

LET'S TALK ABOUT

Reproductive and Sexual Health



WHAT ARE *Reproductive Rights?*

Definition

- California youth in care have reproductive rights.
Reproductive rights are those having to do with family planning and sexual health.
- In California, youth in care have a right to make personal and informed decisions regarding their bodies and sexual health.
- These decisions are entirely up to the youth to make.



WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS

As a Youth in Care?

- California youth in care have the right to consent **at any age** to sexual and reproductive health care and contraception, without the need for permission from a parent(s), caregiver(s), social worker, attorney, or intimate partner.
- Youth in care have a right to delay or postpone pregnancy, obtain safe contraception including condoms, birth control pills, injections to postpone or delay ovulation, and abortion services.

- Youth in care have a right to be seen **privately** in an exam room when seeking sexual and reproductive health care, *unless* the youth specifically asks that someone accompany them inside.
- Beginning **at age 12**, California youth in care can consent to prevention, testing, and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) or infections (STI) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

- California youth in care have a right to **confidentiality** when it comes to reproductive and sexual health care.
- This means that doctors and medical providers who medically treat youth cannot tell their parent(s), caregiver(s), or even their DCFS social worker about their treatment *without* the youth's written permission.
- Providers must have a youth's **written** consent (or a court order) to disclose their confidential patient information.

- Youth in care have a right to transportation to appointments relating to their sexual and reproductive health.
- Youth in care have a right to obtain, possess, use the contraception of their choice without interference by a caregiver(s), STRTP staff(s), etc.
- Youth have a right to maintain birth control in a private storage space or container.

- Youth have a right to obtain reproductive and sexual health services from any medical provider they choose, so long as the provider accepts MediCal or other approved insurance.
- California youth in care have a right to participate in developmentally and age-appropriate social activities, including dating.

- California youth in care have a right to receive medically accurate and age-appropriate information about sexual and reproductive health, in placement, or from their social worker.
- Youth in care also have a right to receive comprehensive and medically accurate sexual health education in middle school and high school, as described in the California Healthy Youth Act.

WHAT RIGHTS DO I HAVE AS AN LGBTQ+ YOUTH IN CARE?

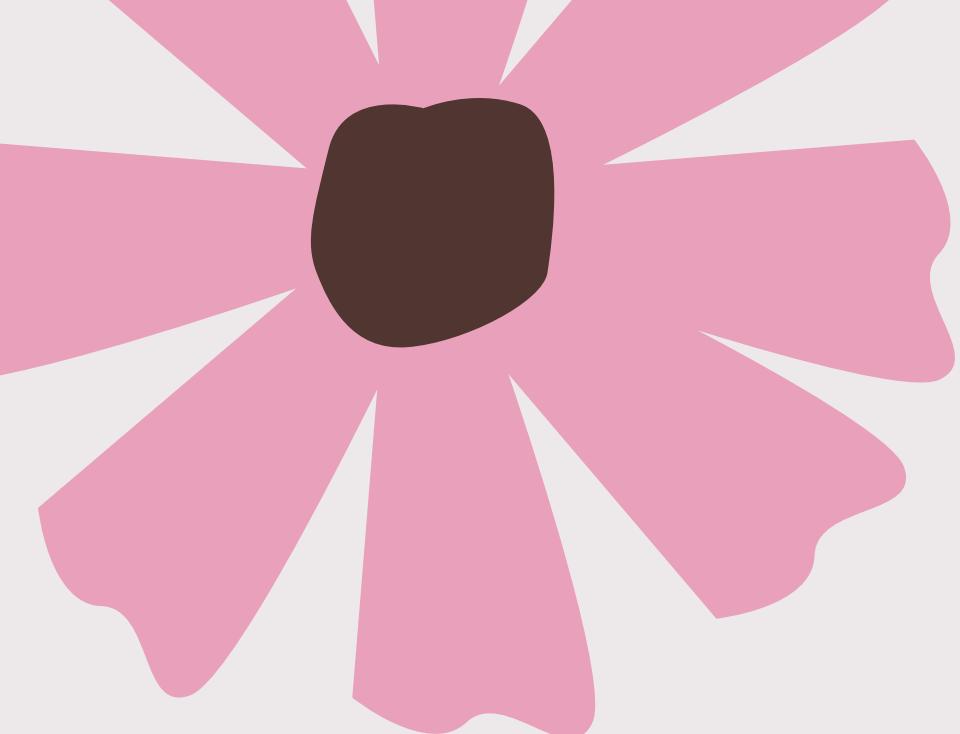
- LGBTQ+ and cisgender youth in care have the same rights when it comes to sexual and reproductive health care.
- Youth in care have a right to receive gender affirming care and to express their Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.
- Youth in care have a right to have their Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) kept private.
- All California youth in care have a right to live in a safe, comfortable, healthy environment where they are treated with respect regardless of their SOGIE.

