

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Enhanced Dataset

October 2016 to December 2016, England, experimental statistics

Published 7 March 2017

The Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Enhanced Dataset (SCCI 2026) supports the Department of Health's FGM Prevention Programme by presenting a national picture of the prevalence of FGM in England.

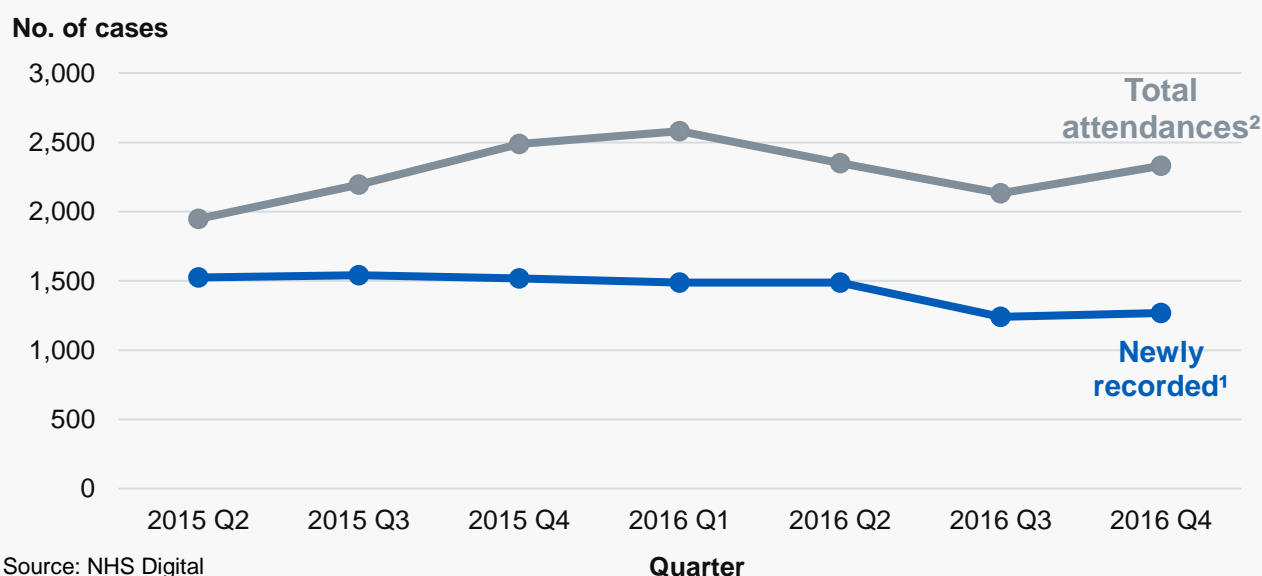
Key findings

- Between October and December 2016 there were 2,332 attendances² reported at NHS trusts and GP practices where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken.
- There were 1,268 women and girls who had their FGM information collected in the Enhanced Dataset for the first time¹. This does not indicate how recently the FGM was undertaken, nor does it necessarily mean that this is the woman or girl's first attendance for FGM. It is the first time their information has been collected in the FGM Enhanced Dataset.

Notes:

1. See definitions on page 2.
2. See definitions on page 2.

Figure 1: Number of newly recorded cases and total attendances by quarter, England, April 2015 to December 2016



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Definitions

¹ **Newly Recorded** women and girls with FGM are those who have had their FGM information collected in the FGM Enhanced Dataset for the first time. This will include those identified as having FGM and those having treatment for their FGM.

‘Newly recorded’ does not necessarily mean that the attendance is the woman or girl’s first attendance for FGM.

² **Total Attendances** refers to all attendances in the reporting period where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken. Women and girls may have one or more attendances in the reporting period. This category includes both newly recorded and previously identified women and girls.

This is an Experimental Statistics publication



This document is published by NHS Digital, part of the Government Statistical Service

Experimental statistics are official statistics which are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage. It is important that users understand that limitations may apply to the interpretation of this data. More details are given in the report.

All official statistics should comply with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics which promotes the production and dissemination of official statistics that inform decision making.

Find out more about the Code of Practice for Official Statistics at www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice

Find out more about Experimental Statistics at https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Guidance-on-Experimental-Statistics_1.0.pdf

ISBN 978-1-78386-959-6

This report is of particular interest to the Department of Health in support of the FGM Prevention Programme. It may also be of interest to healthcare providers and commissioners to monitor the quality and effectiveness of services, to researchers and charities working on this subject and to members of the public.

Introduction

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM has been [illegal](#) in the United Kingdom (UK) since 1985, with the law being strengthened in 2003 to prevent girls travelling from the UK and undergoing FGM abroad.

The FGM Enhanced Dataset ([FGMED](#)) supports the Department of Health's [FGM Prevention Programme](#) by presenting a national picture of the prevalence of FGM in England. Data is collected by healthcare providers in England, including acute hospital providers, mental health providers and GP practices. Since the FGMED collection began in April 2015, over 1,200 newly recorded women and girls have been identified every quarter (see Figure 1).

This quarterly report covers attendances between October and December 2016. Additional analyses and breakdowns by Local Authority, NHS Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are provided on the publication [landing page](#). An [Annual Report](#) covering the 2015-16 collection year was published on 21 July 2016. The [Data Quality Statement](#) accompanying this report provides further information on the publication and data. The technical standard ([SCCI 2026](#)) for the dataset provides further information on the collection.

Organisations were requested to ensure all data for the period October 2016 to December 2016 was complete in the collection system by the beginning of February 2017. The collection system allows updates to historic information. The extract for this report was taken on 6 February 2017.

Main findings

There were 1,268 newly recorded cases of FGM reported and 2,332 total attendances where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken. Since the FGMED collection began in April 2015, over 1,200 newly recorded women and girls have been identified every quarter (see Figure 1).

