

Country: Niger

Population: 16 million

Estimated prevalence among women aged 15-49: 2.2%

Data Source	15 – 49 (%)	15 - 19	35 - 39	Urban	Rural	Lowest Region	Highest Region	Nicked, no flesh removed	Flesh removed	Sewn closed	Medically performed	National law
DHS 2006	2.2	1.9	2.9	2.1	2.3	0.1	12.0	0.8	90.5	13.3	0.5	Illegal

PRB 2010

Note: total for types comes to more than 100% due to multiple responses

Type practised:

Types I, II and IV ('Dangouria') are all practised

Legal status:

FGC is currently against the law and punishable by six months to three years imprisonment.

History of FGC in Niger:

FGC was a long-hidden practice in Niger. Its existence was initially brought to light in 1986 in a medical student's doctoral dissertation. Prevalence rates are highest close to the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, and Chad and Nigeria. The less well-known practice of 'dangouria' is common in Niger, particularly in the South-East of the country.

'Dangouria' in Niger

This practice is classified within type IV and involves the removal of hymen of newborn girls, usually within 10 days of birth. This practice is closely linked with early marriage (60% of girls aged 15-19 years are married), and the second part of the procedure is performed on girls who marry before their bodies have matured enough for sexual intercourse (between the age of 9 and 15), and involves making an incision in the vaginal opening in order to widen it and facilitate intercourse.

Current efforts to abandon FGC:

Since 1992 UNICEF and the government of Niger have collaborated closely with local NGOs, community leaders and other donors to distribute educational materials at health centres, implement advocacy and social mobilization interventions aimed at stimulating behavioural change around FGC and promote involvement in educational events. A combination of interventions has formed part of a broader strategy to tackle violence against women and girls, intended to accelerate the renunciation of harmful practices in general, and particularly FGC.

According to UNICEF the rate of FGC has decreased in prevalence from 5% in 1998 to 2.2% in 2006.

Ongoing challenges:

Although FGC in Niger is against the law, these laws are not always well implemented. FGC is a competitive and well-paid service in some communities. Although practitioners face lengthy prison

sentences, a report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in 2008 stated that circumcisers were making the journey from Burkina Faso to Niger to carry out FGC on nomadic Goutmanche girls as part of a new trend of cross-border FGC and cross-border movement of girls from neighbouring countries into Niger to undergo FGC/dangouria is still a common phenomenon.

Additional information:

Ethnic groups:

Hausa 55.4%
Djerma Sonrai 21%
Tuareg 9.3%
Fula/Peul 8.5%
Kanouri Manga 4.7%
Other 1.2%

Languages:

French (official)
Arabic
Hausa
Songhai

Major religions:

Muslim 80%
Other (including Christian and indigenous beliefs) 20%

Resources:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2011/af/186227.htm>
http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/4501_5126.html
http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/WCARO_Niger_Factsheet-11.pdf
http://www.unicef.org/protection/niger_44262.html
<http://archive.k4health.org/system/files/Legislation%20to%20Address%20FGM.pdf>