CHAPTER III



METHODOLOGY

This section presents the methods or procedures used in the study. It includes data sources, data collection and data cleaning, definition of variables and their operationalization and data analyses.

1. Research design, data source and data cleaning

This study was a retrospective, cross-sectional analysis of the Phil Health inpatient claims data for the year 2003. The data was obtained from the Corporate Planning Department of Phil Health on 21st May 2004. Prior to analysis, data was first examined. It was found that admissions for the 2003 claims included the years 1997 to 2003. The years 1997 to 2001 comprised about 0.1% of the total claims (Figure 3.1). Although majority, 71% of the claims were 2003 admissions, a substantial 29% were 2002 admissions. About 90% of the 2002 admissions filed for reimbursement in 2003 were from months of September to December. For year 2003 admissions, the most number were for the months January to August although a considerable number was still observed for the month of September (Figure 3.2). It was then decided to use September 2002 to September 2003 admissions to estimate one year utilization.

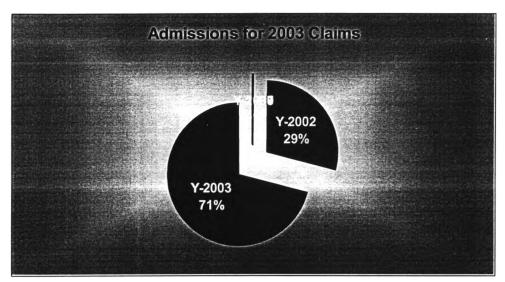


Figure 3. 1. Breakdown of the claims data according to year of admission

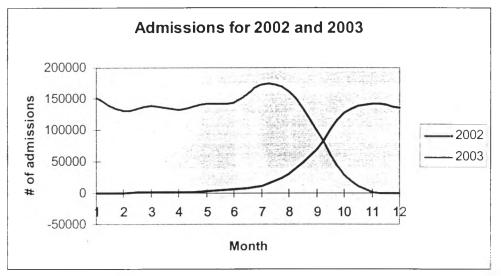


Figure 3. 2. Number of admissions per month for years 2002 and 2003

Other sources of data in the study were the DOH for health, health facilities and epidemiologic information; the National Statistics Office and National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) for population, demographic and poverty statistics. Interviews were also conducted with some key personnel in the Corporate Planning and Quality Assurance Departments of PhilHealth for verification of the accuracy of data and other relevant information regarding NHIP.

The perspective of the study is that of PhilHealth.

2. Study variables, definition and measurements

The Andersen model of health care utilization was used as conceptual framework. The choice of variables in the analysis was limited to its availability in the data obtained from Phil Health. The data consisted of several variables that included patient age and sex; address; hospital category, hospital type; province; illness; class of member; medical case; amount reimbursed for room and board, drugs, operating room, professional fees for doctors; total amount reimbursed and the length of stay in the hospital. A complete list of the variables in the claims database is found in Appendix A.

The variables employed in the study were as follows:

• Health care utilization was defined primarily as inpatient hospitalization and was operationalized in three ways: admission rate, the average reimbursement and length of stay.

- Predisposing factors describe the propensity of individual to use the health care services. Age, sex and patient type were used as predisposing factors. Patient type identifies whether patient is member or dependent. An ecological or areal variable that describes poverty incidence was also included. The different regions were classified into groups according to their standard deviation from the mean.
- Enabling factors describe the means individuals have to them for use of services. The type of NHIP membership was used as enabling factors. The type of membership is a categorical variable that identifies the member as private (P), government (G), indigent (IP) or non-paying (N-IPP).
- Need factors are those that characterize the health status or the illness of the individual seeking medical attention. Medical case was used as a need factor, which is a categorical variable that classifies the disease as ordinary (O), intensive (I) and catastrophic (C).
- Health care system denotes the arrangements made for the potential rendering of care to consumers. This was translated as volume and distribution of accredited health care institutions or hospitals, hospital beds and health professionals across the different regions. It also included the type and category of the hospital, both of which are categorical variables that classify hospitals as private (P) or government (G) and primary (P), secondary (S) or tertiary (T).

