

Meeting changing STD counseling needs: a glossary of contemporary Mexican sexual terms

MEETING CHANGING STD A GLOSSARY OF CONTEMPORARY MEXICAN SEXUAL TERMS

By James M. Alexander, IV, M.A. Prepared for the Resource Book of the Third Annual New Orleans HIV/AIDS Conference for the Primary Care Provider, April 22-24, 1992

The increasing number of Mexicans who are becoming *de facto* permanent residents of the United States and the rising rate of HIV infection among Latino populations in the United States combine to argue for the development and expansion of access and intervention tools specific to Mexican populations. One contribution to this selection of tools is the annotated glossary of contemporary Mexican sexual terms presented in this paper. The glossary is intended as a starting point of reference for Spanish-speaking persons who need to obtain sexual history information from Mexicans. Its ultimate usefulness will be determined by its utility and expandability in real-life encounters.

Many items of information concerning Latinos and HIV infection are becoming common knowledge. It is becoming evident, for example, that Mexican immigrants are expanding as a proportional segment of Latino communities in the United States, that the

Mexican communities in the U.S. retain a significantly large undocumented component, either in spite of or because of recent immigration legislation, and that Mexicans are tending to remain in the U.S. on a permanent rather than temporary basis (Chavez, et al. 1990; Vernez and Ronfeldt 1991). One estimate places the number of undocumented persons of all ethnicities in the U.S. at five million, and calls for an increase in the development and support of human rights advocacy groups that would specifically address Latino issues (Van Arsdale 1990).

Difficulties present themselves when attempts are made to address HIV/AIDS issues with respect to Latino communities in general. The prevalence of homosexual and bisexual orientations among Latinos, and the character of those orientations when present, is not clear (De la Vaga 1989; Shapiro 1989). The present author believes that patterns of intravenous drug use and prostitution among Latinos vary

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throughout the nation's cities and towns, and it is also clear that unprotected intercourse among Latinos is a very complex social phenomenon. However, the fast increase in HIV infection among Latino men and women is a phenomenon that is becoming common knowledge (Marin 1989).

It is also known that community health systems in the United States often lack effective multi-ethnic awareness (e.g., Aguilera 1970; Aichlmayr 1969; Robertson 1969). This situation is changing and must continue to change, for true multi-ethnic health care provision and counselling require attention to myriad cultural aspects (e.g., Trotter 1988; United States Department of Agriculture 1986). The United States has always been home to a multitude of distinct Latino ethnicities residing in differing proportions throughout the nation (Scotford 1953). Therefore, the appropriate and optimal response to the threat of HIV infection to Latinos is to develop information, prevention, and care responses tailored to specific Latino communities (e.g., De la Canceleda 1989; Freudenberg, et al. 1989; Longshore 1989). The creation of community-specific counseling and care must be realized in all localities and for all populations in order to obtain the maximum success in addressing AIDS-related issues and in order to insure appropriate and effective interventions for everyone affected by the HIV virus.

One aspect of a focus on specific populations is the proper utilization of language. Communication difficulties can have a negative impact on any intervention mode, and can occur in such areas as the use of innovation in a person's speech, cultural frame of reference, degree of sophistication, and understanding of the

interaction of the moment; the use of grammatical and lexical provincialism; people's relative competencies in the language used for communication; and distinctive speech characteristics such as accent, pronunciation, regionalism, intonation patterns, rates of speech, and the incorporation of characteristics of other languages (Alexander 1991a).

Language interpreters and health care workers are traditionally advised to use polite, academic terms when discussing personal topics such as sexuality. However, experience teaches that many people use slang terms, and may in fact only relate to slang terms. Moreover, slang changes over time, and people wishing to use slang must keep pace with such changes. It therefore becomes appropriate for those wishing to obtain sexual histories from Mexicans or counsel them regarding sexual behavior to be able to use whatever proper and slang terms are in contemporary use by Mexicans.

This glossary was created in response to interpreter needs realized as the author assisted an office of the Colorado Department of Health sexually-transmitted disease (STD) control program, and as the author interpreted at clinical settings for Colorado Migrant Health Program patients. The author used STD patients as language informants to begin developing vocabulary lists. Vocabulary was then solicited from certain non-STD Migrant Health Program participants. In those cases, the purpose of the request for vocabulary was explained and response was strictly voluntary. Vocabulary items were also culled from popular publications, illustrated novels, and fotonovelas from Mexico. These items were referred to informants for comment.

