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WRI 2022 - Advancing Meaningful Inclusion of All Women in HIV Research and Clinical Trials

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Image



**WOMEN'S
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE
ON HIV/AIDS**

The Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS (WRI), a program of The Well Project, convened *Advancing Meaningful Inclusion of All Women in HIV Research and Clinical Trials* on May 12-15, 2022. The meeting sought to address the ways that women are systematically excluded from or under-represented in HIV research and clinical trials and identify solutions to address the underlying issues that perpetuate these inequities. Please [click here](#) or below to view the Issue Brief.

Highlights from the meeting include:

- Historically, **women have been insufficiently included and involved in HIV research**, reflecting a form of paternalism that has sought to “protect” women, particularly those with child-bearing capacity, from potential harms from research. **Such exclusion has resulted in limited knowledge about important aspects of women’s experiences of HIV** that would inform their active participation in decision-making about their health and well-being.
- **Specific populations of women** (including women of trans experience, women who use drugs, and women who sell sex, among others) **have been particularly marginalized** and excluded from HIV research.
- **Deficits in HIV research among women impair the overall HIV response**; in order to successfully end the HIV epidemic, relevant experiences and circumstances of all affected populations must be understood.
- In many cases, **the tools to address these challenges already exist**; it is now imperative that necessary changes are implemented by policymakers, researchers, funders, industry, and other stakeholders to ensure the meaningful inclusion and engagement of all women in HIV research. **Community engagement will play a fundamental role in these efforts.**

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Ensuring truly meaningful and equitable engagement of all relevant populations of women in HIV research?? and including attention to the biomedical, behavioral, and social aspects of HIV

specific to women's lives, are vital to ending the HIV epidemic. While there have been significant strides made over the last four decades, there is still considerable work to be done. Success in this work requires concerted partnerships among all HIV research stakeholders that center the lives and experiences of diverse populations of women.

To learn more, please see the WRI 2022 Issue Brief: [Advancing the Meaningful Inclusion of All Women in HIV Research](#).

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WRI 2022 Meeting Participants

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***2022 WRI Advisory Board Member**

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