

The Rutgers DSW Program

Module Title: Reproductive Justice and Social Work

Instructor:

Residency:

Time:

Module Description:

As assaults on reproductive health continue across the country, the time is *now* for social workers to learn about the tenets of Reproductive Justice (RJ). A framework developed by minoritized groups in the 1990s, RJ moves the abortion discourse beyond “choice” and considers the elements that contribute to or hinder true bodily autonomy: the right to have a child, the right to not have a child, and the right raise a child in safe and healthy environments. As RJ especially considers the impact of legislation, policy, and intervention on vulnerable communities, it is especially relevant during today’s socio-political climate. This will introduce, define, and explore the tenets of RJ and how they directly apply to social work advocacy and practice. Concrete suggestions for advocacy and intervention will also be provided.

Module Objectives:

1. Understand how Reproductive Justice applies directly to social work
2. Identify and define the tenets of Reproductive Justice
3. Apply the tenets of Reproductive Justice to appreciate the impact of overturning *Roe v. Wade* on historically minoritized communities

Module Readings (required):

Goldblatt Hyatt, E.D., McCoyd, J.L.M., & Diaz, M.F. (2022). From abortion rights to reproductive justice: A call to action. *Affilia: Journal of Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*, advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08861099221077153>

Liddel, J. (2019). Reproductive justice and the social work profession: Common grounds and current trends. *Affilia: Journal of Feminist Inquiry in Social Work*, 34(1), 99-115.

Ross, L. J. (2006). A personal journey from women’s Rights to civil rights to human rights. *The Black Scholar*, 36(1), 45–53. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00064246.2006.11413347>

Younes, M., Goldblatt Hyatt, E. D., Witt, H., & Franklin, C. (2021). A call to action: addressing ambivalence and promoting advocacy for reproductive rights in social work education. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 57 (4), 625–635. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2021.1895930>

UC Berkeley. (2020). Berkeley talks transcript: Threats to abortion rights and how people are resisting. Available at <https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/11/21/berkeley-talks-transcript-abortion-rights/> (Or to be listened to as a podcast at: <https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/11/21/berkeley-talks-abortion-rights/>)