.a.
Municipal area	n.a.	n.a.	379,569	n.a.
Non-municipal area	n.a.	n.a.	665,373	n.a.

Source: Department of Health Service Support, Foundation for Women, Friends of Women Foundation, and the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women.

Reproductive health survey 2006, National Statistical Office.

Juvenile delinquency increased as a result of family problems.

Domestic violence and broken home has profound impact on family members, especially children and the youth. Some may be misled toward violence or other misdemeanors. During 2002–2007, children and the youth aged 7–18 years old of both sexes were arrested and sent to corrective facilities at increasing rates. 90–91% of the boys arrested were sent to corrective facilities, compared with 8–9% for girls.

Figure 38 Percentage of children and the youth in corrective facilities by sex 2002–2006

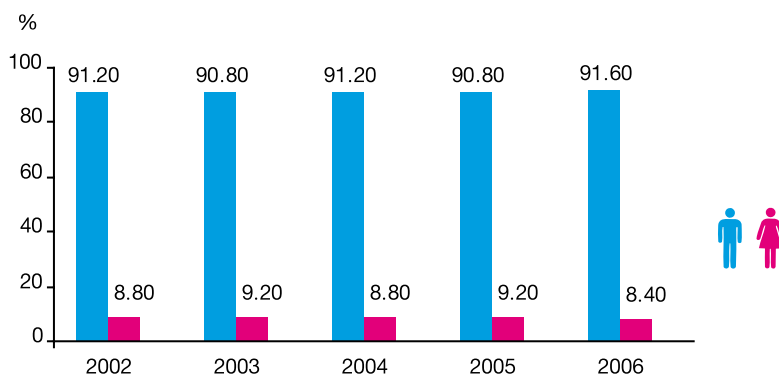


Table 47 Number and percentage of children and the youth in corrective facilities by sex

children and the youth sent to corrective facilities	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Number	32,175	3,110	27,174	2,741	30,368	2,940	32,756	3,324	44,161	4,057
Percentage	91.20	8.80	90.80	9.20	91.20	8.80	90.80	9.20	91.60	8.40

Source: Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection

6.2 Social Violence

More women and children fell preys to sexual violence.

Sexual violence takes place within and outside the family. During 2003–2007, an increasing number of women and children were raped. Closed cases on sex-related offense at the Criminal Court and the Juvenile and Family Court increased by 40% from 6,056 to 10,094 cases in the past 5 years. Closed cases on the violations of the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act 1996 at the Criminal Court and the Juvenile and Family Court dropped during 2004–2006, but increased in 2007. These figures represented only the tip of the iceberg as many victims did not report the assaults, and a large number of perpetrators were not arrested. It is interesting to note that the Children, Juveniles and Women Division, the Royal Thai Police's crack down as per the Children Protection Act 2003 and the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act 1996 turned up more boy victims than girl victims. Boys accounted for 56.75% of the victims whereas 46.42% of the perpetrators were women.



Figure 39 Number of cases related to rape and indecent acts 2003–2007

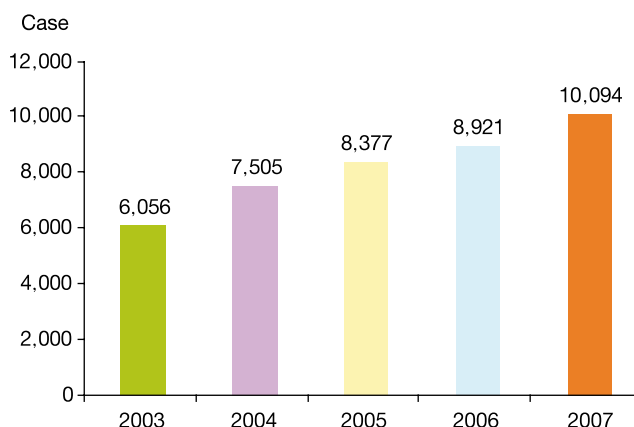


Figure 40 Number of prostitution cases as per the Prevention and Suppression of Prostitution Act 2003–2007

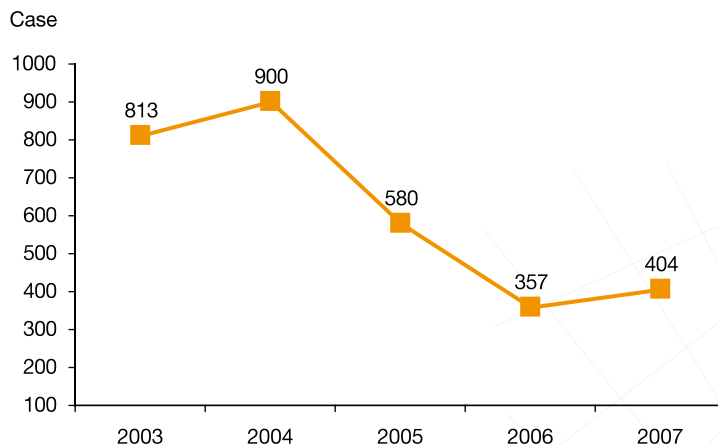


Table 48 Number of closed court cases at the Criminal Court

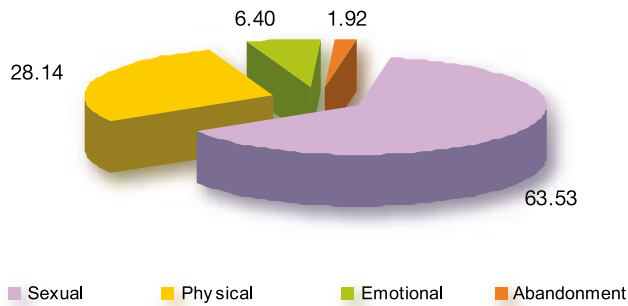
cases	Unit: cases				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Offences related to rape and indecent acts	6,056	7,505	8,377	8,921	10,094
Prostitution as per Section 286	813	900	580	357	404

