



Prevention Research for
Community, Family
and Child Health



Partnership for Alcohol &
AIDS Intervention Research

Child development in the presence of HIV: data from the Child Community Care study

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CCABA Symposium, Melbourne,
19 July 2014



Child Community Care study

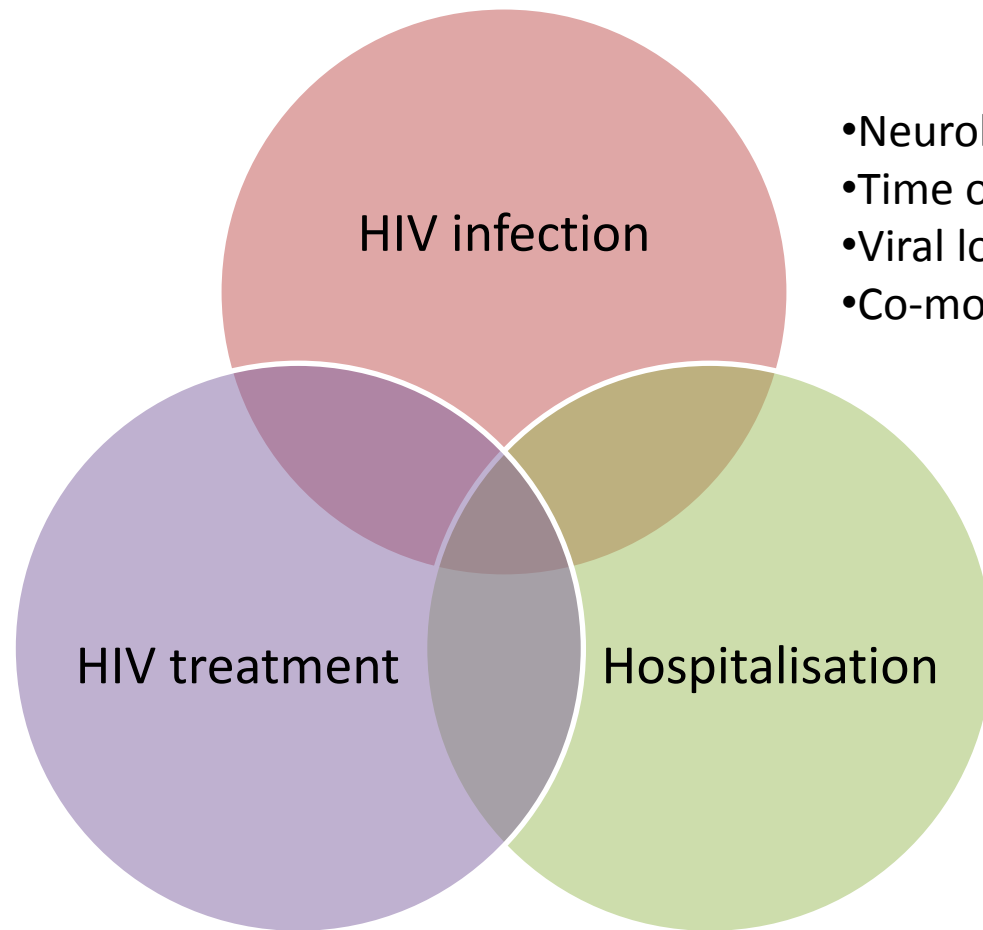
- Stellenbosch University and UCL
 - Funded by SIDA-NORAD, through HelpAge
 - Supported by Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS



Introduction

- The right of children to healthy development makes up one of the four core principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Children living in low and middle income countries (LMICs) are at increased risk of poor developmental outcomes.
- Limit children's ability to participate in and contribute to their communities

HIV and child development



- Neurological sequelae
- Time of infection
- Viral load and CD4 count
- Co-morbid illness

HIV and child development

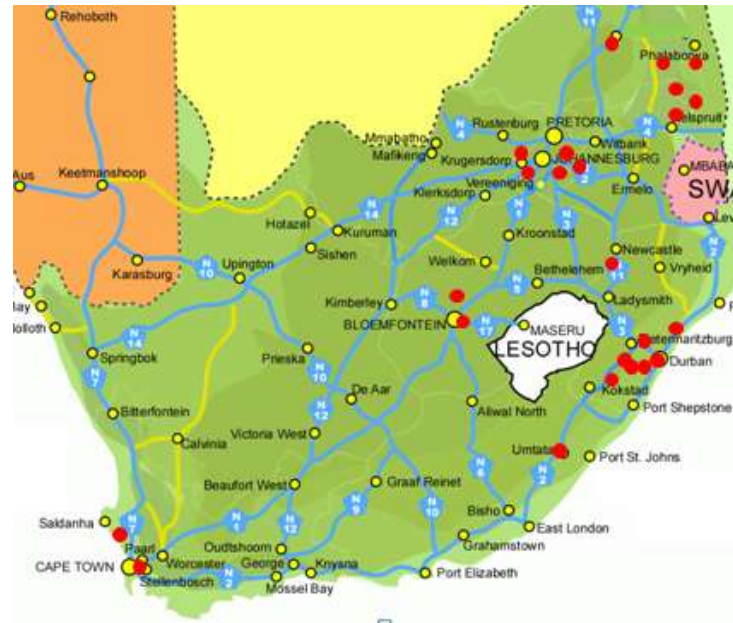
- Families affected by HIV
 - Poverty
 - Food insecurity
 - Parental illness
 - Parental depression and substance use
 - Harsh discipline practices
- Few studies looking at child development in context of HIV
 - Limited knowledge about services

