

Contraception Counts: Ranking State Efforts

Unintended pregnancy is a major public health and social problem in the United States. Of the six million pregnancies that occur among American women each year, nearly three million are unintended. As a result, American women

experience 1.4 million unplanned births and 1.3 million abortions annually. They also have one of the highest rates of unintended pregnancy in the industrialized world.

What explains this high level of unintended pregnancy? About half of unintended pregnancies occur among couples who were using a contraceptive method in the month the woman became pregnant; either the method did not work properly or the couple did not use it consistently or correctly. Because the likelihood of pregnancy in the absence of contraception is high, the other half of unintended pregnancies occur among the one in 10 sexually active, fertile women who were not using any birth control method even though they were not trying to become pregnant. Clearly, improving use among couples who rely on contraception and persuading nonusers to adopt a method would reduce the number of unintended pregnancies—and therefore abortions.

Recognizing the personal, social, economic and medical toll associated with unintended pregnancies, the federal government has established a national public health goal to reduce by 40% the proportion of pregnancies that are unintended by 2010, and has identified family planning as the key to achieving

this objective. To do so, however, will require a vigorous and broad-based societal commitment to providing couples with the means to avoid unintended pregnancy. Ensuring universal access to contraceptives—as well as their effective, consistent use—will require the support and mobilization of the U.S. public health infrastructure and all levels of government.

States can play a major role in helping women to avoid unintended pregnancy—particularly low-income women, who are more likely than those who are better-off to have an unintended pregnancy and to rely on publicly supported services for contraceptive care. Indeed, many states have shown considerable commitment and creativity in tackling this pressing social problem. Others have not, or have taken steps that could hinder effective birth control use. Accordingly, the Guttmacher Institute assessed the states (and the District of Columbia) on their efforts to help women avoid unintended pregnancy, using three indicators that can have a measurable impact on women's ability to obtain contraceptive services and supplies, and to use them consistently and correctly over time:

- *service availability*—how well the states meet existing need for subsidized contraceptive services and supplies;

Key Points

- California ranks first among states in efforts to help women avoid unintended pregnancy, followed by Alaska, South Carolina, Alabama and New York.
- The states that rank the lowest are Nebraska, North Dakota, Indiana, Ohio and Utah.
- The states that made the most progress between 1994 and 2001 are Alaska, Louisiana, South Carolina, Oregon and California.

- *laws and policies*—whether their laws and policies are likely to facilitate or hinder access to contraceptive services and information, and therefore to have a positive or negative impact on effective contraceptive use; and

- *public funding*—the extent to which they devote their own revenues, and leverage potential federal dollars, to support the delivery of publicly supported contraceptive services and supplies.

The states were scored and ranked on each indicator, and then each state's three scores were aggregated to form an overall composite score, which was used to rank the states. Additionally, the states were ranked according to the progress they made between 1994 and 2001 in service availability and public funding.

The tables that follow contain the results of these rankings, as well as state-specific information on pregnancies, their outcomes and the need for publicly supported contraceptive services. Individual fact sheets with detailed information on each state can be found at www.guttmacher.org/statecenter.

