NATIONAL ACADEMIES *Sciences Engineering Medicine*

A Workshop: Why is it Challenging to Measure Reproductive Health Equity and What are Promising Practices?

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

KECK CENTER OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES 500 5TH STREET NW, WASHINGTON DC 20001

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Purpose

- Describe methodological challenges to conducting research on reproductive health equity
- Explore strategies and practices to overcome these challenges
- Foster discussions on research that examines reproductive health across the lifespan
- Articulate research agenda

9:00-9:05   Welcome

> **Claire Brindis**, **Claire Brindis**, DrPH, MPH, Distinguished Professor, Emerita Director, Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies; University of California, San Francisco; and Chair, Standing Committee on Reproductive Health, Equity, and Society, National Academies of Sciences Engineering, and Medicine

9:05–9:15   Opening Remarks—Framing the Day

> **Tracy Weitz**, PhD, MPA, Professor at American University; Workshop Planning Committee Chair

9:15–10:30   Panel 1: Advances in Measuring Reproductive Equity

> *This panel will examine methodologies for measuring reproductive health equity, focusing on approaches that capture complex and often underrepresented factors in research. Speakers will address challenges in measuring structural racism, collecting inclusive data for transgender, nonbinary, and intersex populations, and making methodological choices that enhance the accuracy and inclusivity of health equity measures.*

> **Moderator**: **Anitra Beasley,** MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Gynecologic and Obstetrics Specialists, Baylor College of Medicine

> **Speakers**:
> - **Andrew Anderson**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

- **Asha Hassan,** PhD MPH, Assistant Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health, University of Minnesota Medical School
- **Heidi Moseson**, PhD MPH, Senior Research Scientist, Ibis Reproductive Health
- **May Sudhinaraset,** PhD, Professor in Community Health Sciences in the School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles

10:30–10:45   Break

10:45–11:15   Presentation 1: Research on the Impact of the Dobbs Decision: A Review of the Literature

This presentation will offer a review current literature examining the consequences of the Dobbs decision on reproductive health policies, access, and outcomes. The presentation will summarize key findings on how this legal shift has impacted individuals and communities, highlighting gaps in the existing research and opportunities for future study.

- **Jennifer O'Donnell,** ScD, Senior Director of Research and Evaluation, Society of Family Planning

11:15–12:30   Panel 2: The Challenges of Measuring Changing Rates of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

This session will focus on the challenges of accurately tracking maternal health outcomes amidst shifting healthcare policies and inequities. Panelists will discuss the major limitations of current data systems, discuss variations in healthcare access and quality, and explore strategies to make maternal mortality and morbidity data more timely and actionable. The discussion will emphasize the impact of social determinants and the need for standardized approaches to enable cross-state and cross-population comparisons.

Moderator: **Justin Lappen**, Section Head - Maternal Fetal Medicine, Cleveland Clinic, Associate Professor of Obstetrics/Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University

Speakers:

- **Caitlin Myers**, PhD, John G. McCullough Professor of Economics, Middlebury College
- **Alison Gemmill**, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- **Cynthia Lebron,** PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Public Health, School of Nursing and Health Studies

12:30–1:30   Lunch

1:30–2:00   Presentation 2: Applying a Reproductive Justice Lens: A Core Component of Research on Reproductive Equity

This presentation will introduce the reproductive justice framework as a vital perspective for understanding and addressing disparities in reproductive health research. The presentation will explore how centering this lens in study design and analysis can better capture the intersections of race, class, gender, and systemic inequities.

- ▪ **Anu Manchikanti Gómez**, PhD, MSc, Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare

2:00–3:15 **Panel 3: Understanding Who, How, and Why Individuals Can and Cannot Access Abortions**

This panel will examine the challenges of researching abortion access, emphasizing that many data collection barriers existed well before the Dobbs decision and have now been compounded. Panelists will discuss long-standing issues such as incomplete data on marginalized populations, the sensitivity of abortion-related research, and regional disparities in access. The discussion will highlight new methodological approaches and opportunities for improved research.

Moderator: **Laura Lindberg**, PhD, Professor; Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice Concentration Director; Rutgers School of Public Health

Speakers:

- ▪ **Tiffany Green**, PhD, Associate Professor, Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- ▪ **Caitlin Gerdts,** PhD, MHS, Vice President for Research, Ibis Reproductive Health
- ▪ **Jane Seymour**, PhD, MPH, Research Scientist, Collaborative for Reproductive Equity, University of Wisconsin – Madison

3:15–3:45 **Break**

3:45–4:45 **Panel 4: Difficulties Collecting Data on Reproductive Equity post-Dobbs**

This panel will explore the unique challenges of collecting and analyzing data on reproductive equity in the aftermath of the Dobbs decision. With shifting legal landscapes, researchers face heightened barriers to gathering accurate, comprehensive data on reproductive health access, outcomes, and disparities. Panelists will discuss issues including privacy concerns, legal restrictions, and data security challenges that complicate efforts to monitor and understand reproductive health trends. The session will highlight innovative approaches and potential solutions to navigate these obstacles, ensuring that data collection efforts can continue to inform policy and support reproductive health equity despite these emerging constraints.

Moderator: **Lisa Simpson**, MB, BCh, MPH, Impact Fellow, University of California, Berkely School of Public Health and Adjunct Professor, University of South Florida School of Public Health.

Speakers:

- • **Lee Hasselbacher**, JD, Research Assistant Professor, University of Chicago
- • **Jake Laperruque**. JD, Deputy Director, Security and Surveillance Project, Center for Democracy & Technology
- • **Angad Singh**, MD, Assistant Professor and Associate Chief Clinical Information Officer, University of Washington
- • **Amanda Stevenson,** PhD, MA, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado Boulder; Director of Population Program, Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder

4:45–5:00 **Closing Remarks**

Michele Bratcher Goodwin, JD, Linda D. & Timothy J. O'Neill Professor of Constitutional Law and Global Policy; Co-Faculty Director, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law

MEETING ADJOURNS