

*Encyclopedia of*  
**Women's Health**

# *Encyclopedia of* **Women's Health**

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# Preface

The field of “women’s health” is not a solitary discipline. Women’s health consists, instead, of knowledge and expertise of professionals in many disciplines who work together to improve women’s health status. Accordingly, the *Encyclopedia of Women’s Health* brings together the knowledge and experience of professionals from a wide range of fields including medicine, law, psychology, social work, demography, education, epidemiology, dentistry, cosmetology, massage, nutrition, physical fitness, history, and many others. This broad foundation allows us to explore women’s health from a biopsychosocial perspective, and to consider the many facets of women’s health and the many factors that impact women’s health status. This text is intended as a reference both for nonhealth professionals who wish to have a more in-depth understanding of various topics, and for health professionals searching for an introduction to fields outside of their own.

The first portion of the *Encyclopedia* serves as an introduction to the study of women’s health. It includes an in-depth examination of various foundational aspects of women’s health, including the history of women’s health, women in the health professions, the impact of work on women’s health, and women’s role in providing health care to others. The second portion of the *Encyclopedia* is organized alphabetically by entry. These entries focus on all aspects of women’s health, from medicine, to legal issues, to history, to beauty, to complementary and alternative approaches to health. The information that is presented is meant to be practical and informative. Each entry is followed by a list of suggested readings, as well as a listing of resources available on the Internet and elsewhere. We trust that you will find these pages both exciting and informative in their depth and coverage.

SANA LOUE  
MARTHA SAJATOVIC

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