Table 1

Pregnancies and Their Outcomes, 2000

State	No. per 1,000 women aged 15–44			No. per 1,000 women aged 15–19		
	Pregnancies*	Births	Abortions	Pregnancies*	Births	Abortions
U.S. total	102	66	21	84	48	24
Alabama	93	65	13	90	61	16
Alaska	100	71	13	73	48	14
Arizona	114	79	17	104	67	21
Arkansas	92	67	10	93	66	12
California	119	70	31	96	47	36
Colorado	96	67	13	82	51	19
Connecticut	96	60	22	70	31	30
Delaware	100	64	22	93	48	31
District of Columbia	107	53	40	128	56	55
Florida	109	63	30	97	51	33
Georgia	102	70	17	95	63	18
Hawaii	107	69	22	93	46	34
Idaho	99	73	10	62	43	10
Illinois	104	67	21	87	48	27
Indiana	92	66	11	73	49	12
Iowa	86	63	10	55	35	12
Kansas	95	69	11	69	46	12
Kentucky	83	63	7	76	56	8
Louisiana	93	67	11	87	62	11
Maine	72	51	11	52	29	15
Maryland	111	62	32	91	41	38
Massachusetts	91	57	21	60	26	26
Michigan	99	63	21	75	40	24
Minnesota	89	62	13	50	30	13
Mississippi	99	69	14	103	71	16
Missouri	92	63	14	74	49	14
Montana	84	59	12	60	37	14
Nebraska	93	67	11	59	38	12
Nevada	122	73	31	113	61	36
New Hampshire	81	54	15	47	23	17
New Jersey	117	64	36	90	32	47
New Mexico	103	70	18	103	66	22
New York	115	61	38	91	33	46
North Carolina	102	67	19	95	59	22
North Dakota	75	57	7	42	28	8
Ohio	94	64	16	74	46	17
Oklahoma	93	68	11	86	60	12
Oregon	100	63	21	79	43	25
Pennsylvania	86	57	15	60	34	17
Rhode Island	87	54	21	67	34	23
South Carolina	90	63	14	89	59	17
South Dakota	85	66	6	54	38	7
Tennessee	91	64	14	89	60	16
Texas	112	77	18	101	69	17
Utah	114	90	7	53	39	6
Vermont	72	50	11	44	24	14
Virginia	96	62	19	72	41	21
Washington	98	63	21	75	39	26
West Virginia	76	56	8	67	47	10
Wisconsin	84	60	11	55	35	12
Wyoming	93	60	20	77	42	25

*Pregnancies do not equal births and abortions because some end in miscarriages.

Table 2

Need for Publicly Supported Family Planning Services

State	No. of women aged 13–44, 2002	No. needing contraceptive services and supplies, 2002	No. needing publicly supported contraceptive services and supplies, 2002		% of women aged 15–44 in 2003–2004 who:		
			Aged 13–44	Aged 13–19	Lived in poverty	Had no insurance or Medicaid	Received Medicaid
U.S. total	66,107,760	34,241,690	16,776,730	4,867,240	15	21	12
Alabama	1,025,560	495,870	274,970	82,290	20	20	12
Alaska	146,310	67,290	30,400	10,090	11	21	13
Arizona	1,208,890	633,050	337,070	83,850	18	22	14
Arkansas	599,860	280,300	166,660	48,940	18	25	13
California	8,274,610	4,387,990	2,206,350	568,660	16	24	14
Colorado	1,049,480	546,270	236,740	64,880	12	21	7
Connecticut	764,260	432,000	165,960	59,440	11	14	11
Delaware	188,960	95,460	41,300	13,340	10	15	11
District of Columbia	147,820	85,030	35,840	8,270	20	15	20
Florida	3,508,840	1,726,160	886,250	253,820	14	26	9
Georgia	2,073,440	1,008,620	490,900	152,330	14	22	9
Hawaii	270,720	138,110	62,020	15,840	10	12	10
Idaho	304,570	145,110	83,120	21,300	13	22	10
Illinois	2,913,030	1,558,620	705,080	221,650	15	18	10
Indiana	1,401,420	730,210	360,680	105,490	13	19	10
Iowa	648,620	327,580	170,060	49,520	13	14	11
Kansas	612,120	311,250	160,230	48,560	14	15	9
Kentucky	947,150	445,820	241,290	67,140	19	18	14
Louisiana	1,056,800	515,960	304,270	93,620	21	27	12
Maine	288,980	155,380	79,260	23,080	15	12	24
Maryland	1,288,260	646,970	245,580	91,070	10	18	6
Massachusetts	1,506,000	882,300	332,120	106,700	11	14	13
Michigan	2,287,880	1,204,060	582,140	175,910	15	15	13
Minnesota	1,168,420	607,980	261,880	86,390	8	11	10
Mississippi	673,500	311,140	193,940	60,040	18	23	15
Missouri	1,292,040	670,380	349,030	99,780	13	15	13
Montana	195,950	90,560	55,260	13,090	20	28	10
Nebraska	389,670	198,160	105,090	30,710	11	15	10
Nevada	480,360	251,290	122,200	30,200	14	25	7
New Hampshire	294,260	161,720	65,370	23,010	7	16	6
New Jersey	1,925,840	1,088,920	394,510	144,100	9	20	7
New Mexico	420,330	208,030	125,780	33,460	23	31	15
New York	4,459,710	2,544,420	1,217,950	340,130	17	18	18
North Carolina	1,909,860	926,650	467,630	136,970	18	21	11
North Dakota	140,440	71,280	40,950	11,140	15	13	10
Ohio	2,571,370	1,350,610	666,670	195,930	14	15	12
Oklahoma	781,000	373,600	215,630	62,270	14	29	9
Oregon	778,080	395,490	204,820	48,180	15	24	10
Pennsylvania	2,700,370	1,514,830	717,220	220,070	14	16	11
Rhode Island	250,000	146,340	67,910	18,580	15	13	18
South Carolina	954,280	466,810	249,360	74,460	16	19	15
South Dakota	167,740	82,080	48,030	13,750	17	14	11
Tennessee	1,324,670	640,950	333,180	97,010	19	17	17
Texas	5,155,540	2,507,820	1,347,480	373,850	18	33	9
Utah	579,290	306,530	153,830	40,110	10	17	8
Vermont	139,250	73,080	37,450	11,530	10	14	21
Virginia	1,709,330	846,100	371,640	119,930	11	18	6
Washington	1,397,870	718,630	330,080	85,300	14	18	13
West Virginia	385,640	177,300	106,240	28,360	18	23	13
Wisconsin	1,239,480	640,420	300,510	95,320	14	13	14
Wyoming	109,890	51,150	28,760	7,790	14	20	9