The informants were men and women who had been heterosexually active. Two male informants were suspected by others of being bisexual, but no real information exists as to the number of initial informants who might be considered bisexual. The original informants came from north-central Mexico (Chihuahua, Durango, Sonora, and San Luis Potosí) and from west-central Mexico (Morelos, Guanajuato, Aguascalientes, Jalisco, Colima, and Nayarit). Those informants were of rural origin and residence. At that stage of development, a slang glossary was prepared for an AIDS conference held in Denver (Alexander 1991b).

The gaps in the original glossary were glaring. The author shared the glossary with other health services coordinators working with the Colorado Migrant Health Program in offices around the state, and requested their input. These health services coordinators expanded the glossary with terms which they had heard their Mexican clientele use. Several also offered to obtain additional information from Mexicans residing in their service areas. Revisions were made in the glossary's format and content, and many proper terms were added. An expanded glossary was prepared for the Seventh Annual Rocky Mountain conference on HIV Disease (Alexander 1992).

Subsequent expansion of the information and refinement of the format have resulted

in the present document. It represents language items from more regions of Mexico than the original. It represents terms used in urban as well as rural areas, and it represents some input from gays.

The glossary presentation focusses not on where the words come from but on how they are used. Items are given their referent meaning and, where possible and appropriate, their social equivalent, literal meaning, and any other relevant commentary. The glossary is organized topically and alphabetically within categories for easy reference.

The glossary is not expected to be useful in every situation. At its present stage of development, it still has significant gaps. It would benefit greatly from greater input from gays and persons with histories of residence in major Mexican cities. Glossary users are encouraged to add and delete items as appropriate to their practice. In order to be optimally useful, glossaries must change through time's attrition as well as by time's innovation, and glossaries must always reflect the real-life language use of the target populations. If greater attention is focussed on language use with respect to specific populations' needs for HIV-related interventions, then the goal of this glossary project will have been realized.

A GLOSSARY OF CONTEMPORARY MEXICAN SEXUAL TERMS

By James M. Alexander, IV, M.A., 1992

I: Who's Who

A. Women

buenota: a good-looking woman. The social equivalent of "babe."

chava: girl. The social equivalent of "kid."

chavala: girl. The social equivalent of "kid." See *chava*.

chichona: a woman with large breasts. The social equivalent of "big-titted woman." See *chichis*.

hembra: female (proper term). A complement to *macho* and *varón*.

lady: woman. The social equivalent of "babe."

mamacita: hot mama. However, when applied affectionately to an elderly woman, the sense is that of "dear little woman."

morra: girl. The social equivalent of "kid."

mujer: woman (proper term), generic connotation.

nalgona: a woman with a nice or big bottom. See *nalgas*.

niña: girl (proper term), generic connotation.

pechona: a woman with large breasts. See *pechos*.

prenda: woman. The social equivalent of "babe." Literally, "anything loved or of enduring value."

prieta: a dark-skinned woman. The social equivalent of "babe," applied only to dark-skinned women.

señora: a married or older woman (proper term), polite connotation.

señorita: an unmarried younger woman (proper term), polite connotation.

tetona: a woman with large breasts. The social equivalent of "big-titted woman." See *tetas*.

vieja: elderly woman (proper term), generic connotation. Also used colloquially applied to one's spouse, paralleling the American English usage of "old lady."

B. Men

apachurro: handsome man. Has the social force of "dreamboat." Derives from the verb "to crush."

carnal: close friend or relative. The social equivalent of the Black American English term, "blood."

chavo: boy. The social equivalent of "kid."

chavalo: boy. The social equivalent of "kid." See *chavo*.

compa: close friend. Derives from "compadre," which is a fictive kinship term.

cuate: close friend. Literally, "twin."

cuero: handsome man. The social equivalent of "hunk." Literally, "leather."

guapucho: handsome man. The social equivalent of "hunk." Derives from *guapo* ("handsome").

hombre: man (proper term), generic connotation.

macho: male (proper term); also, a manly man. A complement to *hembra*. See *machismo*.

mono: handsome man. The social equivalent of "kid."

niño: boy (proper term), generic connotation.

papacito: handsome man. The social equivalent of "hunk."

señor: man (proper term), polite connotation.

señorito: a "dandy" or effeminate man.

varón: male (proper term). A complement to *hembra*.

