

New Study Estimates Neonatal Circumcision Death Rate Higher Than Suffocation and Auto Accidents



Newborn babies are especially vulnerable to unnecessary trauma, such as circumcisions. **Credits:** (AP Photo/Mahesh Kumar A.)

More than half of parents in DC, Maryland, and Virginia choose to circumcise their boys. But are these parents ever really informed of the potential complications? Generally, no, and this failure in the informed consent process has significant consequences for many boys, for example [the injuries discussed by a local pediatric urologist in this article](#).

But this physician sees only boys who live. How many children die each year as a result of circumcision in the US hasn't been recorded or even considered important by any medical establishment. A [new study published last week in Thymos: Journal of Boyhood Studies](#) estimates that more than 100 baby boys die from circumcision complications each year, including from anesthesia reaction, stroke, hemorrhage, and infection. If infant circumcision is elective, all of these deaths are avoidable.

The study concluded: "These boys died because physicians have been either complicit or duplicitous, and because parents ignorantly said they lacked the courage to say 'No.'" And called the deaths "an unrecognized sacrifice of innocents."

The study found that approximately 117 neonatal (first 28 days after birth) circumcision-related deaths occur annually in the United States, or one of every 77 male neonatal deaths. The study also identified several reasons why accurate data on these deaths are not available, some of the obstacles to preventing these deaths, and some solutions to overcome them.

To put this in perspective, about 44 neonatal boys die each year from suffocation, and 8 from auto accidents. About 115 neonatal boys die from SIDS, nearly the same as from circumcision.



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