Participation

93 NHS trusts and 24 GP practices submitted one or more FGM attendance record. It is mandatory for acute hospital providers, mental health providers and GP practices to submit to the FGMED ([SCCI 2026 Information Standards Notice](#)).

Place of residence

Almost one out of every two cases relate to women and girls from London NHS Commissioning Region ([NHSCR](#)): 49 per cent of newly recorded cases and 49 per cent of total attendances. Outside of London, an average of more than 10 newly recorded cases per month were recorded in Birmingham (115 women and girls) – to the nearest five – Manchester (55) and Bristol (50) Local Authorities.

Over

1,200

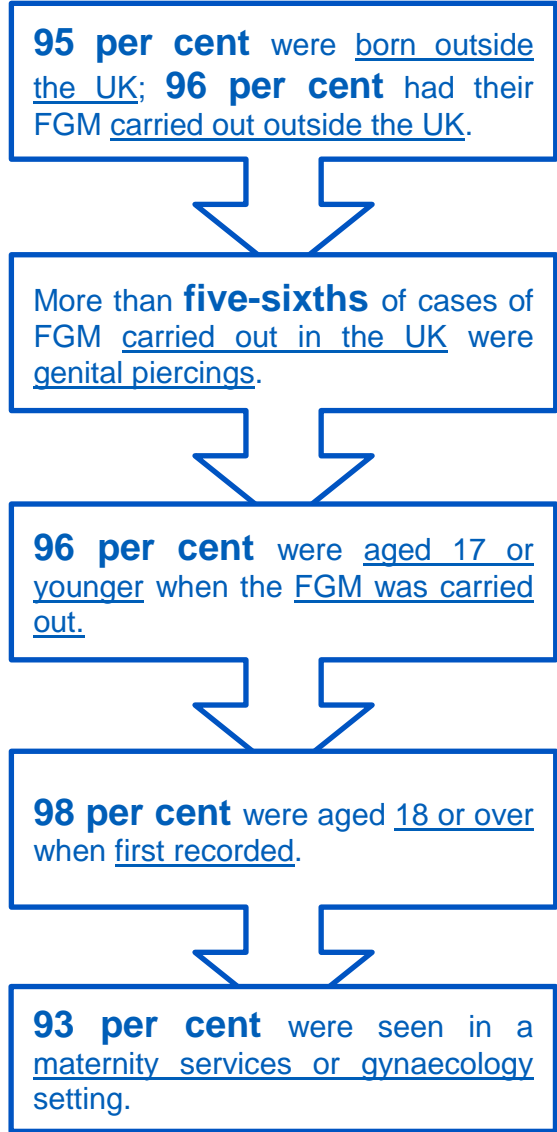
newly recorded women and girls with FGM were recorded every quarter since April 2015.

Almost one out of every two newly recorded women and girls live in London NHS Commissioning Region (49 per cent).

Summary

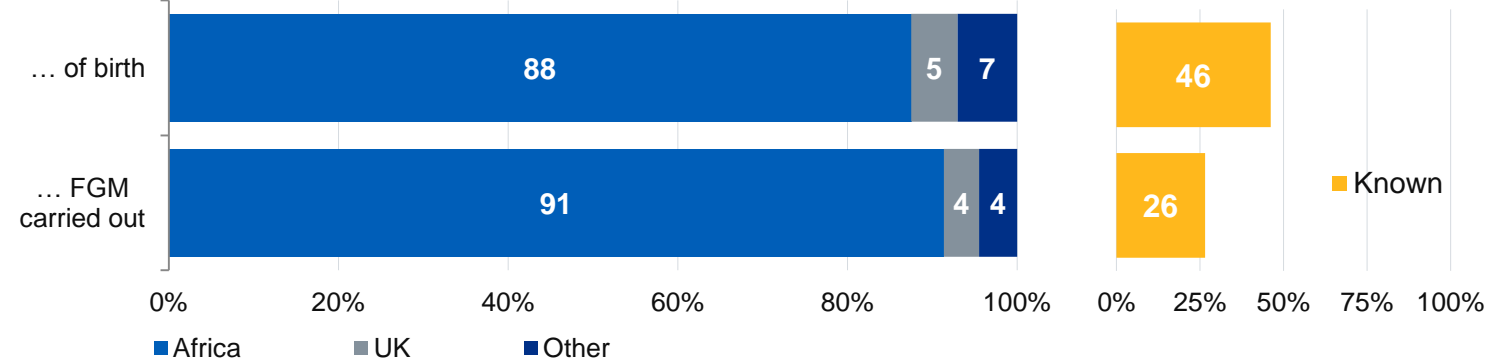
Between October and December 2016, 1,268 women and girls with FGM were recorded in the FGM Enhanced Dataset for the first time.

Where information about these women and girls was recorded ...