The analyses were carried out in 5 levels (of aggregation): individual entry, membership number, hospital, provincial and regional. The provinces were grouped into regions according to proximity as determined by Phil Health and therefore slightly different from the administrative geographical classification of the country (Table 3.1). Although the same framework was employed for each level of analysis, the way each of the variables was defined or operationalized may differ from one level of aggregation to another. Other variables were also found applicable only for some level of aggregation. Table 3.2 summarizes the different variables used in the study while Table 3.3. gives the list of the different variables classified according to Andersen's behavioral model.

REGION	GEOPOLITI	CAL SUBDIVISION	PHIL HEALT	TH CLASSIFICATION
NCR	Makati City Mandaluyong City Marikina City Navotas Pasig City Quezon City Valenzuela City Caloocan City Parañaque	Malabon Manila Muntinlupa City Pasay City Pateros Taguig San Juan Las Piñas	Makati City Mandaluyong City Marikina City Navotas Pasig City Quezon City Taguig San Juan Las Piñas	Malabon Manila Muntinlupa City Pasay City Pateros Rizal Province Valenzuela City Caloocan City Paranaque
CAR	Abra Benguet Kalinga	Apayao Ifugao Mountain Province	Abra Benguet Kalinga	Apayao Ifugao Mountain Province
I	Ilocos Norte La Union	Ilocos Sur Pangasinan	Batanes Ilocos Sur Pangasinan	Ilocos Norte La Union
II	Batanes Isabela Quirino	Cagayan Valley Nueva Vizcaya	Cagayan Valley Nueva Vizcaya Quirino	Isabela
III	Bulacan Nueva Ecija Tarlac	Bataan Pampanga Zambales	Aurora Bataan Pampanga Zambales	Bulacan Nueva Ecija Tarlac
IV-A	Batangas Cavite Laguna	Quezon Rizal	Cavite Laguna Quezon	
IV-B	Marinduque Occidental Mindoro Oriental Mindoro Palawan	Romblon	Batangas Occidental Mindoro Romblon Palawan	Marinduque Oriental Mindoro
V	Albay Masbate Camarines Sur	Catanduanes Camarines Norte Sorsogon	Albay Masbate Camarines Sur	Catanduanes Camarines Norte Sorsogon
VI	Aklan Capiz Iloilo	Antique Guimaras Negros Occidental	Aklan Capiz Iloilo	Antique Guimaras Negros Occidental
VII	Bohol Negros Oriental	Cebu Siquijor	Bohol Negros Oriental	Cebu Siquijor
VIII	Biliran Eastern Samar Northern Samar	Leyte Western Samar Southern Leyte	Biliran Eastern Samar Northern Samar	Leyte Western Samar Southern Leyte
IX	Basilan Zamboanga del Sur	Zamboanga del Norte Zamboanga City	Basilan Sulu Zamboanga del Sur	Tawi-Tawi Zamboanga del Norte
X	Misamis Occidental Bukidnon	Misamis Oriental Camiguin	Lanao del Norte Misamis Occidental Bukidnon	Lanao del Sur Misamis Oriental Camiguin
XI	Davao del Norte Davao Oriental South Cotabato Saranggani	Davao del Sur Compostela Valley General Santos City	Davao del Norte Davao Oriental	Davao del Sur Compostela Valley
XII	Lanao del Norte North Cotabato Cotabato City	Iligan City Sultan Kudarat Marawi City	Maguindanao South Cotabato Sultan Kudarat	North Cotabato Saranggani
CARAGA	Agusan del Norte Surigao del Norte	Agusan del Sur Surigao del Sur	Agusan del Norte Surigao del Norte	Agusan del Sur Surigao del Sur
ARMM	Lanao del Sur Sulu	Maguindanao Tawi-tawi		

Table 3.1. Philippines' geopolitical subdivision and Phil Health's geographic classification

