



# **ANTI- ABORTION CENTERS**

*THE HARM AND STATUS OF AACCS IN PHILADELPHIA AND PA*

# What to expect from this presentation:

- Basic information about AACs
- Prevalence of AACs
- Harmful tactics
- AACs and White supremacy
- Funding
- How to spot an AAC
- What you can do



## **Campaign Overview:**

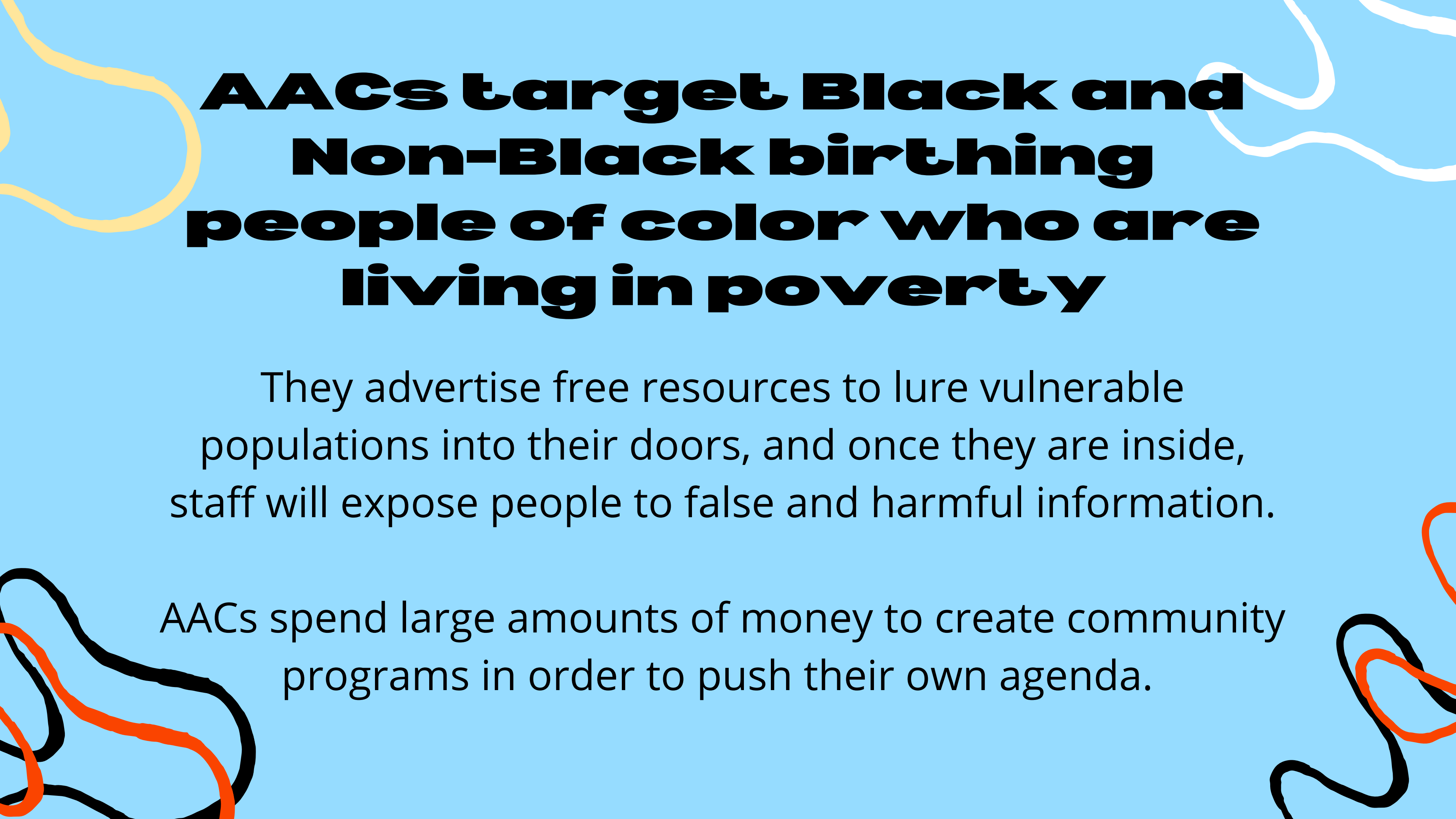
**The Problem:** AACs use public money to harm vulnerable pregnant & parenting people by using White supremacist (WS) tactics to prevent them from getting an abortion.

**Our Vision:** No Anti-Abortion Centers in PA.

**The Goals:** Our ultimate goals are 1) to offer people who are most targeted by AACs the resources that enable them to get the abortion and pregnancy support they need and 2) educate our communities about how AACs are rooted in WS and misuse public funds.

AAC stands for Anti-Abortion Center. These unlicensed clinics are also often referred to as Fake Clinics or Crisis Pregnancy Centers.

These centers are faith-based, anti-abortion organizations that use taxpayer dollars to manipulate, deceive, and lie to pregnant people considering abortion.



# **AACs target Black and Non-Black birthing people of color who are living in poverty**

They advertise free resources to lure vulnerable populations into their doors, and once they are inside, staff will expose people to false and harmful information.

AACs spend large amounts of money to create community programs in order to push their own agenda.

# A Brief History

1967  
1st AAC founded in  
Honolulu, Hawaii by  
Robert Pearson

1973  
Roe V. Wade, the  
landmark decision  
legalizing abortion

1989  
PA passed  
Abortion  
Control Act

1996  
Temporary  
Assistance for  
Needy Families  
(TANF) program  
created

2018  
NIFLA vs Becerra:  
SCOTUS rules that  
state requirements to  
provide info about  
abortion violate the  
1st Amendment

---

1969  
Pearson expands to  
other states. The org  
assisted local groups  
in setting up crisis  
(anti-abortion)  
counseling centers

1976  
Hyde Amendment  
passes, barring  
the use of federal  
funds to pay for  
abortion

1995  
Real Alternatives  
founded

2001  
Dept of Health and  
Human Services  
(HHS) starts  
allocating TANF  
money to Real  
Alternatives

# How Common are AACs?

A recent study reported more than 2,500 AACs nationwide. AACs outnumber real abortion facilities 3:2

