



WRI 2024 — The Role of Policy in Access to HIV Research and Services Among Women Living with and Vulnerable to HIV

The Well Project is thrilled to share the issue brief from our spring 2024 Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS (WRI) meeting, which focused on [The Role of Policy in Access to HIV Research and Services Among Women Living with and Vulnerable to HIV](#). The WRI, founded in 2003 as a program of The Well Project, is a multidisciplinary and multisectoral effort dedicated to identifying gaps for women in HIV prevention, treatment, and cure research and policy.

September 18, 2024 By [The Well Project](#)

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On March 21-24, 2024, The Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS (WRI), a program of The Well Project, convened a meeting focused on The Role of Policy in Access to HIV Research and Services Among Women Living with and Vulnerable to HIV. The meeting sought to examine the ways that law and policy affect health outcomes for women living with and vulnerable to HIV.

The Well Project and the WRI use the term “women” to describe anyone who identifies as such

across the gender spectrum.

While HIV research and service provision in the US have always been affected by the policy environment, recent legal and policy changes are poised to have a particularly negative impact on women living with and vulnerable to HIV. This year's WRI convening brought together 35 multidisciplinary, multisectoral key stakeholders (see below) to address critical aspects and potential implications for women living with and vulnerable to HIV of laws and policies related to HIV criminalization; abortion; gender-affirming care; and affirmative action/diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programming – and to make recommendations for mitigating their injurious effects. To learn more, please see the [WRI 2024 Issue Brief: Implications of Federal and State Policy on HIV Research and Services for Women Living with and Vulnerable to HIV](#). [Click here](#) to view more photos from WRI 2024.

“Every one of these issues is rooted in surveillance and control, limiting who gets to decide what happens to their body and what options they have for their future.”

– Tiommi Lockett, Transgender Law Center

The combined impact of HIV criminalization, abortion restrictions, bans on gender-affirming care, and the elimination of affirmative action/DEI programming will have profound consequences for access to HIV and sexual and reproductive healthcare services and HIV research among women living with and vulnerable to HIV across the gender spectrum. They will also limit the ability of providers and scientists to conduct programming and research to advance the field. As many of these policies are already in effect, it is crucial to raise awareness about their potential implications and undertake collaborative efforts to mitigate their negative effects and optimize HIV research and care.

WRI 2024 Meeting Participants

Allison Agwu, MD, ScM Johns Hopkins University	Nancie Archin, PhD* University of North Carolina
Judith Auerbach, PhD* University of California San Francisco	Dawn Averitt* The Well Project and WRI
Jacqueline Ayers, JD Planned Parenthood	Kellan Baker, PhD, MPH, MA Whitman Walker
Cecilia Chung Transgender Law Center	Jenna Conley The Well Project
Lindsey Dawson, MPP KFF	Karine Dubé, DrPH UCSD School of Medicine
Nada Fadul, MD University of Nebraska Medical Center	Olivia G. Ford The Well Project
Waru Gichane, PhD, MSPH University of California San Francisco	Kaye Hayes, MPA Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy
Connie Johnson, MA Growing into Greatness	Jennifer Kates, PhD* Kaiser Family Foundation
Kamaria Laffrey The Sero Project	Aryah Lester Transgender Strategy Center
Tiommi Lockett, AA Transgender Law Center	Leslie Marshall NIH Office of AIDS Research
Krista Martel The Well Project	Marnina Miller, AA PWN-USA

Shani Mandisa Moore-O’Neal, JD Center for HIV Law and Policy	Amaya Perez-Brumer, PhD University of Toronto
Bridgette Picou, LVN The Well Project	Tonia Poteat, PhD, MPH, PA-C University of North Carolina
Catalina Ramirez, MPH, MHA Universty of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Laramie Smith, PhD University of California San Diego
Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH Harvard Kennedy School	Celeste Watkins-Hayes University of Michigan
Andrea Weddle, MSW* HIV Medicine Association	Helen Zimba, BS The Afiya Center

*2024 WRI Advisory Board Member

The WRI 2024 convening received sponsorship support or grants from Gilead, Merck, and ViiV Healthcare.

The Well Project is a non-profit organization whose mission is to change the course of the HIV/AIDS pandemic through a unique and comprehensive focus on women and girls across the gender spectrum. Visit their website, <https://www.thewellproject.org/>, to access fact sheets (English and Spanish), blogs, and advocacy tools, and to join a global community of women living with HIV.

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<http://beta.docker.poz.com/blog/wri-2024-role-policy-access-hiv-research-services-among-women-living-vulnerable-hiv>