Adapted from NSCB and PhilHealth

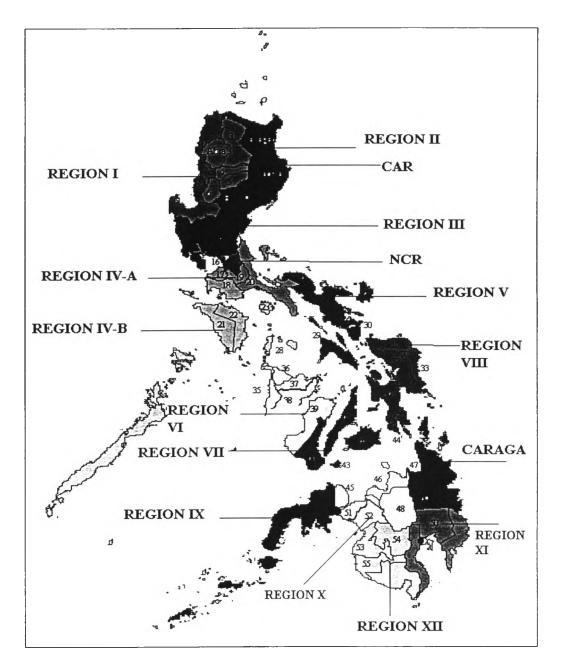


Figure 3. 3. The Philippine map with its geographic classification according to Phil Health

Table 3. 2. Variables in the study

Health Expenditure Age Sex	Individual entry Total amount claimed	Membership number	Hospital	Provincial	Regional
Expenditure Age	Total amount				
Expenditure Age					
Age	claimed	Average	Average	Average	Average
	orannoa	reimbursement	reimbursement	reimbursement	reimbursement
	Age of patient				
1	Male or female	Proportion of	Proportion of	Proportion of	Proportion of
		female (# of	female (# of	female (# of	female (# of
		female/ Total	female/ Total	female/ Total	female/ Total
		number of male	number of male	number of male	number of male
		and female)	and female)	and female)	and female)
Patient type	Dependent,	Proportion of	Proportion of	Proportion of	Proportion of
	member	dependents (# of	dependents (# of	dependents (# of	dependents (# of
		dependents/ # of	dependents/ # of	dependents/ # of	dependents/ # of
		members and	members and	members and	members and
		dependents)	dependents)	dependents)	dependents)
Type of	Government,	Government,	Proportion of	Proportion of	·
membership	indigent, non-	indigent, non-	indigents (# of	indigents (# of	
	paying, private	paying, private	indigents/ total	indigents/ total	
			number of	number of	
			admissions for	admissions for	
			all types)	all types)	
0	Number of	Average # of days	Average # of	Average # of	
	days in the	admitted in the	days admitted in	days admitted in	
	hospital	hospital	the hospital	the hospital	
Admissions		# of admissions	# of admissions	# of admissions	Admission rate
					per region for
					pneumonia
Medical case	Ordinary,	Proportion of	Proportion of	Proportion of	
	intensive,	ordinary cases (#	ordinary cases (#	ordinary cases (#	
	catastrophic	of ordinary cases/	of ordinary	of ordinary	
		total number of	cases/ total	cases/ total	
		cases)	number of cases)	number of cases)	
Hospital			Number of		# hospitals/
supply			hospital beds		1000
					beneficiaries
					# hospital beds/
					1000
					beneficiaries
	Use/ not use of	Proportion of	Proportion of	Proportion of	# physicians/
	specialist	specialist (# of	specialist (# of	specialist (# of	1000
	services	specialists'	specialists'	specialists'	beneficiaries
		services/ GP +	services/ GP +	services/ GP +	
		specialists'	specialists'	specialists'	
		services	services	services	
	Government,	Proportion of	Government,	Proportion of	# of government
hospital	private	admissions in	private	admissions in	or private
		government		government	hospitals/ 1000
Catagoria	D	hospitals	Devene	hospitals	beneficiaries
	Primary,	Proportion	Primary,	Proportion	# of primary,
	secondary,	admissions in	secondary,	admissions in	secondary or
	tertiary	tertiary hospitals	tertiary	tertiary hospitals	tertiary
1					hospitals/ 1000
		Dougety and dealers	Dovertu	Dovortu	beneficaries
Dovertu	Deverty	Poverty incidence	Poverty	Poverty	# of poor/ total
	Poverty	af the diff			
incidence/	incidence of	of the different	incidence of the	incidence of the	population
incidence/ measure of	incidence of the different	regions, grouped	different	different	population
incidence/ measure of geographic	incidence of the different regions,	regions, grouped in 5 (decreasing	different regions, grouped	different regions, grouped	population
incidence/ measure of geographic area	incidence of the different regions, grouped in 5	regions, grouped	different regions, grouped in 5 (decreasing	different regions, grouped in 5 (decreasing	ρορωατοπ
incidence/ measure of geographic area	incidence of the different regions,	regions, grouped in 5 (decreasing	different regions, grouped	different regions, grouped	μοραιατιοπ

