

# Togo

4.7%<sup>1</sup>



## Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM in women aged 15-49 is 4.7%.

*Please note that, due to the low prevalence of FGM in Uganda, very few surveyed women have been cut. For this reason, detailed breakdowns by age, education, etc. should be treated with caution.<sup>2</sup>*

### **Geography:**

The region with the highest prevalence is Centrale, at 17.4%; the lowest is Maritime in the south, at 0.4%<sup>3</sup>

### **Age:**

The available data indicates that cutting is most common in girls under 5 and girls aged 10-14<sup>4</sup>

### **Type:**

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

### **Agent:**

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

## Development Indicators

**HDI Rank:** 166 out of 188 countries (2015)<sup>7</sup>

**Population:** 7,692,890 (as at 26 June 2017), with a 2.66% growth rate (2016 est.)<sup>8</sup>

**Infant Mortality Rate:** 52 deaths per 1,000 live births (2015)<sup>9</sup>

**Maternal Mortality Ratio:** 368 deaths per 100,000 live births (2015)<sup>10</sup>

**Literacy:** 66.5% of the total population aged 15 and over can read/write<sup>11</sup>

*'It is often carried out as part of a "coming of age" ceremony and is accompanied by festivities and gifts when the girl or woman recovers . . . Most excisors claimed that problems were the result of "bad destiny".'  
~ Demographic Research Unit study on FGM/C in Togo, 1996<sup>12</sup>*

## Prevalence

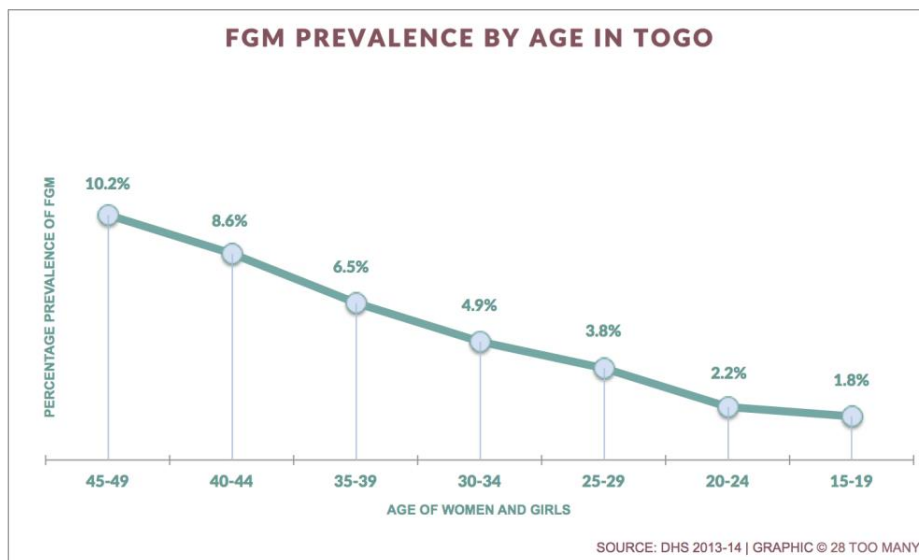
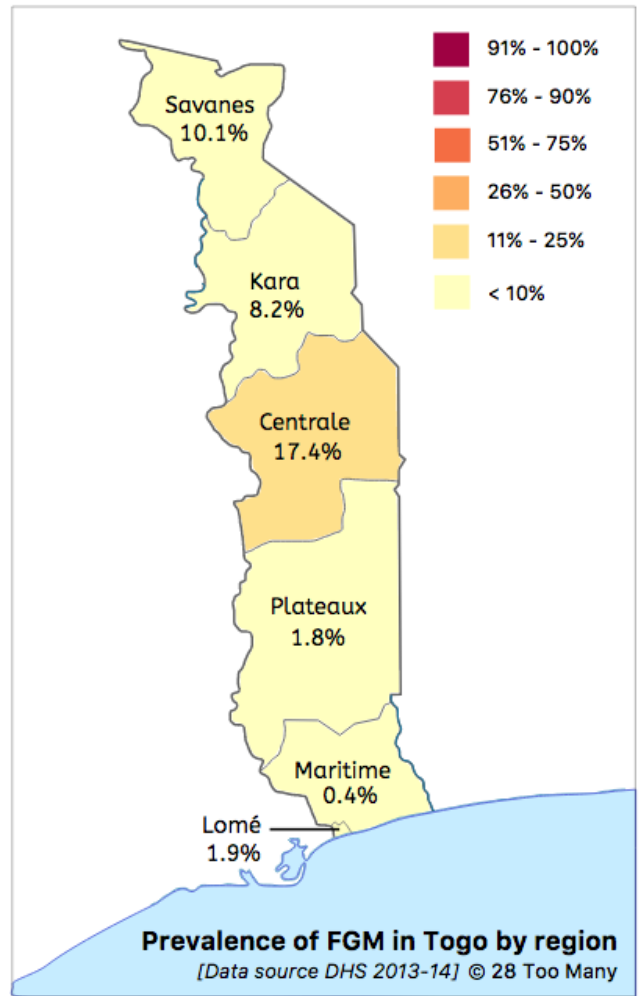
The regions in Togo with the highest FGM prevalence are Centrale (17.4% of women aged 15-49), Savanes (10.1%) and Kara (8.2%). The prevalence in Lomé, Maritime and Plateaux is under 2%. Women aged 15-49 who live in rural areas are slightly more likely (5.7%) to undergo FGM than those who live in urban areas (3.4%).

