

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

**Female genital mutilation**  
How many girls are at risk in Denmark?

**11–21 %<sup>(1)</sup>**  
of girls  
aged 0–18

**Girls at risk**  
The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) estimates that 11–21 % of girls (1 408–2 568 girls) aged 0–18 are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Denmark, out of a total population of 12 462 girls aged 0–18 in 2019 originating from countries where FGM is practised. Of these 12 462 migrant girls, 82 % (10 269) are second generation.

Girls at risk of FGM in Denmark mostly originate from Iraq and Somalia. Smaller groups originate from Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Sudan.<sup>(2)</sup>

**37 %**  
of asylum-seeking girls  
aged 0–18

**Asylum-seeking and refugee girls**  
In 2019 there were 257 asylum-seeking girls aged 0–18 originating from FGM-practising countries, and 338 girls were granted asylum. Seven originated from resident migrants. EIGE estimates that 37 % of asylum-seeking girls are at risk of FGM in Denmark (30 %). Although refugees who have been granted asylum in Denmark are included in the regular migrant figures (1.2%), EIGE estimates that a higher percentage (25 %) of refugee girls are at risk of FGM compared to regular migrants.

FGM is a severe form of gender-based violence, causing deep physical and psychological scars and affecting the lives of victims around the world. It is a violent form of subordination of women and girls and it stands in gross contradiction to the principles of gender equality. It is a violation of women's and girls' human rights.

According to the World Health Organization, FGM 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<sup>(3)</sup>.

**About the study**  
EIGE has developed a methodology to estimate the number of girls at risk of FGM in the EU and has applied it to a total of 19 Member States. The calculation of FGM risk considers two scenarios. In the high-risk scenario, it is assumed that there is no influence of migration and that girls originating from an FGM-practising country and living in an EU Member State face the same risk as if they had never migrated. In the low-risk scenario, it is assumed that migration and acculturation influence changing attitudes and behaviours regarding FGM.<sup>(4)</sup>

The latest study, 'Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union - Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg and Austria' was conducted in 2020. It provides the EU institutions and EU Member States with accurate information on FGM and its risks among girls in the EU. This enables the design of targeted policies to eradicate FGM.

(1) The percentage refers to girls aged 0–18 originating from countries where FGM is practised. Data for Denmark, Luxembourg and Austria is from 2019. Data for Spain is from 2018.  
(2) EIGE, 'Domestic origin of female genital mutilation in the European Union - Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg and Austria', Policy and Opinion Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.  
(3) World Health Organization, 'Definition of female genital mutilation', 2010. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>  
(4) EIGE, 'Domestic origin of female genital mutilation in the European Union - Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg and Austria', Policy and Opinion Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) estimates that 11–21 % of girls (1 408–2 568 girls) aged 0–18 are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Denmark, out of a total population of 12 462 girls aged 0–18 in 2019 originating from countries where FGM is practised.

Of these 12 462 migrant girls, 82 % (10 269) are second generation.

Girls at risk of FGM in Denmark mostly originate from Somalia. Smaller groups originate from Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

## Further information

[FGM study: More girls at risk but community opposition growing](#)



[Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union: Step-by-step guide](#)



---

## Downloads



[Female genital mutilation: How many girls are at risk in Denmark?](#)

EN (PDF, 409.56 KB)

---

## Metadata

**COUNTRY:** Denmark

**AREAS:** Gender-based violence

**ISBN:** 978-92-9482-687-9

**DOI:** 10.2839/097122