

EXAMPLES OF DETERMINANTS OF HIV RISK AND VULNERABILITY IN SERODISCORDANT COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS

- viral load of the HIV- positive partner

- self-stigma
- concerns over disclosure of HIV-positive status (fear of rejection, isolation and of loss of intimacy)
- lack of understanding about what serodiscordance means
- low or inconsistent condom use with intimate partners (and associated issues around trust and fidelity when introducing condoms into these relationships)
- intimacy and fertility desires
- poor health seeking



- gender inequities and traditional gender roles that make it difficult for intimate partners to negotiate condom use and sexual activity
- lack of laws protecting the rights of people living with HIV
- criminalization of HIV transmission and exposure
- low or inconsistent condom use with intimate partners (and associated issues around trust and fidelity when introducing condoms into these relationships)
- cost of, and poor access to, HIV treatment and other health services

- HIV-related stigma occurring in family and community settings
- fear of 'double stigma' if the HIV-positive individual also belongs to a key population group
- relationship - driven issues , including unequal power within intimate partner relationships and intimate partner violence
- marital and fertility pressure from families and society
- stigma and discrimination in health care settings