

Hmong Population and Demographic Trends in the 2010 Census and 2010 American Community Survey

By

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Abstract

Utilizing 2010 data from the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey, this article discusses shifting Hmong population trends at the national, regional, metropolitan and census tract level. The article also assesses contemporary Hmong demographics across the U.S. including age distribution, gender distribution, disability status, health insurance coverage and naturalization and foreign-born status. Policy implications of the population and demographic trends presented in the article are discussed.

Keywords: Hmong Americans, population trends, demographics

Introduction and Methodology

It has been reported that various ethnic minority groups have been undercounted by the 2010 Census (Yen, 2012). Language and cultural barriers, a lack of community outreach about the census, the preference of some respondents to choose national origin as opposed to ethnic origin categories on the census form, and widespread suspicion of government surveys have all been suggested in the past as possible factors contributing to an undercount among Hmong and other immigrant and refugee populations (Carroll and Udalova, 2005; Pfeifer and Lee, 2004). Like the 2000 Census, it is very likely that an undercount occurred with the 2010 Census. Specifically, there is evidence that some Hmong reported their identity as Laotian to 2010 Census survey takers. However, given the strong outreach effort among Hmong and Asian

organizations in local communities and the increasing acculturation of Hmong Americans, it is quite likely that the undercount was somewhat less in 2010 than ten years earlier.

Recent changes in the Census Bureau's data collection compelled the utilization of a variety of data sources for this article. In the past few censuses, Summary File 4 of the decennial Census was the source of the most detailed socioeconomic, demographic and educational data related to Hmong and other ethnic populations. Starting with the 2010 Census, the long-form survey and Summary File 4 were eliminated from the Census. These were replaced with the American Community Survey (ACS), which is given out annually to about 10% of the U.S. population and administered to a much smaller sample than those who had previously received the long form. For the purposes of this article, Summary File 1 of the 2010 Census is the primary source of population-related data. Demographic variables were derived from the 2010 ACS 3-year and 5-year estimate datasets. The figures provided in most of the data tables represent persons who claimed Hmong as at least one of their ethnic identities in the Census or ACS (i.e. Hmong Alone or Hmong Alone or in any Combination).

National Trends

In the 2010 Census, 260,073 persons of Hmong origin were counted in the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico (Table 1). This represents a 40% increase from the 186,310 Hmong enumerated in the United States in 2000. The growth rate of the U.S. Hmong population in the 1990-2000 period was 97%. The U.S. Hmong population count was 94,439 in 1990, thus between 1990 and 2010, the enumerated Hmong population in the U.S. increased 175%. In 2010, the largest Hmong population continued to reside in California (91,224), followed by Minnesota (66,181) and Wisconsin (49,240), states that have ranked second and third since the 1990 Census (Tables 2A and 2B). Also in the top five state populations were

North Carolina (10,864) and Michigan (5,924). Rounding out the top ten enumerated Hmong state populations were Colorado (3,859), Georgia (3,623), Alaska (3,534), Oklahoma (3,369), and Oregon (2,920).

Table 1
Hmong Population
United States and Regional Distributions, 1990-2010

	1990 Hmong Pop.	2000 Hmong Pop.	2010 Hmong Pop.	% Change 1990- 2000	% Change 2000- 2010	% Change 1990- 2010	1990 % of U.S. Hmong Pop.	2000 % U.S. Hmong Pop.	2010 % U.S. Hmong Pop.
United States	94,439	186,310	260,073	97%	40%	175%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Northeast	1,941	3,781	3,860	71%	16%	99%	2.0%	2.0%	1.5%
South	1,272	11,645	24,230	714%	134%	1805%	1.3%	6.2%	9.3%
Midwest	38,796	91,034	126,713	115%	52%	227%	41.1%	48.9%	48.7%
West	52,430	79,850	105,270	38%	46%	101%	55.5%	42.9%	40.5%

US Census Bureau, 1990 Census
 US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Summary File 1, PCT 1
 US Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Summary File 1, PCT 7

Regional and State Trends

Northeast

Between 2000 and 2010, population growth was quite limited among the very modestly sized Hmong populations in the majority of the Northeast states. The overall growth rate in the region was just 16% (Table 2B). The Northeast's share of the overall enumerated Hmong population in 2010 was only about 1.5%. The established Hmong communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island showed little to no growth. In Massachusetts the counted population decreased 4% from 1,127 to 1,080 while in Rhode Island the enumerated Hmong figure increased 1% from 1,001 to 1,015. Most of the Northeast growth occurred in Pennsylvania, where the enumerated Hmong population increased 35% from 758 to 1,001, and in New York, where the very small population increased 33% from 222 to 296, as well as Connecticut where the counted population

increased 55% from 145 to 225. Very small Hmong communities of less than 100 persons also increased in size in New Jersey, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Table 2A
Hmong Population 1990-2010
United States

*US Census Bureau, 1990 Census

**US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Summary File 1, PCT 1

***US Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Summary File 1, PCT 7

	1990 pop.*	2000 pop.**	2010 pop.***	% Change 1990-2000	% Change 2000-2010	% Change 1990-2010
United States	94,439	186,310	260,073	97%	40%	175%
Midwest Region	38,796	91,034	126,713	115%	52%	227%
Minnesota	17,764	45,443	66,181	135%	58%	273%
Wisconsin	16,980	36,809	49,240	99%	46%	190%
Michigan	2,304	5,988	5,924	134%	-10%	157%
Kansas	543	1,118	1,732	85%	73%	219%
Illinois	424	604	651	14%	34%	54%
Ohio	199	407	589	89%	57%	196%
Iowa	341	303	534	-18%	91%	57%
Indiana	101	172	218	49%	45%	116%
Nebraska	135	108	188	-25%	86%	39%
South Dakota	0	42	94	NA	203%	NA
Missouri	0	26	1,329	NA	5,438%	NA
North Dakota	5	4	33	-40%	1,000%	560%
West Region	52,430	79,850	105,270	38%	46%	101%
California	49,343	71,741	91,224	32%	40%	85%
Colorado	1,207	3,351	3,859	149%	29%	220%
Oregon	595	2,298	2,920	253%	39%	391%
Washington	853	1,485	2,404	52%	86%	182%
Alaska	0	321	3,534	NA	1,144%	NA
Montana	151	229	253	39%	20%	68%
Utah	219	190	426	-28%	171%	95%
Nevada	38	117	254	158%	159%	568%
Idaho	0	45	44	NA	33%	NA
Arizona	24	36	229	25%	663%	854%
Hawaii	0	22	87	NA	335%	NA
New Mexico	0	15	28	NA	180%	NA
Wyoming	0	0	8	NA	NA	NA

