

LANGUAGE DELAYS IN PRESCHOOL YOUTH BORN TO MOTHERS LIVING WITH HIV

Research suggests that some youth born to mothers living with HIV may be behind in developing language. We wanted to see whether these youth had language or speech problems. We wanted to know whether the ARV medications mothers took while they were pregnant affected their children's language and speech.

WHO PARTICIPATED



We studied youth born to mothers living with HIV in SMARTT:

- 208 youth (age 3)
- 429 youth (age 5)

WHAT WE DID



We looked at speech and language from youth in SMARTT. We wanted to know if speech or language problems were related to different ARVs taken by their mothers during pregnancy.

WHAT WE FOUND



About **33%** of 5-year-olds had trouble with language.



The number of children with speech impairments was less than 10% in both 3- and 5-year-olds.

About 33% of 5-year-olds had language difficulties. However, when we looked at 3- and 5-year-olds together, only 1 in 10 youth had trouble with language. These youth were doing better than we'd expect.

There were not many findings linked to ARVs taken during pregnancy. In some cases, youth even seemed to have lower risk of speech or language problems if their mothers used ARVs during pregnancy.

WHAT WE LEARNED



We saw language problems for some 5-year-old youth born without HIV to mothers living with HIV.

We don't know if language problems are related to mothers' use of ARV medications during pregnancy. More research is needed to study language and speech in youth exposed to HIV and ARVs.