# **NIGERIA**





### STATISTICAL PROFILE ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) refers to "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons." More than 125 million girls and women alive today have been cut in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where FGM/C is concentrated. As many as 30 million girls are at risk of being cut before their 15th birthday if current trends continue. FGM/C is a violation of girls' and women's human rights and is condemned by many international treaties and conventions, as well as by national legislation in many countries. Yet, where it is practised FGM/C is performed in line with tradition and social norms to ensure that girls are socially accepted and marriageable, and to uphold their status and honour and that of the entire family. UNICEF works with government and civil society partners towards the elimination of FGM/C in countries where it is still practised.

1. World Health Organization, Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An interagency statement, WHC UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNECA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNAIDS WHO, Geneva, 2008, p. 4.

1999-2006

National legislation criminalizing FGM/C passed in some states

# **KEY STATISTICS ON WOMEN'S STATUS**

<b>17</b> %	of women 20-24 years were married or
	in union before age 15

<b>//2</b> 0/	of women 20-24 years were married or
<b>43</b> %	in union before age 18

<b>29</b> %	of women	20-24	years	have	given	birth
	by age 18					

<b>35</b> %	of women 15-49 years think that a
	husband/partner is justified in
	hitting/beating his wife under certain
	circumstances

<b>50</b> %	of women 15-49 years make use of at
	least one type of information media at
	least once a week (newspaper, maga -
	zine, television or radio)

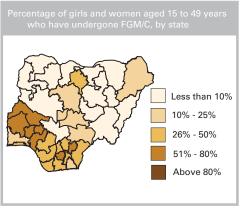
Source: DHS 2013 and MICS 2011

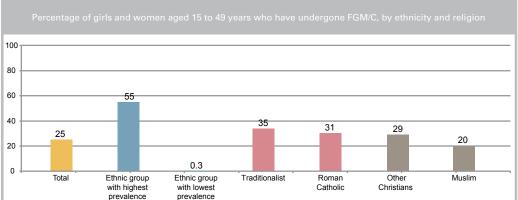


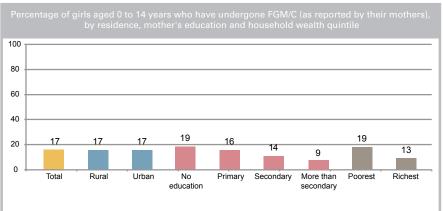


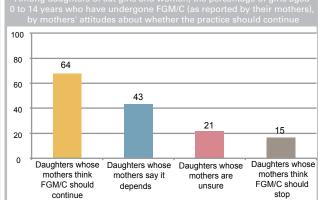
#### **HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?**

#### In Nigeria, the prevalence of FGM/C varies significantly by state





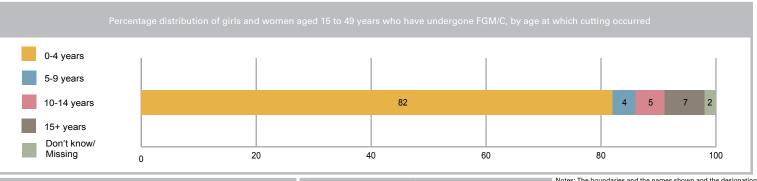


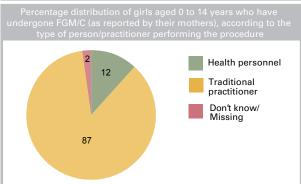


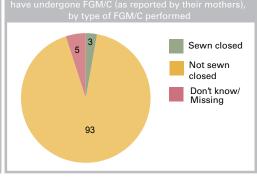
Source: MICS 2011

## WHEN AND HOW IS FGM/C PERFORMED?

#### Almost all women experienced the practice before age 5





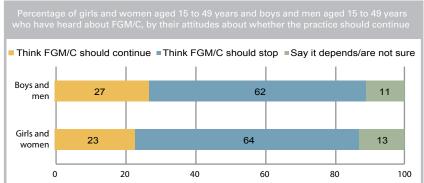


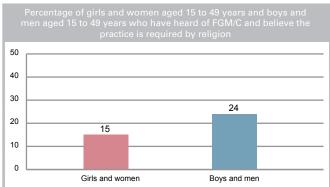
Notes: The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Only categories with 25 or more unweighted cases are presented. Due to rounding, some of the data presented may not add up to 100 per cent. Prevalence data for girls aged 0 to 14 reflect their current, but not final, FGM/C status since some girls who have not been cut may still be at risk of experiencing the practice once they reach the customary age for cutting. Therefore, the data on prevalence for girls under age 15 is actually an underestimation of the true extent of the practice. Since age at cutting varies among settings, the amount of underestimation also varies and this should be kept in mind when interpreting all FGM/C prevalence data for this age group. 'Health personnel' includes doctors, nurses, midwives and other health workers; 'Traditional practitioner' includes traditional circumcisers, traditional birth attendants, traditional midwives and other types of traditional practitioners.

