

# Guinea

96.9%<sup>1</sup>



## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 96.9%, and support for FGM is rising. Medicalised FGM is on the rise: medical professionals cut about 15% of women aged 15–49, but about 30% of girls aged 0–14.<sup>2</sup>

### **Geography:**

The administrative regions with the highest and lowest prevalence are Labé (100%) and N'Zérékoré (87.1%)<sup>3</sup>

### **Age:**

More than 70% of women aged 15–49 who have undergone FGM were cut between the ages of 5 and 14<sup>4</sup>

### **Type:**

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

### **Agent:**

About 80% of women were cut by traditional cutters, but medicalised FGM is rising rapidly<sup>6</sup>

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 175 out of 189 countries (2018)<sup>7</sup>

**Population:** 13, 283, 612 (as at 23 June 2017), with a 2.62% growth rate (2016 est.)<sup>8</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 61 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>9</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 679 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Literacy:** 30.4% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write<sup>11</sup>

*'Non-excision of girls is considered dishonorable in Guinean society. Social pressure is such that girls may request excision for fear of being excluded or forced to remain unmarried if they do not suffer the practice.'*

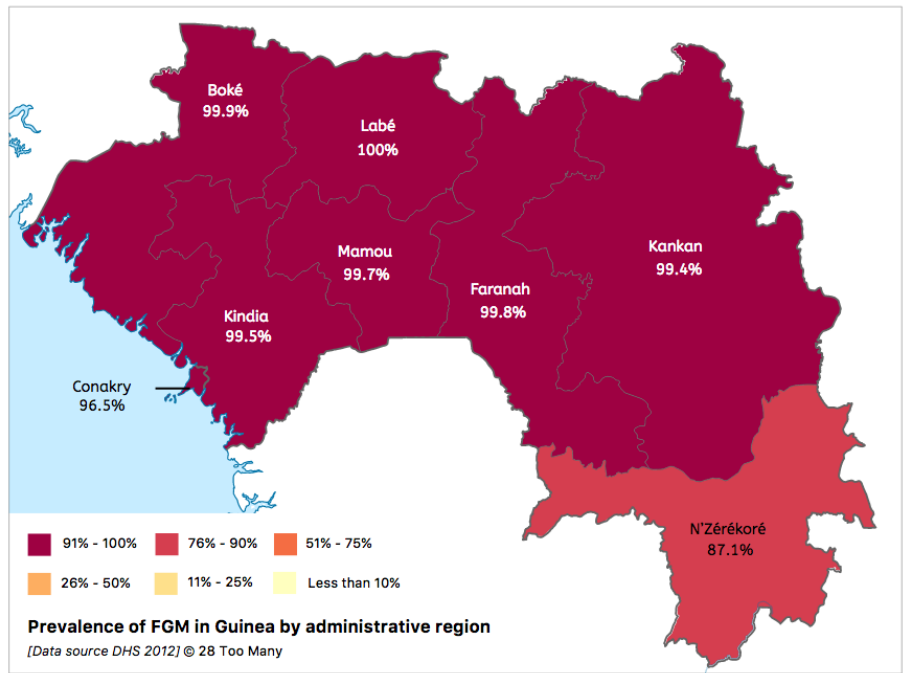
*~ UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights report<sup>12</sup>*

## Prevalence

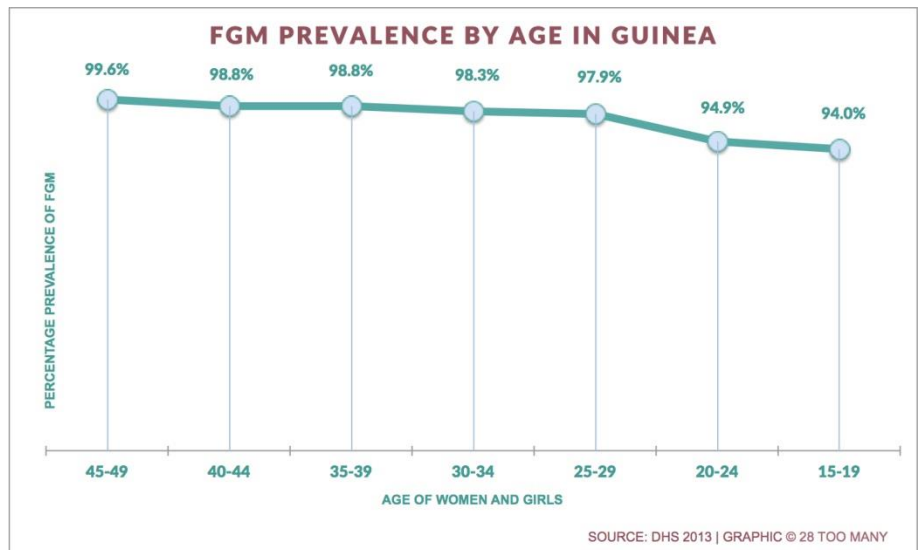
The prevalence of FGM among women aged 15–49 in the majority of administrative regions in Guinea is over 99%, the highest being Labé, in which it is 100%. Conakry and N'Zérékoré, which are located in the south-east and south-west respectively, have slightly lower prevalences: in Conakry, which is the capital city, it is 96.5% and in N'Zérékoré,

