



NURSES SURVEY RESULTS

1 IN 4 NURSES DISLIKE ASKING MOTHERS FOR CIRCUMCISION CONSENT

In April 2021, Intact America contracted with Qualtrics Survey Research Team to ask nurses what their experiences and opinions were regarding soliciting newborn male genital cutting surgeries (aka circumcision). An email list from the American Nurses Association membership list was leased for nurses who work with pregnant mothers, mothers who are in delivery, or who work with neonates including: Labor and Delivery Nurse, Neonatal Nurse, Nurse Midwife, OBGYN Nurse, Postpartum Nurse, Perinatal Nurse and Pediatric Nurse.

Most nurses are comfortable with the status quo, but many are uncomfortable soliciting this unnecessary surgery. A larger sampling of nurses is warranted to obtain statistical significance.

PRIMARY RESULTS

A total of 57 completed entries were received from nurses around the country. Most had been practicing about 20 years on average and 75% working in a hospital.

Q: In the past year, did you bring up the topic of circumcision with a mother, hand a mother a circumcision consent form, or ask a mother the question (or similar question): “Do you want your son circumcised?”

A: Yes (84.2%), No (15.8%).

Q: Which is closest to how you feel when you asked a mother if she wanted her son circumcised?

- I feel good because I am performing my nursing duties. (54.2%)
- I have mixed feelings about asking. (14.6%)
- I would rather not ask. (16.7%)
- I strongly dislike asking. (8.3%)
- I am not in a position to ask a mother this question. (6.3%)

Q: Which is closest to what you say to the mother, if anything, when the topic of circumcision comes up?

- I say circumcision is required or necessary. (0%)
- I say circumcision is recommended. (12.5%)
- I say circumcision is optional or unnecessary. (76.8%)
- I say circumcision is harmful and should not be done. (0%)
- I say nothing. (10.7%)

Q: What is your opinion concerning newborn circumcision?

- It has benefits and should always be done. (1.8%)
- It has benefits, but it is up to the parents to decide. (58.9%)
- It is unnecessary, but it is up to the parents to decide. (28.6%)
- It is unnecessary and should not be done. (7.1%)
- It is harmful, and should never be done. (3.6%)

Q: What is closest to your workplace's policy concerning nurses asking mothers if they want their son circumcised?

- Nurses are required to ask. (21.4%)
- Nurses are expected to ask. (30.4%)
- Nurses are not expected or required to ask but are allowed to ask. (46.4%)
- Asking a mother about circumcision is not allowed. (1.8%)

14% felt urged or pressured by physicians, peers, or workplace administrators to ask mothers if they want their son circumcised.

Q: Do you think asking mothers if they want their son circumcised poses an ethical problem for nurses?

A: Yes (12.5%), Maybe (19.6%), No (59.0%), I don't know (8.9%).

Q: Do you think the practice of newborn circumcision poses an ethical problem for nurses?

A: Yes (14.3%), Maybe (19.6%), No (57.1%), I don't know (8.9%).

Q: What do you think would stop nurses from asking mothers about newborn circumcision?

A: *The majority of responses to this write-in question stated a hospital policy change would be required.*

Q: Concerning "conscientious objector" status for newborn circumcisions at your workplace:

- I have requested conscientious objector status (an option they provide to nurses). (0%)
- I have not requested conscientious objector status (an option they provide to nurses). (32.1%)
- I would consider requesting conscientious objector status (if that option was available). (17.9%)
- I would not consider requesting conscientious objector status (if that option was available). (50.0%)

SECONDARY RESULTS

Delving deeper, comparing answers of one question to another, we found these other findings:

"Have asked mothers" v "How I feel about asking"

1 in 4 nurses (25.0%) who solicited mothers dislike asking. Another 12.3% have mixed feelings about asking.

"How I feel about asking" v "My opinion of circumcision"

9 out of 10 nurses put the parent's decision before the baby's health.

"How I feel about asking" v "Is asking unethical"

1 out of 10 nurses believe asking is unethical.

"How I feel about asking" v "Is circumcision unethical"

3 out of 10 nurses who believe circumcision is unethical also believe that soliciting it is not unethical.