Unit of analysis	Predisposing factors	Enabling factors	Need factors	Health care system
Individual record	Age Sex Patient type Poverty incidence	Type of membership	Medical case	Type of hospital Category of hospital Use of specialist
Membership number	Proportion female Proportion dependents Poverty incidence	Membership class Number of admissions	Proportion of ordinary cases	Proportion in tertiary hospitals Proportion in government hospitals Use of specialist services
Hospital	Proportion female Proportion dependents Poverty incidence	Proportion of indigent patients Number of admissions	Proportion of ordinary cases	Type of hospital Category of hospital Hospital beds Proportion of specialist services
Province	Proportion female Proportion dependents Poverty incidence	Proportion of indigent patients Number of admissions	Proportion of ordinary cases	Proportion in tertiary hospitals Proportion in government hospitals Proportion of specialist services

Table 3. 3. The different variables employed in the study categorized according to Andersen's behavioral model

3. Data analyses

A number of statistical methods were used to analyze the data by using the statistical package program, SPSS for windows version 11.5. All statistical tests were set at $\alpha = 0.05$ unless otherwise specified.

3.1. Preliminary analyses (Frequencies and descriptive statistics)

The data was explored using frequencies and other basic statistics to obtain detailed data descriptions and describe subpopulations (regional aggregation). Admission rates and average reimbursements were computed per region.

Admission rate was computed as follows:

AR/ region = total # of admissions in the region x 1000 total beneficiaries in the region

Since the pattern of disease is a known factor affecting variation, the top 10 diseases (with the most number of claims and the highest amount paid¹) were identified for the whole country. Pneumonia was found with the highest number of claims and second highest in terms of amount reimbursed while delivery through cesarean section had the highest amount reimbursed. The succeeding analyses (variation assessment and MRA) were then performed controlling for disease by using only the pneumonia cases.

It should be noted that data aggregation was according to the region of the hospital (provider) hence the computed admission rates were only approximates and may have been over or underestimated. In order to obtain a more accurate rate, admissions should be aggregated according to the region where patient resides.

¹ These counts were those cases without co-morbidities since in the identification of the case, only the ICD number of the particular disease was considered therefore it is possible that there are still cases (those with co-morbidities) not included in the figures presented

Since the data on the address was a string variable and was not encoded uniformly plus the fact that there are more than one million entries, these presented difficulty in aggregating them accordingly. After several attempts of aggregating them, the most feasible was by counting them manually by province using Microsoft Access software. Instead of using the whole data, only three diseases were chosen namely, pneumonia, end stage renal disease and delivery by cesarean section. Data, which was in SPSS format, was first exported to Microsoft Access (only the address variable was exported as large data also posed some problems). Counting was then performed as shown in the following figures.

