

## November/December 2007 HepTalk Listserv

Welcome to the HepTalk Listserv. We have an announcement for you from MCN, and the rest of the listserv will be devoted to issues specifically related to migrants. One is an article about the screening of people from countries where Hep B is endemic. The second part offers resources for clients from Central America who speak languages other than Spanish, such as the indigenous Mixteco. Though the study was completed in Eastern North Carolina, the resource list presented is national in scope and very broad.



*We are a force for justice in healthcare for the mobile poor!*

Twenty- two years ago the Migrant Clinicians Network was founded by three dedicated frontline clinicians with a vision for a national network supportive of clinicians dedicated to quality health care for migrant farmworkers. While MCN has grown significantly we remain true to our original vision. In recognition of our strong commitment to clinicians and the mobile poor as well as the global nature of our work with migrants, MCN is proud to unveil our new logo and mission statement. As an organization MCN is committed to social justice, global health and to clinicians caring for migrants from all parts of the world as they move to survive.

As a part of our expanded services we invite you to join your colleagues in a cutting edge conversation about the issues facing clinicians and migrants on our new blog, [www.migrantclinician.org/blog](http://www.migrantclinician.org/blog) . Current issues include the question "Are Social Security numbers required for health care?" as well as an expanded look at emergency preparedness for mobile populations.

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**1. AASLD 2007 1457. Screening for Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Infection by Primary Care Physicians in New York City: Are Screening Recommendations for Persons Born in Endemic Countries Being Followed?** H. Pollack; K. Wan; T. Miyoshi; G. Fryer; S. Tawdekar; P. Baker; D. McEwen; C. Weinbaum; S. R. Bialek; R. Low

Screening for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is recommended for persons born in regions where hepatitis B is endemic. Current physician practices with respect to screening for chronic HBV infection are largely unknown. In this study we examined screening practices for chronic HBV among primary care clinics in an urban hospital system. De-identified patient information was abstracted from electronic medical records.

### **Aim**

We present preliminary results on screening practices for 18,457 patients 19-49 years of age, who first visited primary care clinics in the NYC Health and Hospital's South Manhattan Network (including Bellevue Hospital Center) in New York City during 2005-2006. The patient population consisted of Asian/Pacific Islanders (26.1%), Blacks (12.7%), Hispanics (42.3%), Native Americans (0.2%), and

Whites (7.0%). 69.6% were foreign born. Among the 18,457 patients, 42.4% (7,826) were screened for HBsAg. 1026 (71.8%) of 1429 persons with elevated ALT were screened for HBsAg compared to 5826 (49.6%) of 11749 with normal ALTs,  $p=8\%$ ), those born in East Asia countries had the highest screening rate (692/1088, 63.6%) followed by Southeast Asia (153/304, 50.3%), and Africa (230/521, 44.1%). Patients born in regions of intermediate HBV endemicity (2-7%) including Eastern Europe, South Asia, Middle East, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean had screening rates of 35.6-40.1%, comparable to rates for patients born in the U.S. (39.5%).

The screening rates varied greatly among individual clinics, highest (1040/1810, 57.5%) at community clinics which served large numbers of APIs and lowest (25/212, 11.8%) at a community clinic which served large numbers of Hispanics.

## Results

This pilot study revealed that screening for HBsAg was correlated with elevated ALT, younger age, Asian race and region of birth with HBV epidemic. However, nearly 50% of patients from countries where HBV infection is endemic, and for whom screening is recommended by the CDC, had not been tested. More rigorous efforts will be necessary to increase compliance for HBV screening in this group of patients in order to decrease long-term morbidity and mortality.

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## 2. National resources for learning more about indigenous languages and cultures and assistance with training materials and interpretation.

This summer, the NC Agromedicine Institute funded a collaborative outreach project with East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (ECMHSP) and Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF). The SAF intern interviewed parents and staff in order to determine which indigenous languages are being spoken by families with children enrolled in ECMHSP centers. In addition to making this determination, the intern also made recommendations to ECMHSP staff regarding ways to improve communications with indigenous language families. One of the recommendations included accessing resources across the country that can be of assistance with learning more about indigenous languages and cultures as well as assisting with training materials and interpretation. Below is an a list of indigenous languages identified in eastern NC (east of (I-95) as well as a list resources. Contact:

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The main indigenous languages reported by parents in ECMHSP centers in eastern North Carolina were:

1. Mixteco, a tonal language most frequently spoken in the Mexican states of Oaxaca, Puebla, and Guerrero. It is predicted that there 300,000 people worldwide who speak Mixteco, but the majority of these speakers also have a working knowledge of Spanish. Mixteco is mostly a verbal language, but a written form does exist.
2. Otomi, a tonal indigenous language most frequently spoken in the Mexican states of Mexico, Puebla, Veracruz, Hidalgo, Queretaro, and Tlaxcala by an ethnic group that refers to themselves as the Hñähñu. It is estimated that there are 200,000-300,000 speakers, and 5-6% of these speakers are monolingual.

