

## Policy Brief: Positive parenting in families affected by HIV and AIDS

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Families affected by HIV/AIDS in the developing world experience higher risks of psychosocial problems than non-affected families. Positive parenting behaviour – generally conceptualized as involved, nurturing, and accepting behaviour – may buffer against the negative impact of child AIDS-orphanhood and caregiver AIDS-sickness on child wellbeing. Although there is substantial literature regarding the predictors of parenting behaviour in Western populations, there is insufficient evidence on HIV/AIDS as a risk factor for poor parenting in low- and middle-income countries. This study examines the relationship between HIV/AIDS and positive parenting with poverty, caregiver depression, perceived social support, and child behaviour problems as potential mediating factors of this relationship.

### The Questions:

- Do families with AIDS-ill caregivers or children orphaned by AIDS experience reduced positive parenting?
- What might be causing this?

### The Research:

- Cross-sectional survey of 2477 caregiver-child dyads in KwaZulu-Natal Province
- Alabama Parenting Questionnaire was used to assess positive parenting
- Multiple mediation tests were conducted to using with poverty, caregiver depression, perceived social support, and child behaviour

**Finding 1: Families with AIDS-ill caregivers and those with children orphaned by AIDS were associated with less positive parenting in comparison with non-affected families.**

**Finding 2: Familial HIV/AIDS's association to reduced positive parenting was mediated by poverty, caregiver depression and child behavior problems but not social support.**

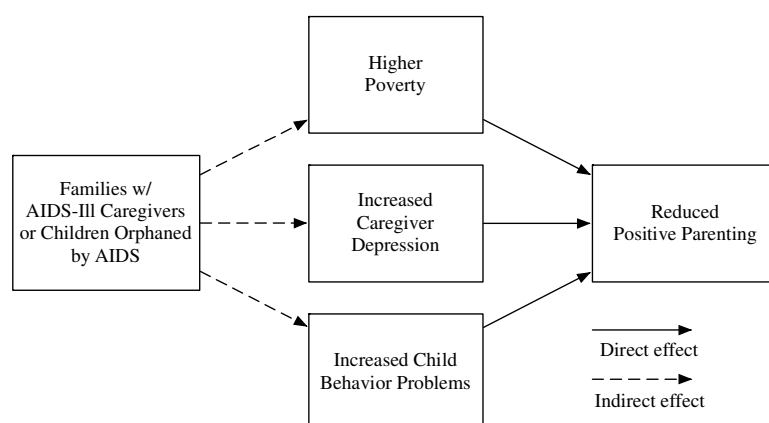


Figure 1. Multiple mediation model of familial HIV/AIDS's association with positive parenting.

### Conclusions:

- Interventions targeted at strengthening child-caregiver relationships may require consideration of the broader social factors that influence parent behavior.
- Parenting interventions for HIV/AIDS affected families may need to incorporate cognitive behavioral or other strategies in order to adequately address parental depression.
- Parenting interventions may be more effective if integrated within a wider network of support services that address financial insecurity and family mental health.
- Parenting interventions may be more cost effective by targeting families living in high deprivation areas.

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