

The framework of Reproductive Justice is a distinct approach to the work, developed in 1994 by a group of Black and Indigenous women. Reproductive Justice, often referred to as “RJ,” is a broad, intersectional approach that connects social justice, reproductive rights, and human rights through the lens of Black Feminism. The goal of Reproductive Justice is to build a world where, “all people have the economic, social and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about our bodies, sexuality and reproduction for ourselves, our families and our communities in all areas of our lives.”⁸ Reproductive Justice works to dismantle the intersectional oppressions that impact a person’s ability to access reproductive healthcare, make decisions for their family, and act on their own moral authority in their sexual and reproductive lives.

It is important to note that Reproductive Justice is different from other movements/frameworks advocating for reproductive freedom, which is the hoped-for outcome of all of these groups. The chart below clarifies each distinct approach:

Movement	Framework
Reproductive Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Provides reproductive health services to individuals and communities ✦ Abortion, contraception, HIV, vasectomy, pap smear, fertility treatments, prostate cancer screenings, etc.
Reproductive Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Emphasizes gaining and maintaining constitutionally framed legal protections for those reproductive health services, especially abortion ✦ Focus at the constitutional, judicial, legislative, and electoral levels, both state and federal ✦ Shaped and led primarily by white middle-class women
Reproductive Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Argues that reproductive oppression is the result of the intersections of multiple oppressions and cannot be alleviated without strategies to address them all ✦ Framework created by Black and Indigenous women ✦ Combines reproductive health and rights, social justice, and human rights

8 “Forward Together: A New Vision for Advancing our Movement for Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights, and Reproductive Justice,” Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice in partnership with SisterSong, 2005, <https://forwardtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ACRJ-A-New-Vision.pdf>.