



## Women's Health Needs Study (WHNS): Atlanta<sup>a</sup>

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

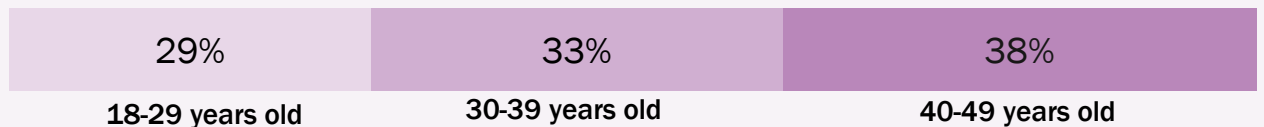


Spoke one of the study languages

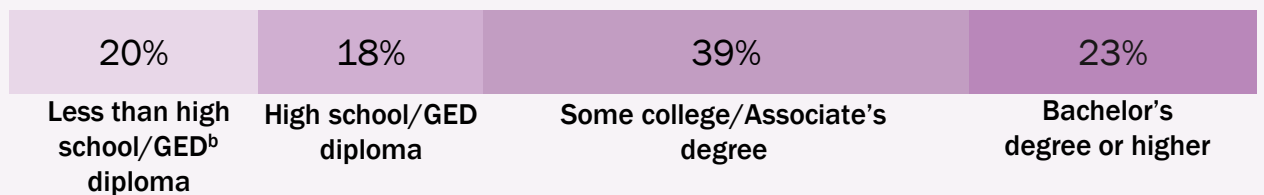
### WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY

389 WOMEN IN ATLANTA

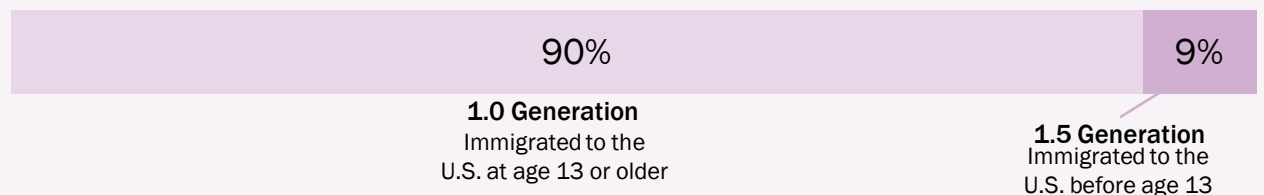
#### AGE GROUP



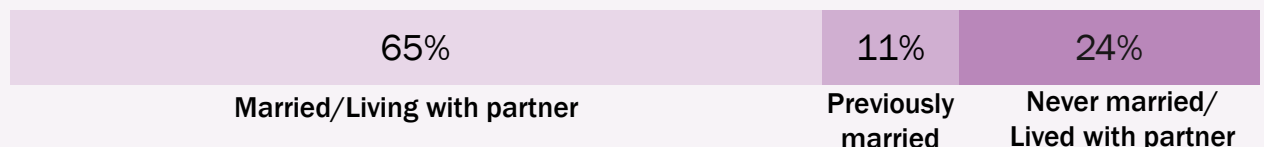
#### LEVEL OF EDUCATION



#### IMMIGRATION GENERATION<sup>c</sup>



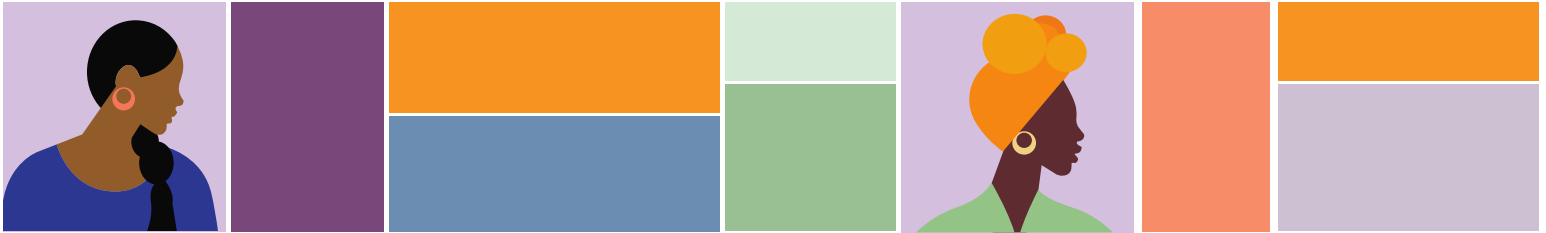
#### MARITAL STATUS



<sup>a</sup> The study took place in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

