



UTAH

is one of 21 states receiving a failing grade
U.S. grade falls to a "F"

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Population Institute released its eighth annual *50 State Report Card on Reproductive Health and Rights* today. It illustrates 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. The report card, the most comprehensive of its kind, tracks multiple indicators of reproductive health and rights, including access to family planning, sex education, and abortion services. The findings are not encouraging for the U.S. as a whole or for Utah. At the state level there is a deep and growing divide between states promoting reproductive health and rights and those restricting access.

The Institute's president Robert Walker said, "The political war over reproductive health rights is far from over, but the legal and regulatory battle lines have been drawn, and the stakes could not be higher. If the opponents of reproductive health and rights prevail, access to abortion, contraception, and other reproductive health services will be further curtailed, and low income individuals, in particular, will be adversely affected."

METHODOLOGY

Using eleven 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, prevention, affordability, and access. 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.

UTAH'S GRADE

Utah received an "F" this year. Most notably, Utah received poor marks for:

Utah does mandate sex education and HIV education in public schools, but it sets no requirement to teach about condoms and contraception. However, Utah does require it to be medically accurate.

Utah voted in the 2018 election to expand their Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act, but it has not gone into effect yet.

Utah has the following laws, which make it unnecessarily difficult for someone to have an abortion: the patient must undergo mandatory counseling including misinformation on

fetal pain at 20 weeks; there is a mandatory waiting period of 72 hours between counseling and procedure; parental consent and notice is required; and clinicians who perform medication abortion procedures are required to be licensed physicians.

Utah was given a "minus" because of a law passed that would ban abortion at 18 weeks. A federal court has temporarily blocked the law from going into effect.

STATE GRADES

Seven states (California, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington) received an "A" in this year's report. The 21 states receiving a failing grade included Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin.

THE NATIONAL GRADE

For the first year in the 8-year history of our report card, the U.S., as a whole, received an 'F'. Several factors account for the lower grade, most notably:

Title X

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.

Federal Courts

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. In addition to restricting abortion rights, a more conservative federal judiciary may issue adverse rulings affecting Title X, the coverage of contraception under the Affordable Care Act and LGBTQ protections.

Sex Education

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

In releasing this year's 50-State report card, the Institute's director of public policy Jennie Wetter said, "It is imperative we remember those who are the most impacted by our failure to ensure access to safe and affordable reproductive health care. Many people of color and low income individuals are already struggling to access the reproductive health services they need. This report must be a call to action for all those who care about reproductive health and rights."

F- 37 / 100 BREAKDOWN OF SCORES / UTAH

EFFECTIVENESS

TEEN PREGNANCY RATE 14 / 15

Utah has a teen pregnancy rate of 28 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15-19. We set 24 pregnancies per 1,000 teen women by 2020 as the goal, which indicates that Utah has achieved 93.3% of the objective.

UNINTENDED PREGNANCY RATE 15 / 15

26% of Utah's total pregnancies are unintended, compared to the Healthy People 2020 objective of 44%. Thus, Utah has surpassed the target rate.

PREVENTION

SEX EDUCATION 3 / 15

Utah does not mandate sex education and HIV education in public schools, but it sets no requirement to teach about condoms and contraception. However, Utah does require it to be medically accurate.

NURSES AUTHORIZED TO DISPENSE MEDICATIONS 0 / 5

Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Practitioners, and Nurse Midwives are not authorized to dispense medications including birth control and STI treatment.

MINORS' ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION 0 / 5

Utah does not explicitly allow all minors to consent to contraceptive services.

AFFORDABILITY

MEDICAID EXPANSION 0 / 15

Utah voted in the 2018 election to expand their Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act, but it has not gone into effect yet.

MEDICAID FAMILY PLANNING EXPANSIONS 0 / 5

Utah currently does not offer an expansion for family planning services to the Medicaid plan.

INSURANCE COVERAGE OF ABORTION 0 / 5

Utah restricts abortion coverage in private insurance plans by only allowing abortion coverage for cases of life, rape, incest, severe health, and fetal impairment in all private health insurance plans including those sold on the insurance exchanges.

ACCESS

ABORTION RESTRICTIONS 4 / 10

Utah has the following laws, which make it unnecessarily difficult for someone to have an abortion: the patient must undergo mandatory counseling including misinformation on fetal pain at 20 weeks; there is a mandatory waiting period of 72 hours between counseling and procedure; parental consent and notice is required; and clinicians who perform medication abortion procedures are required to be licensed physicians.

TRAP LAWS 0 / 5

Utah has enacted a series of TRAP laws which are targeted regulation of abortion providers beyond what is necessary to ensure patient safety.

ABORTION ACCESS 1 / 5

63% of women in Utah live in a county without an abortion provider.