

# Côte d'Ivoire

36.7%<sup>1</sup>



## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 is 36.7%.  
79.4% of women aged 15–49 believe that FGM should be stopped.<sup>2</sup>

### **Geography:**

The north and west have the highest prevalence; the centre and centre-east the lowest<sup>3</sup>

### **Age:**

UNICEF<sup>4</sup> has previously estimated that approximately half of girls were cut before the age of five (based on the DHS 2011-2012). The most recent data (the MICS 2016) suggests that girls are at risk of being cut across all age groups. Without further data, however, it is not possible to identify the most common age of cutting in present-day Cote d'Ivoire

### **Type:**

'Cut, flesh removed' is the most common type of FGM practised<sup>5</sup>

### **Agent:**

Almost all FGM is carried out by traditional cutters<sup>6</sup>

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 170 out of 189 countries (2018)<sup>7</sup>

**SDG Gender Index Ranking:** 111 out of 129 countries (2019)<sup>8</sup>

**Population:** 25,297,212 (as at 27 January 2020), with a 2.26% growth rate (2020 est.)<sup>9</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 67 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 645 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>11</sup>

**Literacy:** 43.1% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write<sup>12</sup>

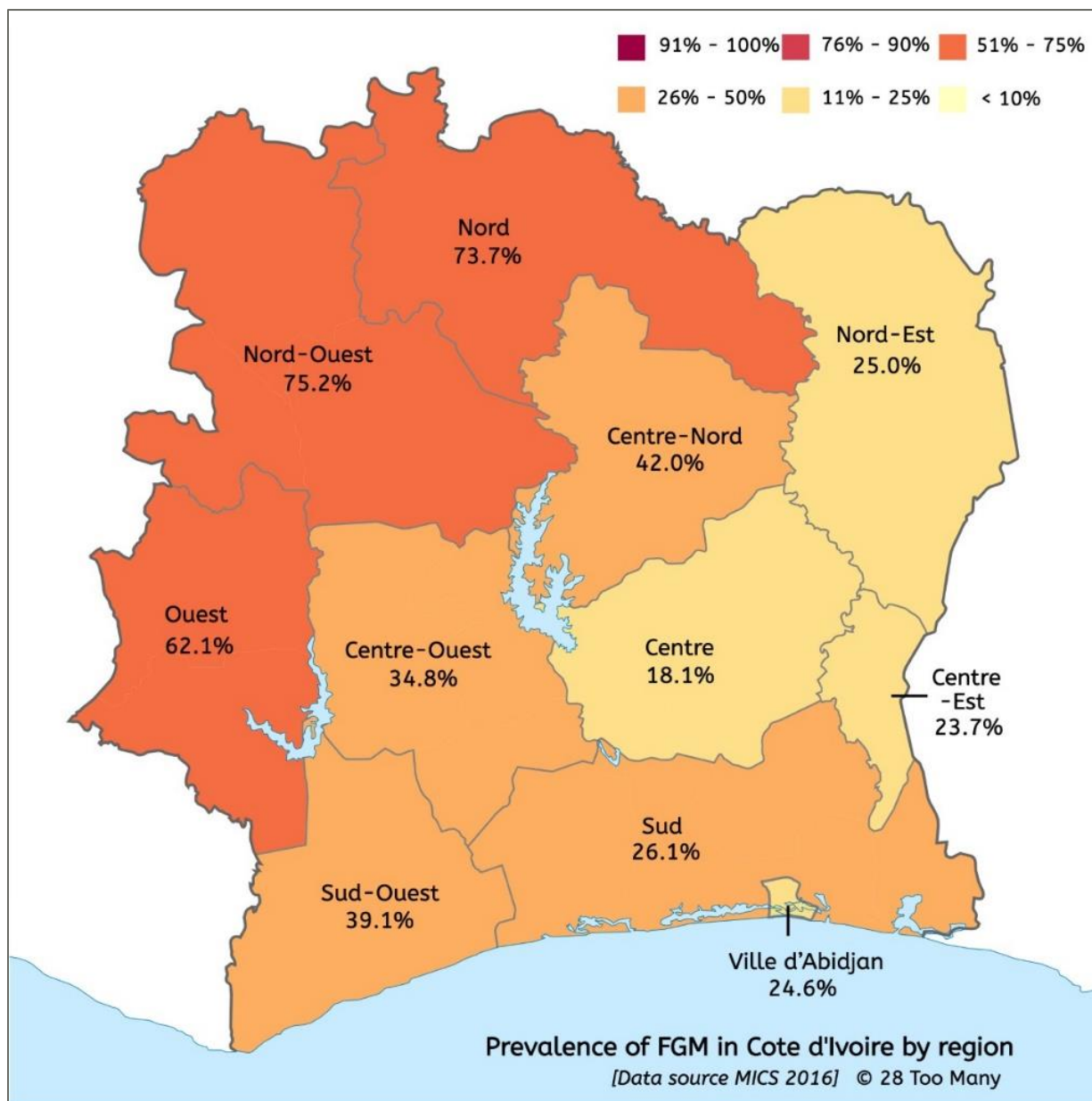
*'You don't have the right to marry and you are often ridiculed  
in the village. In this context, our parents hear the message,  
but the cultural reality overrides it.'*  
~ Cécile Gnowahou, FGM survivor<sup>13</sup>

