



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series
FEB 2023 CCSS: Exploring Evidence-Based Practices in Women's and Infants' Health

S01: From Psychological Risks to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV): How Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) is Promoting Women's Health Across the Globe

Resource List

The [HIV and Women Fact Sheet](#) (2021) published by the National Institutes of Health provides a wealth of information on women and HIV. This fact sheet notes that 19% of the new HIV diagnoses in the United States and dependent areas are among women. The majority of women contract HIV due to unprotected sex with a male partner who has HIV. Women who are HIV positive must be mindful of issues with birth control and pregnancy. Some HIV medicines may reduce the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives such as birth control pills, patches, rings, or implants. Pregnant women with HIV must discuss options for a HIV medicine treatment regimen to reduce the risk of perinatal transmission of HIV and to protect their own health. Links to sources on Women and HIV from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as well as information on recommendations for the use of antiretroviral drugs in pregnant women with HIV are listed.

HIV prevention is critically important during pregnancy, however, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is underutilized. The journal article, [Awareness, acceptability, and intention to initiate HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis among pregnant women](#) (2022), reports on a survey of pregnant and non-pregnant women in a high HIV prevalent community to evaluate determinants of PrEP initiation during pregnancy. Two hundred and one pregnant women and a reference population of 1,103 non-pregnant women completed the survey. Despite low perceived risk of HIV acquisition and low prior awareness of PrEP, only 10.5% of respondents planned to initiate PrEP during pregnancy. Pregnant women identified safety, efficacy, social network and medical provider support as key factors in PrEP uptake intention. These findings support the need for prenatal educational interventions to promote HIV prevention during pregnancy, as well as interventions that center on the role of providers in the provision of PrEP.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a dedicated webpage for the [Office on Women's Health- Women and HIV](#) (2023). Topics such as HIV prevention, treatment options, and HIV risk factors are discussed. The Act Against AIDS Take Charge campaign is detailed due to the disproportionately large number of women of color that are affected by HIV. The information provided on this site encourages women to get tested for HIV regularly, regardless of relationship status or sexual orientation. A Fact Sheet on the top questions about HIV prevention and women is included.

The [Global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections for the period 2022-2030](#) (2022) report from the World Health Organization guides the health sector in implementing strategically focused responses to achieve the goals of ending AIDS, viral hepatitis B and C and sexually transmitted infections by 2030. The strategies provided recommend shared and disease-specific country actions supported by the World Health Organization and partners. This report recommends focusing efforts on geographical locations where the burden of HIV may be high or where service gaps may be the largest. It is noted that adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa face increased vulnerability and can benefit from integrated approaches that address HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual reproductive health.



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References

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