

The landscape of abortion-related content suppression as seen by reproductive health, rights, and justice professionals

Prepared by Reproaction Education Fund for RightsCon '23

Content suppression was, and remains, a deeply problematic issue in a world increasingly hostile to abortion. And while organizations and content creators are finding ways around the confusing maze of suppression to make sure their content is seen – like spelling it “aborti0n” – this raises questions as to how many are actually getting the information they need and how many are missing vital information to make time-based decisions when posts are incorrectly removed and reinstated.

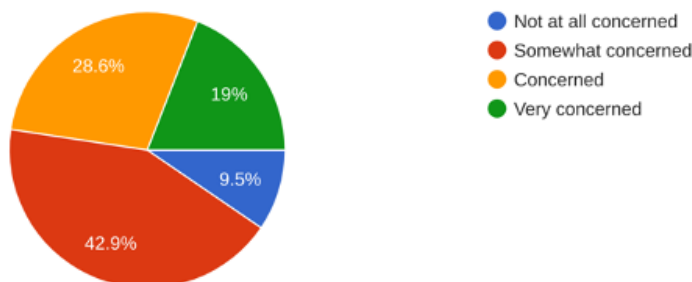
Further, content suppression is also a resource issue for organizations: time by staff spent trying to get content approved/reinstated takes away from other work organizations are trying to do. The onus must be on the tech companies to create and then stick to clear protocols. If they want to be pro-abortion, they must take responsibility for their products to perform in a pro-abortion way.

Anti-abortion disinformation has also had a detrimental effect on reproductive justice organizations. Organizations report that they spend a lot of time countering disinformation and educating abortion seekers on the safety of abortions as well as what actually occurs during an abortion. This is also a safety concern for abortion seekers who may not know what is or is not valid health information and creates fear in those who are seeking abortions. Anti-abortion fake clinics are often the driving force of disinformation regarding abortions.

This report illustrates responses to a survey of leaders in the reproductive health, rights, and justice movement about online abortion information, collected and analyzed by Reproaction.

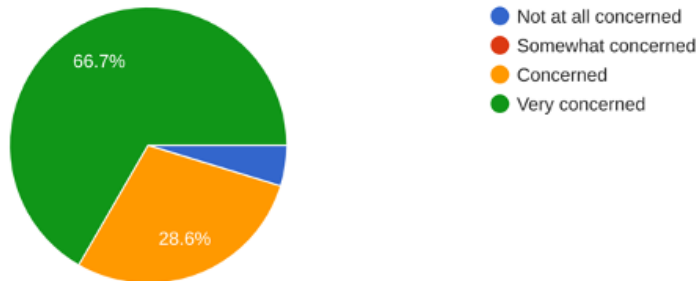
9. Before the Dobbs decision in June 2022, how concerned would you say you were with information suppression and the state of accurate abortion information on social media platforms?

21 responses



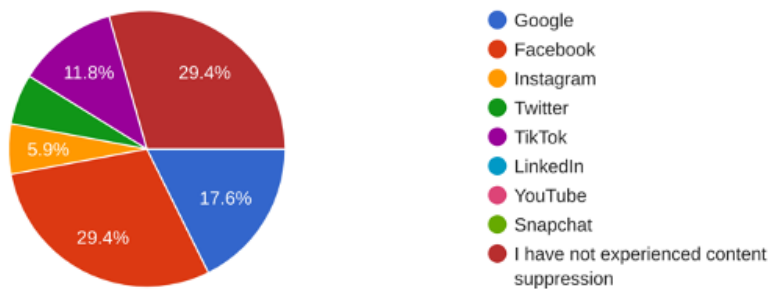
10. Post-Dobbs, how would you rate your concern over information suppression and the state of accurate abortion information on social media platforms?

21 responses



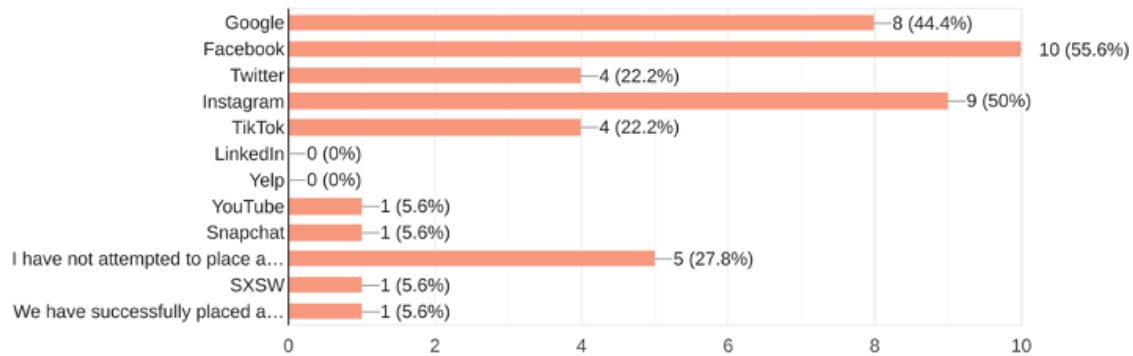
18. If you have experienced content suppression, which platform would you say you have seen the most issues with?