# of AACs in PA: 169

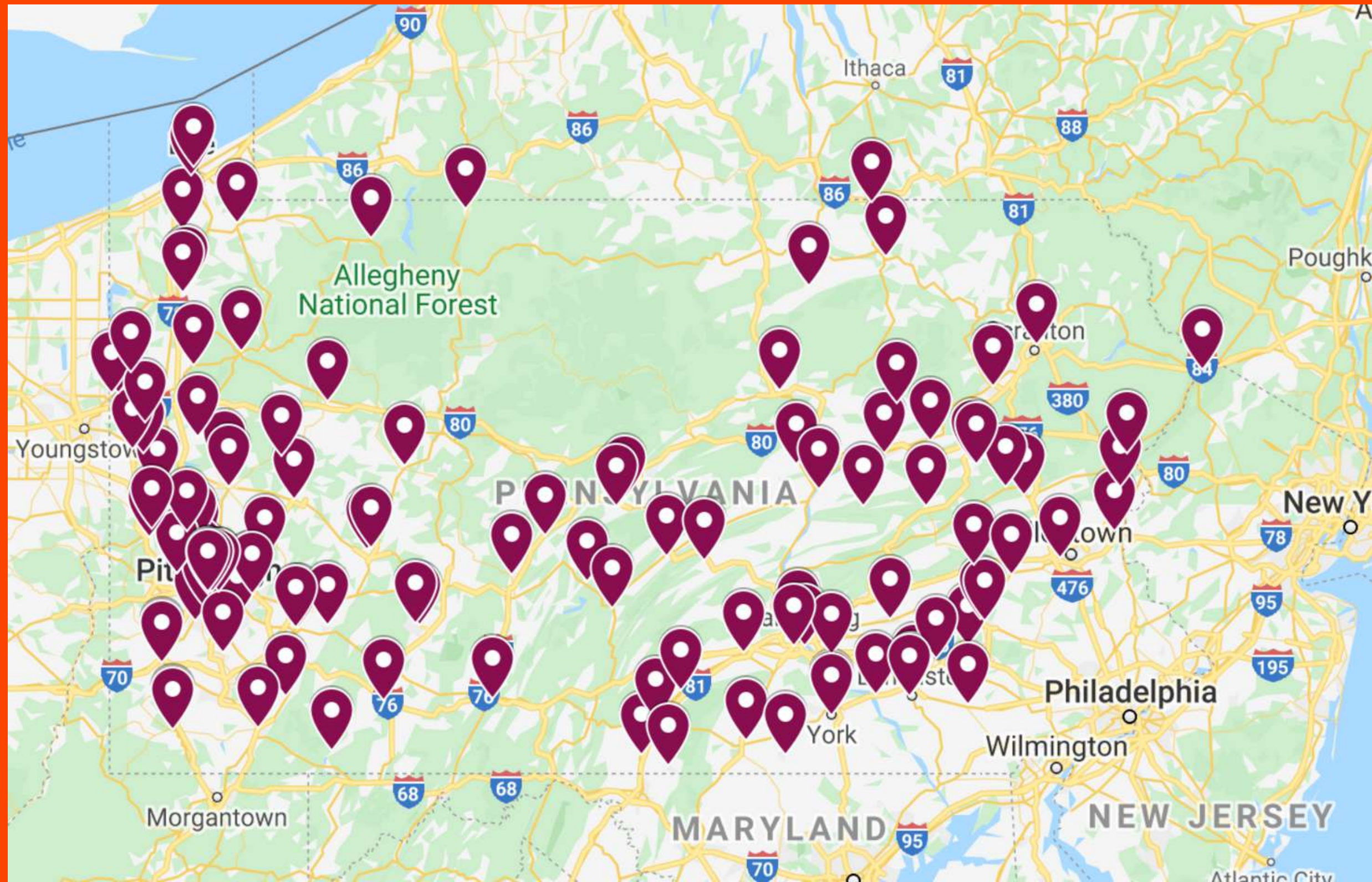
# of AACs in Philadelphia Metropolitan: 44