The determination of admission rates for the two other medical cases was conducted in order to confirm or illustrate better the possibility of in- or out-migration for health care among the beneficiaries across regions, since this was observed for the pneumonia cases as exemplified by the differences in rates between the two methods of aggregation. For the other analyses such as variation assessment and multiple regression analysis, only the pneumonia cases were employed.

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ii Tables	0	Create que	y by using wizard		
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			A Print Preview		
Z Macros			& Cut		
& Modules					
Groups			Save As		
Favorites	1		Export		
			Send To	•	
	1		Add to Group	•	
			Create Shortcut.		
			X Delete		
			Rename		
			Properties		
			roperces		

Figure 3. 4. Step 1—Go to select province, right click and choose design view

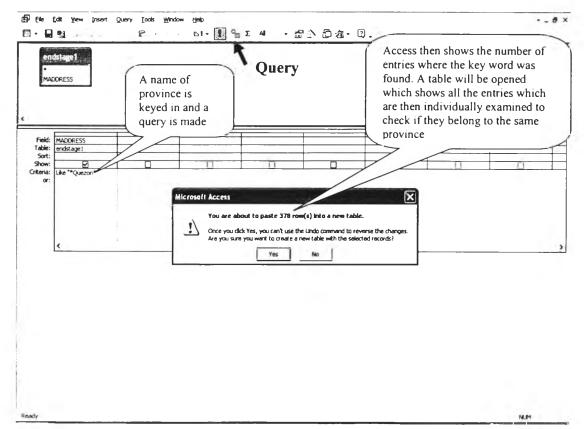


Figure 3. 5. Step 2—In the design view, key in desired province and make a query

3.2. Assessment for variation

Three measures of utilization were used in the analysis namely admission rate, average reimbursement and length of stay. Admission rates were computed only in the regional aggregation due to the unavailability of the number of beneficiaries in the provincial level. Variation in these different utilization measures were assessed separately. For the admission rates, variation was evaluated using extremal ratio and chi-square (Cain *et. al*, 1992) while for the average reimbursements and length of stay, ANOVA was used.

Extremal quotient or ratio is defined as the ratio of the highest rate to the lowest rate.

3.3. Multiple linear regression analysis

The factors that affect utilization and variation were determined using multiple linear regression analysis (hierarchical enter selection) in the 4 levels of aggregation—individual record, membership number, hospital and provincial aggregation using length of stay and average reimbursement as dependent variables. All dummy variables were binary (or indicator) coded. Multiple regression analysis was not performed at the regional aggregation because of the limited number of n (16). The health care utilization variables, total reimbursement and length of stay which were used as dependent variables, presented a highly skewed distribution especially in the first 3 levels of aggregation (Figure 3.6) and as such the application of the MRA may have been inappropriate. However in a paper by Lumley *et al.* (2002), he argued that linear regression do not require any assumption of normal distribution in sufficiently large samples. Moreover, Hair (1998) contested that the desired level of observations is about 15 to 20 for every independent variable, which in this case particularly in the first three levels of analysis was more than achieved. In this study, n for the different levels of aggregation were as follows, 52,478 (individual entry); 48,385 (membership number); 1,313 (hospital) and 77 (province). Moreover, log transformations of the said variables were also performed prior to linear regression analysis but R² values of the transformed and untransformed data showed little difference (see Appendix B).