Muslim women aged 15-49 are far more likely to undergo FGM (22%) than women of other religions, among all of whom the prevalence of FGM is under 2%.

The ethnic group with the highest prevalence of FGM is the Autre Togolais, at 57.5%. There is a large disparity between this group and the other ethnic groups in Togo, which are all under 8%, although the data is very limited for some groups.

94.7% of women and 95.6% of men aged 15-49 believe that FGM should be stopped.<sup>13</sup>

Breaking down the most recent data by age group shows that the prevalence for women aged 45-49 is 10.2%, while for the youngest age group this has fallen to 1.8%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data suggests a trend towards lower prevalences among younger women.<sup>14</sup>



## Togolese Law

The Government of Togo passed legislation in 1998 that specifically prohibits the practice of FGM (Law No. 98-016 of 17 November 1998 prohibiting female genital mutilation in Togo). Several subsequent proclamations have reinforced the prohibition (January and July 2007, and November 2015).

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- 1 (**'DHS'**): Ministère de la Planification, du Développement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire (MPDAT), Ministère de la Santé (MS) et ICF International (2015) *Enquête Démographique et de Santé au Togo 2013-2014*, p.274. Rockville, Maryland, USA : MPDAT, MS et ICF International. Available at <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR301/FR301.pdf> (accessed 26 June 2017).
  - 2 DHS, p.274
  - 3 DHS, p.274.
  - 4 DHS, p.276.
  - 5 DHS, p.274.
  - 6 UNICEF (2014) *Togo: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*, p.2. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Togo/FGMC\\_TGO.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Togo/FGMC_TGO.pdf) (accessed 26 June 2017).
  - 7 United Nations Development Programme (2015) *Human Development Index*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/137506> (accessed 16 May 2017).
  - 8 - Country Meters (2017) *Togo*, 26 June 2017. Available at <http://countrymeters.info/en/Togo> (accessed 26 June 2017).  
- Central Intelligence Agency (2016) *World Factbook: Togo*, 19 June. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/to.html> (accessed 26 June 2017).
  - 9 Countdown to 2030 (2015) *A Decade of Tracking Progress for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival The 2015 Report: Togo*. Available at [http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Togo\\_2015.pdf](http://countdown2030.org/documents/2015Report/Togo_2015.pdf) (accessed 26 June 2017).
  - 10 WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and United Nations Population Division Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (2015) *Maternal Mortality in 1990-2015: Togo*. Available at [http://www.who.int/gho/maternal\\_health/countries/tgo.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gho/maternal_health/countries/tgo.pdf?ua=1) (accessed 26 June 2017).
  - 11 Central Intelligence Agency, *op. cit.*
  - 12 The Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues (2001) 'Togo: Report on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or Female Genital Cutting (FGC)', *U.S. Department of State*. Available at <https://2001-2009.state.gov/g/wi/rls/rep/crfgm/10111.htm> (accessed 29 June 2017).
  - 13 DHS, p.274.
  - 14 DHS, p.274

**UNICEF Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting:**

UNICEF (2014) *Togo: Statistical Profile on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting*. Available at [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country\\_profiles/Togo/FGMC\\_TGO.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/country_profiles/Togo/FGMC_TGO.pdf) (accessed 26 June 2017).

**Images on website:**

- 1 Anton Ivanov (2017) *Unidentified Beninese beautiful girl in colored shirt wears earrings at the local market*. Shutterstock ID 592414133.
- 2 Anton Ivanov (2017) *TAMBERMA VIL, TOGO – JAN 13, 2017: Unidentified Tammari a woman holds a little girl in her arms in the village. Tammari are ethnic group of Togo and Benin*. Shutterstock ID 618583511.
- 3 Anton Ivanov (2012) *KARA, TOGO - MAR 11, 2012: Unidentified Togolese women watch the religious voodoo dance performance. Voodoo is the West African religion*. Shutterstock ID 430528861.