# Depression Symptom and Related factors among Thai Seafarers

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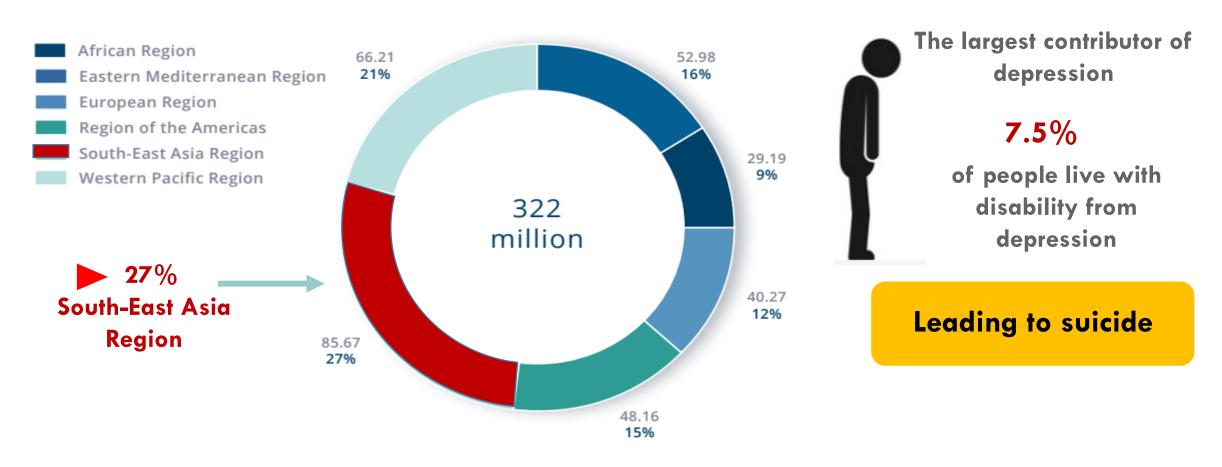




## Background and significance

Magnitude and severity of depression problem

#### Cases of depressive disorder (millions)



Source: WHO (2015-2024)

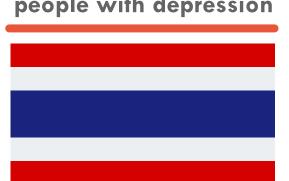


## Background and significance

Magnitude and severity of depression problem

1.5 million

people with depression



## Working age-group





Depression is the leading causes of disability - adjusted life year.



### Occupational group

Working can be a significant cause of depression.

Depression symptom were screened in these occupation to prevent developing to disorder.



- Factory industry worker
- Agriculture worker
- Maritime worker (Seafarer)



### Background and significance

Magnitude and severity of depression problem

Prevalence of depression symptom among seafarers in several studies



United kingdom<sup>1</sup> 25%

**Brazil<sup>2</sup>** 14.5%

China
49% of offshore
worker depress
than onshore
worker<sup>3</sup>

Systematic review of merchant ship seafarer's death found 1,011 seafarers (5.9%) died as a result of suicide of total deaths (17,026)<sup>6</sup>

## How is the situation of depression symptom in Thai seafarer?



## Background and significance

Magnitude and severity of depression problem

Prevalence of depression symptom among seafarers in several studies



United kingdom<sup>1</sup> 25%

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Systematic review of merchant ship seafarer's death found 1,011 seafarers (5.9%) died as a result of suicide of total deaths (17,026)<sup>6</sup>

**Thailand** 

- 77.19% had anxiety and stress from long period on board<sup>4</sup>
- Thai Navy personnel on ship sector had depression symptom more than another sector<sup>5</sup>

Screening depression symptom in Thai seafarers to prevent developing to disorder

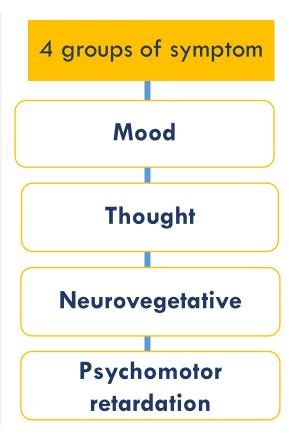
The distinction between depression symptom and depressive disorder

#### **Depression symptom**

#### **Developing to**

Depressive disorder (Mood disorder)

- Temporary of negative response to stressful event
- Some case has function impairment in daily and work life
- Screening by instrument such as PHQ-9



- Persistence of depress mood or lost of interest
- Function impairment in daily and work life
- At least 5 symptoms of DSM-V criteria diagnosis almost in a day over 2 weeks period