Table 3

Availability of Publicly Supported Family Planning Services, 2001

State	No. of family planning clinics	No. of women served by clinics	No. of women aged <20 served by clinics	No. of unintended pregnancies averted by clinics	% of women in need served by clinics	% of counties with ≥1 clinic	Service availability	
							Summary score*	Rank
U.S. total	7,621	6,663,570	1,864,100	1,552,700	40	85	na	na
Alabama	167	113,310	35,690	26,400	41	99	69	23
Alaska	77	24,530	7,210	5,700	81	85	90	1
Arizona	173	100,680	26,240	23,500	30	100	62	32
Arkansas	136	81,340	23,440	19,000	49	100	76	12
California	821	1,014,890	246,890	236,500	46	100	74	15
Colorado	140	132,890	31,500	31,000	56	84	71	17
Connecticut	56	70,560	23,620	16,400	43	100	71	16
Delaware	20	20,600	6,570	4,800	50	100	77	11
District of Columbia	26	19,140	4,670	4,500	53	100	79	9
Florida	311	266,100	81,340	62,000	30	100	62	31
Georgia	338	199,840	56,330	46,600	41	100	70	21
Hawaii	33	9,020	4,280	2,100	15	80	37	47
Idaho	69	41,720	12,890	9,700	50	89	69	22
Illinois	209	206,340	58,910	48,100	29	70	41	46
Indiana	101	147,260	43,670	34,300	41	49	36	49
Iowa	72	69,230	20,540	16,100	41	49	36	48
Kansas	106	57,660	14,700	13,400	36	76	50	42
Kentucky	191	133,450	41,030	31,100	55	100	81	81
Louisiana	109	82,810	24,010	19,300	27	98	59	34
Maine	65	49,150	15,060	11,500	62	100	86	2
Maryland	104	82,230	25,570	19,300	33	100	64	28
Massachusetts	125	138,640	31,150	32,300	42	100	71	19
Michigan	239	233,810	72,830	54,500	40	98	68	24
Minnesota	158	103,880	35,850	24,200	40	82	57	38
Mississippi	167	121,240	38,550	28,200	63	99	85	3
Missouri	201	108,590	27,540	25,300	31	92	57	37
Montana	61	33,920	9,660	7,900	61	59	58	35
Nebraska	39	35,170	9,280	8,200	33	25	14	51
Nevada	55	47,730	9,840	11,100	39	88	61	33
New Hampshire	35	30,680	10,360	7,100	47	100	74	14
New Jersey	94	129,630	31,880	30,200	33	100	64	29
New Mexico	168	68,500	17,330	16,000	54	97	78	10
New York	372	446,500	119,840	104,000	37	100	67	25
North Carolina	177	194,250	53,480	45,300	42	100	70	20
North Dakota	26	16,010	4,740	3,700	39	38	27	50
Ohio	186	201,040	67,540	46,800	30	90	55	39
Oklahoma	152	95,260	28,910	22,200	44	90	65	27
Oregon	128	123,270	34,400	28,700	60	100	84	4
Pennsylvania	293	293,900	86,880	68,500	41	94	66	26
Rhode Island	22	16,200	4,200	3,800	24	80	44	45
South Carolina	133	139,070	30,790	32,400	56	100	81	7
South Dakota	69	22,950	6,990	5,300	48	70	55	40
Tennessee	189	102,870	37,770	24,000	31	100	62	30
Texas	464	540,620	138,050	126,000	40	68	48	43
Utah	61	41,660	10,390	9,700	27	79	46	44
Vermont	19	20,620	6,400	4,800	55	93	76	13
Virginia	178	97,150	28,890	22,600	26	88	51	41
Washington	171	168,510	54,750	39,300	51	90	71	18
West Virginia	156	59,400	17,070	13,800	56	100	81	6
Wisconsin	127	93,010	28,970	21,700	31	93	58	36
Wyoming	32	16,770	5,610	3,900	58	100	83	5

*Summary score=average of previous two columns, each standardized from 0 to 100. Note: na=not applicable.

Table 4

Family Planning Laws and Policies, 2005

State	Expanded Medicaid eligibility for family planning*	Insurance coverage of contraception*	Access to emergency contraception*	Minors' consent law*	Sex education policies*	Restrictions on family planning fund†	Refusal clause for contraceptives†	Laws and policies	
								Summary score‡	Rank
Alabama	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Good	Best	Best	50	8
Alaska	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Best	Neutral	Best	Best	30	14
Arizona	Good	Best	Neutral	Best	Worst	Best	Best	30	14
Arkansas	Best	Good	Neutral	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	10	32
California	Best	Best	Best	Best	Best	Best	Best	100	1
