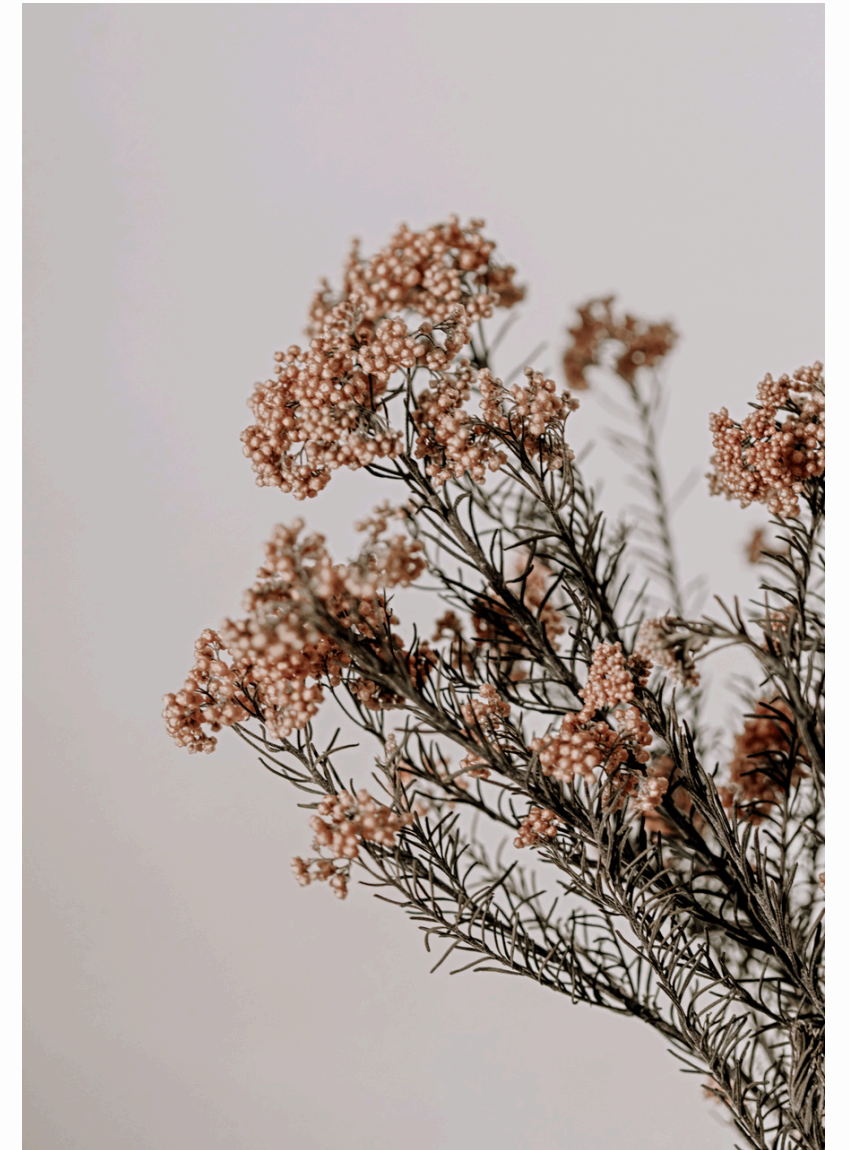



Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs)

BY KAT KROECK

Overview

- “Organizations that present themselves as healthcare clinics while providing counseling explicitly intended to discourage and limit access to abortion” (Montoya 2022)
- Generally religiously-affiliated non-profits
- Rarely staff medical professionals
- 2,500 to 4,000 CPCs exist in the USA
 - Compared to under 800 abortion facilities



Statistics

- 80% of CPC's websites have false or misleading information
- 87% of CPC's falsely claim abortion leads to breast cancer and future infertility
- In 2013, 34 states directed money to fake clinics
- Out of a sample of 857 participants seeking an abortion in the US, 112 (13.1%) visited a CPC
 - These participants had over twice the odds of being pregnant or still seeking an abortion
 - Those without health insurance were more likely to visit a CPC
 - The further a person lives from a CPC, the less likely they were to report going to one

About

“National umbrella organizations for CPCs often note that their goals include targeting “abortion-vulnerable” people and explicitly focus on reaching People of Color, young people, and under-resourced people who are struggling to afford an abortion. CPC targeting tactics often include the promise of free services and pregnancy and parenting support. With existing gaps in care already leading to disparities in health outcomes for marginalized populations, this CPC tactic can further exacerbate the disparities in the health and health outcomes of marginalized communities” (ACOG 2022).