C. Lovers

amante: lover (proper term). See *amar*.

compañera permanente, compañero permanente: common-law spouse (proper term). Literally, "permanent companion."

matrimonio joven: young married couple (proper term).

novia, novio: girlfriend, boyfriend, fiancée, fiancé (proper term).

pareja: couple (proper term).

pretendiente: suitor (proper term). See *pretender*.

querida, querido: loved one (proper term). See *querer*.

segunda frente: mistress. Literally, "second front," as in military usage.

unión libre: consensual union (proper term).

D. Promiscuous People

aventura de una noche: a one-night stand. Literally, "a one-night adventure."

bailada, bailado: a woman (man) who likes music and dancing.

bailera, bailero: a woman (man) who likes music and dancing.

buey: a cuckold who knows it but can't stop it. Literally, "ox" (a stupid, horned animal). See notes under *cabrón*.

cabrón: a cuckold. Has the social force of "asshole, bastard, etc." Derives from *cabra* ("goat"), referring to the wearing of horns, which is a cultural symbol of being cuckolded. Volumes of commentary have been written about this word.

cabrona: a cheating or inappropriately promiscuous woman. Often used as the social equivalent of "bitch", it has a strong social force and refers to a woman who can put horns on a man. See notes under *cabrón*.

cornudo: a man whose wife cheats on him. Literally, "horned." See *coronar*.

masoquista: masochist (proper term). See *masoquismo*.

milamores: a womanizer. Literally, “a thousand-loves man.”

movida de una noche: a one-night stand. Literally, “a one-night clandestine action.”

mujerero: a womanizer.

mujeriego: a womanizer.

musicuera: a woman who likes music and dancing.

pedazo de nalgas: piece of ass, piece of tail. See *nalgas*.

pendeja: a woman who is used promiscuously. Often used as the social equivalent of “stupid bitch.” See notes under *pendejo*.

pendejo: a cuckold who does not know it. Has the social force of “dumb shit.” Derives from the root of “pendulum,” referring to something that dangles and signifying someone incapable of even getting an erection. Volumes of commentary have been written about this word.

resbalosa: an easy woman who gives no commitment. Literally, “a slippery woman.”

sadista: sadist (proper term). See *sadismo*.

sancho: a man who courts another man’s woman while the man is away. See *sanchear*.

tenorio: a womanizer. Derives from the name “don Juan Tenorio,” the famous womanizer.

vieja de vacilón: a woman who is easy to pick up. Literally, “an unstable woman.”

E. Prostitution

golfa: prostitute.

güila: prostitute.

madrota: a madam.

mujer caída: prostitute. Literally, “fallen woman.”

mujer del mal: prostitute. Literally, “a woman of badness.” [A joke has a youth ask a priest, “Is it true that you *aparta las mujeres del mal?*” (“keep women away from evil” versus “keep the whores for yourself”). The priest replies, “That’s right, my son.”]

padrote: pimp; also, a cuckold who knows it but can’t stop it.

prostíbulo: house of prostitution (proper term).

prostituta: prostitute (proper term).

puta: prostitute. The social equivalent of “whore.”

ramera: prostitute (proper term used in the Bible). The social equivalent of “harlot.”

vieja de la zona: prostitute. The social equivalent of “red light district girl.”

zorra: prostitute. Literally, “fox.”

F. Male Homosexuals

ay, tú: male homosexual. Used to ridicule gays. Literally, “oh, you!” It is said with an effeminate intonation and is accompanied by the downward wave of the hand at the wrist.

caquiao: male homosexual. Used as an insult against gays. Derives from *caca* and is perhaps best translated as "covered with shit."

caquín: male homosexual. See notes under *caquiao*.

cuarentauno: male homosexual. The social equivalent of "queer." Literally, "a forty-one (41)."

de la otra banda: male homosexual. Literally, "on the other side."

de los otros: male homosexual. Literally, "one of those."

floripño: male homosexual. The social equivalent of "fairy." Derives from *flor* ("flower").

homosexual: male homosexual (proper term).

joto: male homosexual preferring the active (penetrating) role in sexual intercourse.

