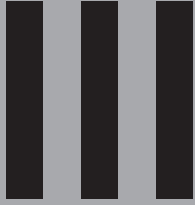


CHAPTER



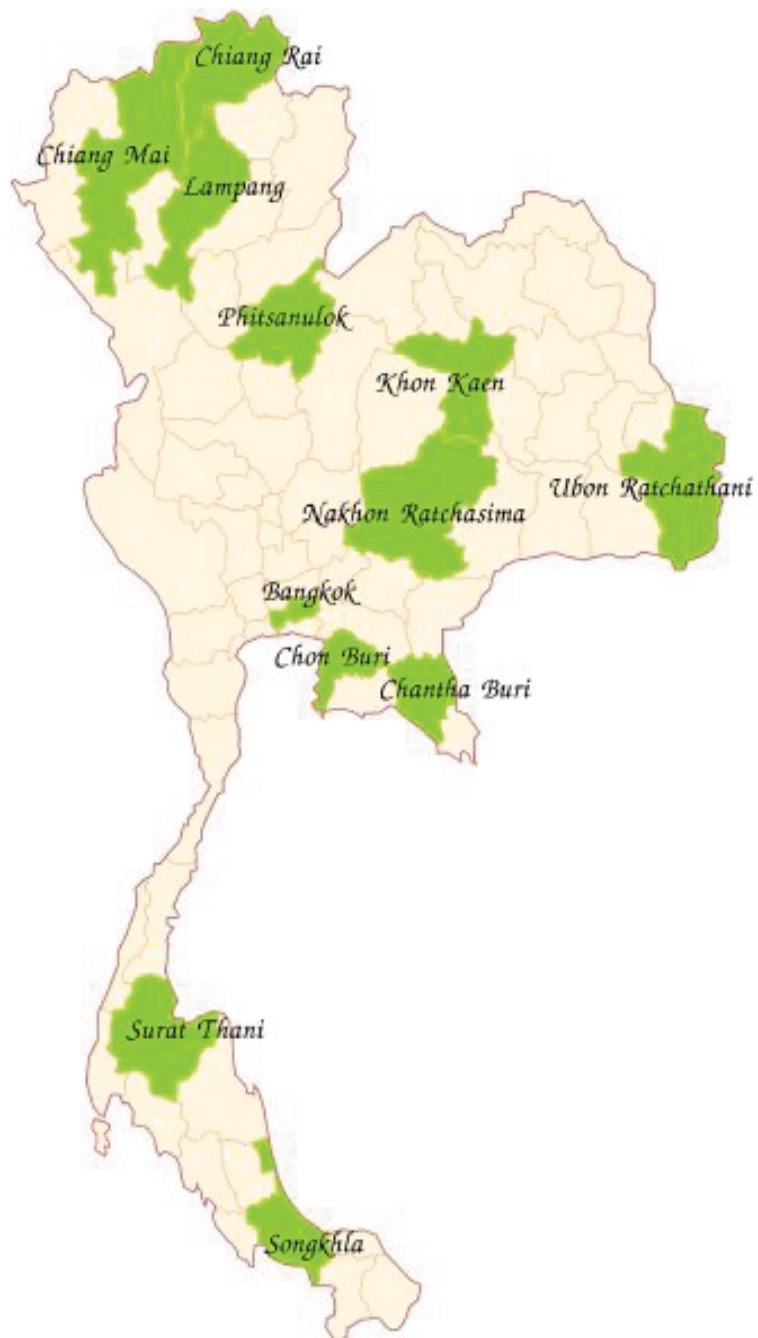
**CHILDHOOD  
CANCER**

Thai Pediatric Oncology Group  
(TPOG)

The population-based data for incidence of childhood cancer are provided by 20 centers in the country, comprising of 7 medical school hospitals, 10 provincial hospitals and 3 medical institutions. (Figure 3.1) To assess the coverage of the childhood cancer treatment, questionnaires were sent to all hospitals in the whole country. The result

revealed that all cases of childhood cancers were referred to 20 centers included in the study. All Thai children aged <15 years newly diagnosed with childhood malignancies according to International Childhood Cancer Classification (ICCC) during January 1 - December 31, 2003 were registered into a national database by Thai Pediatric Oncol-

**Figure 3.1** Registry sites



ogy Group (TPOG) (Kramarova, *et al.*, 1996). The data were collected through a web-based registry from 20 treatment centers under a standardized format, using double entry method and under internal and external audit process. The incidence was calculated by standard method (Boyle and Parkin,

1991). In 2003, nearly 21.5 percent of Thailand population is younger than 15 years of age (Ministry of Interior, 2003) (Table 3.1)

There were 999 new cancer cases in children; 94.0% was histologically confirmed. The percentage of histologically confirmed cases, however, does vary by ICCC

category ranging from 66.7 for central nervous system (ICCC group III) to a high of 100 percent for leukemia (ICCC group I). There was no DCO-proved case.

**Incidence**

A total of 999 new cancer cases were registered. Five hundred and sixty-six cases (56.7%) were males. The male: female ratio was 1.3:1, 80 (8.0%) were under 1 year, 361 (36.1%) were between 1 and 4 years, 282 (28.2 %) were between 5 and 9 years, and 276 (27.6%) were between 10 and 15 years old. The median age at diagnosis was 5.64 years old. The ASRs for boys and girls are 86.9 and 72.1 per mil-

**Table 3.1** Population younger than 15 years, 2003

Age	Male		Female		Total
	number	%	number	%	
<1	356,830	5.18	335,407	5.14	692,237
1-4	1,652,131	23.97	1,558,128	23.88	3,210,259
5-9	2,441,841	35.43	2,312,325	35.44	4,754,166
10-14	2,440,525	35.41	2,318,833	35.54	4,759,358
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,891,327</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>6,524,693</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>13,416,020</b>

**Figure 3.2** Age-adjusted incidence rates for childhood cancer by ICCC group, age <15, both sexes, 2003

