

WHAT WORKS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Evidence for HIV/AIDS Interventions

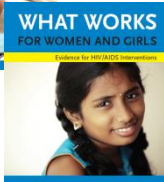


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Women's Networking
Zone Town Hall

International AIDS
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www.whatworksforwomen.org



Why Women and Girls?

- Women make up half of those living with HIV
- In sub-Saharan Africa, women account for 60% of those living with HIV
- Increasing interest among governments and donors to address the needs of women and girls
- 80% of proposals to the Global Fund include insufficient gender-sensitive analysis

Rights and Justice for Women: Programming based on the Evidence

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What Works for Women & Girls

Evidence for HIV/AIDS Interventions

- ▶ Prevention for Women
- ▶ Prevention for Key Affected Populations
- ▶ Prevention for Young People
- ▶ HIV Testing and Counseling for Women
- ▶ Treatment
- ▶ Meeting the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Women Living With HIV
- ▶ Safe Motherhood and Prevention of Vertical Transmission
- ▶ Preventing, Detecting and Treating Critical Co-Infections
- ▶ Strengthening the Enabling Environment
- ▶ Care and Support
- ▶ Structuring Health Services to Meet Women's Needs

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OVERVIEW

A comprehensive review of data from HIV/AIDS interventions for women and girls in nearly 100 countries has revealed several overarching themes.

USING THE EVIDENCE

This website provides strategies and evidence on a full range of gender-sensitive programming for women and girls. After nearly three decades of research, numerous successful interventions based on evidence have been documented.



What is the Evidence Base?

- Contains:
 - Approximately 2,000 citations
 - More than 450 studies summarized
 - Data from around 90 countries
- Criteria:
 - various search methodologies (wom*n and HIV, etc.) for evaluated interventions
 - with measurable outcomes,
 - published prior to January 2010



Who Needs the Evidence Base?

- Government Ministries and National AIDS Programs
- Donors
- Civil society organizations
- Country programmers
- CCMs
- Researchers
- Advocates

What Works for Women & Girls

SEARCH

All Strategies

Prevention for Women >>

- [Condom Use](#)
- [Partner Reduction](#)
- [Male Circumcision](#)
- [Treating STIs](#)

Prevention for Key Affected Populations >>

- [Female Sex Workers](#)
- [Women Drug Users and Female Partners of Male IDU](#)
- [Women Prisoners and Female Partners of Male Prisoners](#)
- [Women and Girls in Complex Emergencies](#)
- [Migrant Women and Female Partners of Male Migrants](#)
- [Transgendered Women and Men](#)
- [Women Who Have Sex with Women](#)

Prevention for Young People >>

- [Encouraging Behavior Change](#)
- [Increasing Access to Services](#)

HIV Testing and Counseling for Women >>

Treatment >>

- [Provisions and Access](#)
- [Adherence and Support](#)
- [Reducing Transmission](#)

Meeting the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Women >>

Safe Motherhood and Prevention of Vertical Transmission >>

- [Preconception](#)
- [Antenatal Care: Testing and Counseling Treatment](#)
- [Delivery](#)
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Preventing, Detecting and Treating Critical Co-Infections >>

- [Tuberculosis](#)
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- [Hepatitis](#)

Strengthening the Enabling Environment >>

- [Transforming Gender Norms](#)
- [Addressing Violence Against Women](#)
- [Transforming Legal Norms to Empower Women, including Marriage, Inheritance and Property Rights](#)
- [Promoting Women's Employment, Income and Livelihood Opportunities](#)
- [Advancing Education](#)
- [Reducing Stigma and Discrimination](#)
- [Promoting Women's Leadership](#)

Care and Support >>

- [Women and Girls](#)
- [Orphans and Vulnerable](#)
- [Children](#)

Structuring Health Services to Meet Women's Needs >>

What Works for Women & Girls

SEARCH

Prevention for Women

WHAT WORKS

▶ Condom Use

- Consistent use of male condoms can reduce the chances of HIV acquisition by more than 95%.

▶ Partner Reduction

- Partner reduction, particularly concurrent partnerships, can be effective in reducing transmission of HIV.
- Partner reduction can be effective in reducing transmission of HIV.

▶ Male Circumcision

- Male circumcision can reduce sexual risks for HIV infection.

▶ Treating STIs

- STI counseling, diagnosis and treatment may reduce the prevalence of HIV, particularly in the earlier stages of the epidemic.

Summary

In 2008, more than one million people had initiated treatment yet 2.7 million became HIV-positive (Sepulveda, 2008), with more than half of new infections among women, and a larger proportion among young women. If the HIV pandemic is to be contained, primary prevention efforts for women and men based on scientifically-derived evidence must accompany rapid expansion of antiretroviral treatment. Stover and colleagues (2006: 1476) state that, “The implementation of a comprehensive global prevention approach would significantly reduce the number of people requiring antiretroviral therapy in the future.” Yet, “HIV prevention is neither simple nor simplistic. We must achieve radical behavioural changes—both between individuals and across



PRINT

Prevention for Women

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What Works for Women & Girls

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Condom Use

Overview

Evidence

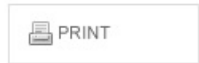
Gaps

Summary

The role of condom use in prevention of sexual transmission of HIV is clear. According to the WHO and the U.S. National Institutes of Health, condoms that are intact are essentially impermeable to even the smallest sexually transmitted virus (UNAIDS, 2004). The effectiveness of condoms has been shown to be between 80-95 percent, depending on how correctly they are used (Weller and Davis-Beatty, 2007; Holmes, Levine and Weaver, 2004; Hearst and Chen, 2004).

Consistency is key. Women's lifetime risk of infection decreases with the consistent use of condoms by their male partners. A microsimulation in Malawi found that if men always use condoms with women who are not their wives, women's lifetime risk falls to 9 percent and that if both men and women always use condoms with partners other than their spouses, women's lifetime risk of infection falls to 8 percent (Bracher et al., 2004). Findings from Rakai, Uganda, showed that among 350 women who reported consistent condom use, none became HIV-positive, but annual HIV incidence was 4.6 percent among women who reported inconsistent condom use (Kiddugavu et al., 2003). Conversely, many studies have shown that inconsistent condom users are at higher risk of HIV transmission than those who never use condoms. This may be because their behavior is riskier in other ways. Mathematical models suggest that a small number of people who use condoms consistently can have a greater impact on reducing HIV transmission than a larger number who use them inconsistently (Hearst and Chen, 2004). Interventions promoting consistent condom use are therefore paramount in reducing the incidence of HIV.

Variations in condom use across regions, countries and populations indicate that condom promotion should address barriers (socio-cultural, legal and policy, economic and financial and structural



Prevention for Women

- **Condom Use**
- Partner Reduction
- Male Circumcision
- Treating STIs

[Prevention for Key Affected Populations](#)

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Beyond the evidence base

- Despite 25 years of work, we still are lacking evidence for many critical issues for women and girls.
- www.whatworksforwomen.org shows gaps in programming that have emerged in the literature



Gaps in Research and Programming for Women and Girls

- How can gender norms be changed?
- How can concurrent partnerships among men and women be reduced?
- What training is effective to reduce stigma by health providers for sex workers and IDUs?
- What programs are needed for adolescents who acquired HIV through perinatal transmission?
- What programs exist for HIV-positive women on preconception care?

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Questions?

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