What is a CPC?
Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) or Pregnancy Resource Centers are anti-abortion and religious-based organizations, whose sole purpose is to dissuade women from obtaining an abortion and instead opt for motherhood or placing their child for adoption. CPCs more often than not pose as legitimate medical health clinics and are generally located near a genuine health center or clinic – making it easy for women to go to the crisis pregnancy center by mistake. CPCs also draw women into their doors by using names that are similar to the names of real reproductive health centers in the neighborhood and/or promoting free pregnancy tests, pregnancy options “counseling” and in some instances, even ultrasounds. Once inside, unqualified or under-qualified volunteers often posture as medical professionals and pressure women to keep their pregnancies through use of inaccurate and biased information, intimidation and scare-tactics.¹ This fact sheet is the third from the Latinas and the “A” Word series. In it, CLRJ discusses the threat CPCs present for Latinas seeking information and options when faced with a pregnancy.

Where are CPCs?
Ongoing research is underway to capture the magnitude of the problem and pervasiveness of CPCs within our communities. In California, more than half of counties lack accessible abortion providers², yet according to an investigative report, nearly all counties have at least one CPC.³ Hotbeds of CPCs are spread throughout the state with higher percentages in rural and a growing number in inner cities areas, where many Latinas reside.

CPCs use deceitful and coercive tactics
CPCs pretend to care about women and claim they want to “help” them when facing an unexpected pregnancy. However, their deceitful and coercive tactics make it clear that their only purpose is to delay or prevent women

from having abortions. Instead of receiving unbiased, medically accurate care, including information about all options, women are often intimidated and provided with false, misleading and fear-inducing information. Women are typically told that abortions are painful, life-threatening procedures, and that they will increase their risk for developing breast cancer, developing post-traumatic stress disorder or “post abortion syndrome,” becoming infertile and developing other serious medical conditions if they go through with the abortion. These lies are constantly repeated by CPCs, despite scientific evidence showing that abortion is not associated with any of these claims. Other high-handed tactics CPCs use include extending the waiting period for pregnancy test results in order to expose women to their anti-abortion or religious propaganda and/or force them to view upsetting and misleading films about the abortion procedure.

**Reality Check:**
Women in their reproductive age including teens, low-income women, immigrant women, Latinas and other women of color are increasingly coerced into decision making about their pregnancies as they are less likely to know and challenge misinformation provided from these centers.

**Why is monitoring CPCs important to reproductive justice work?**
Some Latinas and other women of color face multiple barriers when trying to access quality and timely health care, including abortion services. CPCs take advantage of this and further limit a woman’s ability to make fully informed decisions about her health and possibly even endanger her life. As reproductive justice advocates, in addition to defending the right for women to have complete, unbiased and medically accurate information and services, we also equally uphold the right to have healthy pregnancies and births, to parent our children with dignity is safe communities, and to delay childbearing or terminate a pregnancy – without imposing our personal beliefs or values. We must continue to expose CPCs for what they really are and not allow them to continue to invade our communities with misinformation and coerce anti-abortion tactics.

** Lies spread by CPCs:**

**MYTH:** Abortions lead to breast cancer.
**FACT:** Exhaustive reviews by panels consisting of the world’s leading experts on pregnancy and breast cancer have concluded there is no association between abortion and breast cancer.4

**MYTH:** Abortions lead to mental disorders, such as “post-abortion syndrome”
**FACT:** Studies show that abortion is not a threat to women’s mental health.5 In fact, neither the American Psychological Association nor the American Psychiatric Association recognize post-abortion syndrome as an official diagnosis or syndrome, it’s a made up term with no scientific basis.

**MYTH:** Abortions are unsafe.
**FACT:** Abortions in the first trimester are one of the safest medical procedures in the U.S., with minimal – less than 0.05% – risk of major complications.7

**MYTH:** Abortion causes infertility.
**FACT:** Abortions performed in the first trimester pose virtually no long-term risks of infertility, ectopic pregnancy, spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) or birth defect, and little or no risk of preterm or low-birth-weight deliveries.8

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