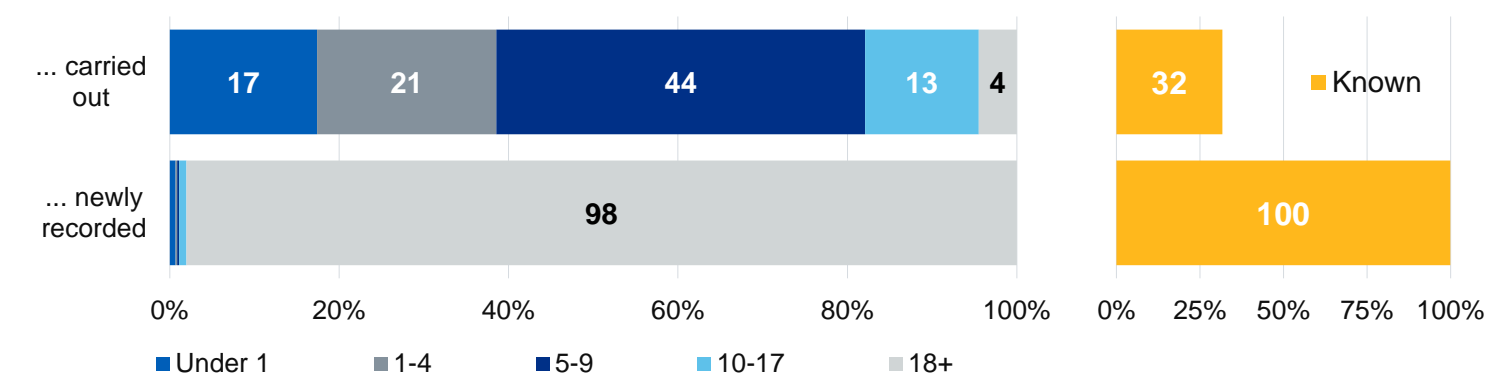


Caution! Only 26% of newly recorded women and girls have a known country where FGM was undertaken recorded. For other data items below, the proportion of known values varies between 32 and 100 per cent.

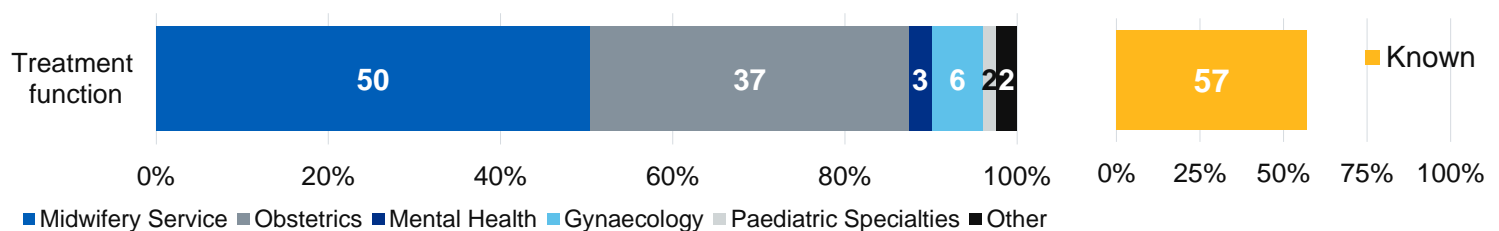
Country ...



Age when FGM was ...



Seen at ...



Chapter 1: Submissions

Number of submitting organisations

Table 1.1: Number of organisations submitting attendance data by quarter, England, April 2015 to December 2016

	Number							
	2015 Q2	2015 Q3	2015 Q4	2016 Q1	2016 Q2	2016 Q3	2016 Q4	Any time
Organisation type								
NHS trust	72	84	90	95	92	93	93	133
... providing mental health services ¹	1	5	10	12	8	7	8	18
... not providing mental health services ¹	71	79	80	83	84	86	85	115
GP practice	7	14	29	23	32	34	24	83
Total	79	98	119	118	124	127	117	216

Source: NHS Digital

Notes:

1. Trusts that provide mental health services are derived from the [Care Quality Commission](#) (CQC). Trusts that provide mental health services may also provide other health services.

Table 1.2: Number of organisations submitting attendance data by NHS commissioning region¹, England, October 2016 to December 2016

	Number				
	London	Midlands and East of England	North of England	South of England	Total
Organisation type					
NHS trust	16	28	31	18	93
... providing mental health services ²	2	2	3	1	8
... not providing mental health services ²	14	26	28	17	85
GP practice	6	7	9	2	24
Total	22	35	40	20	117

Source: NHS Digital

Notes:

1. [NHS commissioning region](#) is derived from the organisation that submitted the Attendance record.

2. Trusts that provide mental health services are derived from the [Care Quality Commission](#) (CQC). Trusts that provide mental health services may also provide other health services.

Number of attendances

Table 1.3: Number of attendances by quarter, England, April 2015 to December 2016

	Number	
	Newly recorded ¹	Total attendances ²
Quarter		
2015 Q2	1,525	1,947
2015 Q3	1,541	2,196
2015 Q4	1,517	2,489
2016 Q1	1,487	2,581
2016 Q2	1,489	2,351
2016 Q3	1,240	2,132
2016 Q4	1,268	2,332
Total ³	10,067	16,028

Source: NHS Digital

Table 1.4: Number of attendances by submitting organisation type, England, October 2016 to December 2016

	Number	
	Newly Recorded ¹	Total Attendances ²
Organisations ⁴		
NHS trust	1,232	2,292
... providing mental health services ⁵	44	58
... not providing mental health services ⁵	1,188	2,234
GP practice	36	40
Total	1,268	2,332

Source: NHS Digital

Notes:

1. Women and girls first recorded in the FGM Enhanced Dataset during the reporting period. This will include those identified as having FGM and those having treatment for their FGM.

2. Women and girls may have one or more attendances in the stated period. This includes both newly recorded and previously recorded women and girls. An attendance will be when a woman or girl with FGM has had treatment for her FGM or given birth to a baby girl, or when FGM has been identified.

3. The total records in the FGM Enhanced Dataset includes records added after the initial report deadline for that quarter.

1,159 total attendances were recorded for 2015 Q2 by July 2015; 788 were added later. 1,971 total attendances were recorded for 2016 Q3 by October 2016; so far another 161 have been added.

4. The organisation that submitted the Attendance record.

5. Trusts that provide mental health services are derived from the [Care Quality Commission](#) (CQC). Trusts that provide mental health services may also provide other health services.