Source: Data System and Statistics Section, Office of the Planning and Budget, the Judiciary of Thailand



With regard to the children, in 2007 sexual abuses accounted for 64%, physical abuses 28%. Emotional abuses and abandonment made up the rest. During 2006–2007, child sexual abuses increased by 20% from 4,804 to 6,020 cases.

Figure 41 Violence against children by type of violence 2007



Source: Department of Health Service Support



**Men outnumbered women in jail.
All inmates received equal welfare.**

Number of inmates is a good indicator of the level of safety and violence in the society. As of September 1st, 2008, there were 185,069 inmates; 85.78% male and 14.22% female. The proportion of female inmates was 18.08% in Bangkok, 17.06% in the Northeast (highest of all regions), and 11.63% in the South. Although women accounted for a small part of the picture, the number and proportion was still high in some areas. Number one offense was drug related (consumption, possession, and distribution), followed by property-related crimes, sex-related offences, and offenses against life and body. All inmates received health care, education and occupational training provided by the Department of Corrections.

Figure 42 Percentage of inmates and inmates receiving welfare by sex and region 2008

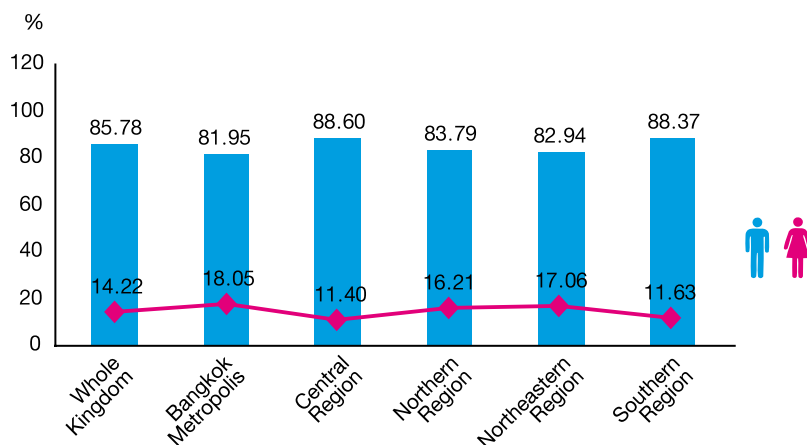






Table 49 Number and percentage of inmates and inmates receiving welfare by sex and region

Region	2008				
	Number			%	
			Total		
Whole Kingdom	158,748	26,321	185,069	85.78	14.22
Bangkok Metropolis	22,615	4,981	27,596	81.95	18.05
Central Region	63,257	8,137	71,394	88.60	11.40
Northern Region	27,270	5,274	32,544	83.79	16.21
Northeastern Region	26,011	5,351	31,362	82.94	17.06
Southern Region	19,595	2,578	22,173	88.37	11.63

Source: Department of Corrections (as of September 1st, 2008)

Violence in the Southern provinces had significant impacts on women and children.

As of July 2008, there were 2,897 orphans as a result of violence in 4 Southern provinces since 2004. The increase was drastic during the last 18 months as there had been only half this number – 1,425 in January 2007. There were as many boys and girls, slightly more girls in Narathiwat, Pattani, and Songkhla, and slightly more boys in Yala. 95% of them lost their fathers who had been the breadwinner of the family. 45% were in kindergarten and primary school. Others were in secondary level, and pre-school.



There were 1,552 widows; most of them were waged labour or engaged in unpaid domestic work. Almost all the orphans and the widows lived in Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala. Only 4.5% lived in Songkhla.

Figure 43 Orphans from the violence in the Southern provinces by sex, 2008

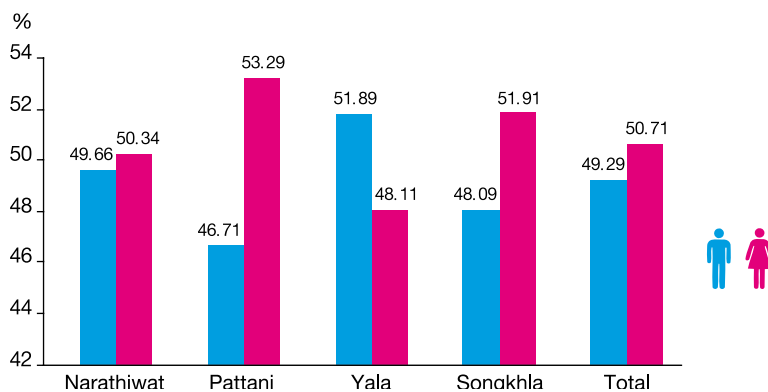


Table 50 Number of orphans from the violence in the Southern provinces by sex, 2008

