



SOLICITATION OF CIRCUMCISION

SOLICITATION IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE HIGH CIRCUMCISION RATE

Intact America conducted a survey in 2020 of 2519 mothers in 14 selected statesⁱ who had recently given birth to a boy to determine how often parents were solicitedⁱⁱ or asked if they wished to have their son circumcised. This cohort includes boys born in hospitals and at home. The survey was conducted by the Qualtrics Research Team using their panel. The survey controlled for race (same distribution as in the U.S.).

RESULTS

- Mothers were asked an average of eight times by healthcare providersⁱⁱⁱ whether they wanted their son circumcised.
- The percentage of mothers who were asked at least once was 94%.
- The circumcision rate increased with solicitation; 45% for mothers who were never asked versus 78% for mothers who were asked one or more times.
- In this survey, 29% of mothers were told that infant circumcision was either recommended or required or both.
- Selling circumcision is more often directed at demographic groups that are traditionally considered vulnerable; Black mothers were asked more often.
- The first few solicitations were the most persuasive; repetitive asking had little effect on decision making. This indicates that any program focused on reducing healthcare professionals from overstepping their authority would fail unless a zero-tolerance solution is implemented.
- Mothers who were never asked were much more likely to leave their sons intact.
- Mothers who were solicited were 1.73 times more likely to agree to circumcision for their sons than mothers who were never asked.
- The overall circumcision rate in this cohort is about 76%. This is much higher than published estimates such as the National Center for Health Statistics' report^{iv} stating that the 2010 rate was 58.3% for hospital-stay circumcisions.

ⁱ California, Florida, Washington, Texas, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Michigan, Indiana, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio

ⁱⁱ In this survey, 'solicited' included being asked verbally if they wanted a circumcision, assuming they wanted a circumcision, or being handed a circumcision consent form.

ⁱⁱⁱ OB/GYNs, other physicians, nurses, and midwives

^{iv} Owings M, Uddin S, Williams S. Trends in circumcision for male newborns in U.S. hospitals: 1979–2010. NCHS. 2013. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/circumcision_2013/circumcision_2013.pdf

RACIAL FINDINGS

All non-whites were classified as Persons of Color (POC) for this survey.

Ratios of POCs to Whites regarding solicitation by healthcare providers.

- 2.2 times more likely to feel pressured into choosing circumcision.
- 2 times more likely to be repeatedly asked if they wanted circumcision.
- 1.6 times more likely to be told to retract their son's foreskin.
- 3.2 times more likely to be told that circumcision is required.
- 1.6 times more likely to have circumcision recommended.
- 3.8 times more likely to choose circumcision because a nurse recommended it.

Ratios of POCs to Whites for circumcision attitudes and decisions.

- 1.4 times less likely to say they always wanted circumcision.
- 1.7 times less likely to have researched it.
- 1.3 times less likely to say they would have asked about circumcision.
- 1.7 times more likely to wish they hadn't cut their son.