The Last Mile of UHC in Thailand: Do We Reach the Vulnerable?

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Pix source: Suchanya Wongsasathien, PMAC 2017 World Art Contest, 14-17 years old
• บวรศม ลีระพันธ์ และคณะ. วารสารวิจัยระบบสาระการณ์สุข. 2559;10(4):442-64.
Q1: Why are some people more “vulnerable”?

Pix source: Adapted from Figure 1.2 in Aday LA. At risk in America: the health and health care needs of vulnerable populations in the United. 2nd ed. San Francisco, California: Jossey-Bass Inc.; 2002.
Q2: How universal is really “universal”?

- Equity means equality of opportunity (“justice as fairness”).
- Equality is not always justice.

Pix source: twicsy.com/i/TwC76c
### Q3: Who are vulnerable under Thai UHC?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q3: Who are vulnerable under Thai UHC?</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposed criteria for health vulnerable populations in Thailand</strong></td>
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1. **Population at risk of being stigmatized or marginalized people:**
   - People who may be stigmatized or marginalized by society,
   - Poor, stateless people,
   - People from minority ethnic groups,
   - Cross-border workers,
   - Orphans,
   - LGBT,
   - People who use drugs,
   - Prisoners,
   - People who have been convicted of crimes.

2. **Population with limited accessibility to health services:**
   - People without health insurance,
   - People who live in remote areas.

3. **Population with long-term health needs with risks of negligence or abuse:**
   - Elderly people,
   - Small children,
   - People with disabilities,
   - People with mental disabilities,
   - Housebound people,
   - Hospitalized people.

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Q4: What is next for researchers?

- To examine health needs specific for each vulnerable population group.
- To evaluate effectiveness and efficiency of health interventions for vulnerable populations.
- To design new health and social services that can respond to health needs of vulnerable populations.
Vulnerable Populations in Thailand

Q5: What is next for policymakers?

• บูรณาการนโยบายเรื่องการดูแลในนโยบายหลักประกันสุขภาพถ้วนหน้า (To create and integrate policies for vulnerable populations with the Universal Health Coverage)

• ส่งเสริมการพัฒนารูปแบบการจัดบริการสุขภาพและบริการด้านสังคมเพื่อตอบสนองความต้องการด้านสุขภาพสำหรับประชากรกลุ่มเปราะบางกลุ่มต่างๆ (To promote development of new health and social services that can respond to health needs of vulnerable populations)

• พัฒนาระบบสารสนเทศเพื่อติดตามสุขภาพของประชากรกลุ่มเปราะบางในฐานะตัวชี้วัดความเป็นธรรมด้านสุขภาพ (To strengthen information systems to help monitoring and evaluation of health status of vulnerable populations as a proxy measure of health equity under Thai UHC)

"Anyone can run 20 miles. It's the next six that count."

—Arthur Barry Magee, a New Zealand marathoner

Pix source: www.ivvy.com/event/HITNZA/speaker