



HIV Transmission from Mother to Child in the United States

From Epidemic to Near Elimination

Children are most likely to get HIV from their mothers in 1 of 3 ways:



in the womb



during birth



from breastfeeding or breast milk

30 years of NICHD research has helped establish safe and effective ways to prevent this type of HIV transmission.




25%

Emerging risks of HIV

- Ⓡ In 1991, NICHD research showed a 25% chance of an HIV-positive pregnant woman passing the virus to her infant.
- Ⓡ There were no approved treatments for HIV-positive children.
- Ⓡ There were no proven ways to prevent transmission.


8.3%

Using treatment as prevention

- Ⓡ The NICHD helped fund the first clinical trial to test the drug zidovudine (AZT) in HIV-positive pregnant women.  **clinical trial**   **zidovudine (AZT)**
- Ⓡ Trial results were so impressive that the trial was stopped early so that all the participants could benefit from the treatment.
- Ⓡ In 1994, AZT became the standard treatment for HIV-positive pregnant women in the United States.
- Ⓡ AZT helped reduce mother-to-child transmission risk to 8.3%.

1.2%

Improving treatment

- Ⓡ Research from the NICHD and others showed that a 3-drug regimen—called HAART—was better than AZT at preventing mother-to-child transmission. A 2002 study showed that HAART reduced the risk of transmission to 1.2%.  **Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART)**
- Ⓡ HAART became the standard treatment for HIV-positive pregnant women in the United States.
- Ⓡ Ongoing research, co-funded by NICHD, is looking at the long-term safety of fetal exposure to HAART during pregnancy.

Risk of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission

NICHD continues to conduct cutting-edge research to help prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission. To learn more, visit: <http://go.usa.gov/FgXF>



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