

STATE FACT SHEET

Kansas

State of Access: A Contraceptive Policy Scorecard assesses policy environments in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia, illuminating where access to contraception is protected or restricted through laws affecting affordability, availability, and environment of care. For this work, we define contraception as medicines, devices, and behaviors that are used to prevent pregnancy and to manage other health conditions.



Affordability Policies

- Medicaid Expansion
- Family Planning Medicaid Expansion
- Contraceptive Coverage



Availability Policies

- Prescriptive Authority
- Extended Supply of Contraceptives
- Emergency Contraception



Environment of Care Policies

- Minor Consent
- Sex Education
- Refusal Clauses

Kansas Policy Environment

OVERALL RATING: RESTRICTIVE

Kansas’s policy environment is restrictive for contraceptive access. With three exceptions for authority to prescribe, sex education, and refusal clauses—where Kansas has some protections and some restrictions in place—it has implemented restrictive policies or has policy gaps across indicators. The state enacted restrictive policies in Medicaid expansion, family planning Medicaid expansion, and minor consent, limiting access to care for youth and residents with low income. Kansas has no basic policy protections for availability, such as emergency contraception expansion and an extended supply of contraceptives. The combination of restrictive policies and critical policy gaps indicates that much more can be done to ensure equitable and comprehensive contraceptive access.



Affordability Policies

Medicaid Expansion

RATING: RESTRICTIVE

Kansas has not adopted Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, which would extend eligibility for Medicaid's free or low-cost services, including contraceptives, to adults earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level. This decision bars many low-income residents in Kansas from coverage and leaves them in a health insurance coverage gap, severely limiting their access to contraceptive care and services and reinforcing reproductive health inequities. Because it has not adopted Medicaid expansion, Kansas scores as restrictive.

Family Planning Medicaid Expansion

RATING: RESTRICTIVE

Kansas has not expanded Medicaid coverage for family planning services through a waiver or state plan amendment. Such legislation would provide broader access to contraceptives for many residents, including men and individuals under 19. Kansas' decision limits contraceptive access for many groups with low income who often face significant financial barriers to care but do not qualify for traditional state Medicaid programs, especially adults without dependent children. Because state policy does not expand eligibility for family planning services under Medicaid, Kansas scores as restrictive.

Contraceptive Coverage

RATING: NO POLICY

No Kansas policy requires insurers to cover prescription or over-the-counter contraceptives or prohibits them from sharing costs with patients. While no restrictive policy is in place, the policy void could limit access among Kansans who have health insurance but cannot afford to pay out-of-pocket costs, especially policyholders with low income. As such, Kansas scores as no policy.



Availability Policies

Prescriptive Authority

RATING: SOME PROTECTIONS AND/OR SOME RESTRICTIONS

Kansas policy does not allow pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives; nurse midwives and nurse practitioners have full independent practice and prescriptive authority. By barring pharmacists from prescribing contraceptives, this policy environment creates barriers to access for Kansans seeking care through pharmacies, especially among those without access to a physician or unable to see a physician before visiting the pharmacy; however, by allowing nurses to independently prescribe contraceptives, it may support access for patients receiving care through clinics and other non-physician settings; living in areas with physician shortages; and unable to see a physician due to cost, time, or other constraints. Because it both reduces and reinforces barriers around the authority to prescribe, Kansas scores as having some protections and/or some restrictions.

Extended Supply of Contraceptives

RATING: NO POLICY

No Kansas policy requires insurers to cover an extended supply of contraceptives beyond typical short-term dispensing limits (such as 12 months versus three months). While not restrictive, this policy void means individuals may face more frequent refill requirements, which can create barriers to consistent contraceptive use, including additional pharmacy or provider visits. As such, Kansas scores as no policy.

Emergency Contraception

RATING: NO POLICY

No Kansas policy requires emergency rooms to provide information about or dispense emergency contraceptives (EC), nor does it exclude EC from the state family planning program or contraceptive coverage mandate. Without policies explicitly expanding or restricting access to EC, Kansas's policy void may lead to inconsistent access to care. As such, Kansas scores as no policy.



Environment of Care Policies

Minor Consent

RATING: RESTRICTIVE

Kansas permits minors to consent to medical care only if deemed mature enough by health care providers under the state's mature minor doctrine. The absence of explicit, broader age-based consent or group exceptions for contraceptive care limits autonomy and access and places the decision largely at providers' discretion. As a result, many minors may face barriers to confidential contraceptive services. Because of these limitations and the lack of explicit protections for minors, Kansas scores as restrictive.

Sex Education

RATING: SOME PROTECTIONS AND/OR SOME RESTRICTIONS

Kansas requires sex education in schools and does not require parental consent before instruction or abstinence-only instruction, supporting broad access to comprehensive sex education and contraceptive information among all Kansas students. However, the state does not require medically accurate curricula, possibly jeopardizing the quality of the information students receive. Because it protects sex education in most regards but does not require medical accuracy, Kansas scores as some protections and/or restrictions.

Refusal Clauses

RATING: SOME PROTECTIONS AND/OR SOME RESTRICTIONS

Kansas policy explicitly allows individual providers and pharmacists to refuse to provide contraceptive services if that provider "reasonably believes" a drug or device "may result" in an abortion, jeopardizing access for patients at many points of contact with the health system. However, no policies govern the right of health facilities to refuse to provide services for religious or moral reasons, potentially supporting broader access in facilities. Because it does not explicitly permit refusal in health facilities but does explicitly permit refusal by individual providers and in pharmacies, Kansas scores as some protections and/or restrictions.