

# Does AIDS Treatment Stimulate Negative Behavioral Response? A Field Experiment in South Africa

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South Africa faces one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world with estimated HIV prevalence among the adult population (ages 15-49) at 18.3% in mid-2006 approximately 4.8 million adults living with HIV. AIDS treatment (ARV) offers promise as an effective policy intervention to improve the lives of the nearly 6 million South Africans who are HIV+ by offering dramatic gains in physical health and increases in life expectancy. Using a field experiment, I exploit data from South Africa to study the behavioral impact of ARV provision. We test empirically both for positive and negative behavioral responses to a large AIDS treatment program in South Africa.

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