Child Community Care study

- Community-based organisations
 - more likely to be able to access marginalised and isolated children and families
 - support children in the context of their homes, not just at clinics or hospitals
 - more sustainable than traditional externally-driven interventions particularly with shortage of health workers

Child Community Care study

- Generated list of CBOs
- Random selection (n=28) in South Africa and Malawi
- 979 children (aged 4-13 yrs) affected by HIV and caregivers, and CBO leaders
- 1 year follow up

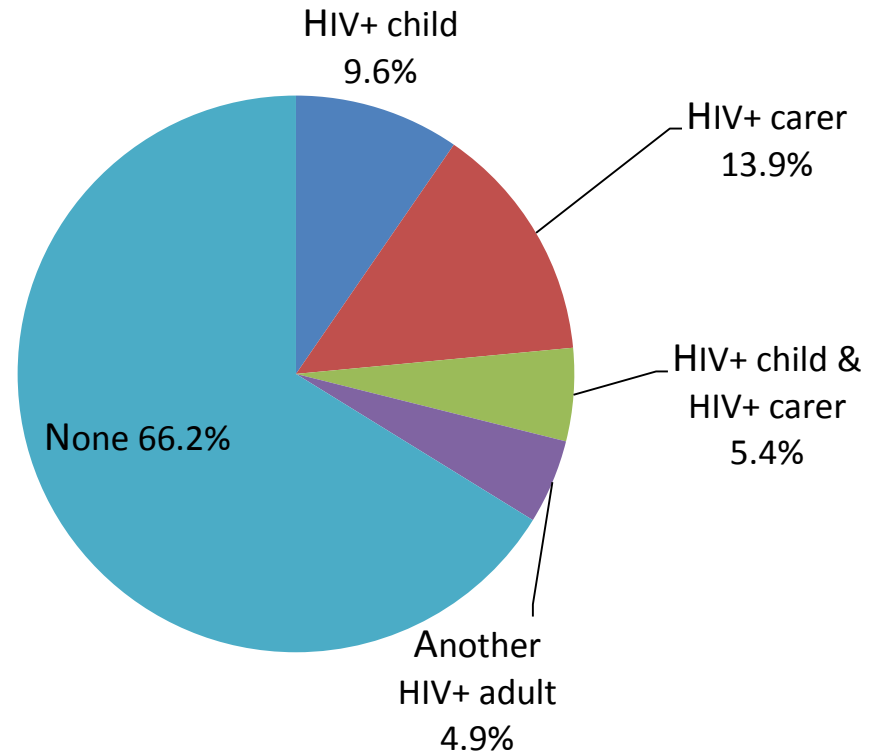




Organisational input

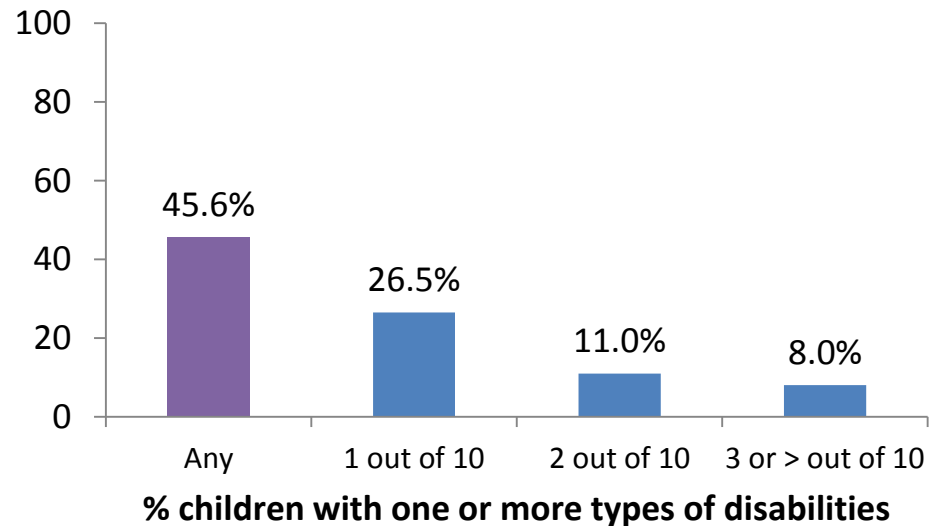
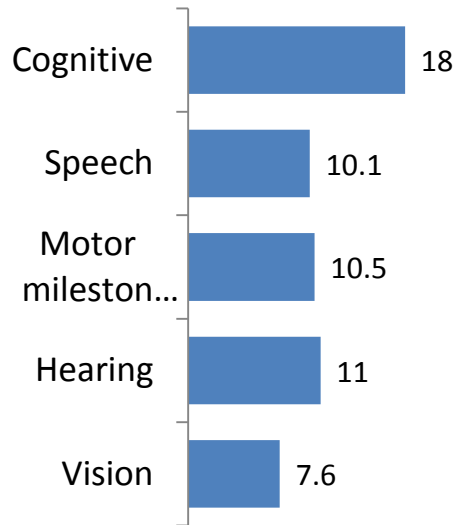
HIV+ children

- 135 children are HIV+ (13.7%)
- Only a third of children (n=43) know their HIV status
- 189 carers are HIV+ (19.3%)
- 332 children live in households with HIV+ people (33.6%)

