

How Much Tenofovir Do Babies Absorb During Pregnancy?

- Many pregnant people living with HIV take antiretroviral therapy (ART), which is good at preventing their baby from getting HIV.
- There can be some health concerns when babies are exposed to ART in the womb, so **looking at the drug's safety is important**.
- Previous studies have only measured a baby's exposure to medicines at a single point in time. **Our study used a new approach** for measuring how much of the medicine tenofovir a baby had absorbed **over the entire pregnancy**.



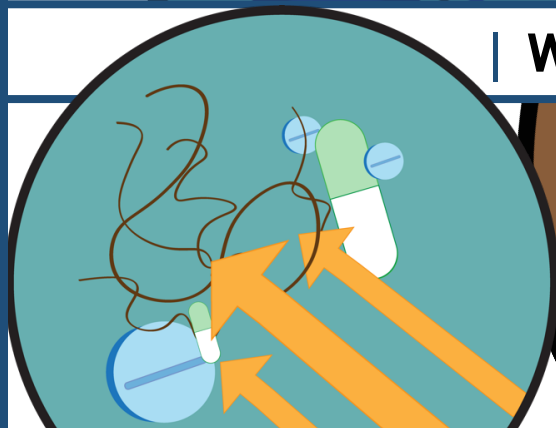
WHO PARTICIPATED

- **103 mother-baby pairs in the US and Puerto Rico** who were enrolled in SMARTT (Surveillance Monitoring for ART Toxicities).
- The **mothers had all taken tenofovir** during pregnancy.
- All mother-baby pairs **donated hair samples** (around 100 hairs from the head) at the time of birth.

WHAT WE DID

- We used **special lab tests** on the hair samples.
- The test **estimated how much tenofovir the baby had absorbed** from its mother **over the whole pregnancy**.

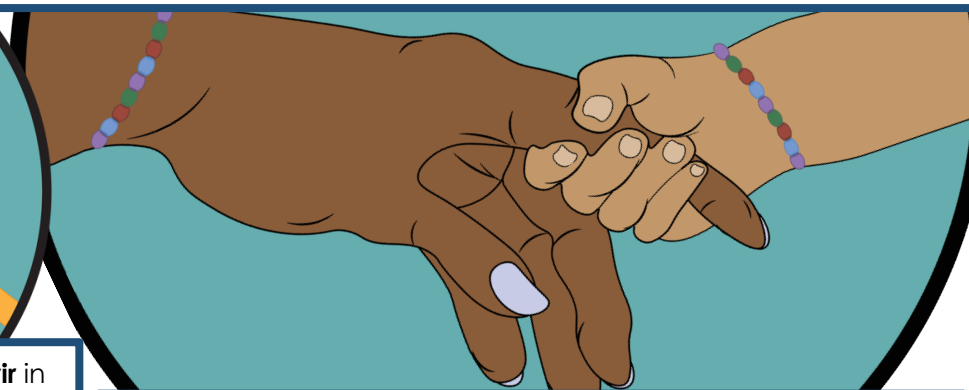
WHAT WE FOUND



We found high amounts of tenofovir in the babies' hair. This meant they had **absorbed a lot of the medication during pregnancy**.

Some babies had lower amounts of tenofovir. The babies tended to be those who:

- Were delivered early
- Were delivered via C-section
- Were born to mothers who took tenofovir only in the first trimester



- We The test we used was reliable in showing how much tenofovir was absorbed over the whole pregnancy, **not just a single point in time**.
- While we learned that babies absorbed their parent's medication while in the womb, **we need to conduct further research to determine if there are positive or negative outcomes on the child's health**.
- **We** recommend studies around the world **adopt our approach to test the safety of other ART medicines during pregnancy**.