

Hearing and Language

In our study, we have found that youth born to mothers living with HIV may be more likely to experience difficulties with hearing and language.

Findings

We found that children born to mothers living with HIV may have a higher risk for language difficulties than their peers - whether they themselves are living with HIV or not.

For example, some children may struggle to express themselves well or follow classroom instructions. Some may have difficulty with reading.

We also found that it was more common for these children to have some amount of hearing loss than other children in the U.S. Children with more advanced HIV or a previous AIDS diagnosis were more likely to experience hearing loss.



Seeing an audiologist (hearing doctor) or speech therapist is important if you think you or your child might have a hearing or language problem.

For those living with HIV, taking antiretroviral medications and keeping the HIV virus at low levels in the body can help support better hearing and language.

What can you do?

Ask your doctor or study coordinator if you have questions about hearing or language health. You can find an audiologist or speech therapist by visiting www.asha.org/profind.



Advocate for research on hearing and language for mothers living with HIV and their children. Contact your study coordinator to join the PHACS Community Advisory Board or join another local advocacy organization.

