



# The *Global Survey of Circumcision Harm* is a groundbreaking exploration into the effects of infant circumcision on adult men.

## OVERVIEW

The Global Survey of Circumcision Harm (GSCH), open to men 18 years of age and older, was launched to redress the information gap regarding long-term physical, sexual, emotional and psychological consequences of childhood circumcision on adult men. The survey (which is ongoing) seeks to determine:

- men’s knowledge of penile anatomy;
- men’s understanding of how to identify circumcision damage;
- any adverse consequences (physical or other) related to circumcision.

This survey is a grassroots, all-volunteer effort to provide a self-report and documentation method for any male who considers himself harmed by childhood genital cutting imposed on him without his informed consent. Find out more at <http://www.circumcisionharm.org>.

## RESULTS\*

**Sexual symptoms:** 76% reported dry, keratinized glans requiring supplemental lubrication; 24% suffer from erectile dysfunction; and 16% reported painful erections. One respondent reported “chafing/bleeding during sex due to remaining skin being too tight and unmovable.”

**Psychological effects:** Many respondents reported deep sorrow, a sense of loss and inferiority, feelings of abandonment, inadequacy, anger at being mutilated, and mistrust of doctors. 78% feel “less whole,” 68% feel “inferior” to men who are intact, and 68% feel “not normal” or “unnatural.” 13% of respondents report having suicidal thoughts; 5% have attempted suicide.

**Relationships:** 63% reported adverse effects on their sexual relationships. 32% reported adverse effects on their relationship with their mother, and 30% with their father; when sharing their feelings about their circumcision with their fathers, 61% of men said their fathers were dismissive or trivializing. Says one respondent, “It adversely affects my fatherhood, I feel so different to my intact sons and I feel like I can’t advise them on sexuality.”

**Behavioral effects:** Compulsive sexual practices (e.g., by men who “never feel satisfied”) were reported by 26% of men.

## MOVING FORWARD

One of the goals of this study is to foster communication with the medical profession as well as in one’s personal life. It is hoped that documenting such consequences and making the results publicly accessible will provide a starting point for dialogue about the long-term consequences of infant or childhood circumcision.

I believe circumcising a healthy, unconsenting child creates harm by violating			
Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
The prime dictum of medicine “First, Do No Harm”		86%	321
His basic human right to bodily integrity		91%	341
His right to eventual self-determination over his genitals and sexual experience		93%	346
His religious freedom		61%	228
None of the above		2%	9
Total Responses			374