

ARV Safety During Pregnancy

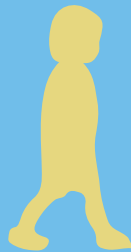
Pregnant women living with HIV take antiretroviral medicines (ARVs) to protect the health of the mother and the baby. In 99% of cases in the U.S., when a mother takes ARVs during pregnancy, her baby is not born with HIV.

Findings



After a baby is exposed to ARVs in the womb or at birth, our study follows the child as they grow up to see whether the ARVs affect their health in any way.

In our study, we have found that taking ARVs during pregnancy is generally safe for mothers and babies.



However, some babies exposed to certain ARVs may be born early or have low birth weight. Some may also have a hard time growing or reaching developmental milestones during childhood. The timing of when mothers start taking certain ARVs is also important.

When a baby is exposed to HIV and ARVs in the womb or at birth, this becomes part of their medical history. It is important to continue to follow their health as they grow up into adulthood.



What can you do?



Ask your doctor which ARVs are safest for you and your baby, and ask how to take them correctly.



Advocate for better services and better research for mothers living with HIV and their kids. Contact your study coordinator to join the PHACS Community Advisory Board or join another local advocacy organization.