Orphans	Without father		Without mother		Without father and mother		Total		Grand total	%	
Narathiwat	484	505	24	10	5	5	513	520	1,033	49.66	50.34
Pattani	406	465	14	17	6	4	426	486	912	46.71	53.29
Yala	407	374	12	15	7	6	426	395	821	51.89	48.11
Songkhla	56	59	6	6	1	3	63	68	131	48.09	51.91
Total	1,353	1,403	56	48	19	18	1,428	1,469	2,897	49.29	50.71

Source: Department of Social Development and Welfare (as of July 30, 2008)

Table 51 Number of widows of the violence in the Southern provinces 2008

Widows	Domestic work	Waged labour	Government employee	Farmer	Self-employed	Commerce	Unknown	Total	%
Narathiwat	121	113	38	107	9	48	3	439	28.28
Pattani	155	155	65	55	11	43	58	542	34.92
Yala	69	72	19	69	0	41	232	502	32.34
Songkhla	15	25	3	19	0	7	0	69	4.45
Total	360	365	125	250	20	139	293	1,552	100.00

Source: Department of Social Development and Welfare (as of July 30th, 2008)

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7. Leadership

Equal participation in decision-making by men and women in politics, administration, and private sector at national and international level will lead to a balanced society. At present, women are significantly underrepresented in decision-making especially in national politics.

7.1 Private Sector

Thai women still had limited role in the private sector.

Women represent an important part of the private sector, but only a small number are in executive positions. In 2007, there were only 22% female directors in 218 companies listed at the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET). Women accounted for 35.37% of the directors of approximately 540,000 companies registered with the Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce (MOC).



Figure 44 Percentage of private sector executives by sex, 2007

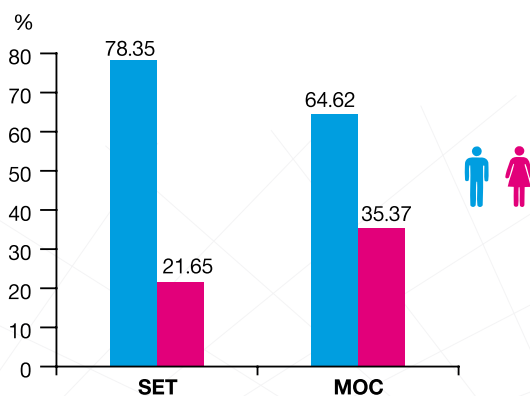






Table 52 Number and percentage of private sector executives by sex

Private sector executives	2007				
	Number			%	
			Total		
Directors of companies listed at the Stock Exchange of Thailand	503	139	642	78.35	21.65
Directors of companies registered with the Department of Business Development, Ministry of Commerce	754,878	413,253	1,168,131	64.62	35.37

Source: The Stock Exchange of Thailand. Data processed by the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development. Ministry of Commerce (2007 data as of February 5th, 2007)



7.2 The Public Sector

Women outnumbered men in the bureaucracy, but only a small number managed to reach the top.

In 2007, the Thai civil service consisted of 69.84% officials in the central administration, 17.45% provincial administration, and 12.70% local administration. Women slightly outnumbered men at 51.90%. Men dominated the police, attorney and judiciary, while women were concentrated in teaching jobs; half of them worked for the Ministry of Education.

By and large, women made up less than one-fourth of the executives. In 2007, women held only 5.26% of the permanent secretary (c11) positions, a drop from approximately 10% during 2004–2006. A more positive trend was observed at the secretary-general (c11), director (c11), and deputy permanent secretary (c10) levels. Women held about one-third of the deputy secretary-general (c10), deputy director (c10) and executive (c9) positions. But there was little indication of any improvement during 2004–2007.

Ministry of Public Health had the smallest share of female executives – only 3.03%, compared with 7.14% in the Ministry of Transport. Women accounted for 73.69% of the Ministry of Education, but only 36.84% of the executives were female. Ministry of Social Development and Human Security had the best record, with 61.54% of the executive posts held by women. Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and Ministry of Commerce featured 40% and 38.71% respectively.

During 2005–2007, there were almost no women in executive positions in the judiciary. No women advanced to the positions of Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Inspector General, Director General/Regional Director General. Only 2 out of 70 women managed to become the Presiding Judge of the Supreme Court and the President of Division. Likewise, no women were appointed as Commissioner General, Deputy Commissioner General, and Commissioner by the Royal Thai Police. There was less than 1% female Deputy Commissioner. On a bright side, women constituted 45.00% of the executives in independent organizations in 2005, 47.06% in 2006, and 55.00% in 2007.