## Prevention of Depression

## Factors related to depression

#### Personal data



Health behavior



Woking conditions



Woking environments



### **Target group**

#### **Universal prevention**

General or whole population

#### **Selective prevention**

Individual or subgroup whose risk of developing depression

#### **Indicated prevention**

Individual who emerging of depressive disorder



#### Personal data



- Underlying diseases
- Poor perceive healthy status
- Age
- Work experiences

#### Limited good health behavior



- Poor coping behavior
- Sleeping problem
- Unhealthy food
- Less access to health service immediately
- Less exercise

### Factors related to depression

#### Woking conditions



- Shift work/Night work
- Social isolation/ Loneliness

#### Woking environments



- Physical environment
  - Noise from ship engine
  - Heat/cold
  - Insufficient light/Bright light
  - Ship motion
- Chemical environment
- Psychosocial environment
  - Separation from family members
  - High job demand and low control
  - Piracy/Criminalization





### Research Objectives



To examine the effectiveness of preventive program against depression symptom among Thai seafarers using selected factors related to it among Thai seafarers

#### Phase 1

1.To examine the prevalence, and factors related to depressive symptoms among Thai seafarers

#### Phase 2

- To develop the preventive program against depressive symptoms using selected factors to it for Thai seafarers
- 2. To examine the effectiveness of preventive program against depressive symptoms using selected factors related to it for Thai seafarers

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Specific objectives







#### Factors related to depressive symptoms

#### **Predisposing factors**

Age

Self-efficacy toward coping behavior

#### **Reinforcing factors**

Support from shipboard superior

- Warning of depression symptom and occupational safety
- Recreational time, place, and activities on ship
- Giving information and preventive depression method/resources

#### **Enabling factors**

Policy and management support from ship company

- Access to mental health counselor
- Access to educational resources to prevent depression
- Available method of communication with family

#### Phase 1

#### **Cross-sectional study**

#### Personal data

- Underlying diseases
- Perceive of health status
- Perceived susceptibility to diseases
- Stressful life event
- Family history of mental health illness

#### **Behavioral factors**

- Occupational safety behavior
- Coping behavior
- Sleeping

#### **Work-related factors**

Work condition (work pattern, job assignment, job department, shipping service, period of seafaring, social isolation, work experiences, shift work)

Work environment (physical, psychosocial, ergonomic)

Depressive symptoms



## Phase 1: Program development

**Cross-sectional study** 

#### Data analysis



#### **Descriptive statistics**



Chi-square test for univariate analysis



Logistic regression analysis

Calculation mean, S.D., percent	
☐ Characteristic of participants	
☐ Prevalence of depressive symptoms	

#### **Examine significant factors**

☐ Significant factors to contain in logistic regression analysis

## Determine factors related to depressive symptoms

- Personal and work factors related to depressive symptoms
- Predisposing, reinforcing, and enabling factors related behavioral and work factors



## Phase 1: Program development

Cross-sectional study

Population, Sample size, Sampling method

$$n = \frac{NZ_{\alpha/2}^2pq}{d^2(N-1) + Z_{\alpha/2}^2pq} = \frac{(38,066)(1.96)^2 (0.2)(0.8)}{(0.052)(38,066-1) + (1.962)(0.2)(0.8)} = 244 \text{ samples}$$

60% is assumed as return rate questionnaire, therefore 146 samples are added, the maximum sample size is 390 samples

**Population** 

660 shipping companies (consisting of 38,066 seafarers who registered being Thai seafarers at Marine Department, the Ministry of Transport)

Purposive sampling shipping companies located at Bangkok

Shipping companies located at Bangkok

shipping company A

shipping company B

Shipping company C

Shipping company D

Samples

Total sample = 390 seafarers



#### Inclusion and Exclusion criteria

### **Population**

Thai seafarers who work on merchant ship which registered with Marine Department,
Ministry of Transport



Sample size

390 samples

#### Inclusion criteria

- 1) Thai male at 18 years old or more
- 2) Having seafaring experience at least one time
- 3) Willing and able to participate in the study
- 4) Understandable writing and reading in Thai

#### **Exclusion** criteria

- 1) Not available at the time of data collection
- 2) Severe or urgent illness, accident, disability at the data collection time



