

Colorado Abortion Access Map

Anti-Abortion Centers Brief

Crisis pregnancy centers, pregnancy resource centers, pregnancy counseling centers, fake health clinics. Many names, one purpose: to dissuade people from seeking abortion care. So much of the language used in the abortion movement has been defined by the opposition (e.g. “pro-life” vs. “pro-choice”). We have chosen to take the language back to delegitimize these organizations, to call them what they really are: anti-abortion centers.

The first anti-abortion center (AAC) was created by Robert Pearson in Hawaii 1967 in protest to the state legalizing abortion. The same foundation then opened a second center in St. Louis 1969. With its gained momentum, the foundation started assisting other groups with setting up similar sites and even created a manual for how to open and operate an AAC. On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court established a constitutional federal right to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*. This landmark decision catalyzed the anti-abortion activists’ mobilization. Multiple legislations have been created in attempt to regulate these centers, including: Baltimore, Maryland (2009); Montgomery County, Maryland (2010); Austin, Texas (2012); New York City, New York (2011); San Francisco, California (2011); state of California (2015); and Colorado (2023).

It is difficult to provide an exact number of anti-abortion centers in the United States because of their secretive nature and lack of regulation, but it is estimated that there around 4,000 centers open¹. In Colorado alone, there are 58 AACs. These centers purposefully locate themselves near abortion care providers as well as in low income neighborhoods, college campuses, communities of color, and rural areas. Local AACs partner with larger umbrella organizations (CareNet, NIFLA, and HeartBeat International) that provide legal and financial support, training, anti-abortion materials, etc. These centers are funded through private donations as well as taxpayer money. During George W. Bush’s presidency, anti-abortion centers had received approximately \$60 million in federal abstinence and marriage-promotion funding by 2006.² President Trump’s proposed 2018 budget included \$277 million in new funding for abstinence-only education. Since the mid-1990s, the federal government has spent nearly \$2 billion in abstinence-only funding.³

AACs do not provide many of their services publicly and offer material assistance in order to draw people in a vulnerable situation to their facility and push their anti-choice agenda. Most of these free services and assistance are offered at many other organizations without deceitful intentions. These often faith-based centers counsel pregnant people to not have abortions and offer various services that do not require licensed healthcare professionals (e.g. self-administered pregnancy tests, material assistance, and faith-based support). Even centers that advertise having medical care because they provide ultrasounds can be misleading, since Colorado does not require ultrasound technicians to be medically qualified. Even worse, some AACs provide the abortion pill reversal (APR) - a large dose of progesterone taken orally or vaginally that they say is to reverse the first part of the medication abortion pill in the first trimester. This pill has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists say this treatment is not based on science and does not meet clinical

¹ *Anti-Choice Anti-Abortion Faith-Based Fake Clinics - Planned Parenthood*, www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/81/a3/81a30c3d-c40f-4bd9-aa28-be52e2180b1b/ppnc-cpc-fact-sheet.pdf. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.

² Edsall, Thomas B. “Grants Flow to Bush Allies on Social Issues Federal Programs Direct at Least \$157 Million.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 22 Mar. 2006, www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2006/03/22/grants-flow-to-bush-allies-on-social-issues-span-classbankheadfederal-programs-direct-at-least-157-millionspan/b20f8baa-9ea6-4829-b61b-3e82eb801b80/.

³ Fox, Ashley M, et al. “Funding for Abstinence-Only Education and Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention: Does State Ideology Affect Outcomes?” *American Journal of Public Health*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, Mar. 2019, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6366514/#:~:text=President%20Trump's%20proposed%202018%20budget,as%20sexual%20risk%20avoidance%20education.&text=It%20is%20estimated%20that%20the,funding%20since%20the%20mid%2D1990.

standards of care.⁴ ⁵ The Colorado Medical Board, Board of Nursing, and Board of Pharmacy ruled that the abortion pill reversal “did not meet generally accepted standards of medical practice”.⁶ A Trump-appointed federal judge blocked Colorado SB23-190, a bill aimed at regulating false advertising of APR’s consequences, in favor of Bella Health and Wellness “on the grounds that the law infringes upon the Englewood faith-based clinic’s rights to free speech and religion”.⁷ Anti-abortion centers use a purposeful lack of transparency of their services and provide blatantly false information about evidence-based medicine, which misleads people from being fully informed about their reproductive healthcare choices. Anti-abortion centers are deceptive, manipulative, and dangerous. People have the right to full, quality, and evidence-based information for all of their healthcare choices.

Methodology

This map was created as a tool to inform people searching for unbiased, comprehensive reproductive and sexual healthcare in Colorado. The original data was collected and the map built in 2019. In 2023, the information was updated in the same methodology through an exhaustive open-sourced data collection and verification process. Any organization that has an asterisk (*) next to its name was unable to be verified. An anti-abortion center qualified for inclusion if it provides free pregnancy tests, anti-abortion pregnancy options coaching, the abortion reversal pill, and/or Learn to Earn programs in conjunction with an anti-abortion stance. An abortion provider was included if it provides abortion care and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information. The continued accuracy of the map’s locations cannot be guaranteed due to the covert nature of anti-abortion centers that close and reopen under different names. Please be aware that this is not an exhaustive list of Colorado abortion providers.

The Colorado Abortion Access Map was created by Kelsey Landstrom.

Colorado

Colorado has 58 anti-abortion centers and 24 public abortion providers. Anti-abortion centers purposefully locate themselves to intersect with vulnerable populations in low income, rural, and communities of color. Anti-abortion activists lie about safety and benefits of abortion care. Colorado is a beacon for abortion care to people within and outside of its borders. All but one bordering state have low-to-severe abortion bans, driving people in those states to seek abortion care in Colorado. Coloradan communities are not safe while anti-abortion centers exist to stop people from accessing medically accurate information, unbiased pregnancy decision options, and abortion care.

If you’re interested in learning more about anti-abortion centers in Colorado, please contact Keep Abortion Safe. All research, data, and information belong to Kelsey Landstrom and Keep Abortion Safe, Progress Now Colorado.

⁴ Grossman D;White K;Harris L;Reeves M;Blumenthal PD;Winikoff B;Grimes DA; “Continuing Pregnancy after Mifepristone and ‘Reversal’ of First-Trimester Medical Abortion: A Systematic Review.” *Contraception*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26057457/. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.

⁵ “Medication Abortion Reversal Is Not Supported by Science.” *ACOG*, www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/medication-abortion-reversal-is-not-supported-by-science. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.

⁶ Contreras, Oscar. “Federal Judge Blocks Colorado from Enforcing Nation’s First Law Banning Abortion Reversal Treatments.” *Denver 7 Colorado News (KMGH)*, Denver 7 Colorado News (KMGH), 23 Oct. 2023, www.denver7.com/news/state-news/federal-judge-blocks-colorado-from-enforcing-nations-first-law-banning-abortion-reversal-treatments.

⁷ Sara Wilson, Colorado Newslines September 25. “Abortion Reversal Ban Survives Test of Colorado Regulatory Board Rules.” *Colorado Newslines*, 25 Sept. 2023, coloradonewslines.com/2023/09/25/abortion-reversal-ban-survives-test-colorado/.