

It's Happening Here:
the Urgent Need for Anti-FGM Legislation
in Kentucky



ahafoundation

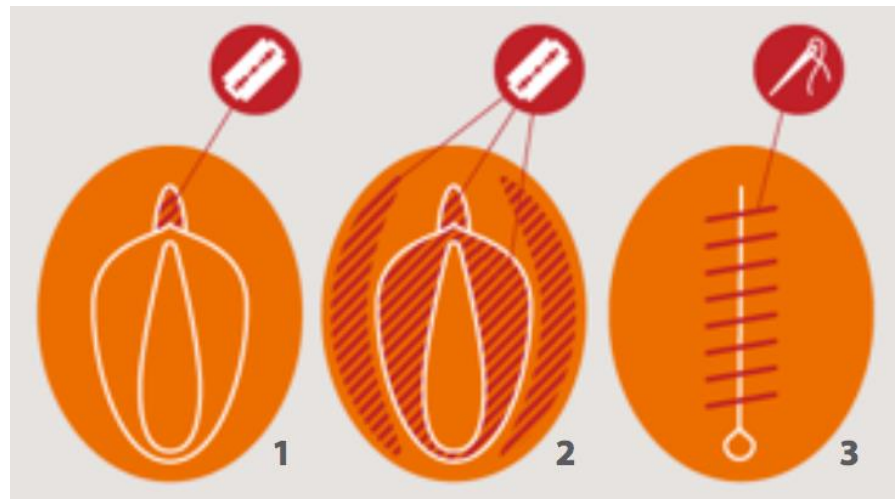
AHA Foundation

- *The AHA Foundation believes in liberty for all women and girls.*
- *Honor Violence*
- *Forced Marriage*
- *Child Marriage*
- *Female Genital Mutilation*



Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

- The World Health Organization defines FGM/C as “all procedures that involve partial or total removal of external female genitalia, or other injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons.”
- WHO classifies FGM/C into four major types





FGM/C Has No Health Benefits

- According to the WHO, FGM/C has “no health benefits for girls and women”. The procedure **involves the removal and/or damage of normal and healthy female genital tissue.**
- The WHO makes it clear that FGM/C is a **human rights violation** and must not be performed in any form, not even by a health-care provider.
- FGM is recognized globally as a human rights violation that according to the WHO “reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women.” Because FGM is typically carried out on minors, it is also a violation of the rights of children.



Health and Psychological Consequences

- Immediate Complications:
 - Severe pain, shock, hemorrhage (bleeding), tetanus or sepsis (bacterial infection), urine retention, open sores in the genital region, and injury to nearby genital tissue.
- Long Term Consequences:
 - Recurrent bladder and urinary tract infections, cysts, infertility, complications during sexual intercourse and childbirth, and an increase in newborn deaths.
- Consequences to Babies of Mothers Who Have Undergone FGM/C:
 - Higher rates of neonatal death, increased risk of stillbirth, infants requiring resuscitation, and low birth weights.

– Source: World Health Organization

Health and Psychological Consequences

It is important to note that because FGM is often performed on minors, girls may not know what has happened to them until much later in life.

- Psychological Consequences:
 - Women and girls who have undergone FGM/C
 - loss of trust, betrayal, post-traumatic shock, depression, anxiety, guilt, suicidal ideation
 - Women who have resisted FGM/C
 - become a social outcast and are shamed for their ‘uncleanliness’
 - may be at risk for honor violence or abuse because the family’s honor lies with girls undergoing FGM procedures

– Source: World Health Organization



Why is FGM/C Practiced?

- Causes of FGM/C include a mix of cultural, social, and religious factors within families and communities.