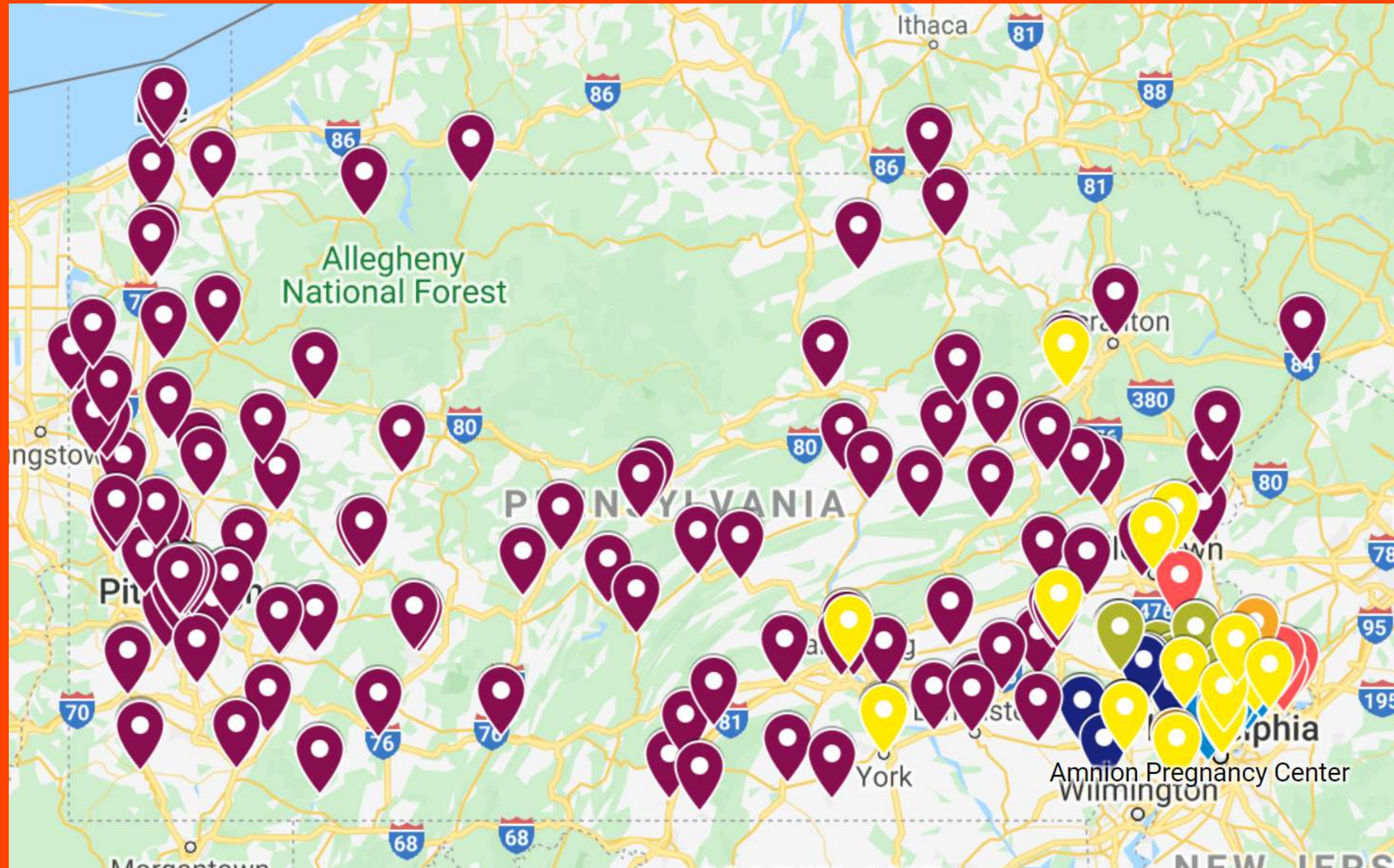






# AACs IN PA:





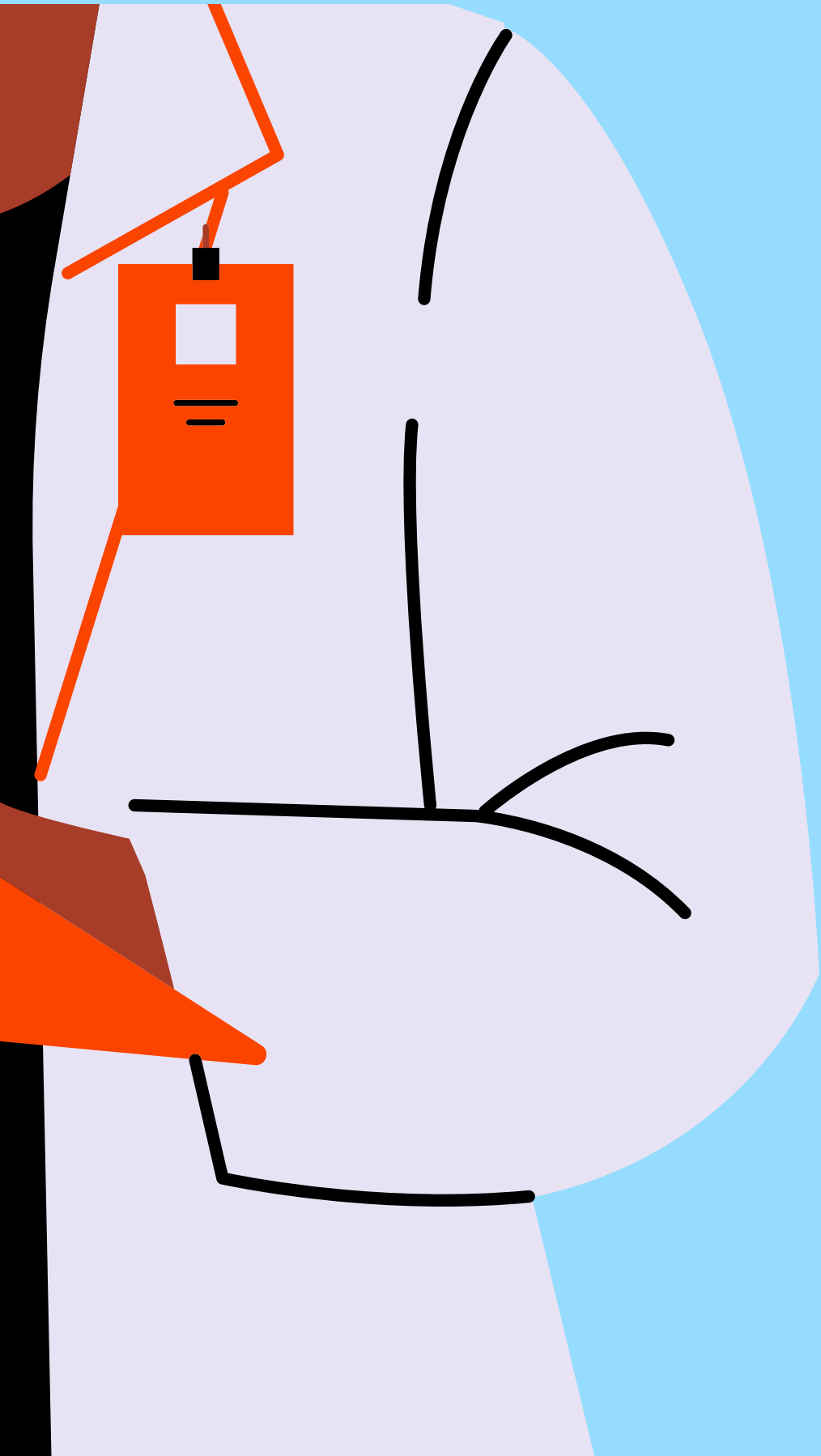
**The yellow marks are locations of real abortion providers.  
Look at how many more AACs there are!**



**Tactics  
Used:**

# Tactic 1: Deception

- **Located** near real abortion clinics
- **Named** very similar to real abortion clinics
- Often the name or advertising uses the word “**choice**” and will talk a lot about “choice” being important
- Websites fail to mention they are **not licensed health care providers** and commonly use images of smiling people in scrubs
- Staff wears scrubs and sometimes doctor’s coats
- Some do not disclose they have a **religious affiliation**
- **Geofencing** digital ads for abortion support in poor communities and near abortion clinics



