**Women’s Health Needs Study (WHNS): Minneapolis**

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 **Minneapolis** metropolitan area.

### ELIGIBILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Women</strong> ages 18 to 49</th>
<th><strong>Born,</strong> or mother was born, in a country where FGM/C is common</th>
<th><strong>Spoke</strong> one of the study languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY

**176 WOMEN IN MINNEAPOLIS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Age Group</strong></th>
<th><strong>18-29 years old</strong></th>
<th><strong>30-39 years old</strong></th>
<th><strong>40-49 years old</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>38%</strong></td>
<td><strong>41%</strong></td>
<td><strong>21%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Level of Education</strong></th>
<th><strong>Less than high school/GED</strong> $^b$ diploma</th>
<th><strong>High school/GED diploma</strong></th>
<th><strong>Some college/Associate’s degree</strong></th>
<th><strong>Bachelor’s degree or higher</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>27%</strong></td>
<td><strong>37%</strong></td>
<td><strong>23%</strong></td>
<td><strong>13%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Immigration Generation</strong> $^c$</th>
<th><strong>1.0 Generation</strong></th>
<th><strong>1.5 Generation</strong></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>87%</strong></td>
<td><strong>12%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Marital Status</strong></th>
<th><strong>Married/Living with partner</strong></th>
<th><strong>Previously married</strong></th>
<th><strong>Never married/ Lived with partner</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>61%</strong></td>
<td><strong>15%</strong></td>
<td><strong>24%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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$^a$ The study took place in the Minneapolis 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 three quarters (77%) had Medicaid.

- Medicaid: 77%
- Private: 16%
- No Insurance: 7%

Interpreter

45% prefer an interpreter when visiting their health care provider.

Among women who prefer an interpreter, 4 in 5 (81%) were offered one during their last visit.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY

176 WOMEN IN MINNEAPOLIS

Country of Origin

Somalia 50%

- Woman’s birth country or mother’s birth country if woman was not born in eligible country.
- Country of Origin Map Powered by Bing © GeoNames, Microsoft, OpenStreetMap, TomTom
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

65% of women reported having had a pelvic exam or Pap smear within the last 3 years; 22% never had an exam; 13% had one 4 or more years ago.

42% of women reported having ever used birth control. 21% of women used birth control in the last 30 days.

45% of women who had a child reported ever having a C-section. 24% of births were delivered by C-section.

15% of women who reported ever having sexual intercourse were under 18 at age of first sexual intercourse; 65% were 18 to 24; and 20% 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

Over 2 in 3 women reported experiencing FGM/C.

67% experienced FGM/C.

33% 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:

- **Somalia:** 80%
- **Ethiopia:** 55%

BY AGE

Women With FGM/C Within Age Groups

- **Over 2 in 5 (42%)** 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

- 5–9 years old: 62%
- 10–14 years old: 20%
- ≥15 years old: 9%

*Data for “Too young to remember”, “<5 years old”, and “Don’t know” responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

BY TYPE OF FGM/C

- **46%** said their genital area was **sewn closed**.
- **40%** said **flesh was removed** from their genital area.
- **12%** did not know **the type** of FGM/C they experienced.

*Data for “Cut, no flesh removed” responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.*
69% of women reported a problem with childbirth. This includes postpartum bleeding, extensive vaginal tears from childbirth, or emergency C-section.

31% reported a reproductive health problem compared to 7% of women without FGM/C. This includes difficulty passing period blood, difficulty passing urine, pain with urination, or many urinary tract infections.

30% reported a sexual health problem compared to 9% of women without FGM/C. This includes pain or bleeding during sex.

8% reported feeling sad for many weeks at a time compared to 12% of women without FGM/C.

Data for women without FGM/C who reported childbirth problems are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.