

The Population Institute Releases its 2013 Report Card on Reproductive Health and Rights



WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Population Institute today released its second annual report card on reproductive health and rights in the U.S., and the results were not encouraging. Thirteen states receive a failing grade, including Missouri. The U.S. as a whole received a “C-.”

In releasing the report card, Robert Walker, the organization’s President, said, “Every woman should be able to access affordable reproductive health care and young people should be getting comprehensive sex education in their school no matter where they live. With a failing grade it is clear that Missouri is not meeting the reproductive health needs of women in the state. Failing to meet these needs can contribute to high rates of unintended pregnancies, including teen pregnancies.”

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

ACCESS (20 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” for factors not reflected in the core grade, such as pending changes or legislation.

Missouri received a failing grade, in part, because:

- Missouri has the following laws, which make it unnecessarily difficult for a woman to have an abortion if she chooses to do so: the woman must undergo mandatory counseling including

information on fetal pain; there is a mandatory waiting period of 24 hours between counseling and procedure; parental consent is required; there is limited insurance coverage; and clinicians who perform medication abortion procedures are required to be licensed physicians.

- 73% of women in Missouri live in a county without an abortion provider.
- Missouri mandates HIV education, but it does not require that condoms be part of the curriculum.
- Missouri has decided not to expand their Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act, but 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 185% of the federal poverty line.

Missouri received a “minus” because of a law passed that prohibits using telemedicine to remotely administer the initial dose of medication for abortion.

Only seventeen states received a B- or higher. Just four states (California, Maryland, Oregon and Washington) received an “A”. Oregon received the highest composite score. Thirteen states received a failing grade (“F”). Other states receiving a failing grade included Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

Walker said, “This year should have brought increased access to reproductive health care for women under the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately 25 states, including Missouri, have refused to expand their Medicaid coverage leaving millions without increased access to services. It is imperative that people who care about reproductive health and rights know how their state ranks vis-à-vis other states.”

Despite the continued decline of the teenage pregnancy rate, America’s teenage pregnancy rate is still higher than any other industrialized nation; nearly 3 out of 10 teenage girls will become pregnant. Nearly half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended. To change this we must ensure that women, including young women, have access to affordable reproductive health services and young people get a comprehensive sex education.



Missouri 43.8 / 100

Breakdown of Scores



EFFECTIVENESS

Teen Pregnancy Rate

14.5 / 15

Missouri has a teen pregnancy rate of 65 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19. Healthy People 2020 set 63 births per 1,000 teen women as the goal, which indicates that Missouri has achieved 96.7% of the objective.

Unintended Pregnancy Rate

12.3 / 15

52% of Missouri's total pregnancies are unintended, compared to the Healthy People 2020 objective of 44%. Thus, Missouri has achieved 81.8% of the target rate.



PREVENTION

Sex Education

0 / 15

Missouri mandates HIV education, but it does not require that condoms be part of the curriculum.

Access to Emergency Contraception

0 / 5

Missouri has no laws affirming a woman's right to emergency contraception in the emergency room.



AFFORDABILITY

Medicaid Expansion

0 / 10

Missouri has decided not to expand their Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act.

Medicaid Family Planning Expansions

5 / 10

Missouri 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 185% of the federal poverty line.

Funding for Family Planning Clinics

5 / 10

Missouri spent \$118 in the fiscal year 2010 on family planning services per woman in need.



ACCESS

Abortion Restrictions

4 / 10

Missouri has the following laws, which make it unnecessarily difficult for a woman to have an abortion if she chooses to do so: the woman must undergo mandatory counseling including information on fetal pain; there is a mandatory waiting period of 24 hours between counseling and procedure; parental consent is required; there is limited insurance coverage; and clinicians who perform medication abortion procedures are required to be licensed physicians.

Abortion Access

3 / 10

73% of women in Missouri live in a county without an abortion provider.