Background

The U.S.-Mexico border region:
- Represents a high-risk environment for HIV infection, with high rates of drug use, and commercial sex
- Is also a transit point in the trajectory of Mexican migrants moving back and forth between Mexico and the U.S.

Objectives

- To characterize Mexican migrants’ risk behaviors for HIV infections and perceived social norms with regard to sexual behaviors on the U.S.-Mexico border
- To compare selected risk behaviors migrants engaged in the border region versus outside of the region

Methods

- A cross-sectional, probability survey was conducted in Tijuana, Mexico during 2009-2010
- Recruitment sites included the Tijuana International Airport and the Tijuana Central Bus Station
- Mexican migrants were intercepted if they arrived in Tijuana from any of the Mexican states bordering the U.S., including Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas (n=553, overall response rate=53.3%)

Conclusions

- Mexican migrants are exposed to and participate in many high-risk behaviors while travelling along the border region.
- Social norms regarding sexual behaviors in this area are also quite liberal, likely contributing to an acceptance for riskier sexual behaviors.

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