Table 2B
Hmong Population 1990-2010
United States

*US Census Bureau, 1990 Census

**US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Summary File 1, PCT 1

***US Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Summary File 1, PCT 7

	1990 pop.*	2000 pop.**	2010 pop.***	% Change 1990-2000	% Change 2000-2010	% Change 1990-2010
South Region	1,272	11,645	24,230	714%	134%	1,805%
North Carolina	544	7,982	10,864	1,204%	53%	1,897%
Georgia	386	1,615	3,623	280%	147%	839%
Oklahoma	166	579	3,369	231%	514%	1,930%
South Carolina	40	570	1,218	1,198%	135%	2,945%
Texas	90	422	920	286%	165%	922%
Tennessee	26	164	400	462%	174%	1,438%
Florida	6	163	1,208	1,867%	924%	20,033%
Virginia	14	55	188	221%	318%	1,243%
Arkansas	0	33	2,143	NA	7,837%	NA
Louisiana	0	23	49	NA	250%	NA
Kentucky	0	17	71	NA	610%	NA
Mississippi	0	9	50	NA	456%	NA
Alabama	0	11	122	NA	3,967%	NA
West Virginia	0	2	5	NA	150%	NA
Northeast Region	1,941	3,781	3,860	71%	16%	99%
Massachusetts	134	1,303	1,080	741%	-4%	706%
Rhode Island	1,185	1,112	1,015	-16%	1%	-14%
Pennsylvania	458	844	1,021	66%	35%	123%
New York	142	281	296	56%	33%	108%
Connecticut	6	163	225	2,317%	55%	3,650%
New Jersey	16	27	83	38%	277%	419%
New Hampshire	0	21	27	NA	50%	NA
Maryland	0	15	76	NA	660%	NA
District of Columbia	0	6	26	NA	333%	NA
Vermont	0	5	1	NA	-80%	NA
Maine	0	3	7	NA	133%	NA
Delaware	0	1	3	NA	200%	NA

South

Some of the most impressive growth in Hmong populations occurred in several Southern states over the 2000-2010 period, as Hmong moved to these states for employment opportunities and to engage in farming enterprises. The overall growth rate in the South was 134%, the highest of the four regions (Table 2B). The South's proportion of the overall U.S. Hmong population in 2010 was just above 9%. The enumerated number of Hmong in North Carolina went up 53% from 7,982 to 10,864 while the population counted in neighboring South Carolina increased 135% from 570 to 1,218. In Georgia, the increase was 147% from 1,615 to 3,623. The enumerated population in Florida expanded 924% from 163 to 1,208. In Arkansas, the counted population expanded a rather amazing 7837% over the decade from 33 to 2,143, while in neighboring Oklahoma the enumerated community increased 514% from 579 to 3,369. In Texas, the increase was 165% from 422 to 920. In Tennessee, the enumerated population expanded 174% from 164 to 400. In Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana small Hmong populations of less than 150 enumerated persons or less also saw increases of greater than 100% over the decade.

Midwest

The growth rate of the Hmong population in the Midwest states from 2000-2010 was 52% (Table 2A). The largest number of Hmong in the United States (126,713, or just under 49%) lived in the Midwest region in 2010. According to the 2010 Census figures, the Hmong population in the Midwest continues to be strongly concentrated in the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Both states saw continued sustained increases in the numbers of its Hmong-origin residents, though the level of percentage increase decreased in comparison to the 1990-2000 period. The rate of increase of the Hmong population in Minnesota from 2000-2010 was 58%,

or from just over 45,000 Hmong residents to 66,181. In Wisconsin, the population exhibited growth of 46% (from 33,791 to 49,240). In Michigan, the number of Hmong residents fell 10% from 5,988 to 5,924, perhaps due to slow economic growth in this state over much of the time period. In the southwestern part of the region, the enumerated Hmong population in Missouri expanded from 27 to 1,324, amounting to growth greater than 5000% over the decade. As in neighboring Oklahoma and Arkansas, much of this population expansion was driven by the movement of the Hmong to the chicken farming industry found in these states. In Kansas, the counted Hmong population increased 73% from 1,118 to 1,732. Most of this population expansion was concentrated in the Kansas City, KS area. Smaller enumerated Hmong populations in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Ohio, and Indiana also increased from 34% to 91% over the decade.

West

In the Western region, most of the Hmong population continued to be concentrated in California. In the Western states, the overall growth rate from 2000-2010 was 46% (Table 2A). The West was the only one region where the growth rate was greater over the past decade than it had been from 1990-2000. The West's share of the enumerated U.S. Hmong population in 2010 was 105,270 or just over 40%. The quite sizable community in California grew more modestly than many other states (with a 40% increase), but this rate of expansion enabled the large, established population in the state to expand in size from 71,741 to 91,224 and still constitute more than one-third of the total number of Hmong in the United States. The most notable expansion of the Hmong community in the Western region over the decade occurred in Alaska, where the enumerated population increased more than 1000% from 321 to 3,534. The modest population in Washington increased 86% from 1,485 to 2,404. In Oregon, the number of counted

Hmong expanded 39% from 2,298 to 2,920. In other Western states, small populations in Utah, Arizona and Hawaii showed impressive increases, while modest gains were seen in the small populations in Montana and Idaho.

Metropolitan Distributions of Hmong Population

Among U.S. metropolitan areas, by far the largest Hmong population, with 64,422 residents, lived in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington metro area. Over the 2000-2010 decade, this metro area continued its top ranking among the hierarchy of Hmong population centers in the U.S., and now has more than double the number of Hmong residents of its nearest competitor (Table 3A). The second largest concentration of Hmong continued to be in the Fresno metro area (31,771). After Fresno, the next most sizable Hmong populations in 2010 were enumerated in Sacramento-Yolo (26,996), Milwaukee-Racine (11,904), Merced, CA (7,254) and Stockton, CA (6,968). Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC (5,951); Wausau, WI (5,927); Chico, CA (4,354), and Madison, WI (4,230) round out the ten largest metropolitan concentrations of Hmong as enumerated in 2010 (Tables 3A and 3B).

