

27th International Conference on PEDIATRICS, NEONATOLOGY AND PEDIATRIC NURSING September 24-25, 2018 Tokyo, Japan

HIV/AIDS infection knowledge in general population of Mexicali Baja California

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Introduction: In 2016 Baja California went up to the sixth place in incidence of cases from HIV/AIDS. People are getting used to the disease and stopped paying attention to it. To understand this tendency we must determine grade knowledge of the population.

Material & Methods: Descriptive, transversal and correlative study. 400 people between 17-74 years old were surveyed with an instrument consisting in a polytomous test of 27 items about HIV/AIDS, covering: General knowledge, mechanism of transmission and its prevention. Groups were divided by sex and age: 17-30, 31-45, 46-60, >60 years old. Results were considered sufficient when more than 80% of answers were correct, regular for 60-79% and deficient if <59%. Also age, sex, scholarship and grade of knowledge were determined. Odds ratios were made to find correlation.

Results: Those surveyed were 228 women and 172 men (43%); 58.5% between 17 and 30 years old, 22.5% from 31 to 45; 15.5% from 46 to 60 and 3.5% were >60 years old. The average age was 31 years. Scholarship: 41.5% (166) were currently bachelor students. 20.75% obtained a degree. 16.7% graduated from high school. The average qualification was 66.9%. Prevention knowledge was very low (26% of answered correctly). 30% showed deficient knowledge. Once correlation tests were made, no statistical relation was found between sex, age and level of knowledge ($p > 0.005$).

Conclusions & Recommendations: Most of general population lack knowledge, there is too much misinformation about prevention. We recommend more sex education programs at all levels.

Biography

Guillermo Francisco Rosales Magallanes is a Pediatric Infectologist and Head of Infectology Department at Service Hospital Istsstecali Mexicali. He has been serving as the President of the Subcommittee for prevention and control of nosocomial infections and is an active Member of Mexican Association of Pediatrics, Directive Board of Pediatrician College at Baja California, Mexican Association of Infectology, Clinical Microbiology A.C., Drug Resistant Tuberculosis State Committee, Mexican Certification Council in Pediatrics and Mexican Certification Council of Infectious Diseases. He has completed his PhD from Universidad Autonoma de Baja California and Postdoctoral studies from Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico at Hospital Infantil de Mexico, Federico Gomez. He has published 5 papers in reputed journals.

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