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**First Research Center to Study Health Disparities Among Women**  
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In Nashville, Tenn., the Meharry Medical College opened the Center for Women's Health Research, which is the nation's first research center to only focus on health disparities among women. According to the *Tennessean*, the Center costs \$4.2 million and is headed by four primary investigators and their teams. The Center, which opened in October 2006, is studying reproductive health and diseases like HIV/AIDS and heart disease that affect minority women at a higher rate. Its initial focus is on molecular, cellular and genetic differences among racial groups that might produce different effects on their health. Research also includes behavioral analysis and will eventually add mental health, as well as the effects access to health care; society and the environment have on illnesses. Valerie Montgomery Rice, Dean of Meharry Medical College School of Medicine and Executive Director of the Center, told the *Tennessean*, "The Center will address the question of why," stating this is an important factor in order to change the current conditions.