



# The Deception Behind Crisis Pregnancy Centers

presentation prepared by Shay Upadhyay

**NOTE:** This PowerPoint presentation has speaker notes attached, but you will not be able to view them in this PDF format.

If you would like to read the speaker notes, feel free to make a request by emailing [info@prochoicemd.org](mailto:info@prochoicemd.org).

# What are Crisis Pregnancy Centers?



- type of organization established to dissuade people from having an abortion
- often masked behind the word “clinic” to give the impression that they are authorized to provide legitimate medical services and advice
- provides free services as a way to get people in the door
  - pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and baby supplies

# Advertising Tactics

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent circles in various shades of orange and red, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The colors transition from a deep red on the left to a bright orange on the right.

# Billboards



photo credit: <https://www.wnpr.org/post/new-report-blasts-crisis-pregnancy-centers-connecticut>

# Free Pregnancy Tests



photo credit: Healthline

# Location of CPCs

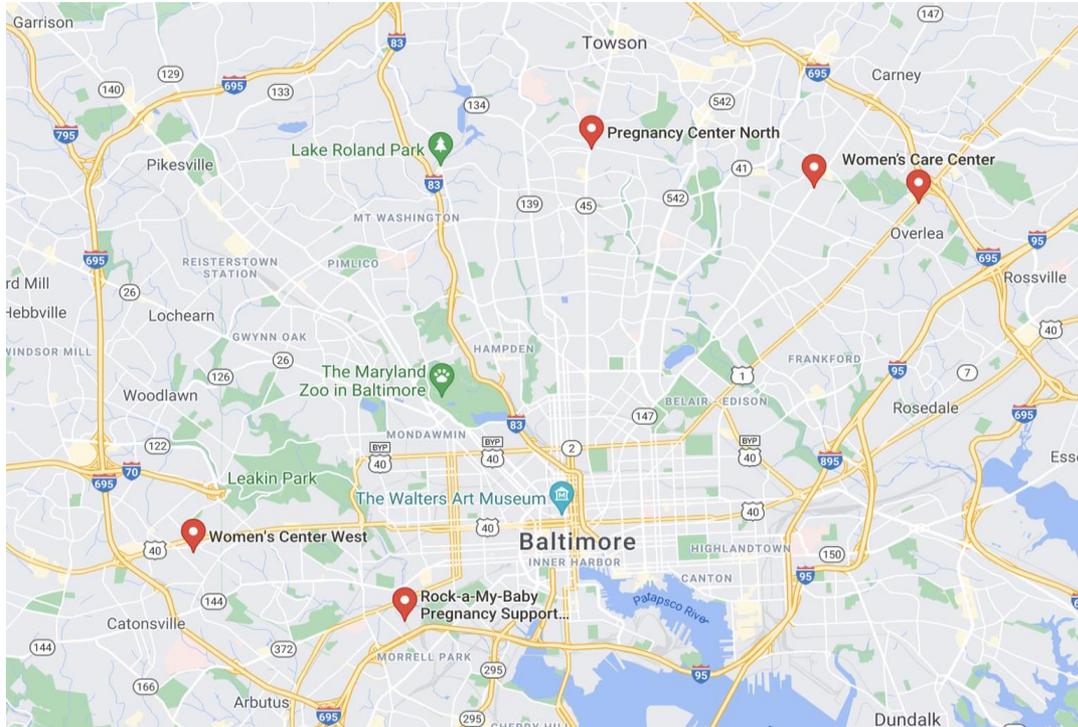


photo credit: Google Maps



# Emotional Manipulation Tactics

# Emotional Manipulation Tactics

- calling a pregnant person “mommy”
- referring to the fetus as “the baby”
- praying for the baby
- writing “Hi Mommy” on the ultrasound
- using baby doll to mimic fetus

# CPCs disguised as Medical Clinics

- CPCs are not licensed medical clinics, yet most CPCs attempt to provide presence of a medical professional
- CPCs cannot legally be held to the privacy provisions of HIPAA
- on Yelp, many CPCs in Maryland are categorized under “Health and Medical”

# Post Abortion Stress Syndrome (PASS)

## Symptoms of Abortion-Related Trauma

- Crying
- Insomnia
- Weight loss/gain
- Eating disorder
- Guilt
- Suicidal thoughts
- Regret/remorse
- Relationship withdrawal
- Lower self-esteem
- Anger/rage
- Sexual dysfunction
- Nightmares
- Cannot forgive yourself/others
- Compulsive behaviors

screenshot from the Women's Health Resource website

The background features a gradient of warm colors, transitioning from a deep red-orange on the left to a bright yellow on the right. Large, overlapping circular shapes in these colors create a dynamic, abstract pattern.