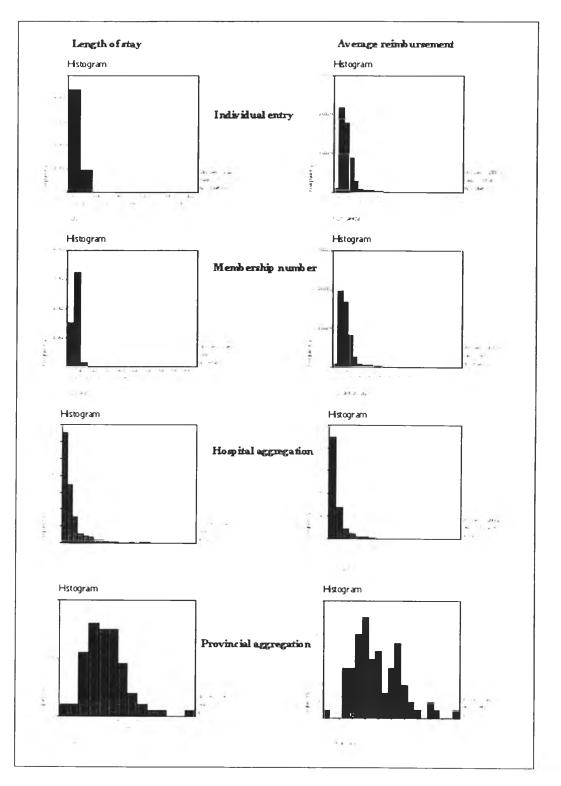


Figure 3. 6. Histogram of data for average reimbursement and average length of stay under in different levels of aggregation (Pneumonia cases)

A number of regression analyses were conducted before the final model was selected. Of particular importance is one where region (where medical care was sought) was used as one of the variables influencing variation in reimbursement and length of stay (see Appendix C). However, since it entailed several dummy variables, fifteen to be exact, it was decided to group them according to another variable in order to lessen the number of dummy variables. The poverty incidence, % urban, number of poor covered and annual average income per region were used to group the regions among which grouping, by poverty incidence gave the nearest R^2 when compared to R^2 using region itself as the variable.

At the individual entry level, total reimbursement was regressed on all applicable variables available in the database. The statistical model is as follows:

Total reimbursement = $a + b_1 patage + b_2 dum_dd + b_3 dum_m + b_4 dum_pri + b_5 dum_sec + b_4 dum_sec + b_4 dum_sec + b_4 dum_sec + b_4 dum_sec + b_5 dum_sec + b_5 dum_sec + b_6 $
b_6 dum tert + b_7 dum_int + b_8 dum_cat + b_9 dum spri + b_{10} dum gov + b_{11} dum npay
+ b_{12} dum_SP_TOT + b_{11} rank_pov2 + b_{12} rank_pov3 + b_{13} rank_pov4 +
b ₁₄ rank_pov5

patage dum_dd dum_m dum_p	Patient age Dummy variable for dependent (reference category → member) Dummy variable for sex (reference category → female) Dummy variable for type of hospital (reference category → government)
dum_sec	Dummy variable for category of hospital (Secondary; reference category → primary)
dum_tert	Dummy variable for category of hospital (Tertiary; reference category \rightarrow primary)
dum_int	Dummy variable for medical case (Intensive; reference category \rightarrow ordinary)
dum_cat	Dummy variable for medical case (Catasrophic; reference category \rightarrow ordinary)
dum_spri	Dummy variable for worker type or membership type (Private sector; refrence category \rightarrow indigent)
dum_gov	Dummy variable for worker type or membership type (Government sector: refrence category \rightarrow indigent)
dum_npay	Dummy variable for worker type or membership type (Non-paying; refrence category -> indigent)
SP_TOT	Use or not use of specialist services
rank_pov2	Dummy variable for poverty incidence

rank_pov3	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov4	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov5	Dummy variable for poverty incidence

Regression was also performed at this level using length of stay as dependent

variable. The statistical model is shown below:

Length of stay = $a + b_1patage + b_2dum_dd + b_3dum_m + b_4dum_pri + b_5dum_sec + b_6dum_tert + b_7dum_int + b_8dum_cat + b_9dum_spri + b_{10}dum_gov + b_{11}dum_npay + b_{12}dum_SP_TOT + b_{11}rank_pov2 + b_{12}rank_pov3 + b_{13}rank_pov4 + b_{14}rank_pov5$

Data was next aggregated according to the membership number (mecno) and

regression was carried out using the following statistical models:

