

A Bibliographic Guide to Recent Hmong Studies Research 2005-2008

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Hmong American Census Data/Demographics

Hmong Profile

2006 American Community Survey (Total U.S. Population Figures in Parentheses)

Total U.S. Population = 209,866

Median Age = 19.1 (36.4)

Average Household Size

5.36 Persons (2.61)

Educational Attainment (Persons 25 Years and Over)

% Bachelor's Degree = 10.4%(17.1%)

% Graduate or Professional Degree = 2.2% (9.9%)

Period of Arrival in U.S.

Entered 2000 or later = 11.9%

Entered 1990 to 1999 = 28.7%

Entered before 1990 = 59.4%

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2006 American Community Survey (Total U.S. Population Figures in Parentheses)

Language Spoken at Home (Persons 5 Years and Over)

English Only = 5.8%

Language Other than English = 94.2%

Speak English "Less than Very Well" = 42.6%

Occupation (Civilian employed population 16 Years and Over)

Management, Professional and Related Occupations = 20.0% (34.0%)

Service Occupations = 16.2% (16.5%)

Sales and Office Occupations = 23.4% (25.9%)

Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations = 0.9% (0.7%)

Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations = 4.5% (10.0%)

Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations = 35.0% (13.0%)

Hmong American Census Data/Demographics

Hmong Profile

2006 American Community Survey (Total U.S. Population Figures in Parentheses)

Income

Median Family Income = \$42,875 (\$58,526)

Poverty Rate (All Families) = 26.4% (9.8%)

Housing Tenure

Owner Occupied Housing Units = 54.1% (67.3%)

Renter Occupied Housing Units = 45.9% (32.7%)

S0201. Selected Population Profile in the United States
Population Group: Hmong Alone or in any combination
Data Set: 2006 American Community Survey
Survey: 2006 American Community Survey
U.S. Census Bureau

Hmong American Census Data/Demographics

- The American Community Survey publishes the annual Hmong Profile with detailed demographic data for the U.S. Hmong population. This data is not available at the state or smaller geographic level with the exception of the state of California. The most recent ACS profile (2006) has been posted at the Hmong Studies Internet Resource Center website: <http://hmongstudies.org/HmongACS2006.pdf>
- Detailed Hmong data and analysis from the 2000 Census is available in the *Hmong Census Publication* published by Hmong Cultural Center and Hmong National Development in 2004: <http://hmongstudies.org/2000HmongCensusPublication.pdf>
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- Pfeifer (2008) presents an analysis of 2005 American Community Survey data for Hmong, Cambodians, Lao, and Vietnamese Americans: <http://jsaaea.coehd.utsa.edu/index.php/JSAAEA/article/view/19/43>
- Lemoine (2005) presents available data pertaining to Hmong populations throughout the world: <http://hmongstudies.org/LemoineHSJ6.pdf>
- Scholars have raised issues about a possible undercount of Hmong in the U.S. Census. Enumeration problems stem in part from Hmong possibly self-reporting different identities (country of origin identity of Lao or Thai, or the ethnic identity Hmong) on the census form. Wayne Carroll and Victoria Udalova discussed these issues in their 2006 Hmong Studies Journal article “Who is Hmong: Questions and Evidence from the U.S. Census.” <http://hmongstudies.org/CarrollandUdalovaHSJ6.pdf>

Socioeconomic Adaptation in the Hmong Diaspora

In recent years articles have addressed a range of issues related to socioeconomic adaptation including:

- Hmong homeownership in Wisconsin (Dearborn, 2008).
- Financial management strategies of Hmong families in Minnesota (Yang and Solheim, 2007): <http://hmongstudies.org/PYangandSolheimHSJ08.pdf>
- The initial adaptation of Hmong refugees from Wat Tham Krabok in Minnesota (Gritoleit, 2006): <http://hmongstudies.org/Grigoleit.pdf>
- Hmong community life in the Dallas, Texas area (Nibbs, 2006): <http://hmongstudies.org/Nibbs.pdf>
- The roles of Hmong American community organizations (Yang, 2006).
- Hmong settlement and adaptation in French Guiana (Clarkin, 2005): <http://hmongstudies.org/ClarkinHSJ6.pdf>

