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# SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE: WHAT THE FRAMEWORK CHALLENGES US TO DO

2021 NYSDOH BWIAH PROVIDER MEETING

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## OBJECTIVES

- By the end of this session, participants will be able to:
  - Define sexual and reproductive justice
  - Describe two events within US history that represent sexual and reproductive justice and injustice
  - Identify one way to apply a sexual and reproductive justice-informed approach to their work



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## AGENDA

Agenda
Welcome
Sexual and Reproductive Justice 101
Looking Back to Move Forward: Sexual and Reproductive Justice Timeline
Putting the Sexual and Reproductive Justice Framework into Action
Closing and Evaluations



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## GROUP AGREEMENTS

- 🔒 Open minds, open hearts
- 🗣️ Respect the diversity of opinions, standpoints, and perspectives
- 👁️ Use “I” statements
- ⊕ Practice self care as you need to
- 📺 Keep your video on if possible
- 🔇 Mute when not talking
- 💬 Use the chat to pose questions, communicate issues, or share



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**What do you think sexual and reproductive justice means?**



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**DEFINITIONS OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**

*Reproductive justice will be achieved when **all people** have the economic, social, and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about our bodies, gender, sexuality, and families for ourselves and our communities in all areas of our lives.*

**- Forward Together**

*Every person has the right to:*

- Choose to have or not have children
- Choose the conditions under which to give birth or create a family
- Care for their children with the necessary social supports in safe, healthy and sustainable environments
- Control their own body and self-expression, free from any form of sexual or reproductive oppression

**- NYC Sexual and Reproductive Justice Community Engagement Group in partnership with NYC DOHMH** 

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## REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

- Term "reproductive justice" and the framework were created by a group of Black women in 1994
- Needed a framework that was inclusive of the discrimination and oppression they faced as Black women (e.g., economic injustice, racism, etc.)
- Felt issues most relevant to them were not acknowledged or championed by the mainstream feminist, pro-choice, and civil rights movements



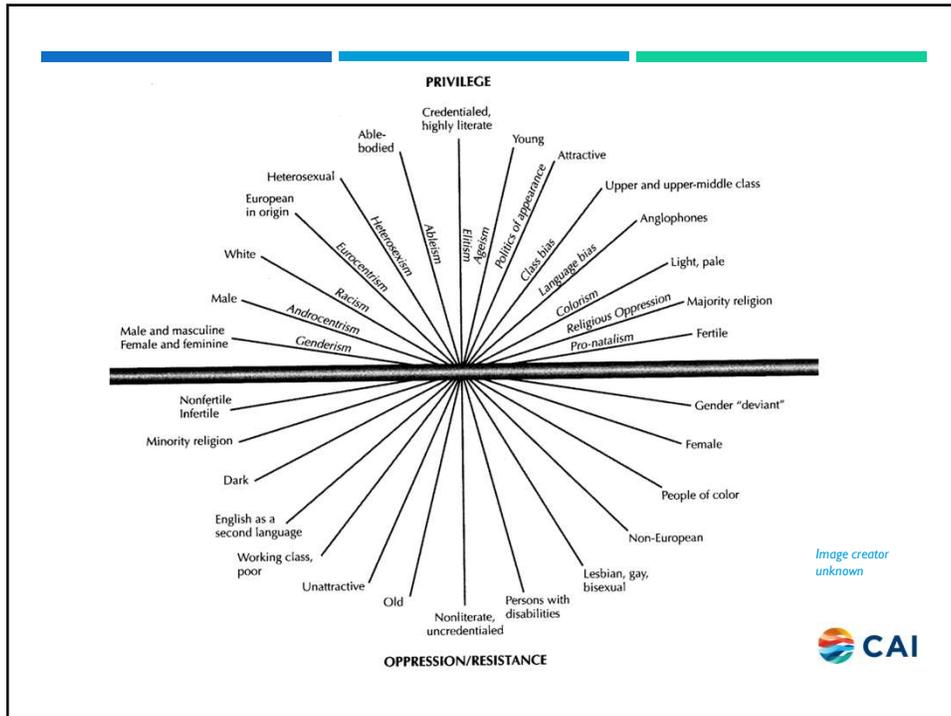
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## REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

