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Laotian Health Statistics

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LAOS PROJECT

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LAOTIAN HEALTH STATISTICS

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HEALTH PROBLEMS IN LAOS
(Listed in approximate order of importance)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>
<u>Major Problems</u>	
Malaria	In some areas as high as 80% of population infected
Colds	Common
Measles	Common
Whooping cough	Occasional epidemics
Pneumonia	A major cause of death
Tuberculosis	Occurs in all areas among all age groups
Dysentery (amoebic and bacillary)	One or both forms common in all areas; a major cause of death among children and old people
Worms (Helminth)	Surveys show that 100% of the population in certain rural areas are infected with one or more varieties, and 80% in towns
Malnutrition (beri-beri, pellagra Kwashiorkor's disease)	Common
Skin diseases (scabies, fungus)	Common
<u>Other Problems</u>	
Thyroid problems (enlarged, infected)	Common among mountain peoples
Cholera	Occasional epidemics
Smallpox	Formerly endemic; relatively widespread vaccination has reduced frequency
Yaws	About 4% of population infected
Eye Infection (trachoma)	Common
Typhoid (para-typhoid)	Endemic
Typhus (louse and mite borne)	Occurs occasionally
Rabies	An increasing problem, particularly in towns
Leprosy	Relatively high rate of occurrence
Venereal disease	Brought in by foreign troops in recent years
Traumatic wounds	Common often as result of hunting and warfare
Opium addiction	Significant among Meo and Yao
Dental caries	Common among all groups

TABLE 2

Hospital Cases in Laos (1957)

Illness	No. of Cases	% of Total	No. of Deaths	No. of Total
Malaria	102,663	73.6	254	35.4
Amoebic Dysentery	12,456	9.0	74	10.3
Influenza	8,861	6.4	22	3.1
Bronchial Pneumonia	5,885	4.2	112	15.6
Beri-beri	3,946	2.8	27	3.8
Whooping cough	1,259	.9	105	14.6
Pulmonary T.B.	1,065	.9	46	6.4
Trachoma	983	-	-	-
Mumps	891	-	-	-
Pneumonia	431	-	22	3.1
Measles	406	-	35	4.9
Typhoid	142	-	4	.5
Para-typhoid	52	-	14	1.9
Leprosy	44	-	1	-
Diphtheria	10	-	-	-
Spinal Meningitis	5	-	2	-
Total	139,099	97.8	718	99.6

Source: Bulletin Statistique du Laos
No. 4, 1958, p 82

TABLE 3

Cases Treated in Dispensaries in
Luang Prabang Province (1958)

Malaria	32,696
Respiratory Infections	16,064
Stomach Disorders	15,085
Surgical Cases	12,881
Intestinal Parasites	2,774
Dysentery	2,607
Colds	2,086
Trachoma	1,458
Pneumonia	1,427
Goiter	994
Mumps	660
Whooping Cough	416
Gonorrhea	167
Measles	136
Syphilis	135
Tuberculosis	96
Lepers	15 *

Source: Lao Ministry of Health

* Interned in a village near Luang Prabang

TABLE 4

No. of Cases Treated by
OPERATION BROTHERHOOD
1/57 - 11/58

	Vientiane	Paksong	Attapeu	Thakhek	Nam	Ban	Sam			Total
					Bac	Ban	Neua	Khong		
Respiratory	7341	4383	2373	2464	905	5326	5114	1340	664	29,910
Gastro-Intestinal	7418	4765	1598	2101	683	3630	5450	1979	564	28,548
Nutritional Diff.	6412	5488	1682	1325	1574	2314	2584	1078	1451	23,908
Skin Diseases	3008	2384	1172	1075	559	1309	2385	632	494	13,018
Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat	3152	2455	754	1038	326	1766	2299	517	267	12,574
Dental & Oral	1379	1290	223	791	303	1435	2692	247	190	8,550
Obstetrics Gynecology	1582	1536	963	617	139	477	1539	322	119	7,294
Genito-Urinary	692	849	249	353	138	464	428	175	114	3,462
Surgical Cases	197	1046	140	590	95	213	557	23	69	2,930
Venereal Diseases	1424	201	80	85	23	140	359	50	11	2,373
Cardio-Vascular	91	170	20	122	24	32	44	67	1	571
Misc.	9246	6773	2714	2145	1592	8374	7632	1637	1288	41,404
Total of New Cases	42156	28751	12248	12129	6151	25092	30970	7954	5163	170,614
Follow-Up Cases	54856	40861	14325	15957	7076	35614	26581	8397	5880	209,547
Grand Total	97209	70658	26713	28676	13322	60919	58108	16374	11112	333,091

Source: Operation Brotherhood Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 1 Pg 6, Jan 1959

Note: Operation Brotherhood is a Philippino organization sponsored jointly by the Junior Chambers of Commerce of Laos and the Philippines. It has operated in Laos since January 1957.