3. Zapoteco, most frequently spoken in the Mexican states of Oaxaca, Puebla, and Guerrero. There are about 500,000 speakers of Zapoteco worldwide. It is predicted that there may be as many as 60 varieties of Zapoteco, and some of these varieties vary considerably from each other.

4. Triqui, a tonal language most frequently spoken in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. It is predicted that there are 14,981 speakers of Triqui in Mexico alone. Triqui is considered a Mixtecan language, and most who speak Triqui speak Mixteco as well. Men or children in this community usually speak Spanish also, if they have completed elementary school.

#### **RESOURCES:**

This section contains a number of organizations and other resources that are currently working with indigenous populations. National Models: The following organizations currently serve large populations of Indigenous Language speakers.

1. Oregon Law Center: This organization, based in Woodburn, Oregon, has 3 community outreach workers and a receptionist in their office who speak indigenous languages (Mixteco Alto and Mixteco Bajo). They utilize the following strategies to communicate with clients who speak indigenous languages:

a. Audio Materials: The Oregon Law Center puts important information and scenarios on tapes and CDs in indigenous languages for their clients

b. Radio: The employees at the Oregon Law Center who speak indigenous languages create radio ads for local Spanish language stations in indigenous languages. They also participate on 2-3 radio shows per month.

c. Presentations: They also do around 5 community presentations per month for workers (some of which are done in indigenous languages).

d. Identifying and training interpreters for indigenous languages: They collaborate with the Oregon Judicial Department to provide training to become court interpreters for people who speak both an indigenous language and Spanish.

#### Contact Information:

230 W. Hayes St.

Woodburn, OR 97071

Julie Samples [juliesamps@yahoo.com](mailto:juliesamps@yahoo.com)

(503) 981-0336

1-800-973-9003

2. Mayan Ministries: Organized through the Diocese of Palm Beach in Florida, Maya Ministries works to address the needs of Mayan immigrants to the area. These Mayan workers speak up to 25 different dialects of Mayan indigenous languages, but most can speak Spanish as well. The organization's main services are literacy programs for families, adult education programs, and early childhood education programs for children who have English as a second language. They also offer a variety of social services referrals and translating specifically for Mayan immigrants. They have a Literacy Program funded by the Department of Education that was written in the Mayan indigenous language Canjobal.

#### Contact Information:

1615 Lake Ave.

P.O. Box 209  
Lake Worth, FL 33460-0209  
General information: <http://www.mayaministry.com>

3. Western NC Workers Center: Located in Morganton, North Carolina, the Western NC Workers Center is a non-profit group of community organizers. This organization currently has a number of outreach and education projects which work to uphold the rights of immigrant and low wage employees in Western North Carolina. They also work with high levels of Guatemalan immigrants who speak indigenous languages. One of their projects designed to reach indigenous language speakers is their Promotora Education project, which uses scenario picture books without words to educate low literacy populations about health and work safety.

Contact:  
Francisco Risso  
(828) 432-5080  
[fjrisso@hotmail.com](mailto:fjrisso@hotmail.com)

#### **General Resources About Indigenous Languages:**

1. [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com) This website, owned by SIL International, provides detailed background information about less common languages. Many of the indigenous languages have profiles.
2. Wikipedia also contains a variety of sites describing the basic characteristics of each of the indigenous languages.