# Free Pregnancy Tests and Ultrasounds

# Falsifying Information about a Pregnancy



photo credit: Healthline

- CPCs manipulate clients into thinking that they are
  - further along than they are
  - or
  - have plenty of time to make a decision

# Free and Fake Ultrasounds

- CPCs do not need a license to provide ultrasound services
- ultrasound machines are available for purchase by anyone
- CPCs provide inaccurate ultrasound information as a manipulation tactic



photo credit: Healthline

# Religious Affiliation

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent circles in various shades of orange and red, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The colors transition from a deep red on the left to a bright orange on the right.

# Anti-Choice Umbrella Organizations



CARE  NET



# Upholding Christian Values



photo credit: iStock

- “Do you consider yourself a Christian?”
- “As a Christian, what is the basis of your salvation?”
- “Are you now living a lifestyle of sexual integrity, abstinent if single or faithful within marriage?”
- “Have you ever had an abortion?”

# Access to State Funding



photo credit: <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdstatehouse/html/home.html>

- state funding is available to some CPCs for their religious affiliation and nonprofit organization status
- CPCs in Maryland do not receive state funding

# CPCs in Maryland

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# CPCs in Maryland

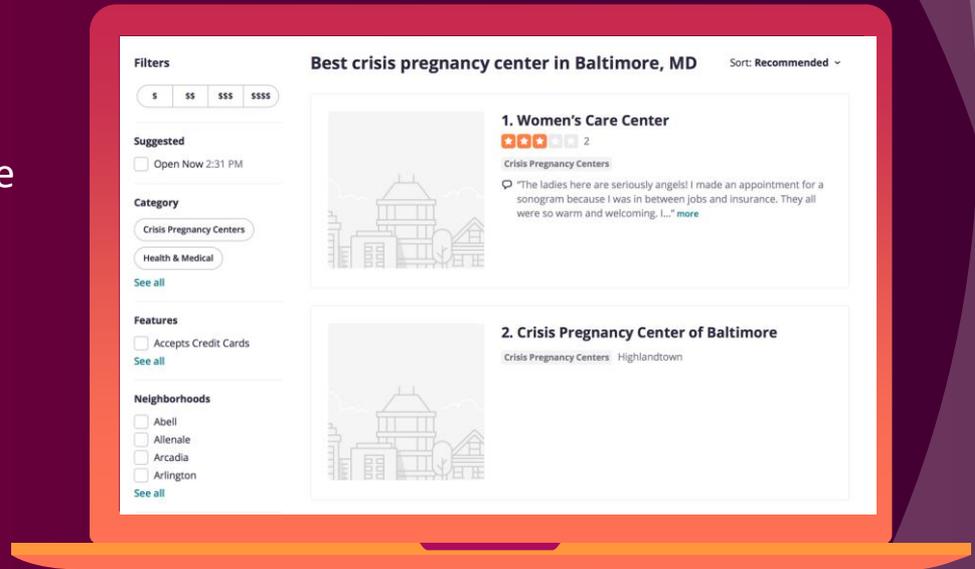
- 46 crisis pregnancy centers
- 72% provide ultrasounds
- 13 use Earn While You Learn
- 9 affiliated with Care Net or Birthright