<sup>b</sup> General Education Development

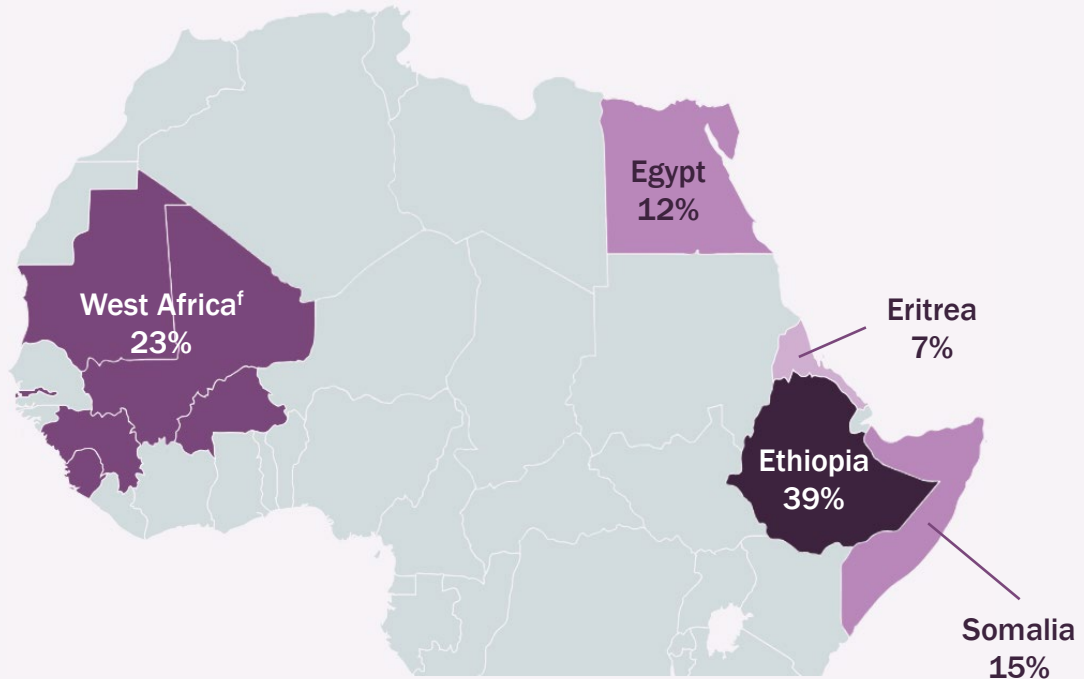
<sup>c</sup> Data for "2.0 Generation" responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.



## WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY

389 WOMEN IN ATLANTA

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN <sup>d, e, ^</sup>

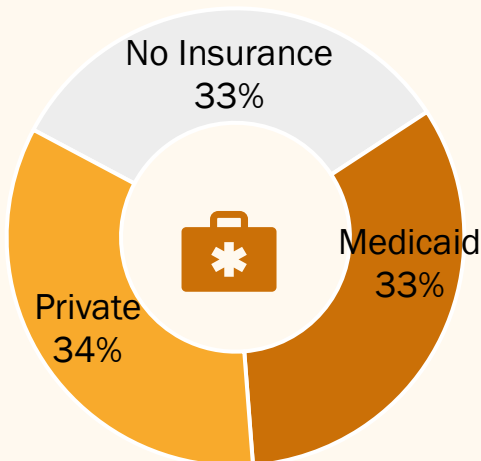


<sup>d</sup> Woman's birth country or mother's birth country if woman was not born in eligible country.  
<sup>e</sup> Data for Sudan are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.  
<sup>f</sup> West Africa includes Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Sierra Leone  
<sup>^</sup> Country of Origin Map Powered by Bing © GeoNames, Microsoft, OpenStreetMap, TomTom

## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

### HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

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



### INTERPRETER

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.



