

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE RESEARCH PROPOSAL**  
**A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF PATIENTS WITH POISONING AT A REFERRAL HOSPITAL IN NORTHERN THAILAND**

**Pholaphat Charles Inboriboon, MD**

**Background:** Poisoning is a public health problem that effects all ages, genders, and ethnicities. Even though poisonings can affect anyone, various populations are at increased risk. Unintentional poisonings disproportionately affect lower and middle income countries. Even within countries, the epidemiological pattern of poisoning can significantly differ. Thailand is a developing country in Southeast Asia, poisoning data is currently collected by a voluntary reporting to a poison control center in the capital Bangkok. Chiang Mai, a province in Northern Thailand has the highest suicide rate in the country. Despite this, there is a paucity of poisoning cases reported to the poison control center. In order to better character the epidemiology of poisoning in Northern

**Objective:** The aim of this study is to examine differences between intentional and unintentional poisonings by age and gender and to develop a multivariate predictive model of intentional poisonings in Northern Thailand.

**Methods:** A total of 550 poisoning admissions have been identified at Chiang Mai's University Hospital from Jan 1, 2005 to Dec 31, 2005. Demographic data was retrospectively collected by manual chart review. Chi-square will be used to examine differences in unintentional and intentional poisonings by both age and gender. Step-wise logistic regression analysis will be performed to develop a predictive model of intentional poisonings. Factors associated with poisoning intent will be examined by chi-square or t-tests. Factors significantly associated with intentional poisoning will then be used in a logistic progression model to predict intentional poisoning.

**Significance:** Unintentional poisonings can often be addressed through promotion of safe practices through policy and education to prevent accidental exposure to toxins. Intentional poisonings are more likely to require interventions that will address underlying motivations that lead to self harm. By identifying at risk populations for intentional poisoning, gender and age specific interventions can be used to address those at greatest risk for self harm.

**Committee Chair:**  
**Susan G. Fisher, PhD**

**Committee Members:**  
**Joseph Guido, MS**  
**Sandra Schneider, MD**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2010**  
**12:00PM – 12:30PM**

**Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**