

# Senegal

24.0%<sup>1</sup>



## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM among women aged 15–49 is 24.0%.  
80.9% of women and 78.8% of men aged 15–49 believe FGM should not continue.<sup>2</sup>

### **Geography:**

FGM prevalence varies widely from 19.8% in urban areas to 28.2% in rural areas<sup>3</sup>

### **Age:**

Most girls are cut before the age of 10 and around three-quarters (79.6%) by age 5<sup>4</sup>

### **Type:**

Over 50% of women aged 15–49 were 'cut, flesh removed'<sup>5</sup>

### **Agent:**

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

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 164 out of 189 countries (2018)<sup>7</sup>

**SDG Gender Index Rating:** 104 out of 129 countries (2019)<sup>8</sup>

**Population:** 16,242,687 (as at 17 November 2017), with a 2.39% growth rate (2017 est.)<sup>9</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 42 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 315 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>11</sup>

**Literacy:** 57.7% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write<sup>12</sup>

*'It's deeply rooted in the culture. It existed even before Islam came here.'*

*~ Senegalese activist<sup>13</sup>*

## Prevalence

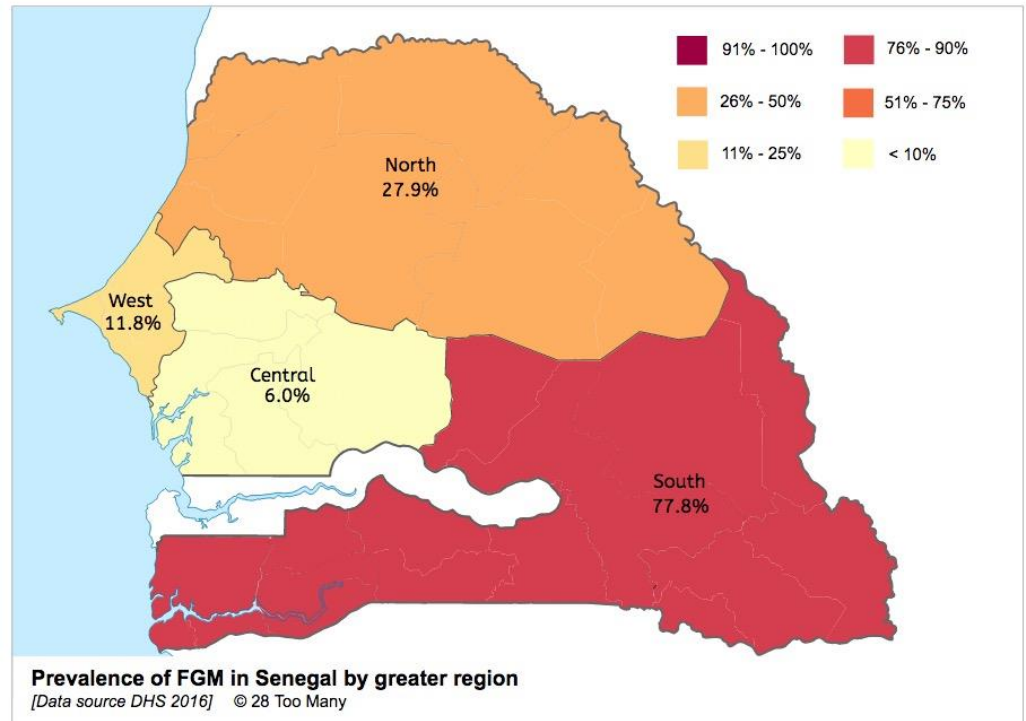
The prevalence of FGM varies widely across Senegal, from 19.8% of women aged 15–49 who live in urban areas to 28.2% of those who live in rural areas.

FGM prevalence also varies between peoples of different ethnic groups and religions. The highest-practising groups include the Mandigue (74.7%), Soninké (63.3%), Diola (58.6%) and Poular (49.3%). The lowest prevalences are found among the Wolof (0.7%) and the Serer (1.2%), although these are based on very small sample sizes.

