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## Children's school participation and HIV/AIDS in rural Malawi: The role of parental knowledge and perceptions

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### Abstract

Studies of the relationship between HIV/AIDS and children's educational attainment largely focus on the direct impacts of parental illness and death, overlooking the potential indirect impact that parental knowledge and perceptions of their HIV status may have on children's school enrollment. Drawing on both quantitative and qualitative evidence from Malawi, this paper finds that women's real and perceived anticipation of future health shocks has a positive impact on their children's educational attainment. Interventions that target health uncertainty, such as HIV testing programs, may make a significant contribution to maintaining children's educational attainment in communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

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