U.S. Regional Distributions of Metropolitan Areas with Sizable Hmong Communities

Northeast

As noted above, the Hmong populations counted in the Eastern Seaboard states were very small relative to those found in the nation's other major regions. Within the Northeast, the largest enumerated Hmong communities in the 2010 Census were apparent in Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA (1,049), Lancaster, PA (668), and Worcester, MA (658) (Table 3B).

South

In the Southeastern region, Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC continued to have the largest Hmong community, and continued to grow over the decade. The enumerated Hmong population

in the Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir area rose dramatically from just 433 in 1990, to 4,207 in 2000, and 5,951 in 2010 (Table 3B). The Atlanta, GA metro possessed the second largest number of Hmong residents in 2010 (2,864) and the Hmong community in the Atlanta area more than doubled over the decade. The enumerated populations in Tulsa, OK (2,493) and the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC metro area (2,291) also more than doubled in size over the time period. The 2010 Census data also documents a growing Hmong community in the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Metro Area (1,239). In addition, the 2010 Census data shows expanding Hmong communities of greater than 500 enumerated persons in Spartanburg, SC, Albemarle, NC, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX, Statesville-Mooresville, NC and Tampa, FL.

Midwest

In the Midwest, the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area continued its position as the region's largest Hmong population and institutional center over the 2000-2010 period as the enumerated population increased impressively from 40,707 to 64,422 (Table 3A). According to the 2010 enumerations, most of the remaining cities in the rank hierarchy of Hmong population centers in the region were located in Wisconsin. These cities included the Milwaukee metro area (11,904), Wausau (5,927), Madison (4,230), Sheboygan (4,168), Green Bay (4,152), Appleton (4,082), La Crosse (3,195), Eau Claire (2,749), Oshkosh-Neenah (2,320), Manitowoc (1,614), Stevens Point (1,274), Menomonee (832) and Marshfield-Wisconsin Rapids (705). The Midwestern hierarchy of Hmong population centers also includes two metro areas in Michigan: Detroit-Warren-Livonia (4,190) and Lansing-East Lansing (958). The only Midwestern metro area not in Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Minnesota with a significant enumerated Hmong population in 2010 was Kansas City, MO-KS (1,754), where most of the Hmong residents reside on the Kansas side of the metro area.

West

In the Western states, the rank hierarchy of Hmong population centers continued to be dominated by California metro areas according to the 2010 Census data, with the most sizable Hmong communities located in the Central Valley and Northern California (Table 3A). The Hmong populations in Fresno (31,771) and Sacramento (26,996) continued to expand over the decade and these cities remain the primary Hmong institutional and population centers in the West. Other California cities with sizable Hmong populations according to the 2010 enumerations include Merced (7,254), Stockton (6,968), Chico (4,354) and Yuba City (2,883). The strongest growth of a Hmong population in a metropolitan area in the region over the 2000-2010 period occurred in Anchorage, AK according to the census data. In Anchorage, the enumerated Hmong population expanded from 262 in 2000 to 3,494 a decade later. Hmong populations also grew in Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO (3,426), Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro OR-WA (2,713), and Seattle-Tacoma-Bellvue, WA (1,768). Several other California cities round out the hierarchy of Hmong population centers in the West, these include Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana (1,960), Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (1,598), San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos (1,388), Visalia-Porterville (1,086), Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna (721), San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont (680), Crescent City (616), Modesto (611) and Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta (517).

Census Tract Concentrations

At the micro-level, 2010 Census data shows continued sizable residential concentrations in certain neighborhoods of metro areas with large Hmong populations (Tables 4A-4D). The most significant census tract populations or “super-neighborhoods” of enumerated Hmong (over 1,000) in the United States are located in Saint Paul, Sacramento, Fresno and Merced. The

census tract with the largest enumerated Hmong population in the U.S. (1,861) is located in the North End of Saint Paul, the next largest is located in central Sacramento (1,664). In total, Saint Paul has nine areas with Hmong populations greater than 1,000 according to the 2010 data, while Sacramento has four, Fresno has two, and there is one in Merced. The rank of U.S. census tracts by Hmong population shows that most of the other tracts with the largest numbers of enumerated Hmong were located in the above cities. The census tract data also show notable concentrations of Hmong populations in Anchorage, Wausau, Milwaukee, Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center, MN, as well as Oroville, CA. The two cities in Minnesota are indicative of the increasing suburbanization of the Hmong population in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. The implications of continued residential concentrations among the Hmong in certain central cities, as well as trends of suburbanization are beyond the scope of this article. We strongly encourage other researchers to examine these trends in detail.

Table 3A
Metropolitan Areas
Hmong Populations by Rank
Regions of the United States

2010 U.S. Metropolitan and Micro Areas by Region	2010 Hmong Pop.	2000 Hmong Pop.
<u>Midwestern Metropolitan and Micro Areas</u>		
1. Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	64,422	40,707
4. Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI Metro Area	11,904	8,078
8. Wausau, WI Metro Area	5,927	4,453
10. Madison, WI Metro Area	4,230	2,235
11. Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI Metro Area	4,190	3,926
12. Sheboygan, WI Metro Area	4,168	2,706
13. Green Bay, WI Metro Area	4,152	2,957
14. Appleton, WI Metro Area	4,082	4,741*
17. La Crosse, WI-MN Metro Area	3,195	2,285
20. Eau Claire, WI Metro Area	2,749	1,920
23. Oshkosh-Neenah, WI Metro Area	2,320	N.A.
27. Kansas City, MO-KS Metro Area	1,754	948
28. Manitowoc, WI Micro Area	1,614	N.A.
31. Stevens Point, WI Micro Area	1,274	N.A.
35. Lansing-East Lansing, MI Metro Area	958	855
36. Menomonie, WI Micro Area	832	N.A.
40. Marshfield-Wisconsin Rapids, WI Micro Area	705	N.A.
<u>Western Metropolitan and Micro Areas</u>		
2. Fresno, CA Metro Area	31,771	22,456
3. Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA Metro Area	26,996	16,261
5. Merced, CA Metro Area	7,254	6,148
6. Stockton, CA Metro Area	6,968	5,653
9. Chico, CA Metro Area	4,354	2,887
15. Anchorage, AK Metro Area	3,494	262
16. Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO Metro Area	3,426	2,976
21. Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	2,713	2,117
18. Yuba City, CA Metro Area	2,883	2,798
25. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA Metro Area	1,960	2,500
26. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	1,768	902
29. Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	1,598	N.A.
30. San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA Metro Area	1,388	1,441
33. Visalia-Porterville, CA Metro Area	1,086	1,170
39. Eureka-Arcata-Fortuna, CA Micro Area	721	N.A.
42. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA Metro Area	680	872
48. Crescent City, CA Micro Area	616	N.A.
49. Modesto, CA Metro Area	611	813
50. Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, CA Metro Area	517	552

