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USA

Sex, Science-- Silence!?!?! Achieving Sexual and Reproductive Justice for People Living With HIV

September 21, 2012

Safe Conception Roundtable

Naina Khanna

Policy Director

Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD)



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QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

S Gruskin et al / Reproductive Health Matters 2007;15(29 Supplement):4:26



Principle 1.

You can't always take sex out of conception

- Even if the patient's goal is conception, the provider's goal is to ensure whole health... that includes healthy sexuality and eroticism.
- People living with HIV are sexual beings
- If a discussion about conception *minus* sex is happening, it's important to start with understanding why eg.
 - > same gender loving?
 - > fertility concerns?
 - > individual vs couple.



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NEWS: HPTN 052 Results Advocate Antiretroviral Treatment to Prevent HIV Transmission in Serodiscordant Couples

Posted on 02 November 2011.

HIV infected serodiscordant couples can reduce the risk of transmission by 96% to their partners by initiating oral antiretroviral therapy (ART) when their immune systems are still relatively competent, according to the HIV Prevention Trial Network (HPTN 052) results. Funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious

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The Lancet, [Volume 377, Issue 9779](#), Page 1719, 21 May 2011

doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(11)60713-7 [?](#) [Cite or Link Using DOI](#)

HIV treatment as prevention—it works



Principle 2. Motherhood is a socially valued identity

- Increasingly “parenthood”
- For many WLHIV, motherhood may be the only socially valued identity available to them (Barnes, et al 2009).
- Critical for providers to understand motivation, including cultural factors related to conception for PLHIV



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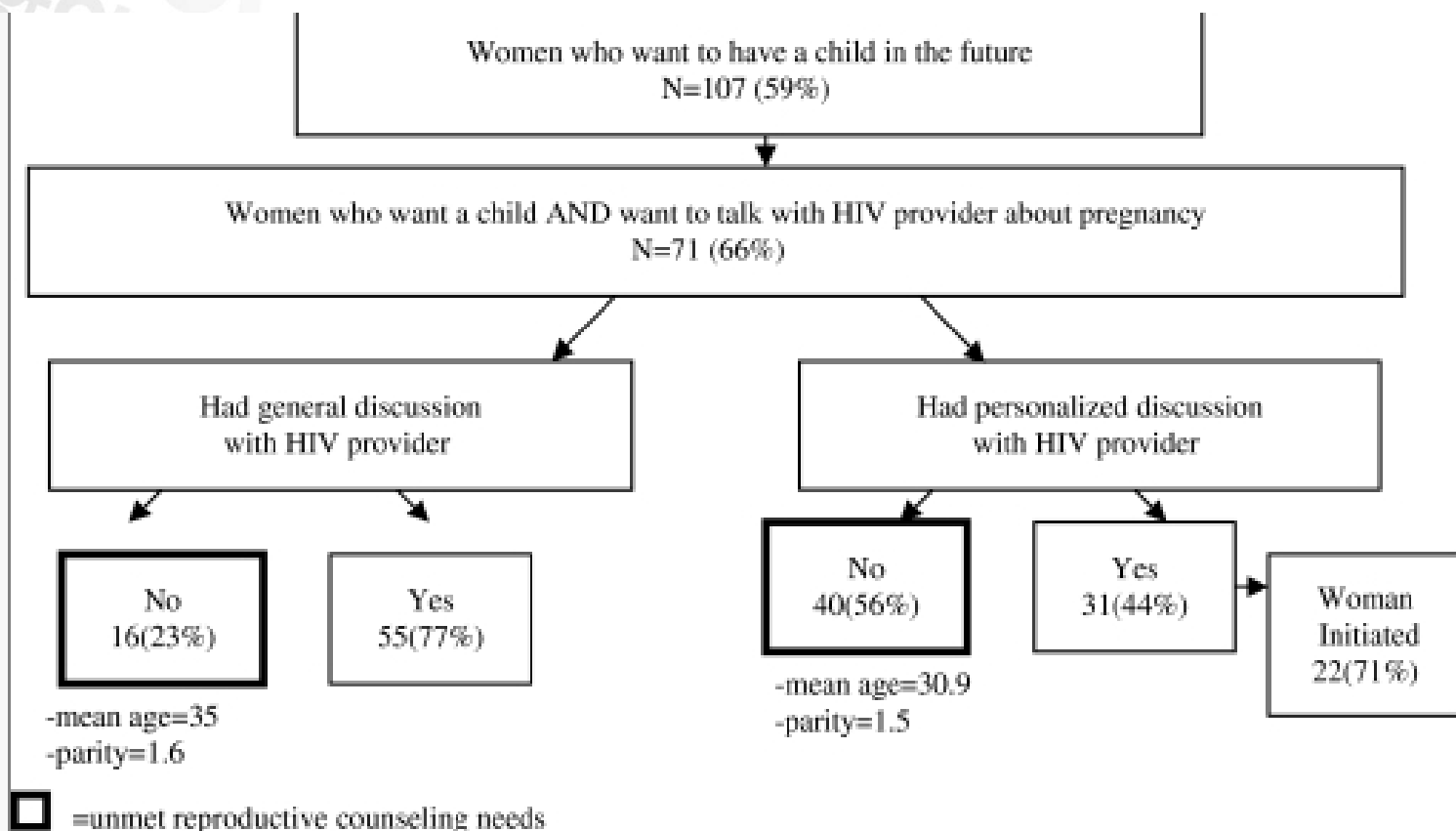
AIDS Patient Care STDS. 2010 May; 24(5): 317–323.
doi: [10.1089/apc.2009.0293](https://doi.org/10.1089/apc.2009.0293)

