

Abstract

Mind the Gap: Advancing Women's Health by Closing the Data Divide

Over the past two centuries, global life expectancy has more than doubled—from 30 years in 1800 to 73 in 2018. But this progress tells only part of the story. While women now live longer than men, they also spend more years in poor health and with disability. On average, a woman will spend nine years of her life in compromised health—limiting her well-being, productivity, and earning potential.

A major driver of this imbalance is a systemic gap in the data that fuels healthcare innovation. Despite exponential growth in health data overall, women's health remains underrepresented and misunderstood. These gaps span the full data value chain: from how women's health is defined, to how it's diagnosed and tracked, to how it's studied and prioritized in global research and investment decisions.

These blind spots compromise not only health outcomes, but also innovation—especially for conditions with unmet needs.

This keynote will highlight the implications of these disparities and suggest concrete steps to close the data gap.