

Central African Republic

21.6%¹

Key Findings

The prevalence of FGM/C in women aged 15–49 is 21.6%.
69.3% of women (aged 15–49) think FGM/C should be abandoned.²

Geography:

The prefectures with the highest prevalence are in the centre³

Age:

As of 2018–19, 17.3% of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 had been cut

Type:

‘Cut, flesh removed’ is the most common type of FGM/C practised⁴

Agent:

The majority of girls who have undergone FGM/C were cut by a traditional practitioner

Development Indicators

HDI Rank: 191 out of 193 countries (2022)⁵

Population: 5,243,507 (as of 15 September 2024), with a 1.76% growth rate (2024 est.)⁶

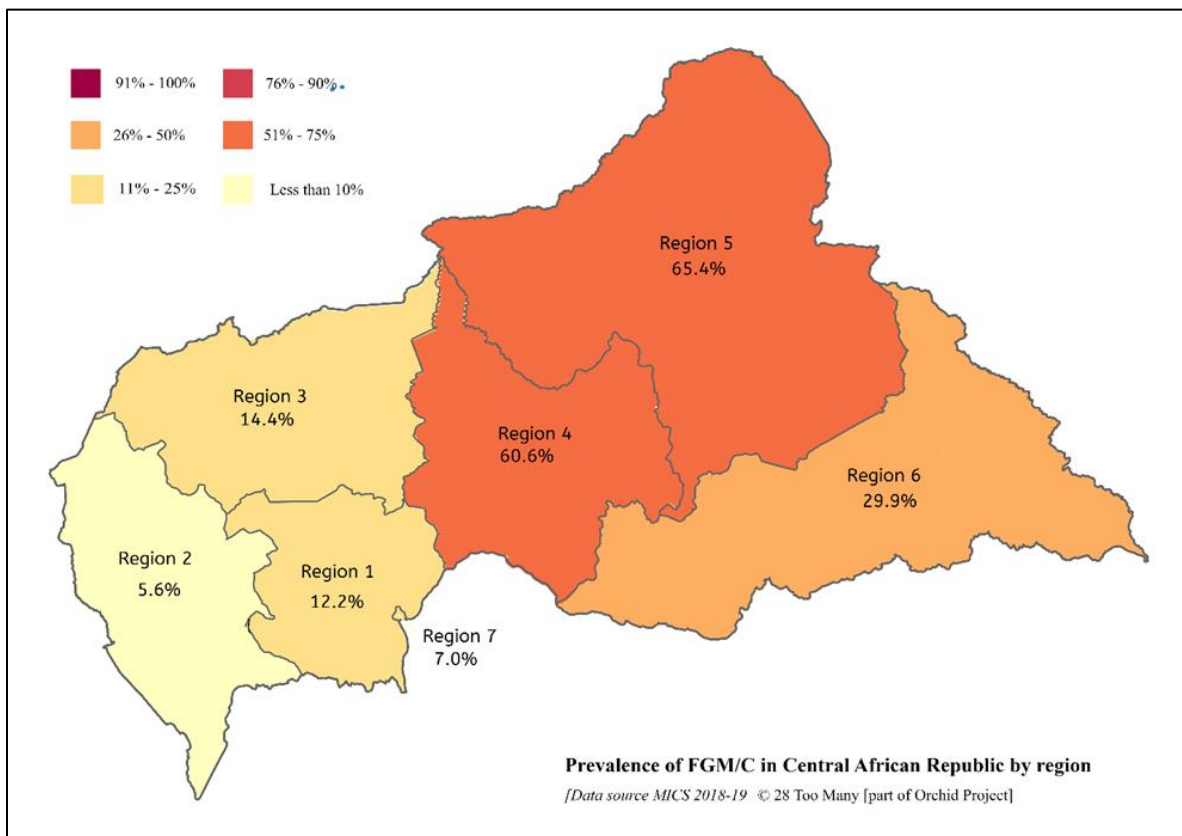
Infant Mortality Rate: 80.5 deaths per 1,000 live births (2024)⁷

Maternal Mortality Ratio: 835 deaths per 100,000 live births (2020)⁸

*‘The more we talk the better . . . [b]ut to fully eradicate FGM we need to have the authorities on our side enforcing the law.’
~ Marguerite Ramadan, President of CIAF/CAR (2009)⁹*