Table 1.5: Number of attendances by NHS commissioning region¹, England, October 2016 to December 2016

	Number ²				
	London	Midlands and East of England	North of England	South of England	Total
Attendances					
Newly recorded ³	620	280	260	110	1,268
Total attendances ⁴	1,140	450	385	360	2,332

Source: NHS Digital

Notes:

1. [NHS commissioning region](#) is derived from the woman or girl's postcode of usual address, reverting to care provider or submitting organisation where unavailable.
2. National data has not been suppressed. Data below national level is suppressed: all numbers between 0 and 4 are obscured with an asterisk, and all other numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
3. Women and girls first recorded in the FGM Enhanced Dataset during the reporting period. This will include those identified as having FGM and those having treatment for their FGM.
4. Women and girls may have one or more attendances in the stated period. This includes both newly recorded and previously recorded women and girls. An attendance will be when a woman or girl with FGM has had treatment for her FGM or given birth to a baby girl, or when FGM has been identified.

Chapter 2: Newly recorded women and girls, and total attendances

The following chapter provides one page summaries of key FGM Enhanced Dataset (FGMED) variables split by NHS Commissioning Region (NHSCR).

FGM Type

[Definitions](#)

[Notes](#)

Figure 2.1: Newly recorded¹ women and girls: by FGM type, England, October 2016 to December 2016

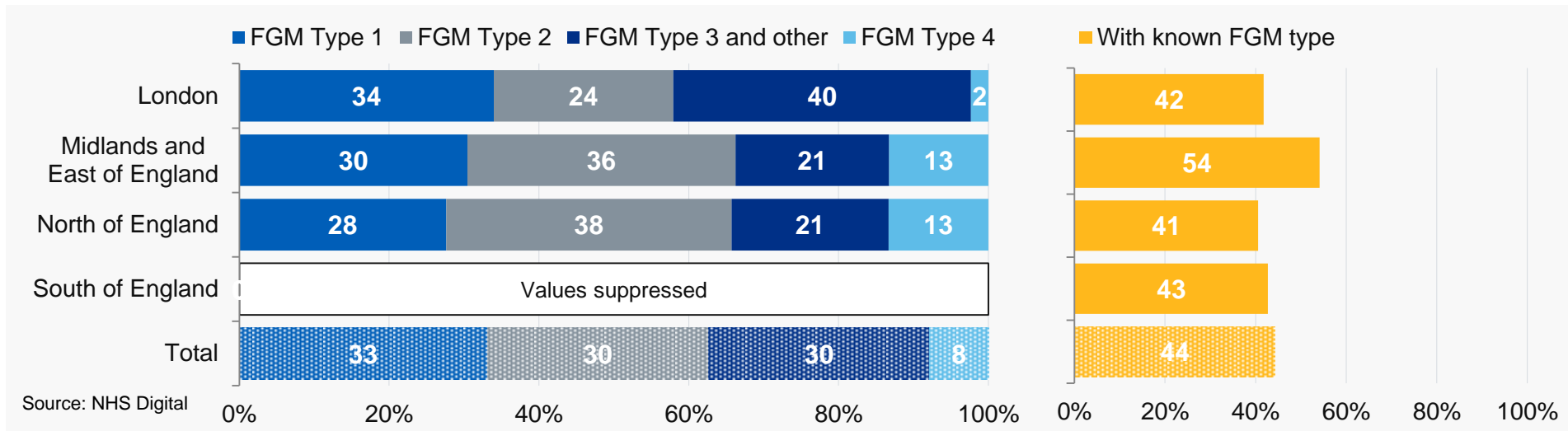


Table 2.1: Newly recorded¹ women and girls: by FGM type, England, October 2016 to December 2016

Commissioning region ²	Number ³								
	Not recorded ⁴	Type Unknown	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	History of FGM Type 3	FGM Type 3 - Re-infibulation identified	Total
London	5	355	90	60	80	5	20	*	620
Midlands and East of England	10	120	45	55	25	20	5	*	280
North of England	10	145	30	40	20	15	*	*	260
South of England	5	55	25	10	10	*	*	*	110
Total	31	675	186	166	134	44	27	5	1,268

Caution! Only

44%

of newly recorded women and girls have a known⁵ FGM type recorded.

Regionally, the proportion of known values varies between 41 and 54 per cent.

At commissioning region level, numbers 0 – 4 are represented by asterisks, and larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five. National data is not suppressed.

Source: NHS Digital

Age at attendance

[Notes](#)

Figure 2.2: Newly recorded¹ women and girls by age at attendance, England, October 2016 to December 2016

