

PREVALENCE OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING, FGM/C IN VARIOUS DATA SETS FINLAND

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FINLAND IS A NORDIC WELFARE STATE IN EUROPEAN UNION (SINCE 1995), WITH 5.4 MILJ INHABITANTS AND 47 000 BIRTHS PER YEAR



BACKGROUND

- Increase of the size of the migrant population in Finland: 0.5% in 1990 and 7% in 2017
- The largest migrant groups in Finland - of Russian, Estonian, Somali and Iraqi origin
- Approximately 3 500 asylum seekers annually
- The largest groups of asylum seekers - Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Syria, also a large amount of Russians

BACKGROUND - 2

- FGM/C - a common practice in the countries of origin of the largest migrant groups in Finland; Iraq and Somalia
- Data on the prevalence of FGM/C in Finland still scarce
- 2 cross-sectional population-based studies including a question about FGM/C:

Migrant Health and Wellbeing Study, Maamu (2010–2012)

Survey on work and well-being among people of foreign origin, UTH (2014–2015)

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE PREVALENCE OF FGM/C IN FINLAND?

Migrant Health and Wellbeing Study (Maamu) 2010–2012 (15-64 v.)

Survey on work and wellbeing among people of foreign origin (UTH) 2014–2015 (18-64 v)

FGM prevalence
69 % Somali origin (N=165)
32 % Kurdish origin (N=224)

FGM prevalence
84 % Somali origin
9 % Iraqi or Iranian origin (N=298)

20 % reported problems during pregnancy or birth

24 % reported health problems because of FGM

(Koukkula ym. 2016)

Age of FGM 6-15 years (Koponen ym. 2015)

ESTIMATION OF GIRLS AT RISK OF FGM/C IN FINLAND

- High-FGM/C-risk scenario: **3086** girls

First and second generation girls (originating from a particular country where FGM is documented) **including asylum seekers**, who, in the reference year, had **not yet reached the median age of cutting** as customary in the particular country of origin X national prevalence rate of the age cohort 15–19 for that particular country (Statistics Finland 2017; Finnish Immigration Service 2018; EIGE 2015 - based on DHS, MICS, UNICEF 2013))

- Low-FGM/C-risk scenario: **654** girls

First and second generation girls (originating from a particular country where FGM is documented) **including asylum seekers**, who, in the reference year, had **not yet reached the median age of cutting** as customary in the particular country of origin X national prevalence rate of the age cohort 15–19 for that particular country x (1- migration and acculturation impact factor (=1, **assuming that no second generation girl would be cut**) (Statistics Finland 2017; Finnish Immigration Service 2018; EIGE 2015)

- Estimation of girls and women with FGM/C in Finland: **10 217**

Girls and women (originating from a particular country where FGM is documented) who, in the reference year, **had reached the median age of cutting** as customary in the particular country of origin X national prevalence rate of the age cohort 15–19 for that particular country, **including asylum seekers** (Statistics Finland 2017; Finnish Immigration Service 2018; EIGE 2015)

DIFFERENT DATA SETS

FINMONIK

- Information about the well-being and health of population with foreign background in 2018
- The sample of the survey: **12 877** randomly selected subjects aged 18–64 - 18 languages and 168 countries
- Online survey with two reminders, after that paper version of the questionnaire and then finally phone interviews
- Questions on FGM/C and age of FGM/C
- 6843 (from 150 countries) responded; response rate 53%
- In this study only countries practicing FGM/C (27 countries)

FINMONIK – PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- FGM/C reported by women from 12 (of 27) countries
- Total prevalence (including "0 countries") 12% (44/378)
- Prevalence varied from 0 to 67% with the highest among women from Somalia, Gambia, Egypt and Nigeria (Kamereroon, Kenya, Ehtiopia, Iraq, Iran, Syria)

THE ASYLUM SEEKERS HEALTH AND WELLBEING SURVEY, TERTTU

- Systematic data collection in reception centers in 2018
- A health examination and a face-to-face interview
- The target groups: asylum seekers, both adults and children
- All participants were asked about circumcision (FGM/C and male circumcision) and age of it
- 1087 responses giving the response rate as 78%
- Countries of origin classified: Russia, South-Asia and North-Africa, “other Africa” (incl Somalia), other countries

TERTTU – PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- Prevalence of FGM/C among all adult women around 10%
- Prevalence of FGM/C around 30% among the asylum seekers women from "other African countries"
- FGM/C most common among the women aged 18–29 years old
- The most common age of FGM/C between 0 to 1 year, average age 5 years
- None of the mothers of girls aged under 12 years old reported that their daughter had undergone FGM/C

THE SCHOOL HEALTH PROMOTION STUDY (SHP) IN 2019

- Monitors the well-being, health and school work of Finnish children and adolescents
- Aim: to strengthen the planning and evaluation of health promotion activities at school, municipal and national levels
- Provides information about the health of school children and young adolescents every second year
- In 2019
 - questionnaire included questions on FGM/C and age of FGM/C
 - 26 306 girls at high schools (response rate around 71%) and 9819 girls at vocational schools (response rate?) answered

