

ACKNOWLEDGING
IMPLICIT BIAS IN
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTHCARE




NARAL
PRO-CHOICE MARYLAND



IMPLICIT BIAS REFERS TO UNCONSCIOUS ATTITUDES OR STEREOTYPES WE HOLD THAT AFFECT OUR PERCEPTION AND ACTIONS.

TYPICALLY, IMPLICIT BIAS...

- DOES NOT NECESSARILY ALIGN WITH OUR DECLARED BELIEFS
 - MAKES US FAVOR OUR IN-GROUP (THOSE WHO SHARE OUR OWN IDENTITIES)
 - IS MANAGEABLE, BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID ENTIRELY
- 



IMPLICIT BIAS HAS REAL IMPLICATIONS ON HEALTHCARE.

IT AFFECTS...

- ORGANIZATION POLICIES,
STRUCTURES, AND NORMS
- FALSE (YET WIDELY-HELD) BELIEFS
- TREATMENT DECISIONS
- PROVIDER-PATIENT INTERACTIONS



**WHEN GIVING ADVICE AND/OR
PROVIDING CARE, KEEP IN MIND...**

EVERYONE DESERVES MEDICALLY ACCURATE,
UNBIASED, AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT
INFORMATION ON (AND ACCESS TO) THE FULL
SPECTRUM OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE.

PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO
CHOOSE ANY METHOD OF BIRTH
CONTROL—AND HAVE FULL
AUTONOMY OVER THEIR
HEALTHCARE-RELATED DECISIONS
—**FREE OF PERSUASION.**



**SELF-REFLECTION IS A TOOL
THAT GIVES US A WINDOW INTO
OUR OWN IMPLICIT BIASES.**



**WHEN ADVISING ON REPRODUCTIVE CARE
PEER-TO-PEER OR AS A MEDICAL
PROVIDER, WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES:**

- WHAT ASSUMPTIONS DID I MAKE ABOUT THIS PERSON?
- IN WHAT WAYS AM I CURIOUS ABOUT LEARNING MORE ABOUT THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATION? WHY?
- DO I HAVE A SPECIFIC OUTCOME IN MIND FOR THEM?
- IF I FEEL FRUSTRATED OR PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME THAT RESULTS, WHY MIGHT THAT BE?

WHAT DOES ACKNOWLEDGING IMPLICIT BIAS HAVE TO DO WITH REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE?



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
CALLS US TO RECOGNIZE
THAT **THE OBSTACLES TO
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM
PEOPLE FACE ARE SYSTEMIC.**

**IMPLICIT BIAS IS REALLY A REFLECTION OF
OUR OWN INTERNALIZED SEXISM, RACISM,
CLASSISM, ABLEISM, ETC. WHEN WE BECOME
MORE AWARE OF HOW THESE OPERATE
WITHIN OURSELVES, WE CAN PROVIDE
BETTER, MORE INFORMED CARE.**

SOURCE



ALL CONTENT INCLUDED IN THIS POST
IS BASED ON A PRESENTATION
DEVELOPED BY THE UCSF BIXBY
CENTER BEYOND THE PILL PROGRAM.