

DESIGNED to DECEIVE

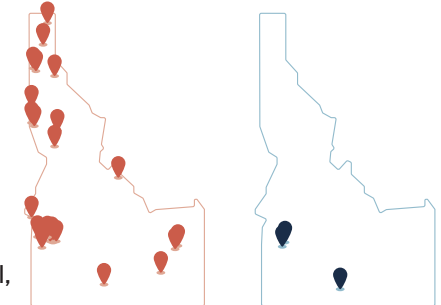
A STUDY OF THE CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER INDUSTRY IN NINE STATES

Idaho State Findings

- ▶ The Alliance Study identified **21 crisis pregnancy centers** in Idaho.
- ▶ There are currently **3 abortion care clinics** left in the state.

IN IDAHO, CPCs
OUTNUMBER ABORTION CARE
CLINICS BY MORE THAN

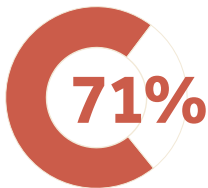
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Almost one-third (29%) of Idaho-based CPCs are affiliated with Heartbeat International, a global anti-abortion organization with strong ties to members of the former Trump administration.¹ Almost one-quarter (23%) of Idaho CPCs are affiliated with a U.S.-based evangelical anti-abortion organization called Care Net, and 14% are affiliated with a Canada-based anti-abortion network called Birthright International.

Most Common Services Offered by CPCs in Idaho

The services Idaho CPCs provide are similar to those offered by CPCs in other Alliance Study states. The most common services are support or counseling (100%), pregnancy testing (95.2%), free/earned goods (85.7%), and "non-diagnostic" ultrasounds (71.4%).



"NON-DIAGNOSTIC" ULTRASOUNDS OFFERED BY ALMOST 3/4 OF IDAHO CPCs ARE NOT RECOGNIZED BY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AS A MEDICAL SERVICE.²

Also known as "keepsake" or "souvenir" ultrasounds, they cannot determine gestational age, study placenta or amniotic fluid, or detect fetal abnormality, ectopic pregnancy, or fetal distress. It is unclear whether those performing CPC ultrasounds are trained to do so or to recognize any issues with a pregnancy. This CPC practice offers no medical benefit to the pregnant person or fetus, but may give pregnant people a false sense of security, and delay their search for legitimate prenatal care.

CPCs in Idaho Promote False & Biased Medical Claims

The majority of CPCs in Idaho (76.2%) make false and/or biased claims about reproductive health care and abortion. The Alliance Study defined as false or biased any medical claim that is untrue or unsubstantiated, that misstated or selectively cited to factual information, or that used gratuitous or graphic language instead of clinical terms. For example, some CPCs falsely claim that abortions can lead to "increased promiscuity" and increase the risk of breast cancer and infertility.

CPCs in Idaho also make deceptive and misleading claims on their websites, including that they have no agenda because their services are free, and that they provide full and unbiased information to support a pregnant person's choice. Almost half (10) of the CPCs in Idaho deceptively use the word "choice" in their name. This CPC in Lewiston makes misleading claims that lead pregnant people repeatedly to provide their contact information.



CONFIDENTIAL ABORTION CONSULTATION – NO COST TO YOU

★★★★★

Name *

How may we contact you? *

Call

Text

Email

ABORTION INFORMATION FOR IDAHO

Life Choices Clinic in Lewiston, Idaho understands the difficulty of facing an unexpected pregnancy. We believe that information empowers. We strive to provide you with objective pregnancy and sexual health education so you can make a confident decision. If you are considering abortion, your first step is to learn more about your options. We're here to help you no matter what choice you make. **All services are provided at no cost to you.**

- ▶ Screenshots from Life Choices CPC: <https://lifechoicesclinic.info/services/health-information/abortion-idaho/>

CPCs in Idaho Promote “Abortion Pill Reversal”

Over half (57%) of CPCs in Idaho promote “abortion pill reversal” (APR), the unrecognized practice of injecting or prescribing high-dose progesterone for pregnant people who have taken the first medicine in the two-step protocol for medication abortion in an attempt to stop (“reverse”) the abortion. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists calls APR “unethical” and “not based on science.”³ This rogue practice has been called “unproven and experimental” in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.⁴ Neither the safety nor effectiveness of APR has been proven in clinic trials.



