

OREGON IS ONE OF 17 STATES RECEIVING A "B-" OR HIGHER

U.S. OVERALL RECEIVES A "D+"



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon maintained the same grade as last year and received an "A" in the Population Institute's fourth annual report card on reproductive health and rights, while the U.S. as a whole received a "D+", a decrease from last year's "C". Nineteen states receiving a failing grade.

In releasing this year's report on 2015, Robert Walker, the organization's president, said, "Every state has a role to play in ensuring access to affordable reproductive health care. Today's report card indicates that Oregon is doing better than most states, but there is still room for improvement. Without continued progress they will continue to see high rates of unintended and unwanted pregnancies, including teen pregnancies. That should be a matter of concern to women and their families."

Using nine criteria, the Institute's report card ranked each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia on four broad indicators relating to reproductive health and rights:

EFFECTIVENESS (30 points): Statewide, what percentage of pregnancies is unintended, and how high is the state's teenage pregnancy rate?

PREVENTION (20 points): Does the state promote comprehensive sex education in the schools, and does it support access to emergency contraception?

AFFORDABILITY (25 points): Does the state have policies designed to make birth control affordable to uninsured and low-income individuals?

ACCESS (25 points): Does the state impose harassing or burdensome requirements on those seeking family planning or abortion services?

Based upon their composite scores (0-100), each state received a "core" grade (A, B, C, D or F), but some states received an additional "plus" or a "minus" reflecting factors, such as pending legislation, not accounted for in the core grade.

OREGON RECEIVED AN "A" GRADE BECAUSE:

Oregon mandates comprehensive sex education.

Oregon has expanded their Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act.

Oregon mandates that emergency rooms provide information about emergency contraception and dispense it upon request.

Oregon has no laws that make it unnecessarily difficult for a woman to have an abortion if she chooses to do so.

Oregon received a "plus" because they enacted a bill that allows pharmacists to prescribe and dispense oral contraceptives to anyone over the age of 18 or with a prior prescription.

Only seventeen states received a "B-" or higher. Oregon is one of just four states that received an "A" along with California, New Jersey and Washington. Nineteen states received a failing grade ("F") including: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho,

Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming.

Walker warned that "A woman's reproductive health should not depend on where she lives, but increasingly it does. Women in many areas are experiencing reduced access to reproductive health care services." Walker noted that 21 states have refused to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, leaving tens of millions of women without improved access to contraception and other health care services. Walker also noted that 287 new abortion restrictions have been approved since January 2011, and that several states have cut funding for family planning services.

Sex education in the schools also varies widely. Some states require no sex education, while others fail to require any instruction about use of condoms, birth control or the prevention of HIV/AIDS. As a result, the quality of sex education can—and does—vary widely from one school district to the next. And, unfortunately, despite the scientific consensus on comprehensive sex education, states continue to limit sex education. Oregon mandates comprehensive sex education in public schools, covering abstinence, HIV prevention, and different methods of

contraception. Oregon also requires that the education be medically accurate.

Despite the relatively high marks received by Oregon, Walker warned that "No one should be complaisant. Nationally, the reproductive health and rights of women remain under fierce political assault. The political attacks on Planned Parenthood are forcing the closures of clinics providing contraception and other essential preventative health care services. Worse still, the physical assaults on clinics—ranging from vandalism and arson to the devastating shooting that occurred at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs—are creating a climate of fear, one that may deter many women from visiting clinics for even routine health care services, including contraception."

Walker stressed that this report should be a call to action. "Every woman in America should have access to reproductive health care, and her reproductive rights should not depend on where she lives, but state and local disparities are increasing. Similarly, every high school student should receive comprehensive sex education in the school, but students in many school districts are being denied the information they need to avoid a pregnancy or STIs. Reproductive health is important in every state and every locale. It does not matter where you live, there's a lot of work to be done."



OREGON 90.1 / 100

BREAKDOWN OF SCORES



EFFECTIVENESS

TEEN PREGNANCY RATE 10.7 / 15

Oregon has a teen pregnancy rate of 47 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19. We set 30 pregnancies per 1,000 teen women by 2020 as the goal, which indicates that Oregon has achieved 71.6% of the objective.

UNINTENDED PREGNANCY RATE 14.3 / 15

46% of Oregon's total pregnancies are unintended, compared to the Healthy People 2020 objective of 44%. Thus, Oregon has achieved 95.5% of the target rate.



PREVENTION

SEX EDUCATION 15 / 15

Oregon mandates comprehensive sex education in public schools, covering abstinence, HIV prevention, and different methods of contraception. Oregon also requires that the education be medically accurate.

ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION 5 / 5

Oregon mandates that emergency rooms provide information about emergency contraception and dispense it upon request.



AFFORDABILITY

MEDICAID EXPANSION 15 / 15

Oregon has expanded their Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act.

MEDICAID FAMILY PLANNING EXPANSIONS 7 / 10

Oregon offers Medicaid expansions to cover family planning services for people who otherwise do not qualify for Medicaid. The expansion, in the form of a waiver, is offered to people with income levels up to 250% of the federal poverty line. The family planning expansion is also extended to include men as well as individuals under the age of 19.



ACCESS

ABORTION RESTRICTIONS 10 / 10

Oregon has no laws that make it unnecessarily difficult for a woman to have an abortion if she chooses to do so.

TRAP LAWS 5 / 5

Oregon has not enacted TRAP Laws which are targeted regulation of abortion providers beyond what is necessary to ensure patient safety.

ABORTION ACCESS 8 / 10

22% of women in Oregon live in a county without an abortion provider.

For the complete report card and additional information, please visit: www.populationinstitute.org/reportcard

A special thanks to the **Guttmacher Institute** whose research made this report card possible.



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