## 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.<sup>1</sup>

3 in 5 women reported experiencing FGM/C.

**60%**

experienced FGM/C.

**40%**

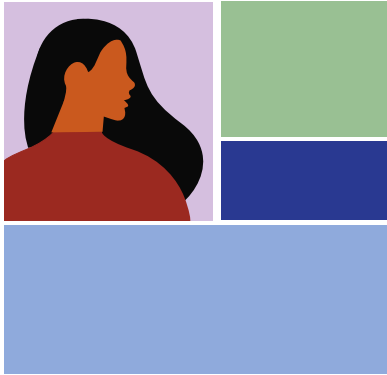
did not experience FGM/C.



<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund & United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (1997). Female genital mutilation: a joint WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA statement. World Health Organization. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/41903>.

# EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN WITH FGM/C

## BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



The percentage of women from each country of origin who reported experiencing FGM/C<sup>g</sup>:

- **West African countries<sup>h</sup>: 81%**
- **Somalia: 65%**
- **Eritrea: 53%**
- **Ethiopia: 52%**
- **Sudan: 39%**

<sup>g</sup> Data for Egypt not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

<sup>h</sup> West African countries include Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Sierra Leone.

## BY AGE

### Women With FGM/C Within Age Groups

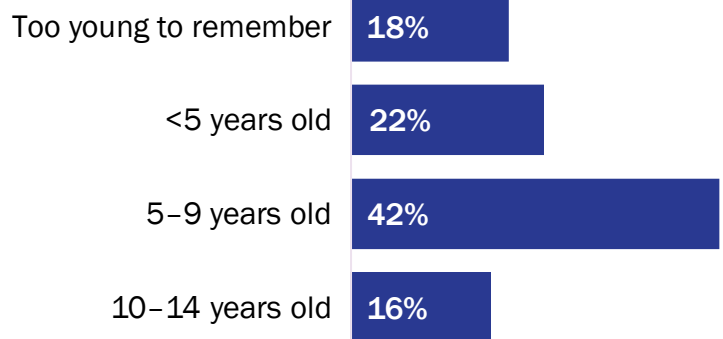
Over one-third (34%) of women ages 18-24 have experienced FGM/C.



3 in 4 (75%) women ages 40-49 have experienced FGM/C.

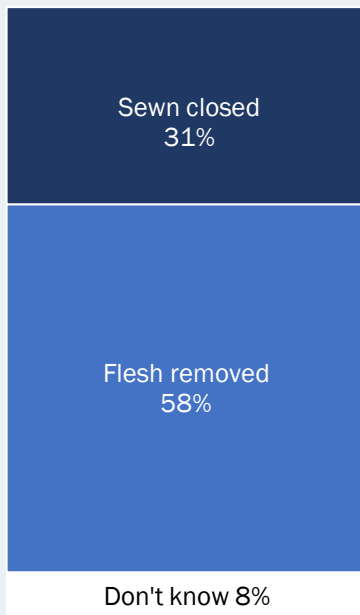


### Age at FGM/C Among Women With FGM/C <sup>i</sup>



<sup>i</sup> Data for "≥15 years old" and "Don't know" responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

## BY TYPE OF FGM/C <sup>j</sup>



- **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.**

<sup>j</sup> Data for "Cut, no flesh removed" responses are not shown due to small percentages or denominators.

## HEALTH CONCERNS OF WOMEN WITH FGM/C



**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.

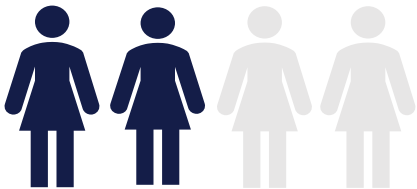
**26%** reported a **sexual health problem** compared to 8% of women without FGM/C. This includes pain or bleeding during sex.



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

## COMFORT OF WOMEN WITH FGM/C IN TALKING TO PROVIDER

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



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



## FGM/C ATTITUDES

**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.



Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Frequencies in the study population are presented as unweighted counts and weighted percentages. Estimates less than 5% or with a denominator of 30 or fewer women are suppressed and represented by an asterisk (\*).