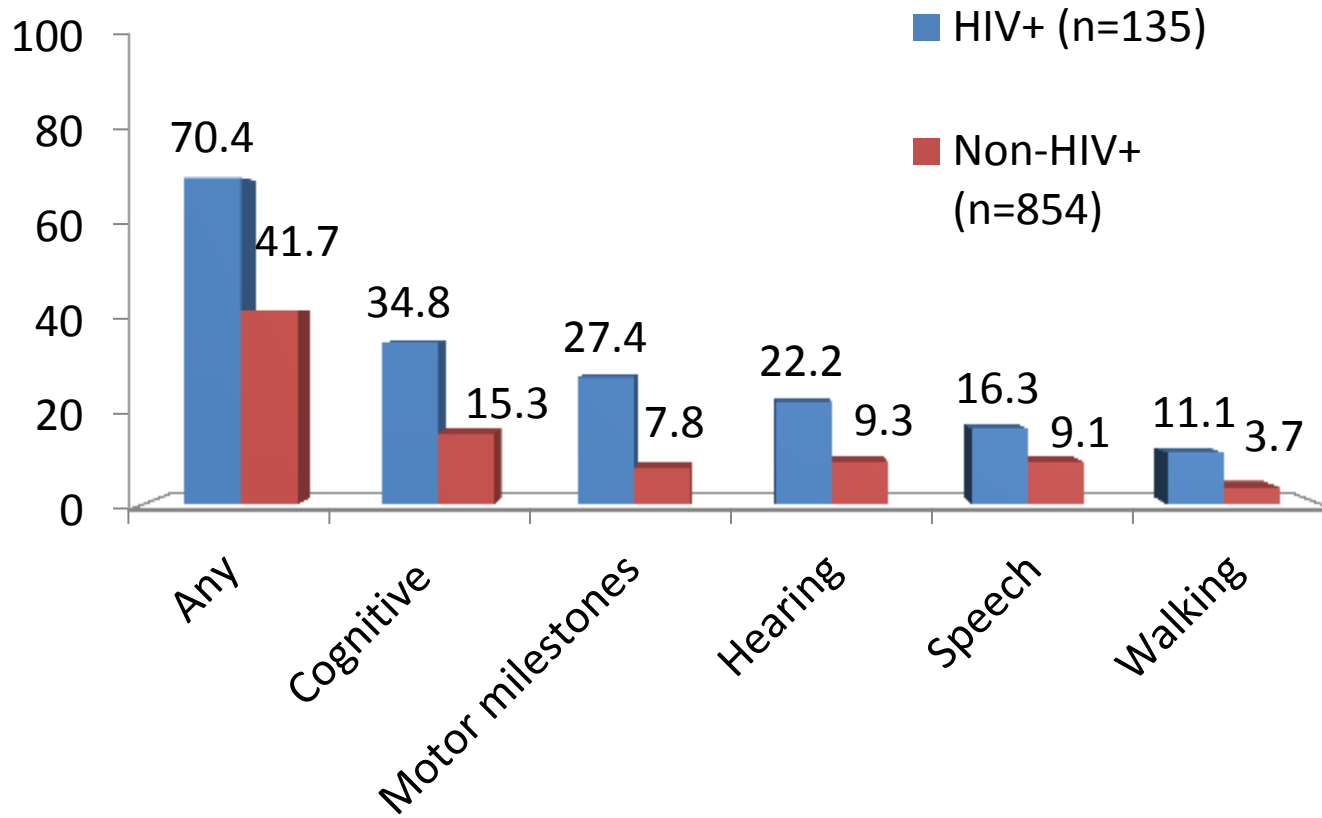


Child developmental disability

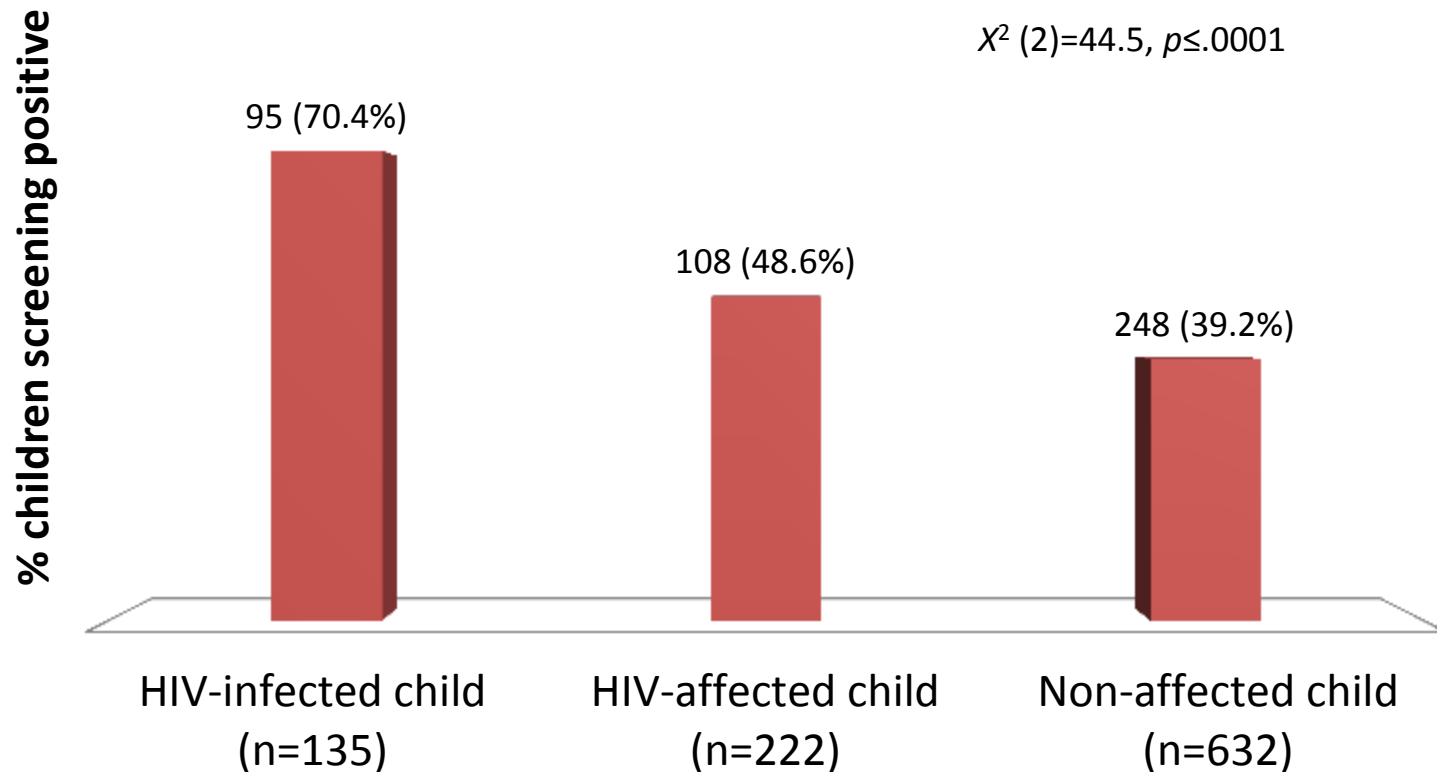
- 451 out of 989 children (45.6%) had 1 or more type of disability.
- No country differences: SA - 45.9% vs. Malawi - 43.9%



