

Who Attends a Crisis Pregnancy Center in Ohio?

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It is not rare for women in Ohio to attend a crisis pregnancy center (CPC), and specific groups have a greater chance of attending a CPC due to existing disparities.

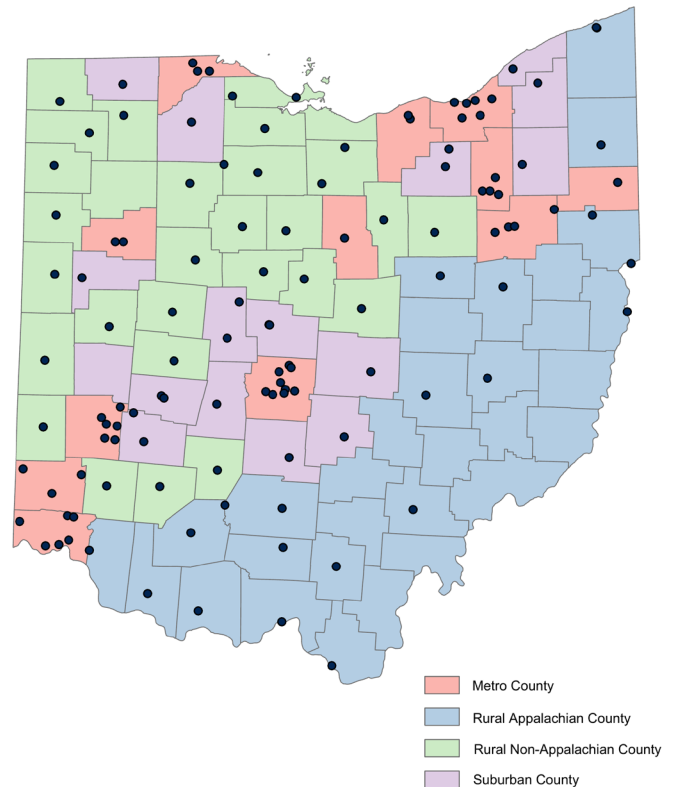
About the Study

There are 119 CPCs in the state of Ohio, but the extent to which they are being used and the demographic factors associated with use remained unknown. Given the substantial public funding invested in CPCs in Ohio (\$7.5 million in 2019) and the potential of CPCs to spread misinformation, we sought to better understand the use of CPCs in Ohio by surveying adult, reproductive-aged women in the state.

Key Findings

- ▶ CPC attendance is not rare. Nearly one in seven women in Ohio have attended a CPC at least once.
- ▶ CPC attendance is higher among non-Hispanic Black women and those of a lower socioeconomic status.
- ▶ CPC attendance does not differ by residence in rural Appalachian counties or the respondent's perceived importance of religion in daily life.

Geographic Distribution of CPCs in Ohio



Public Health Implications

- Prior research shows that CPCs provide inaccurate health information. Providers should be aware that their pregnant patients might have previously attended a CPC and may have been exposed to misinformation that needs to be corrected.
- Future research could look at why Black women and women of a lower socioeconomic status disproportionately attend CPCs. This could be because CPCs target their advertising to these groups or because these groups face barriers in accessing timely medical care.
- CPCs are not licensed healthcare facilities and should not be used in place of medical care.