- Talk to your DCFS social worker, Dependency attorney, Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), or Foster Youth Ombudsman, if:
 - You need help accessing sexual and reproductive health services;
 - Need transportation to appointments;
 - You believe your reproductive rights have been violated.



WHAT IS *Abortion?*



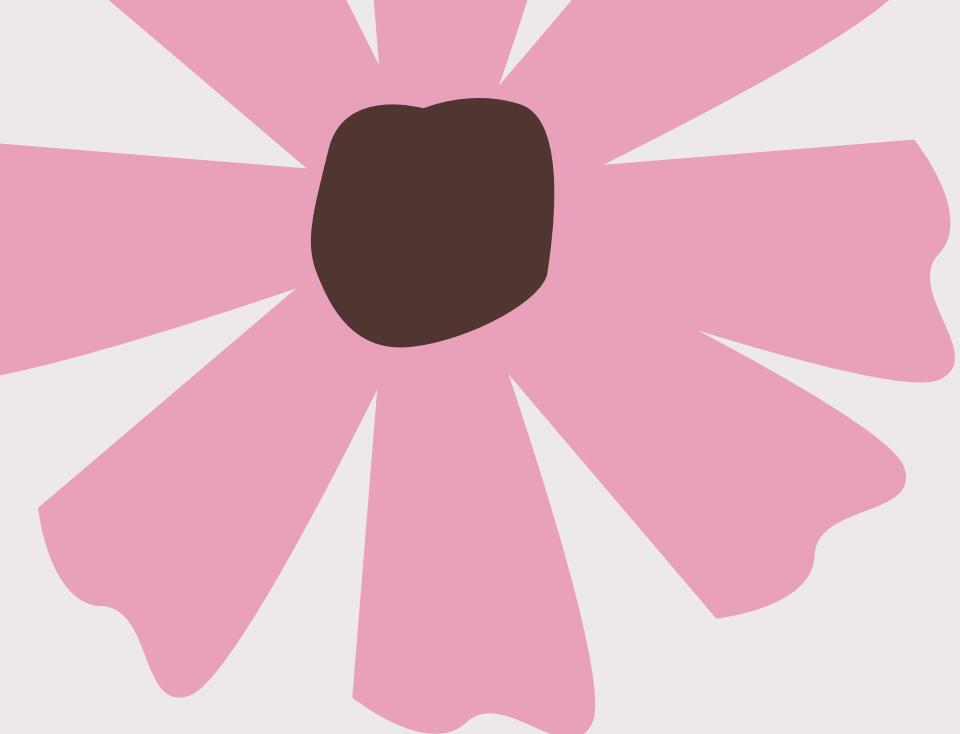


Definition

- Abortion is a health care intervention that ends a pregnancy. It can also be called a *termination of pregnancy*.
 - Abortion treatment is managed by a qualified health care provider using medication or a surgical (in-clinic) procedure.
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Definition

- With a medication abortion, a pregnant person takes two *abortion pills*. One pill stops the pregnant person's body from producing pregnancy hormones. The second pill helps the uterus expel the embryo or fetus.
- Medication abortions are generally available up to 10 or 11 weeks from the first day of the pregnant person's last menstrual period.