## Phase 1: Program development

**Cross-sectional study** 

Data collection method: Self-administered questionnaire





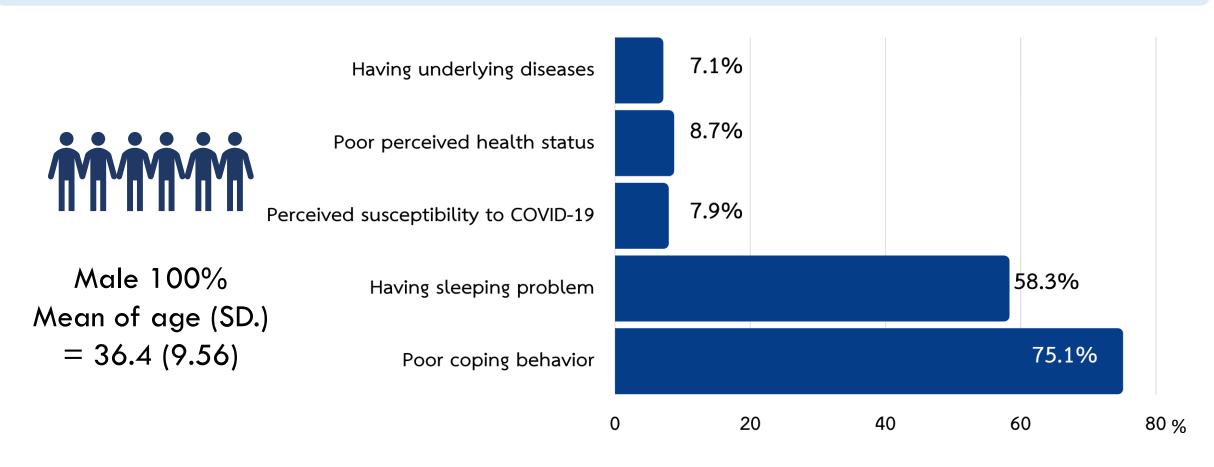




## Results

## Result: Cross-sectional study

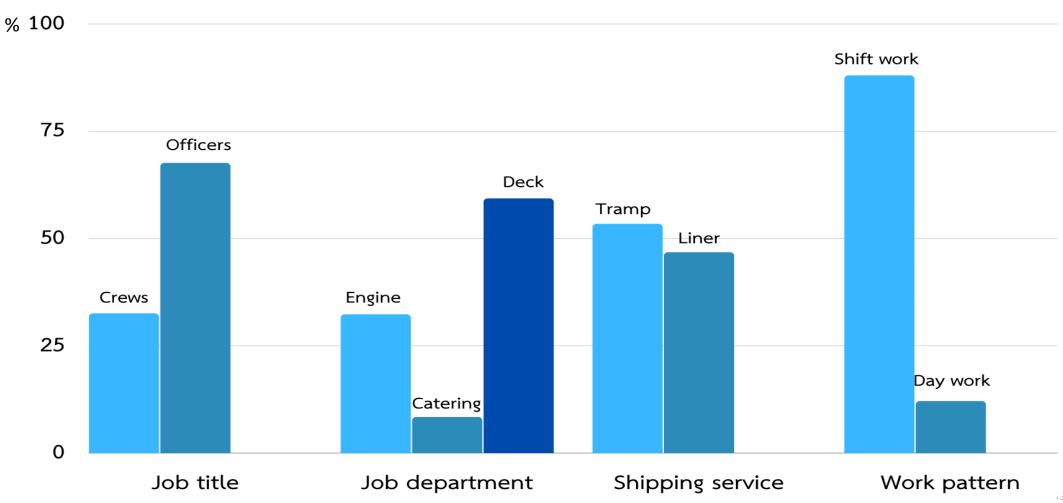
#### Characteristics of personal and behavioral data





