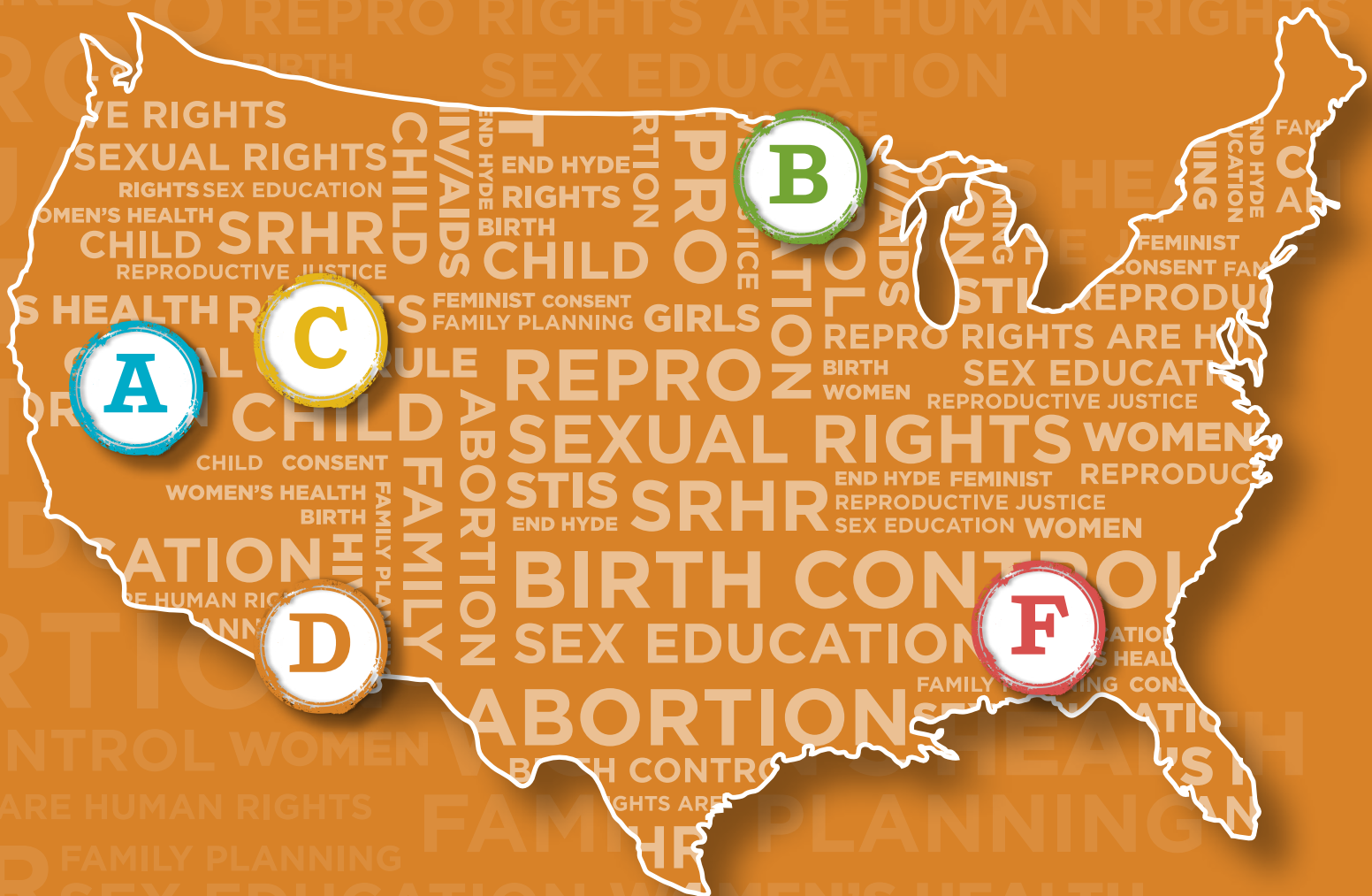


# THE STATE OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS: A 50-State Report Card





**22 States Receive  
a B or Higher**



**26 States Receive  
a D or Lower**

**In recent years the United States of America has become “The Divided States of Reproductive Health and Rights,” as there is a growing gap between states that prioritize reproductive health and rights and those that do not. This trend is clearly reflected in this year’s report card, with 22 states earning a “B-” or higher on the report card and 26 states receiving a “D+” or lower.**

The ‘good news’ is that a number of attacks on reproductive health in Congress were beaten back in 2018, including attempts to defund Planned Parenthood. An effort to defund Title X, which provides federal assistance to family planning clinics serving low income households, was also blocked, as was a bid to zero-out funding for evidence-based sex education programs.