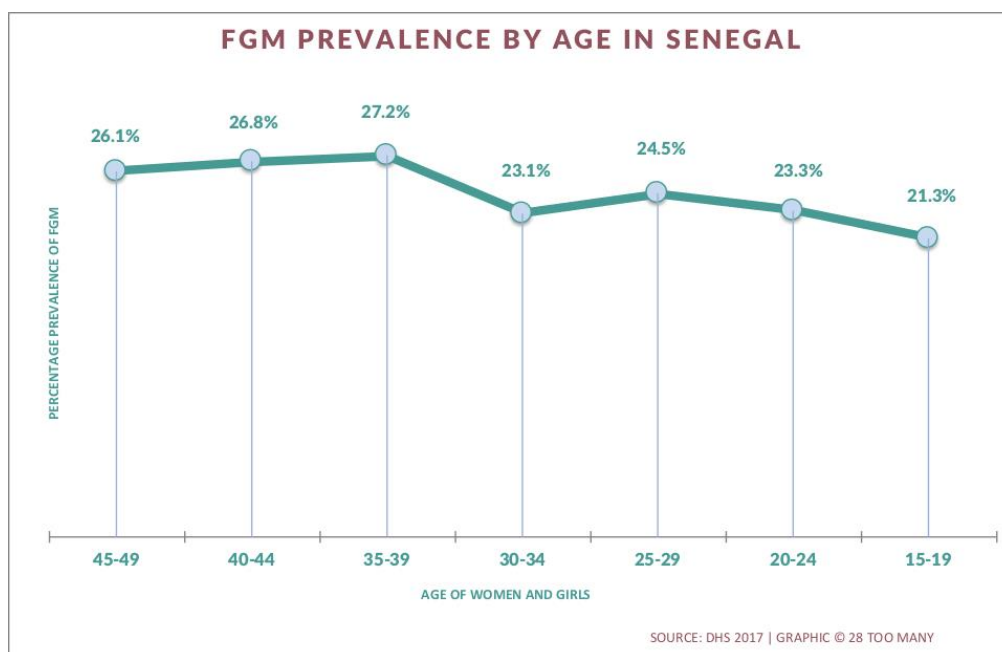
Prevalence is 24.7% among Muslims, 7% among Christians and likely just under 50% among Animists.<sup>14</sup> 12.8% of women and 15.3% of men who have heard of FGM believe it is a religious requirement.<sup>15</sup>

The greatest support for the continuation of FGM is among young men and women aged 15–19, the most-frequently-practising ethnic groups, those living in rural areas and those surveyed who had little education or were in the lowest wealth quintile.<sup>16</sup>

**Please note: the figures on the map are from 2016. No data is available by greater region for 2017.**



The prevalence of FGM in women (aged 15–49) is 24.0%. This is a decrease from 28.2% in 2005. Due to the large age-range of women included, however, the overall prevalence alone may not fully reflect the progress that has been made in recent years. Breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence for women aged 45–49 is 26.1%, while for the youngest age group this has fallen to 21.3%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data suggests a trend towards lower prevalences for younger women.<sup>17</sup>



## Senegalese Law

In 1999, the Government of Senegal passed legislation that specifically prohibits the practice of FGM (Law No. 99-05 of 25 January 1999 amending various provisions of the Penal Code [Article 2], as incorporated into the Penal Code, Article 299 *bis*).

- 1 **(‘DHS’)**: Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD) [Sénégal], et ICF. (2018) *Sénégal : Enquête Démographique et de Santé Continue (EDS-Continue 2017)*, p.330. Rockville, Maryland, USA : ANSD et ICF. Available at <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR345/FR345.pdf>.
- 2 DHS, p.334.
- 3 DHS, p.330.
- 4 DHS, p.331.
- 5 DHS, p.330.
- 6 **(‘DHS 2016’)**: Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD) [Sénégal], et ICF (2017) *Sénégal : Enquête Démographique et de Santé Continue (EDS-Continue 2016)*, p.164. Rockville, Maryland, USA : ANSD et ICF. Available at <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR331-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>.
- 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) *Senegal*, 17 November. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Senegal>.  
- Central Intelligence Agency (2017) *World Factbook: Senegal*, 6 November. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sg.html>.
- 10 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Senegal*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Senegal\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Senegal_2015.pdf) (accessed 19 May 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: Senegal*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/sen.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/sen.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 19 May 2017).
- 12 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 13 Fatma Naib (2016) ‘Senegal’s anti-FGM campaigner: “My Child won’t be cut”’, *Aljazeera*, 11 March. Available at <http://www.aljazeera.com/blogs/africa/2016/03/senegal-fgm-campaigner-child-cut-160309134128545.html> (accessed 25 May 2017).
- 14 - DHS, p.330.  
- DHS 2016, p.58.
- 15 Original DHS 2005 and 2016 datasets; calculations courtesy of IF International.
- 16 DHS, p.334.
- 17 - DHS, p.330.  
- Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD) [Sénégal], et ICF International (2012) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé à Indicateurs Multiples au Sénégal (EDS-MICS) 2010-2011*, p.238. Calverton, Maryland, USA: ANSD et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR258/FR258.pdf> (accessed 19 May 2017).

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

UNICEF (2016) *Senegal: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Senegal/FGMC\\_SEN.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Senegal/FGMC_SEN.pdf) (accessed 19 May 2017).

### **Images on website:**

- 1 Vladimir Zhoga (2013) *DAKAR/SENEGAL – NOVEMBER 12, 2013: Senegalese smiling woman with a basket of handmade jewelry and souvenirs for sale on her head and a baby on her back at the Retba salt lake near Dakar, Senegal*. Shutterstock ID 408410962.
- 2 Vladimir Zhoga (2013) *DAKAR/SENEGAL – NOVEMBER 13, 2013: Senegalese woman with her baby in a tribal village near Dakar, Senegal*. Shutterstock ID 531009769.
- 3 Vladimir Zhoga (2013) *DAKAR/SENEGAL – NOVEMBER 13, 2013: Portrait of African little girl in the tribal village*. Shutterstock ID 531009799.