Figure 45 Percentage of executives in the civil service by position and sex, 2004–2007

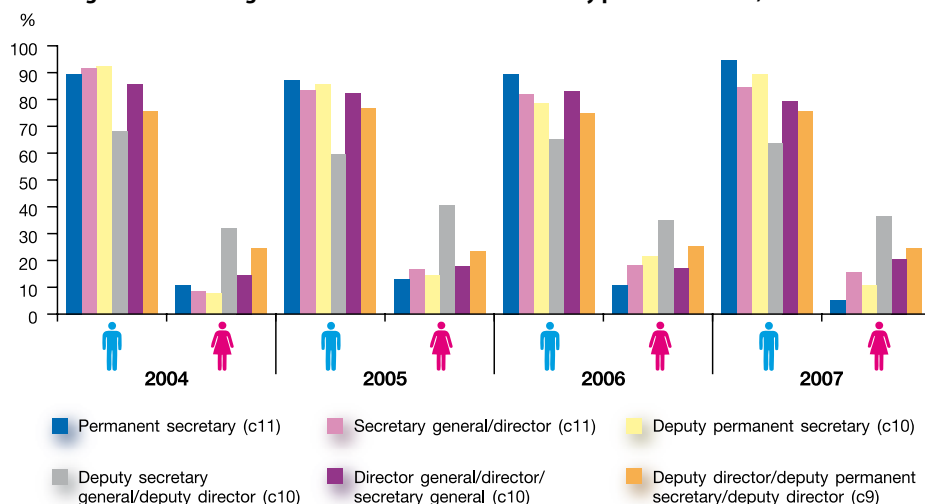








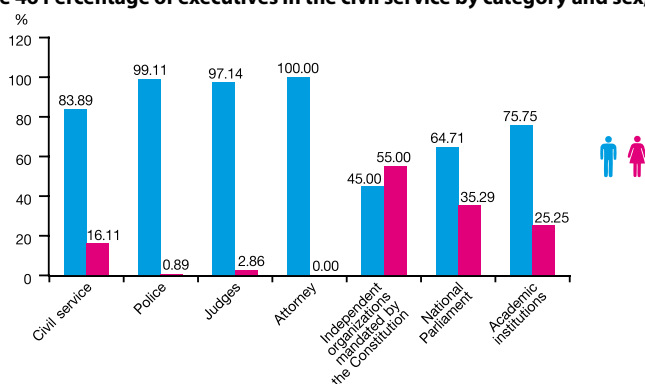








Table 53 Percentage of executives in the civil service by position and sex

Executive position	2004		2005		2006		2007	
								
Permanent secretary (c11)	89.47	10.53	87.10	12.90	89.47	10.53	94.74	5.26
Secretary general/director (c11)	91.67	8.33	83.33	16.67	81.82	18.18	84.62	15.38
Deputy permanent secretary (c10)	92.45	7.55	85.71	14.29	78.57	21.43	89.47	10.53
Deputy secretary general/deputy director (c10)	68.18	31.82	59.52	40.48	65.12	34.88	63.64	36.36
Director general/director/secretary general (c10)	85.45	14.55	82.14	17.86	82.88	17.12	79.46	20.54
Deputy director/deputy permanent secretary/deputy director (c9)	75.58	24.42	76.78	23.22	74.72	25.28	75.46	24.54

Source: Bureau of Classification and Compensation Development, Office of the Civil Service Commission

Note: Executives include C9-C11 who are heads and deputy heads at ministerial and departmental level, excluding the Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary and the Bureau of the Royal Household.

Figure 46 Percentage of executives in the civil service by category and sex, 2007**Table 54 Percentage of executives in the civil service by category and sex, 2007**

Executives by category	2005		2006		2007	
						
Civil service	84.33	15.67	82.69	17.31	83.89	16.11
Police	99.71	0.29	100.00	0.00	99.11	0.89
Judges	96.49	3.51	91.38	8.62	97.14	2.86
Attorney	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
Independent organizations mandated by the Constitution	55.00	45.00	52.94	47.06	45.00	55.00
National Parliament	56.25	43.75	55.56	44.44	64.71	35.29
Academic institutions	72.83	27.17	72.87	27.13	75.75	25.25

Source: Bureau of Classification and Compensation Development, Office of the Civil Service Commission

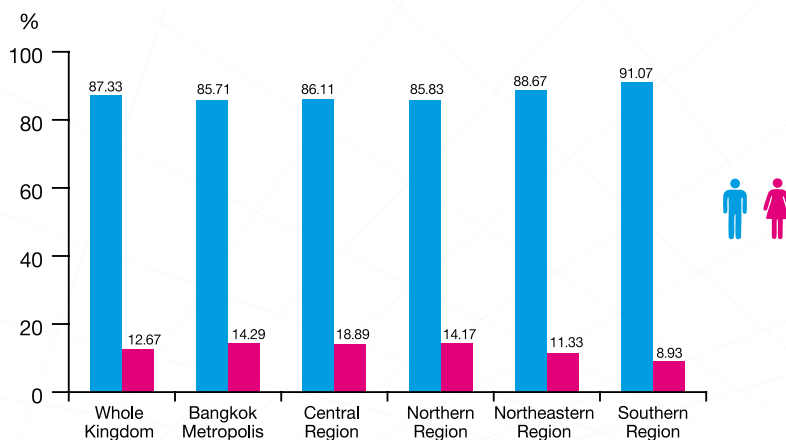
7.3 Politics

Women were politically active, but the gender gap was large.

Political participation was an important step for women to become an equal partner in national decision-making. Women can represent perspectives and advocate policies on family, society, and gender equality. At present, women were grossly underrepresented. For the 2007–2013 Senate, women accounted for only 12.67% of the candidates, compared with 87.33% for men. The North had the largest proportion of female candidates at 14.17%. The South had 9%. Only 38 provinces had female candidates. Bangkok and Ubon Ratchathani had the largest number of female candidates – 5. Ayutthaya had 4.