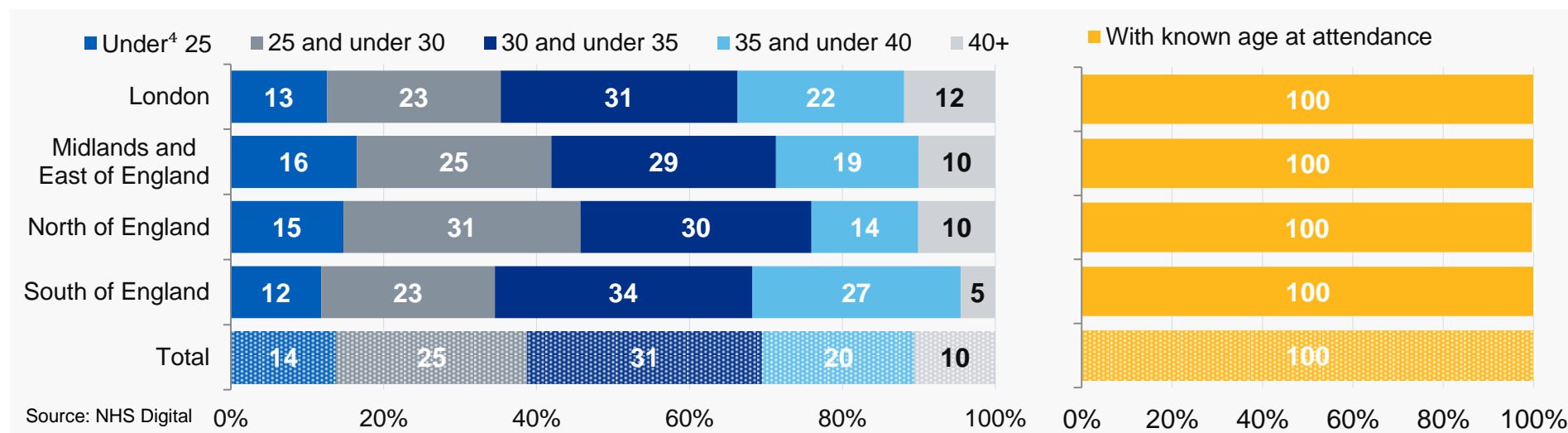


Table 2.2: Newly recorded¹ women and girls: by age at attendance, England, October 2016 to December 2016

Commissioning region ²	Number ³									Total
	Unknown	Under ⁴ 18	18 - 24	25 -29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50+	
London	*	15	65	140	190	135	60	10	5	620
Midlands and East of England	*	5	40	70	80	50	20	5	*	280
North of England	*	5	30	80	80	35	15	5	5	260
South of England	*	*	15	25	35	30	*	*	*	110
Total	1	25	150	317	389	253	98	18	17	1,268

At commissioning region level, numbers 0 – 4 are represented by asterisks, and larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five. National data is not suppressed.

Source: NHS Digital

Excellent! Almost

100%

of newly recorded women and girls have a known⁵ date of birth recorded.

More than three-fifths of the newly recorded cases of FGM involved women aged 30 and over at the time of their attendance.

Country of birth

[Notes](#)

Figure 2.3: Newly recorded¹ women and girls by country of birth, England, October 2016 to December 2016

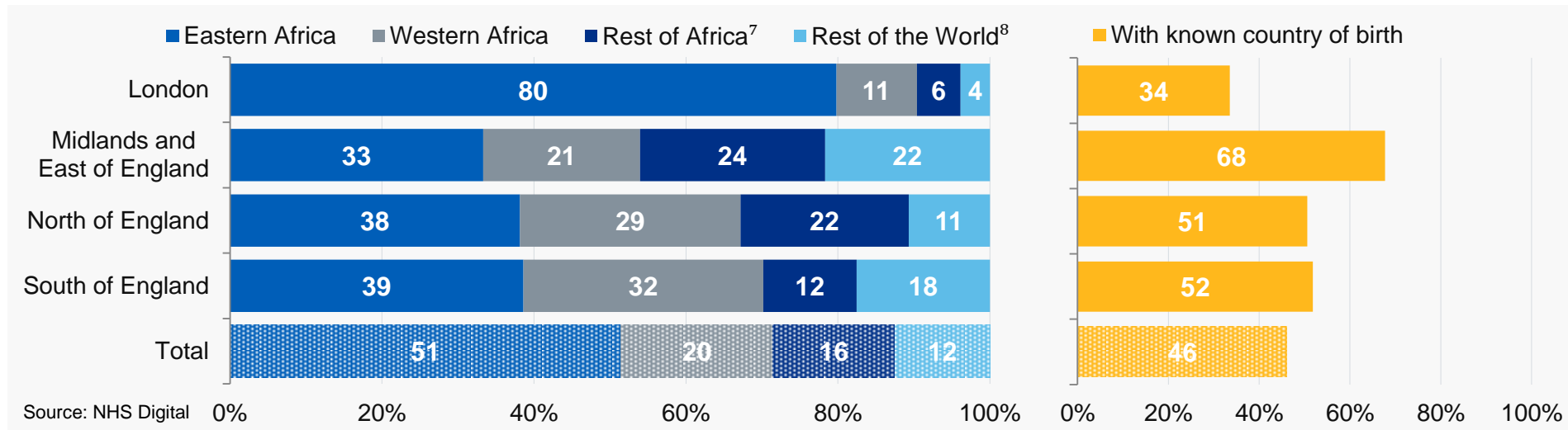


Table 2.3: Newly recorded¹ women and girls by country of birth, England, October 2016 to December 2016

Commissioning region ²	Number ³										
	Not recorded ⁴	Not stated or unknown ⁵	Eastern Africa	Northern Africa	Western Africa	Rest of Africa ⁷	United Kingdom ⁶	Western Asia	Rest of Asia	Rest of the world ⁸	Total
London	295	115	165	10	20	*	*	*	*	*	620
Midlands and East of England	60	30	65	45	40	*	15	20	*	*	280
North of England	75	50	50	25	40	*	5	5	*	*	260
South of England	45	5	20	5	20	*	5	*	*	*	110
Total	480	203	301	90	117	4	32	32	6	3	1,268

At commissioning region level, numbers 0 – 4 are represented by asterisks, and larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five. National data is not suppressed.

Source: NHS Digital

More than two-fifths of the cases of FGM of a known type, carried out on women and girls who were born in the UK, were genital piercings⁶. **Caution!** Only 46% of newly recorded women and girls have a known⁹ country of birth.