▶ Screenshots from Reach Choices Clinic of Ceour d'Alene, ID <https://realchoicesclinic.com/abortion-pill-rescue/>

CPCs in Idaho promote unethical APR experimentation on vulnerable pregnant people in collusion with the Idaho state government. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare promotes a list of CPCs that engage in APR and requires abortion providers to give materials to patients about “reversal of a chemical abortion.”⁵ (“Chemical abortion” is what the anti-abortion movement calls medication abortion.)

Most CPCs in Idaho Do Not Provide Medical Services

No CPCs in Idaho offer contraception. Most Idaho CPCs offer no STI-related services (66.7%), no well-person care (90.5%) or referrals (85.7%), and no prenatal care (100%) or referrals (47.6%). None of the Idaho CPCs affiliated with the global anti-abortion group Heartbeat International provides prenatal care.

CPCs in Idaho Lack Licensed Medical Professionals

While many CPCs present as medical offices, fewer than one-quarter (23.8%) of Idaho CPCs indicate they have a registered nurse and only one-seventh (14.3%) say they have a licensed physician affiliated with the staff. This Boise CPC’s mention of “lab-quality” tests signals that it is a medical facility, which it is not:

You will be offered a **FREE** lab-quality, urine pregnancy test with quick results.

▶ Screenshot from Treasure Valley Path Pregnancy Clinic, Boise, Idaho <https://www.treasurevalleypath.org/new-page-1>

CPCs & Maternal Mortality in Idaho

Idaho’s Department of Health and Welfare Maternal Mortality Review Committee reported 10 maternal mortality deaths (defined as death while pregnant or up to a year after pregnancy) in its 2018 annual report,⁶ and noted that all 10 deaths were preventable.⁷ Half of Idaho women who died did not enter prenatal care in the first trimester.⁸ When CPC volunteers and staff without medical training spread false and deceptive information that causes pregnant people to delay or forego seeking medical care, they directly undermine the state’s efforts to reduce the rate of maternal mortality. The fact that the state of Idaho specifically refers pregnant people to organizations that offer no prenatal care is especially problematic given the well-documented correlation between a lack of prenatal care and maternal mortality. Women receiving no prenatal care are five times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes.⁹

Recommendations

Idaho policymakers should require all public schools to provide medically accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive sexual health education; and expand access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including a full range of contraceptive options, for *all* Idahoans. Instead of referring pregnant people to CPCs, the state of Idaho should follow the recommendations of its own Maternal Mortality Review Committee to expand insurance coverage for pregnant and postpartum women with substance abuse disorders and to expand Medicaid coverage for pregnant people to 12 months postpartum, regardless of pregnancy outcome.

1. Claire Provost and Nandini Archer, “Exclusive: Trump-Linked Religious ‘Extremists’ Target Women With Disinformation Worldwide,” *Open Democracy*, February 10, 2020, <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/trump-linked-religious-extremists-global-disinformation-pregnant-women/>.
2. J.S. Abramowicz and S.B. Barnett, “The safe use of non-medical ultrasound,” *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*, April 28, 2009, <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/uog.6390>.
3. “Facts Are Important: Medication Abortion ‘Reversal’ Is Not Supported by Science,” *American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*, accessed September 29, 2021, <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/medication-abortion-reversal-is-not-supported-by-science>.
4. Daniel Grossman and Kari White, “Abortion ‘Reversal’ — Legislating without Evidence,” *The New England Journal of Medicine* 379, no. 16, October 2018: 1491, <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmp1805927>.
5. Idaho Code Section 18-609(2) provides: 18-609(2) “In order to provide assistance in assuring that the consent to an abortion is truly informed consent, the director of the department of health and welfare shall publish . . . to physicians, hospitals or other facilities providing abortion and abortion-related services, and which shall contain the following: (f) Information directing the patient where to obtain further information and assistance in locating a health care provider whom she can consult about chemical abortion, including the interventions, if any, that may affect the effectiveness or reversal of a chemical abortion, and informs the patient that if she wants to consult with such health care providers, she should contact those health care providers before she takes the abortifacient.”
6. “2018 Maternal Deaths in Idaho,” Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, Maternal Mortality Review Committee, 3, January 2021, FINAL2018_Idaho_Maternal_Mortality_Review_20210216.
7. “2018 Maternal Deaths in Idaho Factsheet,” Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, Maternal Mortality Review Committee, 1, January 2021, FINAL2018_Idaho_Maternal_Mortality_FactSheet.
8. “2018 Maternal Deaths in Idaho,” Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, 3, 16.
9. Michelle Osterman and Joyce Martin, “Timing and Adequacy of Prenatal Care in the United States, 2016,” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 67 National Vital Statistics Report No. 3, National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 67, Number 3, May 2018 (cdc.gov).