

Assessment of heterogeneity

Heterogeneity across independent RR was assessed using the I^2 statistic, which is the percentage variation between effect sizes that is attributable to heterogeneity instead of sampling error. The interpretation of the value of the I^2 statistic followed: low heterogeneity: $I^2=25-30\%$; moderate heterogeneity: $I^2=50-75\%$; high heterogeneity: $I^2\geq 75\%$.

Bias assessment

We did the funnel plots and Begg's test/Egger's test to assess the presence of publication bias and selective reporting bias.

Sensitivity analysis

D. Further results

- 1) Supplementary Figure S1. Forest plot of the association between exposure to syphilis infection and HIV, sub-pooled RR estimates based on study design.