About

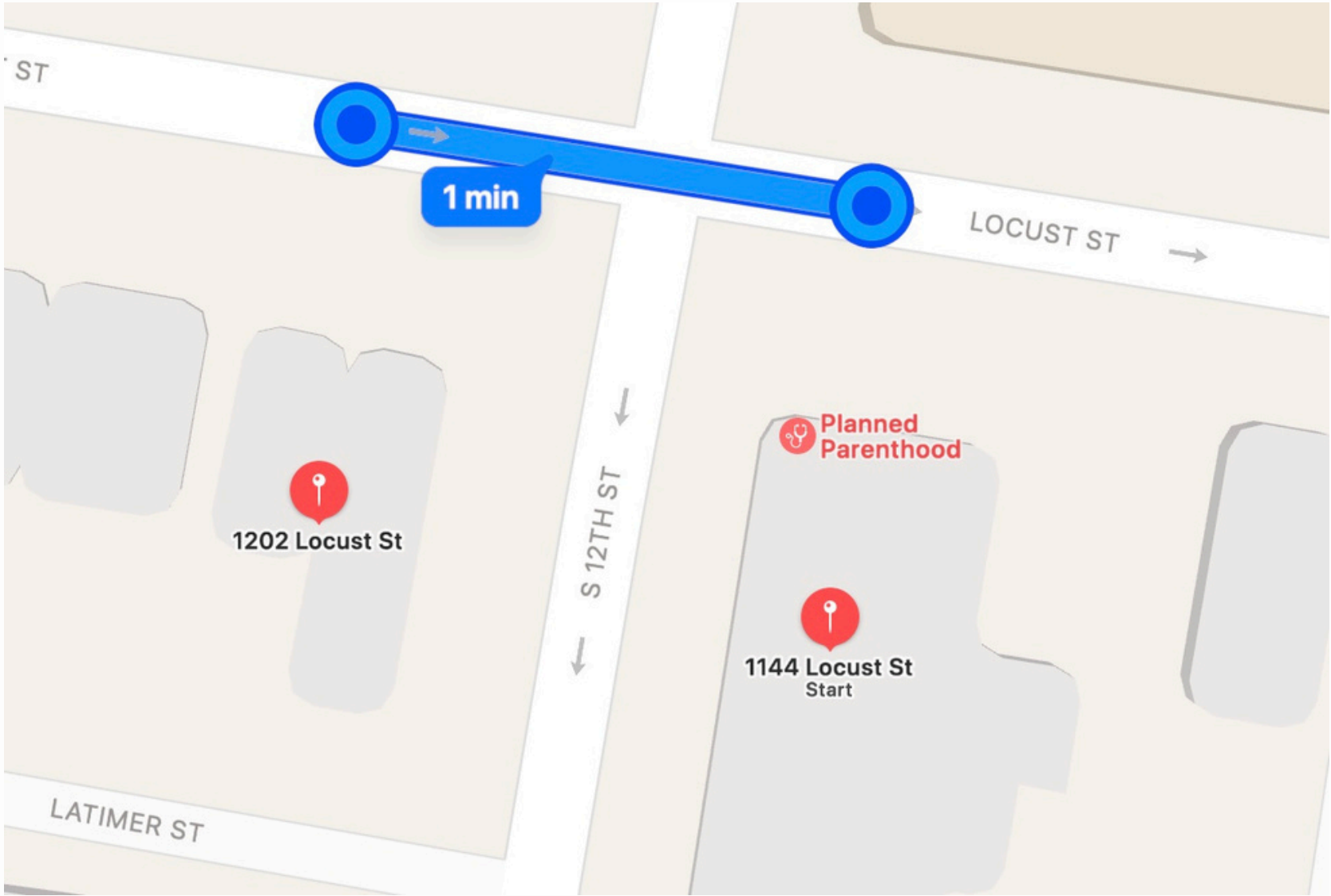
"Women seeking abortions, women that are pregnant, that are vulnerable, they are going into Google and they are typing 'pregnancy symptoms.' There's a way in Google where you can basically set that search to your website... We want to look professional... business-like. And, yeah, we do kind of want to look medical. The best client you ever get is one that thinks they're walking into an abortion clinic."

— Abby Johnson, anti-choice activist at a fake clinic training.
<https://www.exposefakeclinics.com/intheirownwords>

**CPC: Community
Women’s Center
of Philadelphia
1202 Locust St**



**Planned
Parenthood
1144 Locust St**



Reproductive Justice

**THE RIGHT
TO NOT HAVE
A CHILD**

- Lack of client awareness and risk of deception
 - “By using deception, delay tactics, and disinformation, CPC staffs undermine the tenets of informed consent and patient autonomy and impede access to comprehensive, ethical care” (ACOG 2022)
- Misinformation on contraceptives
 - “In one study, 33% of teenagers who had a negative pregnancy test at a community clinic became pregnant within 18 months” (Rosen 2012)
- Abstinence-only education and anti-LGBTQ philosophies
- Funding and regulation
 - Several states fund CPCs through TANF

Social Work Ethics

- Social Justice
 - Advocate for rights of pregnant people and their bodily autonomy
- Integrity
 - To oppose deceptive tactics
- Competence
 - Responsibility to provide appropriate referrals



Interventions

- Public education
 - Advertise free pregnancy tests, abortion counseling, post-abortion care - but won't help you get an abortion
 - Offer items like clothes, diapers, etc. but you have to go to workshops to "earn them"
 - They say abortion is unsafe, leads to cancer, infertility, or mental health problems
 - They don't provide condoms or other effective birth control
 - Pressure you into continuing a pregnancy, or placing your future baby up for adoption

Interventions

- Policy
 - Government funding goes only to health care organizations that provide comprehensive and medically accurate care
 - Hold CPCs accountable for deceptive practices
 - Laws requiring CPCs to disclose they they do not offer abortion services/referrals and (if applicable) do not have medically trained staff
- Clinical
 - Proper referrals
 - Education

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