The image features a light blue background with stylized hands. Two hands are shown in orange with black outlines, one at the top right and one at the bottom left, both with palms facing up. On the right side, there is a yellow hand with a black outline, also with the palm facing up. On the left side, there is a white hand with an orange outline, also with the palm facing up. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

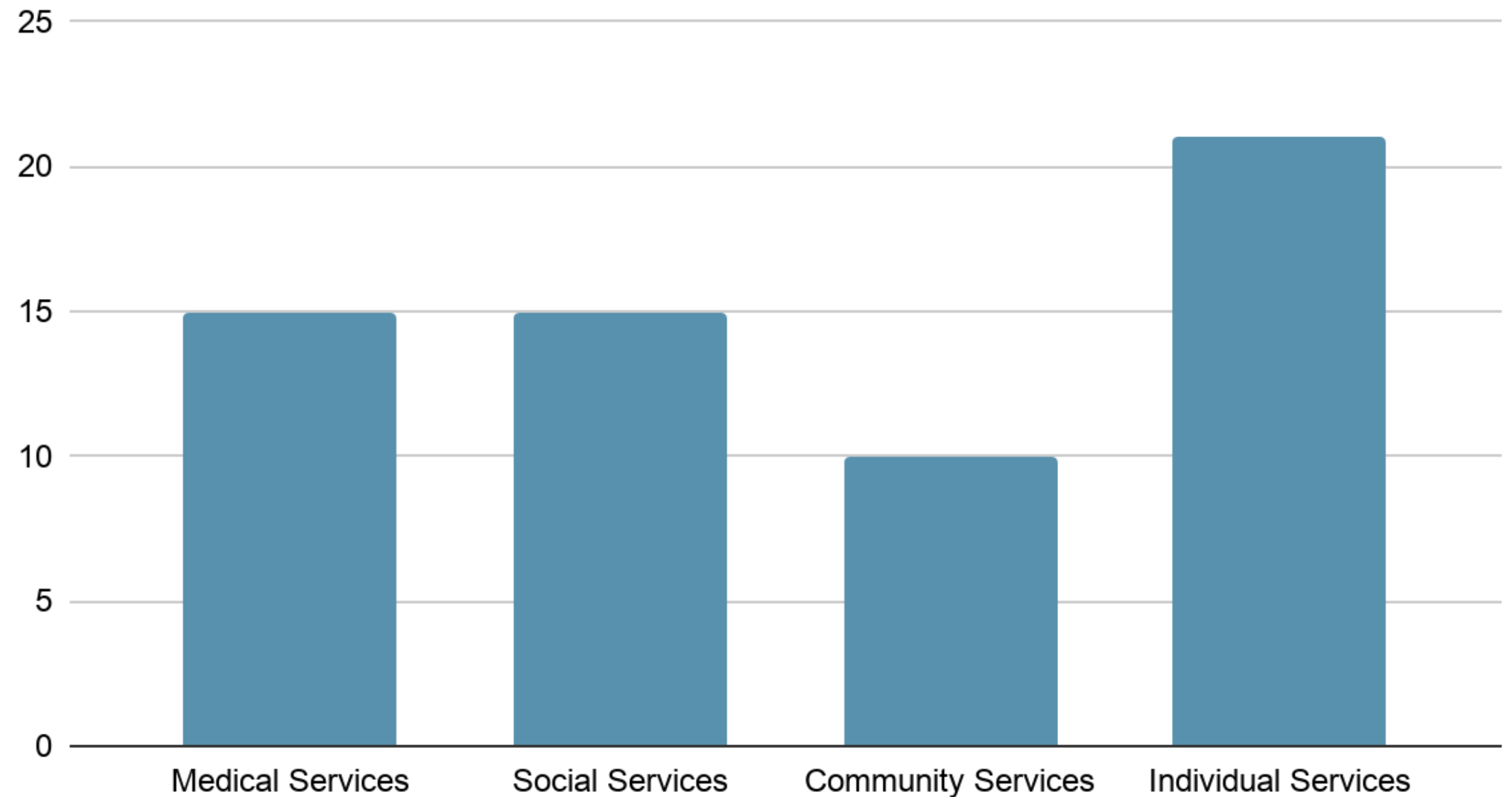
**Tactic 2:  
Offering  
Resources**

# AACs in Philadelphia

There are **44 AACs in Philly** and 4 in surrounding counties

AACs **claim** to offer 4 types of "free" resources: medical, social services, community, and individual

# of AAC in Each Category



Some of these services are **NOT optional**. They require or shame pregnant people into using them .

