



PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY 2014

1 IN 11 AMERICAN PARENTS REGRET CIRCUMCISING THEIR SON.

In 2014 Intact America performed its first survey engaging the services of Lake Research Services, Washington, DC.

Of the 1395 people surveyed nationwide online and by telephone, no one thought that circumcision was a controversial health problem facing children. We know that parents think of circumcision as controversial, so perhaps they see it as a parenting or cultural issue instead of a health issue.

FINDINGS

12% of participants said they oppose the practice of newborn circumcision. By the end of the survey, that ratio had increased to 17% when the question was asked again.

Half of participants agreed that circumcision is safe, recommended by doctors, and that a circumcised penis is cleaner than a non-circumcised one.

One-third (33%) agreed that newborn circumcision is not medically necessary.

One-third (33%) disagreed that most people in medically advanced countries do not circumcise their baby boys.

18% agreed that we are not allowed to circumcise girls and we should not be allowed to circumcise boys. 68% disagreed.

54% of men and 59% of women agreed that the circumcised penis is more attractive.

58% do not believe the risks of circumcision include infection, hemorrhaging, scarring, difficulty urinating, loss of part or all of penis, and death.

Of the 407 people surveyed with children under the age of 6 years, 80% said they circumcised their son.

5% percent of everyone surveyed said that if they had to do it over, they would NOT circumcise their son. In other words, we've managed to make them aware of the issue and convert them.

"Circumcision is not medically necessary" (33%) and "inflicts pain" (22%) strike a chord with many people as a reason to not cut.

87% believe religion is not the main reason for circumcision.

The results reveal that people have bought into the opposition's propaganda. High on their list is hygiene and infection protection. Taken together, we can think of this as the "germ theory reason."

Intact America's ethics position is a non-starter for the public or perhaps they think the benefits trump children's rights. But ethics may speak louder for human and civil rights supporters.

YOUNG PARENTS

Of the younger parents, the ones with children under the age of six, 9% said they would now leave him intact; these are regret parents.

In this same young parent group, 9% felt they were coerced to circumcise. This means they are reconsidering their decision. And, that they are blaming others and not themselves since 9% said they felt coerced and 9% said they'd make a new decision. Presumably, they are the same people.

SURVEY DIFFICULTY

An odd thing happened during the survey's implementation. The original methodology was to telephone half of the participants and survey the rest online. After the survey was launched, Lake Research Partners called Intact America and reported that men were hanging up on the interviewers and they didn't know why. They said they had never had such a strong, negative response like this in the past with their other surveys.

Georganne Chapin, director of Intact America asked, *"Who were calling the men?"*

"Women are calling women and men are calling men," Lake Research Partners said.

Consequently, they ceased the telephonic portion and relied solely on the online survey for the remainder.