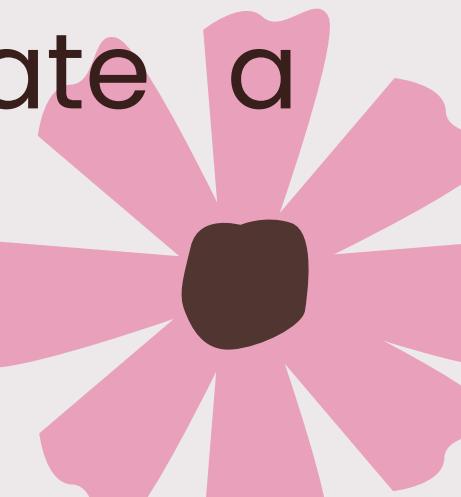


Definition

- Surgical (or in-clinic) abortion is **legal** in California until a fetus reaches 24 weeks, *unless* the life or health of the pregnant person is at risk.
 - If you are pregnant and considering having an abortion, talk to a trusted adult or professional **as soon as possible** as timely treatment is important and depends on the stage of pregnancy.
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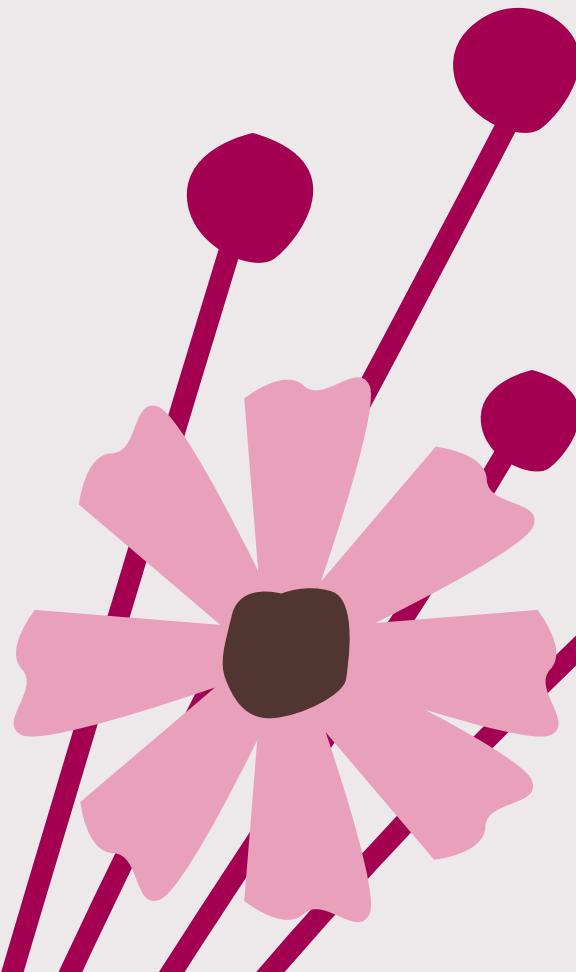


Is Abortion Safe?

- Medication abortion is safe when prescribed by a doctor and managed by a qualified medical professional, or administered in a clinic, hospital, or other medical setting.
 - Do **not** buy medication online or from a friend! You may be buying something that may seriously harm or even kill you.
 - Unauthorized medication may not effectively terminate a pregnancy, resulting in more invasive medical attention.
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Is Abortion Safe?



- Surgical abortion is safe when performed in a clinic, hospital, or other medical setting using sterilized tools and devices that monitor the health of the pregnant person during and after the procedure.
- A surgical abortion can be **deadly** if performed by a person lacking medical training and experience and/or performed outside of a clinic or hospital setting with unsafe or unsterilized tools.

