

FATHERS WITH HIV

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ABOUT ME

- Living with HIV since 2003, on treatment since 2004
- My daughter Lili is 24 – she was born before I contracted HIV
- I have been open about my status for very long – **but not to her**
- A series of difficult conversations when Lili was 12-14
- Anxiety and concern have always been in the background
- Fear from transmission
- Also, lots of opportunities to discuss important matters



NOT MUCH LITERATURE

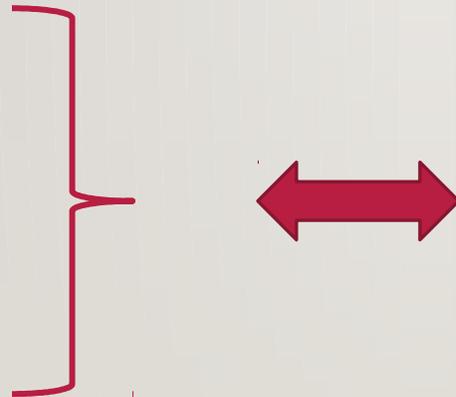
- Focus of research is on children and mothers rather than fathers
 - Feminist perspectives
 - Greater need with HIV+ mothers dying or struggling to cope
 - Cultural traditions
 - Stigma
- „Discourses of modern and patriarchal fatherhoods, a gender-specific discourse of irresponsibility, and the neoliberal conflation of health and self-responsibility are also at work in the sense making frames that HIV positive men, who are also fathers, can variously deploy.”

Lori S. Wiener, Mary Jo P. Vasquez, Haven B. Battles; Brief Report: Fathering a Child Living With HIV/AIDS: Psychosocial Adjustment and Parenting Stress, *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, Volume 26, Issue 6, 1 September 2001, Pages 353–358, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jpepsy/26.6.353>

HIV positive men as fathers: Accounts of displacement, ir/responsibility and paternal emergence Sean Highton & Mark D. Finn University of East London, <http://roar.uel.ac.uk/4299/1/HIV%20positive%20men%20as%20fathers%20v6%201.pdf>

ISSUES

- Significantly elevated levels of both parenting stress and psychological distress compared to standardized norms
- Even typical cases can be culturally very atypical
 - Father / man
 - Parent
 - Patient
 - Provider
 - Widower
 - Working man



COMPLEX PICTURE

Poverty

Parenting stress

Losses, grief

Stigma

Drug use

Psycho-social distress

Service needs

Health concerns



NEED FOR MORE RESEARCH

„The study of HIV and issues of reproduction is women-focused. HIV-positive men are overlooked and understudied.”

„Where there is good evidence, it is clear that fathers and fathering is a central aspect of the HIV epidemic.”

NEED FOR MORE INTERVENTIONS

- Physical health
- Mental health
- Social environment
- Childcare services
- Stigma reduction
- Gender specific services