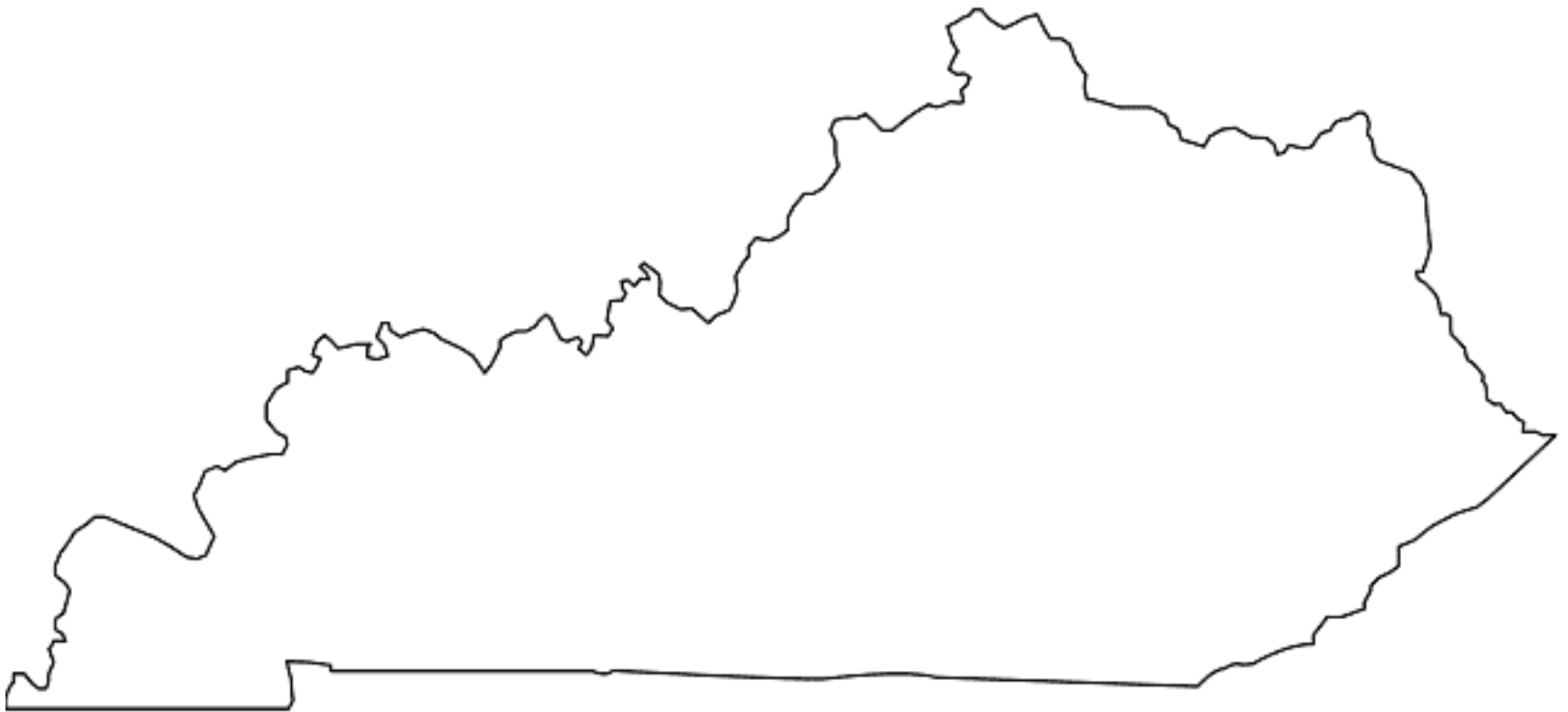


The approximate
**NUMBER OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE U.S.
THAT HAVE EITHER SUFFERED THE PROCEDURE
OR ARE AT RISK OF FGM,**
according to the Centers for Disease Control,
a number that approximately
DOUBLED
BETWEEN 2000 AND 2014.



1,845 Women & Girls At Risk in Kentucky

-Population Reference Bureau





DOCTOR CHARGED IN MUTILATION CASE

BREAKING NEWS ALERT



Jumana Nagarwala, M.D.

Performed female genital
mutilation on minors

Ages 6 to 8

First known case

■ Serious federal felony





“Federalism concerns deprive Congress of the power to enact this statute...”

