

rePROs Fight Back's Annual Report Card Shows An Unfolding Human Rights Crisis: U.S. Gets an "F"



Washington, D.C.

Today, rePROs Fight Back released the *50 State Report Card on Reproductive Health and Rights*. The report card, originally created over a decade ago by the Population Institute and updated annually, tracks multiple indicators of reproductive health and rights, including access to family planning, sex education, and abortion services, to name a few. This year with the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, which protected the right to abortion, it is more apparent than ever that there is a tale of two Americas: one in which people can exercise their reproductive rights, and another in which they cannot. Due to this devastation of reproductive rights, the U.S. as a whole received a failing grade.

Jennie Wetter, Director of rePROs Fight Back, said, "In the aftermath of the overturning of *Roe*, there is a human rights crisis unfolding in this country. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 18 million women* of reproductive age, plus more transgender and non-binary people, are unable to access abortion in the state where they live. That means people in large regions of the country are prevented from accessing abortion care. If they are able, they are made to travel great distances to access care. If they are not, they may be forced to carry unwanted pregnancies. There is no indication that anti-rights advocates will stop at abortion. We have already seen clear signs that they intend to attack trans peoples' access to healthcare and other LGBTQ+ rights, medication abortion, contraception, and much more."

Methodology

Using 11 criteria, the rePROs report card ranked each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia on three broad indicators relating to reproductive health and rights: prevention, affordability, and access. The criteria include elements of reproductive health such as: sex education, minors' access to birth control, access to emergency contraception in the emergency room, Medicaid expansion including family planning expansion, abortion policy, and more. Based upon their composite scores of 0-100, each state received a "core" grade of "A", "B", "C", "D", or "F". Some states received an additional "plus" or "minus" for factors not reflected in the core grade.

State Grades

Four states received an "A" in this year's report: California, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Washington. Twenty-six states received a failing grade: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The National Grade

For the fourth year in a row, the U.S., as a whole, received an "F". The decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* was the major reason for this grade:

Dobbs Decision –The 6-3 majority conservative Supreme Court wasted no time in decimating access to abortion care. In June 2022, the Supreme Court eliminated the federal right to abortion access and sent it back to individual states to decide abortion laws. As of the release of this report card, 14 states have banned or severely restricted access to abortion, with a total of 24 states expected to ban abortion in the near future. People who live in states where abortion is or will be illegal are forced to either travel to access abortion care, expose themselves to legal risk by self-managing, or be forced to carry the pregnancy to term. This is a gross violation of human rights and strikes a blow to values of individual agency, bodily autonomy, and equitable access to health care.

Looking Ahead

In releasing this year's report card, Wetter warned that, "the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe* sent reverberations around the country. The effects of this decision are devastating and not felt equally. We know that already marginalized communities are feeling this loss of abortion rights most cruelly; BIPOC, people with low-incomes, young people, those with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, and those at multiple intersections of these identities are the most impacted. This year has laid bare the reality that there are two Americas when it comes to reproductive health and rights one in which people can exercise their reproductive rights and another in which they cannot. We cannot accept this as the new reality. We cannot let this egregious human rights crisis continue. We must fight for a future with reproductive freedom for all."



For the complete report card and additional information, please visit: www.reprosfightback.org/reportcard

A special thanks to the Guttmacher Institute whose research made this report card possible. rePROs Fight Back is an initiative of the Population Institute.

*rePROs Fight Back (rePROs) intentionally uses the term "women" when describing data that did not include nonbinary people or trans men in the research. Otherwise, rePROs is committed to using gender-inclusive language to represent all individuals who deserve full access to SRHR services.