



# **Hotel Ritz;Comparing Mexican and U.S. Street Prostitutes: Factors in HIV/AIDS Transmission (Haworth Psychosocial Issues of HIV/AIDS)**

*R Dennis Shelby, David J Bellis*

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Explore ways to reduce the rate of HIV infection in street prostitutes--and the inescapable connection between the heroin trade, prostitution, and HIV!This unique book draws on face-to-face interviews that the author conducted on the streets, with heroin-addicted street prostitutes in Southern California and their counterparts in four large Mexican cities. Author David James Bellis illustrates the significant--and surprising--differences in the risk of exposure to HIV and other STDs that exist between street prostitutes in the two countries arising from national differences in the legality, sociology, and economics of sex work. He points out that Mexican prostitutes, for whom sex work is a simple means of livelihood, are "choir girls" compared with their beaten-up, drug-addicted sisters north of the border who perform sex for drug money and are at much greater risk of HIV and other diseases, like Hepatitis C. This book explores those differences, suggesting new directions for United States prostitution and heroin-control policies--laws currently so interwoven that they reinforce each other, accounting for a deadly circle of crime and disease. In addition to the fascinating results of the author's interviews with 72 female street prostitutes in San Bernardino, California, and 102 more in Tijuana, Cd. Juárez, Cd. Victoria, and Cuernavaca regarding their personal sexual, drug, and health practices, and their criminal histories, Hotel Ritz-Comparing Mexican and U.S. Street Prostitutes: Factors in HIV/AIDS Transmission explores:

- the licensing process for legal prostitutes in Mexico
- the medical testing that Mexico requires prostitutes to undergo
- the differences in what United States and Mexican prostitutes know about HIV transmission
- the difference in condom use between United States and Mexican prostitutes
- the potential benefits of reforming prostitution and drug laws in both countries
- the benefits of making methadone maintenance and syringes—and heroin—free for heroin-addicted prostitutes
- the proportion of United States/Mexican prostitutes who would quit the trade if they learned they had AIDS
- how the social support system in the United States (housing subsidies, TANF/AFDC money, food stamps, etc.) leads to a greater proportion of drug-addicted prostitutes than are found in Mexico

Hotel Ritz-Comparing Mexican and U.S. Street Prostitutes: Factors in HIV/AIDS Transmission also provides you with a look at the hierarchy of female sex workers, an explanation of the etiology of AIDS transmission, and a concise history of heroin and prostitution. Helpful tables and an appendix containing the author's survey questions make the data in this well-referenced book easily understandable.

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