leandrón: male homosexual. Derives from the name "Leander," a male youth in Greek mythology.

manos caídas: male homosexual. Literally, "limp hands."

mañoso: a devious person (proper term); also, a male homosexual. See *maña*.

marica: male homosexual.

maricón: male homosexual. See *marica*.

mariposo: male homosexual. The social equivalent of "fairy." Literally "male butterfly."

mariquita: male homosexual. See *marica*.

mayate: male homosexual. Refers to excrement.

ojotín: a young male homosexual. Refers to being a "mama's boy" or "sissy."

puto: male homosexual preferring the receptive role in sexual intercourse.

rey: dominant male homosexual. Literally, "king."

G. Female Homosexuals

despistadora: closet lesbian, one who goes out with men as a cover. Literally, "a woman who throws people off the track."

florecita: closet lesbian, one who goes out with men as a cover. Literally, "a little flower."

interesada: a woman who will participate in lesbian sex but who does not initiate it.

lesbiana: lesbian (proper term).

manflora: female bisexual.

mañosa: lesbian, femme role. See *maña*.

marimacha: lesbian, butch role.

tortillera: lesbian. Literally, "tortilla maker." See *tortear*.

H. Unscrupulous and Unattractive People

calavera: a person who is thin and ugly. Literally, "skull."

canalla: shyster

desgraciada, desgraciado: a person who is down-and-out, a low-life.

maldito: damned, a damned person (proper term). Literally, "cursed."

méndiga, méndigo: Someone who is worthless and has no values or scruples. Notice the accent—this is not to be confused with *mendiga, mendigo* (“beggar”).

momia: a person who is thin and ugly. Literally, “mummy.”

pecador: sinner (proper term). See *pecar*.

sinvergüenza: a person with no sense of shame (proper term).

II: Parts and Supplies

A. Male Genitalia

camote, zanahoria: penis. Literally, “yam, carrot.” The use of items from nature as images has humorous connotations.

dedo sin uña: penis. Literally, “finger without a nail,” humorous connotations.

don Juan: penis. Derives from the name “don Juan Tenorio” and has a humorous connotation. [A joke when asked to use a condom (*condón*) is to reply that one wants to have sex *con don Juan* (“with don Juan”).]

huevos: testicles. The social equivalent of “balls.” Literally, “eggs.” Many jokes employ a double meaning concerning this word.

mecos: semen, ejaculate.

miembro, miembro viril: penis (proper term). Literally, “member, virile member.”

palo: penis. Literally, “a stick or pole.”

pene: penis (proper term).

pito: penis. The social equivalent of “weenie.” Literally, “a whistle, horn, cigarette, or small amount.”

testículos: testicles (proper term).

verga: penis. The social equivalent of “prick.” [A joke is to ask an English-speaking person to say “I want to see gas” in Spanish (“*Quiero ver gas*”).]

B. Female Genitalia

araña: vagina, including pubic hair. The social equivalent of “pussy.” Literally, “spider.”

bizcocho: vagina. The social equivalent of “pussy.” Literally, “cookie”, and the word is commonly applied with no double meaning to a type of cookie. See *cochar*.

cocho: vagina. The social equivalent of “cunt.” See *cochar*.

coño: vagina. The social equivalent of “pussy.” May derive from *cónyuge* (“spouse”).

pan: vagina. The social equivalent of “pussy.” Literally, “bread.”

panocha: vagina. the social equivalent of “pussy.”

torta: vagina. The social equivalent of “pussy.” Literally, “a sandwich made with rolls, torte, round cake, round rolls.” See *tortear*.

vagina: vagina (proper term).

C. Breasts

chichis: breasts. The social equivalent of “tits.” see *chichona*.

melones: breasts. Literally, “melons, cantaloupes.” The use of images from nature has humorous connotations.

pechos: breasts. (proper term). The singular means “chest.” See *pechona*.

pezón: nipple (proper term).

senos: breasts (proper term). Often used as the social equivalent of “bosom.”

tetas: breasts. The social equivalent of “tits.” See *tetona*.