Country where FGM was undertaken

[Notes](#)

Figure 2.4: Newly recorded¹ women and girls by country where FGM was undertaken, England, October 2016 to December 2016

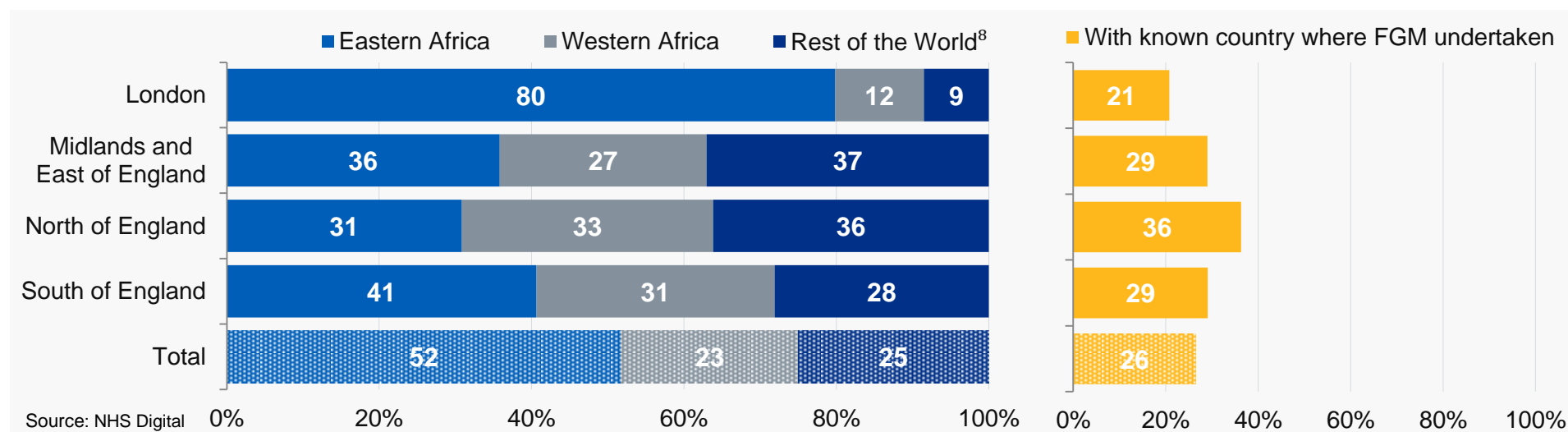


Table 2.4: Newly recorded¹ women and girls by country where FGM was undertaken, England, October 2016 to December 2016

Commissioning region ²	Number ³									
	Not recorded ⁴	Not stated or unknown ⁵	Eastern Africa	Northern Africa	Western Africa	Rest of Africa ⁷	United Kingdom ⁶	Western Asia	Rest of the world ⁸	Total
London	365	130	105	5	15	*	*	*	*	620
Midlands and East of England	80	115	30	20	20	*	5	*	*	280
North of England	55	110	30	25	30	*	*	*	*	260
South of England	55	20	15	*	10	*	*	*	*	110
Total	556	376	174	53	78	2	14	8	7	1,268

At commissioning region level, numbers 0 – 4 are represented by asterisks, and larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five. National data is not suppressed.

Source: NHS Digital

More than five-sixths of the cases of FGM of a known type, that were carried out in the UK, were genital piercings⁶.

Caution! Only 26% of newly recorded women and girls have a known⁹ country of birth recorded.

Treatment function

[Definitions](#)

[Notes](#)

Figure 2.5: Total attendances¹ by treatment function, England, October 2016 to December 2016

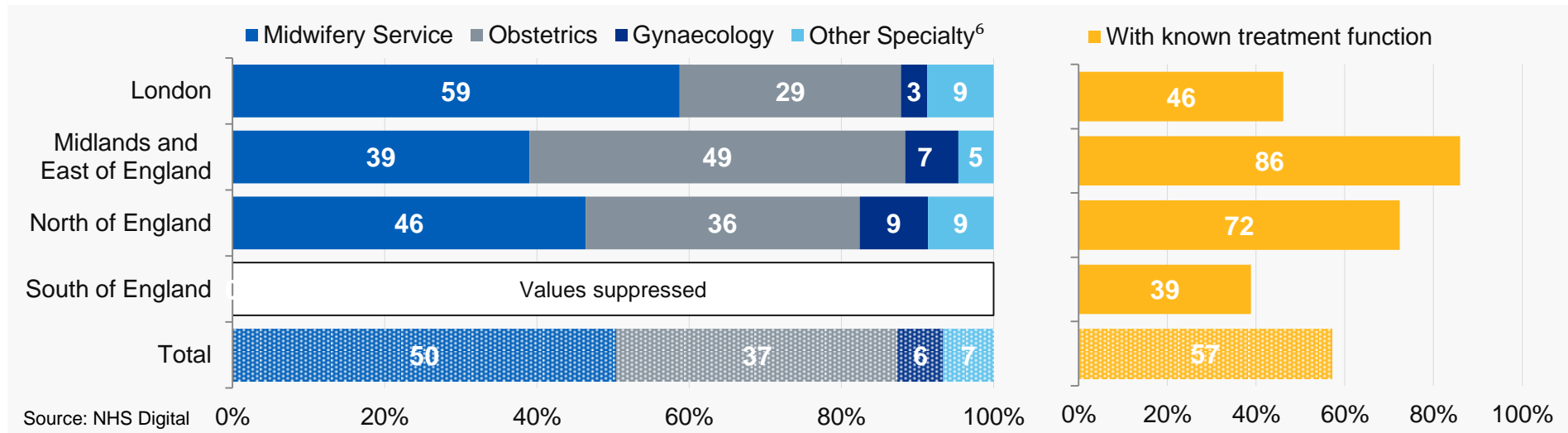


Table 2.5: Total attendances¹ by treatment function, England, October 2016 to December 2016

Commissioning region ²	Number ³								
	Not recorded ⁴	Midwifery Service	Obstetrics	Gynaecology	Mental Health Recovery and Rehabilitation Service	Paediatric Specialties ⁵	Genito-urinary Medicine	Other Specialty ⁶	Total
London	615	310	155	20	35	*	*	10	1,140
Midlands and East of England	65	150	190	25	*	5	5	5	450
North of England	105	130	100	25	*	15	*	5	385
South of England	220	80	50	10	*	*	*	*	360
Total	1,002	671	492	79	36	20	6	26	2,332

Caution! Only

57%

of total attendances have a known⁷ treatment function area recorded.