The Trump administration has sought by various regulatory maneuvers to limit access to reproductive health care, but many of those efforts have yet to be finalized.

With respect to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Trump administration has drafted a rule that would restrict the

“contraceptive mandate” by allowing employers and insurers to opt-out of birth control coverage for any religious or moral reason. The change could restrict or eliminate birth control coverage for millions of women. The final rule, however, is expected to take effect in January of 2019.

Also, the Trump administration has drafted a proposed rule that would prevent Title X-funded clinics from referring patients to abortion services. The “domestic gag rule,” as it is known, among other things would cut off funding to many existing providers, including Planned Parenthood affiliates.

Because a number of the new policies proposed by the administration have yet to take

effect, the national grade, which dropped to a “D-” in 2017, remained unchanged in 2018. The outlook for 2019 is a mixed picture. On the one hand, it’s anticipated that the newly elected House of Representatives will be able to preserve funding for family planning and reproductive health programs, while also pushing back against any policy restrictions proposed by the Trump-Pence administration or its allies in the Republican-controlled Senate. On the other hand, the appointment of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court and the confirmation of dozens of other Trump-nominated judges to the lower federal courts, makes it more likely that the federal courts will curb, in some form, access to reproductive health care in the U.S.

## The United States Gets a D-

**The United States as a whole has been given a grade of D-. Here’s why:**



The retirement of Justice Kennedy and appointment of Justice Kavanaugh raises concerns that the federal courts will curb access to reproductive health care.

The general atmosphere around reproductive health and rights has continued to be extremely hostile across the U.S.

Congress and the administration has taken aim at eliminating Title X, defunding Planned Parenthood, and gutting teen pregnancy prevention programs.

The Trump administration expanded the exemptions to the birth control benefit to allow any employer or insurer to opt-out of birth control coverage for any religious or moral reason.



GRADING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

While most Americans are aware of the national political debate over birth control and abortion, many are unaware of the status of reproductive health and rights in their own state. In the interest of an informed public debate, the Population Institute, for the fifth year in a row, is releasing a report card that gives an overview of what's happening in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

THE 50-STATE REPORT CARD

**Focus:** The 50-state report card focuses on four broad indicators or policies relating to reproductive health and rights:

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

**Prevention** (25 points): Does the state promote comprehensive sex education in the schools, support

access to emergency contraception in the emergency room, and allow minors to consent to contraceptive services?

**Affordability** (25 points): Has the state expanded Medicaid access under the Affordable Care Act? Does the state have policies designed to make birth control affordable to uninsured and low-income individuals, and do they allow insurance coverage of abortion services?

**Access** (20 points): Does the state impose harassing or burdensome requirements on those seeking family planning or abortion services?

CRITERIA AND SCORES

Eleven criteria are used in determining a state's composite score. States with the best grades will have:

1. A low rate of teenage pregnancy (15 points maximum)
2. A low rate of unintended pregnancy (15 points maximum)

3. Comprehensive sex education in the schools (15 points maximum)
4. Access to emergency contraception in the emergency room (5 points maximum)
5. Minors access to contraceptive services (5 points maximum)
6. Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (15 points maximum)
7. A Medicaid "waiver" expanding eligibility for family planning services (5 points maximum)
8. Insurance coverage of abortion services (5 points maximum)
9. An absence of burdensome abortion restrictions (10 points maximum)
10. An absence of TRAP Laws (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) (5 points maximum)
11. County-level access to family planning and abortion services (5 points maximum)