which contains the second-largest city in the country, it is 87.1%. Nevertheless, there is almost no difference between the prevalence of FGM among women aged 15–49 who live in rural areas (97%) and those who live in urban (96.8%) areas.

FGM is practised by people from all major religious and ethnic groups in Guinea. The ethnic groups with the highest prevalence of FGM among women aged 15–49 are the Soussou, Peulh and Toma; the prevalence for all of these groups is 99.5%. The ethnic group with the lowest prevalence of FGM is the Guerzé, at 65.7%. Muslim women aged 15–49 are more likely to be cut (99.2%) than Christian women (78.4%) or women who practice animism and other faiths, or women of no religious affiliation (89.5%).<sup>13</sup>



Between 2005 and 2012, the overall prevalence for women aged 15–49 rose from 95.6% to 96.9%, but this rise is not statistically significant. Due to the large age-range of women included, however, the overall prevalence alone may not fully reflect any trends that are occurring. Breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence for women aged 45–49 is 99.6%, while for the youngest age group it is 94%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data actually suggests a trend towards lower prevalences among younger women, although additional data would be required to confirm this.<sup>14</sup>



## Guinean Law

The Guinean Government passed legislation in 1965 that specifically prohibits FGM (Decree No. D/96/205/PRG/SGG of 5 December 1996 promulgating the Code of Medical Deontology [Article 40]). The law was strengthened in 2000, and again in 2016 by a decree relating to the Criminal Code that made FGM punishable whether performed by traditional or modern methods (which would include performance by medical professionals).

- 1 (**'DHS'**): Direction Nationale de la Statistique (DNS) (Guinée), MEASURE DHS et ICF International (2013) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples (EDS-MICS) 2012*, p.329. Calverton, Maryland, U.S.A.: MEASURE DHS et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR280/FR280.pdf>.
- 2 DHS, pp.329 & 335.
- 3 DHS, p.329.
- 4 DHS, p.330.
- 5 DHS, p.329.
- 6 DHS, p.335.
- 7 United Nations Development Programme (2018) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update> (accessed 12 June 2019).
- 8 - Country Meters (2017) *Guinea*, 23 June 2017. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Guinea> (accessed 23 June 2017).  
- Central Intelligence Agency (2016) *World Factbook: Guinea*, 14 June. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gv.html> (accessed 23 June 2017).
- 9 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Guinea*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Guinea\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Guinea_2015.pdf) (accessed 23 June 2017).
- 10 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (2015) *Maternal mortality in 1990-2015: Guinea*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/gin.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/gin.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 23 June 2017).
- 11 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 12 Kieran Guilbert (2016) 'Girls in Guinea cut at earlier age as female support for FGM rises: U.N.', *Reuters*, 25 April. Available at <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-guinea-fgm-idUSKCN0XM1KA> (accessed 27 June 2016).
- 13 DHS, p.329.
- 14 - DHS, p.329.  
- Direction Nationale de la Statistique (DNS) (Guinée) et ORC Macro (2006) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé, Guinée 2005*, p.223. Calverton, Maryland, U.S.A.: DNS et ORC Macro. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR162/FR162-GN05.pdf>.

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

UNICEF (2014) Guinea: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Guinea/FGMC\\_GIN.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Guinea/FGMC_GIN.pdf) (accessed 23 June 2017).

#### **Images on website:**

- 1 UNICEF Guinea (2013) *Girls' education is a priority for UNICEF Guinea*. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/hxgorc>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>.
- 2 Jullen Harnels (2012) *The opinion of the mothers*. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/bjH4oq>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>.
- 3 UNMEER (2015) *Reopening of schools in Guinea*. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/qPMC21>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/>.