Prevalence

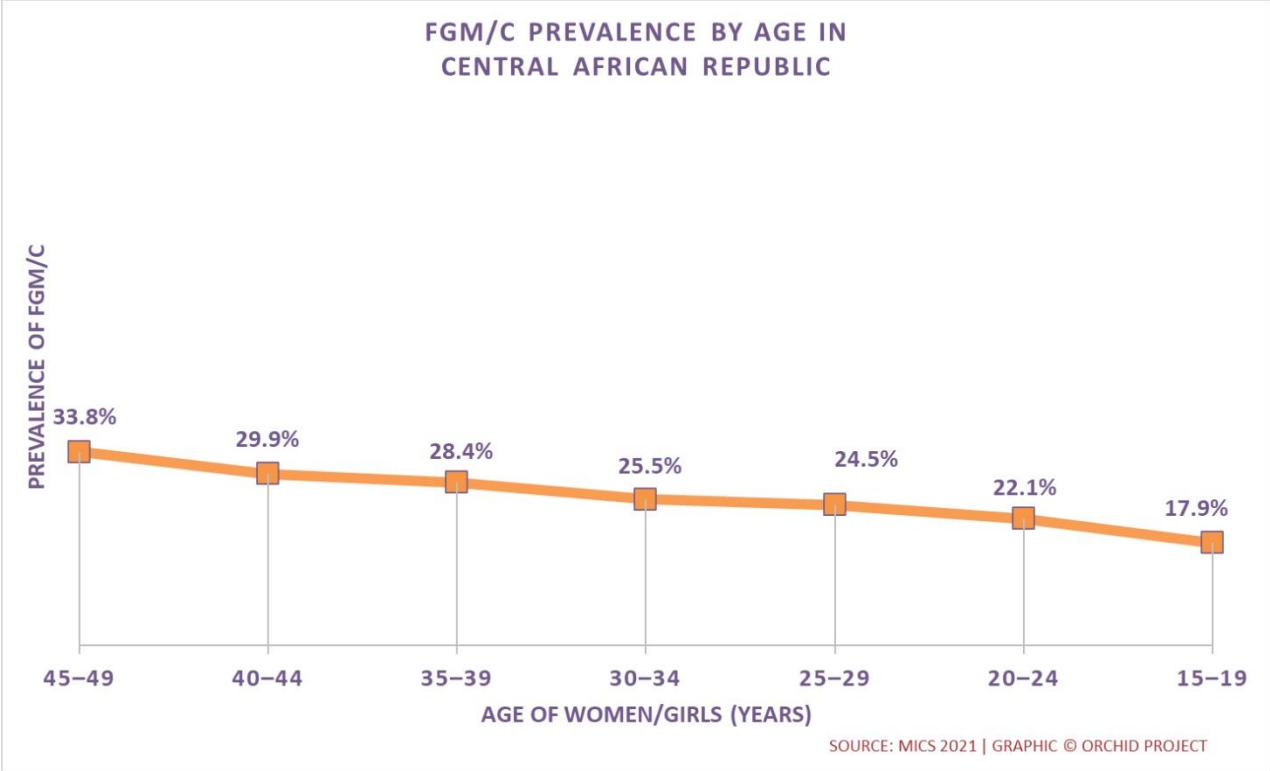
FGM/C is practised across all prefectures and ethnic groups in the CAR. The regions with the highest prevalence are in the centre of the country: Region 4 (Nana Grebizi, Kemo, Ouaka) (60.6%) and Region 5 (Haute-Kotto, Bamingui-Bangoran, Vakaga) (65.4%). The region with the lowest prevalence is Region 2 (Sangha Mbaere, Mambere-Kadei, Nana Mambere), at 5.6%. Women aged 15–49 who live in rural areas are more likely to undergo FGM/C (27.5%) than those who live in urban areas (11.9%).



Prevalence of FGM/C is inversely correlated with level of wealth.

The highest prevalence of FGM/C is among households where the head is of Banda ethnicity (52.9% of women aged 15–49); the lowest is found among households where the head is of Mboum ethnicity (4.0%).¹⁰

Between 2010 and 2018–19, the overall prevalence for women aged 15–49 fell from 24.2% to 21.6%. Due to the large age-range of women included, however, the overall prevalence alone may not fully reflect the progress that has been made in recent years. Breaking down by age group the most recent data (which is from 2018–19) shows that the prevalence for women aged 45–49 is 24.8%, while for the youngest age-group this has fallen to 17.3%. Despite the fact that a small proportion of women may be cut after the age of 15, the data demonstrate a clear trend towards a lower prevalence among younger women.¹¹



Central African Law

Law No. 06.032 on the Protection of Women Against Violence in Central African Republic, dated 27 December 2006, contains provisions on FGM/C. Law No. 10.001, the Penal Code of the Central African Republic, dated 6 January 2010, also criminalises FGM/C. There is a lack of evidence, however, of any FGM/C cases being prosecuted under these laws.

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- 1 **(‘MICS’)**: ICASEES (2021) *MICS6-RCA Enquête par grappes à indicateurs multiples 2018–2019, Rapport final des résultats de l’enquête*. Bangui, République Centrafricaine: ICASEES. Available at <https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS6/West and Central Africa/Central African Republic/2018-2019/Survey findings/French.pdf> (accessed 15 September 2022).
 - 2 MICS, pp.364.
 - 3 MICS, p.363.
 - 4 MICS, p.363.
 - 5 United Nations Development Programme (2024) *Central African Republic*. Available at <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/CAF> (accessed 15 September 2024).
 - 6 - Country Meters (2024) *Central African Republic*, 15 September. Available at https://countrymeters.info/en/Central_African_Republic (accessed 15 September 2024).
- Central Intelligence Agency (2022) ‘Central African Republic’, *World Factbook*. Available at <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/central-african-republic/> (accessed 15 September 2024).
 - 7 *Ibid.*
 - 8 *Ibid.*
 - 9 UN Children’s Fund (2009) ‘Partnering to change norms and abandon female genital cutting in Central African Republic’, *ReliefWeb*, 6 February. Available at <http://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/partnering-change-norms-and-abandon-female-genital-cutting-central> (accessed 8 June 2017).
 - 10 MICS, p.363.
 - 11 - MICS, p.363.
- ICASEES (2010) *Enquête par grappes à indicateurs multiples MICS, RCA 2010 Rapport final*, pp.241–242. Bangui, RCA ICASEES. Available at https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS4/West%20and%20Central%20Africa/Central%20African%20Republic/2010/Final/Central%20African%20Republic%202010%20MICS_French.pdf (accessed 8 June 2017).