D. Buttocks

ano: anus (proper term). English-speaking persons sometimes confuse this word with *año* (“year”).

culo: anus; also, a person who is stingy with money.

nalgas: bottom cheeks. See *nalgona*.

pompis: bottom. See *pompear*.

remolino: anus. The social equivalent of “hole.” Literally, “whirlpool, whirlwind, vortex.” [A joke asks the question, “Do you know that ‘*Lino, préstame tu remo*’ (‘Linus, lend me your oar’) is not the same as ‘*Préstame tu remolino*’ (‘Lend me your oar, Linus’ versus ‘Lend me your asshole’)?”]

rosca: anus. The word carries the connotation of a ring shape or spiral shape.

E. Condoms

condón: condom (proper term).

hule: condom. Literally, “rubber.”

preservatorio: condom (proper term).

F. Parties

pachanga: a wild party.

parranda: a wild party.

III. Actions and Attitudes

A. Love

amar: to love (proper term). See *amante*.

caer: to become a boyfriend or girlfriend. Literally, “to fall.” Example: *Aquella ya cayó* (“That girl is already someone’s girlfriend”). This usage is not to be confused with the expression *caer bien* (“to be liked, to strike someone as being fine”).

desear: to desire (proper term).

enamorada, enamorado: in love (adjective); one who is in love (noun) (proper term).

pretender: to flirt (proper term). See *pretendiente*.

querer: to love, to want, to wish (proper term). See *querida, querido*.

volver loca, volver loco: to go crazy (proper term). Examples: *Me vuelves loca* (“You drive me crazy”) has a negative connotation, while *Me vuelvo loca de ti* (“I’m crazy over you”) has a positive connotation.

B. Seduction

amarrar: to conquer sexually or romantically. Literally, “to tie, to rope, to moor.”

bailarse: to use someone, to seduce someone. Example: *Me la bailé* (“I used her”). Derives from *bailar* (“to dance”).

conchavar: to out with girls. See *chava*.

conquistar: to conquer sexually or romantically.

coqueta: a flirt (proper term). A popular song advises: "*Marieta / no seas coqueta / porque los hombres son muy malos. / Prometen / muchos regalos / mas lo que dan son puros palos*" ("Mariette /don't be a flirt / because men are very bad. / They promise / many presents / but what they give are only beatings").

coquetear: to flirt (proper term). See *coqueta*.

deshacerse en los brazos: to melt in someone's arms romantically. Example: *Me deshice en sus brazos* ("I melted in his arms").

machismo: a cultural term for behavior considered to be very manly. A long history of sexual activity is often considered to be a component of *machisimo*. See *macho*.

seducción: seduction (proper term).

seducir: to seduce (proper term).

tentación: temptation (proper term).

C. Promiscuity

coronar: to cheat on a man. Literally, "to put horns on a man," a cultural symbol of cuckolding. See *cornudo*.

engañar: to deceive (proper term); also, to cheat on someone. Example of use as "to deceive": *Le engañó diciendo que le amaba* ("He deceived her by telling her that he loved her"). Example of use as "to cheat": *Siempre le engaña a su marido* ("She always cheats on her husband").

D. Lust

adulterio: adultery (proper term).

agarrar en la movida: to catch in the act (of anything).

buscar nalga: to look for some ass or tail. See *nalgas*.

buscar putaje: to look for whores. See *puta*.

cochondo: horny. See *cochar*.

corrupción: sexual perversion (proper term).

levantar una güisa: to pick up a woman, as in a bar.

maña: any bad habit (proper term). See *mañaco, mañosa, mañoso*.

mañaco: horny. See *maña*.

pecado: sin (proper term). See *pecar*.

pecar: to sin (proper term).

sanchear: to court another man's wife while the man is away. See *sancho*.

traer a las viejas tras los huesos: to have women after one's body. Literally, "to bring old ladies along behind one's bones." Example: *Traigo a las viejas tras mis huesos* ("Women are after my body").

E. Family Planning

abortar: to abort (proper term). See *aborto*.

aborto: abortion (proper term). See *abortar*.

aliviarse: to give birth (proper term). Literally, "to be relieved (of child)."

cuidar: to use withdrawal as contraception. Literally, "to care for, to guard." Example: *Mi marido me cuida* ("My husband uses withdrawal").

dar luz: to give birth (proper term). Literally, "to give light (to a child)."

embarazada: pregnant (adjective); pregnant woman (noun) (proper term).

embarazo: pregnancy (proper term). See *embarazada*.

encinta: pregnant.

parto: delivery of pregnancy (proper term).

planificación familiar: family planning (proper term). Proper terms for specific family methods are found in a multitude of publications and are therefore omitted here. Only *cuidar* is listed here.

