

Beyond the Evidence Base: Rights and Justice for Women – will the Vienna AIDS Conference make a difference?

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What is evidence for?

- Different weight of evidence required for different purposes
 - E.g. drug effectiveness vs. advocacy
- This helps determine research methodologies
- Evidence of effectiveness of rights-based approaches
 - Definitional challenges
 - Making best use of existing evidence
 - Suggested ways forward



How is evidence generated?

- What is the research question?
- Assumed objectivity of quantitative data is problematic
- Qualitative data often held to a higher standard
- Both quantitative and qualitative are needed as they answer different questions



Who is generating the evidence?

- Everyone brings with them a personal and professional history
- Acknowledging this is critical to:
 - Alerting us to potential biases/assumptions
 - Situating our work within a broader body of knowledge
 - Designing multi-disciplinary studies where partners with different experience are brought in



The New Gold Standard?

- RCTs used to be considered the gold standard
- They are still critical to answering some questions but other methods are needed for other questions
- Is the new 'gold standard' ensuring:
 - Appropriate choice of methodology
 - Rigour in research design, data collection and data analysis?

