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STATISTICAL PROFILE ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Female genital mutilation (FGM) refers to “all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.”¹ While the exact number of girls and women worldwide who have undergone FGM remains unknown, at least 200 million girls and women have been cut in 30 countries with representative data on prevalence. FGM is a violation of girls’ and women’s human rights and is condemned by many international treaties and conventions, as well as by national legislation in many countries. Yet, where it is practised FGM is performed in line with tradition and social norms to ensure that girls are socially accepted and marriageable, and to uphold their status and honour and that of the entire family. UNICEF works with government and civil society partners towards the elimination of FGM in countries where it is still practised.

1. World Health Organization, *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An interagency statement*, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNECA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNAIDS, WHO, Geneva, 2008, p. 4.

2003

National decree/legislation banning FGM passed

KEY STATISTICS ON WOMEN’S STATUS

28%

of women 20-24 years were married or in union before age 15

76%

of women 20-24 years were married or in union before age 18

48%

of women 20-24 years have given birth by age 18

60%

of women 15-49 years think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting/ beating his wife under certain circumstances

41%

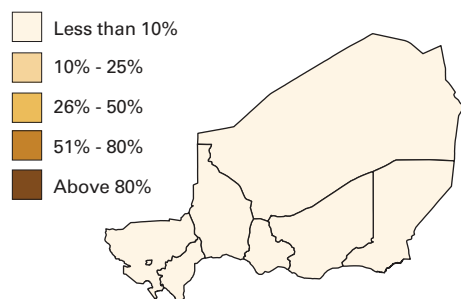
of women 15-49 years make use of at least one type of information media at least once a week (newspaper, magazine, television or radio)

Source: DHS 2012

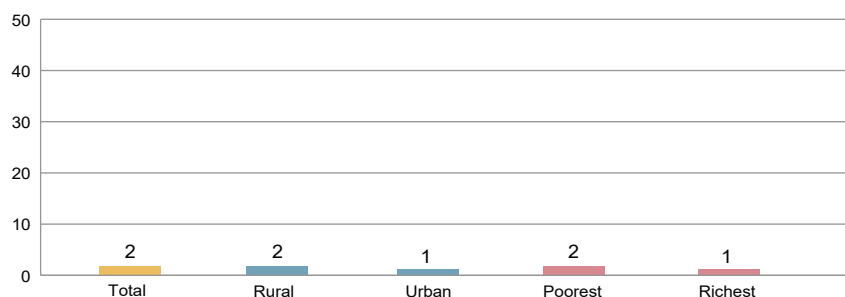
HOW WIDESPREAD IS THE PRACTICE?

Overall, the prevalence of FGM is very low in Niger

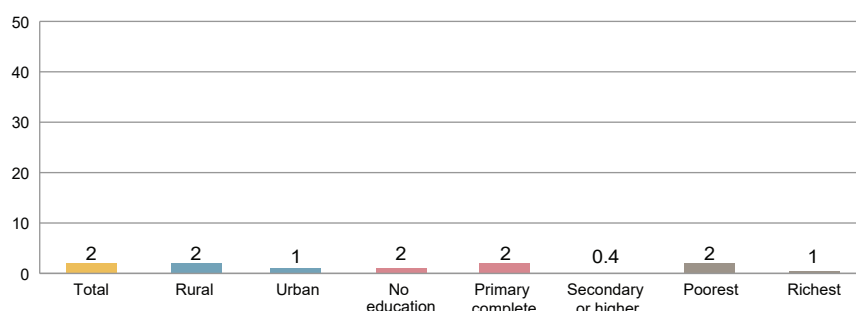
Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM, by region



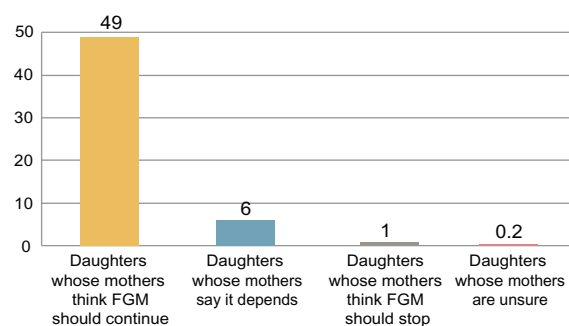
Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM, by residence and household wealth quintile



Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM, by residence, mother's education and household wealth quintile



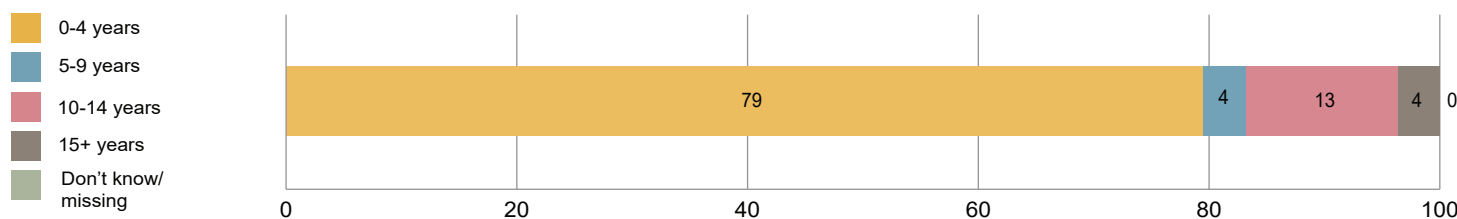
Percentage of cut girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have at least one daughter who has undergone FGM, by mothers' attitudes about whether the practice should continue



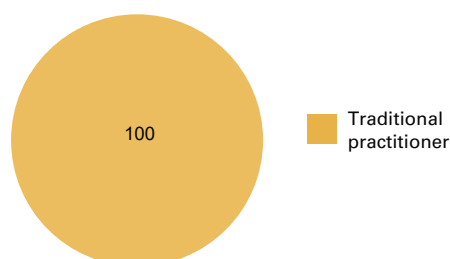
WHEN AND HOW IS FGM PERFORMED?

All girls are cut by traditional practitioners, and one in seven have undergone the most severe form of the practice

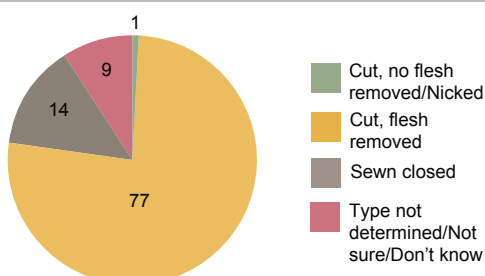
Percentage distribution of girls aged 15 to 19 years who have undergone FGM, by age at which cutting occurred



Percentage distribution of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM, according to the type of person/practitioner performing the procedure



Percentage distribution of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM, by type of FGM performed



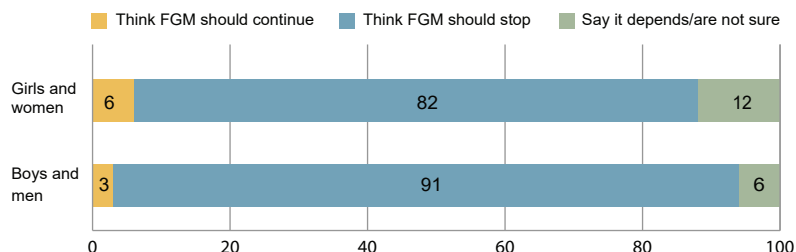
Notes: The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Only categories with 25 or more unweighted cases are presented. Percentage distributions of girls aged 15 to 19 years are based on small denominator, 25-49 unweighted cases. Due to rounding, some of the data presented may not add up to 100 per cent. 'Health personnel' includes doctors, nurses, midwives and other health workers; 'Traditional practitioner' includes traditional circumcisers, traditional birth attendants, traditional midwives and other types of traditional practitioners.

Source for all charts on this page: DHS 2012

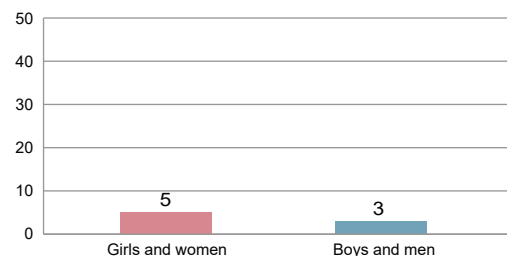
WHAT ARE THE PREVAILING ATTITUDES TOWARDS FGM?