Regionally, the proportion of known values varies between 39 and 86 per cent.

At commissioning region level, numbers 0 – 4 are represented by asterisks, and larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five. National data is not suppressed.

Source: NHS Digital

Deinfibulation

[Definitions](#)

[Notes](#)

Figure 2.6: Total attendances¹ by deinfibulation status, England, October 2016 to December 2016

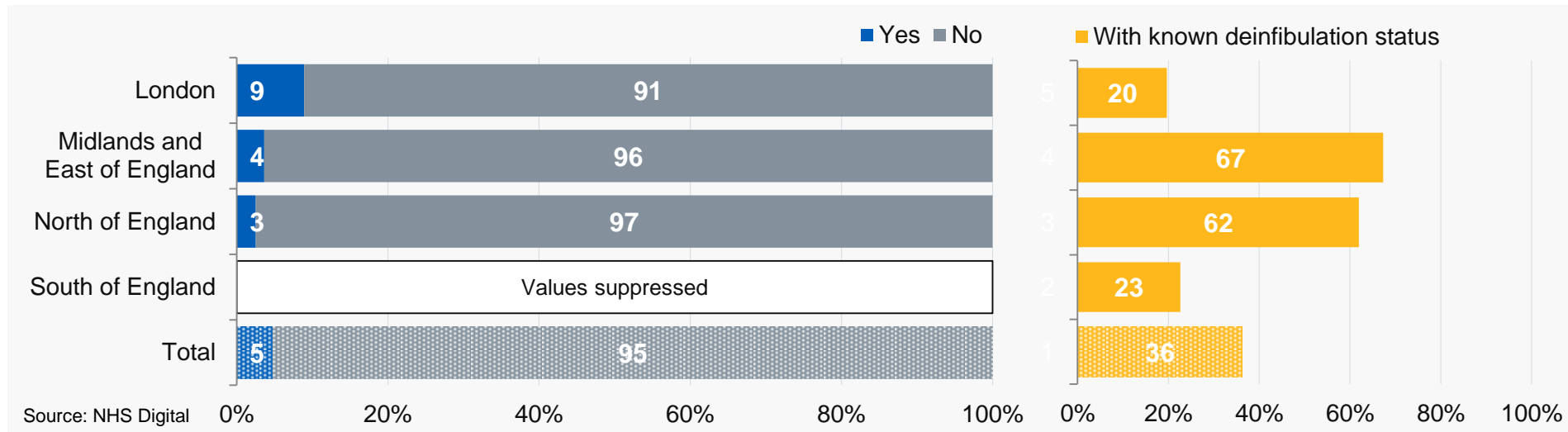


Table 2.6: Total attendances¹ by deinfibulation status, England, October 2016 to December 2016

Commissioning region ²	Number ³			
	Not recorded ⁴	Yes	No	Total
London	915	20	205	1,140
Midlands and East of England	145	10	290	450
North of England	145	5	230	385
South of England	275	*	75	360
Total	1,486	41	805	2,332

At commissioning region level, numbers 0 – 4 are represented by asterisks, and larger numbers are rounded to the nearest five. National data is not suppressed.

Source: NHS Digital

Caution! Only

36%

of total attendances have a known⁵ deinfibulation status recorded.

Regionally, the proportion of known values varies between 20 and 67 per cent.

Chapter 3: Reference

Notes

FGM Type [\(back\)](#)

1. Women and girls first recorded in the FGM Enhanced Dataset during the reporting period. This will include those identified as having FGM.
2. Commissioning region is derived from the patient's postcode of usual address, reverting to care provider or submitting organisation where unavailable.
3. National data has not been suppressed. Data below national level is suppressed: all numbers between 0 and 4 are obscured with an asterisk, and all other numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
4. The 'Not recorded' category includes all cases where no value was returned for this data item.
5. The 'Known' category excludes FGM Type Unknown and all cases where no value was returned for this data item.

Age at attendance [\(back\)](#)

1. Women and girls first recorded in the FGM Enhanced Dataset during the reporting period. This will include those identified as having FGM.
2. Commissioning region is derived from the patient's postcode of usual address, reverting to care provider or submitting organisation where unavailable.
3. National data has not been suppressed. Data below national level is suppressed: all numbers between 0 and 4 are obscured with an asterisk, and all other numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
4. When a woman with FGM has given birth to a baby girl, the baby should not be recorded in the dataset unless the baby girl has also been identified with FGM. We are aware that babies have been recorded in the dataset in error, and are working with the effected organisations to delete these records.
5. The 'Known' category excludes all cases where no valid date of birth was returned for this data item.

Country of birth [\(back\)](#)

1. Women and girls first recorded in the FGM Enhanced Dataset during the reporting period. This will include those identified as having FGM.
2. Commissioning region is derived from the patient's postcode of usual address, reverting to care provider or submitting organisation where unavailable.
3. National data has not been suppressed. Data below national level is suppressed: all numbers between 0 and 4 are obscured with an asterisk, and all other numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
4. The 'Not recorded' category includes all cases where no value was returned for this data item.
6. The 'Not stated or unknown' category includes all cases where a value was returned stating that this data item was unknown.

7. Of those women and girls with a known FGM type who were born in the UK, more than 40 per cent were reported with [FGM Type 4 - Piercing](#).
8. In Figure 2.3 'Rest of Africa' includes all cases where the recorded country of birth is in Northern, Middle and Southern Africa; and in Table 2.3 includes all those in Middle and Southern Africa, according to the UNSD regional mappings.
9. In Figure 2.3 'Rest of the World' includes all cases where the recorded country of birth is outside Africa, and in Table 2.3 includes all those outside of Africa, Asia and the United Kingdom, according to the UNSD regional mappings.
10. The 'Known' category excludes all cases where the country of birth was reported as not stated or unknown, and cases where no value has been returned for this data item.

