

Female Genital Mutilation

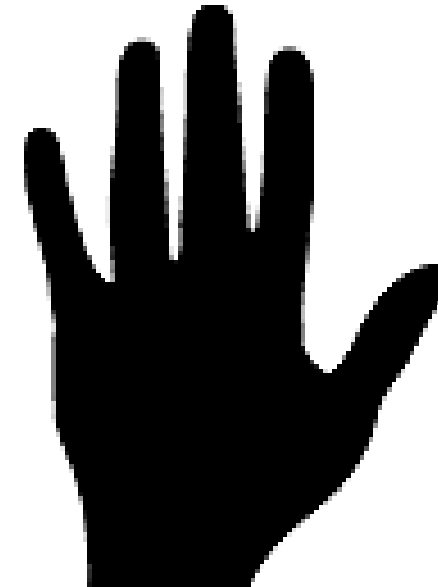
Rebecca Humphreys

Specialist Health Visitor

Complex and Vulnerable Families

Sharron Horsman

Safeguarding Nurse Advisor - Children



STOP FGM

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FGM Definition

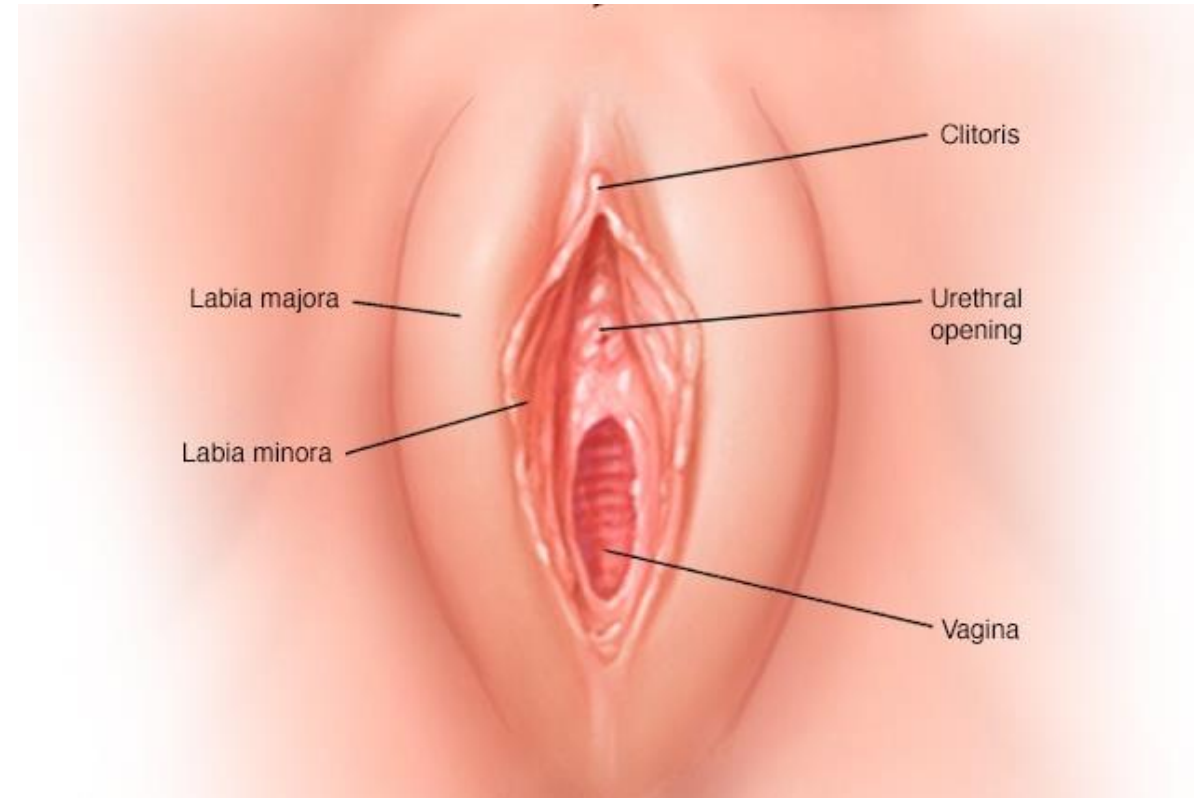
- FGM comprises of all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons'
- FGM is most commonly carried out on young girls between infancy and 15years old.



