

# A Bibliographic Guide to Recent Hmong Studies Research

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# Hmong American Census Data/Demographics

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- The American Community Survey publishes the annual Hmong Profile with detailed demographic data for the U.S. Hmong population. The most recent ACS profile (2012) has been posted at the Hmong Studies Internet Resource Center website: <http://hmongstudies.org/Hmong2012ACS1YearEstimate.pdf>
- Detailed Hmong data and analysis from the 2010 Census and 2010 American Community Survey 5 Year estimates is available in the Special Census Issue of the Hmong Studies Journal: <http://www.hmongstudiesjournal.org/hsj-volume-1322012-2010-census-special-issue.html>
- 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 discuss 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>

# Hmong American Census Data/Demographics

## **Hmong Profile**

**2012 American Community Survey (Total U.S. Population Figures in  
Parentheses)**

**Total U.S. Population = 280,178**

**Median Age = 21.5 (37.4)**

**Average Household Size**

**5.08 Persons (2.64)**

**Educational Attainment (Persons 25 Years and Over)**

**% Bachelor's Degree = 10.9% (18.2%)**

**% Graduate or Professional Degree = 4.0% (10.9%)**

**Period of Arrival in U.S.**

**Entered 2010 or later = 2.6%**

**Entered 2000 to 2009 = 16.1%**

**Entered before 2000 = 81.3%**

# Hmong American Census Data/Demographics

## **Hmong Profile**

**2012 American Community Survey (Total U.S. Population Figures in Parentheses)**

### **Language Spoken at Home (Persons 5 Years and Over)**

**English Only = 12.3% (from 9.6% in 2009)**

**Language Other than English = 87.7%**

**Speak English “Less than Very Well” = 33.1% (from 41.6% in 2009)**

### **Occupation (Civilian employed population 16 Years and Over)**

**Management, Professional and Related Occupations = 21.9% (36.1%)**

**Service Occupations = 19.8% (18.3%)**

**Sales and Office Occupations = 23.5% (24.5%)**

**Natural Resources, Construction and Maintenance Occupations = 3.7% (9.0%)**

**Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations = 31.1% (12.2%)**

**(More than 40% of Hmong men work in these jobs)**

# Hmong American Census Data/Demographics

## **Hmong Profile**

**2012 American Community Survey (Total U.S. Population Figures in  
Parentheses)**

### **Income**

**Median Family Income = \$45,302 (\$62,527)**

**Poverty Rate (All Families) = 27.1% (11.8%)(Hmong poverty rate was 26.9 in  
2009)**

### **Housing Tenure**

**Owner Occupied Housing Units = 45.5% (63.9%) (was close to 50% in mid-  
2000s)**

**Renter Occupied Housing Units = 54.5% (36.1%)**

**S0201. Selected Population Profile in the United States**

**Population Group: Hmong Alone or in any combination**

**Data Set: 2012 American Community Survey**

**Survey: 2012 American Community Survey**

**U.S. Census Bureau**

# Hmong Population in the U.S. (2010 Census)

- 260,076 Hmong Americans counted in the 2010 Census

- **Top 20 Hmong Populations by State**

1. California – 91,224	11. Washington – 2,404
2. Minnesota – 66,181	12. Arkansas – 2,143
3. Wisconsin – 49,240	13. Kansas – 1,732
4. North Carolina - 10,864	14. Missouri – 1,329
5. Michigan – 5,924	15. South Carolina - 1,218
6. Colorado – 3,859	16. Florida - 1,208
7. Georgia – 3,623	17. Massachusetts - 1,080
8. Alaska - 3,534	18. Pennsylvania – 1,021
9. Oklahoma - 3,369	19. Rhode Island - 1,015
10. Oregon – 2,920	20. Texas - 920

# Hmong Population in the U.S. 2010 U.S. Census

- **Top 10 Hmong Metropolitan Areas in the U.S.**

1. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN – 64,422
2. Fresno, CA – 31,771
3. Sacramento-Yolo, CA – 26,996
4. Milwaukee-Racine, WI – 11,904
5. Merced, CA – 7,254
6. Stockton-Lodi, CA – 6,968
7. Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC - 5,951
8. Wausau, WI – 5,927
9. Chico, CA – 4,354
10. Madison, WI - 4,230

The photo shows a Hmong business on the East Side of Saint Paul, MN. With more than 29,000 Hmong residents, Saint Paul has the largest Hmong population of any city in the U.S.





# Recent Research and Research Trends in Hmong Studies

# Socioeconomic Adaptation in the Hmong Diaspora

In recent years articles have addressed a range of SES issues including:

- Socioeconomic Status of Hmong Americans in the 2010 Census and American Community Survey (Vang, 2012): <http://hmongstudies.org/CYVangHSJ13.2.pdf>
- How Hmong Americans Experience Poverty (Xiong, 2013).
- Hmong homeownership in Wisconsin (Dearborn, 2008) and recent experiences with Public Housing in Minneapolis (Allen and Goetz, 2010)
- Financial management strategies of Hmong families in Minnesota (Yang and Solheim, 2007, 2010)(2007 paper is here)  
<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 American Adaptation

Some recently published monographs have broadly examined Hmong American adaptation, these include:

- Pfeifer, Chiu and Yang's (2013) comprehensive anthology on Hmong Americans: *Diversity in Diaspora*
- Her and Buley-Meissner's (2012) anthology on Hmong American Cultural Identity: *Hmong and American*
- Hillmer's (2010) collection of Hmong American oral histories
- Chia Youyee Vang's (2010) historical study of Hmong American resettlement and adaptation in Minnesota and other regions of the United States

# Hmong American Educational Adaptation

- Nguyen (2013) examines the relationship of ethnic pride to identity formation among Hmong adolescents
- Xiong (2012) provides an overview of Hmong American educational attainment and language use trends in an article in the special 2010 Census issue of the Hmong Studies Journal: <http://hmongstudies.org/YSXiongHSJ13.2.pdf>
- 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 from Wat Thamkrabok in 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, related issues are examined by DePouw in a later study (2012)

# Hmong American Health

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

- Smalkoski, et al. (2012) provide a comprehensive review of the research literature pertaining to health disparities among Hmong Americans in the special 2010 Census issue of the Hmong Studies Journal:  
<http://hmongstudies.org/SmalkoskietalHSJ13.2.pdf>
- 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](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.

