The WHNS was a one-time survey that collected information on women’s health care experiences and needs, as well as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

The study took place from November 2020 to June 2021 in four metropolitan areas in the United States (Atlanta, Minneapolis, New York, and Washington, DC). The data below represent women surveyed in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

### ELIGIBILITY

- **Women** ages 18 to 49
- **Born, or mother was born,** in a country where FGM/C is common
- **Spoke one of the study languages**

### WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY

389 WOMEN IN ATLANTA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>18-29 years old</th>
<th>30-39 years old</th>
<th>40-49 years old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>29%</strong></td>
<td><strong>33%</strong></td>
<td><strong>38%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL OF EDUCATION</th>
<th>Less than high school/GED diploma</th>
<th>High school/GED diploma</th>
<th>Some college/Associate’s degree</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree or higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>20%</strong></td>
<td><strong>18%</strong></td>
<td><strong>39%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>23%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMMIGRATION GENERATION C</th>
<th>1.0 Generation</th>
<th>1.5 Generation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immigrated to the U.S. at age 13 or older</td>
<td>Immigrated to the U.S. before age 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>90%</strong></td>
<td><strong>9%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARITAL STATUS</th>
<th>Married/Living with partner</th>
<th>Previously married</th>
<th>Never married/Lived with partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>65%</strong></td>
<td><strong>11%</strong></td>
<td><strong>24%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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a The study took place in the Atlanta metropolitan area.
b General Education Development
c Data for “2.0 Generation” responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Over two thirds (67%) had private insurance or Medicaid.

33% prefer an interpreter when visiting their health care provider.

Among women who prefer an interpreter, over half (58%) were offered one during their last visit.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY

389 WOMEN IN ATLANTA

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

- Ethiopia: 39%
- Somalia: 15%
- West Africa: 23%
- Egypt: 12%
- Eritrea: 7%
- Somalia: 15%

- No Insurance: 33%
- Private: 34%
- Medicaid: 33%

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© Country of Origin Map Powered by Bing © GeoNames, Microsoft, OpenStreetMap, TomTom

d Woman’s birth country or mother’s birth country if woman was not born in eligible country.

e Data for Sudan are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

f West Africa includes Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Sierra Leone
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

70% of women reported having had a pelvic exam or Pap smear within the last 3 years; 21% never had an exam; 9% had one 4 or more years ago.

45% of women reported having ever used birth control. 24% of women used birth control in the last 30 days.

46% of women who had a child reported ever having a C-section. 33% of births were delivered by C-section.

20% of women who reported ever having sexual intercourse were under 18 at age of first sexual intercourse; 53% were 18 to 24; and 28% were 25 or older.

FGM/C EXPERIENCE

The World Health Organization defines female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) as all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural, religious, or other non-therapeutic reasons.¹

3 in 5 women reported experiencing FGM/C.

60% experienced FGM/C.

40% did not experience FGM/C.

EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN WITH FGM/C

BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

The percentage of women from each country of origin who reported experiencing FGM/C:

- **West African countries**\(^h\): 81%
- Somalia: 65%
- Eritrea: 53%
- Ethiopia: 52%
- Sudan: 39%

\(^g\) Data for Egypt not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

\(^h\) West African countries include Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Sierra Leone.

BY AGE

**Women With FGM/C Within Age Groups**

- Over one-third (34%) of women ages 18-24 have experienced FGM/C.
- 3 in 4 (75%) women ages 40-49 have experienced FGM/C.

**Age at FGM/C Among Women With FGM/C** \(^i\)

- Too young to remember: 18%
- <5 years old: 22%
- 5-9 years old: 42%
- 10-14 years old: 16%

\(^i\) Data for “≥15 years old” and “Don’t know” responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

BY TYPE OF FGM/C \(^j\)

- 31% said their genital area was sewn closed.
- 58% said flesh was removed from their genital area.
- 8% did not know the type of FGM/C they experienced.

\(^j\) Data for “Cut, no flesh removed” responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.
69% reported a problem with childbirth compared to 31% of women without FGM/C. This includes postpartum bleeding, extensive vaginal tears from childbirth, or emergency C-section.

41% reported a reproductive health problem compared to 20% of women without FGM/C. This includes difficulty passing period blood, difficulty passing urine, pain with urination, or many urinary tract infections.

26% reported a sexual health problem compared to 8% of women without FGM/C. This includes pain or bleeding during sex.

39% reported feeling sad for many weeks at a time compared to 18% of women without FGM/C.

45% would feel comfortable discussing their FGM/C with a health care provider.

20% have discussed their FGM/C with a health care provider.

91% believe FGM/C should be stopped.

88% believe FGM/C can cause health problems later in life.

85% do not believe FGM/C is required by religion.