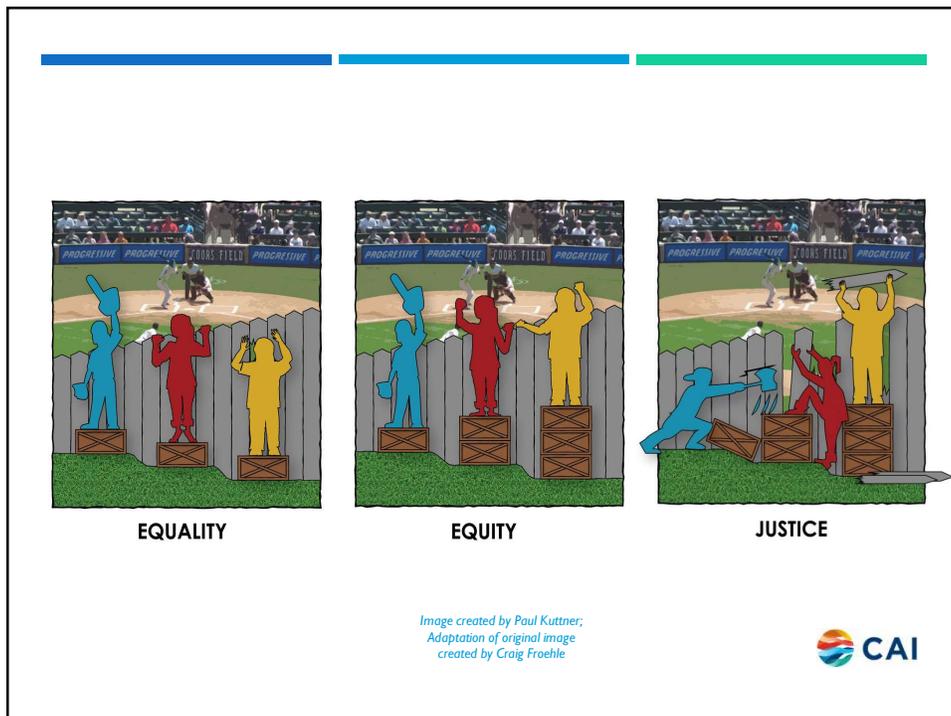
- Sexual and reproductive justice framework relies on an **intersectional** analysis
  - Intersectionality considers the many identities we hold simultaneously and how they connect to injustice and oppression
  - Takes into account the social, economic, and political factors that can influence the power to make decisions about one's sexuality and reproduction
  - Rooted in a broader human rights framework



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## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE (SRJ) FRAMEWORK

- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has created a Sexual and Reproductive Justice initiative to guide its work with the hopes of better engaging their communities and more successfully working to eradicate health disparities
- Video created by the NYC DOHMH's Sexual and Reproductive Justice (SRJ) Community Engagement Group:
  - <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/sexual-reproductive-justice-nyc.page>
- **Content Warning:** *This video mentions experiences with sexual violence and erasure. Please practice self-care as you need to.*