# Hmong American Health

Additional recent health-related studies include:

- Foote and Matloub's (2010) research into the usefulness of healthcare databases in Wisconsin for identifying Hmong patients with cancer  
<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/16b2e8e8#/16b2e8e8/32>
- Lee and Vang's (2010) research into how cancer literacy strategies can reduce barriers to cancer screening among Hmong Americans  
Baker, et al. (2010) analysis of perceptions of barriers to immunization among parents of Hmong origin in California.
- Waheedduddin, Singh, Culhane-Pera, and Gertner (2010) discussion of Gout among the Hmong population in the United States
- 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

# Hmong American Health

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

- Lee (2013) Lee and Chang (2012) present comprehensive overview of research pertaining to mental health and the mental health incidence rate among Hmong Americans in Hmong Studies Journal articles:  
<http://hmongstudies.org/LeeHSJ14.pdf>  
<http://hmongstudies.org/LeeandChangHSJ13.2.pdf>
- 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>
- Xiong (2010) examines a cognitive-behavioral therapy strategy for Hmong refugees

# Race Relations Issues

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

- Hein (2013) investigates mainstream media portrayals of the Chai Vang hunter shooting tragedy
- Vang (2012) critiques the racialization of Hmong in the debates surrounding the Hmong Veteran's Naturalization Act of 1997
- 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
- 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 in addition, Schein, Thoj, Vang and Jalao (2012), Schein and Thoj (2009) and Schein and Vang (2010) assess the portrayals of Hmong Americans in the film Gran Torino and other popular media:  
<http://hmongstudies.org/ScheinThojHSJ10.pdf>  
<http://hmongstudies.org/ScheinVangHSJ11.pdf>



# Gender/Sexual Identity in the Hmong Diaspora

Scholars have investigated gender and sexual identity issues among Hmong Americans in recent years:

- Cha (2013) provides an overview of the gendered experiences of women in the Hmong diaspora
- Ngo and Lor (2013) discuss the roles and expectations of Hmong male youth in Hmong American family life
- Vang (2010) assesses the experiences of divorced Hmong American women
- Lee (2007, 2006, 2005) presents qualitative research related to gender and ethnicity as well as racial identity constructions of Hmong American female and youth in the school setting
- Ngo (2012) examines how Hmong culture influenced the “coming out” experiences of a Gay Hmong American: <http://hmongstudies.org/NgoHSJ13.pdf>
- Boulden (2009) discusses challenges GLBT Hmong Americans confront in the Hmong community

# Hmong Culture

In recent 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 language, the Hmong New Year, Music and Religion:

- Poss (2012) investigates the relationship between Hmong music and language cognition: <http://etd.ohiolink.edu/view.cgi/Poss%20Nicholas.pdf?osu1332472729>
- Burt (2009, 2010) assesses adaptations in Hmong names and use of the Hmong language more generally more Hmong Americans in Wisconsin, Ratliff (2010a, 2010b) has published recent works on the tonal morphology of White Hmong and the history of the Hmong-Mien language family
- Poss (2005) analyzes the communication of verbal content on the Hmong rai 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 Identity in Asia/Transnational Exchanges

- In a 2007 work, 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>. Yang (2009) examines the history of the usage of the Miao category for minority groups in China <http://hmongstudies.org/ZhiqiangYangHSJ10.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 Falk (2013) on Qeej videos on YouTube, Tapp (2010); Schein (2008, 2005); Tapp (2006) and Lee (2006) <http://hmongstudies.org/GYLee.pdf>
- Lee (2005) analyzes how agriculture has shaped Hmong culture and Hmong religious beliefs throughout history
- An additional continuing focus of researchers has been the status of the Hmong minorities in Thailand and Laos, examples include the publications of Leepreecha, et al. (2012), Baird (2010), Lee (2007), Siriphon (2006); and Tomforde (2006). Hmong in Vietnam have been the focus of the work of Michaud and Forsyth (2011), Michaud (2010), Turner (2012a, 2012 b) and Turner and Michaud (2009).

# Reference Works

In the past several years, additional reference works have become available:

- Pfeifer (2013) provides a bibliographic overview of important works published in Hmong American Studies from the early 1980s to the present
- A growing Hmong Studies Virtual Library of Full-Text articles, books, theses and reports is available at: <http://www.hmonglibrary.org/hmong-studies-virtual-library.html>
- Xiong (2006) 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.hmongstudiesjournal.org/hmong-studies-bibliographies.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 18<sup>th</sup> 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, Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, North Carolina, Minnesota 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 is needed
- The continued and changing role of religion in Hmong American communities merit 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

# Other Observations on Hmong Studies

- Meaningful collaboration should be encouraged, multiple individual institutional initiatives may unnecessarily duplicate resources without a necessarily positive long-term outcome for the development of the Hmong Studies scholarly field in general
- If funding for resource development is available, important recognized institutions in the field such as scholarly journals should be collaboratively supported so that they are sustainable in the long-term
- Support is needed for both Hmong in Asia Studies and Hmong American Studies, the two should not be mutually exclusive

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