

**CAB Conference Call
January 25, 2024
12:00 ET
Meeting Minutes**

Participants:

Ashley	
Andrea	Jacobi Medical Center
Anisa	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Antoinette	University of Miami
Chitara	Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital
Claire	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Eduardo	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Exzavia	Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center, Ft. Lauderdale
Falon	University of Colorado, Denver
Gena	University of Miami, Florida
Jackie	Westat
Karim	Westat
Kim	Texas Children’s Hospital
Kylie	Texas Children’s Hospital
Liam	FSTRF
Lisa	Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital
Liz	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Lorena	University of Miami
Raiko	University of Colorado, Denver
Rosalva	UCSD
Samantha	Tulane University
Tameka	St. Jude Children Research Hospital

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the November call were approved with no changes.

• **ICEBREAKER**

Eduardo led the icebreaker.

• **GUEST SPEAKER: LISA MASH**

Eduardo presented the guest speaker, Lisa Mash. She is a pediatric neuropsychologist at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital. She talked about the capsule: “Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on early development in HIV-exposed uninfected children.” She is interested in learning about the impact of COVID-19 on children from 1 yr. old to 5yr old. Some of the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on children:

- Fewer opportunities for learning, language exposure, socialization outside of the home.
- Reduced access to early intervention and special education.
- Increased caregiver stress.

Studies suggests that there were developmental consequences of the pandemic for young children:

- More frequent motor delays in infants exposed to COVID-19 in-utero.
- Infants who were treated in the NICU had poorer cognitive and language development during the pandemic compared to a similar group of kids before the pandemic.
- A study in Uruguay was looking at preschoolers getting ready to go to school for the first time. Kids who were going to school during the pandemic seemed less ready for school than a cohort of kids before the pandemic.
- Parents indicated more emotional and behavioral concerns in young children during the pandemic.

Unique concerns for families affected HIV:

- HIV exposed and uninfected children are at a slightly higher risk of some developmental delays compared to unexposed children.
- Barriers to healthcare during the pandemic.
- COVID-19, and HIV disproportionately burden communities of color.

Questions of the study:

- How do developmental and cognitive outcomes for children who are HIV exposed and uninfected compare pre pandemic versus post pandemic?
- Is caregiver reported stress during COVID-19 associated with developmental outcomes?
- Were children who are HIV exposed and uninfected belonging to minoritized groups disproportionately impacted during COVID-19?

Proposed Design: Three groups of kids

- Pre pandemic: born in 2013 and turned 5 in 2018.
- Pandemic (transitional): born in 2017 and turned 5 in 2022.
- Post pandemic: born in 2021 and turned 1 in 2022.

Aims of the study:

- Compare neurodevelopment at 1-year-olds pre versus post pandemic.
 - Cognitive, language, motor skills, social-emotional and adaptive skills (daily living skills).
- Compare neurodevelopment at 5-year-olds pre versus post pandemic.
 - Cognitive, language, motor skills, social-emotional and adaptive skills.
 - Does development at Year 1 predict development at Year 5? Did this relationship change during the pandemic?
- Was COVID-related stress (of the caregiver) related to neurodevelopmental outcomes in 2022?

Questions for the CAB members:

- How accessible was medical or prenatal care during COVID?
- What challenges did you notice your kids experiencing during COVID in terms of learning development? Was it different for different ages?
- What factors seemed helpful/protective? Social support/siblings?
- Anything else you noticed about children's development or learning during the pandemic.

Questions/Comments from the CAB members:

- **Rosalva** asked if the study would consider loss of family members during the pandemic.
 - **Lisa** answered this information was not included in the questionnaire. However, she acknowledged this experience could impact children in different ways.
- **Chitara** asked the reasoning of the timeline (2013 – 2022).
 - **Lisa** explained that the study is focused on the initial shut down of the pandemic in 2020. This was when kids couldn't go to school, daycare, or have access to therapy.
 - **Chitara** added that it is important to consider how COVID is still affecting kids. They are still catching up in their education and social skills. Parents are still coping with job loss.
 - **Kim** mentioned kids are now having PTSD from death and being around people again.
 - **Claire** shared that a lot of kids are very behind socially/emotionally even now.
- **Gena** explained that COVID affected people in different ways. For some people it impacted their memory and caused problems in their jobs. She suggested adding those questions in the questionnaire.
 - **Lisa** mentioned that the data was collected last year. She acknowledges that information was missing from the questionnaire. They made revisions to the questionnaire, but still missed some information.
- **Tameka** understands why the study focuses on children 1 – 5 yr. old because that defines the major developmental stages. However, she suggested that the study should expand to older children that were in school when the pandemic started. These older children struggled with social interaction and figuring out how to succeed in virtual learning. In addition, the study could also expand to include kids that started school during the pandemic; kids that started kindergarten online.
 - **Exzavia** agreed with Tameka that some kids struggle with homeschooling. Then, when school was open again, it was hard for them as well. She mentioned that younger children were mentally and emotionally affected, but parents were focused on helping them engage in online learning.
- **Claire** shared if the pandemic introduced technology/screens to young kids earlier than they otherwise would have been.
- **Samantha** asked if the study will be looking at physiological changes or genetic disorders as well.

- **Lisa** responded that future studies could include physiological and genetic factors.
- **Kim** suggested a follow up study exploring the mental and emotional health of the kids.
 - **Lisa** agreed that this is an important topic to explore. In this study, they collected some information about children’s social emotional and behavioral development and will start exploring this topic.
- **Tameka** shared that accessing medical care for adults and children was very difficult during the pandemic. At doctor offices, people were not allowed to come in if they have symptoms that could be related to COVID. She mentioned that family and site staff support was important during the pandemic. Support was crucial because of the COVID protocols implemented and how people were treated was like what happened with HIV when it started.
- **Chitara** mentioned that during the pandemic access to medical care was available through telehealth. She mentioned that family members were a great support during that time. For some children, virtual learning was difficult although they to cope with the changes. Also, adults faced struggle with virtual learning. She suggested exploring the impact of COVID in people at risk of having severe symptoms.

- **CAB REMUNERATION UPDATES**

Eduardo explained that every CAB member that attends the monthly calls will receive an Amazon gift card code. He indicated that Amazon changed their policy on gift card codes. Now, people can’t purchase other gift cards using their Amazon gift card codes.

If anyone has any questions/concerns, please contact Mandy, Eduardo and/or Claire.

NOTE: The next CAB call will be on February 22, 2024, at 12:00 PM ET.