

Togo

3.1%*¹



Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 3.1%.*

94.5% of women believe that FGM should be stopped.²

Please note that, due to the low prevalence of FGM in Togo, very few surveyed women have been cut. For this reason, detailed breakdowns by age, education, etc. should be treated with caution.

Geography:

The region with the highest prevalence is Centrale, at 13.5%; the lowest is Maritime, in the south, at 0.2%³

Age:

FGM is most commonly performed on girls between 4 and 14 years of age⁴

Type:

'Cut, flesh removed' is the most common type of FGM practised⁵

Agent:

Almost all FGM is carried out by traditional practitioners⁶

Development Indicators

HDI Rank: 165 out of 189 countries (2018)⁷

SDG Gender Index Rating: 115 out of 129 countries (2019)⁸

Population: 8,266,868 (as at 11 March 2020), with a 2.56% growth rate (2020 est.)⁹

Infant Mortality Rate: 52 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)¹⁰

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 368 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)¹¹

Literacy: 63.7% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write¹²

'It is often carried out as part of a "coming of age" ceremony and is accompanied by festivities and gifts when the girl or woman recovers . . . Most excisors claimed that problems were the result of "bad destiny".'

~ Demographic Research Unit study on FGM/C in Togo, 1996¹³

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Prevalence

The regions in Togo with the highest FGM prevalence are Centrale (13.5% of women aged 15–49) and Savanes (7.6%). The prevalence in Kara is 2.5%, and in Lomé, Golfe Urbaine, Maritime and Plateaux it is less than 2%. Women aged 15–49 who live in rural areas are slightly more likely (3.6%) to undergo FGM than those who live in urban areas (2.5%).¹⁴

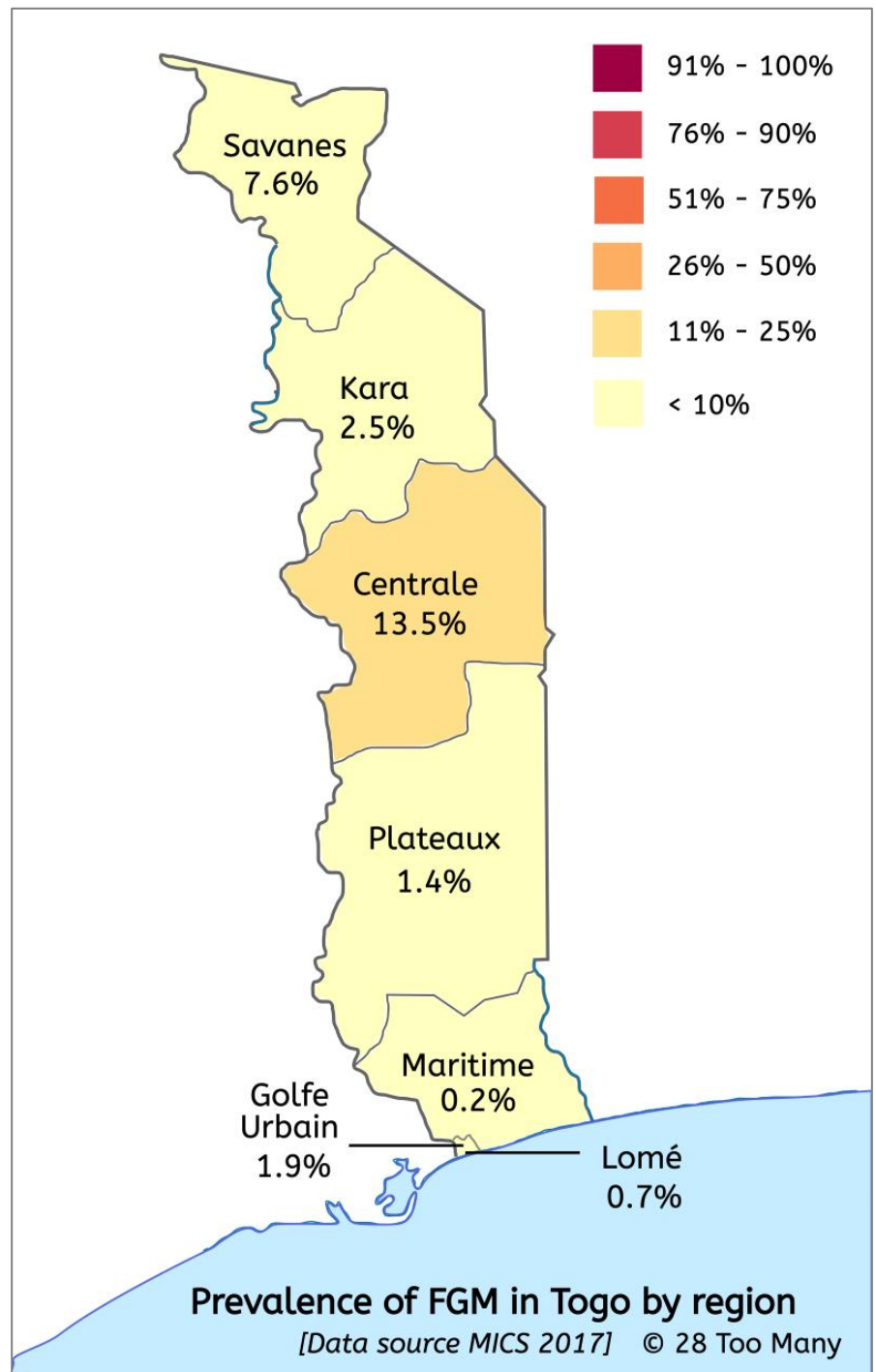
FGM is usually performed on girls aged 4–14; according to the MICS, it is also performed on infants, women who are about to get married, and sometimes on women who are pregnant with their first child or who have just given birth.¹⁵