Nearly all people in Niger think the practice of FGM should stop

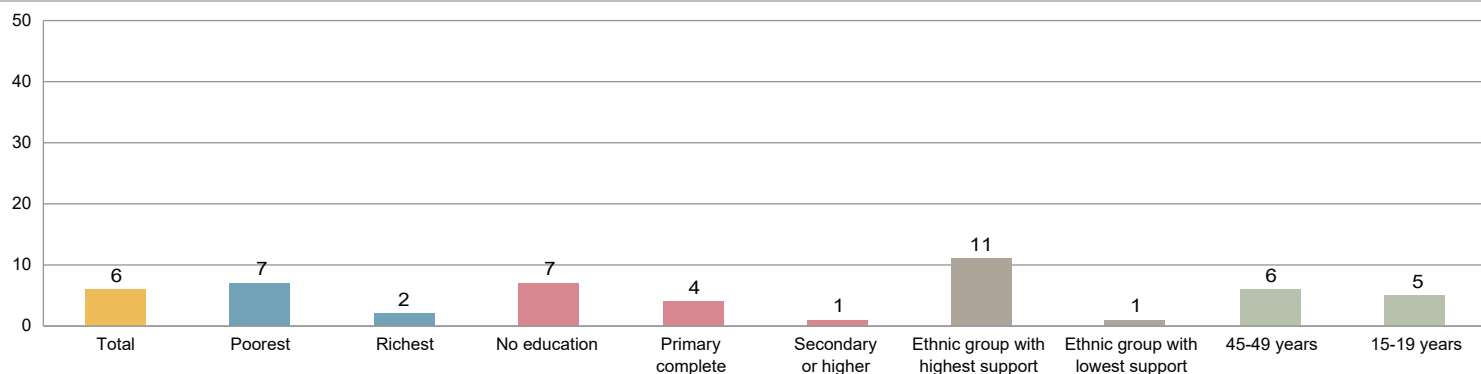
Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years and boys and men aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM, by their attitudes about whether the practice should continue



Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years and boys and men aged 15 to 49 years who have heard of FGM and believe the practice is required by religion



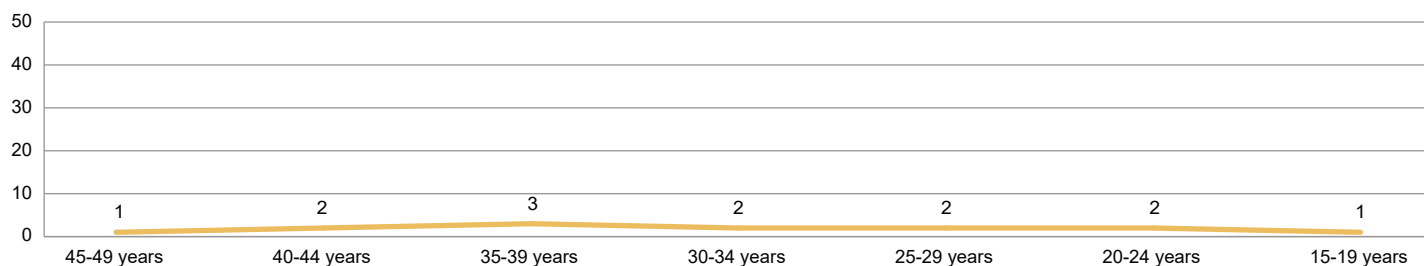
Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM and think the practice should continue, by household wealth quintile, education, ethnicity and age



