

十一、研究計畫中英文摘要：請就本計畫要點作一概述，並依本計畫性質自訂關鍵詞。

(二) 計畫英文摘要。(五百字以內)

## **Ethnic Health Disparities and the National Health Insurance**

### **Abstract**

Health disparities research has long documented that women live longer than men, infant mortality is higher among the lower socioeconomic status (SES), and African Americans suffer markedly higher rates of death and disease than American whites. In recent years, this line of research has shifted from documenting different patterns of disparities to focusing more on identifying the underlying causes of health disparities and it has been argued that the access, utilization, and quality of health care might explain, in a great part, why ethnic health disparities persist. In Taiwan, the launch of National Health Insurance (NHI) has greatly improved the accessibility and utilization of health care services, especially for the newly insured elderly population. However, it is not clear if the program's impacts on reducing ethnic mortality differentials across three major ethnic groups of elders in Taiwan.

By taking advantage of a longitudinal data from the Survey of Health and Living Status of the Elderly in Taiwan and linking the survey data to the biomarkers collected by researchers from the Georgetown University and Princeton University, this study proposes to conduct the following analyses:

1. By analyzing ethnic mortality differentials before and after NHI and across successive cohorts, I will be able to clarify the role NHI has played in explaining the ethnic health disparities among the elderly in Taiwan.
2. By linking the survey data to the National Death Index file, I will identify what are the major causes of death that lead to the observed ethnic mortality differentials. Plus, I will also examine the strength of associations between mortality and preventable deaths to further understand the impacts of NHI on ethnic health disparities in Taiwan.
3. By linking the survey data to the Social Environmental Biomarkers of Aging Study (SEBAS) in Taiwan, I will be able to examine the associations between care quality and ethnic distributions of risk factors.

Keywords: Health disparities, Ethnicity, National Health Insurance, Elderly, Taiwan.