FGM prevalence is less than 6% across most ethnic groups in Togo. The most recent data also show a prevalence of 12.1% among 'Autres togolais' and 6.8% among 'Autres nationalités'.¹⁶

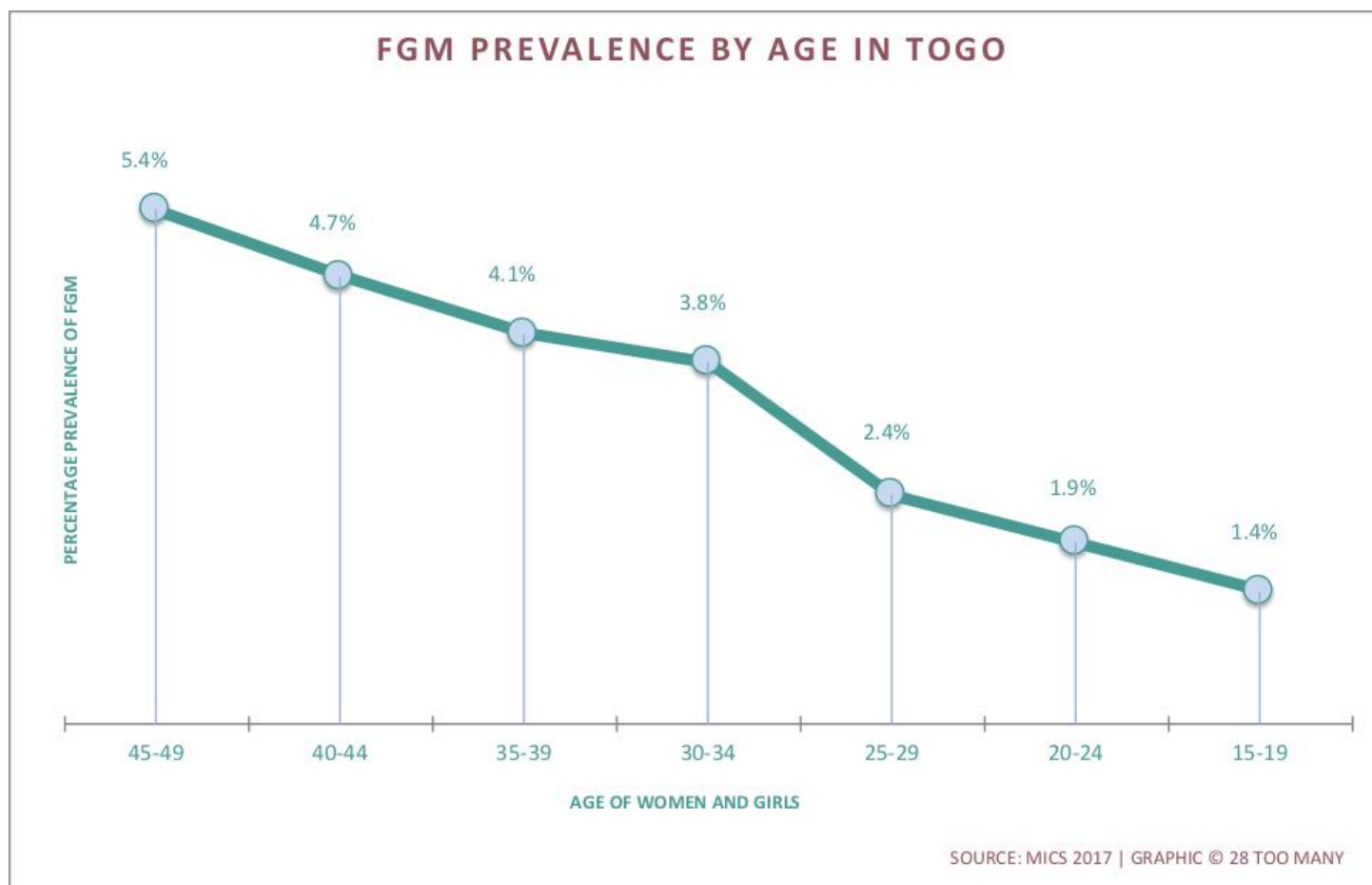
73% of women aged 15–49 have heard of FGM; of these, 94.5% believe that it should be stopped. Support for FGM abandonment increases slightly among women whose mothers are more educated and who are in the higher wealth quintiles.¹⁷