World Health
Organization

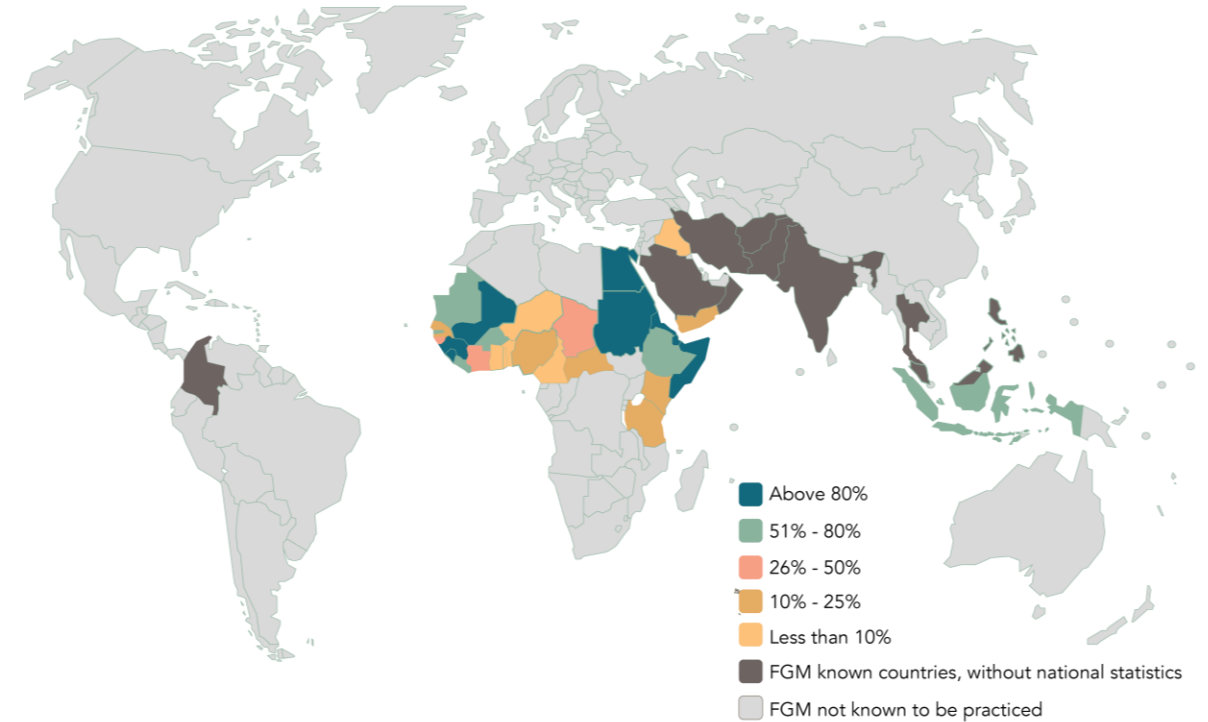
Types of FGM

- Type 1 – Clitoridectomy partial or full removal of the clitoral glans
- Type 2 - Excision Partial or total removal of the clitoral glans and the labia minora, with or without the removal of the labia majora
- Type 3 – Infibulation narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal it includes cutting and stitching and can include removal of the clitoral glans
- Type 4 – Includes all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes e.g. piercing



Prevalence of FGM

- 125 Million women and girls worldwide
- 103,000 women aged 15-49 in England and Wales
- 24,000 women over 50 and have migrated to England and Wales
- 10,000 girls under 15 years have migrated to England and Wales
- There are 78 England and Wales FGM offences recorded by police (does not include Manchester police force)
- There is no LA area in England and Wales that is likely to be free from FGM



Health complications of FGM

SHORT TERM

- Severe pain and shock;
- Wound infections;
- Urine retention;
- Injury to adjacent tissues;
- haemorrhaging
- Genital swelling
- Death
- Broken limbs from being held down

Long-term implications can include:

- Genital scarring, genital cysts and keloid scar formation
- Recurrent urinary tract infections and difficulties in passing urine
- Possible increased risk of blood infections such as hepatitis B and HIV
- Pain during sex, lack of pleasurable sensation
- Psychological concerns such as anxiety, flashbacks and post traumatic stress disorder; increased risk of depression and post-natal depression
- Difficulties with menstruation (periods) and infertility problems
- Complications in pregnancy or childbirth including prolonged labour, bleeding or tears during childbirth, increased risk of caesarean section; and increased risk of stillbirth and death of child during or just after birth.
- Increased risk of fistula