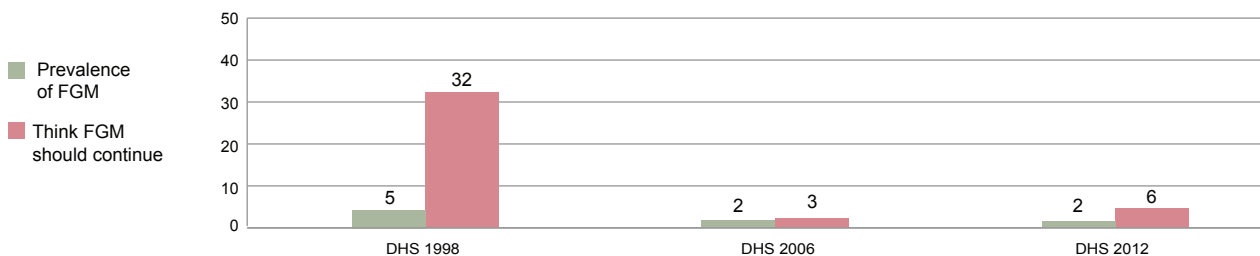
IS THE PRACTICE OF FGM CHANGING?

The practice of FGM has been systematically very low throughout the years

Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM, by current age



Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM, and percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM and think the practice should continue