Of the 64 female senatorial candidates, most of them were civil servants and entrepreneurs. No female farmers were represented in the election. Other noteworthy female candidates were 1 physician, 5 lawyers, 7 private sector executives/employees.

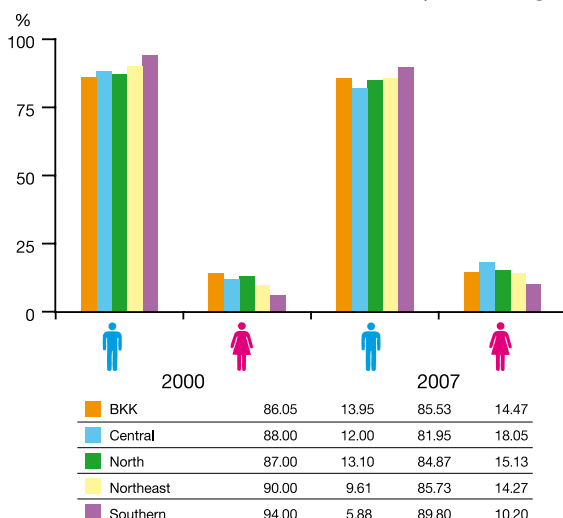
Figure 47 Senatorial candidates (for the 2007–2013 Senate) by sex and region



Source: Election Commission of Thailand

In the 2007 general election, the number of female candidates increased from 10.78% in 2005 to 14.71%. Although the proportion of female candidates in the South was relatively low at 10%, it represented an increase at about the same rate as in the Central Region and the Northeastern Region. In both elections, Sing Buri, Trat and Yala had no female candidates.

Figure 48 MP Candidates in the 2005 and 2007 elections by sex and region, 2005–2007



Source: Election Commission of Thailand

Women were underrepresented at the National Parliament.

During 2007–2013, each province is represented by only 1 senator. The elected 76 senators from 76 provinces are joined by 74 appointed senators. Women were selected and elected to the Senate at approximately the same rate – 16.22% and 15.79%, respectively. Despite the gross underrepresentation, it represented an improvement from the 2000–2006 Senate that had only 10.36% women. Of all the 12 female senators in 2007, 6 were from the North, 3 from the Central Region, 1 from Bangkok, 1 from the Northeast and 1 from the South. A good news is that women had a better chance than men at the senatorial election. The success rate was 19% for women and 15% for men.

Of the 150-member Senate, there was no female farmer, physician, lawyer, or private sector executive. One-third of the female senators were from commerce and entrepreneurial backgrounds. One-fourth were retired government officials. Others were government official, advisor, academic and employee.

Figure 49 Percentage of senators by sex, 2000–2007

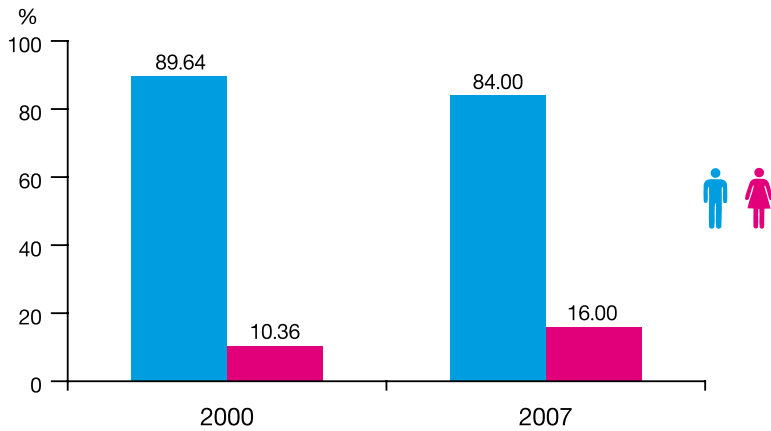


Table 55 Number and percentage of elected and selected senators by sex

Senators	2000-2006						2007-2013					
	Number			%			Number			%		
			Total						Total			
Selected	0	0	0	0.00	0.00		62	12	74	83.78	16.22	
Elected	199	23	222	89.64	10.36		64	12	76	84.21	15.79	
Total	199	23	222	89.64	10.36		126	24	150	84.00	16.00	

Source: Election Commission of Thailand

Table 56 Number and percentage of elected senators by sex and region

Region	2000-2006						2007-2013					
	Number			%			Number			%		
			Total						Total			
Whole Kingdom	199	23	222	89.64	10.36		64	12	76	84.21	15.79	
Bangkok Metropolis	16	2	18	88.89	11.11		0	1	1	0.00	100.00	
Central Region	49	4	53	92.45	7.55		23	3	26	88.46	11.54	
Northern Region	37	6	43	86.05	13.95		10	6	16	62.50	37.50	
Northeastern Region	66	11	77	85.71	14.29		18	1	19	94.74	5.26	
Southern Region	31	0.00	31	100.00	0.00		13	1	14	92.86	7.14	

Source: Election Commission of Thailand

Likewise, women constituted a small, albeit increasing share – 11.67% of the House of Representatives. For the constituency MPs, the proportion of female MPs was largest in the North at 17.65%, followed by the Northeast and the Central Region. The South had the smallest share of female MPs at 8.93%. For Bangkok Metropolis was 19.44%.

It should be noted that more women entered the electoral race. But their rate of success was lower than male candidates. Women failed to win a seat in 44 provinces (15 in the Central Region, 10 in the North, 10 in the South, and 9 in the Northeast).

