

# THE Looming STORM

NEW ADMINISTRATION IS  
PRIMED TO MAKE HUMAN  
RIGHTS CRISIS WORSE

## rePROs FIGHT BACK'S ANNUAL REPORT CARD HIGHLIGHTS THE LACK OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM: U.S. GETS AN "F"

### ARKANSAS IS ONE OF 25 STATES RECEIVING A FAILING GRADE

F-

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, rePROs Fight Back released its 13th annual *50 State Report Card on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*. The 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. 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 from 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.

Jennie Wetter, Director of rePROs Fight Back, said, "Last year showed that the fight for bodily autonomy is far from over. We saw voters turn out en masse to fight for abortion rights. We saw states enacting policies to protect abortion providers from investigations in hostile states. They were true beacons of hope in this gathering storm. Unfortunately, attacks on bodily autonomy show no signs of stopping in states hostile to abortion or transgender rights. Even worse we have already seen clear signs that anti-rights advocates intend to expand their attacks on trans people's access to healthcare and other LGBTQ+ rights, medication abortion, contraception, in particular young people's access to contraception, and much more."

### IN THIS YEAR'S REPORT CARD, ARKANSAS RECEIVED AN "F." IT WAS ONE OF 25 STATES AWARDED AN "F."

#### 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.

#### ARKANSAS' GRADE

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

**Arkansas** does not mandate sex education. If sex education is taught, it must include information on healthy relationships.

**Arkansas** has completely banned abortion with very limited exceptions, which prevents someone from obtaining a legal abortion in Arkansas.

**Arkansas** received a "minus" because state family planning funds are blocked from going to abortion providers or entities that contract with or are affiliated with abortion providers.

#### STATE GRADES

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

#### 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 [Turnaway Study](#), 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.

\*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.

## 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, 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. 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, "The threat posed by the new administration is a menacing storm looming on the horizon. We are already failing when it comes to meeting people's sexual and reproductive health needs by banning abortion, denying young people access to evidence-based sex education, blocking people from accessing affordable health care via Medicaid, putting gender-affirming care out of reach for many, and so much more. These impacts are never felt equally and disproportionately affect those who are already marginalized such as BIPOC, people with low-incomes, young people, those with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, and those at multiple intersections of these identities. With the threats posed to our right to bodily autonomy by potential federal actions from the new administration related to abortion access, transgender health care, health care costs, and more, people in every state are at risk. We must be ready for a long, hard fight to achieve a world with reproductive freedom for all."

# BREAKDOWN OF SCORES | ARKANSAS | 32.5 / 100

## PREVENTION

### Sex Education 0 / 20

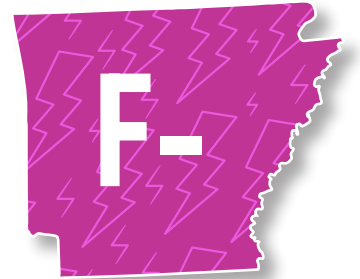
Arkansas does not mandate sex education. If sex education is taught, it must include information on healthy relationships.

### Access to Emergency Contraception 2.5 / 5

Arkansas requires emergency rooms to provide information about emergency contraception but does not require they dispense it to sexual assault victims.

### Minors' Access to Contraception 5 / 5

Arkansas explicitly allows all minors to consent to contraceptive services.



## AFFORDABILITY

### Medicaid Expansion 15 / 15

Arkansas has expanded its Medicaid program, which includes maternal and reproductive health care, under the Affordable Care Act.

### Medicaid Family Planning Expansions 0 / 10

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

### Medicaid Maternal Health Expansion 0 / 5

Arkansas has not expanded its Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months.

### Insurance Coverage of Abortion 0 / 5

Arkansas restricts abortion coverage in private insurance plans by prohibiting insurance plans sold on state Marketplaces from covering abortion (with some exceptions).

## ACCESS

### Abortion Restrictions 0 / 25

Arkansas has completely banned abortion with very limited exceptions, which prevents someone from obtaining a legal abortion in Arkansas.

### Gender-Affirming Care Restrictions 10 / 10

Arkansas has banned best practice medication and surgical care for transgender youth, but a federal judge has permanently blocked it from being enforced.



For the complete report card and additional information, please visit: <https://reportcard.reprosfightback.com/>

A special thanks to the Guttmacher Institute, Kaiser Family Foundation, and Movement Advancement Project whose research made this report card possible. rePROS Fight Back is an initiative of the Population Institute.