

## MORTALITY PATTERNS AND TRENDS IN TAIWAN ABORIGINAL AREAS

YOW-HWEY HU \*, LI-YUEN CHANG\*\*, CHUEH CHANG \*\*\*

The purpose of this study is to assess recent (1974-1985) mortality patterns and trends in Taiwan aboriginal areas. Based on mortality registration data, mortality due to all causes and specific causes are analyzed. The results indicate that regardless of the improvement in medical services provided by the government, age-adjusted death rates for males in these areas are still increasing, especially among productive ages (15-44). The major causes of death are character-

ized by the concurrence of high rates of infectious and degenerative/manmade causes of death. For example, death rates for TB, suicide, and liver cirrhosis among young aboriginal males are 8 times those of young males in the entire Taiwan area. These results suggest that health and related social problems are not improving, and that these problems are more associated with wider social-cultural changes than with narrowly-defined medical issues.

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\* Institute of Public Health, National Yang-Ming Medical College

\*\* Institute of Ethnology, Academic Sinica

\*\*\* Institute of Public Health, National Taiwan University