

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in The Gambia

In 2015, the Government of the Republic of The Gambia passed the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015, which prohibits female circumcision.

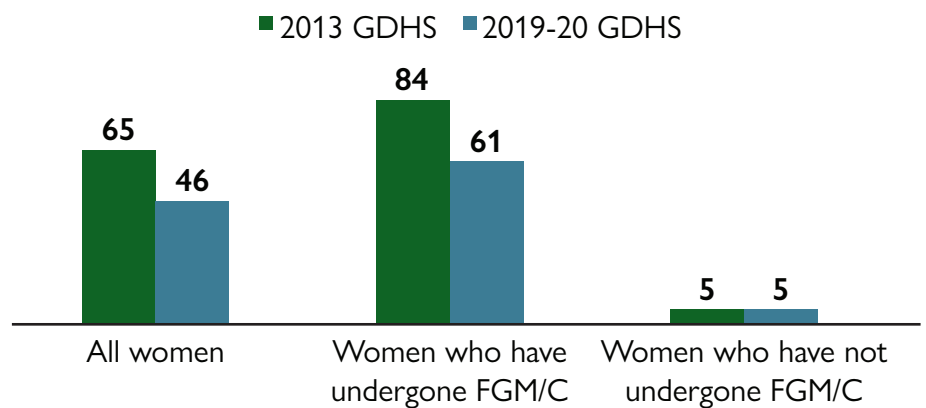
Sections 32A and 32B criminalize and set out punishments for performing, procuring, and aiding and abetting the practice of FGM/C.

Women who believe FGM/C should continue decreased from

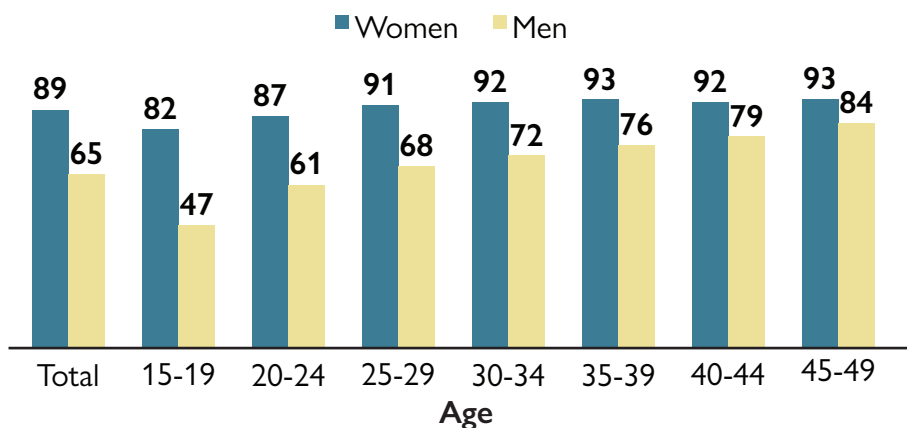
65% in 2013
to
46% in 2019-20.

This decrease was largest among women who have undergone FGM/C.

Percent of women age 15-49 who have heard of FGM/C that believe FGM/C should continue



Percent of women and men age 15-49 who have heard of FGM/C that know FGM/C is illegal by age



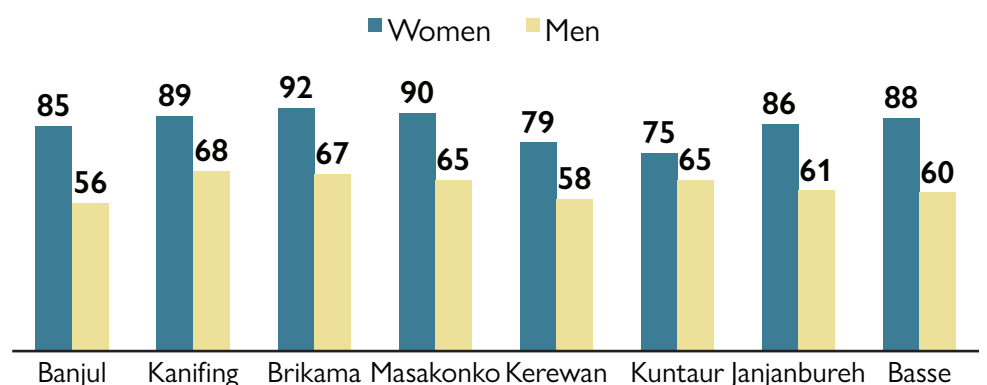
89% of women and **65%** of men know that FGM/C is illegal.