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Do HIV-Infected Women Want to Discuss Reproductive Plans with Providers, and Are Those Conversations Occurring?

Sarah Finocchario-Kessler, Ph.D., M.P.H.,^{✉1} Jacinda K. Dariotis, Ph.D.,²
Michael D. Sweat, Ph.D.,¹ Maria E. Trent,³ Jean M. Keller, P.A.C.,⁴
Quratulain Hafeez, M.D.,⁵ and Jean R. Anderson, M.D.⁴



Fertility Desires and Intentions of HIV-Positive Women of Reproductive Age in Ontario, Canada: A Cross-Sectional Study

Table 2. Desires, intentions and actions of HIV-positive women to become pregnant.

<i>Characteristics</i>	N (%)
Fertility Desires	
Number of children desired in future:	
0	142 (31%)
1	147 (32%)
2	122 (26%)
>2	54 (12%)
Fertility Intentions	
Number of children intended in future:	
0	194 (42%)
1	121 (26%)
2	101 (22%)
>2	41 (9%)

N = 493



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What about people other than
cisgender women?



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HIV CRIMINALIZATION

Are You At Risk?

HIV Criminalization

**| EVEN IN STATES WITHOUT AN "HIV-SPECIFIC" STATUTE,
PEOPLE WITH HIV ARE AT RISK OF PROSECUTION UNDER OTHER CRIMINAL STATUTES.**



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SERO+

Surveyed > 2000 U.S. PLHIV

- HIV criminalization is a significant deterrent to testing, accessing care, and treatment for HIV.
- 41% felt it could be reasonable to avoid treatment for fear of prosecution
- Almost half (49.6%) felt it could be reasonable to avoid testing for HIV for fear of prosecution
- One quarter (25.1%) of respondents reported they knew at least one person who told them they did not want to get tested for fear of prosecution if they tested positive



Family of murdered Dallas woman stunned by vicious words



**‘She Killed Me, So I Killed Her’: Man
Allegedly Stabs Girlfriend to Death
after She Tells Him She’s HIV Positive**



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DIAGNOSIS, SEXUALITY AND CHOICE:

Women living with HIV and the quest for equality, dignity
and quality of life in the U.S.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
U.S. POSITIVE WOMEN'S NETWORK 2010 HUMAN RIGHTS SURVEY
MARCH 2011



“I was told by several providers to abort my pregnancy. I was in my 2nd trimester before I knew I was pregnant. I ran out of many a doctor’s office in tears after being told I was selfish, or that ‘if that was my wife, I’d make her have an abortion.’”

- PWN survey respondent



Disclosure laws and guidelines

Provider-patient communication

HIV criminalization laws

Service integration: HIV/SRH/VAW

Spermwashing availability

Fertility/IVF access (legal & payers)

052 implementation & patient rights

PrEP



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Thank You

Naina Khanna

Policy Director

U.S. Positive Women's Network

nkhanna@womenhiv.org 510-681-1169

For more info: www.pwn-usa.org