

MISSING PIECES: GAPS IN ABORTION CARE CREATE
A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

rePROs Fight Back's Annual Report Card Highlights the Lack of Sexual and Reproductive Freedom: U.S. Gets an "F"



NORTH CAROLINA is one of
30 states receiving a "D" or below

Washington, D.C.—Today, rePROs Fight Back released the *50 State Report Card on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*. The annual report card tracks multiple indicators of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to family planning, sex education, abortion services, and gender-affirming care. In the two years since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, states have continued to ban or severely restrict access to abortion care and we have seen an uptick in attacks on gender-affirming care, particularly for young people. Due to this ongoing human rights crisis, the U.S. as a whole received a failing grade.

Jennie Wetter, Director of rePROs Fight Back, said, "The impacts of overturning *Roe* have been enormous and far-ranging. In 16 states, people are now forced to make hard choices: do they travel, if they are able, to access basic health care? Do they expose themselves to legal risk by self-managing their abortion? Or do they carry an unwanted pregnancy to term, which, in a country with high maternal mortality, isn't without its own risk—especially for Black women?"* It's important to note that marginalized communities are already feeling this loss of abortion rights most acutely; 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."



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

North Carolina's Grade:
North Carolina received a "D-" this year. Most notably, North Carolina received poor marks because:

North Carolina has the following laws, which make it unnecessarily difficult for someone to have an abortion: there is a ban on abortion at 12 weeks; there is a mandatory waiting period of 72 hours between counseling and procedure with a mandatory ultrasound; the patient must undergo mandatory counseling including misinformation on negative psychological effects; and parental consent is required.

North Carolina bans best practice medication and surgical care for transgender youth.

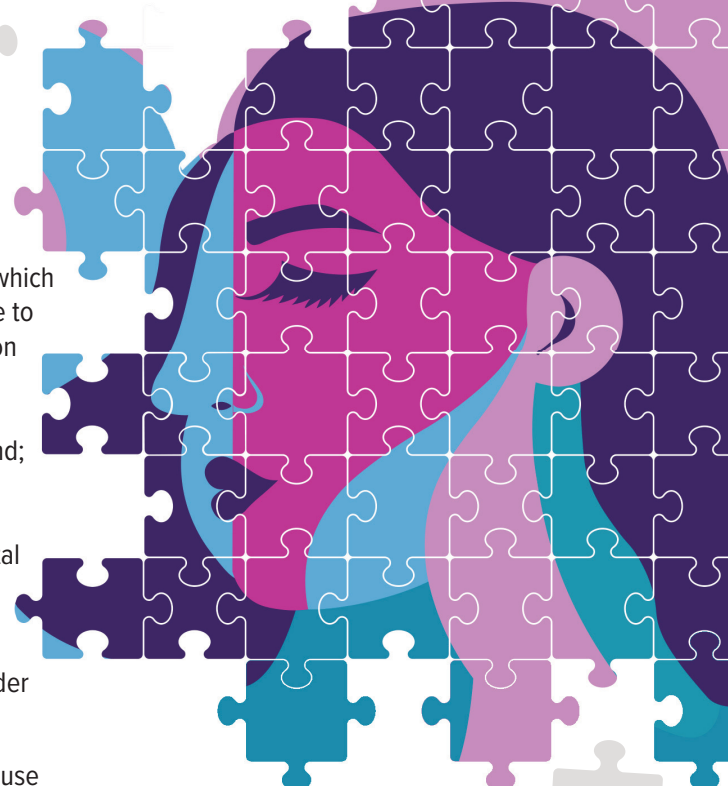
North Carolina received a "minus" because of a law that prevents abortion providers from receiving family planning funding.

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 on 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

Five states received an "A" in this year's report:



California, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, and Vermont. Twenty-five states received a failing grade: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The National Grade

For the fifth year in a row, the U.S., as a whole, received an "F". The fallout from the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and the ongoing assault on gender-affirming care were the major reasons for this grade.

Fallout from *Dobbs*

In the nearly two years since the Supreme Court eliminated the federal right to abortion, 16 states have completely or almost completely

banned abortion care. People who live in states where abortion is banned are forced to either travel to access abortion care (according to the Guttmacher Institute, 1 in 5 abortion patients are traveling out of state), expose themselves to legal risk by self-managing, or carry the pregnancy to term. This situation is a gross violation of human rights and strikes a blow to individual agency, bodily autonomy, and equitable access to health care.

Gender-Affirming Care

Anti-rights advocates have turned their attention to banning best practice medication and surgical gendering-affirming care for transgender youth.

As of the release of this report card, 22 states have banned best practice medication and surgical gender-affirming care for transgender youth, though the ban is not in effect in five states due to court orders. Gender-affirming care is lifesaving health care; banning access to it can have major impacts on the health, including mental health, of transgender youth.

Looking Ahead

In releasing this year's report card, Wetter warned that, "attacks on sexual and reproductive rights are not slowing down. At the state level, abortion and gender-affirming care are still under assault. This year alone

the Supreme Court will hear two cases that will further impact access to abortion care. All of this is occurring while we are still dealing with the fallout from the *Dobbs* decision, which is preventing people from accessing abortion care where they live. Unfortunately, states are not just failing when it comes to abortion; many are also failing on sex education, youth access to birth control, gender-affirming care and more. Until we fill in these missing puzzle pieces, we will never achieve a world with sexual and reproductive freedom. To get there, we must fight at every level to stop this human rights crisis in its tracks."

NORTH CAROLINA | BREAKDOWN OF SCORES | D- 53 / 100

Prevention

Sex Education 18 / 20

North Carolina mandates comprehensive sex education in public schools, covering abstinence, HIV prevention, and different methods of contraception. North Carolina also requires that the education be medically accurate and include information on healthy relationships and dating and sexual violence prevention.

Access to Emergency Contraception 0 / 5

North Carolina has no laws affirming a woman's right to emergency contraception in the emergency room.

Minors' Access to Contraception 5 / 5

North Carolina explicitly allows all minors to consent to contraceptive services.

Affordability

Medicaid Expansion 15 / 15

North Carolina has expanded their Medicaid program, which includes maternal and reproductive health care, under the Affordable Care Act.

Medicaid Family Planning Expansions 10 / 10

North Carolina offers Medicaid expansions to cover family planning services for people who otherwise do not qualify for Medicaid. The expansion, in the form of an amendment is offered to people with income levels up to 200% of the federal poverty line. North Carolina also expands to the coverage to include men and individuals under 19 years old.

Medicaid Maternal Health Expansion 5 / 5

North Carolina has expanded their Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months.

Insurance Coverage of Abortion 0 / 5

North Carolina restricts abortion coverage in private insurance plans by only allowing abortion coverage for cases of life, rape, or incest in health insurance plans sold on the insurance exchanges.

Access

Abortion Restrictions 0 / 15

North Carolina has the following laws, which make it unnecessarily difficult for someone to have an abortion: there is a ban on abortion at 12 weeks; there is a mandatory waiting period of 72 hours between counseling and procedure with a mandatory ultrasound; the patient must undergo mandatory counseling including misinformation on negative psychological effects; and parental consent is required.

TRAP Laws: 0 / 5

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

Medication Abortion 0 / 5

North Carolina clinicians who perform medication abortion procedures are required to be licensed physicians and not other qualified health professionals in the presence of the patient which by extension bans telemedicine.

Gender-Affirming Care Restrictions 0 / 10

North Carolina bans best practice medication and surgical care for transgender youth.



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.