Hmong American Youth and Educational Adaptation

While broad empirical research into the educational outcomes of Hmong Americans has largely been absent in the recent literature, studies have looked at other important issues:

- Ngo and Lee (2007) provide a comprehensive literature review of educational-related research involving Hmong Americans as well as other Southeast Asian American groups.
- Ngo, Bigelow and Wahlstrom (2007) assess the adaptation of young Hmong refugees into the K-12 schools of the Saint Paul Public Schools system:
<http://hmongstudies.org/NgoBigelowWahlstromHSJ8.pdf>
- In her book *Up Against Whiteness*, Lee (2005) provides a qualitative study of how Hmong female and male youth are stereotyped by teachers in a high school and how they respond to their marginalized status as they construct their identities as Hmong youth in the United States.

Hmong American Youth and Educational Adaptation

- Lee, Xiong and Yuen (2006) discuss trends in early marriage among Hmong American youth.
- Xiong and Detzner (2005) research the relationships between Hmong and other Southeast Asian American youth and their fathers:
<http://hmongstudies.org/XiongandDetznerHSJ6.pdf>

Other recent studies have investigated the experiences of Hmong American students in higher education:

- Lee (2007) assesses the self-rated social well-being of Hmong college students in California: <http://hmongstudies.org/SLeeHSJ8.pdf>
- Moua (2007) and Vue (2007) examines factors that influence whether Hmong American students successfully earn a 4 year college degree.

Finally, In a broader, qualitative book-length study:

- Duffy (2007) discusses the many factors that have influenced literacy development over time among Hmong in Laos and in the contemporary United States.

Hmong American Health

Health continues to be an arena of considerable research related Hmong Americans.

- Wong, Mouanoutoua and Chen (2008) describe a quality of hypertension care project with Hmong Americans.
- Gerdner, Cha, Yang and Tripp-Reimer (2007) discuss end of life care and death rituals for Hmong American elders.
- Kim, Harrison, and Kagawa-Singer (2007) present results from a study of perceptions of diet and physical activity among Hmong youth and adults residing in California: http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2007/oct/07_0074.htm
- Perez and Cha (2007) assess diabetes knowledge, beliefs and treatment among a sample of Hmong in California: <http://hmongstudies.org/PerezandChaHSJ8.pdf>
- Culhane-Pera, Her, and Her (2007) posit a Hmong cultural model of diabetes.
- Culhane-Pera and Lee (2006) present a qualitative analysis of Hmong experiences with kidney stones: <http://hmongstudies.org/CulhanePeraMLee.pdf>

Hmong American Health

Additional recent health-related studies include:

- Perez, Moua, and Pinzon-Perez's (2006) research into food preparation practices and safety: <http://hmongstudies.org/PerezMouaPinzonPerez.pdf>
- Vang and Pinzon-Perez's (2006) research into knowledge of nasopharyngeal carcinoma among a sample of Hmong in California: <http://hmongstudies.org/TVangPinzonPerez.pdf>
- Yang, Mills, and Dodge's (2006) study of cancer screening, reproductive history, socioeconomic status, and anticipated cancer-related behavior of Hmong adults.
- Mills, Yang, and Riordan's (2005) study of Hmong cancer incidence in California from 1988-2000.

Researchers have also looked at mental health issues in recently published work:

- Danner, C.C. Robinson, B.E., Striepe, M.I. and P.F. Yang Rhodes (2007) present a study of therapy groups attended by Hmong women suffering from depression.
- Gensheimer (2006) discusses the experiences of Hmong-origin mental health providers who work with Hmong clients: <http://hmongstudies.org/Gensheimer.pdf>
- Lee (2006) provides a study of Hmong female identity and mental health: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/theses/available/etd-04262006-223253/unrestricted/etd.pdf>

Race Relations Issues

In recent years, scholars have contributed research pertaining to racial discrimination and media constructions of Hmong Americans:

- Xiong and Jesilow (2007) discuss the local media's construction of a social problem among the Hmong community in Fresno, California:
<http://hmongstudies.org/JesilowHSJ8.pdf>
- Schein, and Thoj (2007) compare the treatment of race in the mainstream media's coverage of the Hmong hunter incident with that articulated in the work of a Hmong American artist.
- Hein (2006) assesses the race relations and adaptation experiences of Hmong and Cambodians residing in diverse Midwestern environments – Hmong in Milwaukee and Eau Claire and Cambodians in Chicago and Rochester, MN.