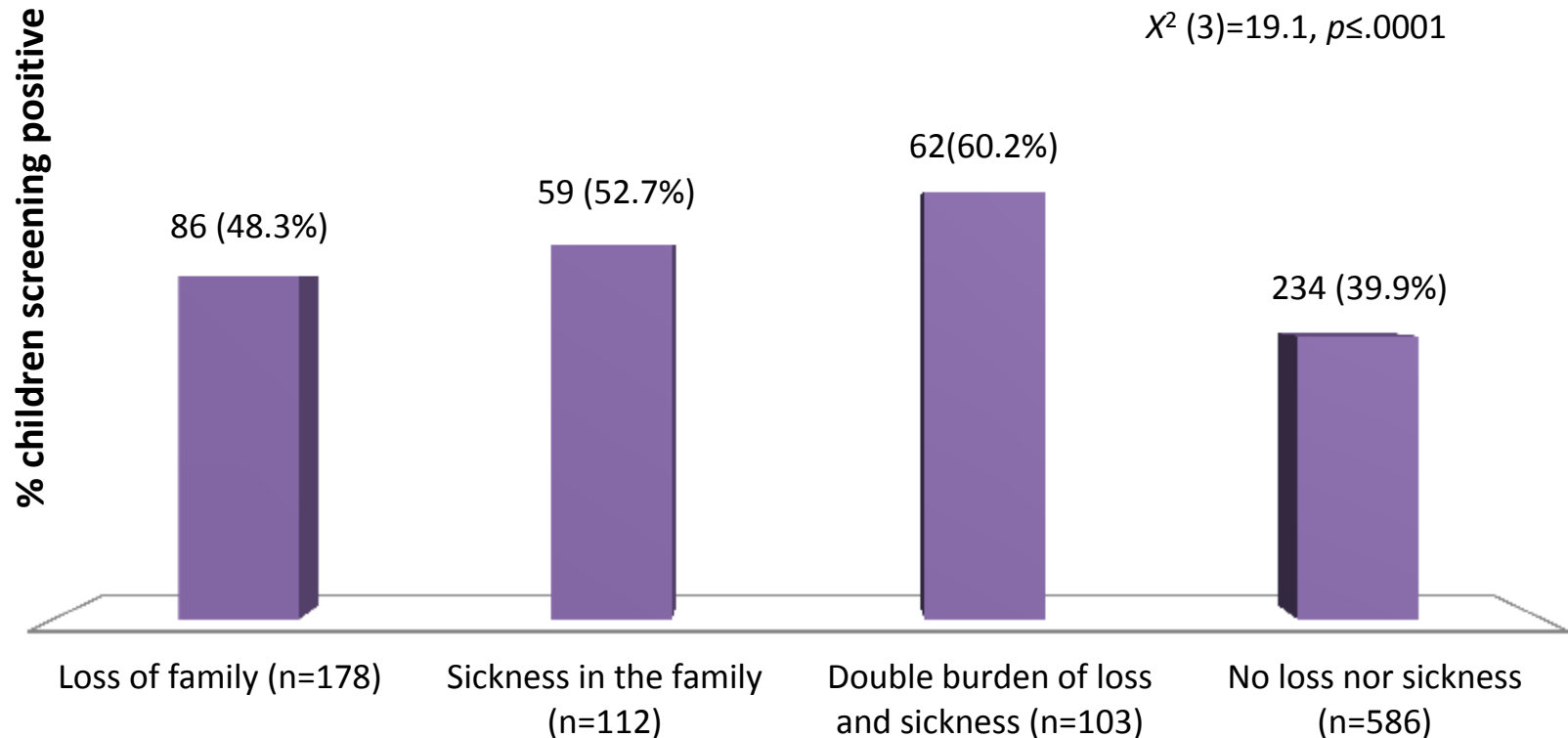
Disability by HIV status



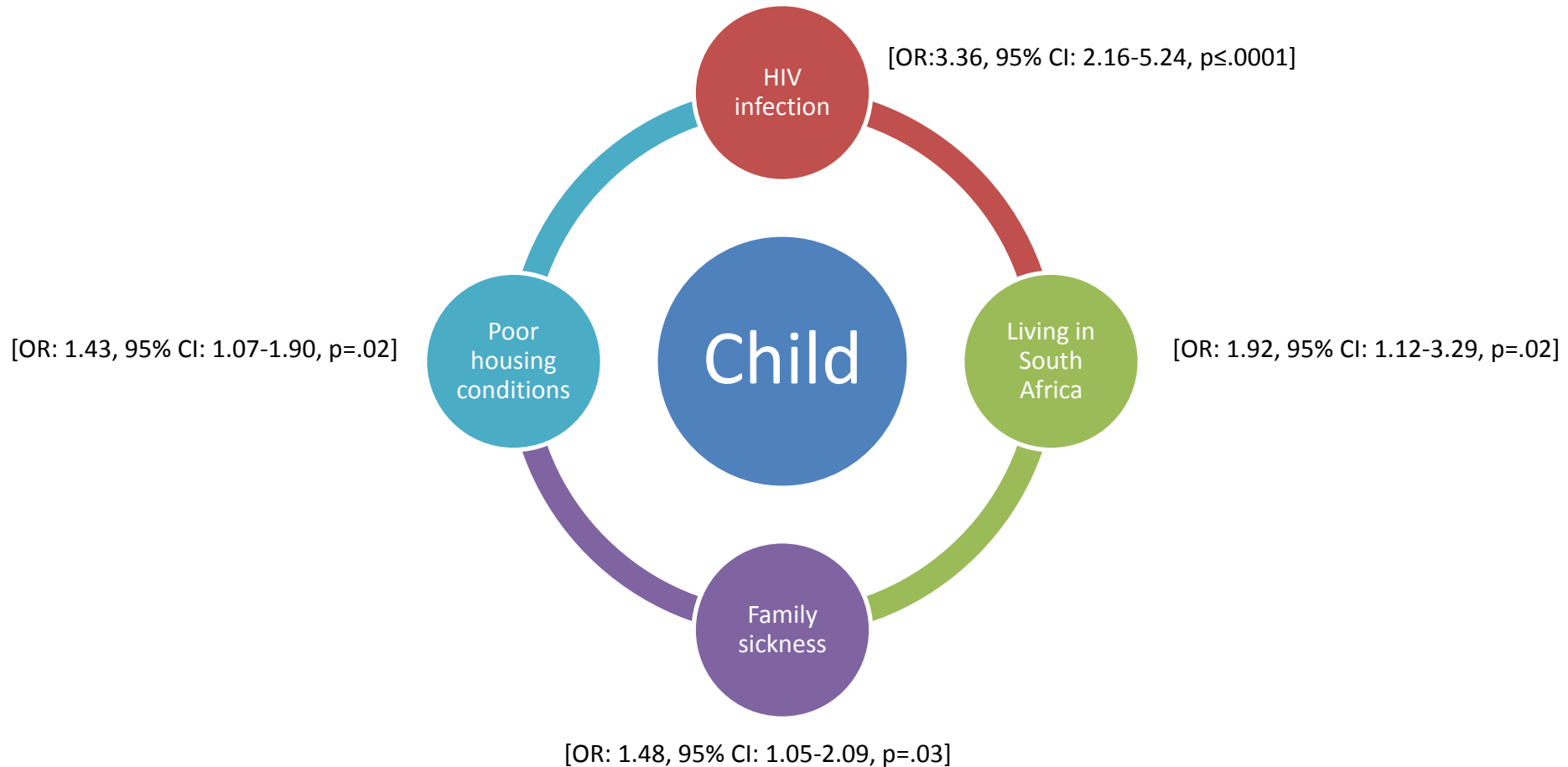
Disability in HIV-affected and non-affected children



