



A Glimpse into Teenage Pregnancy in Tijuana, Mexico

Dr. Peter Guarnaccia¹ and Gianna Seeland²

¹Department of Human Ecology - ²Rutgers University Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, NJ 08854



Mexico: Background

With a dynamic history of important Mesoamerican civilizations such as the Mayans and Aztecs prior to Spanish colonization as well as a population size 11th largest in the world, Mexico has developed a diverse and rich modern-day culture. One such example is found in the U.S.-Mexican border towns, like Tijuana, where exploding rates of population growth and international mobility have transformed the socio-cultural environment. Some key statistics include the following⁴

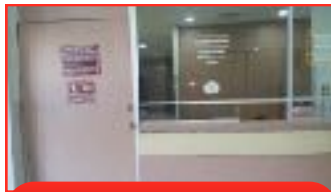
- Capital city: Mexico City⁴
- Population: 119,530,753⁴
- Languages spoken: Spanish + 68 recognized regional indigenous languages⁴
- Annual income: \$12,806 USD; the top 20% make 14x more than the bottom 20% of the population⁴
- HIV/AIDS infection rate: 0.2-0.3% [180,000-220,000 people]³
- Infant mortality rates: 19 per 1000 live births⁴
- Life expectancy at birth: 78 female/ 74 male⁴
- **Rate of teenage pregnancy (ages 12-19): 64.2 per 1000 live births⁵**

Program Background

- Aisha Van Pratt Levin and I shadowed an obstetrician/ gynecologist, anesthesiologist, and cardiothoracic surgeon in the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS) for 2 weeks
- We interviewed physicians, nurses, and receptionists in the OB/GYN Emergency Department to better understand the scope of the problem of teenage pregnancy in Tijuana



IMSS



Reception Window

Travel Goals

- Explore the problem of teenage pregnancy in the border-town of Tijuana, Mexico.
- Determine info such as the ages, number of pregnancies, access to healthcare, amount of sex education, usage of contraception, socioeconomic classes, and role of the father for these teenage moms.
- Learn about Mexican culture and lifestyle



Waiting Room



Examination/
Labor Beds



Post-op



Patient Beds

Summary

- Tijuana is a beautiful, large, ethnically diverse city
- Many of the patients checking in to the OB/GYN Emergency Department were extremely young, or were noted to have had their first child as a teenager²
- Teenage pregnancy poses a significant public health problem
- Research should be done to determine the full scope of the problem in Tijuana and to offer a potential solution(s)¹

Plans for Future Involvement

- The information we obtained will augment our understanding of the issue and will help inform our future research at IMSS.
- Methods of data collection
 - Mapping
 - Open-ended interviews
 - Non-participant observation
 - Surveys
 - Focus groups
- Ultimate goals
 - Develop and submit research proposal
 - Conduct research M3 and/or M4 years
 - Implement intervention (e.g. educational program) in partnership with IMSS

Program Contact Information

- Site: Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS) - Hospital Regional No. 1
- City: Tijuana, B.C., Mexico
- Doctor: Dra. Cynthia K. Van Pratt

Funding

- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Office of Global Health



Market

References

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