Gender Identity in the Hmong Diaspora

Scholars have investigated gender-related identity issues in recent research:

- Lee (2007, 2006, 2005) presents qualitative research related to gender and ethnicity as well as racial identity constructions of Hmong American youth in the school setting.
- Vue (2007) provides a doctoral study of factors that contribute or impede Hmong women from achieving a higher education degree.
- Cha (2005) discusses the role of gender in the refugee experience of Hmong and Lao women: <http://hmongstudies.org/ChaHSJ6.pdf>
- Burt (2005) presents a qualitative study of strategies used by Hmong American women to discourage unwanted marriage suitors.

Hmong Culture

In the past few years, scholars have written about a range of issues pertaining to Hmong culture and the Hmong cultural identity in the United States and elsewhere, studies have investigated the Hmong New Year, Music and Religion:

- Yang (2007) discusses changes in the celebration of the Hmong New Year since 1975: <http://hmongstudies.org/KYangHSJ8.pdf>
- Thao (2006) writes about the continuing usage and significance of the Qeej instrument in Hmong communities in the U.S.
- Poss (2005) analyzes the communication of verbal content on the Hmong raj instrument: <http://www.poss.ws/nfpossthesis.pdf>
- Yang (2006) provides a study of the role of Guanyin, the Goddess of Mercy in Hmong beliefs: <http://hmongstudies.org/KLYang.pdf>
- Her (2005) explicates a model of Hmong cosmology through observations made at Hmong American funeral ceremonies: <http://hmongstudies.org/HerHSJ6.pdf>

Hmong History/Identity in Asia/Transnational Exchanges

- Gary Yia Lee (2005) analyzes how agriculture has shaped Hmong culture and Hmong religious beliefs throughout history: <http://hmongstudies.org/LeeHSJ6.pdf>
- Mai Na M. Lee (2005) presents a dissertation study of Hmong messianism and political engagement in Laos from 1893-1955.
- In a 2007 work, Gary Yia Lee reviews and assesses the literature on the origins of the Hmong. He also discusses the relationship of the Hmong to the Miao identity category in China: <http://hmongstudies.org/GYLeeHSJ8.pdf>.
- Transnational exchanges between Hmong in the U.S and the Hmong and Miao minority groups in China terms of marriages, tourism, the production of videos, websites and ethnic media etc. has been the subject of considerable scholarly research the past few years as seen in the work of Schein (2008, 2005); Tapp (2006) and Lee (2006): <http://hmongstudies.org/GYLee.pdf>
- An additional continuing focus of researchers has been the status of the Hmong minorities in Thailand and Laos, examples include the publications of Lee (2007), Johnson (2007, 2005), Siriphon (2006); and Tomforde (2006).

Reference Works

In the past few years, a couple of new reference works have become available:

- Xiong (2007) published a much needed comprehensive two-way English-Hmong/Hmong-English dictionary.
- Pfeifer (2007) published the first annotated scholarly bibliography of Hmong Studies-related works available since 1995.
- Updated non-annotated Hmong Studies bibliographies also continue to be available on the internet at: <http://www.hmongstudies.org/HmongBibliographies.html>

Areas in need of additional research

- There is confusion over who is actually ethnically Hmong in Asia, specifically in China, researchers need to provide careful research which does not confuse the Hmong with other ethnic groups in China.
- There is still much work to be done related to Hmong history, both pre-18th century in China and in the 1750-1975 period in China and Southeast Asia.
- More locality studies are needed of differences of settlement experiences and socioeconomic adaptation of Hmong communities in different locations of the U.S. including California's Central Valley, Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, North Carolina, Minnesota, Texas and Wisconsin, etc.

Areas in need of additional research

- There has been considerable research into the experiences of Hmong women, Hmong men continue to merit greater attention from the research community to look at such things as health issues, youth issues, and experiences in higher education.
- Ongoing investigations into the adaptation of the Wat Tham Krabok cohort and how it compares to the adaptation of earlier groups of Hmong refugees are needed.
- The continued and changing role of religion in Hmong American communities merits much greater attention from researchers. Research is needed that looks at the evolving role of religion in the lives of both Christian and non-Christian Hmong and the role religion plays in Hmong American identity.

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