Colorado	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Bad	Worst	-10	40
Connecticut	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Worst	Best	Best	0	34
Delaware	Good	Best	Neutral	Best	Good	Best	Best	60	5
District of Columbia	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Good	Best	Best	30	14
Florida	Good	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Worst	Best	Bad	-20	42
Georgia	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Best	Worst	Best	Bad	10	32
Hawaii	Neutral	Best	Good	Best	Good	Best	Best	60	5
Idaho	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Best	Best	20	26
Illinois	Good	Good	Good	Neutral	Good	Best	Worst	20	26
Indiana	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Worst	Best	Best	-20	42
Iowa	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Best	Best	40	10
Kansas	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Best	0	34
Kentucky	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Worst	Best	Best	0	34
Louisiana	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Worst	Best	Best	-20	42
Maine	Neutral	Best	Good	Neutral	Best	Best	Worst	30	14
Maryland	Good	Best	Neutral	Best	Good	Best	Best	60	5
Massachusetts	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Best	Bad	30	14
Michigan	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Worst	Bad	Best	-30	48
Minnesota	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Worst	Best	Best	20	26
Mississippi	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Worst	Best	Worst	-20	42
Missouri	Good	Good	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Best	Best	30	14
Montana	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Best	Best	20	26
Nebraska	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Best	0	34
Nevada	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Best	20	26
New Hampshire	Neutral	Best	Good	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Best	30	14
New Jersey	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Neutral	Worst	Best	Bad	-20	42
New Mexico	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good	Best	Best	90	2
New York	Best	Best	Good	Best	Good	Best	Best	80	3
North Carolina	Best	Good	Neutral	Best	Worst	Best	Best	30	14
North Dakota	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Best	0	34
Ohio	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Worst	Bad	Best	-30	48
Oklahoma	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Best	Best	30	14
Oregon	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Good	Best	Best	50	8
Pennsylvania	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Bad	Best	0	34
Rhode Island	Good	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Best	Best	40	10
South Carolina	Best	Neutral	Good	Neutral	Good	Best	Best	40	10
South Dakota	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Bad	-10	40
Tennessee	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Worst	Best	Worst	-20	42
Texas	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Neutral	Worst	Worst	Best	-30	48
Utah	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Worst	Bad	Best	-30	48
Vermont	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Best	Best	30	14
Virginia	Good	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Good	Best	Best	40	10
Washington	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good	Best	Worst	70	4
West Virginia	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Good	Best	Best	30	14
Wisconsin	Best	Best	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Bad	Best	30	14
Wyoming	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Best	Neutral	Best	Best	20	26