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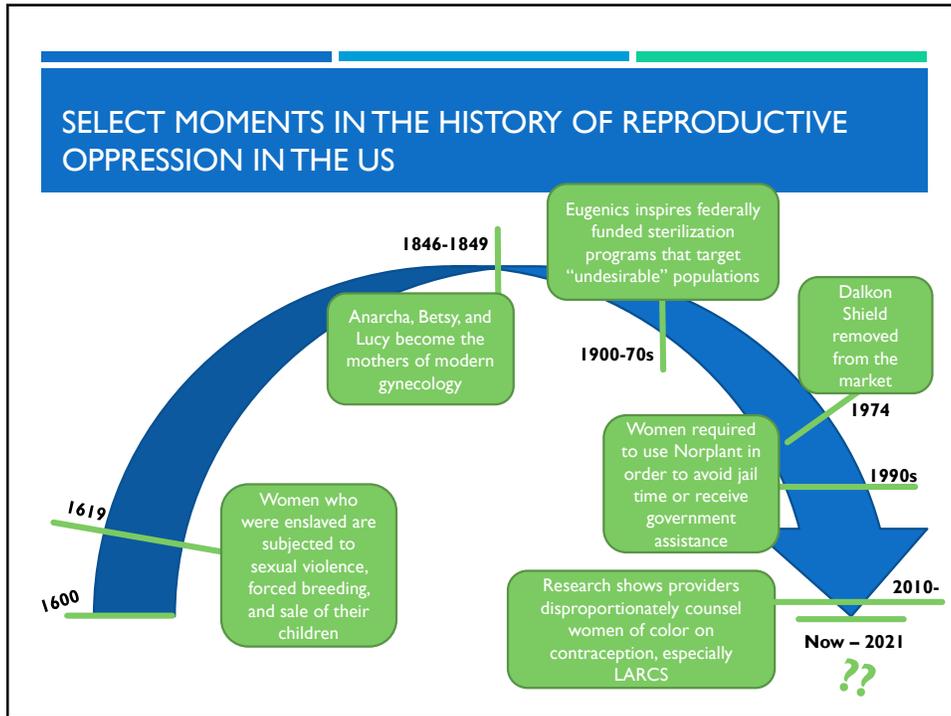
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## REPRODUCTIVE OPPRESSION

- The reproductive justice movement also brings light to current and historical instances of reproductive oppression and injustice
- **Reproductive oppression:**
  - Control and exploitation of people (especially women, girls, transgender and other gender-expansive people) through their bodies, sexuality, labor and reproduction
- **Content Warning:** *Discussing the historical and current instances of reproductive oppression can be emotional, triggering, and upsetting. Please practice self care as you need to in these discussions.*



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A slide with the CAI logo in the top right corner and the title "LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE TIMELINE" in the center. Below the title is a large blue rectangular area.

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## SEXUAL/REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AND OPPRESSION TIMELINE

### Instructions:

- Please click the link in the chat to access the Selected Timeline of Reproductive Oppression and Justice: <http://bit.ly/CAIRJTimeline>
- Take 5-7 minutes to read through the timeline individually
- Practice self-care as you need to while also challenging yourself to be present and extend outside your comfort zone



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## DISCUSSION



- What stood out to you or surprised you?
- Within your work or community, what have you seen or heard that perpetuates sexual and reproductive oppression?
- What have you seen or heard that furthers sexual and reproductive justice?



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## TAKEAWAYS

- It's important for us to look back to understand context and where our clients may be coming from – so we can better understand how to move forward
- Sometimes myths are not myths – but just things that aren't true anymore
- If we say all people deserve sexual and reproductive well-being, we have to unpack and address what it takes for **ALL** people to achieve that (Equality vs. Equity vs. Justice)
- As public health professionals, we make decisions every single day that can either further justice or perpetuate oppression



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Sexual and reproductive justice is an approach and a movement that works to right the wrongs of sexual and reproductive oppression and create a world where sexual and reproductive oppression does not happen.

*“As reproductive oppression is perpetuated and held up by multiple strategies, so will the solutions to build reproductive justice.”*



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## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH VS. RIGHTS VS. JUSTICE

Movement	Framework
<b>Reproductive Health</b>	Emphasizes provision of necessary reproductive health services
<b>Reproductive Rights</b>	Emphasizes gaining constitutionally framed legal protections for those health services
<b>Reproductive Justice</b>	Emphasizes an intersectional analysis that acknowledges that combating structural inequities and reproductive oppression requires multiple strategies that include directly affected communities leading the work



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## HEALTH VS. RIGHTS VS. JUSTICE: CONTRACEPTION

- **Health:**
  - Health care providers offering a variety of methods
  - Education on available methods
- **Rights:**
  - Griswold v. Connecticut
  - State laws
  - Employer coverage of contraception
  - Affordable Care Act protections

- **Justice:**
  - Ensuring people including adolescents have access to all FDA approved methods
  - Client-centered contraceptive counseling
  - Shared decision-making
  - Affordability
  - Over the counter access to contraception
  - Continual development of different methods that meet different needs (e.g., non-hormonal, methods for people with penises)
  - Access to methods across gender identities
  - Respecting people's decisions to not use a contraceptive method



