

BACKGROUND

- Non-prescription use of antibiotics in the U.S. may contribute to antimicrobial resistance.
- Hypothesis: Among Hispanic/Latino patients, the intention to use non-prescription antibiotics would be linked to:
 - Preference to socialize with Hispanics/Latinos (lower acculturation)
 - Having friends or relatives who utilize antibiotics without a doctor's guidance (social norms)

METHODS

- Surveys were administered in safety-net primary care clinics and private emergency departments in the greater Houston, Texas area between January 2020 and June 2021.
- 263 patients were surveyed in Spanish or English on patient, health system, and clinical encounter factors.

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics of respondents and patient reported experiences (n=263)

Characteristic	Value
No. (%) of questionnaires completed in Spanish	155.0 (59)
In English	108 (41)
No. (%) of respondents reporting use or intention to use non-prescription antibiotics	
Reported prior non-prescription use	123 (47)
Reported intention to use non-prescription antibiotics	95 (36)
How many of your friends or relatives use antibiotics without contacting a doctor?	
None/Don't Remember/Don't Know	105 (40)
Some	98 (37)
About Half	15 (6)
Most	33 (13)
All	12 (5)

RESULTS: Factors Associated with Intention to Use Non-Prescription Antibiotics

Predictor	Bought Without a Prescription in the U.S	From Another Country	From Friends/Relatives
Acculturation Scale			
Ethnic Social Relations Subscale	NS	OR = 0.6 <i>P</i> = 0.02	NS
Insurance			
Uninsured	OR = 2.4 <i>P</i> = 0.03	—	—
Survey Language			
Spanish	OR = 2.3 <i>P</i> = 0.02	—	—
Social Norms			
How many of your friends or relatives use antibiotics without contacting a doctor?			
Most	OR = 3.2 <i>P</i> = 0.01	OR = 3.9 <i>P</i> = 0.01	OR = 4.3 <i>P</i> = 0.01
All	OR = 4.1 <i>P</i> = 0.04	OR = 10.7 <i>P</i> < 0.01	OR = 9.7 <i>P</i> < 0.01
Barriers To Healthcare Access In The Last 12 Months			
High cost of doctor visits	OR = 4.3 <i>P</i> = 0.01		OR = 4.5 <i>P</i> = 0.01
A language barrier		OR = 6.3 <i>P</i> = 0.02	

†NS = Not significant in multivariate analysis, OR = Odds Ratio

CONCLUSIONS

- Interventions aimed to reduce non-prescription use in the Hispanic/Latino community should focus on:
 - Affordable, language-concordant healthcare
 - Promotion of antibiotic stewardship as a social norm

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