

Country: Mali

Population: 15.8 million

Estimated prevalence among women aged 15-49: 85.2%

Data Source	15 – 49 (%)	15 - 19	35 - 39	Urban	Rural	Lowest Region	Highest Region	Nicked, no flesh	Flesh removed	Sewn closed	Tradition ally	Medically performe	National law
DHS 2006	85.2	84.7	84.9	80.9	87.4	0.9	98.3	3.0	75.8	10.2	91.7	2.5	No specific law

PRB 2010

Type practised:

Type I and II - 75.8%

Type III - 10.2%

Type IV – 3.0%

Legal status:

FGC is currently legal in Mali.

History of FGC in Mali

In Mali, FGC crosses religious, ethnic, age and geographic lines. The Muslim Songhai, Tuareg and Moor populations generally do not practice any form of FGC. However, the practice varies among ethnic groups very little by age, religion or level of education.

In 1999 the Ministry of Health banned the practice of FGC in public health clinics. Later, in 2002, the National Assembly was ready to pass a law banning FGC but this was withdrawn after facing opposition from religious leaders.

Current efforts to abandon FGC:

In recent years, advocacy groups and prominent leaders have begun to challenge this traditional practice. The Association Malienne pour le Suivi et l'Orientation des Pratiques Traditionnelles (AMSOPT) was formed as the national chapter of the Inter-African Committee. It focuses on educating youth and religious leaders throughout Mali about the side-effects of FGC.

UNICEF has been quite involved in addressing the issue of FGC in Mali. In 2010 they supported a mobile cinema which travelled from village to village in remote areas of Mali. They screened entertaining and educational videos aimed at encouraging the communities to openly discuss children's and women's health. More recently, government information campaigns focussing on the risks associated with FGC have reached citizens throughout the country, apparently resulting in a reduction of FGC prevalence among children of educated parents.

Tostan has also been working in Mali, although efforts are currently on hold due to unrest in the country.

Ongoing challenges:

Agents of change face resistance on a daily basis in Mali, as the traditional practice is kept alive by both men and women who fight to uphold their tradition and continue practising FGC. Unrest in the country means that people living in Mali may be more concerned with day-to-day survival.

Ethnic groups:

Mande 50% (Bambara, Malinke, Soninke)

Peul 17%

Votaic 12%

Songhai 6%

Tuareg and Moor 10%

Other 5%

Languages:

French

Bambara

Berber

Arabic

Major religions:

Muslim 90%

Christian 1%

Indigenous beliefs 9%

Resources:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<http://2001-2009.state.gov/g/wi/rls/rep/crfgm/index.htm>

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mali_52714.html

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2011/af/186218.htm>

http://www.healthpolicyinitiative.com/Publications/Documents/1232_1_Mali_FGC_Brief_Final_FINAL_acc.pdf