

A Healthy World Starts With Healthy Women

Woman-controlled HIV prevention helps empower women to stay healthy.

Women bear the brunt of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

It's one of the leading causes of death in women ages 15-49 around the world, making it one of the biggest threats to women's health and well-being. In sub-Saharan Africa, young women ages 15-24 are more than three times as likely as young men to acquire HIV.

Women are at disproportionate risk for HIV due to biology and cultural factors.

Women, especially young women, are biologically more susceptible to HIV infection than men.

In addition, because of gender inequities, including economic disparities and uneven power dynamics within sexual partnerships, women and girls are often unable to negotiate safe sex, or even choose when or with whom they have sex. These factors also drive gender-based violence, which further increases women's risk of HIV infection.

Women must be empowered to protect themselves from HIV.

Women and girls have largely been left behind by progress against HIV. Current prevention strategies are all necessary but are not doing enough to stem the persistently high rates of HIV infection among women.

Expanding women's HIV prevention options with new tools that meet their individual needs is just one way to help empower women—but it is an essential one, particularly in regions where women remain at high risk.

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