Country where FGM undertaken [\(back\)](#)

1. Women and girls first recorded in the FGM Enhanced Dataset during the reporting period. This will include those identified as having FGM.
2. Commissioning region is derived from the patient's postcode of usual address, reverting to care provider or submitting organisation where unavailable.
3. National data has not been suppressed. Data below national level is suppressed: all numbers between 0 and 4 are obscured with an asterisk, and all other numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
4. The 'Not recorded' category includes all cases where no value was returned for this data item.
5. The 'Not stated or unknown' category includes all cases where a value was returned stating that this data item was unknown.
6. Of those women and girls with a known FGM type whose FGM was undertaken in the UK, more than 85 per cent were reported with [FGM Type 4 – Piercing](#).
7. In Table 2.4 'Rest of Africa' includes all cases where the recorded country where FGM was undertaken is in Middle and Southern Africa, according to the UNSD regional mappings.
8. In Figure 2.4 'Rest of the World' includes all cases where FGM is known to have been undertaken outside Eastern and Western Africa, and in Table 2.4 includes all those from outside of Africa, Western Asia and the United Kingdom, according to the UNSD regional mappings.
9. The 'Known' category excludes all cases where the country where FGM was undertaken was reported as not stated or unknown, and cases where no value has been returned for this data item.

Treatment function [\(back\)](#)

1. Women and girls may have one or more attendance during the reporting period. An attendance will be when a woman or girl with FGM has had treatment for her FGM or given birth to a baby girl, or when FGM has been identified.
2. Commissioning region is derived from the patient's postcode of usual address, reverting to care provider or submitting organisation where unavailable.

3. National data has not been suppressed. Data below national level is suppressed: all numbers between 0 and 4 are obscured with an asterisk, and all other numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
4. The 'Not recorded' category includes all cases where no value was returned for this data item.
5. In Table 2.5 'Paediatric Specialties' includes all cases where the recorded treatment function is one of well babies, paediatrics or community paediatrics.
6. In Figure 2.5 'Other Specialty' includes all cases where the recorded treatment function is not obstetrics, gynaecology, or the midwifery service, and in Table 2.5 it includes all cases where the recorded treatment function is not one of midwifery service, obstetrics, gynaecology, mental health recovery and rehabilitation service, well babies, paediatrics, genitourinary medicine or community paediatrics.
7. The 'Known' category excludes all cases where no value was returned for this data item.

Deinfibulation [\(back\)](#)

1. Women and girls may have one or more attendance during the reporting period. An attendance will be when a woman or girl with FGM has had treatment for her FGM or given birth to a baby girl, or when FGM has been identified.
2. Commissioning region is derived from the patient's postcode of usual address, reverting to care provider or submitting organisation where unavailable.
3. National data has not been suppressed. Data below national level is suppressed: all numbers between 0 and 4 are obscured with an asterisk, and all other numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
4. The 'Not recorded' category includes all cases where no value was returned for this data item.
5. The 'Known' category excludes all cases where no value was returned for this data item.

Definitions

FGM Type [\(back\)](#)

The FGM types defined by the [World Health Organisation](#) and used in the FGM Enhanced Dataset are:

- **Type 1:** Partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the prepuce (clitoridectomy).
- **Type 2:** Partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (excision).
- **Type 3:** Narrowing of the vaginal orifice with creation of a covering seal by cutting and appositioning the labia minora and/or the labia majora, with or without excision of the clitoris (infibulation).
- **History of Type 3:** Current state where a woman or girl had FGM Type 3, but has since been deinfibulated.
- **Type 3 – Reinfibulation identified:** Current state where a woman or girl has been closed previously, opened and is currently closed again.

- **Type 4:** All other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, including pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterization.
- **Unknown:** When the FGM category could not be ascertained. It is acknowledged that even for experienced healthcare workers who frequently see women and girls with FGM it can still often be difficult to determine the type of FGM that had been undertaken.

Are piercings included?

- **Yes.** While adult women may choose to have genital piercings, in some communities girls are forced to have them. The World Health Organisation currently defines all female genital piercings as a form of FGM. The data item FGM Type 4 Qualifier allows users to specify that the FGM was a piercing. Genital piercings are classed as FGM Type 4 - Piercing.

Treatment function [\(back\)](#)

Common [treatment functions](#) associated with the identification and treatment of FGM include:

- **Midwifery Service:** health services run by midwives to care for women during pregnancy, childbirth and in the postpartum period following childbirth. Midwives typically oversee low risk pregnancies.
- **Obstetrics:** medical services run by doctors that specialise in the care of women during pregnancy, childbirth and in the postpartum period following childbirth. Obstetricians typically oversee more risky pregnancies, including surgical interventions.
- **Mental Health Recovery and Rehabilitation Service:** specialist services that support people with longer term mental health problems, with a focus on rehabilitation and recovery.
- **Gynaecology:** the branch of medicine that specialises in the health and maintenance of the female reproductive systems (vagina, uterus and ovaries) and breasts.
- **Genitourinary Medicine:** relates to the care of people's sexual health; offering information, screening, advice and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV infection.

Deinfibulation [\(back\)](#)

- **Infibulation or FGM Type 3** is the narrowing of the vaginal orifice with creation of a covering seal by cutting and appositioning the labia minora and/or the labia majora, with or without excision of the clitoris.
- **Deinfibulation** is the surgical procedure to open up the closed vagina of a woman or girl with FGM Type 3. Deinfibulation is often undertaken to facilitate delivery during childbirth.
- **Reinfibulation** is where a woman or girl has been closed previously (infibulated), opened (deinfibulated) and is currently closed again (reinfibulated).

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ISBN 978-1-78386-959-6

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