DEBUNKING MYTHS & TABOOS

About Abortion Access





Myths

1

I heard that abortion is illegal.
I'm scared that I won't be
able to get an abortion in
California if I need one.

2

My case is still in California.
But since I'm placed in a
state where abortion is
illegal, I won't be able to get
the treatment I need.

Facts

1

- In a case called *Dobbs v. Jackson*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that there is no recognized constitutional right to an abortion. The decision itself did not make abortion illegal.
- The result of the decision is that it is now up to the voters of each state (or the state legislature) to decide whether to keep abortion legal under any circumstance, with restrictions, or make it illegal.

Facts

- Following the *Dobbs* decision, Governor Newsom signed legislation protecting patients and medical providers from civil liability for receiving, aiding, or providing abortion care.
- This means that abortion is **legal** in California.
- California youth in care have a right to receive abortion care, should they elect to have it.

2

Facts

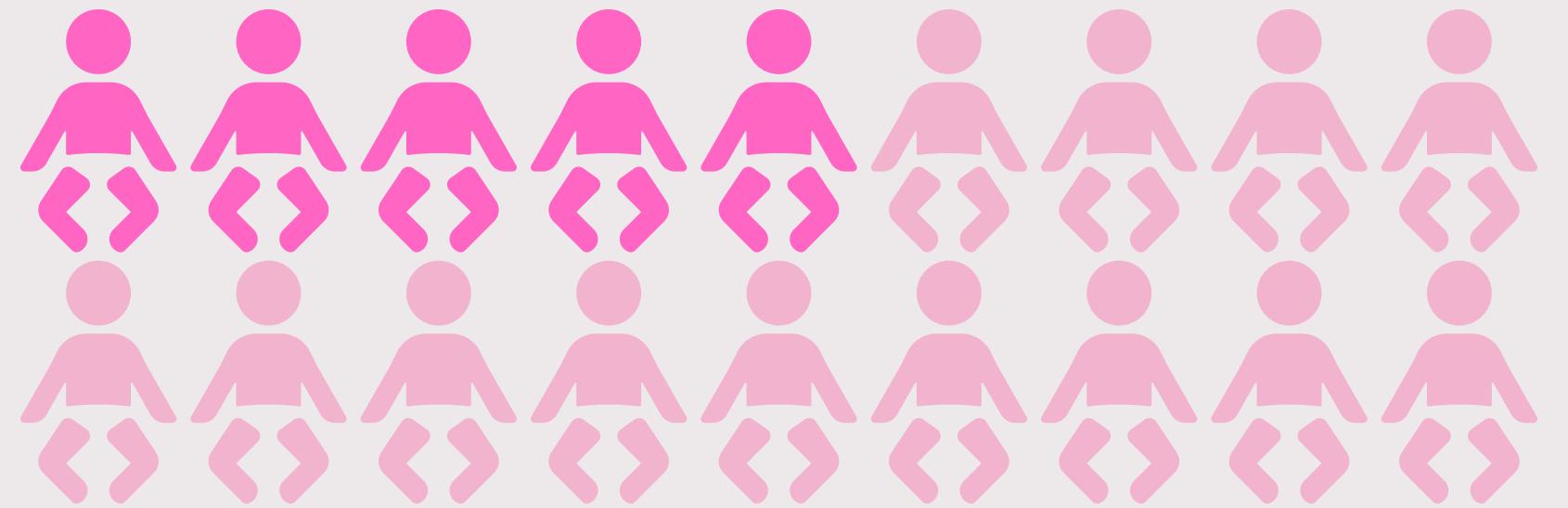
- Remember that Abortion is **legal** in California.
- Foster youth living in California have a right to receive safe abortion care. This right extends to California foster youth placed in other states too!
- If you are a California foster youth who is placed in a state where abortion is illegal, you **retain** your right to safe and timely abortion care.

