



June 24, 2022

WRC Statement re: Supreme Court overturning Roe v Wade

Regardless of the Supreme Court's Decision, the WRC exists in our community to protect, shelter, and empower people impacted by domestic and sexual violence.

1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men will experience severe intimate partner violence in their lifetime. The need for our mission and services will remain regardless of any court decision.

Domestic Violence takes many forms including physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors. This definition covers violence by both current and former spouses and partners.

It is important to educate the community about reproductive/pregnancy coercion. This is about power and control and is a form of domestic violence. It involves an abuser trying to overrule their partner's choice about a pregnancy. This can come in the form of explicit attempts to impregnate a partner against her will, control outcomes of a pregnancy, coerce a partner to have unprotected sex, and interfere with contraceptive methods.

A 2019 study in Obstetrics & Gynecology found that *"1 in 8 sexually active high school students at eight California health centers had experienced reproductive coercion over a three-month period."*

**Many victims do not realize that reproductive/pregnancy coercion is a form of abuse.**

The Women's Resource Center utilizes a non-judgmental empowerment philosophy to support survivors that centers on the belief that all people deserve to live without fear, and that people can break the cycle of domestic violence through supportive intervention because they possess the ability to make decisions that foster healthy, violence-free relationships.

The Women's Resource Center is the only domestic and sexual violence service provider in Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties providing emergency shelter, a 24-hour crisis hotline, and free and confidential group and individual support and emergency intervention services.

If you would like more information, please contact Juliette Schultz WRC Executive Director at (231) 941-1210 or email her at: [jschultz@wrcgt.com](mailto:jschultz@wrcgt.com).