

Female genital mutilation: How many girls are at risk in Belgium?

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Belgium
18-27% (*) at risk of FGM

It is estimated that **18% to 27% of girls are at risk** of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Belgium, out of a **FGM population** of 22,549 girls aged 15-18 originating from countries where female genital mutilation is practiced.

Girls at risk of female genital mutilation in Belgium mostly originate from Somalia and Somalia female groups of girls at risk originate from Egypt, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Ghana.

These findings are from the latest research conducted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on female genital mutilation in the EU.

Female genital mutilation is a severe form of gender-based violence, involving (near) physical and psychological harm on the basis of sex/gender. The reality is a vicious form of subordination of women and girls and it stands in gross contradiction to the principles of gender equality.

According to the World Health Organization, female genital mutilation refers to all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (1).

About the study and the European Institute for Gender Equality

The study 'Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union – Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus and Malta' was conducted in 2017-2018. It supports the EU institutions and EU Member States in providing more accurate information on female genital mutilation and its risks among girls in the European Union.

EIGE is the EU knowledge centre for gender equality. It supports policymakers and all relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all EU citizens. For providing facts with specific evidence and comparable data which aids on gender equality in the EU.

More information is available at www.eige.europa.eu

What are the trends over time? The percentage of girls at risk in the high-risk countries (1) has slightly decreased from 28% in 2011 to 27% in 2018, however, the absolute number of girls at risk has increased to over 2,000 girls. The total population of migrant girls from FGM practicing countries living in Belgium has increased from 14,013 to 22,549 over the same time frame. The growth is linked to an increasing number of girls originating from FGM practicing countries in Belgium.

1. The countries at risk in this report include all countries where female genital mutilation is practiced.

2. The EIGE is using the Commission's definition of girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) – 'adolescent girls aged 15-18 originating from countries where female genital mutilation is practiced'.

3. The number of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in Belgium is based on the information of girls originating from FGM practicing countries in Belgium. Other countries are not included in this report.

This factsheet presents the results of the study 'Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union – Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus and Malta' for Belgium.

The study was conducted in 2017-2018. It supports the EU institutions and EU Member States in providing more accurate information on female genital mutilation and its risks among girls in the European Union.

Downloads



Female genital mutilation: How many girls are at risk in Belgium?

EN (PDF, 392.99 KB)

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NL (PDF, 599.68 KB)

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