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2010 CENSUS, SUMMARY FILE 1

ASIAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER RACES, AND WITH ONE OR

Table 3B
Metropolitan Areas
Hmong Populations by Rank
Regions of the United States

2010 U.S. Metropolitan and Micro Areas by Region	2010 Hmong Pop.	2000 Hmong Pop.
<u>Southern Metropolitan and Micro Areas</u>		
5. Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, NC Metro Area	5,951	4,207
19. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA Metro Area	2,864	1,097
22. Tulsa, OK Metro Area	2,483	505
24. Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC Metro Area	2,291	1,024
32. Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO Metro Area	1,239	N.A.
37. Spartanburg, SC Metro Area	799	436
38. Albemarle, NC Micro Area	730	N.A.
41. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	683	277
44. Statesville-Mooresville, NC Micro Area	659	N.A.
46. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	631	N.A.
<u>Northeastern Metropolitan and Micro Areas</u>		
34. Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA Metro Area	1,049	1,004
43. Lancaster, PA Metro Area	668	494
45. Worcester, MA Metro Area	658	N.A.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2010 CENSUS, SUMMARY FILE 1
 ASIAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER RACES, AND WITH ONE OR
 MORE ASIAN CATEGORIES FOR SELECTED GROUPS, PCT 7

Age Distribution

The ACS 2008-2010 three-year estimates show the U.S. Hmong population to be considerably younger than the total U.S. population and the total U.S. Asian population, with median ages of 20.4, 37 and 33.1 years, respectively (Table 5). The Hmong populations in Minnesota, Wisconsin and California were also significantly younger than the total populations of those states. The median age of the Hmong population in Minnesota was 19.7, compared to the median age of 37.3 for the entire state. In Wisconsin and California, the Hmong median ages of 20.2 and 20.4 were considerably lower than the respective state median ages of 38.4 and 35. In 2010, 43.1% of the U.S. Hmong population was under 18, in comparison to 24.2% of the total U.S. population and 25.8% of the total U.S. Asian population. It is notable that the percentage of the Hmong population younger than 18 has dropped since the 2000 Census when 56% of U.S. Hmong were under the age of 18, and the median age was 16.1 (Hmong National Development

and Hmong Cultural Center, 2004). This was likely due to slowly decreasing fertility rates and household sizes among the Hmong American population over the decade.

Table 4A. Census Tracts – Hmong Populations by Rank, United States

Location of Census Tract	2010 Hmong Population	Boundaries
1. Census Tract 305, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,861	Larpenteur, Rice, I35, Magnolia
2. Census Tract 43, Sacramento County, California, Sacramento City	1,664	Meadowview Rd., Richfield Way, Union Pacific Rail, Hwy 160
3. Census Tract 317.02, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,559	Maryland, Johnson Pkwy, Minnehaha, Ames, York
4. Census Tract 306.01, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,480	Larpenteur, I35, Maryland/Brainerd, Edgerton
5. Census Tract 67.02, Sacramento County, California, Sacramento City	1,400	Union Pacific Rail, Hwy 80, Ford Rd.,
6. Census Tract 49.03, Sacramento County, California, Sacramento City	1,317	Florin Rd., Meadowview, Union Pacific Rail, Franklin Blvd
7. Census Tract 14.10, Fresno County, California, Fresno City	1,251	Union Pacific Rail, Burlington Rail, Clovis, Chestnut
8. Census Tract 316, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,248	Arcade, Phalen Blvd, Cook
9. Census Tract 325, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,238	Lafond, Lexington, Dale, Burlington Rail
10. Census Tract 310, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,174	Edgerton, Arcade, Case, Ivy, Cottage
11. Census Tract 96.01, Sacramento County, California, Sacramento City	1,075	Richfield Way, Elk Grove Town Line, Beach Lake Rd
12. Census Tract 309, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,053	I35, Case, Maryland/Brainerd, Edgerton
13. Census Tract 307.04, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,032	Arlington, Phalen Blvd., Maryland, White Bear

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Note: Tract Boundaries are Approximations based on Census Tract Maps. View Tract maps at http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/pl10_map_suite/tract.html

Table 4B. Census Tracts – Hmong Populations by Rank, United States

Location of Census Tract	2010 Hmong Population	Boundaries
14. Census Tract 318.01, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	1,020	Maryland, Minnehaha, Hazelwood, Hazel, York, Ames
15. Census Tract 16.02, Merced County, California, Merced City	1,016	Childs Ave., E. Mission Ave., S. West Ave., Hwy 99
16. Census Tract 13.04, Fresno County, California, Fresno City	1,013	E. Butler, Union Pacific Rail, S. Cedar, S. Chestnut
17. Census Tract 29.06, Fresno County, California, Fresno City	971	McKinley, Olive, Peach, Chestnut
18. Census Tract 346.01, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	968	Warner Rd, Earl, I-94, Hwy 61
19. Census Tract 307.03, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	950	Larpenteur, Phalen Blvd., Arlington, White Bear
20. Census Tract 308, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	905	Dale, Front, Rice, Burlington Rail
21. Census Tract 317.01, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	884	Phalen Blvd., Johnson Pkwy, Minnehaha, Beech
22. Census Tract 9.02, Merced County, California, Merced City	869	Hwy 99, Hwy 140, N. Buhach Rd., N. Drake Ave.
23. Census Tract 10.02, Merced County, California, Merced City	854	E. Bellevue Rd., N. Santa Fe Ave., G Street, Hwy 59, Thornton Rd., Beachwood Dr.
24. Census Tract 307.02, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	836	Larpenteur, White Bear, Hawthorne, McKnight
25. Census Tract 65, Sacramento County, California, Sacramento City	829	Main, Union Pacific Rail, Raley Blvd., Hwy 80
26. Census Tract 14.14, Fresno County, California, Fresno City	828	E. Kings Canyon, Burlington Rail, Clovis, Fowler