# **Medical includes:**

**Pregnancy Tests**

**Ultrasound**

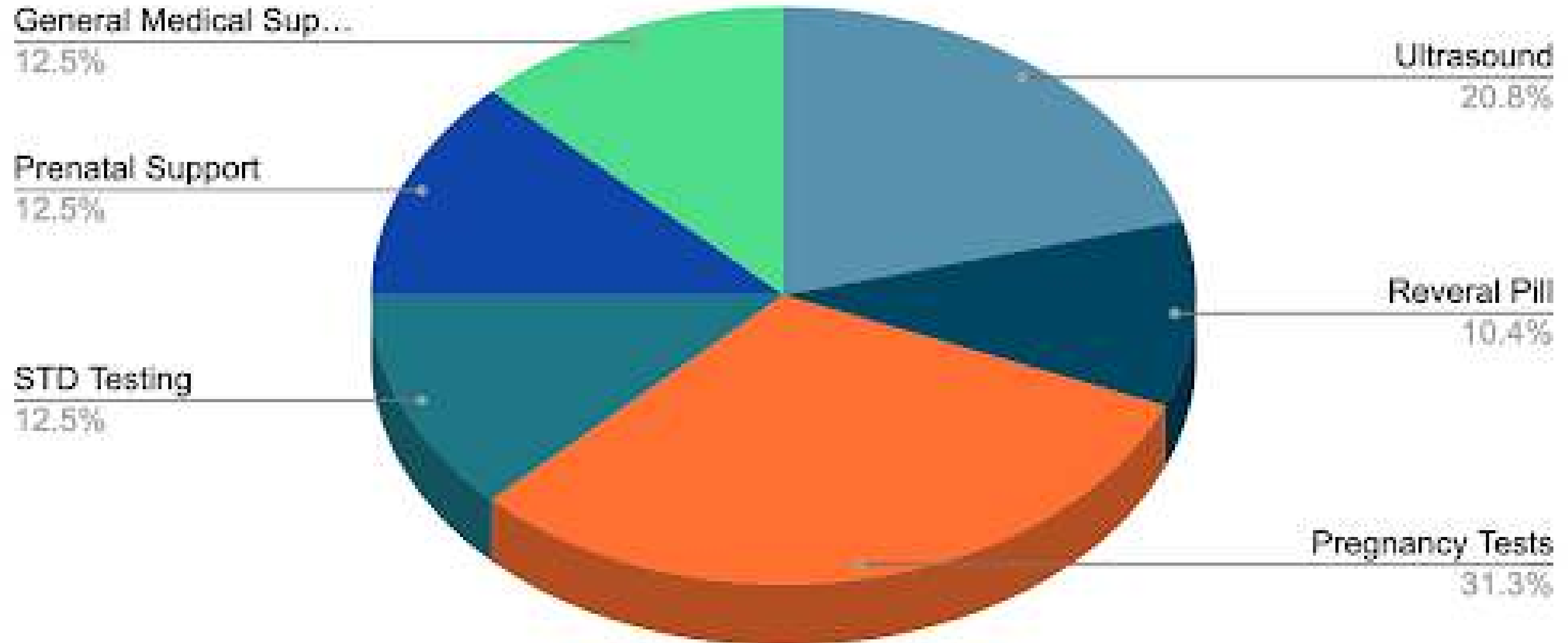
**Abortion "Reversal Pill"**

**STD Testing (only gonorrhea &  
chlamydia)**

**Pre-natal**

**General medical Info**

# Medical Services





# **Individual Services include:**

**Post-abortion class**

**Childbirth classes**

**Sex-ed classes**

**Postpartum services**

**Group for men**

**Financial/budgeting support**

**Parenting classes**

**Breastfeeding classes**

**Post-abortion support groups**

**General counseling**

**Addiction counseling**

**Career development classes**

# Individual Services

Career Development

6.9%

Addiction Support

5.6%

Counseling Services

20.8%

Support Groups

5.6%

For Men Services

5.6%

Breastfeeding Classes

2.8%

Post-abortion Services

13.9%

Childbirth Classes

5.6%

Sex-ed Information

5.6%

Postpartum Services

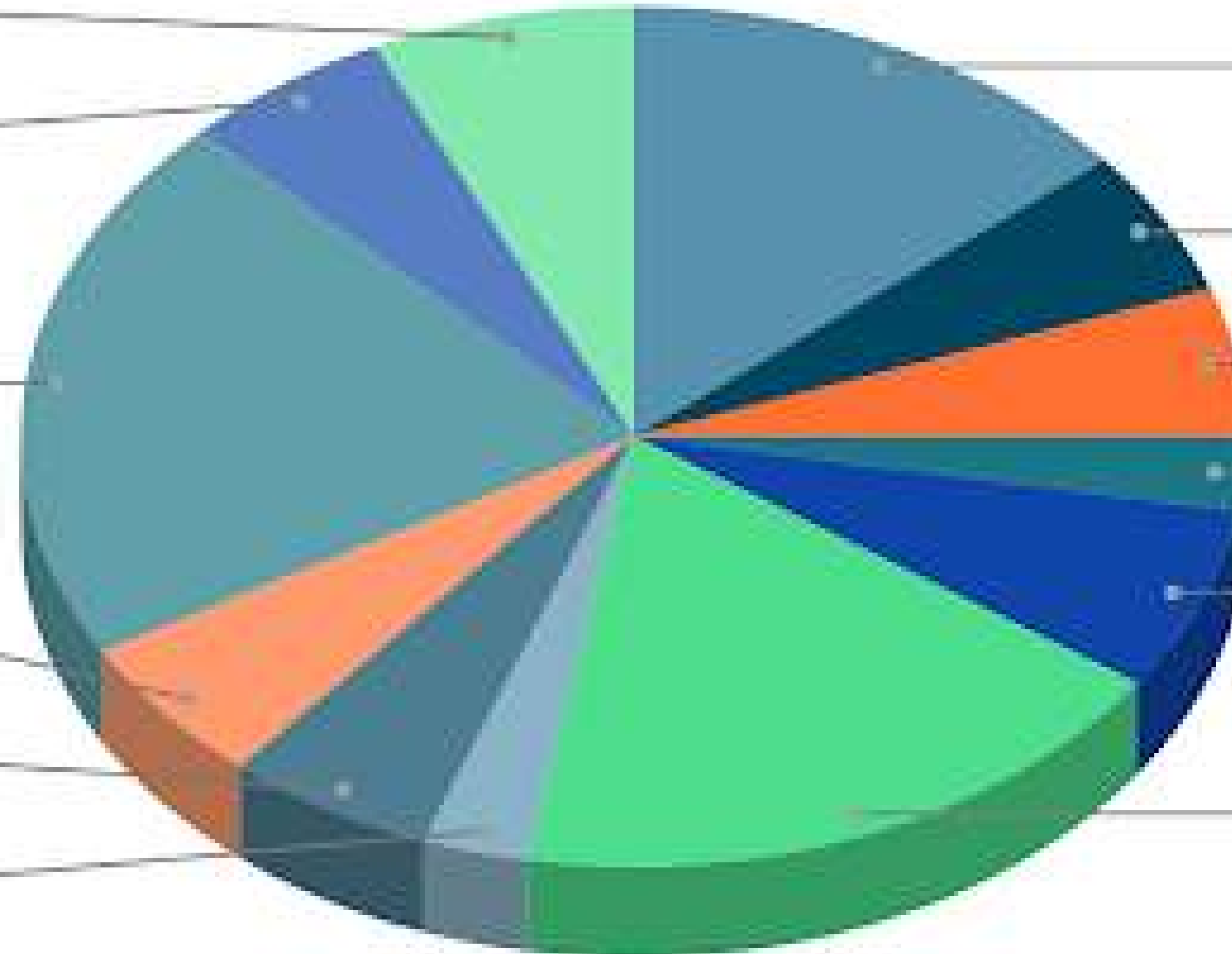
2.8%

Financial/budgeting...

