

# Côte d'Ivoire



38.2%<sup>1</sup>

## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 38.2%.  
81.5% of women and 82.1% of men aged 15–49 believe FGM should be stopped.<sup>2</sup>

### **Geography:**

The north and west have the highest prevalence; the centre and centre-east the lowest<sup>3</sup>

### **Age:**

FGM is most likely to take place before the age of 5<sup>4</sup>

### **Type:**

'Cut, flesh removed' is the most common type of FGM practised<sup>5</sup>

### **Agent:**

Almost all FGM is carried out by traditional cutters<sup>6</sup>

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 170 out of 189 countries (2018)<sup>7</sup>

**SDG Gender Index Ranking:** 111 out of 129 countries (2019)<sup>8</sup>

**Population:** 23,758,485 (as at 12 June 2017), with a 1.88% growth rate (2016 est.)<sup>9</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 67 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 645 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>11</sup>

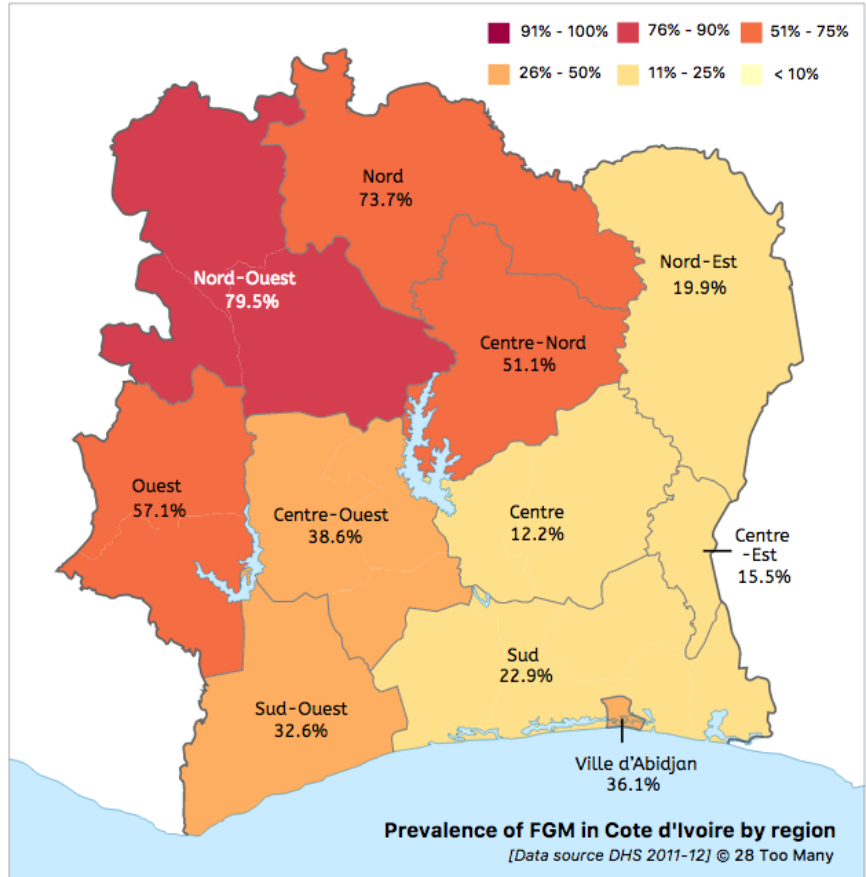
**Literacy:** 43.1% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write<sup>12</sup>

*'You don't have the right to marry and you are often ridiculed  
in the village. In this context, our parents hear the message,  
but the cultural reality overrides it.'*  
~ Cécile Gnowahou, FGM survivor<sup>13</sup>