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HEALTH VS. RIGHTS VS. JUSTICE: SEX EDUCATION

- Health:
  - Providing sexuality education in health centers, schools, etc.
  - Education on anatomy, STIs/HIV
  
- Rights:
  - Laws and policies mandating provision of sexuality education in schools

- Justice:
  - Expanding the definition of comprehensive
  - Trauma-informed, Gender inclusive, LGBTQ inclusive, Consent
  - Moving away from risk focus to be sex-positive and pleasure inclusive
  - Culturally-responsive – not stigmatizing to populations who experience disparities
  - Monitoring and accountability of provision of sex education in schools
  - Ensuring people across the life span have access to education – K-12, adults, etc.



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Sexual and reproductive justice is not a substitute or new way of saying pro-choice, reproductive rights, or reproductive health.

*The movement was founded on the inability of these movements to adequately respond to and include the needs of women of color, low-income women, lesbian and queer women, and people of other marginalized identities.*



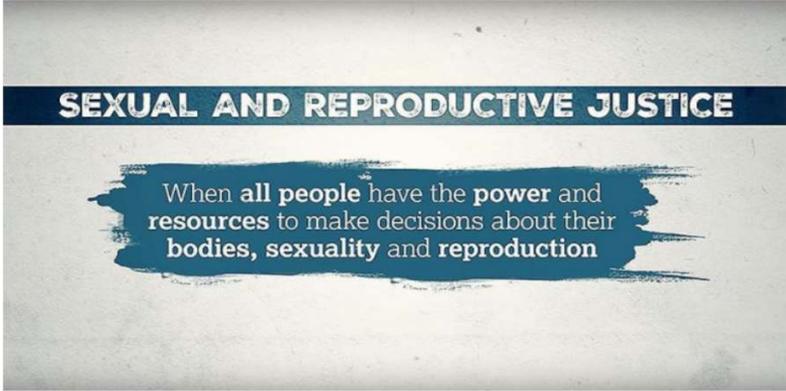
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**PUTTING THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE FRAMEWORK INTO ACTION**



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**SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**

When **all people** have the **power** and **resources** to make decisions about their **bodies, sexuality** and **reproduction**

*What would this mean for your work and the communities you work in?*



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## CORE ELEMENTS OF A SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ANALYSIS

- Intersectional analysis
- Analysis of the control and regulation of gender, bodies, sexuality, and families
- Working towards social change at individual, community, institutional, and societal levels
- Strengthening and being accountable to the leadership of communities most affected
- Linking individuals to community and resources
- Rooted in the idea of self-help
- Considering how to shift power to marginalized communities
- Creating environments that allow people to speak for and help themselves



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## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CHALLENGES US TO CONSIDER

- Who is this for? How do we ensure that?
- Who should be centered?
- What have we done to get feedback and buy-in from the intended audience?
- Who might not be at the table who should be?
- How might other issues intersect with this issue?
- How might someone's identity or circumstance impact their access to this service?
- How might someone's identity of circumstance impact the quality of services they receive?
- How does this represent the vision of the world we want?
- What are the assumptions being made here?
- What are the root causes or structural factors that underlie the point we're trying to make? How do we incorporate that understanding?
- How does this empower?
- How might this disempower?
- How might this not represent the whole story?



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## BENEFITS OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

- Offers a more comprehensive view of lived realities and factors that contribute to sexual/reproductive health and well-being
- Centers the voices, leadership, and decision-making of those most affected
- Encourages intentionality
- Invites more diverse, robust coalitions and partnerships (e.g., cross-issue collaborations)
- Human rights base connects to internationally-recognized rights through Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Improved outcomes because approach is more person-centered and responsive to specific needs



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**What opportunities do you see for bringing more of a sexual and reproductive justice lens to your work?**



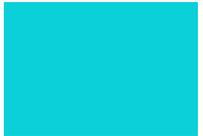
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**QUESTIONS?**



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**TO DIG DEEPER OR EXPLORE  
MORE AT YOUR AGENCY:**

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**THANK YOU!**



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