

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As chairman of the TV Parental Guidelines Monitoring Board, I am honored to lead an organization whose mission remains as vital today as when it was established nearly three decades ago: empowering parents and caregivers to make informed decisions about television content for their children.

Throughout my career, including my years representing Colorado in the United States Senate, where I worked extensively on telecommunications and technology policy, I have seen firsthand the value of industry self-regulation and the importance of equipping families with practical tools to guide their viewing choices. When I assumed the chairmanship in October 2025, I did so with deep respect for the strong foundation this Board has built and a commitment to ensuring our work keeps pace with the rapidly evolving media landscape.

This past year, the Monitoring Board remained focused on reinforcing the integrity of the TV ratings system and ensuring it serves families effectively. Among our key activities:

- We conducted four spot check audits reviewing program ratings across broadcast, cable and streaming platforms to uphold the consistent application of the TV Parental Guidelines.
- We advanced the work of the Streaming Task Force, which is focused on strengthening best practices to support the uniform adoption of TV ratings by streaming services.
- We maintained timely, responsive communication with the public, addressing questions and concerns about television and streaming programming.
- We convened our annual meeting on October 28, 2025, where members reviewed the year's progress and established priorities for the year ahead.

I am grateful to our Board members for their continued dedication. Their efforts are essential to maintaining a ratings system that families can trust, and I look forward to the important work before us in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Hon. Cory Gardner

Chairman, TV Parental Guidelines Monitoring Board
President & CEO, NCTA – The Internet & Television Association



ABOUT THE TV PARENTAL GUIDELINES MONITORING BOARD



Established in 1996, the TV Parental Guidelines are a voluntary ratings system designed by the entertainment industry to help parents and caregivers identify age-appropriate programming for children. Developed in collaboration with leading industry organizations and stakeholders, the guidelines provide reliable guidance about program content and suitability. The ratings work in conjunction with parental control technologies, including the V-Chip embedded in televisions and set-top boxes, allowing households to block programming based on selected ratings. Separate ratings exist for content created specifically for children. The guidelines cover most genres of television programming, with exceptions for news, sports, religious and home shopping content. Ratings appear on-screen at program start and after commercial breaks and are also accessible through program listings and digital platforms.

The TV Parental Guidelines Monitoring Board oversees the ratings system to encourage consistent application of ratings across participating platforms. The Monitoring Board reviews public comments and complaints and convenes annually to assess the performance of the guidelines and address emerging issues.

The Monitoring Board is led by a chairman selected on a rotating basis from the presidents of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the Motion Picture Association, Inc. (MPA) and NCTA – The Internet & Television Association. The Board includes up to 24 representatives from broadcast, streaming and cable programming services appointed by participating trade associations. The chairman also appoints up to five representatives from public interest organizations with expertise in children’s issues, education and public health.

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING BOARD:

- A+E Networks
- Call for Action
- NBCUniversal
- TelevisaUnivision
- AMC Networks
- Disney ABC Television Group
- National PTA
- Versant Media
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Entertainment Industries Council
- Paramount
- Warner Bros. Discovery
- Boy and Girls Clubs of America
- Fox Corporation
- R2P Strategies



STREAMING TASK FORCE



The Monitoring Board established the Streaming Task Force in 2020 to provide guidance regarding the application of TV Parental Guidelines across streaming platforms and engage services that are not currently participating in the ratings system. The Task Force develops and maintains best practices to promote consistency in rating implementation as the streaming landscape continues to evolve.

In 2025, the Task Force focused on aligning content labels across platforms and refining guidance informed by stakeholder and public input. It reviewed streaming-related correspondence, continued dialogue with the industry on emerging trends in media and monitored international developments while exploring ways to leverage technology in support of consistent ratings.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Streaming Task Force will continue to engage with nonparticipating services, monitor application of the best practices and look for opportunities to promote industry-wide consistency for ratings and content labeling.



TV RATING SPOT CHECK REVIEWS



The Monitoring Board's Spot Check Review Program, established in 2019 and launched in 2020, provides a systematic approach to evaluating the consistency of TV ratings across platforms and time slots, including streaming content offered by participating services.

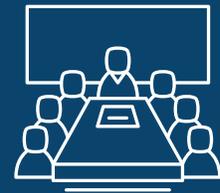
The program conducts quarterly reviews through four dedicated groups, each of which includes a public interest board member to ensure a range of perspectives. These groups assess programming across multiple time blocks—early morning children's content, daytime shows, prime-time programming, and late-night adult content—selecting titles at random from the platforms represented on the Monitoring Board.

When discrepancies in ratings are identified, review groups work directly with participating services to resolve them. Matters that cannot be settled at the group level are referred to the chairman, and if necessary, to the full Monitoring Board for final review.

