

Abstract

Background:

Female genital mutilation (FGM), for non-medical reasons, involves partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other harm to the female genital organs. Guinea has the second highest rate of FGM in the world after Somalia. The objective of this study is to assess in the prevalence of FGM and associated factors among women aged 15-49 years (reproductive age) and their daughters aged 0-14 years in Guinea.

Methods:

This is a cross-sectional descriptive study design. Secondary data for this study were extracted from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in 2018. We analysed the data of 10,874 women aged 15-49 years and 1,632 girls aged 0-14 years. The analysis of the relevant variables was carried out by assessing the factors associated with FGM. The statistical analysis was performed using the chi-square test, percentages, and a p-value.

Results:

In Guinea, approximately 86.33% of women aged 15 to 49 years have undergone FGM. The results indicate that women underwent FGM more frequently in infancy (20.50%) and at the age of 10 (11.55%). Girls underwent FGM more frequently at the age of 5 (23.0%) and at the age of 6 (14.71%). Explanatory variables including whether their daughter is circumcised, whether female circumcision is required by their religion, whether they believe that female circumcision should continue or be stopped, who performed their daughter's circumcision,

and the level of education of their husband/partners were significantly associated with who performed the circumcision for women . Explanatory variables including whether the girl's genital area was sewn closed and who performed their mother's circumcision were significantly associated with who performed the circumcision for girls aged 0 to 14.

Conclusion:

The frequency of FGM is still high in Guinea, and it might not be easy to stop FGM due to their beliefs and religion. We concluded that there is a need to implement policies and strategies in Guinea to increase the awareness of the population about the adverse effects of female circumcision and the reasons for the elimination of the practice of FGM. Also, we suggest the FGM should be performed in medical institutions or by medical personnel to reduce complications and mortality.

FGM is a harmful practice and is unacceptable from both the point of view of human rights and public health, regardless of who performs the procedure. FGM is a significant issue in the fight for humanitarianism and global gender justice.

Keywords:

Female genital mutilation (FGM). Guinea. Religion. Traditional circumciser. The Demographic and Health Surveys Program (DHS).