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2010 CENSUS, SUMMARY FILE 1, ASIAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER RACES, AND WITH ONE OR MORE ASIAN CATEGORIES FOR SELECTED GROUPS, PCT 7

Note: Tract Boundaries are Approximations based on Census Tract Maps. View Tract maps here:

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/pl10_map_suite/tract.html

Table 4C. Census Tracts – Hmong Populations by Rank, United States

Location of Census Tract	2010 Hmong Population	Boundaries
27. Census Tract 326, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	814	Dale, Western, University, Burlington Rail
28. Census Tract 346.02, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	807	I-94, Minnehaha, Johnson Pkwy, Kennard
29. Census Tract 6, Anchorage Municipality, Alaska, Anchorage City	792	E 3 rd Ave., N. Pine, McPhee, Thompson, Viking, E. Whitney Rd.
30. Census Tract 347.01, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	790	I-94, Minnehaha, Kennard, Hazel, Ruth
31. Census Tract 345, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	788	Mounds Blvd., Earl, Beech, 5 th St.
32. Census Tract 6.02, Marathon County, Wisconsin, Wausau City	777	Lake Wausau, Wisconsin River, Stewart, West, 12th Ave.
33. Census Tract 28, Fresno County, California, Fresno City	773	McKinley, Belmont, Cedar, Chestnut
34. Census Tract 14.11, Fresno County, California, Fresno City	721	Clovis, Fowler, Belmont, E. Kings Canyon
35. Census Tract 327, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	709	Western, Rice, University, Burlington Rail
36. Census Tract 306.02, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	705	Larpenteur, Arcade, Hyacinth, Wheelock Pkwy, Lake Phalen, Phalen Blvd
37. Census Tract 45.01, Sacramento County, California, Sacramento City	695	32nd Ave., 47th Ave., Union Pacific Rail, MLK Drive
38. Census Tract 42.03, Sacramento County, California, Sacramento City	694	Union Pacific Rail, 25th St., Florin Rd., Meadowview Rd.
39. Census Tract 50.01, Sacramento County, California, Sacramento City	692	Power Inn, Stockton, Gerber, Florin
40. Census Tract 268.11, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Brooklyn Park City	684	85 th Ave., Noble, Xerxes, 73 rd Ave.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2010 CENSUS, SUMMARY FILE 1, ASIAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER RACES, AND WITH ONE OR MORE ASIAN CATEGORIES FOR SELECTED GROUPS, PCT 7

Note: Tract Boundaries are Approximations based on Census Tract Maps. View Tract maps here:

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/pl10_map_suite/tract.html

Table 4D. Census Tracts – Hmong Populations by Rank, United States

Location of Census Tract	2010 Hmong Population	Boundaries
41. Census Tract 58.04, Fresno County, California, Fresno City	675	Ashlan, Shields, Fowler, Clovis
42. Census Tract 428, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	674	I-94, I-35, Empire Drive, Rice
43. Census Tract 203.03, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Brooklyn Center City	669	I-94, 61 st Ave., Zane, Brooklyn Blvd.
44. Census Tract 268.14, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Brooklyn Park City	668	85 th Ave., 73 rd Ave., Xerxes, Grand
45. Census Tract 6, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Milwaukee City	662	W. Good Hope, W. Mill, N. 61st, N. 91st, N. 76th, W. Green, W. Daphne
46. Census Tract 4, Marathon County, Wisconsin, Wausau City	659	Bridge, Cassidy, Wisconsin River, Hwy 52
47. Census Tract 311, Ramsey County, Minnesota, Saint Paul City	652	Cook, Arcade, Phalen Blvd., Lake Phalen, Wheelock Pkwy, Hyacinth
48. Census Tract 97, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Milwaukee City	644	W. Brown, W. Cherry, N. 26th, N. 35th
49. Census Tract 29, Butte County, California, Thermalito City (Oroville)	640	Grand Ave., I70, Nelson Ave., Thermalito ForeBay
50. Census Tract 268.10, Hennepin County, Minnesota, Brooklyn Park City	634	85 th Ave., 73 rd Ave., Zane, Noble

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2010 CENSUS, SUMMARY FILE 1, ASIAN ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER RACES, AND WITH ONE OR MORE ASIAN CATEGORIES FOR SELECTED GROUPS, PCT 7

Note: Tract Boundaries are Approximations based on Census Tract Maps. View Tract maps here:
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/p110_map_suite/tract.html

Table 5
Age Distribution
Hmong, Asian and Total Population
United States, California, Minnesota, Wisconsin

	U.S. Total	U.S. Asian	U.S. Hmong	MN Total	MN Hmong	WI Total	WI Hmong	CA Total	CA Hmong
	306,738,433	16,714,862	256,430	5,279,601	63,407	5,667,100	48,189	36,971,641	95,120
Under 5 years	6.6%	7.60%	12.3%	6.7%	12.7%	6.3%	12.9%	6.9%	12.1%
5 to 17 years	17.6%	18.2%	30.8%	17.6%	32.1%	17.4%	30.7%	18.3%	31.1%
18 to 24 years	10.0%	10.7%	18.6%	9.6%	17.5%	9.8%	19.9%	10.5%	18.2%
25 to 34 years	13.2%	16.6%	16.4%	13.4%	15.9%	12.5%	15.9%	14.3%	16.7%
35 to 44 years	13.6%	15.9%	8.9%	13.2%	9.4%	13.1%	9.6%	14.1%	7.9%
45 to 54 years	14.6%	13.1%	5.8%	15.3%	6.1%	15.4%	4.9%	14.1%	5.7%
55 to 64 years	11.6%	9.4%	3.9%	11.5%	3.3%	12.0%	3.4%	10.6%	4.7%
65 to 74 years	6.9%	5.1%	2.0%	6.5%	1.9%	6.9%	1.8%	6.0%	2.1%
75 years and over	6.0%	3.4%	1.1%	6.2%	1.1%	6.6%	0.8%	5.3%	1.5%
Median Age	37.0	33.1	20.4	37.3	19.7	38.4	20.2	35	20.4
18 years and over	75.8%	74.2%	56.8%	75.7%	55.2%	76.3%	56.4%	74.8%	56.8%
21 years and over	71.3%	69.6%	48.2%	71.5%	46.9%	72.0%	47.4%	70.1%	48.1%
62 years and over	15.9%	10.8%	3.9%	15.6%	3.6%	16.4%	3.3%	13.9%	4.6%
65 years and over	12.9%	8.5%	3.1%	12.7%	3.1%	13.5%	2.6%	11.3%	3.6%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates

In the 2008-10 estimates, the Hmong were overrepresented in the age categories “under 5 years,” “5 to 17 years,” “18 to 24 years,” and “25 to 34 years,” and were underrepresented in all other age categories. In the 2000 Census, the Hmong were underrepresented in the “18 to 24 years” and “25 to 34 years” age categories. The Hmong population was not as concentrated in the older cohorts in comparison to the total U.S. population or the U.S. Asian population. Only 3.1% of the Hmong population was 65 years or older, compared to 12.9% of the total U.S. population and 8.5% of the U.S. Asian population. This is only a marginal increase from the 2.8% of the U.S. Hmong population that was 65 years and older in the 2000 Census. Overall, the changes described above signal an aging demographic within the Hmong population, primarily the transitioning of a large young cohort into early and mid-adulthood. The Hmong population, however, continues to constitute one of the youngest ethnic groups in the United States.

Gender Distribution

The gender distribution of the Hmong population slightly favors males, who compose 50.7% of the population, whereas females comprise 49.3% (Table 6). This distribution differs from the total U.S. population, in which 49.2% are male and 50.8% are female. The distribution also differs from the U.S. Asian population in which 47.8% are male and 52.2% are female. Interestingly, the gender distribution of the Hmong population has remained largely the same since the 1990 Census, with a near 51% - 49% male to female split observed in both 1990 and 2000 (Hmong National Development and Hmong Cultural Center, 2004).

Disability Status

In general, the U.S. Hmong population displayed a lower rate of disability (7.6%) than the total U.S. population, with 7.6% of the Hmong population and 12% of the total U.S. population reporting a disability (Table 7). However, when looking at those 65 years and older, disability was reported at a greater rate among the Hmong (50.7%) than the total U.S. population (37.2%). While the California and Minnesota Hmong populations 65 years and older both exhibited higher rates of disability than the total populations of both the nation and their respective states, the Wisconsin Hmong population (65 years and older) exhibited a lower level of disability than the total national and Wisconsin populations. The California Hmong population displayed greater levels of disability than the total California population in all age categories; this was not true for either Minnesota or Wisconsin. The U.S. Hmong population displayed a greater rate of disability than the U.S. Asian population across all age categories. It should be noted, however, that because many Hmong define disability differently than the mainstream U.S. population, the above numbers derived from the ACS survey may possibly be somewhat misleading (Hatmaker, et al, 2010).

Table 6
Gender Distribution
Hmong, Asian and Total Population
United States, California, Minnesota, Wisconsin

	Male	Female
U.S. Total	49.2%	50.8%
U.S. Asian	47.8%	52.2%
U.S. Hmong	50.7%	49.3%
MN Total	49.7%	50.3%
MN Hmong	50.8%	49.2%
WI Total	49.6%	50.4%
WI Hmong	50.1%	49.9%
CA Total	49.7%	50.3%
CA Hmong	51.0%	49.0%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates

Table 7
Disability Status
Hmong and Total Population
United States, California, Minnesota, Wisconsin

	Total U.S.	U.S. Asian	U.S. Hmong	Total MN	MN Hmong	Total WI	WI Hmong	Total CA	CA Hmong
Total Population	301,501,772	16,603,048	255,212	5,219,834	63,193	5,587,423	48,061	36,414,291	94,593
With a Disability	12.0%	6.2%	7.6%	9.9%	6.6%	10.8%	5.6%	10.0%	10.3%
Population Under 18	73,981,918	4,311,225	110,506	1,278,679	28,341	1,338,272	21,018	9,290,428	41,033
With a Disability	4.0%	2.0%	2.9%	3.6%	2.1%	4.0%	2.3%	3.0%	4.2%
Population 18 to 64 Years	189,239,988	10,891,301	136,745	3,299,467	32,990	3,513,027	25,786	23,054,795	50,125
With a Disability	10.0%	4.5%	8.8%	8.0%	7.5%	8.7%	7.1%	8.0%	11.8%
Population 65 Years and Older	38,279,866	1,400,522	7,961	641,688	1,862	736,124	1,257	4,069,068	3,435
With a Disability	37.2%	32.8%	50.7%	32.2%	57.9%	32.9%	30.2%	37.5%	60.3%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates

Health Insurance

Of the U.S. Hmong population, 14.9% was estimated to have no health insurance according to the ACS 3-year estimates. This strongly parallels the 15% of the entire U.S. population with no coverage (Table 8). A much higher proportion of Hmong Americans, however, were estimated to rely on public sources of coverage (41.6%) compared to 28.5% of the entire U.S. population and 19.1% of U.S. Asians. Higher proportions of Hmong in California relied on public coverage and had no coverage compared to Hmong in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Citizenship Status and Foreign Born

According to the ACS three-year estimates, 41.8% of the U.S. Hmong population was foreign-born, compared to 12.8% of the total U.S. population and 59.6% of the total U.S. Asian population (Table 9). Of the foreign-born Hmong population, 40.5% were not citizens, whereas 56.6% of the total U.S. foreign-born population and 43.1% of the U.S. Asian population did not hold U.S. citizenship. The number of foreign-born Hmong who are not U.S. citizens has fallen by 28.1 percentage points since the 2000 Census, when 68.6% of foreign-born Hmong were not U.S. citizens (Hmong National Development and Hmong Cultural Center, 2004). This is in comparison to all U.S. foreign-born non-citizens, which only fell by 3.5%. This represents an important trend for the Hmong community, as it is apparent that foreign-born Hmong are being naturalized at a much higher rate than the general foreign-born non-citizen population.

