



The Local Reproductive Freedom Index: Evaluating U.S. Cities

The *Local Reproductive Freedom Index: Evaluating U.S. Cities* is a first-of-its-kind initiative from the National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH) that evaluates the reproductive health, rights, and justice policies of 40 cities across the United States. It calls on cities to be leaders in ensuring that all residents have the full freedom and ability to control their reproductive and sexual lives.

The Local Index is a tool and a call to action, designed to:

- establish a baseline of data for stakeholders to evaluate their current local policy landscape;
- identify city-level policy trends, highlight models, and suggest areas of opportunity and improvement for policymakers and advocates alike; and
- provide a call to action and a roadmap for advocates and policymakers, identifying opportunities for progress and providing models they can draw upon for inspiration.

The Local Index also includes the Model City, a blueprint for a city that uses the full extent of its policy and programmatic powers to foster thriving families, supports each person's reproductive and sexual decisions, and destigmatizes abortion and contraception.

Cities

Atlanta, GA	Memphis, TN
Austin, TX	Miami, FL
Baltimore, MD	Milwaukee, WI
Boston, MA	Minneapolis, MN
Charlotte, NC	Nashville, TN
Chicago, IL	New Orleans, LA
Cleveland, OH	New York, NY
Columbus, OH	Oklahoma City, OK
Dallas, TX	Philadelphia, PA
Denver, CO	Phoenix, AZ
Detroit, MI	Portland, OR
El Paso, TX	Richmond, VA
Fort Worth, TX	San Antonio, TX
Hartford, CT	San Diego, CA
Houston, TX	San Francisco, CA
Indianapolis, IN	San Jose, CA
Jacksonville, FL	Seattle, WA
Las Vegas, NV	St. Louis, MO
Los Angeles, CA	St. Paul, MN
Louisville, KY	Washington, DC

About the National Institute for Reproductive Health

NIRH builds power at the state and local level to change public policy, galvanize public support, and normalize women's decisions about abortion and contraception. We don't just push back against restrictions on abortion and contraception; we fight for a society in which everyone has the freedom and ability to control their reproductive and sexual lives.

Policy Indicators

The policy indicators measured in the Comprehensive Scorecard were determined based on NIRH's years of experience at the local level and are backed up by research that establishes these elements as important to advancing reproductive freedom.

Protecting Abortion Clinic Access

- Clinic safety ordinance
- Regulations on crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs)
- No funding for CPCs
- Clinic escort programs supported by city
- Noise regulations
- Other protections for abortion clinics
- Protective zoning regulations

Funding & Coverage for Reproductive Health Care

- Funding for abortion
- Funding for family planning
- Funding for sex education in public schools
- Funding for STI prevention
- Municipal insurance coverage of abortion
- Funding for community-based organizations to provide CSE
- Funding to train providers in family planning care
- No gag rules on employees funded by the locality

Supporting Young People

- Support for pregnant & parenting youth
- Sexuality education policy
- Reproductive health care in school-based health centers (SBHCs)

Supporting Families

- Supportive breastfeeding policies
- Paid family leave
- \$15 minimum wage
- Support for undocumented people to access reproductive health care
- Positive public awareness campaigns on sexual and reproductive health

Supporting Families (cont.)

- Reproductive health protections for nail salon employees

Advancing Inclusive Policies

- Anti-discrimination ordinance for municipal employees: Pregnancy
- Anti-discrimination ordinance for municipal employees: Reproductive health decisions
- Anti-discrimination ordinance for municipal employees: Gender identity
- Anti-discrimination ordinances for all employees: Pregnancy
- Anti-discrimination ordinances for all employees: Reproductive health decisions
- Anti-discrimination ordinances for all employees: Gender identity

Taking a Stand

- Support for anti-discrimination policies
- Opposition to CPCs
- Advocacy for abortion coverage
- Pro-choice stance on legislation or ballot initiatives
- Opposition to sex-selective abortion bans
- Support for Women's Health Protection Act

Local Landscape

- Population
- Median income
- Annual cost of living for a family of four
- Number of abortion clinics
- Number of Title X Clinics
- Number of SBHCs
- Number of CPCs
- Unintended pregnancy rate
- Maternal mortality rate
- Teen pregnancy rate