Figure 50 Percentage of Members of the Parliament by sex 2005–2007

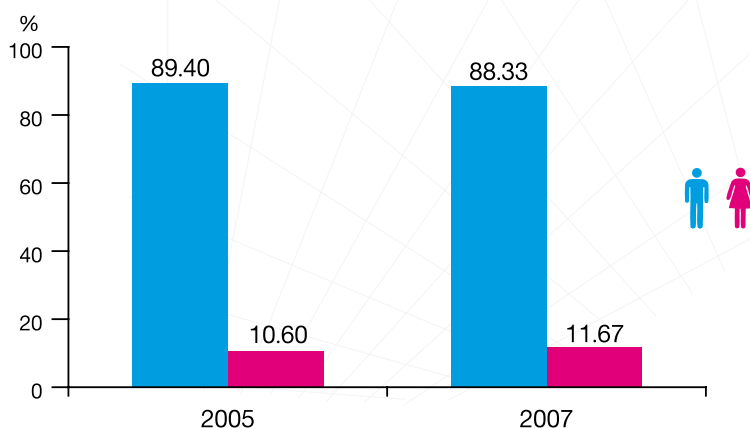










Table 57 Number and percentage of Members of the Parliament (proportional and constituency) by sex

MPs	2005						2007					
	Number			%			Number			%		
			Total			Total			Total			Total
Total	447	53	500	89.40	10.60		424	56	480	88.33	11.67	
Proportional/party list MPs	94	6	100	94.00	6.00		73	7	80	91.25	8.75	
Constituency MPs	353	47	400	88.25	11.75		351	49	400	87.75	12.25	

Source: Election Commission of Thailand

**Table 58 Number and percentage of Members of the Parliament (constituency)
by sex and region**

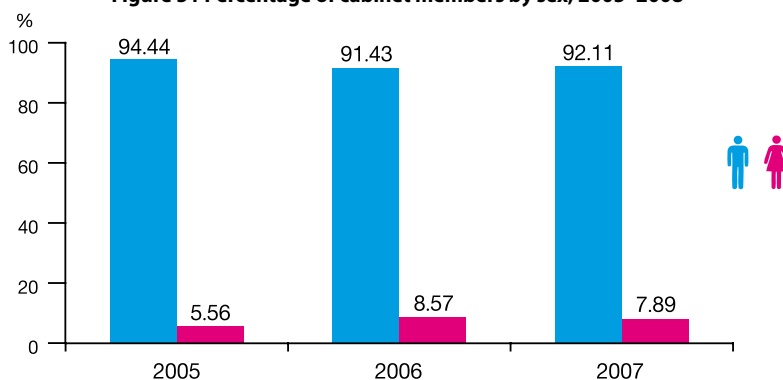
Region	2005					2007				
	Number			%		Number			%	
			Total					Total		
Whole Kingdom	353	47	400	88.25	11.75	351	49	400	87.75	12.25
Bangkok Metropolis	28	9	37	75.68	24.32	29	7	36	80.56	19.44
Central Region	83	12	95	87.37	12.63	84	12	96	87.50	12.50
Northern Region	68	10	78	87.18	12.82	70	15	85	82.35	17.65
Northeastern Region	124	12	136	91.18	8.82	117	18	135	86.67	13.33
Southern Region	50	4	54	92.59	7.41	51	5	56	91.07	8.93

Source: Election Commission of Thailand

Women played a very small role in national decision-making.

Political parties have failed to promote women's participation in national politics. In 2005, there were only 6 women out of a total of 100 party list MPs, and in 2007 there were 7 out of 80 party list MPs. Besides having limited role in the legislative branch, women were also underrepresented in the executive branch. During 2005–2008, the 55th, 56th, and 57th cabinets had no more than 3 female cabinet members or 5.56%, 8.57% and 7.89%, respectively.

Figure 51 Percentage of cabinet members by sex, 2005–2008



Source: Office of the Secretariat of the Cabinet

Cabinet# 55 – 2005–2006

Cabinet#56 – 2006–2007

Cabinet#57 – 2008–2008

Gender gap was large in local, village and sub-district administration.



A very small number of women held executive positions in the Thai local, village and sub-district administration. Like national politics, most candidates were men. In 2007, women accounted for only 11.25% of the Chief Executive Officer of the Provincial Administrative Organizations (PAO), the mayors, Chief Executive Officer of the Sub-district Organizations (SAO), the members of PAO councils, members of the municipal councils, and members of the SAO councils. No improvement was made from the previous year. Only 4.50% of the Sub-district headmen and village headmen were women, but this represented a small improvement over the year.

The proportion of female Sub-district headmen and village headmen was small in the Northeast. But the smallest representation in local administration was in the South. Sing Buri had the largest proportion of women in local administration in the Central Region. Several Northern provinces did not have any female headmen, e.g. Nan, Lamphun, Phayao, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son, Phitsanulok. In the South, Satun also had no female headmen. All positions of CEO of PAO, mayor, CEO of SAO, and SAO headman were filled by men. In the Northeast, Sakhon Nakorn and Mukdahan had no female SAO headmen.

