

Yemen

18.5%¹



Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 18.5%.
75.4% of women aged 15–49 believe that FGM should be discontinued.²

Geography:

The governorates of Yemen with the highest prevalence are in the east of the country, particularly Al-Mhrah and Hadramout³

Age:

83.8% of women who have had FGM were cut in the first week after birth⁴

Type:

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

Agent:

92.8% of women aged 15–49 were cut by traditional practitioners⁶

Development Indicators

HDI Rank: 177 out of 189 countries (2019)⁷

SDG Gender Index Rating: 126 out of 129 countries (2019)⁸

Population: 30,540,841 (as at 29 July 2020), with a 2.04% growth rate (2020 est.)⁹

Infant Mortality Rate: 42.9 deaths per 1,000 live births (2019)¹⁰

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 164 deaths per 100,000 live births (2017)¹¹

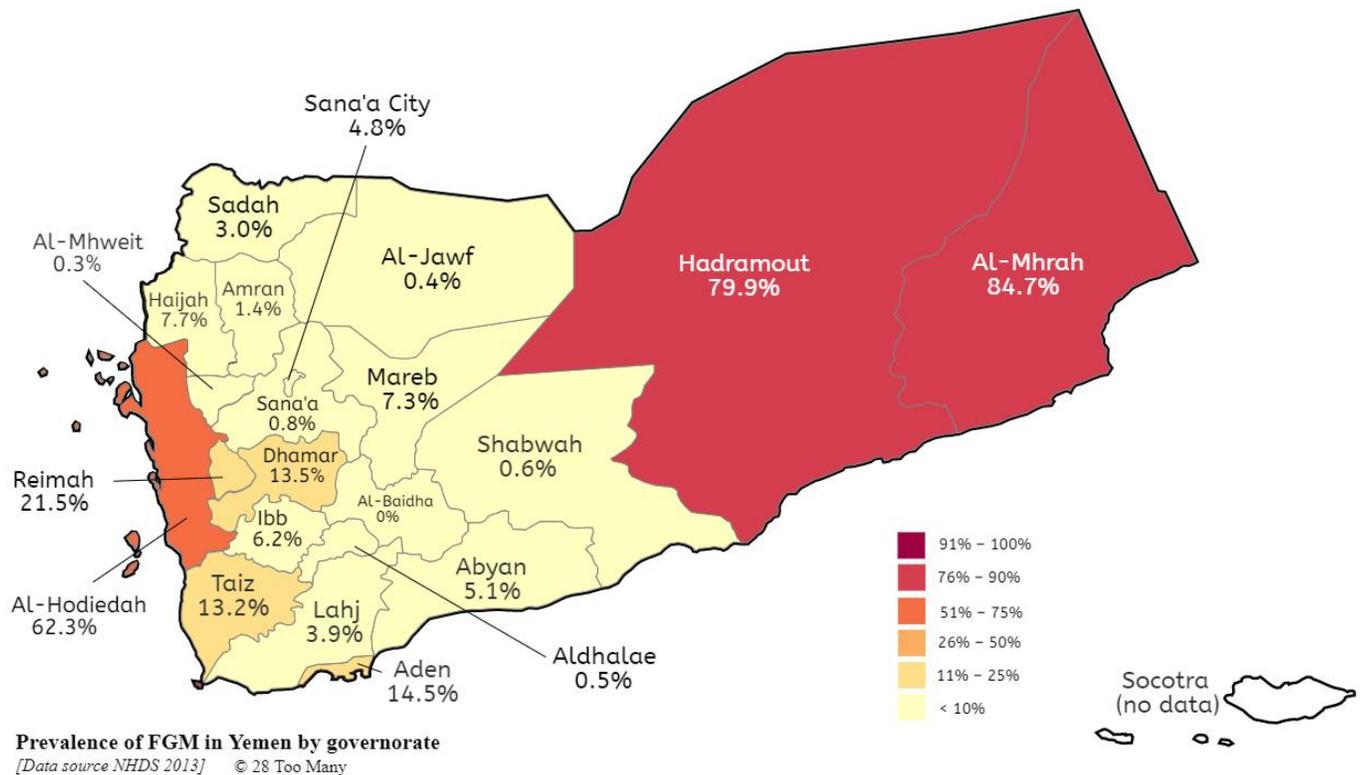
Literacy: 70.1% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write¹²

'Because of the fragile healthcare system prior to the conflict and the collapse of the healthcare system amidst the fighting, particularly emergency care, in many rural areas of Yemen, FGM can lead to death or long-term health consequences.'