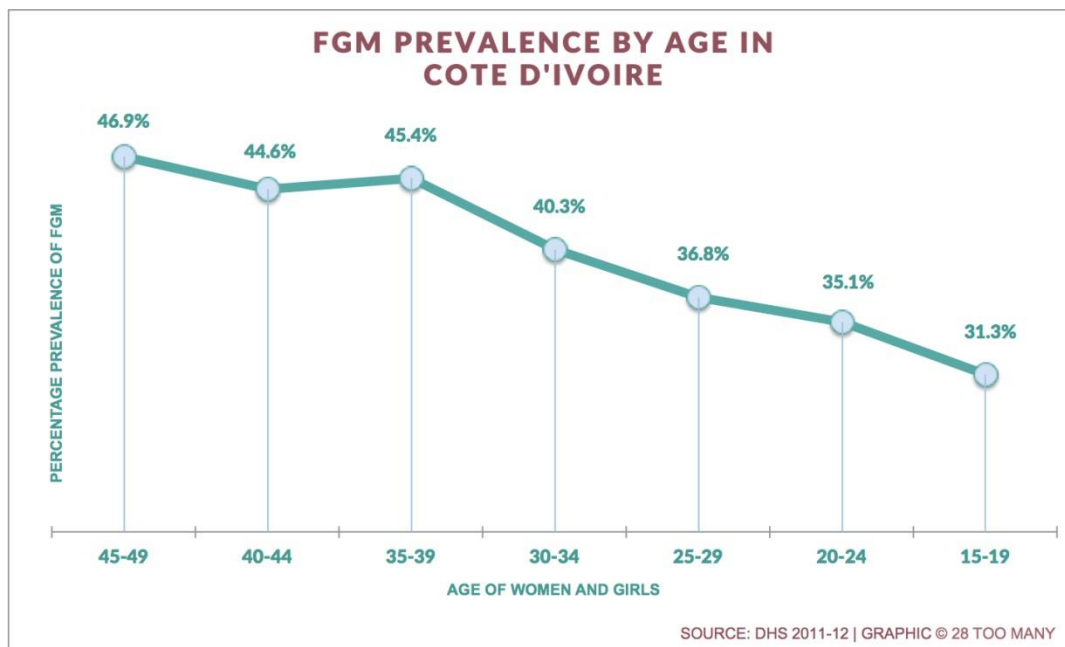
## Prevalence

The north-west (79.5% of women aged 15–49) and north (73.7%) of Côte d'Ivoire have the highest prevalence of FGM, and the centre (12.2%) and centre-east (15.5%) have the lowest prevalence. Women aged 15–49 who live in rural areas are slightly more likely to undergo FGM (38.8%) than women who live in urban areas (37.7%). Prevalence in the capital of Ville d'Abidjan is 36.1%.

FGM is practised in Côte d'Ivoire by people of all religions and ethnic groups. The ethnic group with the highest prevalence among women aged 15-49 is the Mandé du nord, at 66.8%, followed by the Voltaïque/Gur, at 64.1%. The group with the lowest prevalence is the Akan, at 2.4% (although the small survey sample makes this figure somewhat unreliable), followed the Krou, at 19%. Prevalence among Muslim women aged 15-49 is 64.1%, among animists and those 'without religion' is 41.9%, and among Catholics is 17.9%.<sup>14</sup>



The 2006 MICS survey recorded the prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 at 36%. In 2011/12, the prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 as reported by the DHS was 38.2%. However, due to the different survey methods used, this does not necessarily indicate that the prevalence of FGM has risen. Breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence for women aged 45–49 is 46.9%, while for the youngest age group this has fallen to 31.3%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, this data demonstrates a trend towards lower prevalences among younger women.<sup>15</sup>



## Ivorian Law

Law no. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 on the punishment of certain forms of violence against women prohibits the practice of FGM in Côte d'Ivoire. Evidence suggests that FGM cases brought under this law are very rare.

- 1 **(‘DHS’)**: Institut National de la Statistique (INS) et ICF International (2012) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples de Côte d'Ivoire 2011-2012*, p.329. Calverton, Maryland, USA : INS et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR272/FR272.pdf> (accessed 11 June 2017).
- 2 DHS, pp.329 & 341.
- 3 DHS, p.329.
- 4 DHS, p.332.
- 5 DHS p.337.
- 6 DHS, p.338.
- 7 United Nations Development Programme (2018) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update> (accessed 12 June 2019).
- 8 Equal Measures 2030 (2019) *Harnessing the Power of Data for Gender Equality: Introducing the 2019 EM2030 SDG Gender Index*, pp.12–13. Available at [www.data.em2030.org/2019-global-report](http://www.data.em2030.org/2019-global-report) (accessed 12 June 2019).
- 9 - Country Meters (2017) *Côte d'Ivoire*, 12 June 2017. Available at [http://countrymeters.info/en/Cote\\_d'Ivoire](http://countrymeters.info/en/Cote_d'Ivoire) (accessed 12 June 2017).
  - Central Intelligence Agency (2016) *World Factbook: Côte d'Ivoire*, 30 May. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/iv.html> (accessed 12 June 2017).
- 10 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Côte d'Ivoire*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Cote\\_dlvoire\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Cote_dlvoire_2015.pdf) (accessed 12 June 2017).
- 11 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (2015) *Maternal mortality in 1990-2015: Côte d'Ivoire*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/civ.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/civ.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 12 June 2017).
- 12 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 13 Fulgence Zamblé (2012) ‘Punish Those Carrying Out FGM, Say Côte d'Ivoire Campaigners’, *Inter Press Service*, 27 July. Available at <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/07/punish-those-carrying-out-fgm-say-cote-divoire-campaigners/> (accessed 13 June 2017).
- 14 DHS, p.329.
- 15 - DHS, p.329.
  - Institut National de la Statistique (INS) [Côte d'Ivoire] (2007) *Enquête à indicateurs multiples, Côte d'Ivoire 2006, Rapport final, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire : Institut National de la Statistique*, p.4. Available at [https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/C%3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire/2006/Final/Cote%20d%27Ivoire%202006%20MICS\\_French.pdf](https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/C%3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire/2006/Final/Cote%20d%27Ivoire%202006%20MICS_French.pdf) (accessed 12 June 2017).

### **UNICEF Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:**

UNICEF (2013) *Côte d'Ivoire: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/C%3%B4te%20d'Ivoire/FGMC\\_CIV.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/C%3%B4te%20d'Ivoire/FGMC_CIV.pdf) (accessed 12 June 2017).

### **Images on website:**

- 1 Roman Yanushevsky (2013) *ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST, AFRICA. April 24, 2013. Two young beautiful African women selling goods at the Abidjan city market. Stock image. Ghana, Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Zambia.* Shutterstock ID 496581574.
- 2 vstekimages (2014) *Abidjan , Ivory coast- October 1; 2014: In Abidjan, there are women who walk each day to fetch dirty linen washing. What they have in hand is their working tools.* Shutterstock ID 585443624.
- 3 vstekimages (2015) *Abidjan, ivory coast - August 29; 2015: a young woman, her head tied with a scarf, her baby sleeping in her back, sat under a coconut tree taking a rest.* Shutterstock ID 585382214.