Among the U.S. foreign-born population, the Hmong population entered the U.S. in greater concentrations before the year 2000 than the total U.S. foreign-born and total U.S. foreign-born Asian populations. This shows the decline in the proportion of Hmong refugees being resettled in the U.S. after 2000 compared to the 1980s and 1990s, as well as the relatively

limited role of family reunion immigration among the Hmong compared to other ethnic communities. 81.3% of the U.S. Hmong population entered the U.S. before the year 2000, compared to 67.6% of the total U.S. foreign-born population and 66.5% of the U.S. Asian foreign-born population.

Table 8
Health Insurance Coverage
Hmong, Asian and Total Population
United States, California, Minnesota, Wisconsin

	Total U.S.	U.S. Asian	U.S. Hmong	Total MN	MN Hmong	Total WI	WI Hmong	Total CA	CA Hmong
Civilian Population	301,501,772	16,603,048	255,212	5,219,834	63,193	5,587,423	48,061	36,414,291	94,593
With Private Health Insurance	67.7%	71.9%	48.9%	77.8%	53.3%	75.0%	59.8%	62.7%	36.6%
With Public Coverage	28.5%	19.1%	41.6%	25.8%	39.5%	28.9%	36.0%	27.9%	51.6%
No Health Insurance Coverage	15.0%	14.3%	14.9%	8.8%	11.9%	9.1%	13.3%	17.9%	16.0%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates

Table 9
Foreign Born, Citizenship Status and Time of Entry
Hmong, Asian and Total Population
United States, California, Minnesota, Wisconsin

	Total U.S.	U.S. Asian	U.S. Hmong	Total MN	MN Hmong	Total WI	WI Hmong	Total CA	CA Hmong
Population	306,738,433	16,714,862	256,430	5,279,601	63,407	5,667,100	48,189	36,971,641	95,120
Native	267,399,163 (87.2%)	6,754,249 (40.4%)	149,336 (58.2%)	4,903,131 (92.9%)	36,273 (57.2%)	5,406,749 (95.4%)	27,513 (57.1%)	26,907,152 (72.8%)	55,749 (58.6%)
Male	49.1%	50.7%	51.0%	49.6%	52.8%	49.5%	49.9%	50.1%	50.8%
Female	50.9%	49.3%	49.0%	50.4%	47.2%	50.5%	50.1%	49.9%	49.2%
Foreign Born	39,339,270 (12.8%)	9,960,613 (59.6%)	107,094 (41.8%)	376,470 (7.1%)	27,134 (42.8%)	260,351 (4.6%)	20,676 (42.9%)	10,064,489 (27.2%)	39,371 (41.4%)
Male	49.2%	45.9%	50.2%	50.2%	48.1%	51.0%	50.3%	48.8%	51.3%
Female	50.8%	54.1%	49.8%	49.8%	51.9%	49.0%	49.7%	51.2%	48.7%
Foreign Born; U.S. Citizen	17,054,898	5,669,387	63,723	164,814	17,469	106,126	12,990	4,566,546	22,046
Male	45.8%	45.0%	50.0%	47.1%	46.6%	47.3%	50.0%	46.0%	52.1%
Female	54.2%	55.0%	50.0%	52.9%	53.4%	52.7%	50.0%	54.0%	47.9%
Percent of Foreign Born Population	43.4%	56.9%	59.5%	43.8%	64.4%	40.8%	62.8%	45.4%	56.0%
Foreign Born; not a U.S. Citizen	22,284,372	4,291,226	43,371	211,656	9,665	154,225	7,686	5,497,943	17,325
Male	51.9%	47.1%	50.7%	52.6%	50.8%	53.5%	50.8%	51.2%	50.3%
Female	48.1%	52.9%	49.3%	47.4%	49.2%	46.5%	49.2%	48.8%	49.7%
Percent of Foreign Born Population	56.6%	43.1%	40.5%	56.2%	35.6%	59.2%	37.2%	54.6%	44.0%
Population Born Outside of the U.S.	39,339,270	9,960,613	107,094	376,470	27,134	260,351	20,676	10,064,489	39,371
Entered 2000 or later	32.4%	33.5%	18.7%	42.2%	20.8%	37.6%	18.3%	25.7%	18.3%
Entered 1990 to 1999	27.8%	27.3%	28.7%	29.8%	27.1%	28.4%	31.9%	26.7%	31.5%
Entered before 1990	39.8%	39.2%	52.6%	28.0%	52.1%	33.9%	49.7%	47.6%	50.3%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates

Conclusion

National Trends

In the 2010 Census, 260,073 persons of Hmong origin were counted in the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This represents a 40% increase from the 186,310 Hmong enumerated in the United States in 2000. In 2010, the largest Hmong populations continued to reside in California, followed by Minnesota, and Wisconsin – states that have respectively ranked second and third since the 1990 Census. Rounding out the top 10 states with largest Hmong populations were North Carolina, Michigan, Colorado, Georgia, Alaska, Oklahoma, and Oregon.

Regional and State Trends

Between 2000 and 2010, population growth was quite limited among the very modestly sized Hmong populations in the majority of the Northeast states. Some of the most impressive growth in Hmong populations occurred in Southern states over the 2000-2010 period, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Having the largest share of enumerated Hmong in the United States, the Midwest was just under 49% in 2010, with most of the Hmong in the region continuing to reside in MN, WI and MI. In the Western region, most of the Hmong population continued to be concentrated in California. The most notable expansion of a Hmong community in the Western region over the decade occurred in Alaska.

Metropolitan Distributions of Hmong Populations

Among U.S. metropolitan areas, the largest Hmong population by far lived in the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington metro area. This Hmong population was twice the size of the second-largest population center: Fresno. After Fresno, the next most sizable Hmong

populations in 2010 were enumerated in Sacramento-Yolo, Milwaukee-Racine, Merced, CA; Stockton, CA; Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC; Wausau, WI; Chico, CA, and Madison, WI.