Medical Facilities in Laos, 1957

Province	Hospitals *	Infirmaries	Dispensaries
Phong Saly		1	3
Nam Tha		1	5
Luang Prabang	1	1	12
Sayaboury		1	5
Sam Neua		1	8
Xiang Khouang	1		6
Vientiane	1		17
Khammouane	1		9
Savannakhet	1		13
Champassak	1		9
Saravane		1	11
Attopen		1	2
Total	6	7	100

Source: Basic Data for Planning a Public Health Program in the Kingdom of Laos, Vientiane, 1957, United States Operations Mission.

* Only the hospital in Vientiane can be considered moderately well equipped by western standards. The medical facilities established by the late Dr. Thomas Dooley (Medico) and Operation Brotherhood are not included in these figures.

TABLE 6

Medical Personnel in Laos, 1958

Physicians

Laos Medecins Indochinois ^a	31
Laos trained in France	1
Laos trained in Thailand	1
Thai	1
Japanese	2
French (3 in private practice, 13 in military) ^b	16
Filipino (with Operation Brotherhood)	19
Iranian (on USCM Staff)	1
World Health Organization	2
American ^c	3

Nurses

Laos (male and female) ^d	450
French Army	12
Filipino (Operation Brotherhood)	30

Dentists

French	1
Filipino (Operation Brotherhood)	1
Total	572

Source: "American Cooperation with Laos," Washington, International Cooperation Administration, 1959

- Most of them have received their training in Hanoi or elsewhere in Indochina, considerably less than full medical training in the American or European sense.
- French military doctors also serve as surgeons at all civilian hospitals since the Laos medecin indochinois lack the training necessary.
- Includes an Embassy doctor and a physician with the American MEDICO organization.
- Laos nurses usually have about six years of education plus a few years of extra training including on-the-job practice.

TABLE 7

**OPERATION BROTHERHOOD MEDICAL RECORD
(Cases Treated)**

January to October 1959

Operation Brotherhood Teams	Surgical	Medical	Totals
Vientiane	860	43,020	43,880
Paksong	431	14,035	14,466
Attopeu	101	21,126	21,227
Thakhek	233	2,456	2,689
Ban Bane	309	38,502	38,811
Nam Bac	289	20,931	21,220
Sam Neua	162	10,102	10,264
Kieng Ngum	97	36,727	36,824
Phong Saly	13	2,492	2,505
Sayaboury	58	10,546	10,604
	2,553	200,937	202,490

Operation Brotherhood Mobile Team Record

First Trip - June 2, 1959 - July 21, 1959

Second Trip - August 20, 1959 - September 12, 1959

	First Trip	Second Trip	Total
Number of villages visited	25	28	53
Estimated population	27,013	13,023	40,036
Estimated number of houses	2,500	2,540	5,040
Medical cases treated	6,747	7,513	14,260
Surgical operations performed	20	0	20

Source: Operation Brotherhood - Laos Report, 1959

Note: Their total budget for the fiscal year 1958-1959 amounted to \$706,500. Of this sum 72% was spent for medical services the rest for training projects and administration.

TABLE 8
Filipino Personnel
in Operation Brotherhood
(December 1959)

<u>Vientiane</u>	<u>Sayaboury</u>
1 administrative officer	1 doctor
1 social worker	3 nurses
3 doctors	4
4 nurses	
2 dentists	<u>Thakhek</u>
2 agriculturists	1 doctor
1 nutritionist	2 nurses
1 laboratory technician	3
2 mechanic-electrician instructors	
17	<u>Administration</u>
	1 administrator
<u>Paksong</u>	2 administrative assistants
1 administrative officer	1 medical director
1 social worker	2 project analysts
2 doctors	2 bookkeepers
3 nurses	2 typists
1 dentist	10
1 agriculturist	<u>Service Group</u>
1 home technologist	1 supply officer
1 nutritionist	1 assistant supply officer
11	1 procurement officer
	1 construction engineer
<u>Ban Bane</u>	2 mechanics
2 doctors	1 artist
3 nurses	1 photographer
2 agriculturists	8
1 nutritionist	Total 71
8	
	Lao Trainees 128
<u>Sam Neua</u>	as of December 1959
1 administrative officer	Medical Aid and Midwifery 49
1 social worker	Dentistry 1
1 doctor	Social Service 2
3 nurses	Agriculture 16
6	Food Preservation 3
	Cooking and Sewing 21
<u>Attapeu</u>	Food Service 4
1 doctor	Laboratory 1
2 nurses	Carpentry 16
1 agriculturist	Mechanics 8
4	Well-Drilling 2

Source: Operation Brotherhood - Laos Report, 1959

TABLE 9

Number of Inhabitants per Hospital Bed
Laos and Selected Countries, Compared

<u>Country</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>No per Bed</u>
Laos	1955 ^a	3,500
Burma	1952	10,800
Cambodia	1952	2,800
India	1950	3,060
Malaya	1952	200
Thailand	1950 ^b	1,580
Vietnam	1952 ^c	3,000
USA	1953	104

Source: Report on the World Social Situation, United Nations,
New York 1957, p 44.

a. Based on an estimated 3,000,000 population and 572 beds.

b. Incomplete data.

c. Estimate.