Average reimbursement = $a + b_1$ freq + b_2 prop_dd + b_3 prop_fe + b_4 prop_tert + b_5 prop_ord + b_6 prop_gov + b_7 dum_spri + b_8 dum_gov + b_9 dum_npay + b_{10} SP TOT + b_{11} rank pov2 + b_{12} rank pov3 + b_{13} rank pov4 + b_{14} rank pov5

Average length of stay = $a + b_1$ freq + b_2 prop_dd + b_3 prop_fe + b_4 prop_tert + b_5 prop_ord + b_6 prop_gov + b_7 dum_spri + b_8 dum_gov + b_9 dum_npay + b_{10} SP TOT + b_{11} rank pov2 + b_{12} rank pov3 + b_{13} rank pov4 + b_{14} rank pov5

freq prop_dd	Number of admissions Proportion of dependents
prop_fe	Proportion female
prop_tert	Proportion of admissions in tertiary hospitals
prop_ord	Proportion of ordinary cases
prop_gov	Proportion of admissions in government hospitals
dum_spri	Dummy variable for worker type or membership type (Private sector; refrence category \rightarrow indigent)
dum_gov	Dummy variable for worker type or membership type (Government sector; refrence category → indigent)
dum_npay	Dummy variable for worker type or membership type (Non-paying; refrence category \rightarrow indigent)
SP_TOT	Use or not use of specialist services
rank_pov2	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov3	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov4	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov5	Dummy variable for poverty incidence

Data was next aggregated according to the hospital and regression was carried

out using the following variables:

Average reimbursement = $a + b_1h_beds + b_2freq + b_3prop_dd + b_4prop_fe + b_5prop_ord + b_6prop_ind + b_7prop_sp + b_8dum_sec + b_9dum_tert + b_{10}dum_hpri + b_{11}rank_pov2 + b_{12}rank_pov3 + b_{13}rank_pov4 + b_{14}rank_pov5$

Average length of stay = $a + b_1h_beds + b_2freq + b_3prop_dd + b_4prop_fe + b_5prop_ord + b_6prop_ind + b_7prop_sp + b_8dum_sec + b_9dum_tert + b_{10}dum_hpri + b_{11}rank_pov2 + b_{12}rank_pov3 + b_{13}rank_pov4 + b_{14}rank_pov5$

h_beds	Accredited bed capacity
freq	Number of admissions
prop_dd	Proportion of dependents
prop_fe	Proportion female
prop_ind	Proportion indigents
prop_ord	Proportion of ordinary cases
prop_sp	Proportion of specialist services
dum_sec	Dummy variable for category of hospital (Secondary; reference category \rightarrow
	primary)
dum_tert	Dummy variable for category of hospital (Tertiary; reference category \rightarrow primary)
dum_hpri	Dummy variable for type of hospital (reference category → government)
rank_pov2	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov3	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov4	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov5	Dummy variable for poverty incidence

Finally the data was aggregated according to the province and regression

analysis was again performed using the following statistical model:

Average reimbursement = $a + b_1 \text{prop}_g \text{ov} + b_2 \text{prop}_t \text{ert} + b_3 admit + b_4 \text{prop}_d + b_5 \text{prop}_f \text{em} + b_6 \text{prop}_o \text{rd} + b_7 \text{prop}_i \text{nd} + b_8 \text{prop}_s \text{p} + b_9 \text{rank}_p \text{ov}2 + b_{10} \text{rank}_p \text{ov}3 + b_{11} \text{rank}_p \text{ov}4 + b_{12} \text{rank}_p \text{ov}5$

Average length of stay = $a + b_1 prop_gov + b_2 prop_tert + b_3 admit + b_4 prop_dd + b_5 prop_fem + b_6 prop_ord + b_7 prop_ind + b_8 prop_sp + b_9 rank_pov2 + b_{10} rank_pov3 + b_{11} rank_pov4 + b_{12} rank_pov5$

prop_gov	Proportion of admissions in government hospitals
per_tert	Proportion of admissions in tertiary hospitals
admit	Number of admissions
prop_dd	Proportion of dependents
prop_fem	Proportion female
prop_ord	Proportion of ordinary cases
prop_ind	Proportion indigents
prop_sp	Proportion of specialist services
rank_pov2	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov3	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov4	Dummy variable for poverty incidence
rank_pov5	Dummy variable for poverty incidence