2

Facts

- Under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), California retains jurisdiction over your case and important decisions relating to you. So the rights recognized in California are extended to you wherever you are placed.
- If you are living out-of-state and need safe abortion services, make sure to contact your California Dependency attorney **as soon as possible** to discuss your options and legal rights.

Debunking Taboos



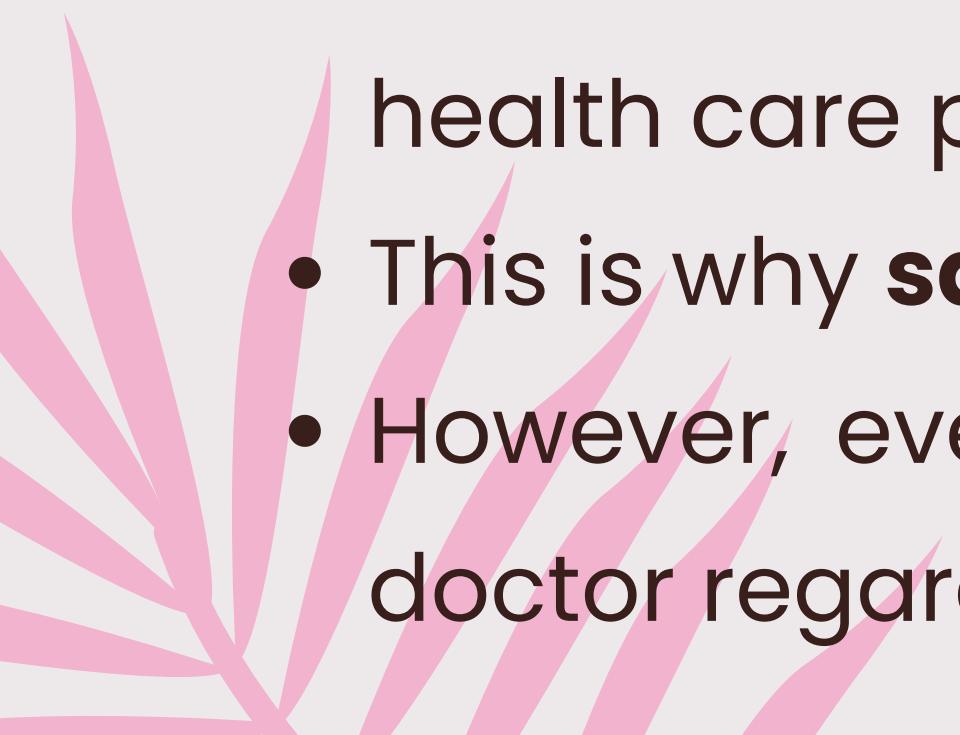
Am I a Bad Person?

- Choosing to end a pregnancy does not make you a bad person!
- You have a right to make personal and informed decisions about your body and your health that are in your best interest.
- The decision to terminate a pregnancy is **yours** to make and the law is on your side in California.



Debunking Taboos

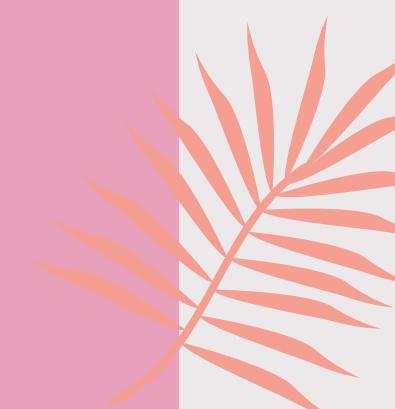
Will I Be Able To Have a Baby When I'm Older?

- When performed safely by a qualified health care provider in a clinic, hospital, or other medical setting, surgical abortion will not affect your ability to become pregnant or have a baby when you are ready.
 - The same holds true for medication abortion managed by a qualified health care professional.
 - This is why **safe** abortion access is so important for pregnant people!
 - However, everyone's body is different and you should consult your doctor regarding your specific situation.
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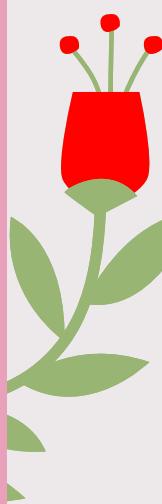
Where can I get help?