#### **Language Aides (Dictionaries and Online Translators)**

1. <http://www.oberlin.edu/faculty/svolk/latinam.htm> This site provides online dictionaries in a variety of languages under the section "Foreign Language Aides for Latin America and Iberia". Mixteco, Nahuatl, and Zapotec are included in these resources on the Word2Word site.
2. Mixtec-Spanish Online Dictionary <http://aulex.ohui.net/es-mix/?idioma=en> Mixtec dictionary created by the SIL:  
<http://www.sil.org/mexico/mixteca/00i-mixteca.htm>
3. Mam-Spanish Dictionary  
[http://www.cscd.osakau.ac.jp/user/rosaldo/Mam\\_Esp\\_DICC\\_COM.html](http://www.cscd.osakau.ac.jp/user/rosaldo/Mam_Esp_DICC_COM.html)

#### **Organizations producing resources in or about Indigenous Languages:**

1. AILLA: The Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America  
<http://www.ailla.utexas.org/site/welcome.html>  
This digital archive features a number of recordings and texts in the indigenous languages of Latin America. Materials are available in Mixteco, Mam, Nahuatl, Otomi, Triqui, Zapotec, and many other indigenous languages. These materials give information about the cultures of these indigenous groups. Original works of literature in indigenous languages are also published on this site. AILLA works to preserve written forms of these languages, but it also collects grammars, dictionaries, ethnographies, and research notes that can be used as teaching materials. Most of the archive is free and available to the public.
2. Oaxaca Language Preservation Center  
[http://www.literacyonline.org/Projects/explorer/oax\\_act.html](http://www.literacyonline.org/Projects/explorer/oax_act.html)  
The Native Literacy Center in Oaxaca, Mexico was founded by a group of professionals and native educators from Oaxaca to support literacy projects for indigenous peoples. This center is involved with preservation, helping indigenous peoples to write their languages, print and publish individual works, write their histories, and record their knowledge for

future generations. People come from Central and South America to this Center, where they learn how to produce their own works. The center also works with education, teaching indigenous peoples how to write their languages so that they are able to produce their own works.

3. SIL International <http://www.sil.org/>

This faith-based organization works to document and study lesser-known languages. It has developed a number of materials, ranging from dictionaries to literature sources, in a wide variety of languages.

4. Rosetta Stone <http://www.rosettastone.com/en/endangered-languages>

Contact Marion Bittinger: [mbittinger@RosettaStone.com](mailto:mbittinger@RosettaStone.com)

Rosetta Stone is a software company which markets a variety of language learning software. This company also has an Endangered Languages Division, which creates software to preserve less prevalent languages. The company currently does not have any software available in the Indigenous Languages of Latin America but is possibly interested in developing software with ECMHSP and its parents who speak indigenous languages.

5. UCLA Language Materials Project <http://www.lmp.ucla.edu/>

The Language Materials Project works to provide a variety of materials, such as dictionaries, phrasebooks, grammars, and cultural materials. Currently, the website only provides materials in one indigenous language (Nahuatl), but the project continually updates the language profiles, so additional languages may be added at a later date.

#### **Organizations working to assist Indigenous Peoples:**

1. Frente Indígena Oaxaqueño Binacional (FIOB) <http://www.fiob.org/indexenglish.html>

The Oaxacan Indigenous Binational Front (FIOB) is a non-profit organization based in California. It is a coalition of indigenous organizations, communities, and individuals from Oaxaca, Baja California and in the State of California. This organization works to empower the indigenous peoples of Oaxaca and make sure that human rights are upheld for these communities in both Mexico and the United States.

2. Radio Bilingüe <http://www.radiobilingue.org/archive/>

Radio Bilingüe is a Spanish language network on public radio. Although it is mostly California based, there are affiliate stations in Carrboro, Asheville, and Greenville, North Carolina. There is also a radio program broadcast in Mixteco called La Hora Mixteca.

Contact: Filemón López, Coordinator of La Hora Mixteca

[lopez.f@radiobilingue.org](mailto:lopez.f@radiobilingue.org)

(559) 455-5784

3. Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas

(CDI) [http://www.cdi.gob.mx/index.php?id\\_seccion=1](http://www.cdi.gob.mx/index.php?id_seccion=1)

The CDI is an organization that was created in 2003 to ensure that indigenous communities and people in Mexico have the rights guaranteed to them by the Mexican Constitution. It collaborates with state governments and federal dependencies to evaluate current strategies and works to form new programs that will ensure equality and fight against indigenous discrimination. It also works to help indigenous peoples to improve their quality of life. Their website includes a number of resources on indigenous areas of Mexico including news stories (some of which are written in an indigenous language), music, and research information on the indigenous populations. There is also a section of basic information on the indigenous languages of Mexico.

4. Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)

The MICOP is an organization of English, Spanish, and indigenous language speakers who are working to aid Oaxacan immigrants in Ventura County, California. They mostly provide

direct services. The "Necessities of Life" program distributes clothing, diapers, blankets, and other items to those in need. The organization also has programs which provide food, resources for medical care, education and literacy classes for adults, and weekly community meetings.