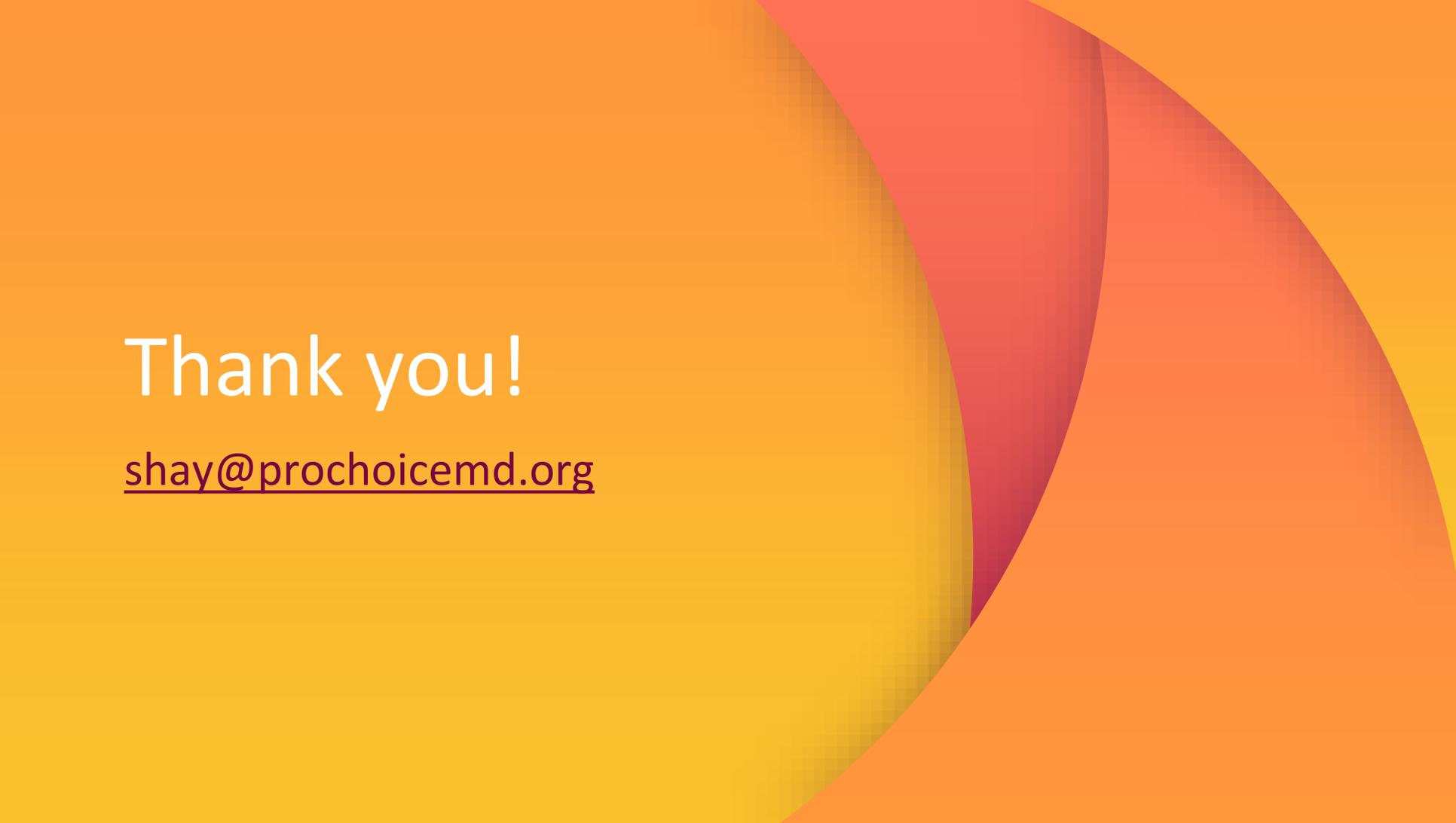
# Interested in Learning More?

If you're interested in learning more about crisis pregnancy centers, we have had previous interns visit [crisis pregnancy centers](#) and [abortion clinics](#) in Maryland to share their experiences. For a more in-depth look at the type of deceptive practices of CPCs, check out the NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland Fund's [2018 Investigative Report](#).

Want to take action against the deceptive practices of CPCs?

**Leave a Yelp Review!**



The background features two large, overlapping circles. The circle on the left is a bright yellow, and the circle on the right is a vibrant orange. They overlap in the center, creating a gradient of colors.

# Thank you!

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# Sources

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Corinne H. Rocca, Goleen Samari, Diana G. Foster, Heather Gould, Katrina Kimport, Emotions and decision rightness over five years following an abortion: An examination of decision difficulty and abortion stigma, *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 248, 2020, 112704, ISSN 0277-9536, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2019.112704>.  
(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953619306999>)

NARAL Pro-Choice America. Crisis Pregnancy Centers Lie: The Insidious Threat to Reproductive Freedom, 2015, <https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/cpc-report-2015.pdf>, accessed May 10, 2021.

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