Welcome to BEEEBAH (Building Equity, Ethics, and Education on Breastfeeding and HIV)! This comprehensive, multi-tiered project expands upon The Well Project’s efforts to increase knowledge and expand access to information around breast/chestfeeding* and HIV. Through educational resource creation, leadership development, and collaborative efforts, BEEEBAH strives to ensure that women living with HIV can experience their fundamental right to make informed, supported, uncoerced infant-feeding decisions.

BEEEBAH addresses a number of key programmatic goals identified in 2020's Expert Consensus Statement on Breastfeeding* and HIV in the United States and Canada [2]. Launched in December...
2021, the program is part of our endeavors to address the lack of women-specific information and representation across all areas of HIV prevention, care, research, and policy.

**View a compilation of all The Well Project's work on breast/chestfeeding and HIV since 2018** [3]

We add new content to this page regularly as programs are rolled out – so please check back often for new educational and multi-media programs that we hope you will share widely! If you are interested in joining the HIV and Infant feeding listserv for updates, please email The Well Project's editorial director Olivia Ford [4].

**What's on This Page?**

- Watch/Listen: Expert Conversations
- Learn: Infographics and Educational Guides
- Build: Projects with Our Partners

**Expert Conversations**

**Leadership Exchange LIVE: BEEEBAH Edition**

*Leadership Exchange LIVE: BEEEBAH Edition features live, interactive conversations between thoughtleaders on infant feeding and HIV exploring one another's work, activism, and personal experiences.*

**Breastfeeding, HIV, and Criminalization: Legal Considerations from a US Attorney** [5]

The third session of our Leadership Exchange LIVE: BEEEBAH edition features Ciarra "Ci Ci" Covin (The Well Project) and Catherine Hanssens (The Center for HIV Law and Policy). Ci Ci relates her personal experiences as a woman living with HIV, new parent, and advocate; Catherine shares insights from her work as an attorney who has been active in HIV legal and policy issues since 1984.

**The Big Picture: Health Implications and Bioethical Considerations of Breastfeeding and HIV** [6]

For our second session of Leadership Exchange LIVE: BEEEBAH Edition, The Well Project's Ciarra "Ci Ci" Covin was joined by Marielle Gross, MD, MBE, an OB/GYN and bioethicist at the University of Pittsburgh and Johns Hopkins. Ci Ci and Marielle have shared a stage to talk about breast/chestfeeding and HIV before [7]; the two reconnected to discuss race, maternal health, and ethics around infant feeding and HIV - including supporting parents living with HIV to engage in shared, informed infant feeding decision-making.

**Breastfeeding and HIV: Viewpoints from an Adult and Pediatric Provider** [8]

In the inaugural session of Leadership Exchange LIVE: BEEEBAH Edition, The Well Project's Ciarra "Ci Ci" Covin sat down with pediatric and adult infectious disease physician Allison Agwu, MD, ScM, of Johns Hopkins. Covin related her personal experiences as a woman living with HIV, new parent, and advocate; Agwu shared insights from her work caring for women living with HIV across the lifespan (from pediatrics to adults), including women who choose to breastfeed.

*Watch on our Facebook page [9] or via YouTube [10]*
Infographics and Educational Guides

Did You Know? Infographics

*Click the images below to save and share as jpeg images*
Did you know?

If a woman living with HIV has a sustained **UNDETECTABLE VIRAL LOAD**, the chance of transmitting HIV through breastfeeding **IS LESS THAN 1%**.

While US guidelines don’t recommend breastfeeding with HIV, they DO recommend **PROVIDERS SUPPORT A PARENT'S DECISION TO BREASTFEED**.

*Source: HHS Prenatal HIV Treatment Guidelines*
How can parents living with HIV help keep their babies HIV-negative while breast/chestfeeding?

- Taking HIV medications as prescribed
- Exclusive breast/chest feeding up to 6 months
- Early planning with health care team
- Attending all health care appointments for parent and baby
- Preventative medication to baby after birth
- Maintaining an undetectable viral load
- Support, support, support!
When a parent living with HIV chooses to breast/chestfeed, support is fundamental!

“All I wanted to do was feed my baby. I was not seeking approval, I just needed support.”

— Breastfeeding mother living with HIV

BUILDING EQUITY, ETHICS, AND EDUCATION ON Breastfeeding and HIV (BEEBAH)

Projects with Our Partners

Breast/Chestfeeding and HIV in the US: A Listening Session with National Advocates

This webinar brought together women leaders from US-based organizations to provide updates about community-driven efforts underway to expand knowledge around breast/chestfeeding with HIV, promote provider support for parents living with HIV, change policies to reflect current evidence – and how others can get involved. Featured speakers included:
*The language we use around this work includes both "breastfeeding" and "breast/chestfeeding." While our organization focuses on cis and trans women living with HIV, we strive to include trans men, nonbinary individuals, and others living with HIV who wish to explore feeding a child from their body. We acknowledge that there are multiple terms to describe this process.

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