WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Population Institute released today its third annual report card on reproductive health and rights in the U.S., and the results, while showing slight improvement over last year, were still disappointing. The U.S. as a whole received a “C”, an improvement over last year’s “C-”, but 15 states still received a failing grade. Washington, which received an “A” grade for the third year in a row, was one of 17 states receiving a “B-” or higher on this year’s report card.

In releasing this year’s report on 2014, Robert Walker, the organization’s president, said, “States play a significant role in ensuring that every woman has access to affordable reproductive health care and that teenagers receive the comprehensive sex education they need. Today’s report card indicates that Washington is doing a relatively good job of meeting the reproductive health needs of women, but there is still room for improvement. Rates of unintended pregnancies, including teen pregnancies, are still too high.”

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” reflecting factors, such as pending legislation, not accounted for in the core grade.

**WASHINGTON RECEIVED AN “A” GRADE BECAUSE:**

**Washington** requires HIV education with information on condoms in its sex education curriculum, and requires that it be medically accurate.

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

**Washington** has expanded their Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act, and Washington 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 200% of the federal poverty line. The family planning expansion is also extended to include men as well as individuals under the age of 19.

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

Just four states (California, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington) received an “A”. Fifteen states received a failing grade (“F”) including Alabama, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wyoming.

Walker said, “This year should have been a great victory for women’s reproductive health with tumbling teen pregnancy rates and increased access to reproductive health care for women under the Affordable Care Act. Unfortunately, 23 states have refused to expand their Medicaid coverage leaving millions without increased access to family planning services, and several states have enacted abortion restrictions that will have the practical effect of limiting a woman’s access to family planning clinics or legal abortion services.”

Nationally, the teen pregnancy rate has continued its drop to historic lows, registering a 51% decline since its 1990 peak and a 15% drop between 2008 and 2010. Despite the improvement, America’s teenage pregnancy rate is still higher than other industrialized nations and nearly half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended.

Walker stressed that this year’s report card should be a spur to action, both locally and nationally: “While Washington had a good grade, it was not perfect. It is imperative that people who care about reproductive health and rights keep pressing for policy and funding that will promote and protect reproductive health and rights.”
WASHINGTON

**EFFECTIVENESS**

**TEEN PREGNANCY RATE**

15 / 15
Washington has a teen pregnancy rate of 49 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19. Healthy People 2020 set 53 pregnancies per 1,000 teen women as the goal, which indicates that Washington has surpassed the objective.

**UNINTENDED PREGNANCY RATE**

13.6 / 15
48% of Washington’s total pregnancies are unintended, compared to the Healthy People 2020 objective of 44%. Thus, Washington has achieved 90.9% of the target rate.

**PREVENTION**

**SEX EDUCATION**

8 / 15
Washington requires HIV education with information on condoms in its sex education curriculum, and requires that it be medically accurate.

**ACCESS TO EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION**

5 / 5
Washington mandates that emergency rooms provide information about emergency contraception and dispense it upon request.

**AFFORDABILITY**

**MEDICAID EXPANSION**

10 / 10
Washington has expanded their Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act.

**MEDICAID FAMILY PLANNING EXPANSIONS**

7 / 10
Washington 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 200% 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
Washington has no laws that make it unnecessarily difficult for a woman to have an abortion if she chooses to do so.

**ABORTION ACCESS**

9 / 10
13% of women in Washington live in a county without an abortion provider.

For the complete report card and additional information, please visit: [www.populationinstitute.org/reportcard](http://www.populationinstitute.org/reportcard)

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