Disability in children living in sick families



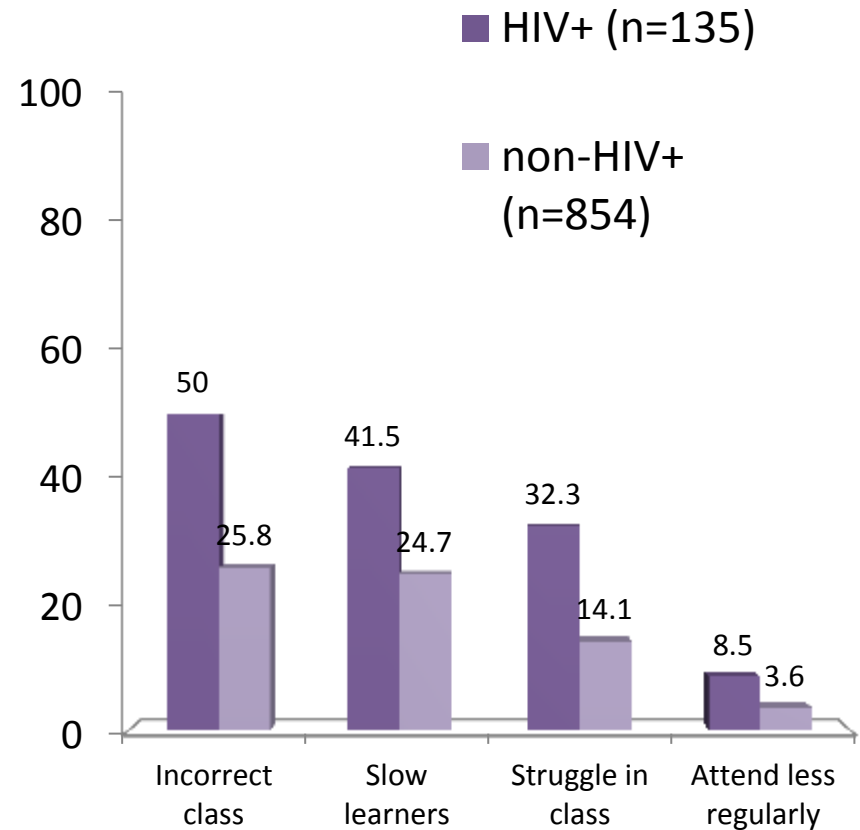
Predictors of disability



- Adjusted for demographics, socio-economic indicators, family burden of HIV, other illness and loss, HIV-related stigma

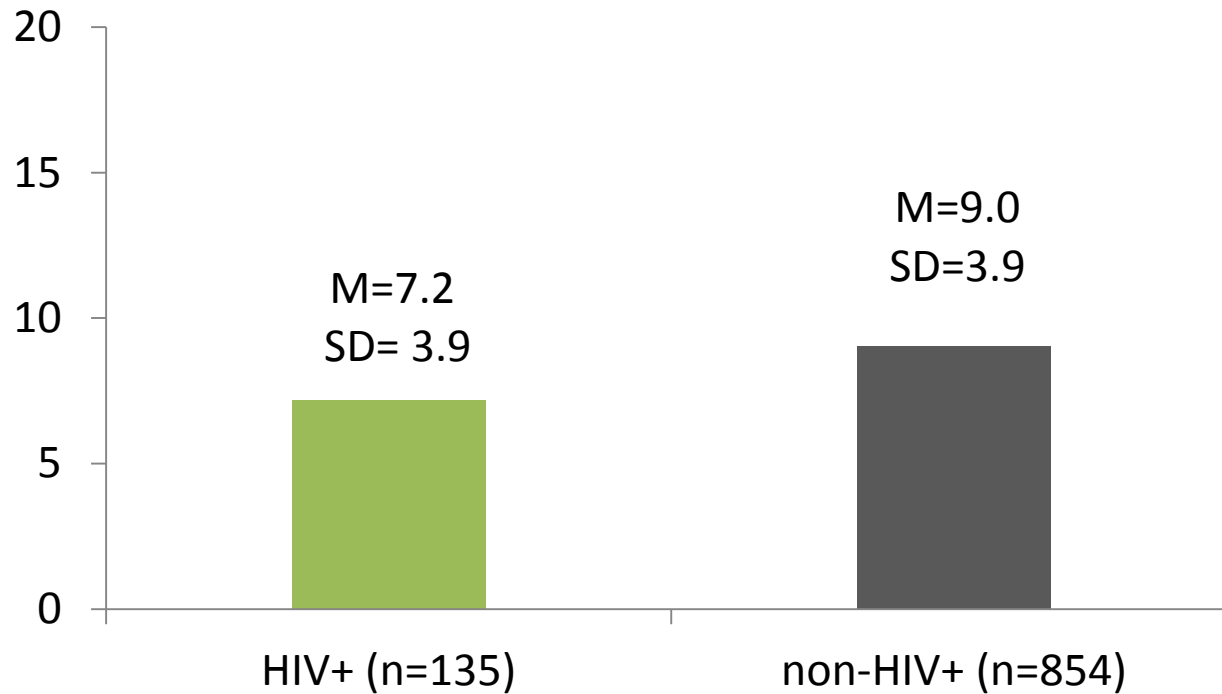
HIV and other developmental outcomes

- HIV+ children:
 - significantly **more emotional and behavioural problems** (e.g., conduct, hyperactivity-inattention, or peer problems)
 - **lower health-related quality of life**, both in physical and psychosocial domains
 - Performing **worse at school**