## Prevalence

The highest prevalence of FGM in Côte d'Ivoire is in the north-west (75.2% of women aged 15–49) and north (73.7%). The lowest prevalence is in the centre (18.1%) and centre-east (23.7%). Women aged 15–49 who live in rural areas are more likely to undergo FGM (43.8%) than women who live in urban areas (30.8%). Prevalence in the capital of Ville d'Abidjan is 24.6%.<sup>14</sup>

FGM is practised in Côte d'Ivoire by people of all religions and ethnic groups, although to different extents. The ethnic group with the highest prevalence among women aged 15–49 is the Mandé du nord, at 60.7%, followed by the Gur, at 59.1%. The group with the lowest prevalence is the Akan, at 2.7%, followed by the Krou, at 14.1%.<sup>15</sup> However, these figures should be interpreted with caution due to the relatively small numbers of women surveyed.

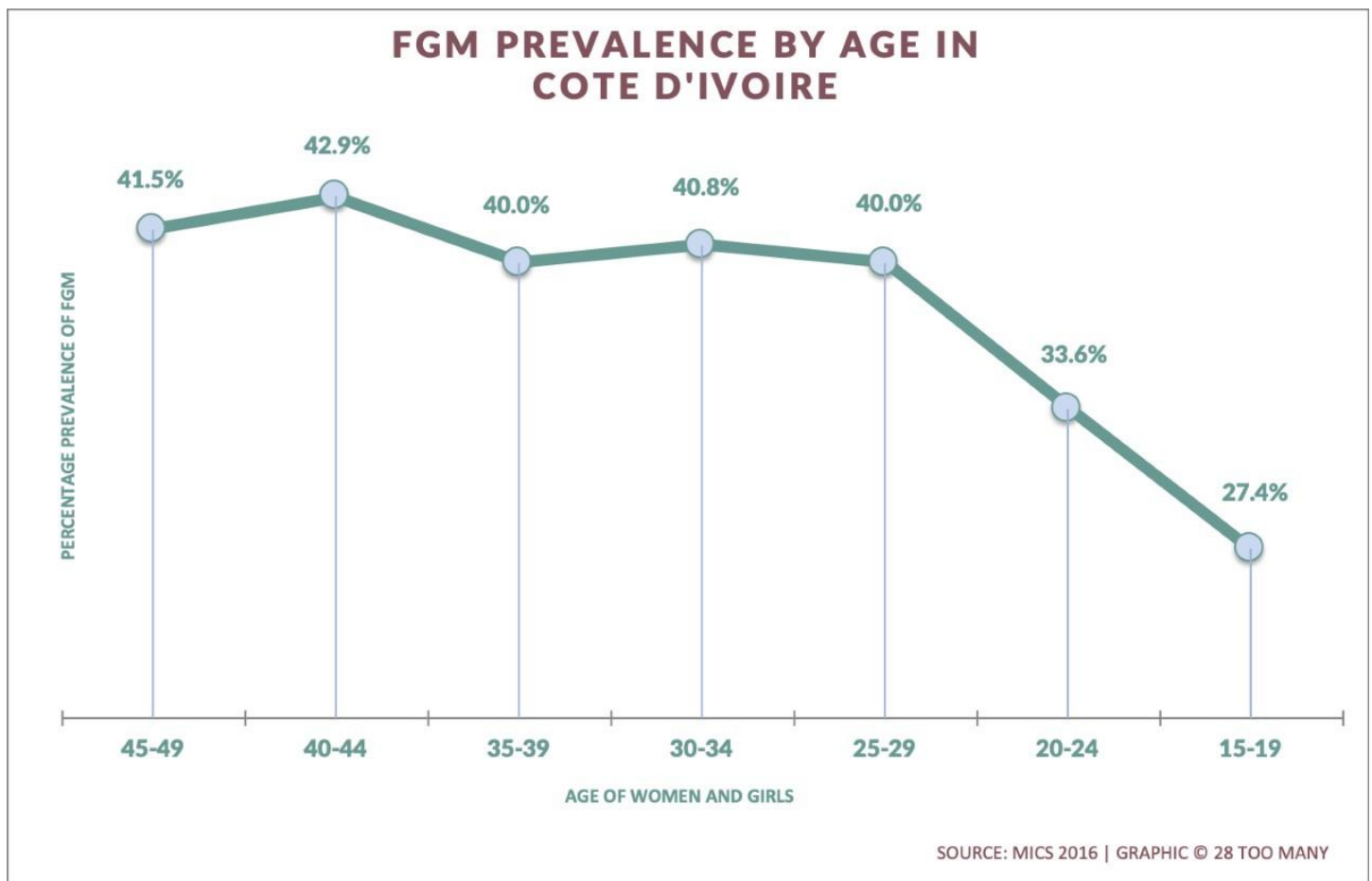
Prevalence among Muslim women aged 15–49 is 61.5%, among animists and those 'without religion' is 48.5%, and among Christians is 11.8%.<sup>16</sup>



