

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A under-recognized form of gender-based violence in the United States



Agenda

- Overview of FGM/C
- History of the U.S. movement
- Connection to broader gender-based violence work
- Resources for Service Providers
- Q&A

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Speakers



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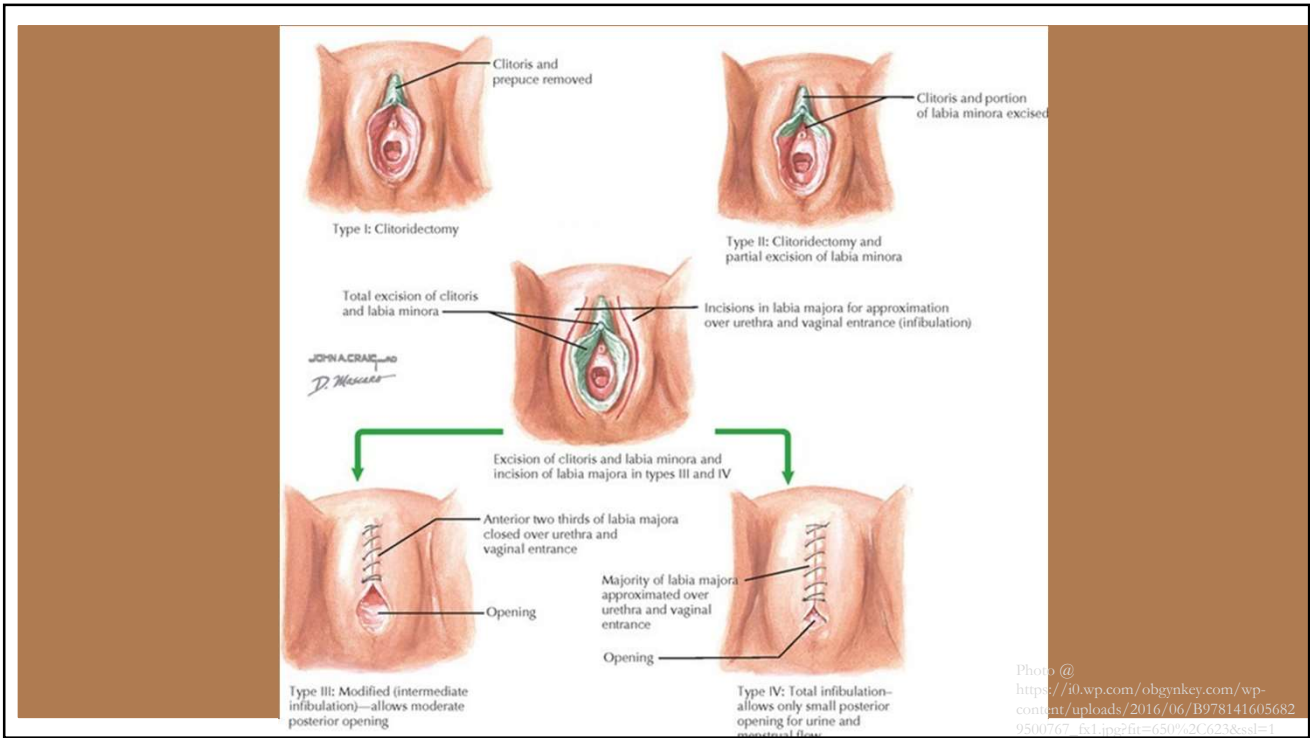
Overview of FGM/C

How many people know someone
who has experienced FGM/C?

What is FGM/C?