Multicollinearity problems were assessed by examining eigenvalues, condition indices and variance proportions from the diagnostic test results. Eigenvalues provide an indication of how many distinct dimensions there are among the independent variables. When several eigenvalues are close to 0, the variables are highly intercorrelated and the matrix is said to be ill-conditioned. Condition indices are the square roots of the ratios of the largest eigenvalue to each successive eigenvalue. A condition index greater than 15 indicates a possible problem and an index greater than 30 suggests a serious problem with multicollinearity. The variance proportions are the proportions of the variance of the estimate accounted for by each principal component associated with each of the eigenvalues. Collinearity is a problem when a component associated with a high condition index contributes substantially to the variance of 2 or more variables. Residual tests were also conducted to test for violations in homoscedasticiy.

3.4. Inequality measurements

In order to evaluate inequality across the different regions, concentration indices were computed.

The concentration index was derived by first constructing the concentration curve (or more appropriately called illness concentration curve in this case since admissions for a particular illness were employed) done by plotting cumulative percentages of the beneficiaries, ranked by decreasing poverty incidence (as a measure of the region's socioeconomic status) against the cumulative percentage of admissions (or total reimbursements). The index was then determined using the formula:

$$\mathbf{C} = (\mathbf{p}_1 \mathbf{L}_2 - \mathbf{p}_2 \mathbf{L}_1) + (\mathbf{p}_2 \mathbf{L}_3 - \mathbf{p}_3 \mathbf{L}_2) + \dots + (\mathbf{p}_{T-1} \mathbf{L}_T - \mathbf{p}_T \mathbf{L}_{T-1})$$

Where p is the cumulative percent of beneficiaries ranked by poverty incidence, L(p) is the corresponding curve ordinate and T is the number of regions.

Likewise, concentration curves were created and concentration indices were derived for other variables such as the different health resources, i.e. hospital beds, health professionals.

3.5. Cost of treatment

In order to approximate the cost and efficiency of treatment for pneumonia across the different regions, cost analysis was performed according to Liu *et al.* (2003).

The data were selected based on the following criteria:

- (1) Ordinary case
- (2) Total reimbursement \leq Actual amount (or charge)
- (3) Reimbursement for drugs \leq Actual charge for drugs
- (4) Reimbursement for diagnostic and laboratory exams ≤Actual charge for diagnostic and laboratory exams

A total of 37,245 claims satisfied the criteria and were therefore employed in the analysis.

3.6. Data presentation

Variation was presented by choropleth mapping, a way of portraying data for geographic areas, using ArcGIS and ArcExplorer2. The admission rates and health expenditures for each of the different regions were classified using the Statistical method. The grand mean and the standard deviation of the average reimbursements and admission rates for the different regions were determined (and as such may be slightly different from the national average rate). The data were then classified according to their deviation from the grand mean. The data intervals are as follows:

•	Variable	Data interval
All cases	Average reimbursement (Mean ± SD)	3,114 - 4,229
	Amounts are in Philippine Peso	4,230 - 5,344
		5,345 - 6,455
		6,456 – 7574
	Admission rate (Mean ± 0.5SD)	26 - 43
	Rates are per 1,000	44 - 61
		62 - 80
		> 80
Pneumonia cases	Average reimbursement (Mean ± SD)	2,387 – 3,124
	Amounts are in Philippine Peso	3,125 - 3,862
		3,863 - 4,600
		4,601 - 5,339
	Admission rate (Mean ± 0.5SD)	11 -59
	Rates are per 1,000	60 - 108
		109 – 157
		158 – 207
		>300

Table 3. 4. Data interval for choropleth map