*Scored as follows: best=20; good=10; neutral =0; bad=-10 and worst=-20. †Scored as follows: best=0; bad=-10; and worst=-20. ‡Summary score=sum of all previous columns.

Table 5

Public Funding for Family Planning Services, 2001

State	Total public expenditures for contraceptive services (in 000s of \$)	% of total funding allocated by the state	Total funding per woman in need (\$)*	Public funding	
				Summary score†	Rank
U.S. total	1,330,491	28	79	na	na
Alabama	33,497	43	137	60	4
Alaska	4,403	88	91	72	1
Arizona	18,697	15	51	18	38
Arkansas	16,321	4	109	30	25
California	354,941	21	123	44	8
Colorado	8,774	14	33	12	45
Connecticut	20,788	25	92	38	11
Delaware	4,160	17	101	33	21
District of Columbia	1,762	18	43	16	41
Florida	46,113	39	53	32	23
Georgia	42,073	59	93	55	5
Hawaii	1,339	1	22	1	50
Idaho	3,514	34	43	26	30
Illinois	26,549	19	39	16	42
Indiana	23,986	13	71	22	35
Iowa	6,934	18	44	17	39
Kansas	3,123	0	21	0	51
Kentucky	14,258	42	65	38	12
Louisiana	22,016	44	79	42	10
Maine	7,202	24	91	35	16
Maryland	21,082	26	91	36	14
Massachusetts	31,036	17	70	26	32
Michigan	27,692	34	54	29	26
Minnesota	11,468	51	44	34	18
Mississippi	10,875	22	67	26	31
Missouri	30,876	17	91	31	24
Montana	2,829	8	52	14	43
Nebraska	3,173	3	33	5	49
Nevada	4,831	9	32	9	48
New Hampshire	2,826	38	43	28	28
New Jersey	26,726	20	54	22	36
New Mexico	7,093	11	53	16	40
New York	107,652	36	75	37	13
North Carolina	27,234	39	64	35	17
North Dakota	1,579	7	47	11	46
Ohio	23,109	13	36	12	44
Oklahoma	24,083	33	120	49	6
Oregon	22,985	9	93	28	29
Pennsylvania	51,159	19	78	28	27
Rhode Island	2,748	7	40	10	47
South Carolina	43,718	29	180	66	2
South Dakota	1,723	24	37	19	37
Tennessee	31,767	10	110	34	20
Texas	69,613	42	52	34	19
Utah	4,919	34	35	24	34
Vermont	4,317	9	106	33	22
Virginia	30,474	42	79	44	9
Washington	17,963	30	44	24	33
West Virginia	6,611	54	69	45	7
Wisconsin	14,713	48	47	36	15
Wyoming	3,167	59	110	62	3

*Adjusted for the health care cost of living in each state. †Summary score=average of previous two columns, each standardized from 0 to 100. Note: na=not applicable.

