What is Reproductive Justice?

The human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.

**Source: SisterSong, 1994.**
Coined by women of color, Reproductive Justice looks at reproductive rights and reproductive health access through a human rights and social justice framework.
Intersectionality

The complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups.
Environmental justice is
gender identity is
building family on your
own terms is
racial justice is
ending incarceration is
supporting teen parents is
freedom from violence is
food security is

Immigration justice is
accessible abortion is
supporting birthparents is
paid leave is
disability justice is
queer families are
safe communities are
decolonization is

Reproductive justice.
RJ and Health Inequities
Examples

• Women of color are much more likely to die of cervical cancer than are white women, they are less likely to receive regular Pap smears, a crucial screening mechanism.

• Low-income Latinas are nearly twice as likely as low-income white women to have an unintended pregnancy. African American women, who are three times as likely as white women to experience an unintended pregnancy, are also three times as likely as white women to obtain abortion services.

**Source: Center for Reproductive Rights, 2018.**
A holistic approach to RJ

We must address people wholly and comprehensively so that we do not single out pieces of their bodies but see them as whole people.

Need to understand how reproductive oppression may exist in all arenas of a person’s life, and recognize that s/he/they may have to walk through all of these arenas in a single day.