Spot checks conducted throughout 2025 reflected the strength and consistency of the ratings system, with just two instances requiring rating changes. Beyond compliance, the review process fostered productive dialogue on rating applications and descriptor usage, helping services refine their practices and align more closely across the industry.



ANNUAL MONITORING BOARD MEETING



The Monitoring Board held its annual meeting on October 28, 2025, hosted by Chairman Cory Gardner and NCTA – The Internet & Television Association. Members convened to review the Monitoring Board’s work over the past year and set priorities for the year ahead. Discussion centered on ongoing oversight activities, including the work of the Streaming Task Force, the TV ratings Spot Check Review Program and the management of public correspondence and complaints.

STREAMING TASK FORCE

The Streaming Task Force reported on its ongoing efforts to enhance best practices for ratings application in the streaming environment. Members discussed engagement with streaming services, reviewed streaming-related correspondence and examined emerging trends affecting ratings consistency, along with opportunities to further align practices across platforms. The Task Force will continue its work in 2026. Additional information about the Streaming Task Force can be found on page 4.

TV RATINGS SPOT CHECK

The Monitoring Board completed its sixth annual TV ratings spot check review, assessing ratings consistency across platforms and programming time slots. Findings reflected strong overall accuracy and reinforced the value of continued dialogue among services regarding age ratings and descriptor usage. The spot check review program will continue in 2026. Additional information about the TV ratings spot check review can be found on page 5.

REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Board members examined correspondence and complaints received throughout 2025, following advance distribution of a detailed summary. The discussion underscored the importance of maintaining consistent engagement with viewer feedback.

PREVIEW OF 2026 ACTIVITIES

The Monitoring Board will continue its core oversight activities while identifying opportunities to promote consistent ratings practices and support public understanding of the TV Parental Guidelines.



2025 CORRESPONDENCE SUMMARY

JANUARY - DECEMBER

A core responsibility of the Monitoring Board is managing and responding to program ratings complaints through the review of public correspondence, engagement with industry and timely resolution of concerns.

Throughout 2025, the Monitoring Board reviewed and responded to all public correspondence received, sharing ratings complaints with relevant entertainment industry representatives to ensure awareness and facilitate prompt responses. The Board also works with industry representatives to explain ratings criteria to viewers. In some cases, companies may modify the program ratings.

Between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025, the Monitoring Board received 170 public comments, including one letter, 21 phone calls and 148 emails. These included 37 comments related to general content or casting, 11 concerning commercials and advertisements and 57 regarding scheduling changes. Only 11 comments involved TV Parental Guidelines ratings, continuing the downward trend in ratings-related complaints observed since 2021.

Of the 11 ratings complaints, seven concerned broadcast, cable and streaming services participating in the TV Parental Guidelines and were forwarded to the appropriate representative for review. The remaining four involved nonparticipating streaming services. Where the Board had an established contact, complaints were forwarded directly; otherwise, complainants were encouraged to reach out to the service directly.



2025 CORRESPONDENCE SUMMARY

BELOW ARE EXAMPLES OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS THAT THE MONITORING BOARD RECEIVED THIS YEAR, ALONG WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS THEM.

- In January, a viewer expressed disappointment about a character on a program. The Monitoring Board responded to the viewer, explaining that it has no oversight over program content or casting decisions and encouraged the viewer to contact the network directly.
- In March, a viewer complained about a network's programming. The Monitoring Board responded that it does not have oversight over program scheduling and encouraged the viewer to contact the network directly.
- In May, a viewer requested that a program originally rated TV-14 be re-rated higher due to scenes of excessive dialogue. The Monitoring Board notified the industry representative, who reviewed the program and determined a higher rating was appropriate. The program was subsequently re-rated to TV-MA, with L and V descriptors added. The Monitoring Board informed the viewer that the concern had been addressed.
- In August, a viewer objected to sexual health advertisements on a channel. The Monitoring Board responded to the viewer, explaining that it does not have oversight over advertisements or commercials and encouraged the viewer to contact the network directly.
- In October, a viewer complained about issues with a streaming service account. The Monitoring Board responded to the viewer, explaining that it has no oversight over streaming service account matters, and encouraged the viewer to contact the service directly.



CONCLUSION



In 2025, the Monitoring Board continued its efforts to maintain consistent TV ratings across broadcast, cable and streaming platforms. Through its spot check review program, the Streaming Task Force and engagement with public correspondence, the Board strengthened industry-wide ratings practices, helping parents and caregivers make informed viewing choices about age-appropriate programming.

For more information, please visit [TVGuidelines.org](https://www.fcc.gov/monitoring-board/tvguidelines.org).



TV Parental Guidelines