

# What are Fake Clinics?

They advertise on your campus or in your community with various names such as, "Crisis Pregnancy Centers" and "Pregnancy Resource Centers", among others. They pose as comprehensive women's health clinics for crisis pregnancies, but offer no abortion services or referrals, and no birth control options.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers, (CPCs), are typically run by anti-choice organizations with staff and volunteers who are not usually licensed medical professionals. They often use misinformation to intimidate women out of considering abortion as an option and provide false information about birth control and about the effectiveness of condoms for

the prevention of STIs and HIV. Furthermore, their tactics delay women from receiving comprehensive medical care.

Fake clinics target college students by locating near campuses and advertising "free" pregnancy tests on campus. According to a 2008 survey by the Feminist Majority Foundation, 48% of responding Campus Health Centers include CPCs on their referral lists for students facing unintended pregnancies.

It is estimated that 3,500 CPCs exist nationwide, outnumbering comprehensive women's health clinics 2 to 1. Most fake clinics are affiliated with one or more national anti-abortion, anti-birth control organization.

## Have you seen these popular CPC advertisements?

*"Pregnant? Need Help? You Have Options!"*  
*"Pregnant? Scared? We Can Help! Call 1-800-XXX-XXXX"*  
*"Free Pregnancy Tests!"*

## The Deception

A Congressional investigation of CPCs receiving funding through President Bush's faith-based Compassion Capital Fund revealed that 87% provided false or misleading information about the health effects of abortion.<sup>1</sup> The Congressional report found many of these federally funded centers grossly misrepresent the medical risks of abortion by telling women that having an abortion could increase the risk of breast cancer, result in sterility and lead to suicide and "post-abortion syndrome."<sup>2</sup> Abortion is not associated with an increase in breast cancer risk or infertility.<sup>3</sup> An eleven year longitudinal study of 13,000 women found that women who give birth have the same rate of need for psychological treatment as women who have abortions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United States Congress House Committee on Government Reform, Special Investigations Division. [False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers](#). 109<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess., 2006. Washington: GPO, 2006, p. i.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 7 – 13.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 7, 9.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 11.