## Result: Cross-sectional study

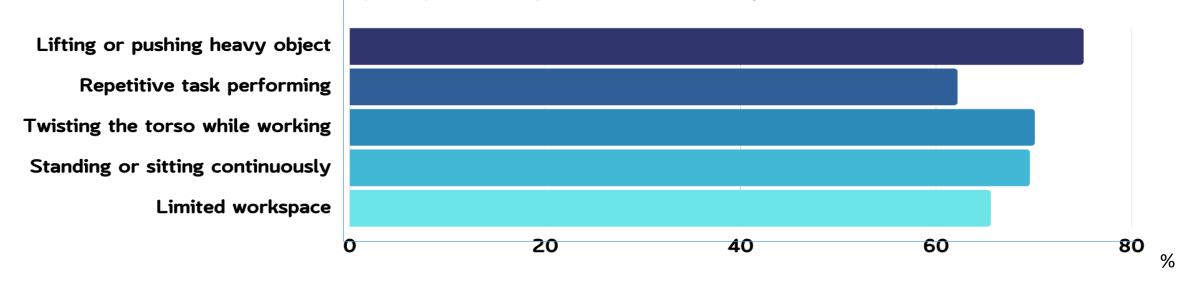
#### Characteristics of work factors



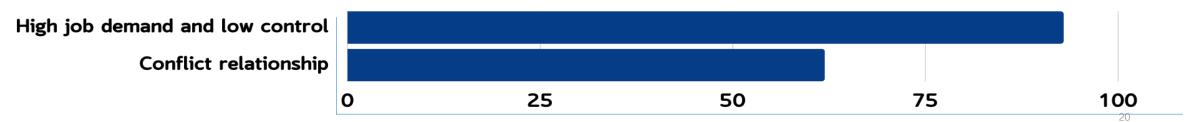
## Result: Cross-sectional study

#### Characteristics of work factors

Percent of participants who perceive disturbed ergonomic work environment

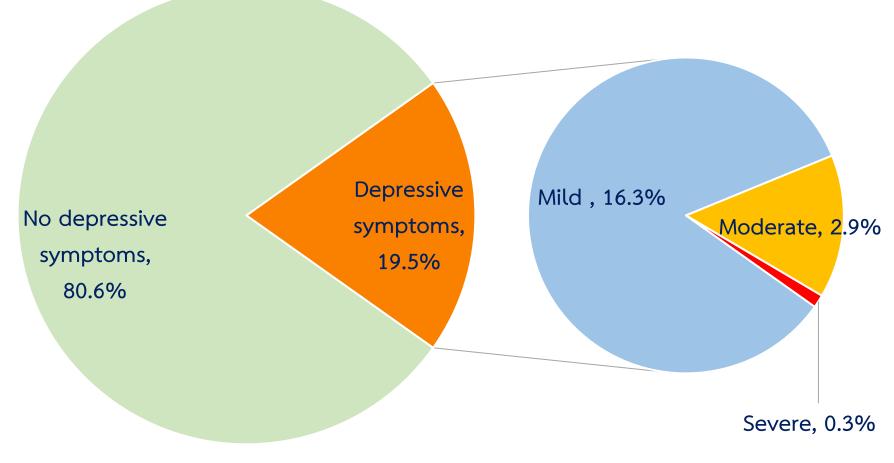


Percent of participants who perceive disturbed psychosocial work environment





## Result: Cross-sectional study

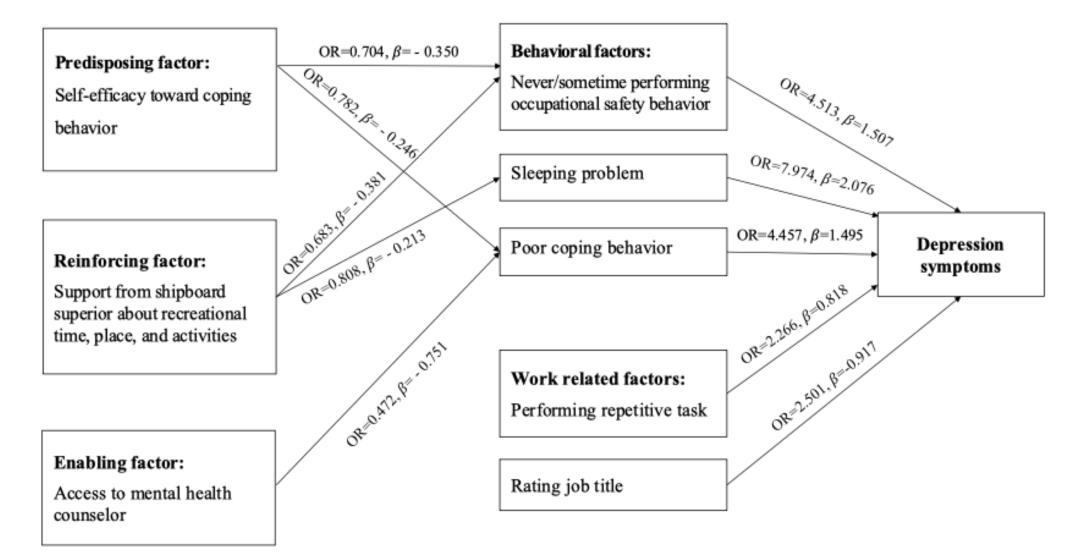


Prevalence of depressive symptoms = 19.5%,\*

Mean (SD.) 5.15 (4.15)

<sup>\*</sup> Similar to a study from UK (Lefkowitz & Slade, 2019) and Brazil Silva et al., 2017

#### Factors related to Depressive symptoms





## **Implications**

Maritime Health policy

- Pre-onboard medical fitness program may add depression screening.
- Refreshing skill program every two year should add mental health first aid and coping skill

Maritime education

 Promote mental health prevention among maritime occupation in baccalaureate education program

Shipping company

Work-rest hour balance and promoting recreational place and activities based on desirable ship environment

Individual seafarers

- Training of self-efficacy toward coping behavior at pre-onboard seafaring
- Accessibility to coping educational resources and counselling privately



## Preventive Program against Depression Symptom among Thai Seafarers

# Thank you