~ Human Rights Watch¹³

Prevalence

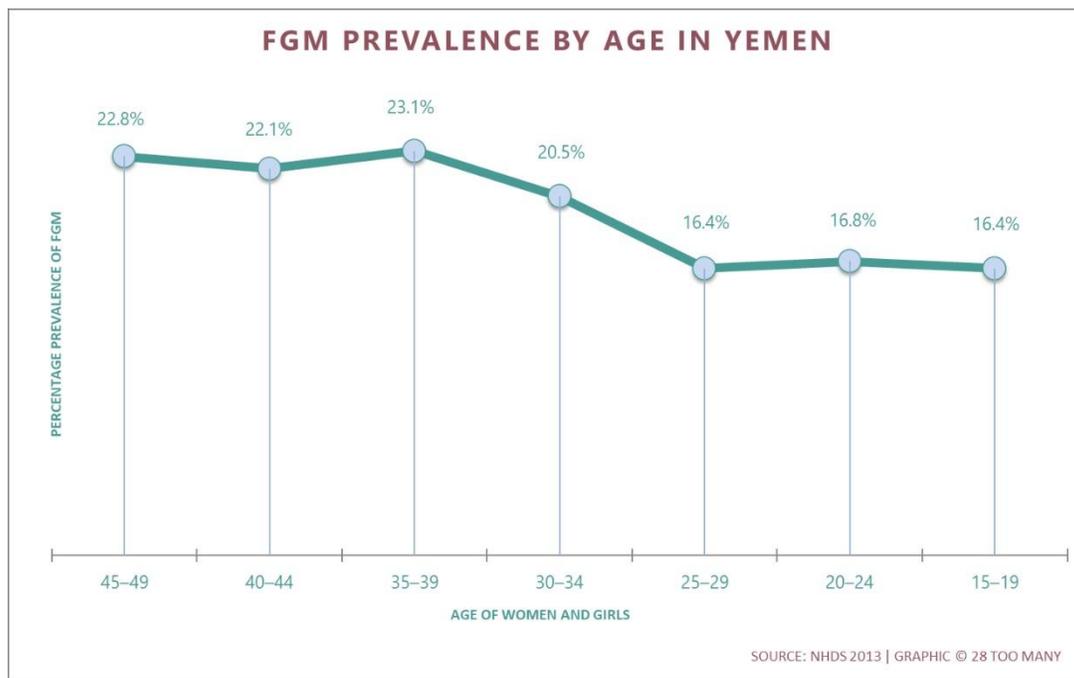
Two of Yemen's governorates (Al-Mhrah and Hadramout) have an FGM prevalence of 80% or higher, and both are in the far east of the country. Prevalence at the governorate level ranges from less than 1% (Al-Baidha, Al-Jawf, Sana'a, Al-Mhweit and Aldhalae) to 84.7% (Al-Mhrah). It should be noted that some of the data at governorate level is based on a small number of women and should be interpreted with caution.¹⁴



There is little difference between the prevalence in urban (17.1%) and rural (19.2%) areas. Women with no formal education or only a basic education are more likely to have been cut than women with a secondary or higher level of education.

Women in the lowest wealth quintile are more likely to have been cut (26.5%) than those in the highest wealth quintile (14%). However, across the five wealth quintiles there is not a straightforward trend.¹⁵

Measurements of FGM prevalence prior to 2013 were restricted to women who had been married at any time, meaning that a direct comparison cannot be made. However, breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence among women aged 45–49 is 22.8%, while among the youngest age group this has fallen to 16.4%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data suggests a trend towards less frequent cutting among younger women.¹⁶



Yemeni Law

There is currently no national legislation in Yemen that specifically criminalises and punishes the practice of FGM. In April 2014 a child rights bill was proposed to ban FGM and include prison sentences and fines for offenders. It was submitted for ministerial review; however, the bill is still reportedly pending a decision.¹⁷

- 1 (**'NHDS'**): Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP), Central Statistical Organization (CSO) [Yemen], Pan Arab Program for Family Health (PAPFAM), and ICF International (2015) *Yemen National Health and Demographic Survey 2013*, pp.163–170. Rockville, Maryland, USA: MOPHP, CSO, PAPFAM, and ICF International. Available at <https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR296/FR296.pdf>.
- 2 NHDS, pp.165 and 172.
- 3 NHDS, p.165.
- 4 NHDS, p.169.
- 5 NHDS, p.165.
- 6 NHDS, p.169.
- 7 United Nations Development Programme (2019) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/2019-human-development-index-ranking> (accessed 29 July 2020).
- 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 29 July 2020).
- 9 - Country Meters (2020) *Yemen*, 29 July 2020. Available at <https://countrymeters.info/en/Yemen> (accessed 29 July 2020).
 - Central Intelligence Agency (2020) *World Factbook: Yemen*, 22 July. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ym.html> (accessed 29 July 2020).
- 10 UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (2019) *Yemen*. Available at <https://childmortality.org/data/Yemen> (accessed 29 July 2020).
- 11 World Health Organization (2017) *Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)*. Available at [https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/maternal-mortality-ratio-\(per-100-000-live-births\)](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/maternal-mortality-ratio-(per-100-000-live-births)) (accessed 29 July 2020).
- 12 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 13 Human Rights Watch (2020) *Human Rights Watch Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on Yemen – 77th Pre-Session*, 7 February. Available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/02/07/human-rights-watch-submission-committee-elimination-discrimination-against-women> (accessed 31 July 2020).
- 14 NHDS, p.165.

15 NHDS, p.165.

16 NHDS, p.165.

17 Human Rights Watch, *op. cit.*

Images on website:

- 1 kate_griffin13 (2008) *Girls in Yemen*, 1 August. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/6AQPgf>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>.
- 2 US Agency for International Development (2012) *Yemen*, 9 October. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/didz7K>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>.
- 3 US Agency for International Development (2012) *Preparing Dinner*, 12 September. Available at <https://flic.kr/p/oGpAzf>. CCL: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>.