6.9%

Parenting Classes

18.1%



# Some classes are **required** to receive material assistance

## From an AAC website:

*Class attendance earns "store credits" for material assistance such as diapers, wipes, formula, cribs, car seats, personal care items, and more!*



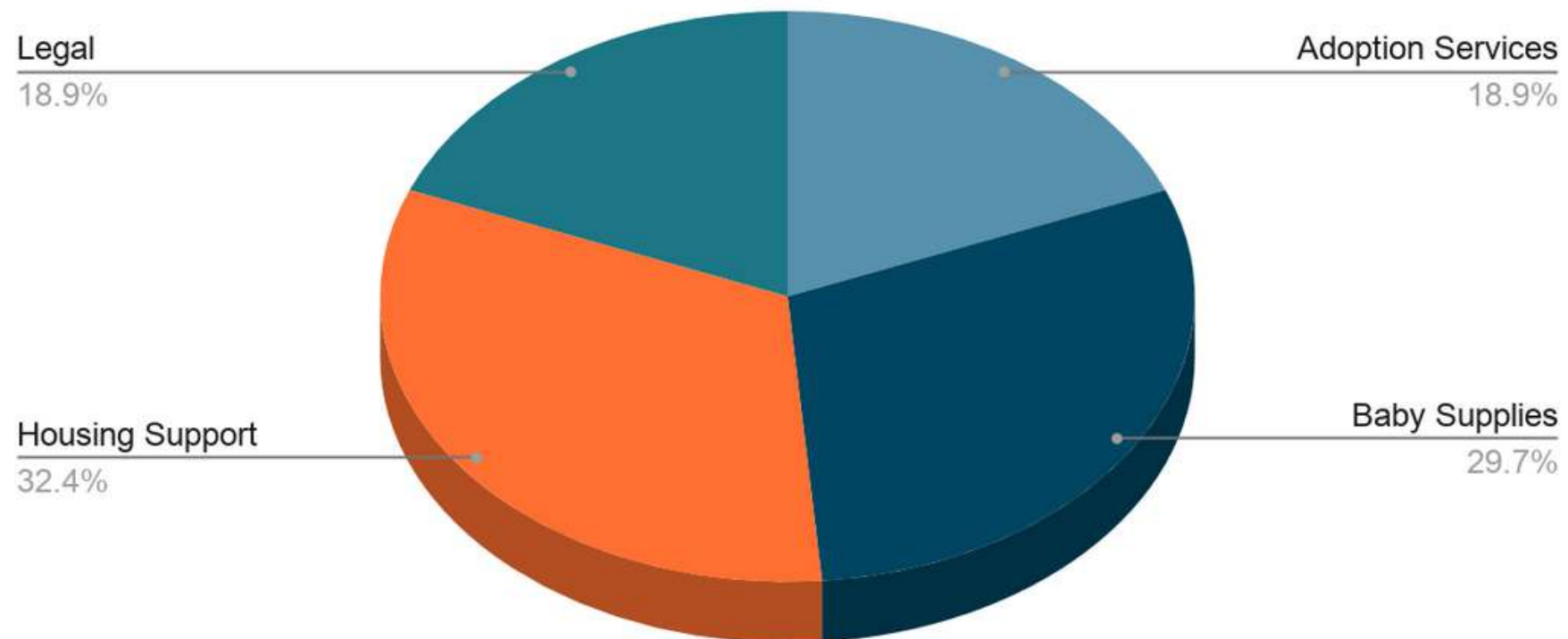
## Social services include:

- Adoption services
- Baby supplies
- Housing referrals
- Legal services

## Community services include:

- Community programs
- Child/youth schooling

Social Services Breakdown



The Community Umbrella Agency (CUA) #4 is operated by Catholic Social Services\*. They manage child welfare cases formerly maintained by The Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS)

\*Catholic Social Services is deeply rooted in Black and Brown communities and **targets** poor people to advance its agenda.

# Tactic 3: Misleading

## Some of the most common lies:

- The existence of an abortion "reversal pill"
- A link between abortions and increases in breast cancer
- Abortions can cause infertility
- "Post-abortion PTSD"
- Lying about ultrasound results i.e. gestational age
- The legality of abortions
- Inflated rates of miscarriages

### **EVEN IF YOU'VE TAKEN THE ABORTION PILL, YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND.**

It is possible to reverse the abortion process. And it may not be too late.

So if you're having second thoughts, Alternatives Pregnancy Center is here to help. You can call us 24/7.

We provide access to intervention after the first dose of the abortion pill, known as mifepristone, Mifeprex or RU-486.

This intervention is called abortion pill reversal. It is possible to stop the abortion from happening.

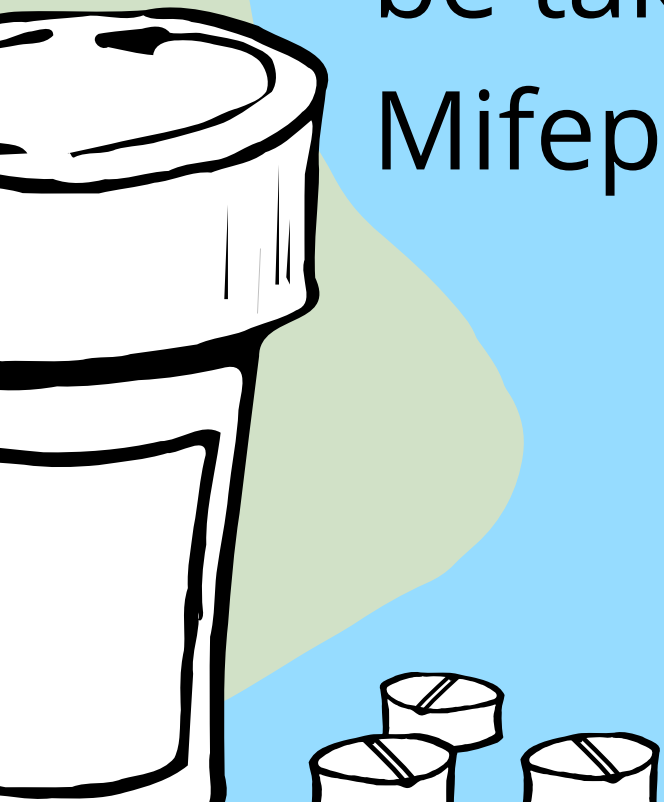
At Alternatives, we will guide you through the process.