Contact info:

325 W. Channel Islands Blvd.  
Oxnard, California 93033  
(805) 385-8662

5. Honoring Mixtec Families through Cultural Sensitive Practices:

<http://www.farmworkerhealth.org/docs/Fall2007OutReachNewsletter.pdf>

This article contained in the Farmworker Health Services Fall 2007 newsletter provides simple strategies for providing culturally sensitive services to Mixtec families as well as additional resources for learning about Mixtec culture.

### **Translating and Interpreting Organizations:**

1. Frente Indígena Oaxaqueño Binacional (FIOB) One of the FIOB's projects is the Mexican Indigenous Interpreters Project, which trains and coordinates Mixteco and Zapoteco interpreters for the state of California. Although the majority of their services are in California, they have stated that the Migrant Head Start Centers in North Carolina can contact them with interpretation needs.

General information or Questions: [fiob@pacbell.net](mailto:fiob@pacbell.net)

List of interpreters available through FIOB:

<http://www.laneta.apc.org/fiob/interpretes1.html>

2. Language Line

<http://www.languageline.com>

Language Line is a company which provides a number of interpretation services. One of their services is over-the-phone interpretation in Mixteco for \$3.95 per minute. General information or questions: 1-877-886-3885 [info@languageline.com](mailto:info@languageline.com)

3. MEJ Personal Business Services Inc., Global Language Solutions

[http://www.mejpbs.com/document\\_translation\\_nyc.php](http://www.mejpbs.com/document_translation_nyc.php)

M E J Personal Business Services, Inc. is an interpreting, translation, and financial service based in New York City. They provide Foreign Language Interpreting, Telephone interpreting, video remote Interpreting, and Financial and Translation Services. Their website specifies that they provide document translations in Mixteco. General information or a free quote: 866-557-5336

### **Other Resources:**

1. Department of Pesticide Regulation: Provides Videos in Mixteco about Pesticide Safety. Contact Charlene Martens at (916) 445-4261, or by e- mail at [cmartens@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:cmartens@cdpr.ca.gov) to get copies or more information.

2. Cultural Sensitivity Training: FIOB has a good presentation that they use to teach the general community about indigenous cultures. This PowerPoint could be used to teach staff about indigenous languages.

<http://www.fiob.org/indexenglish.html>

3. "Isolated By Language: The Indigenous Oaxacans of Greenfield, CA"

<http://journalism.berkeley.edu/ngno/reports/language/index.html>

The town of Greenfield, CA has a high population of indigenous immigrants from Oaxaca, Mexico, many of whom speak little Spanish and/or English. This website is a compilation of work done by students from the UC-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism and reports on what the town of Greenfield is doing to improve communications and relations with these indigenous peoples

4. Less Commonly Taught Language Project <http://carla.acad.umn.edu/lctl/>

The goal of this project is to create awareness about less common languages. This website offers a database of less commonly taught language classes, instructional materials, and other resources for teaching these languages. There are some resources for Zapoteco, Nahuatl, and Mayan indigenous languages.

5. Spanish Language Resources for

Staff: [http://www.learn4good.com/languages/spanish\\_lessons/free\\_lessons.htm](http://www.learn4good.com/languages/spanish_lessons/free_lessons.htm)

This website offers some free online lessons which teach basic Spanish concepts. More detailed and advanced lessons can be purchased on CDs from the website.

<http://www.studyspanish.com> Learn Spanish from Spanish Learning Resources provides hundreds of free lessons and practice activities in the Spanish language. The core curriculum includes pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary and word drills. The site provides quizzes, tests and oral exercises and a virtual report card so students can see their progress.

6. Spanish Language Resource for the Parents: The Mexican Consulate's Plaza Comunitaria is an education program which teaches

Spanish to Mexican citizens who may be illiterate in their own language

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HepTalk is a project of the Migrant Clinicians Network and Community Health Education Concepts. HepTalk is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goal of HepTalk is to help clinicians serving migrants and recent immigrants engage in productive discussions about hepatitis risks with their clients and help them make prevention plans. The HepTalk listserv is a support service for clinics participating in the project. This is a post-only listserv and postings will come from HepTalk staff about once a month. If others at your clinic would like to be on the listserv, or if you have questions about the listserv or resources listed here, or if you would like to add something to the posts, please contact Kathryn Anderson, HepTalk training and education coordinator and listserv administrator, at [kath@healthletter.com](mailto:kath@healthletter.com). You can also contact the listserv administrator if you would like to unsubscribe from the list.