

# GROUP PROTESTING CIRCUMCISION CUTS TO THE CHASE IN TWIN FALLS

Andrew Weeks | Published: July 20, 2016

Photo by Andrew Weeks



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TWIN FALLS, Idaho (KLIX) – Men dressed all in white – minus one red spot that looked like paintball splatter on each of their coveralls – stood at the corners of Pole Line Road and Blue Lakes Boulevard this morning in Twin Falls.

They caught the attention of drivers, some who honked their horns as they passed the intersection.

When asked why the group was there, Dominic Beard cut right to the point: to protest circumcision.

Of course, the signs they were holding said it all. "Vote No on Circumcision," read one sign. Another: "Circumcision Horror."

**Bloodstained Men** is a nonprofit group, Beard, who hails from San Francisco, told News Radio 1310. He is one of several members that rotate in traveling groups visiting different cities across the U.S. spreading their message.

The group believes that circumcision is unnecessary, he said, is painful for those who have it done, and can cause sexual frustrations to both men and women.

The group believes adult men have a choice, but that parents should not subject infants to the procedure.

"Parents love their children, but if they really knew what goes on with this amputation they wouldn't have it done," Beard said.

The **America Academy of Pediatrics**, however, says the benefits of circumcision, a procedure that removes the foreskin of the male penis, outweigh the risks. It is better for hygiene, for instance, decreases the risk of urinary tract infections and sexually transmitted diseases, and reduces the risk of penile cancer.

AAP does not recommend universal newborn circumcision, but says the ball is ultimately in parents' court. In many cultures, circumcision is a matter of family or religious tradition.

Globally, according to the **World Health Organization**, about 30 percent of the male population is circumcised annually. The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** says that in the U.S. about 65 percent of newborns were circumcised in 2010.

Beard says his awareness group, which touts that there is no substantial medical science proving the benefits of circumcision, is often the butt of jokes because members dress in white – err, and in red – when in protest; and, of course, because of the procedure they are protesting.

But the cause, he says, is important to them. The group recently visited Idaho Falls and plans to visit more than 60 cities across the U.S. this year.

The message Beard plans to share:

“Circumcision can affect men later in life and the people who love and care about them,” he said. “The foreskin is a terrible thing to waste.”

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