Figure 52 Percentage of executives in local, village and sub-district administration by sex, 2006–2007

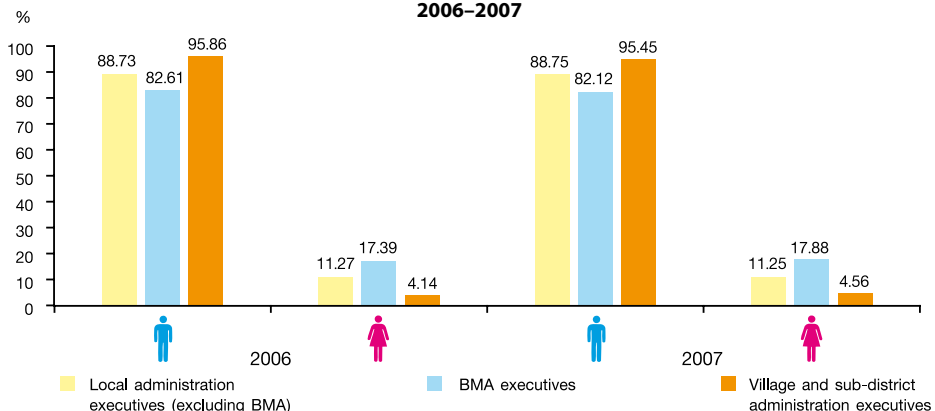










Table 59 Number and percentage of executives in local, village and sub-district administration by sex

Local, village and sub-district administration executives	2005					2007				
	Number			%		Number			%	
			Total					Total		
Local administration executives (excluding BMA)	143,928	18,273	162,201	88.73	11.27	115,479	14,642	130,121	88.75	11.25
BMA executives	342	72	414	82.61	17.39	340	74	414	82.12	17.88
BMA councilors	49	8	57	85.96	14.04	47	10	57	82.46	17.54
BMA district councilors	293	64	357	82.07	17.93	293	64	357	82.10	17.92
Village and sub-district administration executives	69,553	3,001	72,554	95.86	4.14	70,675	3,366	74,041	95.45	4.56
Sub-district headmen	7,577	228	7,805	97.08	2.92	7,190	255	7,445	96.57	3.43
Village headmen	61,976	2,773	64,749	95.72	4.28	63,485	3,111	66,596	95.33	4.67
Total	213,823	21,346	235,169	90.92	9.08	186,494	18,082	204,576	91.16	8.84

Source: Department of Local Administration Promotion, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and Department of Provincial Administration (Data on SAO headmen and village headmen as of June 18th, 2008)

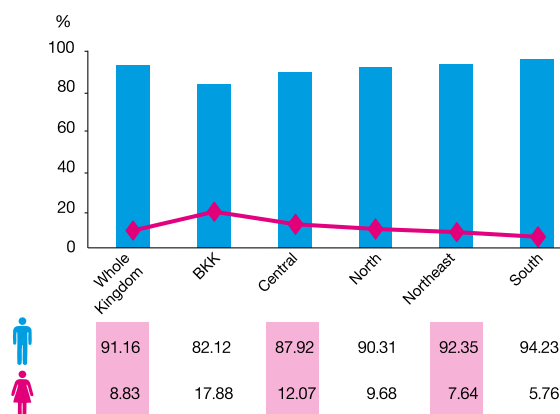


Figure 53 Percentage of executives in local, village and sub-district administration by sex and region

Source: Department of Local Administration Promotion, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and Department of Provincial Administration

7.4 The Media

The share of women in the media dropped. Women preferred broadcast media over print media.

Women's participation in the media is expected to generate a better understanding and perspective on gender issues as well as to promote gender equality by eliminating gender stereotype of women as inferior to men, or as sexual commodity. The share of women in the media (having press ID issued by the Department of Public Relations) increased from 25.99% to 38.39% during 2002–2006, but dropped to 28.53% in 2007. Women's share was 33.53% in broadcast media and 26.24% in print media.

Figure 54 Percentage of women in the media 2002–2007

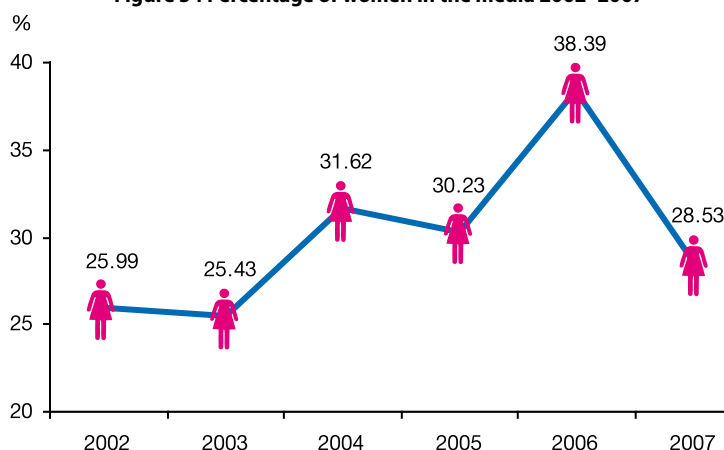














Table 60 Percentage of the media by sex and media type

The media	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		Unit: %
													
Total	74.01	25.99	74.57	25.43	68.38	31.62	69.77	30.23	61.61	38.39	71.47	28.53	
Print media	75.86	24.14	73.90	26.10	71.43	28.57	69.77	30.23	63.56	36.44	73.76	26.24	
Broadcast media	71.27	28.73	75.96	24.04	62.61	37.39	67.24	32.76	58.96	41.04	66.47	33.53	

Source: Department of Public Relations

7.5 Cooperatives and Community Organizations

Most cooperative members and executives were male.

