



# Research Snapshot



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Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS  
at Yale University

## Missed Opportunities for HIV Prevention: Results of a Qualitative Study on Mother-Daughter Communication

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### What is the research about?

This study examined the role of communication among HIV+ African American mothers and their daughters in relation to HIV prevention. Communication patterns, context, and focus were examined to determine points of intervention for preventing sexual risk behaviors and reducing HIV risk in daughters.

### Why is this important for HIV prevention and treatment?

African American daughters of HIV positive mothers are at an increased risk of HIV due to the structural, historical barriers and environmental influences that have contributed to their potential engagement in risky sexual behaviors. Poverty, stigma, and lack of access to health care are some of the factors influencing risk and the disproportionate rate of HIV in

African American women.

### What did the researchers do?

Three African American female research assistants (RA) conducted face-to-face interviews using a semi-structured interview guide. The interview questions centered around knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs regarding HIV/AIDS, HIV risk communication and social support. The RAs used the data collected to summarize the experiences of the participants.

### What did the researchers find?

Consistent with previous research, researchers found that African American females that have a mother living with HIV are at high risk of engaging in risky behaviors leading to exposure to HIV. While the mothers reported talking to their daughters frequently about HIV prevention, some of the daughters reported that they

did not receive any information about HIV prevention from their mothers.

### How can you use this research?

This research can be used in designing interventions for African American women that focus on utilizing the mother-daughter relationship to reduce HIV risk, regardless of maternal HIV status. Additionally, interventions should incorporate the use of techniques aimed at strengthening mother-daughter engagement.

### Original Research Article:

Amutah-Onukagha N, Opara I, Hammonds R, Guthrie B. Missed Opportunities for HIV Prevention: Results of a Qualitative Study on Mother-Daughter Communication. *Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services*, 2018; Advanced online publication, doi: 10.1080/15381501.2018.1502708  
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