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>



After Effects

Short-term:

- severe pain
- bleeding/hemorrhage
- shock
- infection
- urinary tract infections

Long-term:

- menstruation problems
- fistula
- psychological harm
- birth complications
- sexual dysfunction



<http://bit.ly/ReneeVoice>

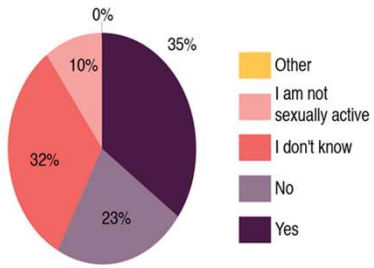
After Effects

Mental health

- Poor sleep
- Fatigue
- Generalized Body Pain
- Limitations in daily activities
- Poor self perceived well being
- Altered HPA axis- long term effects?
- Altered sexual function

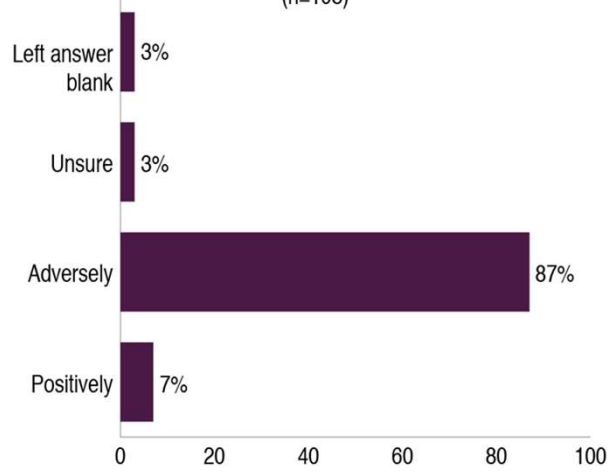


Has Khatna affected your sexual life?
(n=309)



If Khatna affected sex life, is it positively or adversely?

Respondents from Q26
(n=108)



Why is it performed?

- Curb sexual desire and prevent promiscuous behavior
- Religion
- Culture
- Tradition
- Marriageability
- Cleanliness and purity, to aid religious piety
- Enhance sexual pleasure

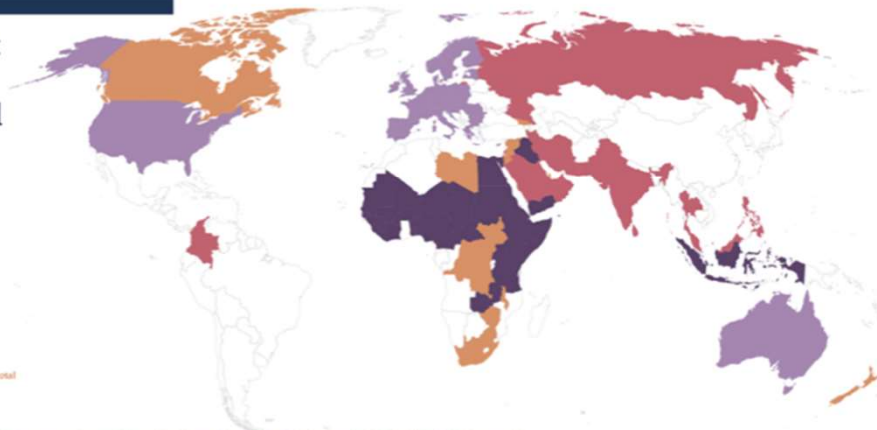


<http://bit.ly/SeverinaATradition>

FGM/C IS GLOBAL

FGM/C is present in at least 92 countries around the world.

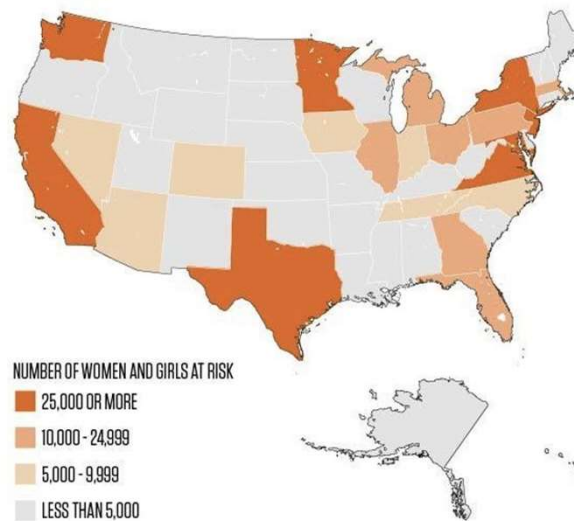
- **CATEGORY 1**
Countries with nationally representative surveys on FGM/C
- **CATEGORY 2**
Countries with indirect estimates on FGM/C
- **CATEGORY 3**
Countries with small-scale studies on FGM/C
- **CATEGORY 4**
Countries where media reports and anecdotal evidence refer to occurrence of FGM/C



