

# Philippine city holds mass circumcision for youths

May 7 2011

---



A boy tries to control himself as doctors work on him during a free circumcision surgery Saturday, May 7, 2011, in Marikina city, east of Manila, Philippines. Officials say hundreds of boys in a Philippine city have turned out for a day-long "circumcision party" that aims to break the world record for the most number of participants in a circumcision event. (AP Photo/Pat Roque)

(AP) -- Hundreds of boys in a Philippine city turned out Saturday for a daylong "circumcision party" to provide a safe, free procedure for a rite of passage that most local males undergo as preteens.

Some boys cried in their mothers' arms while others bit their shirts to stifle sobs as doctors carried out the surgery on dozens of makeshift

operating tables inside a sports stadium in Marikina city east of Manila. Outside, other boys lined up to await their turn.

"I'm a big boy now," one boy who had just finished the surgery bragged.

Officials said the event - touted in a press statement as a "circumcision party" - aims to promote safe circumcision and to offer to poor residents free surgery that would otherwise cost at least \$40 in private hospitals.

As of mid-afternoon, nearly 1,500 [boys](#) aged 9 years and up had been circumcised while many were still waiting in line, city health officer Dr. Alberto Herrera said.

In the Philippines, preadolescent and [adolescent boys](#) traditionally are circumcised during summer school break from March to May. In rural areas, the [surgery](#) is sometimes performed by non-doctors using crude methods.

The city also hopes to establish a world record for the number of people attending a mass [circumcision](#).

"We applied for the Guinness Book of World Records and we are recording everything so we can send all the data to them and hopefully it will be recognized," Vice Mayor Jose Fabian Cadiz said.

Marikina, the country's shoemaking capital, was recognized by Guinness in 2002 for creating what was then the world's biggest pair of shoes.

©2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Philippine city holds mass circumcision for youths (2011, May 7) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2011-05-philippine-city-mass-circumcision->

[youths.html](#)

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.