17 responses



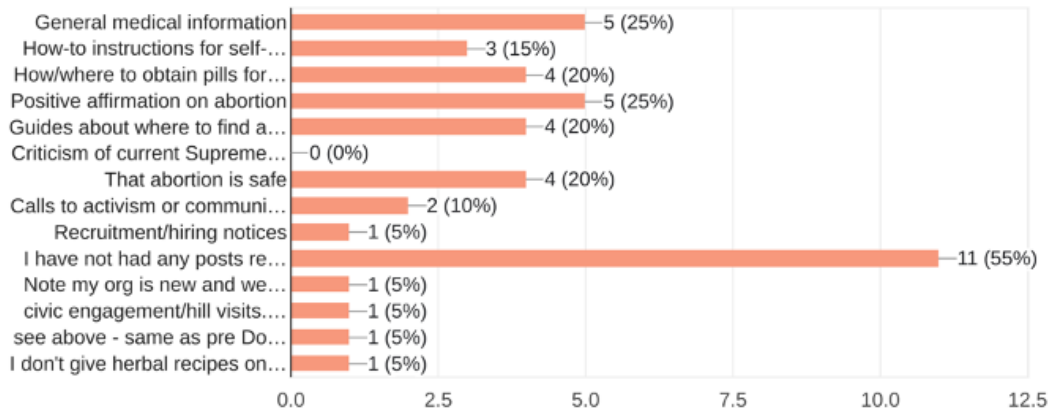
6. Have you ever attempted and been unsuccessful at placing paid ads on any of the following platforms? (Please check all that apply)

18 responses



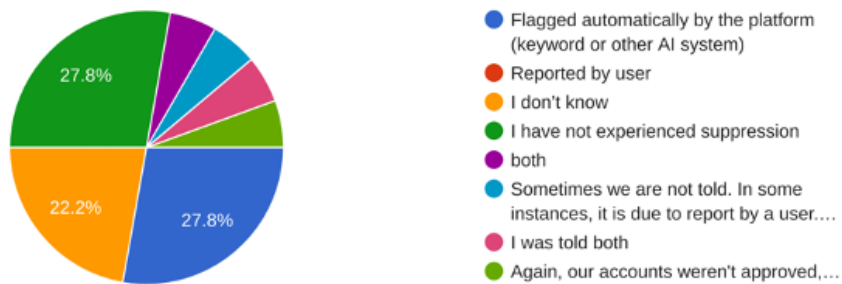
11. Post-Dobbs have you experienced any of the following information being removed from your social media? (Please check all that apply)

20 responses



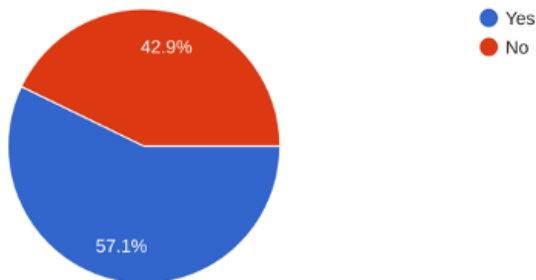
16. If you have experienced suppression, have you been told it is being flagged automatically by the platform, reported by another user, or you don't know?

18 responses



33. Have you ever reported anti-abortion disinformation to social media platforms?

21 responses



34. What action would you most like to see from tech companies to remedy this situation of allowing anti-abortion disinformation to flourish?

21 responses



Methodology:

- *A Google form survey was sent to reproductive health, rights, and justice stakeholders over the last weeks of 2022.*
- *The survey was sent to 65 prospective participants and 21 responses were received.*
- *Respondents came from a variety of movement work categories but the top three were: Advocacy (66.7%), Information Sharing and Support (52.4%) and Telehealth and Direct Care Provider (19% each)*
- *As the survey dealt with online misinformation and suppression, respondents were asked which platforms they or their organizations used most. The top three were Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.*

This report is a preliminary draft prepared for advance use by attendees of RightsCon 2023. A complete version of this report will be available in Q4 of this year.