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

In releasing the report card, Robert Walker, the organization’s President, said, “A failing grade suggests that Tennessee is failing to meet the reproductive health needs of women in the state. Every woman,” Walker said, “needs access to affordable reproductive health care and young people need comprehensive sex education in the schools. When states fail to provide these services it contributes to high rates of unintended pregnancies, including teenage 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?

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

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

**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.

**Tennessee received a failing grade, in part, because:**

- It has a high unintended pregnancy rate where 58% of Tennessee’s total pregnancies are unintended.
- Tennessee does mandate sex education in public schools, but it requires abstinence-only sex education, a form that research has considered ineffective.
- It currently does not offer an expansion for family planning services to the Medicaid plan.
- Tennessee has no law requiring private insurance companies to cover contraceptives

Only twelve states received a B- or higher. Just three states (California, Oregon and Washington) received an “A.” Washington received an “A+” rating and the highest composite score. Nine states received a failing grade (“F”). Other states receiving a failing grade included Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

Walker said, “Voters who care about reproductive health and rights need to know how their state ranks vis-à-vis other states. While the U.S. performs poorly compared to most other developed countries in the world, some states, like Tennessee, rank significantly lower.”

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.

In issuing the report, Walker warned that the reproductive health and rights of women in Tennessee and other states is under continuing assault. “Women and men who care about reproductive health and rights need to make their voices heard.”

For the complete report card and additional information, please visit: [www.populationinstitute.org/reportcard](http://www.populationinstitute.org/reportcard)
Tennessee 33.2 / 100

Breakdown of Scores

EFFECTIVENESS

Teen Pregnancy Rate
11 / 15
Tennessee has a teen pregnancy rate of 79 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19. Healthy People 2020 set 63 pregnancies per 1,000 teen women as the goal, which indicates that Tennessee has achieved 73.3% of the objective.

Unintended Pregnancy Rate
10.2 / 15
58% of Tennessee’s total pregnancies are unintended, compared to the Healthy People 2020 objective of 44%. Thus, Tennessee has achieved 68.2% of the target rate.

PREVENTION

Sex Education
0 / 10
Tennessee does mandate sex education in public schools, but it requires abstinence-only sex education, a form that research has considered ineffective.

Access to Emergency Contraception
0 / 10
Tennessee has no laws affirming a woman’s right to emergency contraception.

AFFORDABILITY

Medicaid Expansions
0 / 10
Tennessee currently does not offer an expansion for family planning services to the Medicaid plan.

Insurance Coverage of Contraceptives
0 / 10
Tennessee has no law requiring private insurance companies to cover contraceptives.

ACCESS

Abortion Restrictions
8 / 10
Tennessee has the following laws, which make it unnecessarily difficult for a woman to have an abortion if she chooses to do so: partial birth abortion is banned; and parental consent is required.

Clinic Access Protection
0 / 10
Tennessee has no laws that protect people’s access to family planning clinics.

Funding for Family Planning Clinics
4 / 10
Tennessee spent $5,724,000 in the fiscal year 2010 on family planning clinics serving low-income households. This amount, when divided by the state’s 1,247,866 women of reproductive age (15-44), represents an expenditure of $4.59 per woman.