Source: FGM/C: A Call For A Global Response (2020) Equality Now, End FGM EU Network, US End FGM/C Network

FGC In the United States

THE NUMBER OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK OF FGM/C VARIES WIDELY ACROSS THE STATES.



- 25,000 OR MORE
- 10,000 - 24,999
- 5,000 - 9,999
- LESS THAN 5,000

Population Reference Bureau 2013 Data



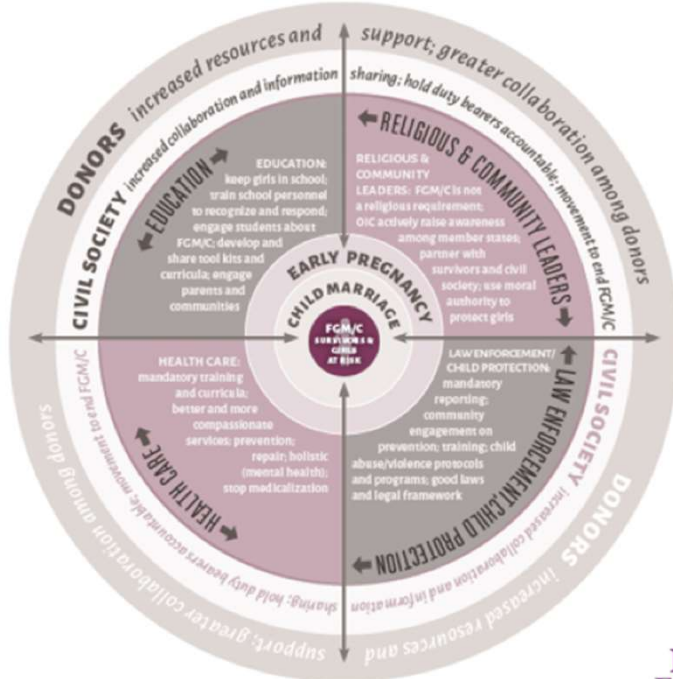
History of U.S. Movement



Have you heard about anti-
FGM/C work in the U.S?

Multi-Sectoral Survivor Centered Strategy

Tolerance
Action
Diversity
Gender
Survivor
Collaboration
Respect



US End FGM/C Network & Partners End Violence Against Girl: Summit on FGM/C Report 2017

END
FGM/C
US NETWORK

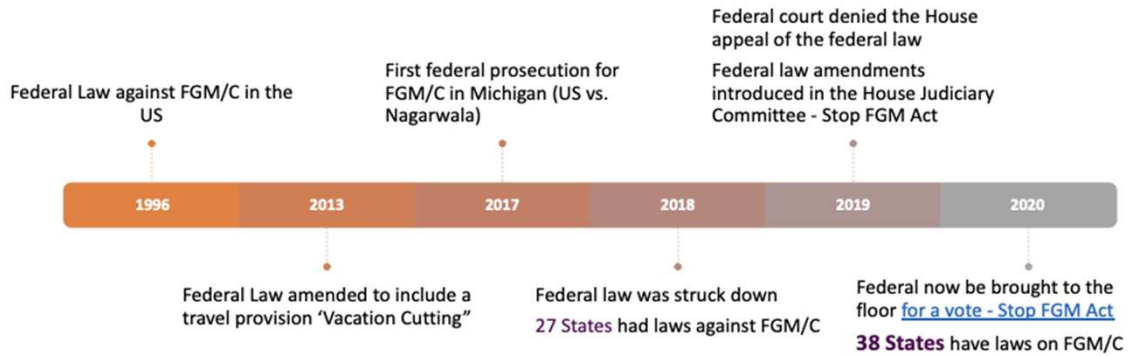
FGM/C Trends in the U.S.