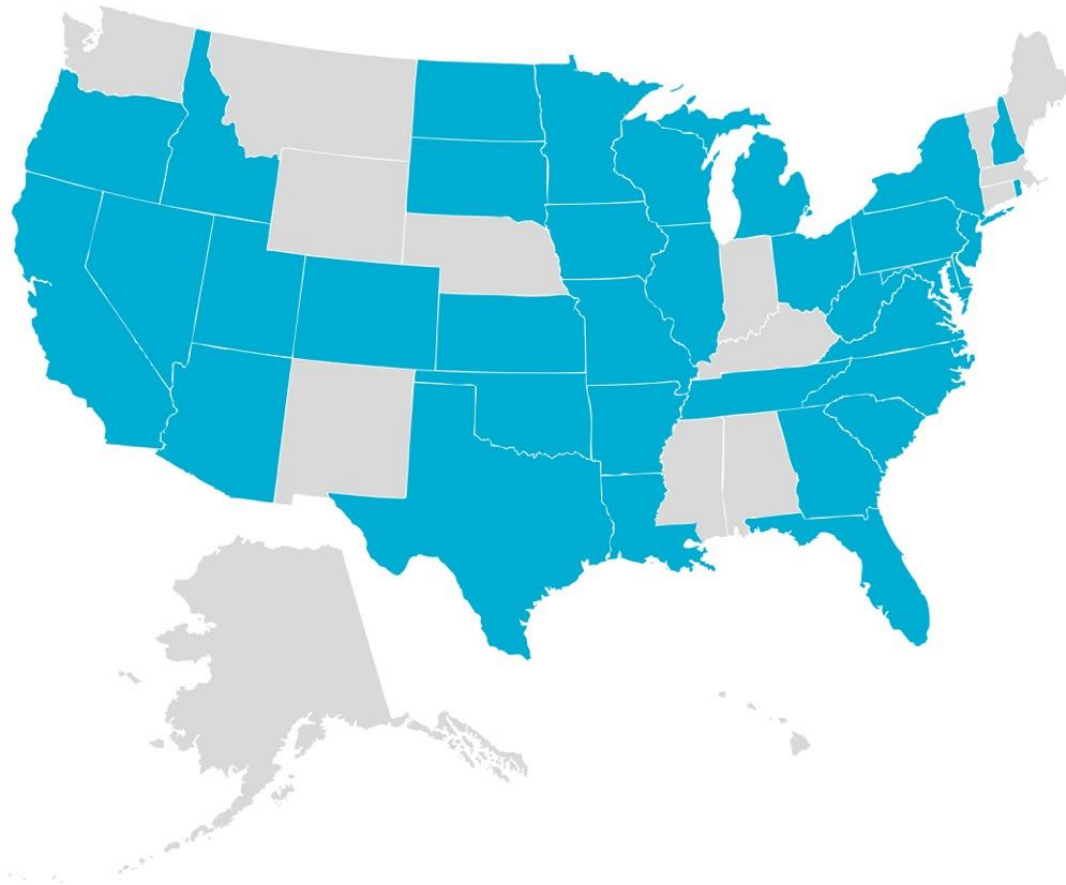
“Congress overstepped its bounds by legislating to prohibit FGM” because “FGM is a ‘local criminal activity’ which, in keeping with longstanding tradition and our federal system of government, is for the states to regulate, not Congress.”

*-Judge Bernard Friedman of the
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan*



U.S. STATE FGM/C CRIMINAL LAWS

Only 35 states have laws against FGM/C





Sen. Adams' Draft Bill

- Female genital mutilation on a minor = Class B felony
- Bans trafficking a girl across state lines for FGM
- Provides education and outreach to communities and professionals likely to encounter cases of FGM
- Mandates training for law enforcement
- Revokes license of medical providers convicted of FGM
- Provides for a civil action for survivors up to 10 years past their 18th birthday
- Defines FGM as child abuse
- Includes mandatory reporting of FGM
- Becomes effective upon passage



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*It is a matter of principle that
women are free and equal.*

-Ayaan Hirsi Ali