All associations significant, $p \leq .001$

- HIV+ children had lower scores on the digit span test

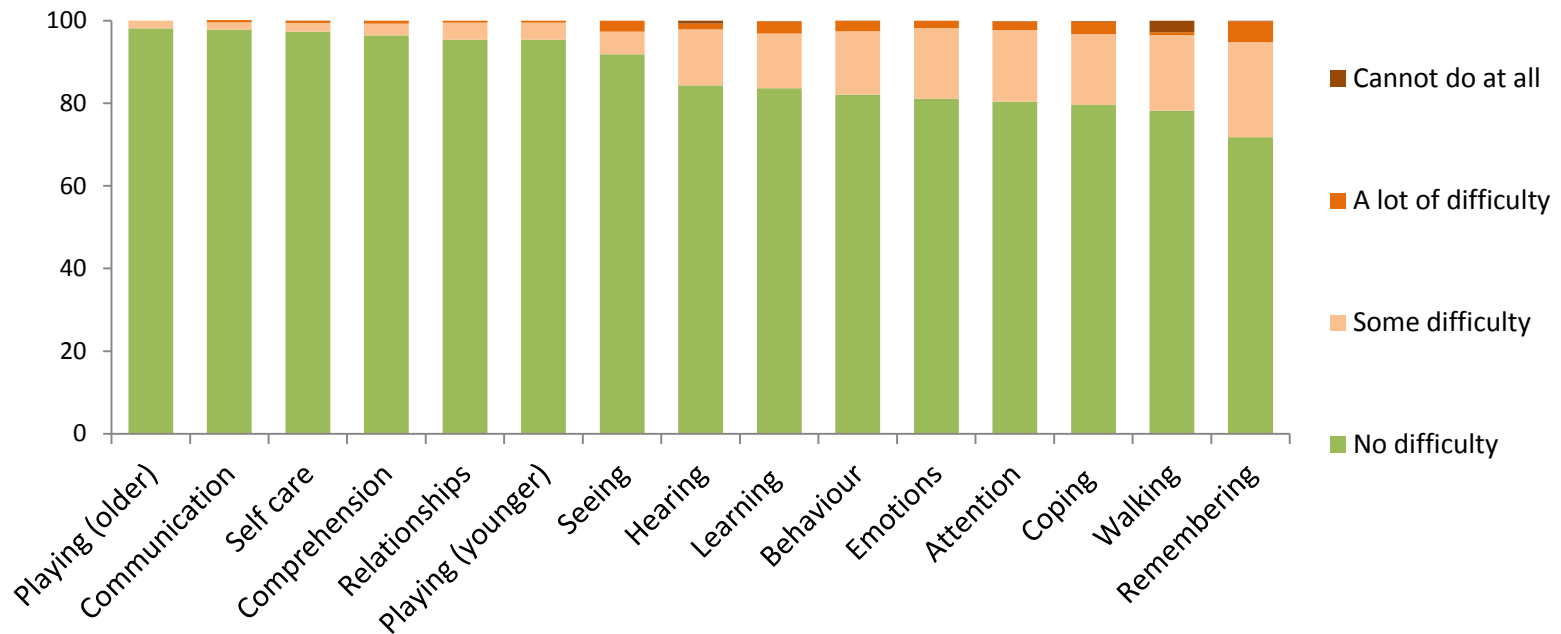


1 year follow up

- 854 children and their primary caregivers were followed up (**86.3% response rate**)
- No differences in terms of HIV status, bereavement, sick people in home, food security, household employment, household size, developmental measures
- Children lost to follow-up more likely to live in informal (shack) housing, not attend school, have higher depression and stigma scores at baseline