**So call us right now.**

# What is the Reversal Pill?

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists states that the abortion “reversal” treatment is **not based on science** and **does not meet clinical standards**.

The reversal pill is a drug called progesterone, given as a pill to be taken orally after taking the first medication abortion pill, Mifeprex (before 10 weeks)



# **Q: How is this lying legal?**

**A: The SCOTUS court case *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra*, 585 U.S. 2018**

- This case addressed the constitutionality of California's FACT Act, which mandated that AACs had to share other options for pregnancy, including abortion, and had to post their unlicensed status.
- The AACs challenged the act on the basis that it violated their First Amendment right to free speech.
- In the 5–4 decision, the Court ruled that both notices required by the FACT Act violated the free speech principles of the First Amendment, reversing the Ninth Circuit's decision

**Under this ruling, AACs are *sanctioned* to lie to pregnant people about options and hide their fake clinic status**

# Embedding in Communities:

**Food banks**  
**Churches**  
**School systems**  
**Sex-ed classes**



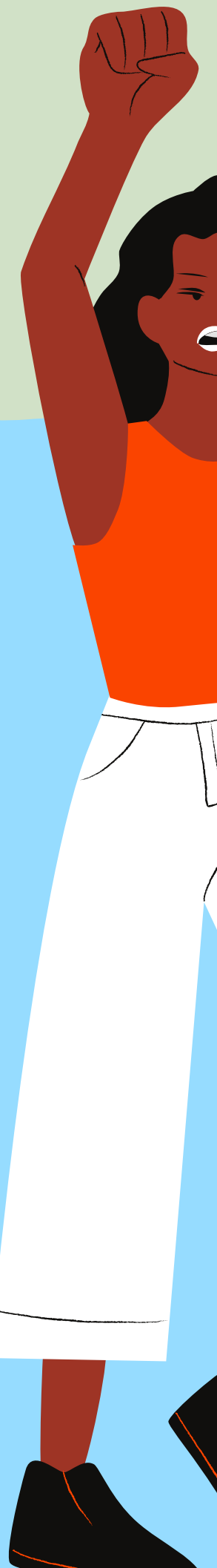



# AACs actively target low income, Black and Brown communities

On Catholic Social Services website:

- "Casa del Carmen was founded in 1954 to serve the growing number of Latino immigrants settling in North Philadelphia. Services have expanded to meet the changing composition and needs of the city's Latinos and other immigrant and refugee communities."
- The Northeast Family Service Center "strives to empower a diverse population facing economic, social and emotional challenges."

These actions **harm** communities of color





**AACs are rooted in  
White Supremacy  
and anti-Blackness**

*"Regulating Black women's reproductive decisions has  
been a central aspect of racial oppression in America."*

*- Dorothy Roberts*



# White Supremacy and Abortion

The U.S. has a long history of controlling Black women's reproduction, dating back to slavery. The system punishes Black individuals if they have children, and shames/tricks them if they choose not to have children.

Anti-abortion rhetoric often builds on the idea that Black women are incapable of making rational decisions. We see this with mandated parenting classes and rhetoric within anti-abortion orgs (and sadly, some reproductive health and rights organizations, too.)

***AACs continue the cycle of controlling Black and non-black birthing people of color 's reproductive choices and then denying resources to take care of their children***



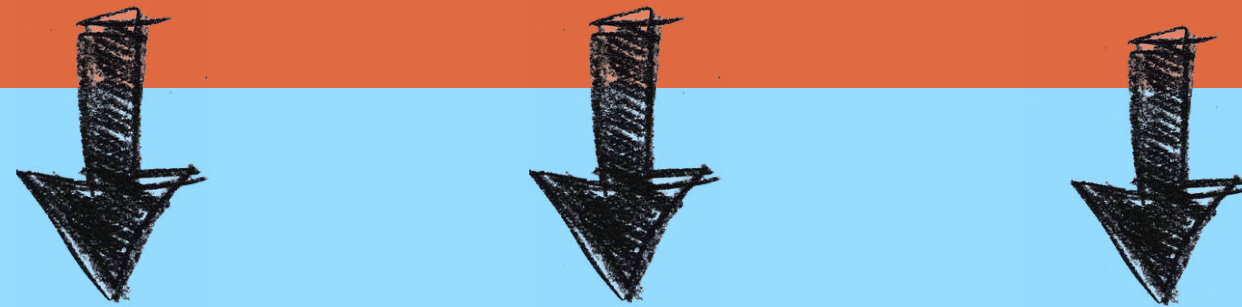
**REPRODUCTIVE  
FREEDOM IS A  
MATTER OF  
SOCIAL JUSTICE,  
not of individual  
choice or legality**

# Funding

AACs are funded several ways. Support comes from State funding, Federal funding, and individual donations.



PA's TANF block grant  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
(funds for poor families for food, shelter, and  
clothing from the federal government)



Real Alternatives, a non-profit  
anti-abortion organization



Anti-Abortion Centers  
via reimbursements

Birthright

AlphaCare

Amnion



AACs are also eligible for federal abstinence-education grants.

In 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded \$8.9 million in grants to 21 agencies and organizations through the Competitive Abstinence Education program.

**In 2020, Pennsylvania spent over two times more on AACs than on actual reproductive health care**

**The Hyde Amendment bars the use of Federal funds and Medicaid to pay for abortion**

**PA law prohibits insurance companies from offering coverage of abortion services in the state health insurance exchange established by the Affordable Care Act (ACA)**



## ***TANF Goals***

1. **Provide assistance** to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
2. **End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits** by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
3. **Prevent and reduce the incidence of out of wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies**

## ***REAL ALTERNATIVES***

AACs claim to offer resources so they can get TANF funding

This is evident in the resources that AACs claim to offer such as: parenting classes, resources directed at people experiencing poverty, and push for two-parent family households.

**There is little to **no requirement** for AACs to prove they are actually providing these resources.**

# **Real Alternatives get paid PER MINUTE to keep a pregnant person in their facility**

\$1.09 for each minute of counseling and referral provided

\$10.90 for each pregnancy test kit per client visit

\$10.90 for each food, clothing, or furniture pantry visit.