Age Distribution

The ACS 2008-2010 three-year estimates show the median age of the U.S. Hmong population continues to be considerably younger than the median age of the general population in the U.S. and the median age of the total Asian American population. However, it is notable that the percentage of the Hmong population younger than 18 has dropped since the 2000 Census, and the median Hmong age has also increased.

Gender Distribution

The gender distribution of the Hmong population continues to slightly favor males. This distribution differs to some degree from the total U.S. population and the U.S. Asian population, in which there are female majorities.

Disability Status

In general, the U.S. Hmong population displayed a lower rate of disability than the total U.S. population. However, when looking at those 65 years and older, disability was reported at a greater rate among the Hmong than the total U.S. population. In addition, the U.S. Hmong population displayed a greater rate of disability than the U.S. Asian population across all age categories.

Health Insurance

Just under 15% of the U.S. Hmong population was estimated to have no health insurance according to the ACS three-year estimates, which strongly parallels the proportion of the entire U.S. population with no coverage. A much higher proportion of Hmong Americans, however,

were estimated to rely on public sources of coverage in comparison to U.S. Asians as well as the entire U.S. population.

Citizenship Status and Foreign Born

The percentage of foreign-born Hmong who are not U.S. citizens has fallen nearly 30 percentage points since the 2000 Census. From the Census data, it is apparent that foreign-born Hmong are being naturalized at a much higher rate than the general foreign-born non-citizen population.

Policy Implications

The Hmong population and demographic trends mentioned above have several policy implications. These include the continued imperative for an accurate count of the Hmong population in future U.S. Census surveys, the continued need for naturalization assistance (citizenship classes and application support services) in local Hmong communities, and the necessity of enhanced attention to the growing Hmong populations in regions such as Anchorage, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas. The Hmong populations in the aforementioned states need targeted educational and social services, as well as programming to promote cultural awareness and cross-cultural understanding with other local populations. Another important challenge that emerges from this analysis is for community leaders and policymakers to sufficiently address both the challenges and opportunities presented by the shifting, but still quite youthful Hmong demography.

Improving the Census Count and Assisting Hmong in Obtaining Naturalization

The undercount of the Hmong population could be alleviated in future census surveys by minimizing language and cultural barriers, enhancing the information the community has about the census, and directly encouraging respondents to choose ethnic origin as opposed to national

origin categories on the census form. Outreach and advertisements in the ethnic media and community gathering places may help reduce suspicion of government surveys among the population. Efforts also need to be made by the Census Bureau or other researchers to estimate the number of undocumented Hmong. It is widely known that there is a small, but growing undocumented Hmong population. Many of these persons came to the United States legally from countries such as France, China and Laos as visitors, but have overstayed the duration of their visas (Yang, 2009). There are still thousands of Hmong residents in the U.S. who are not yet U.S. citizens, including many who came to the United States as refugees in the aftermath of the Vietnam War era. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services should be working proactively with Hmong community organizations that provide citizenship services to ensure that culturally appropriate resources (free classes and assistance filling out paperwork) are available to help Hmong residents of the U.S. earn naturalization status. Similar services should also be available in regions with emerging Hmong communities.

A Need for Enhanced Attention and Resources Directed Towards Emerging Hmong Communities

The Hmong community in Alaska grew more than 1000% from less than 300 in 2000, to 3,534 in 2010. Yang (2009) did a preliminary study and found that many Hmong families from California, Minnesota, and the Northeastern U.S. have moved to Alaska for various reasons – many moved there to get their children away from youth problems in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN and Fresno, CA, and others migrated there due to a lack of jobs during the recent economic recession. According to the 2006-2010 ACS five-year estimates, the Hmong community in Alaska possesses the lowest socioeconomic status based on several variables when compared to significantly sized Hmong populations in other states. The growing population in Alaska has received little attention to date from researchers, thus, a needs assessment of the Hmong

community in Alaska should be conducted, so that programs may be developed to respond to their social and economic needs. Hmong and Asian organizations working to assist communities nationwide should also direct resources and social capital to assist the Hmong community in Alaska, as well as Hmong populations suffering from low incomes and high rates of poverty in other states.

In the past decade, the tri-state area of Southwest Missouri, Northwest Arkansas and Northeast Oklahoma has become another region with a fast-growing Hmong population. Reportedly, Hmong residing in these neighboring states have encountered many problems, including ethnic and racial tensions (Krupta, 2006). It is common knowledge among the Hmong that many who moved to this region had the desire to work in poultry and animal farming, but many have failed at this due to a lack of technical knowledge and capital. National advocacy groups should seek ways to assist Hmong in these regions to alleviate racial tensions and promote cross-cultural understanding with the mainstream society, while also helping to build the knowledge, personal capital and resources necessary for the Hmong to successfully run small farms.

With a median age of just over 20 years, the Hmong population continues to be extremely young. Moreover, among all Asian American ethnic groups, only the Hmong and Japanese possess an American-born population outnumbering the foreign-born population. The American-born Hmong constitute a very young population, and as such, they need high quality, culturally relevant educational programs, as well as other social services including targeted youth delinquency and mental health prevention programs in major Hmong population centers. Hmong and other growing ethnic minority populations may be partially trained to replace the graying American work force. In sum, policies should emphasize providing educational

programming and targeted services that meet the specific social needs of Hmong youth and young adults, while serving to nurture them to become productive citizens.

Nurturing the Human Capital in Hmong Communities

Considering these dynamics and trends, community-based organizations should consider ways to guide the future of the Hmong in America by providing the basic essentials of education and cultural awareness activities. Another suggestion to help alleviate cultural misunderstandings and guide the community forward is to educate youth about Hmong cultural values, even if they do not ascribe to them. Due to the cultural differences associated with parenting and raising children in the United States, additional initiatives in parenting education are also recommended for Hmong communities. As the “village” raised a child, now a city and nation will, so it is pertinent to understand the socio-cultural complexity of raising multiple children in this society. With the current emphasis on servicing the needs of the Baby Boomers, attention to the youthful demographics of the Hmong and other ethnic minority populations also merit attention. National and regional advocacy groups who work with the Hmong should help local officials and leaders understand the service needs of the growing Hmong communities in their areas.

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