Knowledge that FGM/C is illegal increases with age.

Knowledge that FGM/C is illegal is highest among women in Brikama and among men in Kanifing.

Knowledge that FGM/C is illegal is lowest among women in Kuntaur and among men in Banjul.

Percent of women and men age 15-49 who have heard of FGM/C that know FGM/C is illegal by local government area



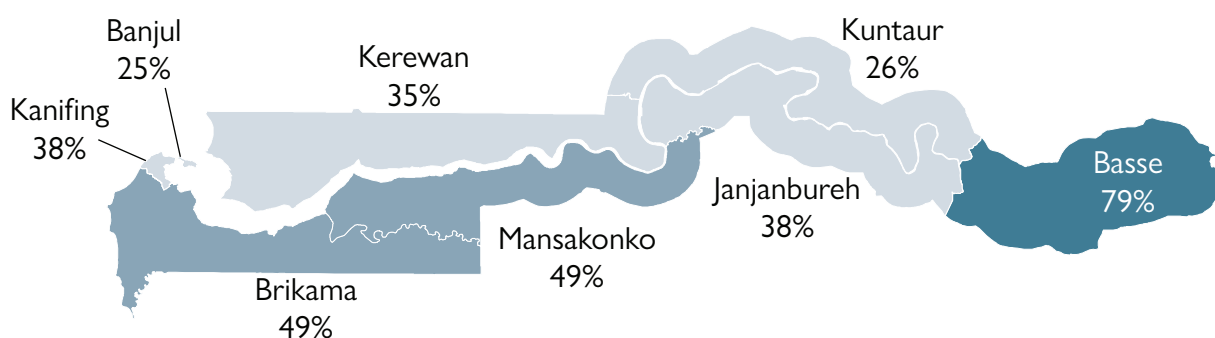
However, despite increased awareness and changing attitudes, female genital mutilation/cutting continues in The Gambia.

According to the 2019-20 Gambia Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS), nearly **5 in 10** girls age 0-14 in The Gambia have undergone FGM/C.*

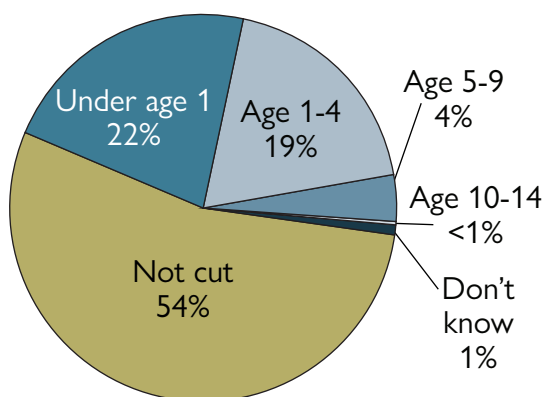
Yet, these data don't tell the full story, as girls age 0-14 who had not undergone FGM/C at the time of the survey are still at risk of being cut in the future.



FGM/C ranges from 25% of girls in Banjul to 79% of girls in Basse.