Table 6

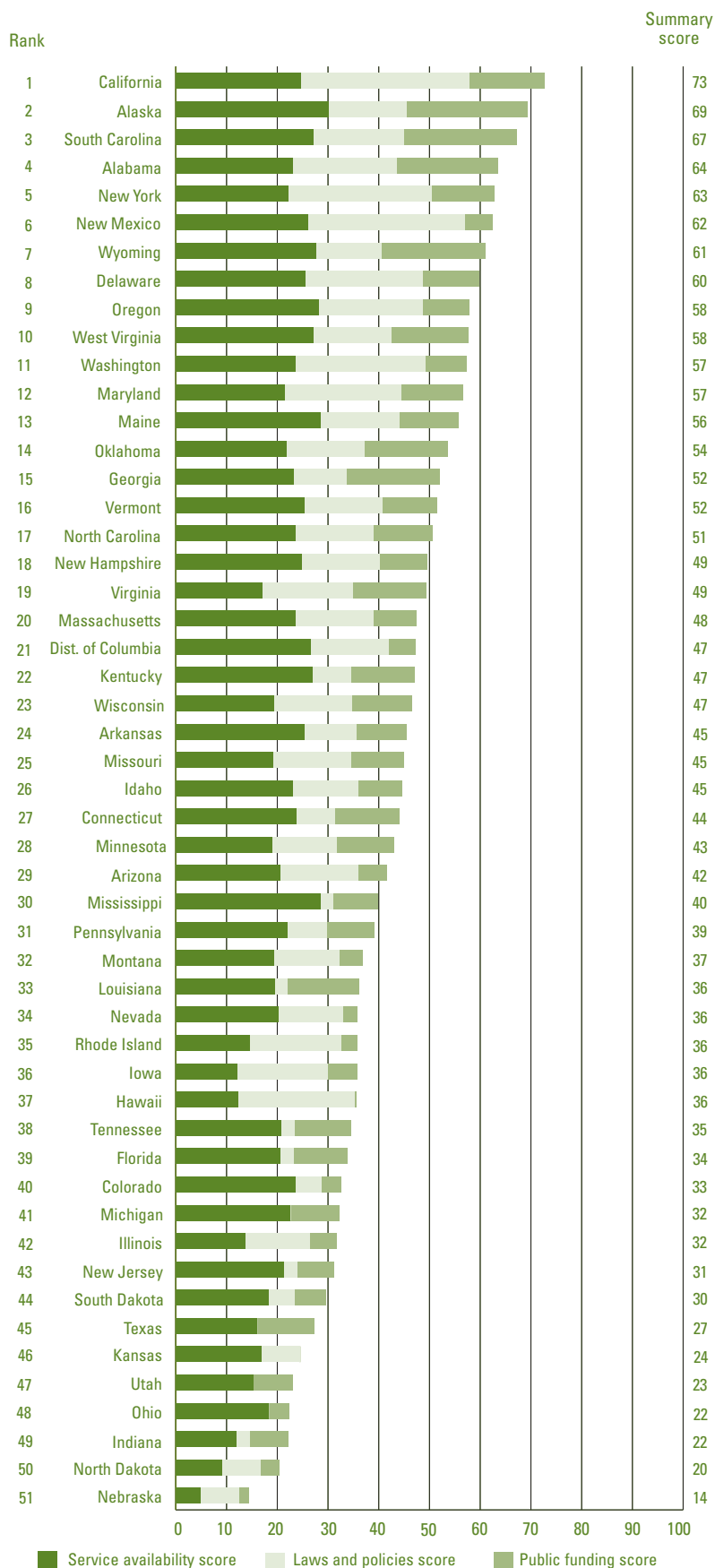
Progress over Time, 1994–2001

State	% change in proportion of women in need served by clinics	% change in public funding per woman in need*	Progress over time	
			Summary score†	Rank
U.S. total	1	42	na	na
Alabama	-3	76	36	17
Alaska	29	439	85	1
Arizona	-35	222	36	13
Arkansas	-8	152	41	10
California	26	214	62	5
Colorado	19	35	41	11
Connecticut	-24	72	26	38
Delaware	-7	38	30	30
District of Columbia	-14	6	24	41
Florida	-4	-27	25	40
Georgia	-8	82	34	21
Hawaii	-56	-55	0	51
Idaho	1	52	35	18
Illinois	-3	6	29	32
Indiana	3	196	50	7
Iowa	-26	-1	18	46
Kansas	-20	-34	17	49
Kentucky	10	-8	33	23
Louisiana	7	444	77	2
Maine	26	2	41	12
Maryland	-19	10	22	44
Massachusetts	13	79	43	9
Michigan	1	-6	29	31
Minnesota	0	-23	27	35
Mississippi	0	-10	28	33
Missouri	-36	34	17	48
Montana	-10	-12	24	42
Nebraska	11	2	34	20
Nevada	3	-40	27	37
New Hampshire	-13	-51	19	45
New Jersey	-4	49	33	25
New Mexico	7	5	33	24
New York	0	-18	28	34
North Carolina	8	-5	32	27
North Dakota	-9	-20	24	43
Ohio	-2	-16	27	36
Oklahoma	17	136	50	6
Oregon	55	98	63	4
Pennsylvania	0	66	36	15
Rhode Island	-28	169	34	19
South Carolina	62	132	69	3
South Dakota	-1	68	36	16
Tennessee	-21	159	36	14
Texas	7	-20	30	29
Utah	5	-2	31	28
Vermont	4	15	33	26
Virginia	-25	-5	18	47
Washington	6	16	34	22
West Virginia	-12	5	25	39
Wisconsin	-39	3	13	50
Wyoming	22	55	44	8

* Inflation-adjusted data are reported in constant 2001 dollars. †Summary score=average of previous two columns, each standardized from 0 to 100.

Figure 1

State Efforts to Help Women Avoid Unintended Pregnancy: Scores and Overall Rank



Methodology and Sources

