

TJA Best Practices for Trans-Inclusive Language in Abortion Coverage

People who are not women [do get pregnant](#) and [do have abortions](#). [One study in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology surveyed](#) thousands of transgender, nonbinary and gender-expansive people in the United States. Researchers found that, of those who had ever been pregnant, 32% reported that at least one pregnancy ended in abortion.

It is unnecessary to avoid the word “women” by substituting phrases like “birthing people,” “people with uteruses” and the like. This language can offend both transgender and cisgender people.

Instead use phrases like *abortion patients* or *people seeking abortions*, or other wording as applicable, e.g. *pregnant teens*. (In many contexts, something as simple as “patients” or “people” can suffice.)

Terms like *reproductive health care* or *gynecological care* are likewise preferable to *women’s health care*. Bear in mind that many people (cisgender and transgender) undergo medical procedures or have health conditions that alter their reproductive processes.

It is sometimes important to use more limited and specific language. For instance, if discussing a study that only includes cisgender women, it would be most accurate to use gender-specific language (e.g. “pregnant women”) to reference that study’s findings. If the word *women* is preferable but transgender and nonbinary people *are also* referenced, phrasing like *women and other abortion patients* can provide an inclusive alternative.



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