

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the study was to quantify the disease burden on the medical wards of Leratong Hospital and the changing nature of the burden between 2001 and 2004. The objectives were to determine:

- The demographic characteristics of these patients.
- Trends in the total number of patients admitted into adult medical wards during this period, and the impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Trends in the annual average bed occupancy rates during this period.
- Trends in the crude and cause-specific mortality rates of admitted patients, and the impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- The disease burden associated with HIV/AIDS, including acute bacterial pneumonia, gastroenteritis, cryptococcal meningitis and tuberculosis in admitted patients.
- The average length of stay (ALOS) for each disease and factors that affect it.