SHP – VERY PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- 60 girls at high schools and 59 at vocational schools reported FGM/C

	High schools		Vocational	
Background*	(N=60)		(N=59)	
	N	%	N	%
Finnish background	27	45	24	40
Foreign language, born in Finland	7	12	5	8
Foreign language and born abroad	18	30	17	29
Unknown	8	13	15	25

THE FINNISH MEDICAL BIRTH REGISTER (FMBR)

- Data on all mothers and infants born in Finland up to the age of seven days
- Annually
- Purpose: to collect statistical data for the research, development and provision of maternity care, obstetrics services and the care of newborn infants
- Since 2017 a question of FGM/C and defibulation

DATA FROM THE FINNISH MEDICAL BIRTH REGISTER

- 118 FGM/C cases among birthing women in 2017
- Defibulation: 9 cases among birthing women
- No data on FGM from the biggest hospital district (capital area) which has also the highest proportion of foreign born mothers – maybe in 2020

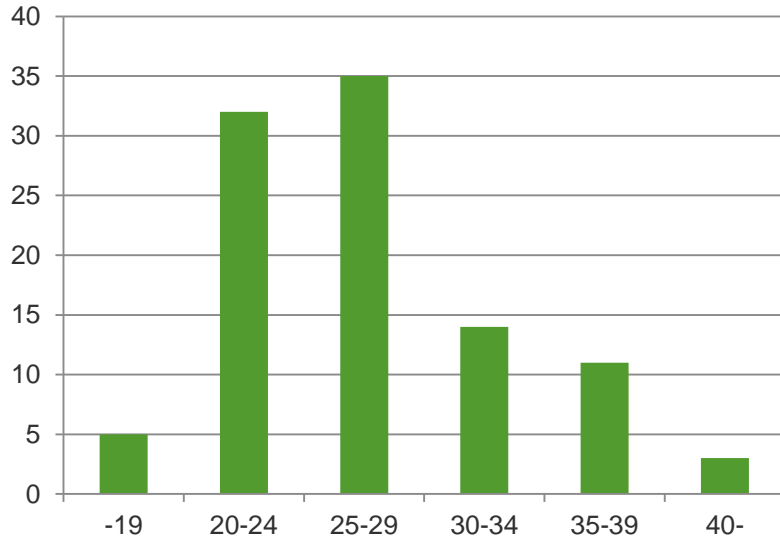
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND LANGUAGE OF FGM-MOTHERS, THE FMBR, 2017

Country	N	%
Unknown	57	48
Migrant origin, born abroad	60	51
Unclassified	1	1
Total	118	100

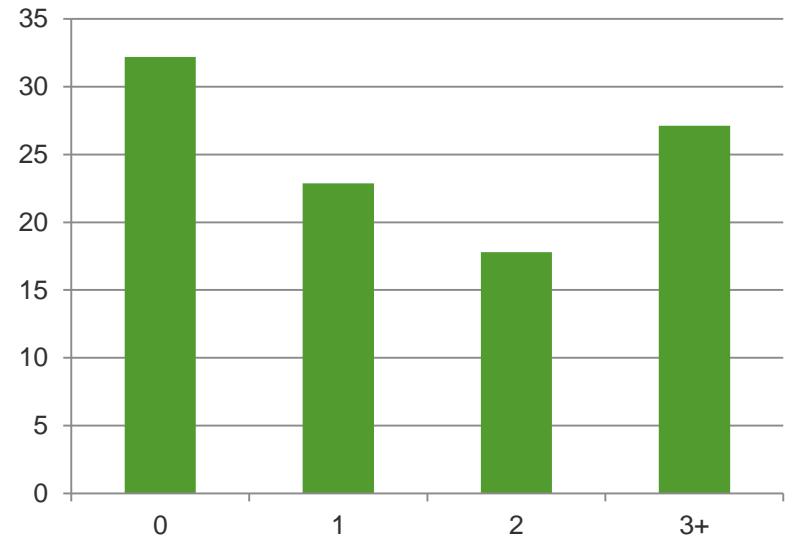
Language	N	%
Unknown	57	48
Somali	54	46
Other	7	6
Total	118	100

AGE-GROUP AND NUMBER OF PREVIOUS BIRTHS OF FGM-MOTHERS, FMBR, 2017 (N=118)

Age-group, %



Number of previous birth, %



SUMMARY

- Information on FGM/C in Finland has been sparse
- However, data collection has been improved and various data sets offer information about the prevalence of FGM/C – however, numbers of migrants from FGM/C practising countries were small and firm conclusions can not be drawn
- In the future, the Finnish Medical Birth Register will offer valuable information about the prevalence of FGM/C among birthing women and a possibility to study outcomes of pregnancy and childbirth as well as health of the mothers and infants affected by FGM/C

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