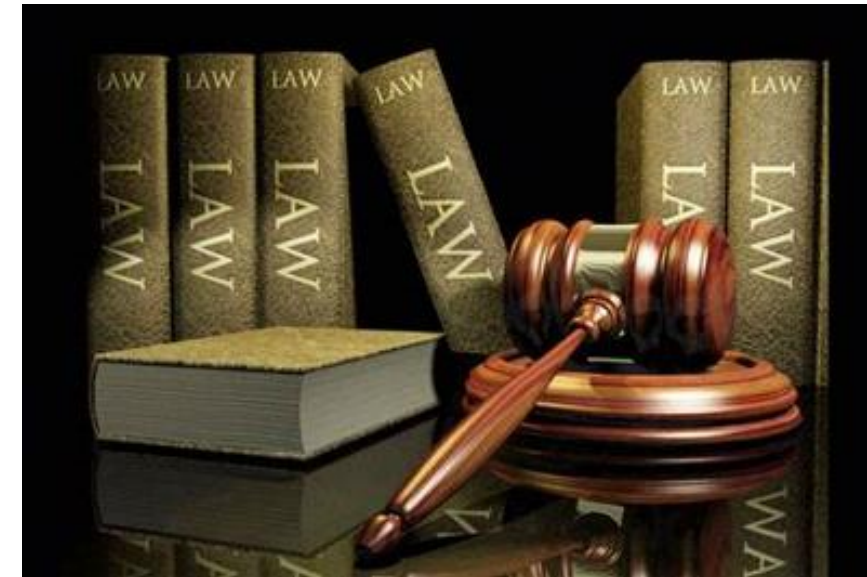
Reasons given why communities practice FGM

- Bringing status and respect
- Becoming a woman
- A rite of passage
- A means of becoming socially acceptable
- Up holding family honour
- A sense of belonging to the community
- A religious requirement
- A female considered to be clean and hygienic
- Being cosmetically desirable
- Making childbirth safe



UK Law

- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 – all forms of FGM are illegal, a person found guilty of committing this offence is punished by up to 14 years imprisonment
- Serious Crime Act 2015 amendment – non UK national habitually resident in the UK committing offence abroad is now included. Also an offence to assist a non UK resident to carry out FGM overseas if they habitually reside in the UK. Gives victims anonymity. FGM orders. Mandatory reporting duty



UK Guidance

- FGM Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines. HM Government 2011 updated 2014 and March 2016
- Working Together to Safeguard Children DfE 2013 / 2015
- Intercollegiate FGM Report 2013
- Adult Safeguarding Procedures
- FGM Risk and Safeguarding – Guidance for Professionals – DH March 2015
- Violence Against Women and Girls (National and Regional) Strategies

FGM Multi Agency Practice Guidance

- Enquiry and Returning Enhanced Data Set for Health
- Recording and Information Sharing
- Safeguarding Referral
- Mandatory Reporting of Children who have been subject to FGM to the Police



Woman convicted of taking a 3 year old British girl for female genital mutilation in Kenya

- Amina Noor, 39, found guilty of assisting a Kenyan woman to carry out the procedure in 2006. The conviction, which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years, is the first for assisting in such harm under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.
- The only other successful prosecution under the act was in 2019 when a Ugandan woman from Walthamstow, east London, was jailed for 11 years for cutting a three-year-old girl.
- Campaigners said the verdict showed that the introduction in 2015 of mandatory reporting of suspected FGM was working



Amina described what had been done to the girl as “Sunnah”, meaning “tradition” or “way” in Arabic, and said it was a practice that had gone on for cultural reasons for many years. Amina, from Harrow, in north-west London, said she was threatened with being “cursed” and “disowned” within her community if she did not take part.

What do Newcastle 0-19 service do to support women and girls FGM health needs?

- Open conversations with all families around the legalities of FGM and the health implications.
- Awareness raising with all families regardless of ethnicity and who they can share their worries with if they do have any concerns.
- Health pathway now includes direct referrals into GNCH Paediatric Forensic Network or GP referral to Gynaecology
- Flag records

Routine Enquiry of FGM

- Working Together to Safeguard Children and Working Together to Safeguard People (2018) sets out the expectations and requirements of professionals to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child and provide a multi-agency response to need.
- Wherever possible professionals should actively seek to reduce the prevalence of FGM
- Routine FGM enquiry has been embedded in 0-19 practice since 2016



Closing Thoughts

- Routine enquiry can have a positive impact on the identification of FGM and resulting health needs can be addressed and supported.
- Early identification can support health needs from increasing in severity or prolonging the discomfort experienced
- Early referrals can be made for support
- Reduce the risk of familial cycle of FGM

Further information

- www.virtual-college.co.uk Female Genital Mutilation Recognising and Preventing FGM
- Home Office FGM Unit FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk
- Multi agency Statutory Guidance on Female genital mutilation 2020 The Home Office
- [Female Genital Mutilation \(proceduresonline.com\)](http://proceduresonline.com)