

**ETHNICITY AND CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG CURRENTLY MARRIED WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN LAO PDR****KETMANY CHANTHAKOUMMANE      5238637 PRRH/M****M.A (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)****THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: PIMONPAN ISARABHAKDI, Ph.D.,  
CHALUMPORN HOLUMYONG, Ph.D.****ABSTRACT**

This study examined the relationship between ethnicity and contraceptive use of currently married women aged 15-49 in Lao PDR. Data analyzed for this study is from 9,685 married women surveyed in the Lao Reproductive Health Survey conducted in 2005. It was found that overall, 38.4 percent of currently married women were using contraceptive method. The Lao women were using contraceptives at the highest rate, followed by the Tai/Phoutay, and then the Khmou. The Hmong were using contraceptives at the lowest rate. The results from binary logistic regression analysis demonstrated that after controlling for socio-economic and demographic factors, ethnicity has a significant relationship with contraceptive use. The other significant factors that have effects on chance of using contraception are age, education, region of residence, number of living children, and knowledge of family planning methods. The results implicate the disparity in access to education and health care services for minority groups who live in remote and mountainous areas in Lao PDR.

It is suggested in this study that the ethnic minority group should be given more attention regarding family planning programs. A strategy for increasing their access to knowledge of family planning and services is necessary for ethnic minorities who have a low education level and live in remote areas should be designed appropriately for each group.

**KEY WORDS: ETHNICITY/CONTRACEPTIVE USE/CURRENTLY MARRIED  
WOMEN/ LAO PDR**