

## **Attitude Towards Modern Medicines: View of the Hmong Community Living in Fresno, California**

### **Researchers:**

- Mohammad A. Rahman, Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, Fresno State
- Joe Cha, B.A., Fresno State

### **Abstract**

This study examined the attitude of the Hmong community living in the city of Fresno, California, USA toward modern medicines. A number of studies have shown that the Hmong generally tend to have a negative attitude toward Western method of treatment and are sceptical about the effectiveness of allopathic medicines. However, not much is known about their attitude towards medicines such as antibiotics, prescription drugs and over the counter drugs. A total of 105 Hmong respondents were chosen randomly using a phone directory and interviewed face-to-face based on a structured questionnaire. A two stage least square regression analysis was carried out to identify relationships between the attitude of the Hmong towards modern medicines and some demographic and exogenous variables. The results showed that the attitude of the Hmong toward modern medications varied based on some demographic variables including place of birth (US born vs. foreign born) and marital status. It was also found that income and health status were also important factors that were associated with their attitude towards western drugs. The attitude towards medicines also varied across varies types of medicines. The findings from this study are likely to help health care professionals and policy makers understand the Hmong perspective on medicines which can be helpful in their effort to better educate the Hmong community regarding this issue.

### **Goals and Objectives of the Proposal**

The objective of the proposal is to showcase an example of a successful collaboration between faculty and students in the Public Health department of our college. Joe Cha, an undergraduate student successfully carried out a research project under my supervision which was funded by the undergraduate research initiative. This paper is being drafted for submission to a journal. One other paper that used data from this study has been submitted and pending decision.