

Gendered neglect?

Does research published in the Journal of the International AIDS Society, 2005-2009, disaggregate findings by sex and discuss implications for women?

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Issue

- The International AIDS Society, and its Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS), seeks to 'improve the dissemination of high-quality medical evidence from research conducted in a diversity of geographic, cultural, socioeconomic, and clinical settings'.
- HIV has a disproportionate impact on women, yet there is concern that the research consistently fails to acknowledge this fact and to specify the implications of findings for women.

Description

- All papers published in the Journal of the International AIDS Society 2005-2009 were reviewed. Those reporting research with human subjects were analyzed for a) percentage of sample made up of women; b) disaggregation of results by sex; and c) discussion of differential implications of findings for women.

The findings are summarized below:

Year	Research on humans	Sample >50% women	Results disaggregated by sex	Implications of findings for women
2009	19	11 (58%)	6 (32%)	5 (26%)
2008	3	1 (33%)	2 (67%)	1 (33%)
2007	2	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
2006	6	1 (17%)	1 (17%)	1 (17%)
2005	8	1 (13%)	4 (50%)	3 (38%)

Lessons learned

- Even when women constitute a significant percentage of the sample, lack of disaggregation of the results by sex and gendered discussion of the findings means their direct relevance or applicability to women is often unclear.

This raises serious questions about the ability of much of the current research to benefit women and girls.

Next steps

- Reporting the male/female ratio of a sample is no longer enough.
- JIAS publication criteria, and those of other journals, must include disaggregation of results and explicit discussion of implications of findings for women and girls.
- Research must address the fact that HIV disproportionately affects women.
- The establishment of a Journal of Women and HIV would encourage researchers to directly address issues of HIV and women.

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