



## WLP Statement on Anti-Abortion “Crisis Pregnancy Center” Client Data Exposure

*A new investigation reveals that “crisis pregnancy center” steering organization Heartbeat International exposed clients’ personal health data and posted a video revealing client health data on the Internet*

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**PENNSYLVANIA // May 31, 2024** – A new [investigative report](#) reveals that Heartbeat International, the largest anti-abortion “crisis pregnancy center” network in the country and Pennsylvania, shared sensitive client health data in training videos likely accessible to more than 10,000 anti-abortion activists. The videos were also posted publicly on the Internet.

Anti-abortion “crisis pregnancy centers,” sometimes called fake clinics or pregnancy resource centers, are unregulated pseudo-clinics that target low-income pregnant people and teenagers with offers of free pregnancy tests to prevent access to abortion and contraception.

“This shocking report comes on the heels of [a public complaint](#) urging Pennsylvania officials to assess if Options Women’s Center, a Heartbeat International-affiliated CPC in Scranton, has been obtaining women’s sensitive personal and health data while making misleading representations about its legal obligations regarding confidentiality,” says Amal Bass, co-executive director of Women’s Law Project. “We have a right to privacy. We can’t just allow anti-abortion activists to collect and openly share our personal information and post it online.”

In one of the published videos, the information exposed includes the names, pregnancy test results, ultrasound information, last menstrual period, living arrangement, and income of women who visited a CPC in Louisiana. The video features a map showing the home addresses of each client.

The videos also reveal that HBI does not encrypt or de-identify client health data and suggests corporate access to records of all HBI-affiliated CPCs in every state. The videos are now behind a password-protected wall as part of HBI's online training hub for anti-abortion activists. According to the report, more than 10,000 anti-abortion activists are “active participants” in the hub.

“CPCs were invented to target pregnant people, but the current focus is targeting kids to dissuade contraception use and indoctrinate them with anti-abortion ideology before an unexpected pregnancy,” says Tara Murtha, Director of Strategic Communications at Women’s Law Project and co-author of [Designed to Deceive: A Study of the Crisis Pregnancy Center Industry in Nine States](#). “The CPC industry has a sophisticated digital infrastructure that reaches kids online. Parents need to talk with teens about refusing offers to chat or text from websites that appear to be medical, because they could wind up talking to an anti-abortion activist without privacy protections and not know it.”

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*Founded in 1974, Women's Law Project is a public interest legal organization devoted to advancing and defending the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in Pennsylvania and beyond.*