

A

C

F

B

THE STATE OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS:

A 50-State Report Card

F

The Divided States of Reproductive Health and Rights
23 States Receive a "B" or Higher/24 States Receive a "D" or Lower



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The Divided States of Reproductive Health and Rights

Since 2010 almost 500 abortion restrictions have been passed at the state level. These changes along with other restrictions on access to reproductive health care have created a landscape in which your ability to access reproductive health care is increasingly dependent on where you live. Our report card makes clear that we have become the “Divided States of Reproductive Health and Rights.” Twenty-three states this year earned a ‘B’ or higher, but 24 states received a ‘D’ or lower.

Reflecting the escalating toll inflicted by the Trump administration and its allies, the U.S. grade for 2019 was lowered to an ‘F’ from the ‘D-’ awarded in 2018. There were many federal setbacks in 2019, most notably, the finalization of a new set of rules for Title X, the 50-year old federal-state partnership that supports family planning clinics serving low-income households. Frequently referred to as the “domestic gag rule,” the new rules prohibit Title X family planning physicians and staff from counseling patients on abortion or referring them to abortion providers. In response to the new regulations, Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers dropped out of the program.

At the state level there is a deep divide between the states that are promoting reproductive health and rights and those restricting access. This year 21 states receiving a failing grade. Several of the states receiving failing grades have passed abortion restrictions that defy the *Roe v. Wade* guidelines in hopes of persuading the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the landmark ruling.

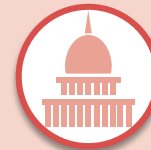
The United States as a whole has been given a grade of ‘F’. Here's why:



Title X clinics provide family planning and reproductive health care services to 4 million people a year, but the adoption of the “domestic gag rule” jeopardizes the integrity and future of the program. Several states and providers, including Planned Parenthood, have opted out rather than abide by the new restrictions. As traditional and trusted family providers drop out, the Trump administration is awarding Title X grants to “crisis pregnancy centers” run by staunch anti-abortion advocates, some of whom do not even provide contraceptive services to clients.



In addition to the appointments of Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Senate has confirmed dozens of Trump-nominated judges to the lower courts, raising 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.



The Trump administration is seeking to slash federal support for comprehensive – and evidence-based – sexuality education curricula that reduce the rate of teen pregnancy. In their place, the administration is promoting “sexual risk avoidance” programs that embrace the failed “abstinence-only” approach backed by conservatives.

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 eighth 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 schools, authorizes nurses to dispense medications, and allow minors to consent to contraceptive services?

AFFORDABILITY (25 points): 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. Authorizes nurses to dispense medications (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

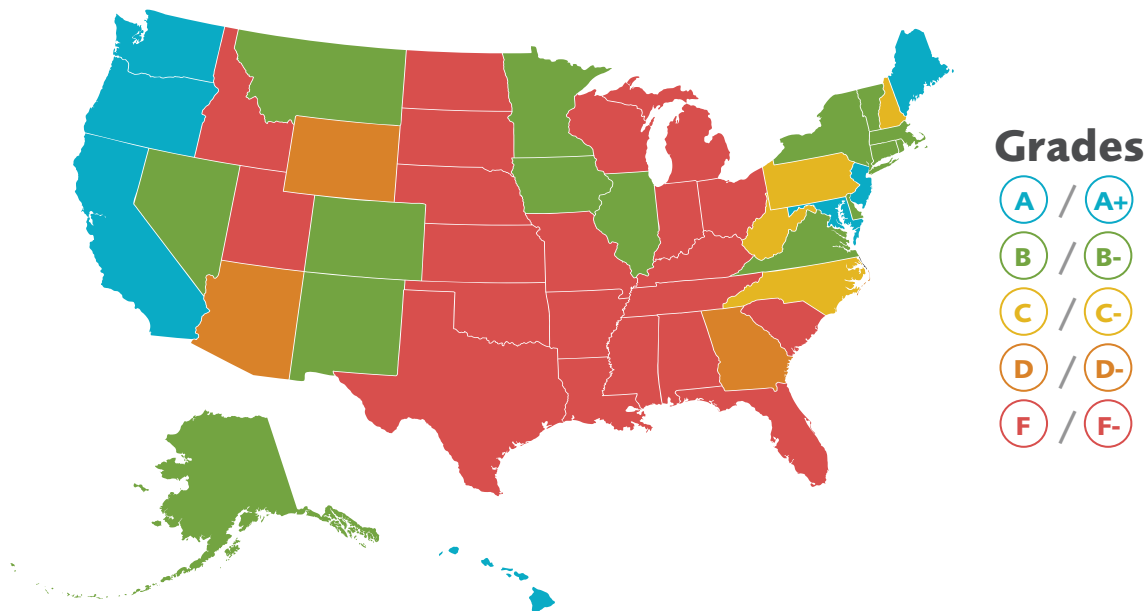
Each state is assigned a "core" grade based upon the following grading system:

A: 86-100 points **B:** 71-85.9 points **C:** 61-70.9 points **D:** 50-60.9 points **F:** < than 49.9 points

State	Total Score	Letter Grade	State	Total Score	Letter Grade
AL	40.2	F-	MT	76.7	B-
AK	73	B	NE	31.5	F
AZ	53.5	D-	NV	72.2	B
AR	44.5	F-	NH	69.7	C
CA	98	A+	NJ	91.7	A-
CO	72	B-	NM	83.2	B+
CT	74.7	B	NY	81.7	B
DE	81.3	B-	NC	62	C-
DC	82.8	B+	ND	49.7	F-
FL	42.3	F	OH	39.5	F-
GA	52	D-	OK	35.5	F
HI	88.5	A-	OR	95	A+
ID	49.2	F	PA	65.2	C-
IL	77.7	B	RI	81.7	B+
IN	41	F-	SC	47.2	F-
IA	78.5	B-	SD	33.2	F-
KS	35	F	TN	49.9	F-
KY	43.5	F-	TX	46.2	F-
LA	46.8	F-	UT	37	F-
ME	86.7	A	VT	82.7	B
MD	88.7	A-	VA	77	B-
MA	73.2	B-	WA	86.2	A+
MI	42.5	F-	WV	63.7	C
MN	71.2	B	WI	34.7	F-
MS	35.7	F-	WY	56.2	D
MO	38.5	F-			

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About teenage pregnancy in the U.S., see <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/us-adolescent-pregnancy-trends-2013>

About the rate of unintended pregnancies in the U.S, see <https://www.guttmacher.org/reports/pregnancy-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-medicaid-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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