1 year follow-up

- 143 out of 854 children (16.7%) had at least one moderate or severe difficulty
- 547 out of 854 children (64.1%) screened positive for having any level of difficulty



Child grants (South Africa only)

Children with severe difficulty “cannot do at all”

Child support
grant

- 85 (70.8%) received a child support grant

Foster care grant

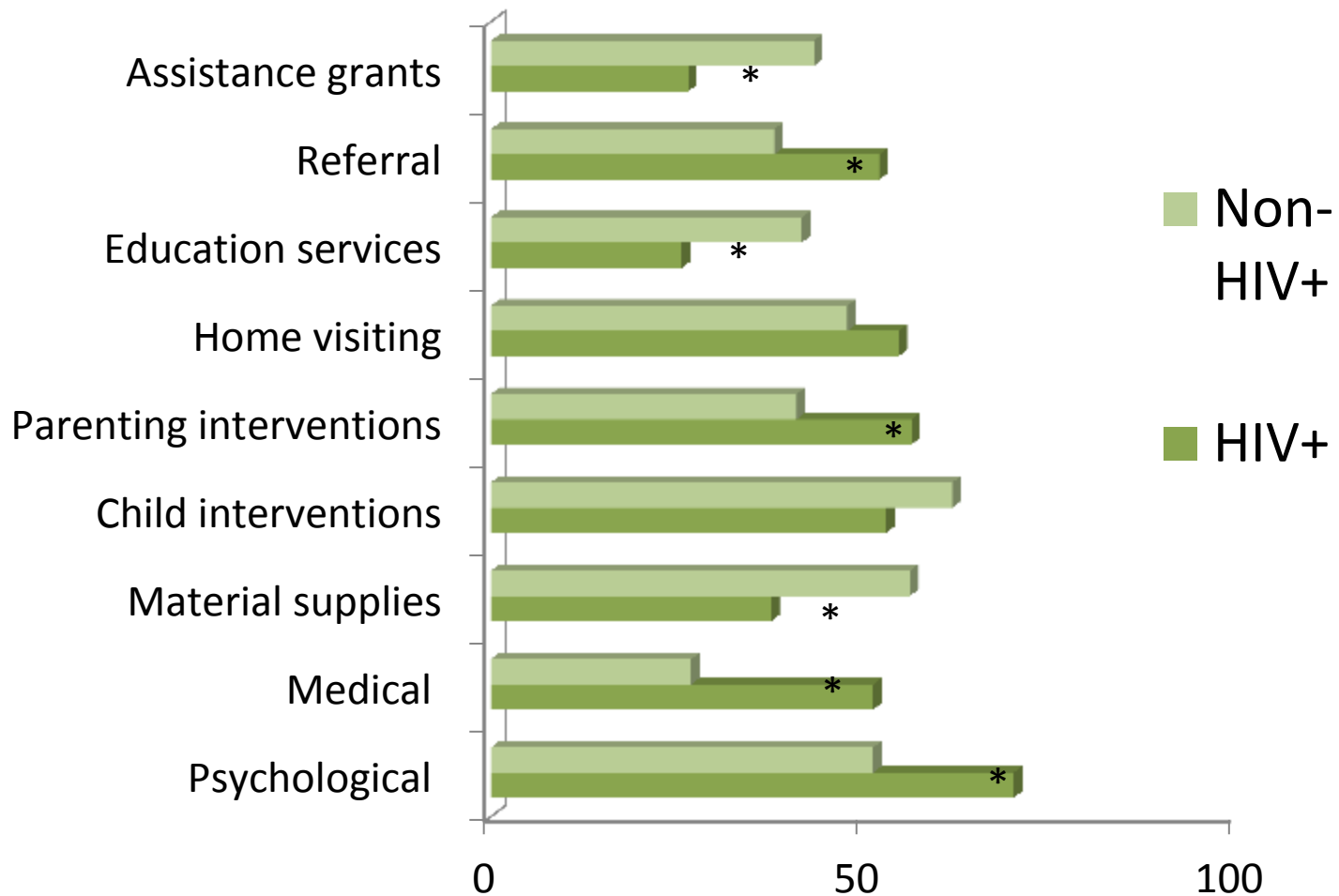
- 23 (19.2%) received a foster care grant