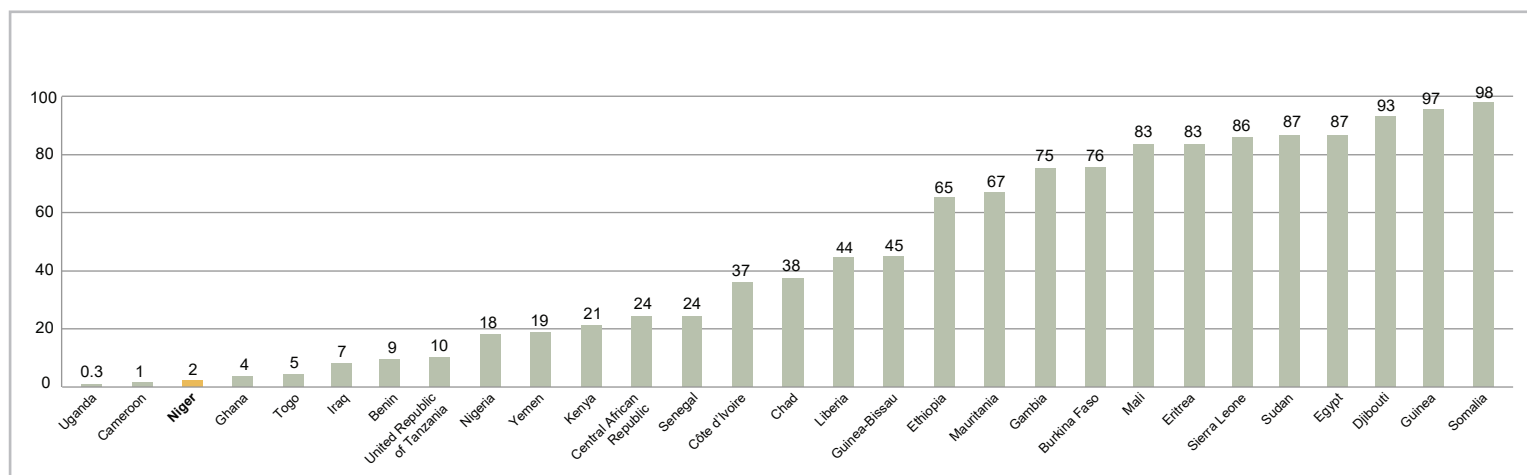


Source for all above charts: DHS 2012

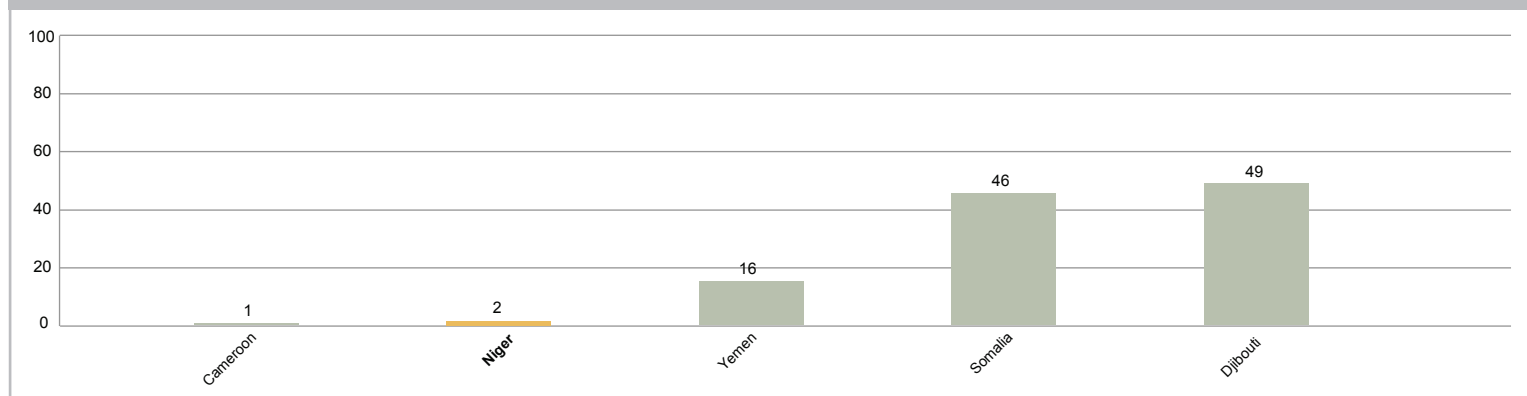
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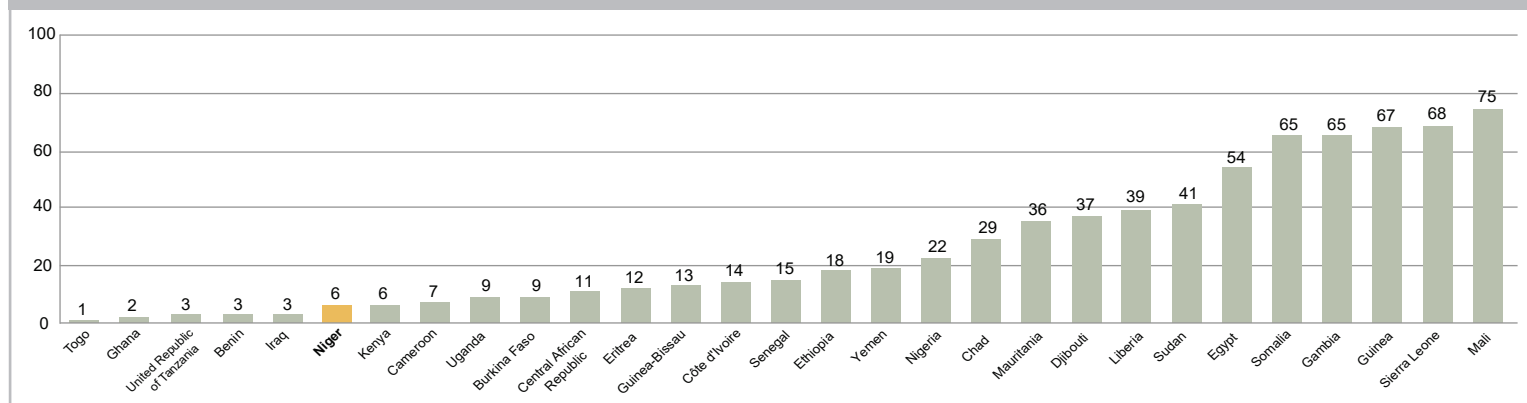
INTER-COUNTRY STATISTICAL OVERVIEW



Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years with at least one living daughter who has undergone FGM



Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have heard about FGM and think the practice should continue



Notes: Data on attitudes for Yemen refer to ever-married girls and women. In Liberia, girls and women who have heard of the Sande society were asked whether they were members; this provides indirect information on FGM since it is performed during initiation into the society. MICS data for Ghana (2011) could not be used to report on attitudes towards FGM due to the fact that information is missing for girls and women with no living daughters; data from MICS 2006 are used instead. In Liberia, only cut girls and women were asked about their attitudes towards FGM; since girls and women from practicing communities are more likely to support the practice, the level of support in this country as captured by DHS 2013 is higher than would be expected had all girls and women been asked their opinion. Prevalence data on FGM for girls and women aged 15 to 49 years and data on attitudes towards FGM are not available for Indonesia.