F. Safe Sex

desecho: discharge (noun) (proper term).

enfermedad venérea: venereal disease (proper term). Proper terms and slang for specific sexually-transmitted diseases are found in numerous publications and are therefore omitted here. Only *SIDA* is listed here.

protegerse: to have safe sex. Literally, "to protect one's self."

SIDA: AIDS (proper acronym).

G. Masturbation

apretar el pescuezo del gallo: male masturbation. The social equivalent of "to choke the chicken." Literally, "to squeeze the neck of the rooster."

casqueta: male masturbation. See *casquetar*.

casquetar: male masturbation. See *casqueta*.

lavar la mano: male masturbation. The social equivalent of "to give one's self a hand job." Literally, "to wash my/your/his hand."

manuela: male masturbation. Literally, "a hand job." Example: *Me hice una manuela* ("I gave myself a hand job").

puñeta: male masturbation. Literally, "a fist job." Example: *Me hice una puñeta* ("I gave myself a fist job"). See *puñetar*.

puñetar: male masturbation. Literally, "to do it with a fist." See *puñeta*.

tortear: female masturbation. See *torta*.

H. Foreplay

abrazar: to hug, to embrace (proper term). See *abrazo*.

abrazo: a hug, an embrace (proper term). See *abrazar*.

abrir las piernas: to spread one's legs (proper term).

acariciar: to caress (proper term). See *caricia*.

arrimar: to cuddle (proper term). [A humorous rhyme regarding incest is, "*A la prima se le arrima*" ("One cuddles with one cousin").]

besar: to kiss (proper term). See *besar*.

beso: a kiss (proper term). See *besar*.

caricia: a caress (proper term). See *acariciar*.

meterle el dedo: to insert a finger into someone.

manosear: to stroke (proper term), to feel up.

I. Loss of Virginity

despinchar: to take away a woman's virginity. May derive from *despinchar* ("to take the husk off an ear of corn") or *pinchar* ("to puncture").

enseñar: to teach, to show (proper term); also, to initiate into sexual activity. Example of use as "to show": *Le enseñó la rodilla* ("She showed him her knee," as in raising a skirt to show a knee). Example of use as "to initiate into sexual activity": *Le voy a enseñar este fin de semana* ("I'm going to initiate her/teach her how it's done/show her how to do it this weekend").

romper la tela: to take away a woman's virginity. The social equivalent of "to pop a cherry." Literally, "to break the fabric, to break the web."

J. Sexual Intercourse

acostarse con: to lie down with (proper term); also, to sleep with.

chingar: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to fuck." The term is used in the worst types of insults. Many commentaries have been written about this word. Mexicans have an international reputation for using this term and its derivatives to an extreme.

cochar: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to fuck." Literally, "to cook." See *cocho* and *bizcocho*.

coger: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to screw." Because the word also means, "to pick up, to catch," the verbs *recoger* and *agarrar* are often used by Mexicans when the latter meanings are wanted. [A joke has a tourist admiring a desert wildlife zoo. He asks the zookeeper, "How do you *coger* ('catch') coyotes? The zookeeper replies, "About the same as you *coger* ('screw') dogs, except that they kick a little more."]

cullear: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to screw." See *culo*.

echar un palo: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to shoot one's wad, to get one's rocks off."

fregar: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to screw." Literally, "to rub a thing against another thing." As a proper term, this word may be used in the sense of washing dishes ("fregar los trastes"). The word is also used to mean "to be out of luck, to be unfortunate."

joder: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to screw." The word is also used to mean "to be out of luck, to be unfortunate."

medirle el aceite: to have sexual intercourse. Literally, "to check her oil," humorous connotation.

montar: to have sexual intercourse. Literally, "to mount, to ride."

pompear: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to hump." See *pompis*.

subir: to have sexual intercourse. The social equivalent of "to mount." Literally, "to go up, to get on top of." [Because the word is also used to mean "being overcome by alcohol," a joke is to ask, "Why does the wife of (use the name of the current President) *toma* Dom Pedro?" ("drink Dom Pedro brand of Mexican brandy" versus "have sexual intercourse with someone named don Pedro"). The answer is, "Because *ya no le sube El Presidente*" ("El Presidente brand of Mexican brandy no longer gets her drunk" versus "The President no longer mounts her").]

