

Women's Health Worldwide: Challenges and Concerns

June 3, 2003, Philadelphia, PA - Being born female can be harmful to one's health. At this program, both speakers addressed disparities in health care and health outcomes for women- particularly in less developed countries. Almost everywhere, for example, more girls than newborn boys survive, but in a few countries gender discrimination and neglect still outweigh girl's biological advantage. Maternal mortality rates - 21 per 100,000 births in the developed world are a staggering 440 per 100,000 births in the developing world. And, for biological and social reasons, the scourge of AIDS is particularly acute for young women. Globally, only 48% of adults infected with AIDS are women. In sub-Saharan Africa, however, women account for 55% of the infected population and more than twice as many women aged 15-24 are infected than men of comparable age.

Welcome:

Claudia Curry, Director, The Women's Center, Community College of Philadelphia

Introduction:

Judith A. Himes, Associate Director, Population Resource Center

Moderator:

Karen Bojar, Women's Studies Program, Community College of Philadelphia

Speakers:

Dr. Suman Mehta, M.D., DrPH, Global HIV/AIDS Coordination, United Nations Population Fund

Alicia Beatty, Director, Circle of Care, Family Planning Council, Philadelphia

Closing Remarks:

Jen Weikert, Executive Director, YWCA of Philadelphia

Co-Sponsors:

YWCA of Philadelphia, The Women's Center, Community College of Philadelphia and the Women's Studies Program, Community College of Philadelphia

Quick Fact:

"Half of all new infections occur among young people aged 15 to 24, who now make up one third of those living with HIV/AIDS. In sub-Saharan Africa, young women are now up to six times more likely than young men to be infected with HIV . . . "
Preventing HIV Infection, Promoting Reproductive Health, UNFPA 2002

In Attendance:

50 staff, faculty and students from the Community College of Philadelphia and members of the YWCA of Philadelphia