

THE STATE OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS:

# A 50-STATE REPORT CARD

US RECEIVES FAILING GRADE | 16 STATES RECEIVE A "B" OR HIGHER | 31 STATES RECEIVE A "D" OR LOWER



#### THE 50-STATE REPORT CARD

rePROs Fight Back, an initiative of the Population Institute, released its 13th annual 50-State Report Card on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. While 2024 had some bright spots, including abortion-related ballot measures passing in 7 of the 10 states where they were on the ballot, we are still experiencing the fallout of the 2022 Dobbs decision. The human rights crisis unleashed by that decision has led states to continue restricting abortion access and has emboldened anti-rights advocates to increase their attacks on gender-affirming care. Due to these twin attacks on bodily autonomy and more, the U.S. received a failing grade.

Abortion has been completely banned or almost completely banned in 16 states. The resulting human rights crisis has had devastating impacts around the country. It has prevented people from accessing basic health care in their state. Confusion over exceptions in abortion bans has forced doctors to put patients' future fertility, health, and lives at risk. Tragically some reports have already shown abortion bans resulting in preventable deaths. Looming on the horizon is the possibility of a federal abortion ban or restrictions on mifepristone which would be crippling to abortion access around the country.

State anti-rights advocates have also turned their attention to banning gender-affirming care for minors. This life-changing and life-saving health care is critical for the young people who need it. The fight doesn't end there: Anti-rights advocates are following the anti-abortion playbook and will move on to ban gender-affirming care for everyone. While best practice medication and surgical care is banned in 24 states, the new administration is a looming storm on the horizon that will pursue making these bans national.

The fight for bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom is far from slowing down. The new administration has sexual and reproductive health and rights near the top of its priority hit list. The attacks will not stop at abortion and minors' access to gender-affirming care. We can expect attacks on the right of transgender people to exist, affordable birth control, minors' ability to access birth control, access to affordable health care, and many more of our rights. This staggering loss of rights cannot be our future. Now is the time to stand strong and be bold in the fight for our right to bodily autonomy.

## THE UNITED STATES GETS AN "F"

#### The National Grade

For the sixth 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

Abortion is completely banned or almost completely banned in 16 states. These restrictions force pregnant people to make hard choices: Do they travel out of state (if they are able to)? Do they expose themselves to legal risk by self-managing their abortion? Or do they carry an unwanted pregnancy to term, a decision that could have profound consequences? According to the <u>Turnaway Study</u>, being denied a wanted abortion has many negative impacts including prolonged economic hardship and insecurity, increased likelihood of women\* staying in contact with a violent partner, and more serious health problems than if they had the abortion.



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, 24 states have banned both, though the ban is not in effect in two states due to court orders. Two additional states have banned best practice surgical care for transgender youth. Genderaffirming care is lifesaving health care; banning access to it can have major impacts on the health, including mental health, of transgender youth.

#### **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. To promote informed public debate, rePROs Fight Back, for the 13th 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 three broad indicators or policies relating to reproductive health and rights:

**Prevention** (30 points): Does the state promote comprehensive sex education in the schools, require emergency rooms to dispense emergency contraception, or allow minors to consent to contraceptive services?

**Affordability** (35 points): Has the state expanded Medicaid access under the Affordable Care Act, expanded who qualifies for Medicaid family planning, expanded Medicaid postpartum coverage, or allowed insurance coverage of abortion services?

**Access** (35 points): Does the state impose harassing or burdensome requirements on those seeking family planning or abortion services or have restrictions on gender-affirming care?

#### **CRITERIA AND SCORE**

Eleven criteria are used to determine a state's composite score.

States with the best grades will have:

Comprehensive sex education in schools

20 points maximum

**Emergency contraception mandated in the emergency room** 

5 points maximum

Minors' access to contraceptive services

5 points maximum

Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act

15 points maximum

A Medicaid "waiver" expanding eligibility for family planning services

10 points maximum

Medicaid postpartum coverage expanded to 12 months

5 points maximum

Insurance coverage of abortion services

5 points maximum

An absence of burdensome abortion restrictions

15 points maximum

An absence of TRAP laws

(Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers)

5 points maximum

Access to medication abortion

5 points maximum

Access to gender-affirming care

10 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

**D**: 50-60.9 points **F**: < 49.9 points

**C**: 61-70.9 points

#### **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.

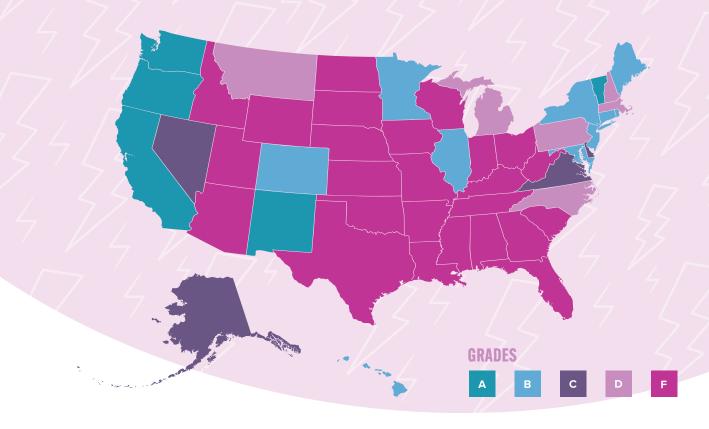
#### Here is the chart for state grades:

State	Total Score	Letter Grade	State	Total Score	Letter Grade
AL	25	F	MT	57.5	D+
AK	62.5	C+	NE	20	F-
AZ	25	F-	NV	67.5	C+
AR	32.5	F-	NH	50	D-
CA	94	<b>A+</b>	NJ	84	B+
CO	72.5	B+	NM	92	<b>A+</b>
CT	74	B+	NY	80	B+
DE	65	C+	NC	57	D-
DC	85	B+	ND	20	F-
FL	15	F-	ОН	36	F-
GA	20	F	OK	25	F-
HI	77	B+	OR	97.5	A+
ID	25	F	PA	51	D+
IL	84	B+	RI	74	B+
IN	30	F-	SC	24.5	F
IA	46	F-	SD	20	F
KS	27.5	F	TN	16	F-
KY	23.5	F	TX	17.5	F-
LA	31	F-	UT	31	F
ME	80.5	B+	VT	87	A+
MD	82.5	B+	VA	67.5	C
MA	60	D+	WA	95	A+
MI	60	D+	WV	37	F-
MN	77.5	B+	WI	30	F
MS	15	F-	WY	37.5	F+
MO	45	F-			

<sup>\*</sup>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.

#### STATE BREAKDOWNS

For state press releases and state-by-state breakdowns of the scoring, more information can be obtained at <a href="https://reportcard.reprosfightback.com/">https://reportcard.reprosfightback.com/</a>



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

About state abortion restrictions, see https://states.guttmacher.org/policies/

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.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/family-planning-services-waivers/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D

 $About \, state \, Medicaid \, postpartum \, coverage, see \, https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-postpartum-coverage-extension-tracker/$ 

About state abortion insurance restrictions, see https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/interactive-how-state-policies-shape-access-to-abortion-coverage/

About sex education requirements at the state level, see https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/sex-and-hiv-education About the gender affirming care bans, see https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare/youth\_medical\_care\_bans

About emergency contraception in the emergency room, see https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/emergency-contraception About minors' access to contraception, see https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/minors-access-contraceptive-services

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