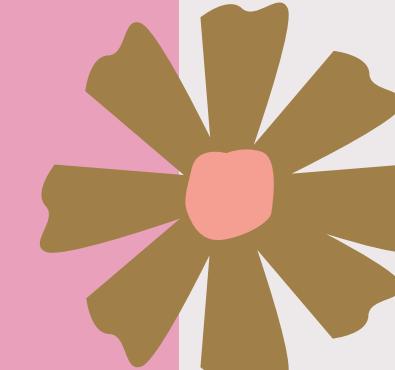
Your Teacher(s), Counselor(s), School Principal, Administrator, Psychologist, Nurse, Resource Officer.



Your Dependency Attorney, Public Defender, DCFS Social Worker, FFA Social Worker, Probation Officer, Therapist, Mentor, CASA.



Any Planned Parenthood Clinic, Your Regular Doctor/Physician, Hospital Emergency Room (in case of an emergency), Reproductive Health Equity Project (RHEP).



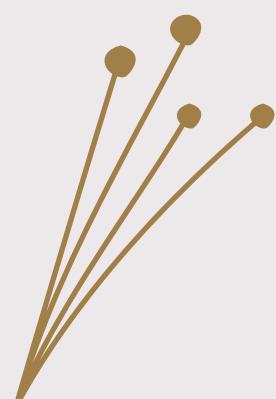
Do not attempt to terminate a pregnancy on your own! Talk to a trusted adult about arranging safe abortion services from a qualified medical professional.

