



**HIV Prevalence, Risk Behaviors,
and Access to Care Among Young
Latino MSM in San Diego,
California and Tijuana, Mexico**

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 - Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL)



Methodology

- Target samples of Latino MSM aged 18 to 29 in Tijuana, Mexico and San Diego, CA (about 250 from each site)
- Each participant interviewed from a standardized questionnaire (English or Spanish) and provided a blood sample
 - Questionnaire: Asks about HIV-related risk behaviors and attitudes, and past and current access to care
 - Blood sample: Tested for HIV antibody at San Diego Public Health Lab; if HIV+, sent to VRDL for further testing
- Lab and questionnaire results linked via unique study ID #
- Tijuana sample: Mainly from public park reputed for prostitution (N=249)
San Diego sample: Mainly from gay bars/dance clubs (N=125)
- Data collection began May 2000 and will end March/April 2002



Results: HIV Testing and Access to Prevention and Care

- Report ever receiving HIV prevention information
Tijuana sample: $141/249 = 56.6\%$ [50.5% - 62.8%]
San Diego sample: $96/125 = 76.8\%$ [69.4% - 84.2%]
- Report ever testing for HIV antibodies:
Tijuana sample: $115/249 = 46.2\%$ [40.0% - 52.4%]
San Diego sample: $78/125 = 62.4\%$ [53.9% - 70.9%]
- HIV seroprevalence:
Tijuana sample: $47/249 = 18.9\%$ [14.0% - 23.7%]
San Diego sample: $44/125 = 35.2\%$ [26.8% - 43.6%]
- Less than half of those testing positive reported testing positive previously
- Of those who tested positive and reported a previous positive test, over 70% reported ever using AIDS drug therapy



Results: Sexual Behavior with Females

(UVI = unprotected vaginal intercourse; UAI = unprotected anal intercourse)

Behavior (self-reported)	Tijuana sample (n = 249)	San Diego sample (n = 125)
Over 10 sex partners in life	35.3% [29.4% - 41.3%]	6.4% [2.1% - 10.7%]
UVI, lifetime	77.5% [72.3% - 82.7%]	36.8% [28.3% - 45.3%]
UVI, last 4 months	43.4% [37.2% - 49.5%]	8.0% [3.2% - 12.8%]
UAI, lifetime	43.0% [36.8% - 49.1%]	13.6% [7.6% - 19.6%]
UAI, last 4 months	18.1% [13.3% - 22.9%]	3.2% [0.1% - 6.3%]
Exchange partner, lifetime	32.9% [27.1% - 38.8%]	5.6% [1.6% - 9.6%]
Sex partner from across the border, lifetime	39.4% [33.3% - 45.4%]	27.2% [19.4% - 35.0%]



Results: Sexual Behavior with Males

(UAI = unprotected anal intercourse)

Behavior (self-reported)	Tijuana sample (n = 249)	San Diego sample (n = 125)
Over 10 sex partners in life	26.9% [21.4% - 32.4%]	60.0% [51.4% - 68.6%]
Insertive UAI, lifetime	70.7% [65.0% - 76.3%]	76.0% [68.5% - 83.5%]
Ins. UAI, last 4 months	27.3% [21.8% - 32.8%]	49.6% [40.8% - 58.4%]
Receptive UAI, lifetime	28.1% [22.5% - 33.7%]	76.0% [68.5% - 83.5%]
Rec. UAI, last 4 months	12.0% [8.0% - 16.1%]	40.8% [32.2% - 49.4%]
Exchange partner, lifetime	32.9% [27.1% - 38.8%]	22.4% [15.1% - 29.7%]
Sex partner from across the border, lifetime	45.4% [39.2% - 51.6%]	75.2% [67.6% - 82.8%]



Results: Drug Using Behaviors

Behavior (self-reported)	Tijuana sample (n = 249)	San Diego sample (n = 125)
Injected drugs		
Lifetime	41.4% [35.2% - 47.5%]	7.2% [2.7% - 11.7%]
Last 4 months	25.3% [19.9% - 30.7%]	3.2% [0.1% - 6.3%]
Shared needles/works		
Lifetime	37.3% [31.3% - 43.4%]	4.8% [1.1% - 8.5%]
Last 4 months	24.1% [18.8% - 29.4%]	3.2% [0.1% - 6.3%]
Used drug during sex in the last 4 months		
Alcohol	38.2% [32.1% - 44.2%]	31.2% [23.1% - 39.3%]
Marijuana	27.3% [21.8% - 32.8%]	8.8% [3.8% - 13.8%]
Methamphetamine	16.9% [12.2% - 21.5%]	4.0% [0.6% - 7.4%]
Ecstasy	4.8% [2.5% - 8.3%]	1.6% [0.2% - 5.7%]



Conclusions

- Risk behaviors among these Latino MSM differed between sites
 - Tijuana MSM were more likely to report engaging in risky sexual behavior with females and risky drug using behaviors
 - San Diego MSM were more likely to report engaging in risky sexual behaviors with males
- MSM at both sites engage in risky sexual behaviors with both men and women from the opposite side of the U.S.-Mexico border
 - Demonstrates the need for binational cooperation to gain complete picture of HIV/AIDS at the U.S.-Mexico border
- More detailed laboratory analysis of HIV seropositive blood samples will further knowledge about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in this region
- Difficult to generalize results because of sampling scheme