subir el guayabo: to have sexual intercourse. Literally, "to climb the guayabo tree."

tener relaciones, tener relaciones sexuales: to have sexual intercourse (proper term).

tomar: to have sexual intercourse. Literally, "to take."

tumbar: to lie down with (proper term). [Because the word also means "to throw or knock down," a joke is to ask, "What is the difference between a bicycle and a woman?" The answer is, "With a bicycle, *la agarras, la montas y luego la tumbas* ("you grab it, you ride it, and then you throw it down"). With a woman, *la agarras, la tumbas y luego la montas* ("you grab her, you throw her down, and then you ride her").]

K. Sexual Intercourse Positions

agarrar en cuatro: to have sexual intercourse doggie style. Literally, "to get someone on all fours."

boca abajo: on one's stomach, face down (proper term). Literally, "mouth downward."

boca arriba: on one's back, facing upward (proper term). Literally, "mouth upward."

crucificada: spreadeagled. Literally, "crucified."

de a cañoncito: rear entry.

de a perrito: doggie style.

de armas al hombro: the position in which the woman is on her back with her legs in the air and her ankles over the man's shoulders. Literally, the "shoulder arms" military position for holding a rifle.

debajo: beneath (proper term).

de rodillas: on one's knees (proper term).

empinada: the doggie position for sexual intercourse. Literally, "inclined, bent over."

encima: on top of (proper term).

montar a caballo: to have sexual intercourse with the woman on top. Literally, "to ride a horse."

tener perrito: to be able to make a tight, grabbing movement with vaginal muscles.

L. Oral Sex

bajar para tomar agua: to give oral sex. Literally, "to go down to drink water."

bajarse: to give oral sex. Literally, "to get one's self down."

chupar: to suck (proper term).

dar un baje: to give oral sex. The social equivalent of "to give a blowjob."

mamar: to suck, often used of a baby nursing (proper term).

sesentainueve: sixty-nine (69).

tragar: to swallow (proper term).

M. Anal Sex

Dallas (English pronunciation): a humorous contraction of *dar las nalgas* [A joke is to ask someone if he or she is going to Dallas, implying Texas, and laugh when the response is positive.]

dar las nalgas: to offer one's self for anal sex. The social equivalent of "to spread ass." See *Dallas* and *nalgas*.

palito de perrito: anal intercourse. Literally, "the doggie's little stick."

N. Climax

descansar: to climax. Literally, "to rest."

gozar: to climax. Literally, "to receive pleasure."

venir: to climax. Literally, "to come."

O. Sexual Abuse

abusarse de: to rape, to sexually abuse (proper term).

agarrar como tren: to make someone pull train.

echárselos a todos: to pull train. Literally, "to get one's self off with all of them." Example: *Me los eché a todos* ("I pulled train").

forzar: to rape (proper term).

hacer cola: to gang-bang. Literally, "to make a line." Example: *Le hicieron cola* ("They gang-banged her").

masoquismo: Masochism (proper term). See *masoquista*.

raptar: to rape (proper term). The term has connotations of capturing or kidnapping.

sadismo: sadism (proper term). See *sadista*.

ultrajar: to rape (proper term).

violar: to rape (proper term). Literally, "to violate."

P. Urine and Excrement

caca: excrement. The social equivalent of "shit."

cagar: to have a bowel movement. The social equivalent of "to crap."

echar una firma: to have a bowel movement. the social equivalent of "to take a dump." Literally, "to place a signature," has a humorous connotation.

excremento: excrement (proper term).

hacer pipí: to urinate. The social equivalent of "to pee." A complement to *hacer popó*.

hacer popó: to have a bowel movement. The social equivalent of "to have a b.m." A complement to *hacer pipí*.

mear: to urinate. The social equivalent of "to piss." The word is pronounced as if it were spelled "*miar*." [A joke is to announce, "I'm going to *mi-ar-bolito*" ("my little tree"), a word play that lets one say *mear* without actually saying it.]

mierda: excrement. The social equivalent of "shit."

obrar: to have a bowel movement (proper term). Literally, "to work."

orina: urine (proper term). See *orinar*.

orinar: to urinate (proper term). See *orina*.

pedo: flatulence. The social equivalent of "fart." The idiomatic expression, *No sale pedo* means "It's no big deal."

poner telegrama: to have a bowel movement. The social equivalent of "to take a dump." Literally, "to send a telegram," has a humorous connotation.