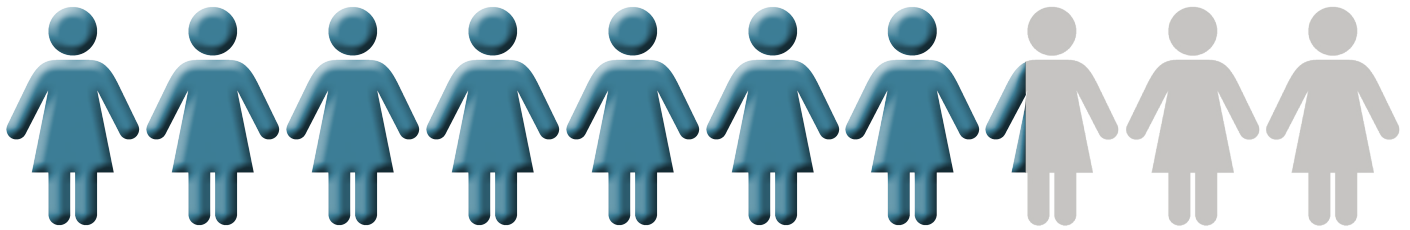
Among girls age 0-14, percent distribution by age at which cutting occurred



4 in 10 girls were cut before age 5.

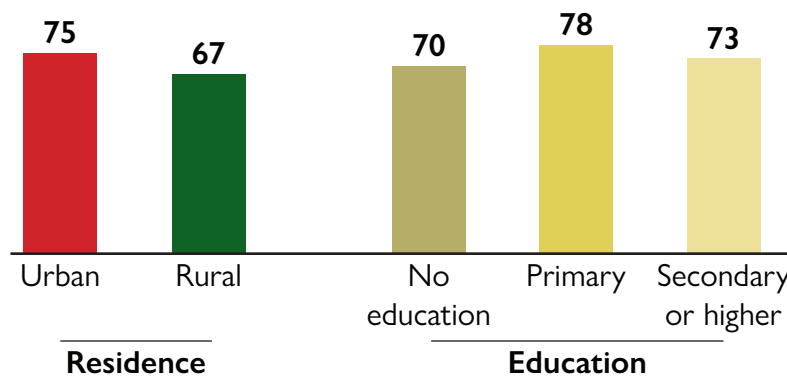
*Data on FGM/C among girls age 0-14 is reported by their mothers.

More than **7** in **10** women age 15-49 in The Gambia have undergone FGM/C.

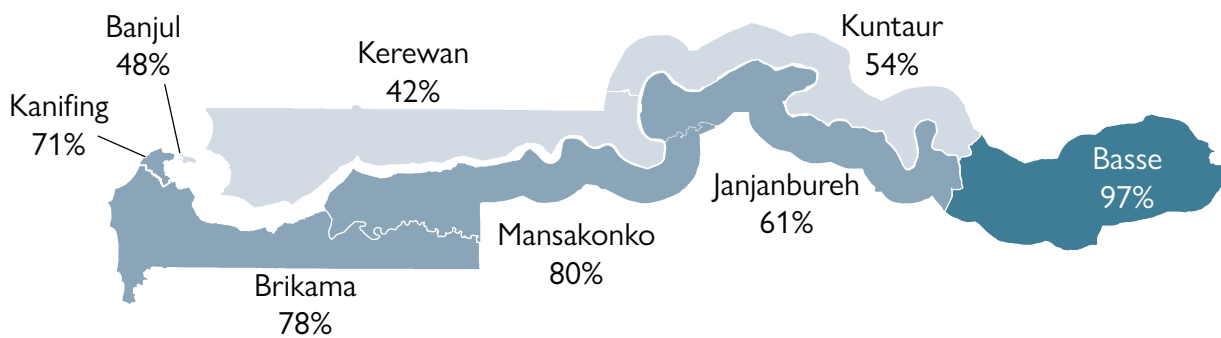


FGM/C is slightly more common in urban areas than in rural areas. There is no clear relationship between FGM/C and women's education.