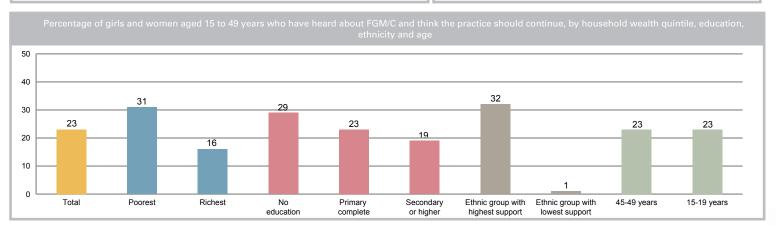
Source for all charts on this page: DHS 2013, unless otherwise noted

#### WHAT ARE THE PREVAILING ATTITUDES TOWARDS FGM/C?

#### More than half of girls and women and boys and men think FGM/C should stop

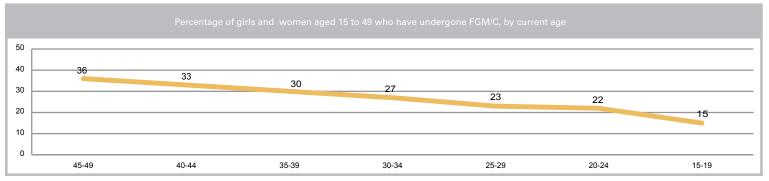




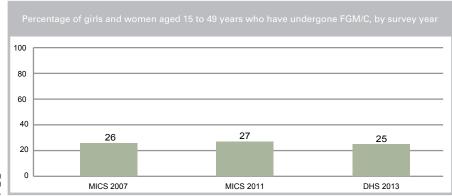


#### IS THE PRACTICE OF FGM/C CHANGING?

There is evidence of significant generational change in the prevalence of FGM/C in Nigeria as women aged 45-49 are around twice as likely to have been cut than girls aged 15-19



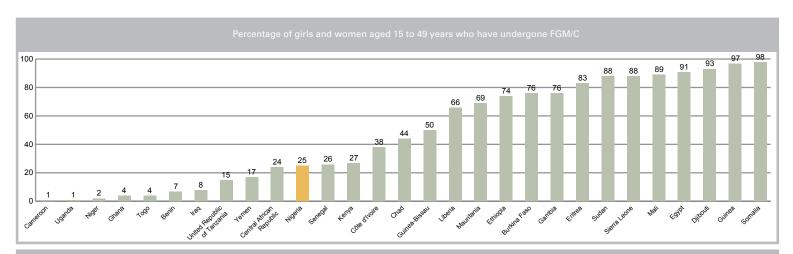
Source for all above charts: DHS 2013

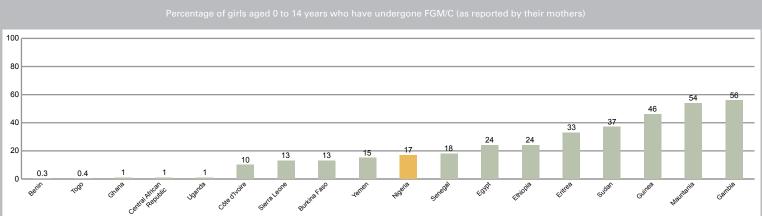


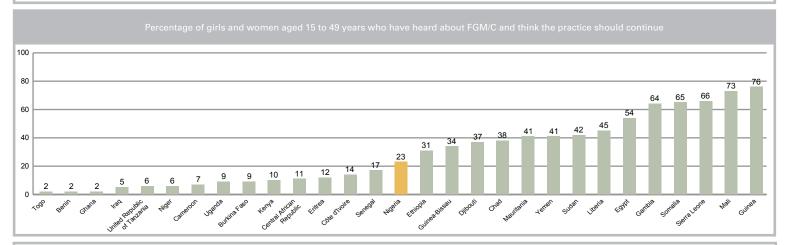
Notes: Trends in attitudes towards the practice are not included since findings from 1999, 2003 and 2008 (DHS) are not fully comparable. Similarly, data on the prevalence of FGM/C in 1999, 2003 and 2008 (DHS) are not included since findings are not fully comparable.

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#### INTER-COUNTRY STATISTICAL OVERVIEW







Notes: Data on attitudes for Yemen refer to ever-married girls and women. In Liberia, girls and women who have heard of the Sande society were asked whether they were members; this provides indirect information on FGM/C since it is performed during initiation into the society. Egypt data refer to girls aged 0-17 years who have undergone FGM/C. Data on attitudes for Ghana are from MICS 2006 and for Sierra Leone from DHS 2008 as data from the most recently available MICS surveys are not comparable. In Liberia, only cut girls and women were asked about their attitudes towards FGM/C; since girls and women from practising communities are more likely to support the practice, the level of support in this country as captured by the DHS 2007 is higher than would be anticipated had all girls and women been asked their opinion.

Sources: DHS, MICS, National Social Protection Monitoring Survey, Population and Health Survey, SHHS and Welfare Monitoring Survey, 1997-2013

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# FOR MORE INFORMATION

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