

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



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Italy
15-24% of girls are at risk of FGM

It is estimated that **15% to 24% of girls are at risk** of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Italy (out of a total population of 7.9 million girls aged 15 and younger from countries where female genital mutilation is practiced).

Girls at risk of female genital mutilation in Italy mostly originate from Egypt, but other groups of girls are also migrant from Senegal, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Guinea.

These findings are from the latest research conducted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on female genital mutilation in the EU (1).

Female genital mutilation is a severe form of gender-based violence, having strong physical and psychological scars on the body of victims around the world. It is a violent form of subordination of women and girls and it causes serious consequences for the present and future health.

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 harm to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (2).

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 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 relevant institutions in their efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all EU citizens, by providing them with quality information and coordinating cross-sectoral 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 European Union (1) has slightly decreased (27% in 2011 and 24% in 2018), but the absolute number of girls at risk has increased. The total population of migrant girls from FGM-practising countries living in Italy has increased by 27% from 60,520 to 76,940 over the same time frame. The proportion of women in the population aged 15-18 from FGM-practising countries living in Italy increased to 40% in 2018.

1. The population of girls aged 15 and younger from countries where female genital mutilation is practiced.
2. As defined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and girls.

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 Italy.

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: prevalence, risk and consequences

EN (PDF, 396.24 KB)



Mutilazioni genitali femminili: Quante ragazze sono a rischio in Italia?

IT (PDF, 405.05 KB)

Metadata

COUNTRY: [Italy](#)

AREAS: Gender-based violence

AUTHOR: EIGE

PUBLISHER: EIGE

ISBN: 978-92-9470-573-0

DOI: 10.2839/23052