

# Knowledge and Perspective of HIV-Positive Mothers and Health Workers on Barriers to Pediatric HIV Testing in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire

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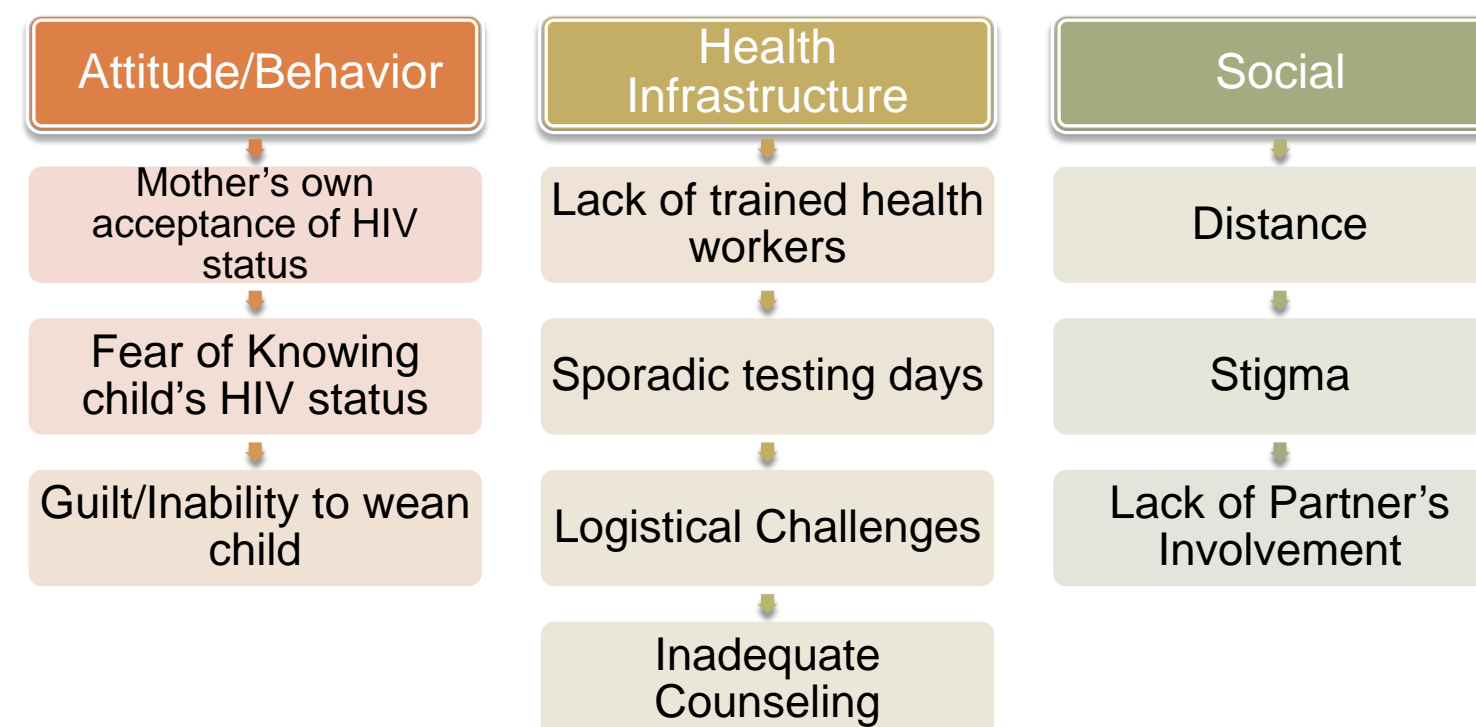
## Introduction

- Only 8% of HIV-exposed children tested for HIV within first 2 months of life
  - By age 1, 26-45% of HIV-infected children die (UNAIDS).

## Research Question

- What are factors influencing use of pediatric HIV testing of HIV-exposed infants in Bouaké ?
  - What are knowledge, perception, and attitude among HIV+ mothers regarding pediatric HIV testing?

## Results/Themes



## Conclusion/Recommendations

- Better prepare mothers for PCR test at 6 weeks to coincide with infant's immunization
- Counsel and help mothers on weaning methods
- Train health workers for DBS collection to increase access to service
- Decentralize PCR lab to reduce wait time for results leading to early treatment
- Harmonize codification marked on mother/child card for better identification.



*“Well, since they say it doesn't, it doesn't have a cure, if you have this disease, you can live for a long time, and I-, they want to see the child and do the test, and what if they say he has it, that's why I got scared. Now that I have seen that, if you have it, you recover, you can recover to your old form and then, I told myself why not do it. So, now, I decided to do [it]”*  
(Participant 1).

*“... There is only one midwife out of three who received training for PCR, but she is currently in maternal leave. So, outside of support group meetings, we call [HAI] to collect samples. Otherwise, we ask women to come back several times. But, when it's done multiple times, it's often hard to catch them... In any case, in this facility, we have the materials to collect [DBS] samples, but it's only one person who does it”*  
(HW #12).



## Methods

- Descriptive study (Positivism/phenomenology approach)
- Thematic analysis
- Semi-structured and open-ended questions
  - 22 HIV+ mothers
  - 12 Health workers
  - 6 Health Centers (CSUs) Diezoukouamekro, Belleville, Sokoura, Diabo, Botro, FSU Ahougnanssou)

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to all participants (Women and health workers in Bouaké); the entire team of HAI-Côte d'Ivoire and HAI-Seattle (Wendy Johnson, Julia Robinson, Ahoua Koné, Steve Gloyd; Albert Bakor); University of Washington Human Subject Division; Le CNESVS; CI's MSHP including all the Regional Director of Vallée du Bandama and District Directors of Bouaké.

