



# Society of Family Planning Position Statement

Society of Family Planning Position Statements articulate the Society's stance on key issues facing our members and their communities. Position statements are evidence-informed, person-centered, and support our collective vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception.

## **Abortion is Essential Healthcare**

Abortion care is an essential and critical component of comprehensive healthcare, and must be equitably available and accessible to all people who need it. Clinicians who provide abortion care must be able to practice evidence-informed, person-centered care. Abortion is indicated for all people who want one.

Abortion generally carries much lower risks than childbirth, and there are many routes to safe and effective abortion care, including procedures in a variety of settings and medication abortion both dispensed in person and by telehealth. Safe and effective abortions can also be accessed outside of the formal healthcare system. The biggest threats to the safety and quality of abortion care are laws and regulations that are not based in evidence or centered on peoples' needs.

The Society of Family Planning supports expansive, inclusive protections for abortion care for all people. The Society opposes legislation, laws, initiatives, and regulations that limit abortion care. The Society also advocates to lift barriers such as abortion stigma, fear of protest and violence, institutional barriers, and mis- and disinformation, all of which constrain access to abortion.

No exception to an abortion restriction can adequately mitigate its harm. All abortion restrictions prevent just and equitable abortion care. People who are denied a wanted abortion are more likely to experience negative social and health outcomes. The Society insists on centering the people experiencing systematic oppression and most impacted by abortion bans and restrictions in abortion policy, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, people who are low-income, people with chronic health issues and disabilities and young people. Until we are able to achieve the Society's vision of just and equitable abortion informed by science, the Society will continue to fight alongside our community and partners.