Cooperatives play an important role in the economy and the villagers' way of life. All national economic and social development plans placed an emphasis on promoting cooperatives as a key institution for people's participation in the management of the community's finance, production and trading. Cooperatives can enhance farmers' and villagers' marketing and bargaining power. Hence, women should participate actively in cooperative affairs. In 2007 and 2008, women made up 38% of cooperative members, but constituted only one-fourth of the management.

In 2008, the Central Region showed the largest share of female cooperative executives, followed by the Northeast, the North and the South. Buri Ram had the largest female representation at 41.05%, followed by Samut Sakhon, Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan at 37.47%, 36.02%, and 35.72%, respectively. Nan had only 12.41% female cooperative executives.

Figure 55 Percentage of cooperative members and executives by sex and region 2007–2008







Table 61 Number and percentage of cooperative members and executives by sex

Cooperatives	2007					2008				
	Number			%		Number			%	
			Total					Total		
Cooperative executives	113,424	37,570	150,994	75.12	24.88	56,862	19,503	76,365	74.46	25.54
Agricultural cooperatives	68,227	17,097	85,324	79.96	20.04	34,045	8,770	42,815	79.52	20.48
Non-agricultural cooperatives	45,197	20,473	65,670	68.82	31.18	22,817	10,733	33,550	68.01	31.99
Cooperative members	6,223,889	3,874,822	10,098,711	61.63	38.37	6,224,511	3,877,734	10,102,245	61.62	38.38
Agricultural cooperatives	2,161,981	1,747,365	3,909,346	55.30	44.70	4,063,580	2,126,914	6,190,494	65.64	34.36
Non-agricultural cooperatives	4,061,908	2,127,457	6,189,365	65.63	34.37	2,160,931	1,750,820	3,911,751	55.24	44.76
Total	6,450,737	3,949,962	10,400,699	62.02	37.98	6,281,373	3,897,237	10,178,610	61.71	38.29

Source: Cooperative Promotion Department (2008 data as of September 2008)

Table 62 Percentage of cooperative members and executives by sex and region

Region	2008				Unit: %
	Member		cooperative		
					
Whole Kingdom	61.62	38.38	74.46	25.54	
Bangkok Metropolis	56.67	43.33	66.29	33.71	
Central Region	57.90	42.10	72.04	27.96	
Northern Region	67.43	32.57	76.66	23.34	
Northeastern Region	62.18	37.82	75.57	24.43	
Southern Region	62.20	37.80	78.33	21.67	

Source: Cooperative Promotion Department



Gender gap in community organizations was small.

In 2008, there were 41,650 community organizations registered with the Community Organizations Development Institute. Women accounted for 47.39% of the 116,116 committee members. This figure was about the same in all regions, but slightly lower in the South. This means that women and men had equal roles in community development. In 26 provinces, women outnumbered men in the community organization committees. The largest women representation was in Nakhon Phanom at 64.56%, followed by Nonthaburi 60.71%, Lampang 60.66%. In the South, Ranong had 51.82% female committee members. The proportion for Bangkok was 55.66%. At the low end, but still quite respectable, were Phetchaburi and Narathiwat at 32%.

Figure 56 Percentage of community organization leaders by sex and region, 2008

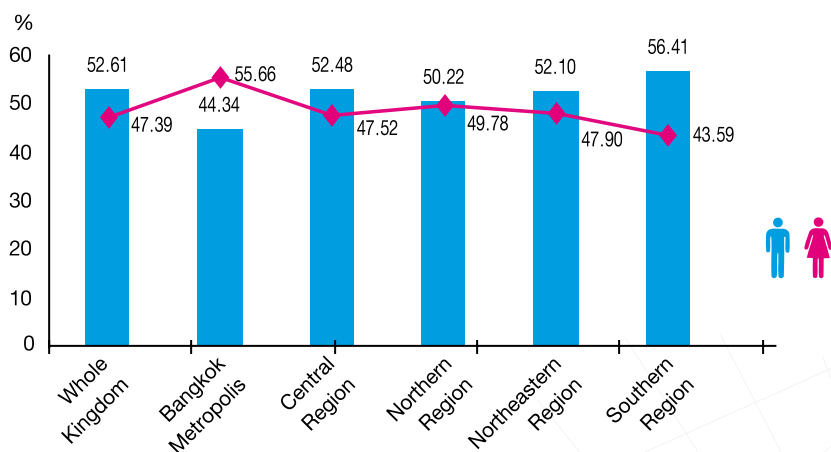






Table 63 Number and percentage of community organization leaders by sex and region

Region	2008				
	Number			%	
			Total		
Whole Kingdom	61,093	55,023	116,116	52.61	47.39
Bangkok Metropolis	321	403	724	44.34	55.66
Central Region	12,931	11,710	24,641	52.48	47.52
Northern Region	8,603	8,528	17,131	50.22	49.78
Northeastern Region	27,688	25,458	53,146	52.10	47.90
Southern Region	11,550	8,924	20,474	56.41	43.59

Source: Community Organizations Development Institute (public organization)

Data as of July 31st, 2008.

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