This fact sheet contains the most current data available as of November 1, 2005. All of the data are from research conducted by the Guttmacher Institute, the U.S. Bureau of the Census or the National Center for Health Statistics. To construct the indicators used for ranking state efforts, we included two service availability measures (the proportion of women in need served by clinics and the proportion of counties with at least one clinic) and two public funding measures (the proportion of total funding allocated by the state and the total funding per woman in need). State scores on each measure were standardized to range from 0 to 100. The summary scores for service availability and public funding were obtained by averaging the two applicable standardized scores. An indicator of laws and policies was constructed by summing state scores across seven policy areas; this summary score was also standardized to range from 0 to 100. Finally, an overall composite score was constructed by averaging the summary scores for the three indicators, giving equal weight to each. Detailed references, definitions of terms used in this fact sheet and a complete description of the methodology are available at <www.guttmacher.org/pubs/state_data/methodology.pdf>.

Credits

Jennifer J. Frost oversaw data compilation and analyses, and was assisted by Susheela Singh and Lawrence B. Finer in developing the ranking methodology. Cynthia Dailard wrote the report and was assisted by Cory Richards, Rachel Benson Gold and Elizabeth Nash in developing the system for scoring states' laws and policies. This *In Brief* was made possible by support from the John Merck Fund, the Prospect Hill Foundation and the Compton Foundation. The conclusions and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the Guttmacher Institute.



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