

[Ann Arbor](#)

Anti-circumcision group, 'Bloodstained Men,' to protest in Ann Arbor Saturday

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Bloodstained_men.jpg

Members of the public in Ann Arbor on Saturday may see anti-circumcision protesters such as these near South State and North University. (Courtesy of NOCIRC of Michigan)

An anti-circumcision group is planning a protest at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor Saturday.

The groups, NOCIRC of Michigan and Bloodstained Men and Their Friends are holding the protest at State Street and North University Avenue starting at 10 a.m.

Some of the protesters plan on staining their crotches with simulated blood "to symbolize the damage and trauma from genital cutting," the group says in a press release.

The group thinks the practice is wrong because it violates a baby boy's body.

"Cutting off normal tissue is not a legitimate form of disease prevention," Norm Cohen, state director of NOCIRC of Michigan, stated in the release. "Cutting off any other normal part of the body would simply be considered crazy. Circumcision is the only surgery performed on children without a diagnosis. It violates their right to bodily integrity."

The American Academy of Pediatrics believes the benefits of infant circumcision still outweigh the risk of the procedure, but stops short of recommending routine circumcision for all newborn boys, [according to a statement made in 2012](#).

The AAP says the decision should be left to parents.

The [Mayo Clinic claims](#) some of the benefits are easier hygiene, decreased risk of urinary tract infections, decreased risk of sexually transmitted diseases and a decreased risk of cancer.

The Bloodstained Men, however, contend the procedure is harmful and unnecessary. They point out while the practice is a religious rite for many, the medical community stands to gain, as well.

In Michigan, 83 percent of newborn boys are circumcised (over 48,000 annually) at a cost exceeding \$10 million per year, according to the press release.

"Polls indicate that most parents decide to circumcise their sons for reasons not related to health care, but physicians profit from promoting it and convincing insurance companies to pay for it," the group states in the release.

More information on the May 16 protest is available on the [NOCIRC of Michigan event Facebook page](#).

John Counts covers crime and breaking news for The Ann Arbor News. He can be reached at johncounts@mlive.com or you can follow him on [Twitter](#). Find all Washtenaw County crime stories [here](#).