

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



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How many girls are at risk in Belgium?

Belgium
18-27% (1) at risk of FGM

It is estimated that **18% to 27% of girls are at risk** of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Belgium in Belgium out of a total population of 11.118 girls aged 15 and comprising both residents where female genital mutilation is practiced.

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

These findings are from the latest research conducted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on female genital mutilation in the EU (2).

Female genital mutilation is a severe form of gender-based violence, involving the partial or total removal of the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (3).

According to the World Health Organization, female genital mutilation refers to all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the female genital organs in other states for the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (4).

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 by providing them with specific expertise and comparative and evidence-based information 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 European Union (5) has slightly decreased from 28% in 2010 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 14 613 to 22 244 over the same time frame. The growth is linked to an increasing arrival of girls of migrant origin from FGM practicing countries in Belgium.

1. Percentage of girls at risk of FGM in the European Union (EU) by country in 2018. 2. European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) research on female genital mutilation in the EU. 3. World Health Organization (WHO) definition of female genital mutilation. 4. World Health Organization (WHO) definition of female genital mutilation. 5. The number of girls at risk of FGM in the European Union (EU) has slightly decreased from 28% in 2010 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 14 613 to 22 244 over the same time frame. The growth is linked to an increasing arrival of girls of migrant origin from FGM practicing countries in Belgium.

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, girls and women in Belgium

EN (PDF, 392.99 KB)



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NL (PDF, 599.68 KB)

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