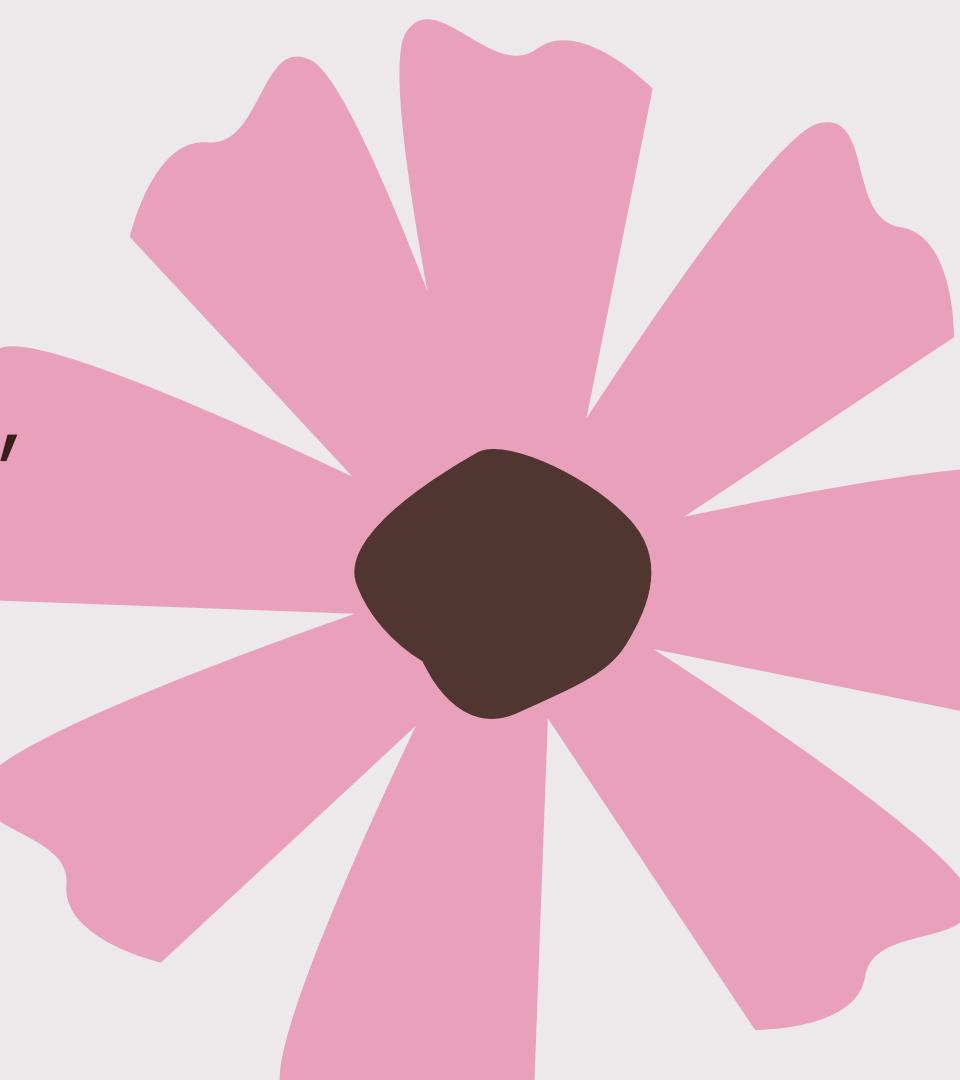
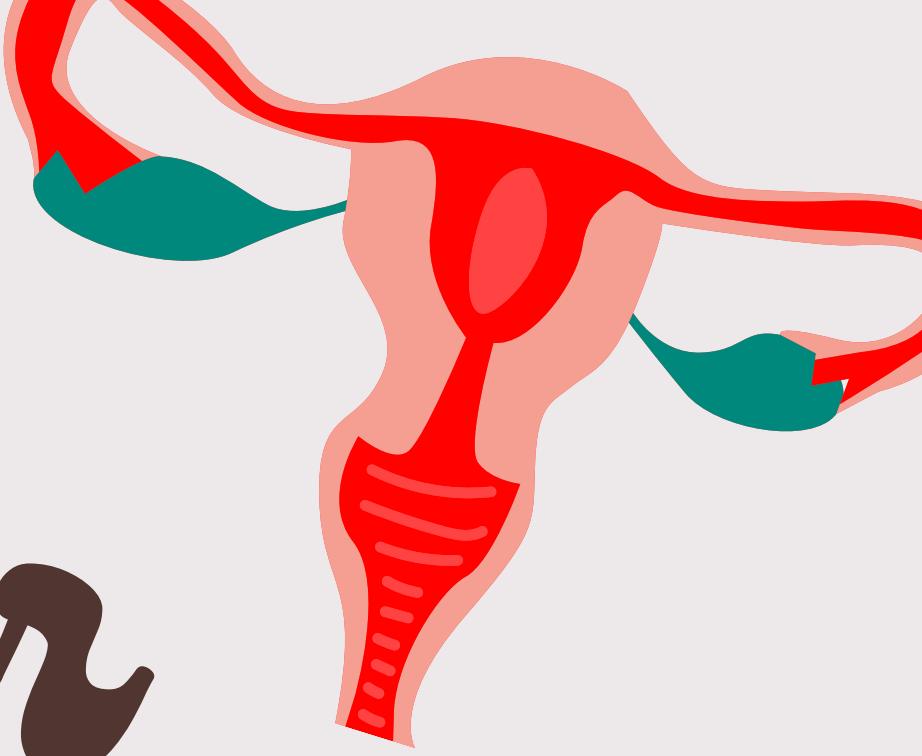
Conclusion

Whether your questions are big or small,
easy or complicated, reach out to a trusted
adult or professional for advice!

Social media and the internet are **not** the
best sources of accurate information.

When in doubt....
REACH OUT!!!





Thank you for listening!

When it comes to your body and health,
remember to always ask questions!

A Women and Girls Program [Publication](#)