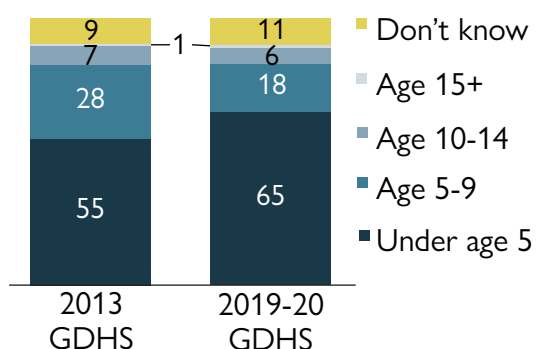
Percent of women age 15-49 who have undergone FGM/C by background characteristics



FGM/C ranges from 48% of women in Banjul to 97% of women in Basse.



Among women age 15-49 who have undergone FGM/C, percent distribution by age at which cutting occurred



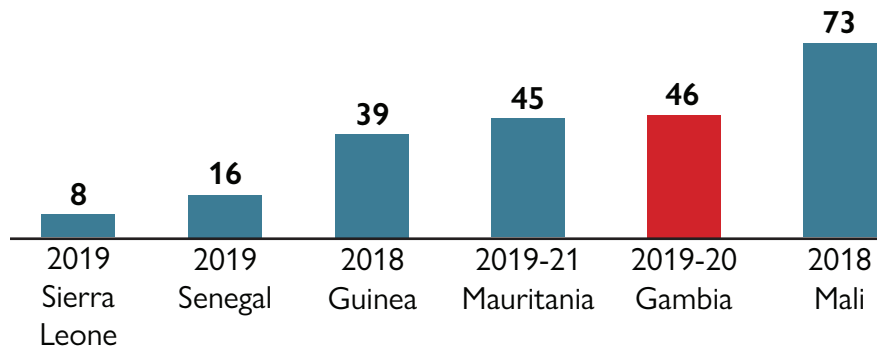
More than **6** in **10** women who have undergone FGM/C were cut before age 5.

65% of women were cut before age 5 in 2019-20, compared to 55% of women in 2013.



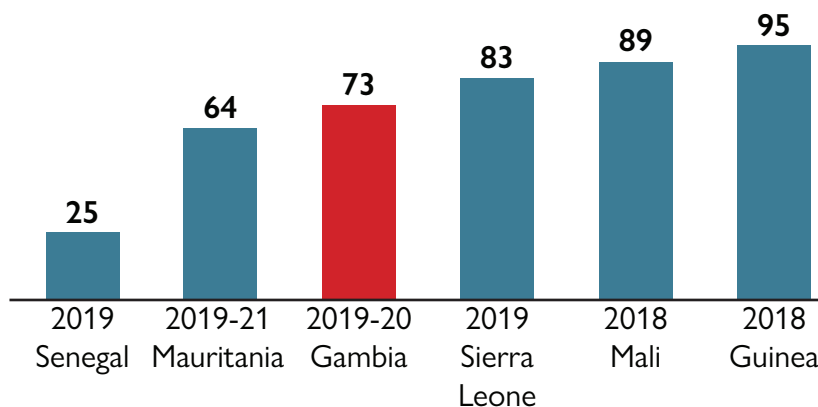
Only Mali has a higher prevalence of FGM/C among girls than The Gambia.

Percent of girls age 0-14 who have undergone FGM/C in selected countries with a recent DHS



FGM/C among women in The Gambia is nearly three times higher than in neighboring Senegal.

Percent of women age 15-49 who have undergone FGM/C in selected countries with a recent DHS



The 2019-20 Gambia Demographic and Health Survey (2019-20 GDHS) was implemented by the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS). The funding for the GDHS was provided by United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), ActionAid International The Gambia, the Network Against Gender Based Violence, the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA), and The Government of the Republic of The Gambia. ICF provided technical assistance through The DHS Program. The contents of this fact sheet are the sole responsibility of GBoS and ICF and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the United States Government, or other donor agencies.