\$21.80 for each parenting class per client

\$5.45 for administrative time spent in completing a RAPID billing form

Individuals who get a negative pregnancy test at an AAC are still **subjected to shameful and inaccurate information** through one of these other services:

- information on the risk of sexually transmitted infection
- relationship counseling
- chastity classes
- teen prevent pregnancy prevention programs
- other counseling offered to modify "risk taking" behavior

## FREE Pregnancy Tests

1 HOUR - FREE

Our medical grade pregnancy tests can detect the pregnancy hormone about the time of your first missed period. (Medical grade HCG detection – urine testing only).

## Options Counseling

1 HOUR - FREE

Our trained staff will provide factual information about all available pregnancy options without discrimination or judgment.

If you feel like abortion is your *only* choice, then please call—no one should feel so alone and so unsupported that they feel hopeless in any situation.

## Prenatal and Parenting Education with Material Assistance

Individualized counseling is available for expecting women and/or couples. They can meet

## FREE Limited Ultrasound

90 MINUTES - FREE

You may be eligible for an ultrasound, which can determine how far along you are in your pregnancy. Ultrasounds are scheduled by our nurse after a positive pregnancy test at one of our clinics.

An ultrasound before an abortion is a good way to be sure that you have all the information you need to make the right decision. The options available to you depend on how far along you are. And since 1 in 4 pregnancies end in a natural miscarriage, confirmation of viability is important.

## Free STI Testing

1 HOUR - FREE

We offer free and confidential services for 2 common Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): chlamydia and gonorrhea. Our nurses will provide you with treatment at the follow up appointment, if your test comes back positive, plus referral for further evaluation when necessary.

**AACs require an hour appointment, and get paid for every minute of it by our tax dollars**

# Ending Real Alternatives Contract

*Campaign for Accountability* sent a 24-page public complaint to the PA legislature in 2020, outlining **misuse of taxpayer dollars**, extreme **lack of transparency**, and **inefficient operations**.

According to the complaint:

- RA's advertising budget and executive compensation skyrocketed while **serving fewer clients**
- Under RA's administration, **fewer than one client per day** receives any services at each of the provider sites, at a rough average cost of \$320 per client
- In each of the last four years, RA has **left over half a million dollars unspent** that had been budgeted for services
- Over the last five years, an average of \$24,800 has been annually allocated for operating RA's hotline, which serves an **average of 156 callers per year**
- RA used **taxpayer dollars to pay its legal fees** in the effort to hide public records

And yet, they still got **\$1 million taxpayer dollars** in funding in 2021

# How to spot an AAC

AACs are the first thing that pops up when Googling resources and information about recent pregnancies. It's really important to have a critical eye when looking at websites.

## Some key things to look for are:

- Published false information regarding abortions and pregnancy
- Offer free resources and services
- High amount of Christian jargon
- Require you to receive an ultrasound upon entrance



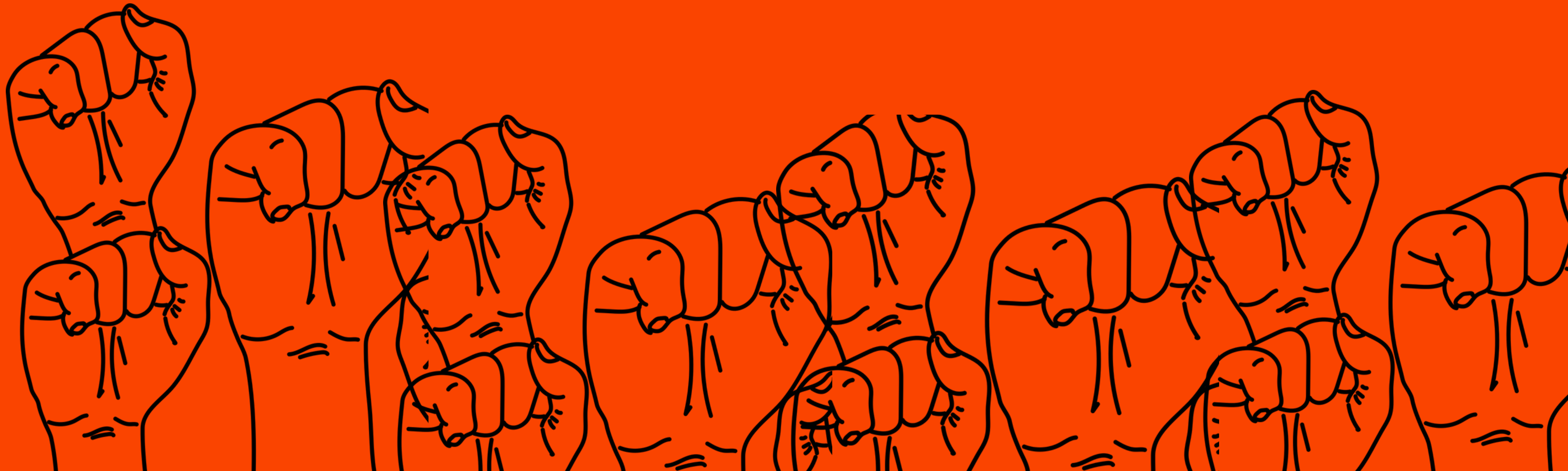
**If you're pregnant and want counseling to talk about your options, don't let them dupe you!**



Often, the name of the AAC will be different from a real clinic by only one word.

- Ask if there is a **licensed** medical professional onsite.
- Does the website or storefront offer **free services** like counseling, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, etc?
- Ask whether the facility provides **abortion** care.

**What can  
YOU DO?**



# Do:

- Donate: [abortionfundpa.org/donate](https://abortionfundpa.org/donate) (ALF-PA donates diapers, menstrual products, condoms, etc. to folx!)
- Stay informed! Follow us @abortionfundpa
- Tell your friends and family
- Tell non-PA friends to support their local abortion fund. Find out where at [abortionfunds.org/funds/](https://abortionfunds.org/funds/)

## Don't:

- Start an "auntie" network
- Use racist language "underground railroad"
- Remain still. Do something.