Source: US End FGM/C Network U.S. Scoping Report 2017

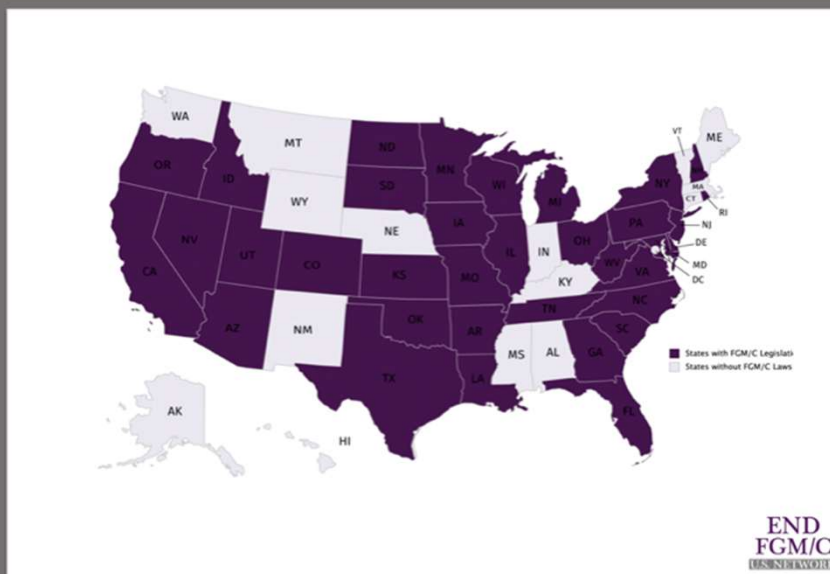
Increased Awareness	Increased Government Support	Increased Collaborations	Survivors & Communities Speak out	Increased Intolerance	Insufficient Resources
US efforts focus on prevention, protection, research, and care	Inter-Agency Working Group on FGM Government reports, policy statements and recommendations Research Funding	US End FGM/C Network • End Violence Against Girls: Summit on FGM/C • Official launch 2018 • 400+ indiv. Members and ↑ 50 orgs • State/City Coalitions	↑ Survivor Led Initiatives Limited support survivors and survivor led organizations	Islamophobia Anti-immigrant sentiment	Limited access to funding and capacity building for CBOs Sustainability challenges

