



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Public Health Division

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To:	Santa Cruz County Healthcare Providers
From:	Gail Newel, MD, MPH, County Health Officer
Subject:	Reproductive Health
Date:	May 19, 2022

Situational Update:

The purpose of this advisory is to reassure the healthcare community that a full range of reproductive services remains accessible in Santa Cruz County. No changes to reproductive healthcare services and access are anticipated in the County. Resources for referral and further information are also provided.

The potential for the United States Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade* has raised concerns about the future of reproductive rights and services in Santa Cruz County. This advisory informs the Santa Cruz County healthcare community that a Supreme Court decision will not change access to reproductive health services, including abortion, in Santa Cruz County.

The potential Supreme Court ruling would allow states to set their own policies. California lawmakers have indicated they will not limit abortion services and are considering changing the state constitution to strengthen Californians' reproductive rights.

We affirm that access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is fundamental to our wellbeing as individuals, families, and communities.

RESOURCES

Reproductive health services can be accessed in Santa Cruz County through a variety of means. All Santa Cruz County primary care providers are equipped to provide options counseling to residents in a non-judgmental, supportive, and confidential manner. California public [schools provide](#) sexual and reproductive health education, resources, and linkage to care for middle and high school students. Youth [can consent](#) to care at age 12 and up, or 10 and up for youth in foster care.

The following resources are available to all residents:

Planned Parenthood [Santa Cruz: 831-426-5550](#); [Watsonville: 831-724-7525](#) Both sites offer full-scope reproductive and sexual health care.

[All Options Toll-Free Talkline 1-888-493-0092](#) Supportive, non-judgmental, free counseling to discuss pregnancy, parenting, abortion, adoption, infertility, or pregnancy loss.

[Plan C Website](#) run by the National Women's Health Network that helps people locate services in their community.

Santa Cruz County Public Health will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates to community providers, as needed.

***Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*

***Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*

***Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.*