

# How Do 72% of CPCs Violate Their Own Standards?

*NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Foundation found twenty-six crisis pregnancy centers receiving state-regulated funding to be in non-compliance with their own 'Commitment of Care' Standards.*

## **Violation 1: Client information is held in strict and absolute confidence.**

**Nineteen** centers promised **confidentiality**, leading investigators to wrongly believe that their information was maintained in strict confidence and accordance with the law. But because the majority of these facilities are not licensed medical clinics, they are not held to HIPAA privacy requirements, and therefore, confidentiality may not be protected or guaranteed.

- One investigator watched as two other clients exited the center. As soon as they left, one staffer from the center yelled out to another, loudly enough for the waiting room attendees to hear, “Those girls left because their [pregnancy] test was negative.”<sup>1</sup>

## **Violation 2: Clients receive accurate information about pregnancy, fetal development, lifestyle issues, and related concerns.**

**Fifteen** centers shared erroneous information about the **likelihood of miscarriages**.

- One investigator was told, “Abortion increases your risk for a future miscarriage two times in the first trimester and ten times in the second trimester.”<sup>2 3</sup>

**Sixteen** CPCs shared **erroneous information about contraception**. **Thirteen** centers also provided faulty information about sexually transmitted infections.

- One investigator was told, “Condoms have holes. Women have come in here with condoms with holes.”<sup>4</sup>
- Another center shared, “The AIDS virus is smaller than the holes in condoms.”<sup>5</sup>

## **Violation 3: We do not offer, recommend or refer for abortions or abortifacients, but are committed to offering accurate information about abortion procedures and risks.**

**Fifteen** investigators were told about a bogus scientific link between **abortion and breast cancer**.

- An investigator heard, “The risk of breast cancer almost doubles after one abortion and rises even further with two or more abortions.”<sup>6</sup>

**Twenty** CPCs shared **misleading information about surgical abortion**.

<sup>1</sup> “Page Pregnancy Assistance Center.” In-Person Investigation. 21 July 2009.

<sup>2</sup> “Life Choices Resource Center.” In-Person Investigation. 8 July 2009.

<sup>3</sup> “We found no evidence of adverse pregnancy outcomes...Induced abortion is not an independent risk factor for adverse obstetric outcome.” Raatikainen, Kaisa, Nonna Heiskanen, and Seppo Heinonen. “Induced Abortion: Not an Independent Risk Factor for Pregnancy Outcome, But a Challenge for Health Counseling.” *Annals of Epidemiology* Vol. 16. Issue 8. (2006): 587-92. Print.

<sup>4</sup> “Pregnancy Support Center of the Tri-Cities.” In-Person Investigation. 31 July 2009.

<sup>5</sup> “Assist Crisis Pregnancy Center.” In-Person Investigation. 14 May 2009.

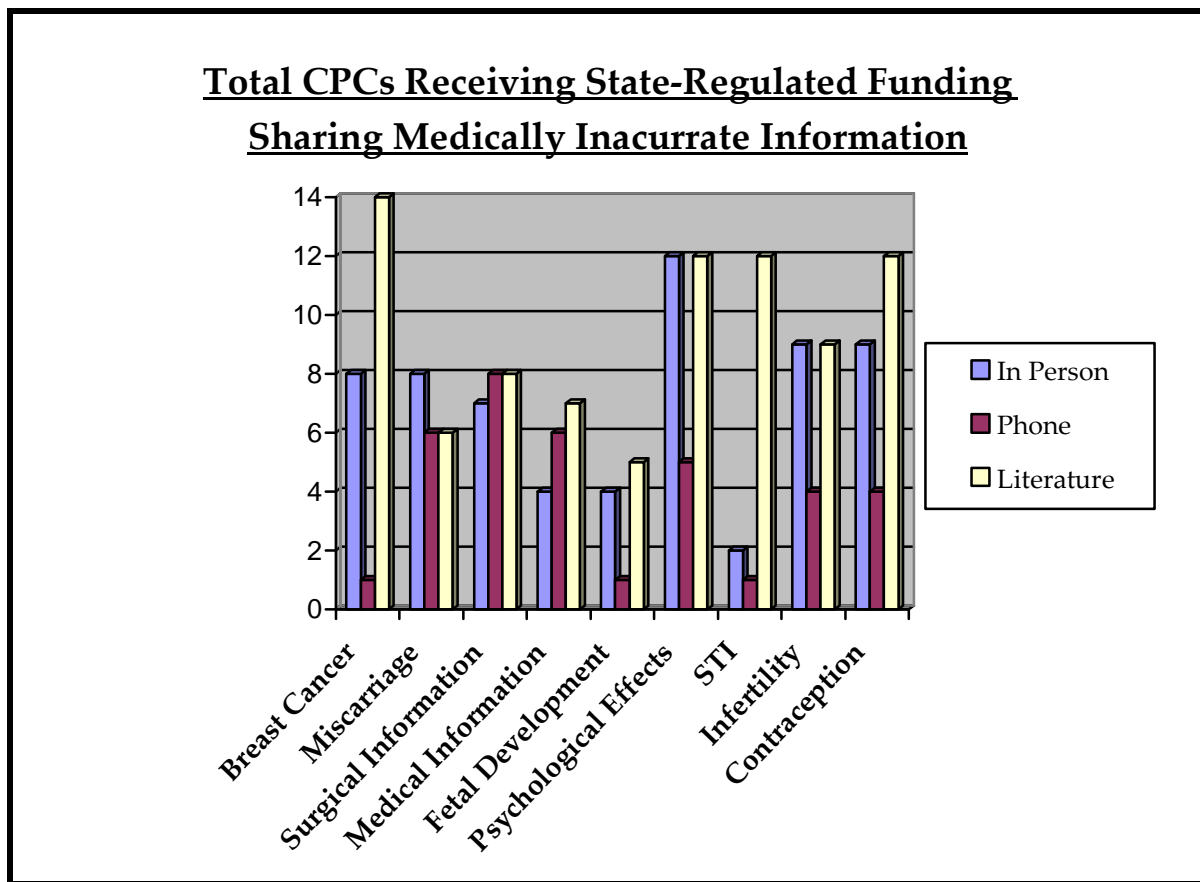
<sup>6</sup> “First Choice Women’s Health Center.” In-Person Investigation. 5 Nov. 2009.

- One investigator reported, “She [the CPC counselor] told us about a doctor who had accidentally sucked out a woman’s fallopian tube during the [abortion] surgery. And then she said, ‘Because the doctor can’t see what he’s doing, he could accidentally suck out your bowels.’”<sup>7</sup>

**Violation 4: All of our advertising and communication are truthful and honest and accurately describe the services we offer.**

**Fifteen** CPCs predicted investigators’ due dates, and **two** operate ultrasound equipment without confirming any licensed medical care providers to be on staff. Instead, most CPCs physically appear as doctors’ offices, leading women to believe that they are licensed medical facilities.

- As one investigator reported, “When we walked into the center, the receptionist told me, ‘This is just like any other medical office where you need appointments.’ It was a very doctor’s office-looking reception room, and there was a medical room with an ultrasound machine.”<sup>8</sup>



<sup>7</sup> “Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center.” In-Person Investigation. 30 July 2009.

<sup>8</sup> “Abba Pregnancy Center.” In-Person Investigation. 21 July 2009.