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FGM/C and the Law in the US



END
FGM/C
UNSWHEREVER




State Laws on FGM/C

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FGM/C
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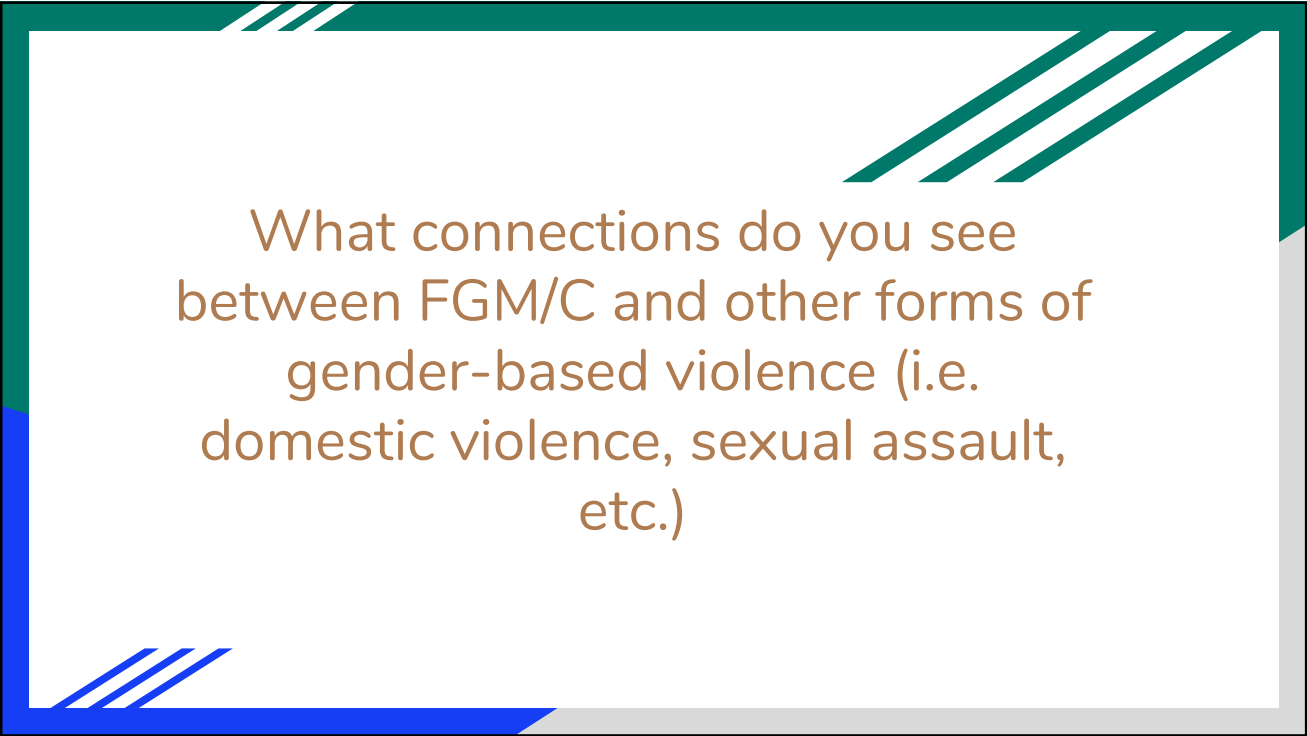


Myths & Misconceptions

- FGM/C is one standard procedure and all women experience the same consequences
- FGM/C only happens in African communities
- FGM/C doesn't happen in the U.S.
- FGM/C can be safe by being medicalized
- Girls and women choose to undergo FGM/C
- FGM/C has been criminalized in all U.S. States
- FGM/C is a religious or cultural issue and we should not condemn it



**Connecting to broader
gender-based violence
work**



What connections do you see
between FGM/C and other forms of
gender-based violence (i.e.
domestic violence, sexual assault,
etc.)



Resources for Service Providers

Covid-19 and FGM: Lessons learned from Ebola

Source: UNICEF Technical Note on COVID19



Key Effects on FGM Prevention and Care

Social isolation and loss of social support
Loss of access to education, reproductive health & protection services
Loss of livelihoods
New opportunities for young people to take on positive, new roles in their communities



Key Program Recommendations

Support response plans grounded children's rights gender analysis & address the increased risks of GBV
Support efforts aimed at interrupting FGM/C during the pandemic & beyond
Support access to digital tools for education, health, psychosocial support and social protection services (e.g. sexual and reproductive health services, GBV services)
Support research both during and post-pandemic

Resources

- [US End FGM/C Network](#)
- [An Educational Toolkit to Empower Survivors](#)
- [Female Genital Trauma: Guidelines for Working Therapeutically with Survivors of Female Genital Mutilation](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting \(FGM/C\) – A Visual Reference and Learning Tool for Health Care Professionals \(Booklet\)](#)
- [Obstetric Care for Women Affected by Female Genital Cutting](#)
 - [And many more.....](#)

Q & A





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