



Population Health Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison

HIV Risk Among Deported Mexican Migrants

Ana P. Martinez-Donate,¹ M. Gudelia Rangel,² Melbourne Hovell,³ Jennifer Zellner,³ Carol L. Sipan,³ Rodolfo Corona,² Norma J. Kelley,³ Ahmed Asadi-Gonzalez⁴

¹University of Wisconsin – Madison, ²El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, ³San Diego State University, ⁴Universidad Autónoma de Baja California

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San Diego State University

Background

- There are approximately 7 million undocumented Mexican migrants and immigrants (MMIs) living in the U.S.
- Previous research has found high rates of behavioral risk factors for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among this population.
- Studies have linked the development of the HIV epidemic in Mexico to migration to the US.
- Data on the burden of HIV infection and prevalence of risk factors among MMIs is based on studies with small, nonrepresentative samples.
- Research on undocumented MMIs is challenged by the difficulties to reach this mobile, geographically widespread, and elusive population.

Objective

- To estimate the prevalence of HIV infection and HIV-related risk behaviors among a probability-based sample of deported MMIs in the border city of Tijuana (Baja California, Mexico)
- To identify structural, environmental, and cultural correlates of HIV risk, based on the Behavioral Ecological Model



US Mexico Border
(displacedfilms.com)

Methods

Sampling Design & Procedures

- Cross-sectional, probability survey conducted outside the San Ysidro deportation station in Tijuana, Mexico
- MMIs returned by the US Border Patrol (N = 674; 96% response rate)
- A multi-stage, random sampling design
- Eligibility criteria included:
 - 18 years an older
 - Having been returned to Mexico by immigration authorities
 - Fluent in Spanish
 - No previous participation in the survey
- Anonymous, Spanish questionnaire on sociodemographics, migration history, HIV-risk factors, and theoretical correlates
- Administered by trained interviewers using Questionnaire Development Survey (QDS™) Audio Computer-Administered Self-Interview (ACASI) software
- On-site rapid HIV testing and laboratory confirmatory testing



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Contact Information

Ana P. Martinez-Donate, PhD
610 Walnut St., 605 WARF
Madison, WI, 53726
martinezdona@wisc.edu

Study Site



Sample Characteristics (N=674)

Males, %	92.7
Age, Mean (SD)	31.8 (9.1)
Married/cohabitating, %	48.5
≥ High school, %	15.0
Labor migrant/immigrant, %	83.7
Prior history of migration, %	65.0
Prior history of deportation, %	54.2
Illegal (last) entry to the US, %	95.8
Plans to return to the US, %	64.1
Months in US during last 12 months, Mean (SD)	7.5 (5.2)
Apprehended during last entry attempt, %	20.5

Preliminary Results

Last-12 month Sexual Risk Practices

	Males (N=625) %	Females (N=49) %
Multiple sexual partners	39.1	18.4
Unprotected vaginal or anal sex	59.7	57.1
Vaginal or anal sex with casual partners or sex workers	34.3	14.3
Unprotected vaginal or anal sex with casual partners or sex workers	17.0	8.2
Same-sex anal sex	1.4	--
Unprotected same-sex anal sex	.5	--
Sex with IV drug user	6.2	2.0
Sex with partner who has multiple partners	18.2	13.3
Sex in exchange for money, drugs, other goods	3.4	0
Forced sex	.3	0

HIV/STI Testing History

	%
Never tested for HIV	46.0
Not tested for HIV during last 12 months	74.0
Never tested for other sexually transmitted infections (STI)	77.4
Not tested for other STIs during last 12 months	87.7
Ever had a STI	22.6
Had a STI during last 12 months	8.5

Conclusions

- These results suggest high prevalence of risk behaviors for HIV infection and limited HIV/STI testing among deported MMIs
- Perceived discrimination and acculturative stress are associated with increased risk for HIV infection
- Time in the US and availability of social support show a complex association with HIV risk. They seem to increase sexual risk, but also HIV/STI testing practices.
- Binational HIV prevention programs targeting this disenfranchised population are needed on both sides of the US – Mexico border.

Selected HIV Risk Correlates*