CORE GRADE

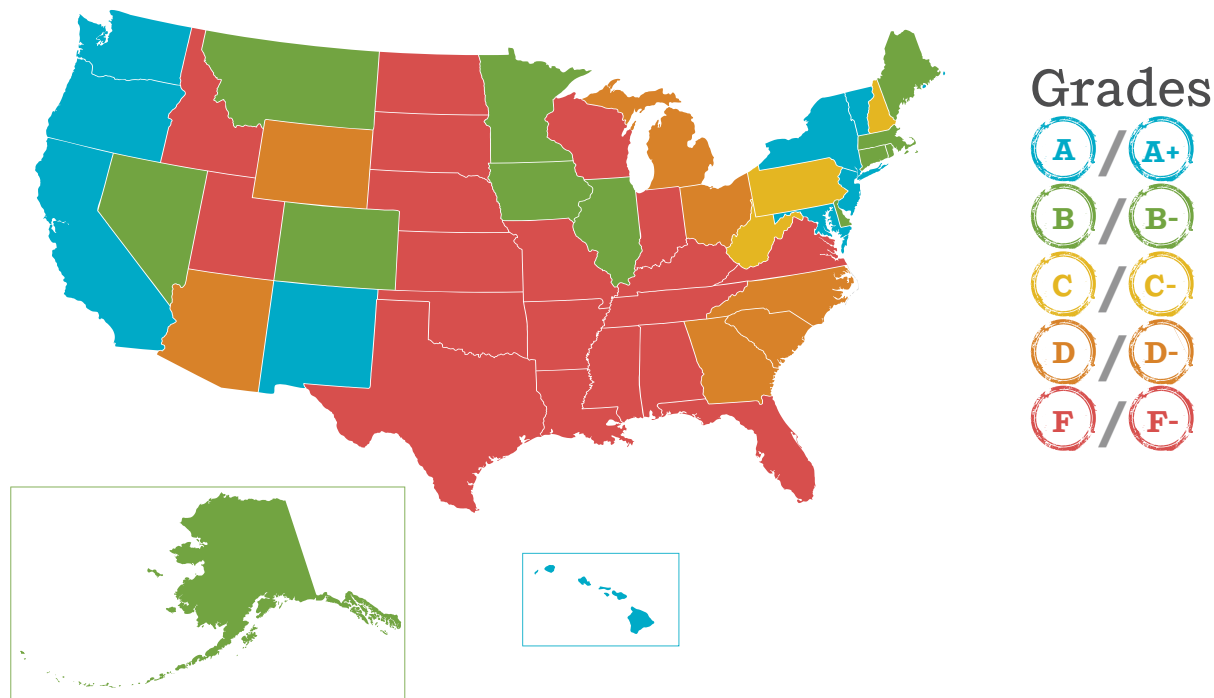
Each state is assigned a "core" grade based upon the following grading system:

A: 81-100 points      B: 66-80.9 points      C: 56-65.9 points      D: 46-55.9 points      F: < than 45.9 points

STATE	TOTAL SCORE	LETTER GRADE	STATE	TOTAL SCORE	LETTER GRADE	STATE	TOTAL SCORE	LETTER GRADE	STATE	TOTAL SCORE	LETTER GRADE
AL	40.2	F-	IL	77.7	B	MT	74.2	B-	RI	75.7	B+
AK	68	B	IN	41	F-	NE	31.5	F-	SC	49.7	D-
AZ	55.5	D-	IA	74.5	B-	NV	67.2	B	SD	28.2	F-
AR	42	F-	KS	36	F-	NH	64.7	C	TN	41.9	F-
CA	98	A+	KY	43	F-	NJ	86.7	A-	TX	36.7	F-
CO	74.5	B-	LA	41.8	F	NM	90.2	A+	UT	42	F
CT	79.7	B	ME	69.2	B	NY	86.7	A	VT	82.7	A
DE	76.3	B-	MD	86.2	A-	NC	55	D-	VA	42	F-
DC	87.8	A	MA	78.2	B-	ND	44.7	F-	WA	91.2	A+
FL	37.3	F	MI	52.5	D-	OH	51.5	D-	WV	63.7	C
GA	47	D	MN	74.7	B	OK	32.5	F	WI	39.7	F-
HI	88.5	A-	MS	30.7	F-	OR	97.5	A+	WY	51.2	D
ID	44.2	F	MO	35.5	F-	PA	57.7	C			

## FINAL GRADE:

If there are noteworthy developments or other important policies that are not reflected in the state's "core" grade, a state may be accorded a plus (+) or a minus (-), depending on how the changes are likely to impact reproductive health and rights.



## STATE BREAKDOWNS:

For state press releases and state-by-state breakdowns of the scoring, more information can be obtained at [www.populationinstitute.org/reportcard](http://www.populationinstitute.org/reportcard)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

About teenage pregnancy in the U.S., see

<https://www.guttmacher.org/report/us-teen-pregnancy-state-trends-2011>

About the rate of unintended pregnancies in the U.S., see

<https://www.guttmacher.org/reports/%20pregnancy-desires-and-pregnancies-state-level-estimates-2014>

About state abortion restrictions, see

<https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/overview-abortion-laws>

About State Medicaid Expansions, see

<http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicare-under-the-affordable-care-act/>

About state Medicaid family planning waivers, see

<https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/medicaid-family-planning-eligibility-expansions>

About sex education requirements at the state level, see

<https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/sex-and-hiv-education>

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**POPULATION  
INSTITUTE**

105 2nd St, NE, Washington, DC 20002 | 202-544-3300 | [www.populationinstitute.org](http://www.populationinstitute.org)