The most recent MICS survey does not give FGM prevalence according to religion. The DHS 2015, however, suggests that Muslim women aged 15–49 are far more likely to undergo FGM

(22%) than women of other religions, among all of whom the prevalence of FGM is less than 2%.¹⁸



Breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence for women aged 45–49 is 5.4%, while for the youngest age group this has fallen to 1.4%.¹⁹ Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data suggests a trend towards lower prevalence among younger women.



Togolese Law

The main law relating to FGM in Togo is Law No. 98-016, dated 17 November 1998, on the prohibition of female genital mutilation. Law No. 2015-010, the new Penal Code of Togo, dated 24 November 2015, also criminalises the practice of FGM. However, there is a lack of publicly available information on any prosecutions to date; law enforcement appears to be weak and there is an absence of reporting and recording of FGM cases.

- 1 (**'MICS'**): Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques et Démographiques (INSEED (2018) *MICS6 TOGO, 2017, Rapport final*, pp.328–331. Togo : Lomé. Available at https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS6/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Togo/2017/Survey%20findings/Togo%202017%20MICS%20SFR-v2_French.pdf (accessed 11 March 2020).
- 2 MICS, pp.329–330.
- 3 MICS, p.329.
- 4 MICS, p.331.
- 5 MICS, p.329.
- 6 UNICEF (2014) *Togo: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*, p.2. Available at https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Togo/FGMC_TGO.pdf (accessed 26 June 2017).
- 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 (accessed 12 June 2019).
- 9 - Country Meters (2020) *Togo*, 11 March 2020. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Togo> (accessed 11 March 2020).
- Central Intelligence Agency (2020) *World Factbook: Togo*, 2 March. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/to.html> (accessed 11 March 2020).
- 10 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Togo*. Available at http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Togo_2015.pdf (accessed 26 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: Togo*. Available at http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/tgo.pdf?ua=1 (accessed 26 June 2017).
- 12 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 13 The Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues (2001) 'Togo: Report on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or Female Genital Cutting (FGC)', *U.S. Department of State*. Available at <https://2001-2009.state.gov/g/wi/rls/rep/crfgm/10111.htm> (accessed 29 June 2017).
- 14 MICS, p.329.
- 15 MICS, p.328.
- 16 MICS, p.329.
- 17 MICS, p.330.
- 18 Ministère de la Planification, du Développement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire (MPDAT), Ministère de la Santé (MS) et ICF International (2015) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé au Togo 2013-2014*, p.274. Rockville, Maryland, USA : MPDAT, MS et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR301/FR301.pdf> (accessed 26 June 2017).
- 19 MICS, p.329.

UNICEF Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:

UNICEF (2014) *Togo: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Togo/FGMC_TGO.pdf (accessed 26 June 2017).

Images on website:

- 1 Anton Ivanov (2017) *Unidentified Beninese beautiful girl in colored shirt wears earrings at the local market*. Shutterstock ID 592414133.
- 2 Anton Ivanov (2017) *TAMBERMA VIL, TOGO – JAN 13, 2017: Unidentified Tammari a woman holds a little girl in her arms in the village. Tammaris are ethnic group of Togo and Benin*. Shutterstock ID 618583511.
- 3 Anton Ivanov (2012) *KARA, TOGO - MAR 11, 2012: Unidentified Togolese women watch the religious voodoo dance performance. Voodoo is the West African religion*. Shutterstock ID 430528861.