Care dependency
grant

- 3 (2.5%) received a care dependency grant

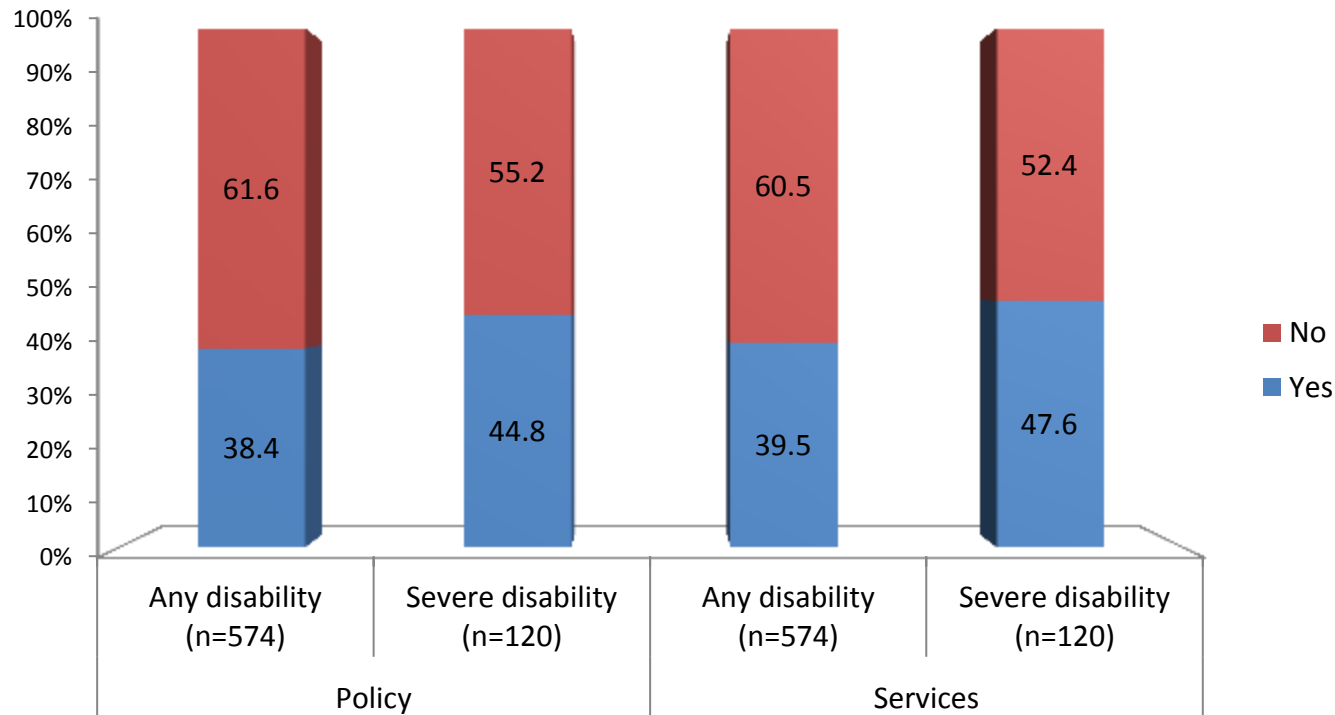
Uptake of services

Follow-up (n=854)



CBO as a source of support:

Disability inclusion policy & disability/rehabilitation services provision



Conclusions

- High rates of reported developmental problems – both HIV+ and HIV-affected
- HIV+ children have specific developmental needs
- Long term outcomes for these children on an individual, family, societal level
- Children not in programmes?

Conclusions

- Integration of child development into HIV programmes
- Sensitisation of CBOs about development and disability issues – inclusiveness of CBO programmes?
- Overcoming barriers to accessing existing resources

Acknowledgements

- The women and children who participated in the study
- Research team in Khayelitsha, Cape Town
- Funders and partners



Connect

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