



**Black Women Living with and Vulnerable to HIV in the US:
Needs, Priorities, and Optimal Care**

Tuesday, December 12, 2023
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET
on The Well Project's pages  

featuring



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REGISTER: bit.ly/HIVWomenUS

This program is supported through a grant from  NASTAD

SHE/HER/THEY (Sexual Health Education/HIV Empowerment Resources/Treating HIV Equally) is an educational outreach initiative focused on improving engagement in care, health outcomes, and well-being for women living with and vulnerable to HIV while promoting language justice and holistic wellness through a non-stigmatizing lens.

<https://www.thewellproject.org/news-press/black-women-living-and-vulnerable-hiv-us-leadership-exchange-live>

Chat highlights
(comments and links to resources)

- As we know, physician education does not include human sexuality, so discussions about STI's and sexual pleasure MUST be incorporated there. Otherwise, the discussions must occur outside ordinary healthcare settings.
- I work as the program manager for an hiv medical case management program with a 23 percent women clientele. My biggest frustration comes from the doctors continuing the stigma of hiv and using that as reason for not giving women the most up to date data for women with HIV. How do I, not a medical profession, push back on the misleading info given to my women clients without them getting confused or let down?
- How can I create conversations surrounding HIV and sexual health to women in a community that isn't use to discussing sexual health.
- & some level of continuing education about sexual health and hiv should be required for individuals wanting to maintain their standing as medical providers
- A lot of these conversations around Women's health, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and the intersectionality of HIV/Race and beyond are centered in the advocacy space for those involved in the ENding the HIV Epidemic Initiative. Unfortunately, traditionally these essential conversations are happening in silos, What new spaces that are innovative and different NEED to hear these topics especially to debunk Internalized stigma and provider bias?
- This is such an important conversation, thus thank you for the invitation!

- Here are some additional resources on these topics: <https://www.thewellproject.org/resource-highlight-topics/race-intersectionality-and-hiv>]
- And resources on sexual health and pleasure: <https://www.thewellproject.org/resource-highlight-topics/sexual-health-and-pleasure>
- And some of our colleagues were involved in the development of these relevant resources: <https://oneill.law.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BI-Black-Women-and-HIV.pdf> and <https://oneill.law.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/BIIB-Black-Women-and-HIV.pdf>
- so glad you're bringing doulas and birth workers forward!!
- Yes I'm a doula as well and this is wonderful pathway of integration love love it
- Accrediting bodies, professional associations, and legislators are the keys to breaking these roadblocks.
- medi-cal has a benefit for pregnant people to have access to doula services at no cost to the patient & i'm looking to find out how beneficial this could be to women of color in the bay area.
- 🙌 on general-care doulas and the doula model of practice/presence everywhere!
- This a great topic of discussion, how I wish our women living with HIV at the grassroots community could be empowered to take this initiative.
- most women are so ashamed and afraid of discussing this topic.
- I travel over 700 miles to get healthcare I am completely comfortable with
- this is a space where integrated care is most beneficial
- ECHO-HER trainings with providers by Dr. Whitney Irie is a GREAT best practice and wonderful change agent working to breakdown the difficulties experienced by providers discussing things like HIV care treatment and prevention including PrEP, PEP, and ARVs.
<https://www.thebodypro.com/article/whitney-irie-empowering-providers-black-women-provideher>
- Great tool and initiative ---> <https://providehercare.com/>
- For me the first time I ever talked about my sexuality and pleasure was at the 2022 USCHA conference last year.
- Great observation! I also look for what's posted on the walls while waiting for the doctor. Mostly, what I see is regards to diabetes, weight management, smoking cessation, etc. Nothing regarding sexual health.
- We need more up to date information on this topic to be able to empower women living with HIV in my community.
- I am a health educator at my local health department, how do I encourage nurses in our family planning clinic to have conversations that inform patients about Prep? Or how do I get information out to our patients?
- More information on this breastfeeding and HIV: <https://www.thewellproject.org/resource-highlight-topics/infant-feeding-and-hiv>
- Limitations are really a nightmare if you are HIV positive, sometimes its difficult to negotiate safe sex which can leave you vulnerable to STIs and unwanted pregnancies. Its not a death sentence after all.
- I'm sure I'm not alone that doing this work can be very rewarding but also daunting... If we can do more work TOGETHER we can truly make a difference for ourselves, those we serve and those

that will come after us. If people want to get more involved into this work to help create more spaces from advocacy, community, academic, governmental, or clinician perspectives are there any current spaces that are interdisciplinary that you all would like to uplift? Any conferences where folks can engage more or any efforts we can all work more together on?

#NothingForUsWithoutUs #WeAreAFamily

- The Well Project is currently working on some talking points for providers - both around discussing sexual health and pleasure, as well as around incorporating HIV prevention into women's overall wellness discussions. Stay tuned!
- As an organisation for persons with disabilities here in Zimbabwe, we are also involved in work with women and girls living with HIV... last week i had an opportunity to attend The International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa [ICASA 2023] hosted by Zimbabwe. i was so thrilled to learn the involvement and participation of women and girls in HIV awareness, treatment and care in Africa. however, i wasn't impressed when it came to women and girls with disabilities in reproductive and sexual programs in various countries Zimbabwe included...so we as an org wish to upgrade our work on SRH among persons with disabilities particularly women and girls and we looking for partnerships and support.
- This why I take HIV health and sexual reproductive health education to schools in Nigeria, Primary and secondary schools. I used this opportunity as The Well Project global Ambassador to educate young people about this topic.
- If you have Hulu, take a look at this short documentary (Ci Ci is in it) that shines a spotlight on the impact of HIV on Black women--particularly in the US South--as well as motherhood and the importance of community support: <https://bit.ly/UnexpectedDoc>
- Thank you all for this it was so moving
- Thank you for letting us into your life
- Thank You! I really learned a lot.
- Please take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HIVWomenUS>
- Thank you, CiCi and Latesha! Always love hearing from you both!
- Thank you for an amazing conversation!!!