

## HEALTHCARE RESOURCES IN HMONG AND OTHER LANGUAGES

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Wisconsin's population of non-English speakers continues to grow. In particular, the Hmong population in WI was 39,000 in 2000, with an estimate of 50,000 for the year 2002. Hmong are one of the newest refugee groups to be admitted to the United States. Language barrier is still a major concern for many Hmong. Not only do language barriers present a major concern for patients who do not speak or read English, it is also a concern for the health care providers who serve them. Below are web sites providing health information in both English and Hmong, along with many other languages, which can help health care providers communicate with patients who speak or read Hmong. With improved communication, understanding and trust also improve; thus patients are able to make more informed decisions and become better partners in health care. Trust and understanding between the health care provider and patient can significantly reduce patient non-adherence, treatment failure, and wasted health care resources.

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/justforyou>

The United States Department of Health & Human Services expanded healthfinder® web site to include information devoted to Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. This web site brings together multi-lingual information in Cambodian, Chinese, Hmong, Korean, Laotian, Samoan, Thai, Tongan and Vietnamese. The new consumer resource will be useful to caregivers, patients and others searching for health information on behalf of individuals more comfortable in their native language.

<http://www.hmongmentalhealthinstitute.org/>

**Hmong Mental Health Institute** is an endeavor of Children's Service Society of Wisconsin (CSSW), Wisconsin's largest non-sectarian, non-profit children's agency. The Institute is based in the Wausau CSSW office and was created to provide training and research in the area of mental health in the Hmong community in order to support the work of those who care about and strive to provide culturally competent and effective services to all generations of Hmong people.

<http://www.hmonghealth.org/>

**Hmong Health Website** is part of a Hmong Health Information Promotion partnership project funded by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (NAHEC). The topics range from general health communication strategies to specific disease states such as diabetes and ways to both treat and prevent diabetes.

<http://multiculturalhealth.org/index/>

**Multicultural Health Handouts** are part of the Nutrition Education for New Americans Project, a program in the Department of Anthropology and Geography at Georgia State University. It is sponsored by USDA to assist low income immigrants, refugees, and children in learning about healthy eating practices. Using the USDA food pyramid as the focus, materials and programs are designed to include both traditional foods as well as American foods. Some languages included in this project are Hmong, Kurdish, Oromo, and many others.

<http://medstat.med.utah.edu/library/refdesk/24lang.html>

This web site provides electronic access to over 200 health education brochures in 24 different languages. This project is in partnership with the Utah Department of Health's Bureau of Primary Care, Rural and Ethnic Health to improve access to health materials in multiple languages. Some of the languages included on this web site included English, French, Spanish, Hmong, and many others.