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MIGRANT HEALTH

clinical supplement

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Study Yields HIV Prevalence for New Jersey Farmworkers

By Mark Lyons, MPH, PAC, Coordinator of Health and Safety, CATA: El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas (Farmworkers Support Committee)

Introduction

In the summers of 1990 and 1991 the Farmworkers Support Committee (CATA) AIDS Prevention Project, in cooperation with Bridgeton Area Health Services, a federally-funded migrant health center, organized an HIV counseling program in the migrant camps of southern New Jersey. CATA hired and trained two women farmworkers to be AIDS educators and HIV counselors. They provided an hour-long AIDS prevention program in the camps, followed by immediate on-site HIV counseling and testing for participants who requested the test. Five-hundred and

fifty-four workers were tested, following sixty presentations. Pre-test counselling included the use of the Centers for Disease Control's HIV Counselling and Testing Report Form, which provided very useful information concerning the migrant farmworker population. An analysis of the results follows.

The Sample

Ninety-eight percent of the farmworkers tested were men, of whom 89 percent were Puerto Rican and 8.7 percent Mexican. Their age breakdown was as follows: 3.1 percent were less than 18 years old, 24.8 percent were aged 18-24, 34.8

percent were aged 24-34, 19.0 percent were aged 35-44, and 18.4 percent were over 45. Of the 746 farmworkers who participated in the AIDS educational programs, 554 (74.3 percent) decided to be tested.

Results of HIV Tests

Eighteen farmworkers (3.2 percent) of the 554 workers tested were HIV positive. Of the farmworkers tested, 36.8 percent said they had no high risk behaviors, 5.6 percent had had sex with another man, 9.4 percent were IV drug users, 48.2 percent had heterosexual sex, and 14.1 percent had sex with a prostitute.

The HIV-positive farmworkers had the following characteristics:

- All were male.
- 88.8 percent were Puerto Rican; 5.6 percent were Mexican.
- 5.5 percent were under 18 years old, 11.1 percent were 18-24, 44.5 percent were 22-34, 27.8 percent were 35-44, and 11.1 percent were over 34.
- 16.7 percent said they had no high risk behavior, 38.9 percent used IV drugs, 50 percent had heterosexual contact, 16.7 percent had sex with an IV drug user, and 22.2 percent had sex with a prostitute.

Conclusions

This project demonstrates a great demand from migrant farmworkers for HIV counselling and testing. The challenge is to make the counselling and testing easily accessible. Thus, in past years when HIV counselling was not offered in the camps, less than 2 percent of the participants in the AIDS prevention programs sought testing in the counselling and testing sites or migrant clinics in New Jersey. However, when coun-

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Glossary Will Help HIV Counselors

By James M. Alexander, IV, MA

A glossary of sexual slang and proper terms specific to Mexican Spanish is being developed by the National Migrant Resource Program (NMRP). The purpose of this glossary is to enable health care providers, counselors, and interpreters to communicate more effectively with Mexican clientele when taking sexual histories, giving patient education presentations, and providing counselling with regard to sexually transmitted diseases. The glossary is seen as a potentially useful tool for providing culturally relevant attention to specific target populations.

This project derives from efforts in Colorado to provide such glossaries for participants at HIV/AIDS conferences. One goal of the project is to expand the glossary over time, enlisting the help of other migrant health professionals. Another goal is to spark interest in the development of similar glossaries specific to other populations at risk for HIV infection.

Copies of the glossary are available from NMRP, which will make periodic expansions and revisions. **Anyone wishing to contribute items to the glossary or suggest revisions should contact the project coordinator, James Alexander, at Colorado Migrant Health Program, P.O. Box G, Palisade, CO 81526, (303) 464-5862.**

The Clinical Supplement to *Migrant Health Newslines* is developed by the Migrant Clinicians Network. To submit clinical articles for consideration or for more information about MCN, contact the Network at 2512 South IH35, Austin, TX 78704, (512) 447-0770.