The MICS 2006 recorded the prevalence of FGM in women aged 15–49 as 36.4%.<sup>17</sup> In 2011/12, the DHS estimated prevalence to be 38.2%.<sup>18</sup>

The most recent MICS survey (2016) gives an FGM prevalence of 36.7% among women aged 15–49. The data suggests, therefore, that the overall prevalence of FGM in Côte d'Ivoire has not changed significantly during recent years.

Breaking down the most recent data by age group, however, shows that the prevalence for women aged 45–49 is 41.5%, while for the youngest age group this has fallen to 27.4%.<sup>19</sup> The data demonstrates a trend towards lower prevalences among younger women.



## Ivorian Law

Law no. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 on the punishment of certain forms of violence against women prohibits the practice of FGM in Côte d'Ivoire. Evidence suggests that FGM cases brought under this law are very rare.

- 1 ('MICS'): Institut National de la Statistique (INS) (2017) *Enquête par grappes à indicateurs multiples, 2016, Rapport des Résultats clés*, pp.145–148. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Available at [https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS5/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Côte%20d%27Ivoire/2016/Final/Cote%20d%27Ivoire%202016%20MICS\\_French.pdf](https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS5/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Côte%20d%27Ivoire/2016/Final/Cote%20d%27Ivoire%202016%20MICS_French.pdf) (accessed 27 January 2020).
- 2 MICS, p.147.
- 3 MICS, p.145.
- 4 UNICEF (2013) *Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Côte d'Ivoire*, December 2013. Available at [http://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/C%C3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire/FGMC\\_CIV.pdf](http://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/C%C3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire/FGMC_CIV.pdf) (accessed 31 January 2020).
- 5 MICS, p.146.
- 6 Institut National de la Statistique (INS) et ICF International (2012) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples de Côte d'Ivoire 2011-2012*, p.338. Calverton, Maryland, USA : INS et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR272/FR272.pdf> (accessed 11 June 2017).
- 7 United Nations Development Programme (2018) *Human Development Reports*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update> (accessed 12 June 2019).
- 8 Equal Measures 2030 (2019) *Harnessing the Power of Data for Gender Equality: Introducing the 2019 EM2030 SDG Gender Index*, pp.12–13. Available at [www.data.em2030.org/2019-global-report](http://www.data.em2030.org/2019-global-report) (accessed 12 June 2019).
- 9 - Country Meters (2020) *Côte d'Ivoire*, 27 January 2020. Available at [http://countrymeters.info/en/Cote\\_d'Ivoire](http://countrymeters.info/en/Cote_d'Ivoire) (accessed 27 January 2020).  
- Central Intelligence Agency (2020) *World Factbook: Côte d'Ivoire*, 22 January. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/iv.html> (accessed 27 January 2020).
- 10 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Côte d'Ivoire*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Cote\\_dIvoire\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Cote_dIvoire_2015.pdf) (accessed 12 June 2017).
- 11 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (2015) *Maternal mortality in 1990-2015: Côte d'Ivoire*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/civ.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/civ.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 12 June 2017).
- 12 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
- 13 Fulgence Zamblé (2012) 'Punish Those Carrying Out FGM, Say Côte d'Ivoire Campaigners', *Inter Press Service*, 27 July. Available at <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/07/punish-those-carrying-out-fgm-say-cote-divoire-campaigners/> (accessed 13 June 2017).
- 14 MICS, p.145.
- 15 MICS, p.145.
- 16 MICS, p.145.
- 17 Institut National de la Statistique (INS) [Côte d'Ivoire] (2007) *Enquête à indicateurs multiples, Côte d'Ivoire 2006, Rapport final, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire : Institut National de la Statistique*, p.116. Available at [https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/C%C3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire/2006/Final/Cote%20d%27Ivoire%202006%20MICS\\_French.pdf](https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS3/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/C%C3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire/2006/Final/Cote%20d%27Ivoire%202006%20MICS_French.pdf) (accessed 27 January 2020).
- 18 Institut National de la Statistique (INS) et ICF International (2012) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé et à Indicateurs Multiples de Côte d'Ivoire 2011-2012*, p.338. Calverton, Maryland, USA : INS et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR272/FR272.pdf> (accessed 11 June 2017).
- 19 MICS, p.145.