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 **New York** metropolitan area.

### WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY
**315 WOMEN IN NEW YORK**

<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>Women</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>28%</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>Women</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMMIGRATION GENERATION</th>
<th>1.0 Generation</th>
<th>1.5 Generation</th>
<th>2.0 Generation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 Generation</td>
<td>Immigrated to the U.S. at age 13 or older</td>
<td>Immigrated to the U.S. before age 13</td>
<td>Born in the U.S.</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>Women</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The study took place in the New York metropolitan area.

b General Education Development
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Nearly two-thirds (64%) had Medicaid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Insurance Coverage</th>
<th>Interpreter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Insurance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17% prefer an interpreter when visiting their health care provider.

Among women who prefer an interpreter, nearly two-thirds (63%) were offered one during their last visit.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY
315 WOMEN IN NEW YORK

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN c, d, ^

- The Gambia: 12%
- Guinea: 8%
- Burkina Faso: 54%
- Mali: 18%

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

c Woman’s birth country or mother’s birth country if woman was not born in eligible country.
d Data for Egypt, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

Health Insurance Coverage

Interpreter

17% prefer interpreter when visiting their health care provider.

Among women who prefer an interpreter, nearly two-thirds (63%) were offered one during their last visit.
Reproductive Health

88% of women reported having had a pelvic exam or Pap smear within the last 3 years; 11% never had an exam.\(^e\)

61% of women reported having ever used birth control. 37% of women used birth control in the last 30 days.

36% of women who had a child reported ever having a C-section. 25% of births were delivered by C-section.

24% of women who reported ever having sexual intercourse were under 18 at age of first sexual intercourse; 58% were 18 to 24; and 19% 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.\(^1\)

More than half of women reported experiencing FGM/C.

54% experienced FGM/C.

46% did not experience FGM/C.

\(^e\) Data for “4 or more years ago” responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN WITH FGM/C

BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

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

- Mali: 76%
- The Gambia: 59%
- Burkina Faso: 45%

NOTE: Data for Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

BY AGE

Women With FGM/C Within Age Groups

- Nearly 1 in 5 (19%) women ages 18-24 have experienced FGM/C.
- Nearly 3 in 4 (74%) women ages 40-49 have experienced FGM/C.

Age at FGM/C Among Women With FGM/C

- Too young to remember: 15%
- <5 years old: 36%
- 5-9 years old: 32%
- 10-14 years old: 11%

NOTE: Data for “≥15 years old” and “Don’t know” responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

BY TYPE OF FGM/C

- 19% said their genital area was sewn closed.
- 63% said flesh was removed from their genital area.
- 17% did not know the type of FGM/C they experienced.

NOTE: Data for “Cut, no flesh removed” responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.
75% reported a problem with childbirth compared to 65% of women without FGM/C. This includes postpartum bleeding, extensive vaginal tears from childbirth, or emergency C-section.

67% reported a reproductive health problem compared to 35% of women without FGM/C. This includes difficulty passing period blood, difficulty passing urine, pain with urination, or many urinary tract infections.

65% reported a sexual health problem compared to 26% of women without FGM/C. This includes pain or bleeding during sex.

52% reported feeling sad for many weeks at a time compared to 30% of women without FGM/C.

81% would feel comfortable discussing their FGM/C with a health care provider.

55% have discussed their FGM/C with a health care provider.

90% believe FGM/C should be stopped.

91% believe FGM/C can cause health problems later in life.

76% do not believe FGM/C is required by religion.