



CITY UNIVERSITY  
LONDON



# Estimating the numbers of women with female genital mutilation in England and Wales

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Equality Now

Funded by the Home Office and the Trust for London



**Efua Dorkenoo, 1949-2014**

# Definition

## **Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting (FGM)**

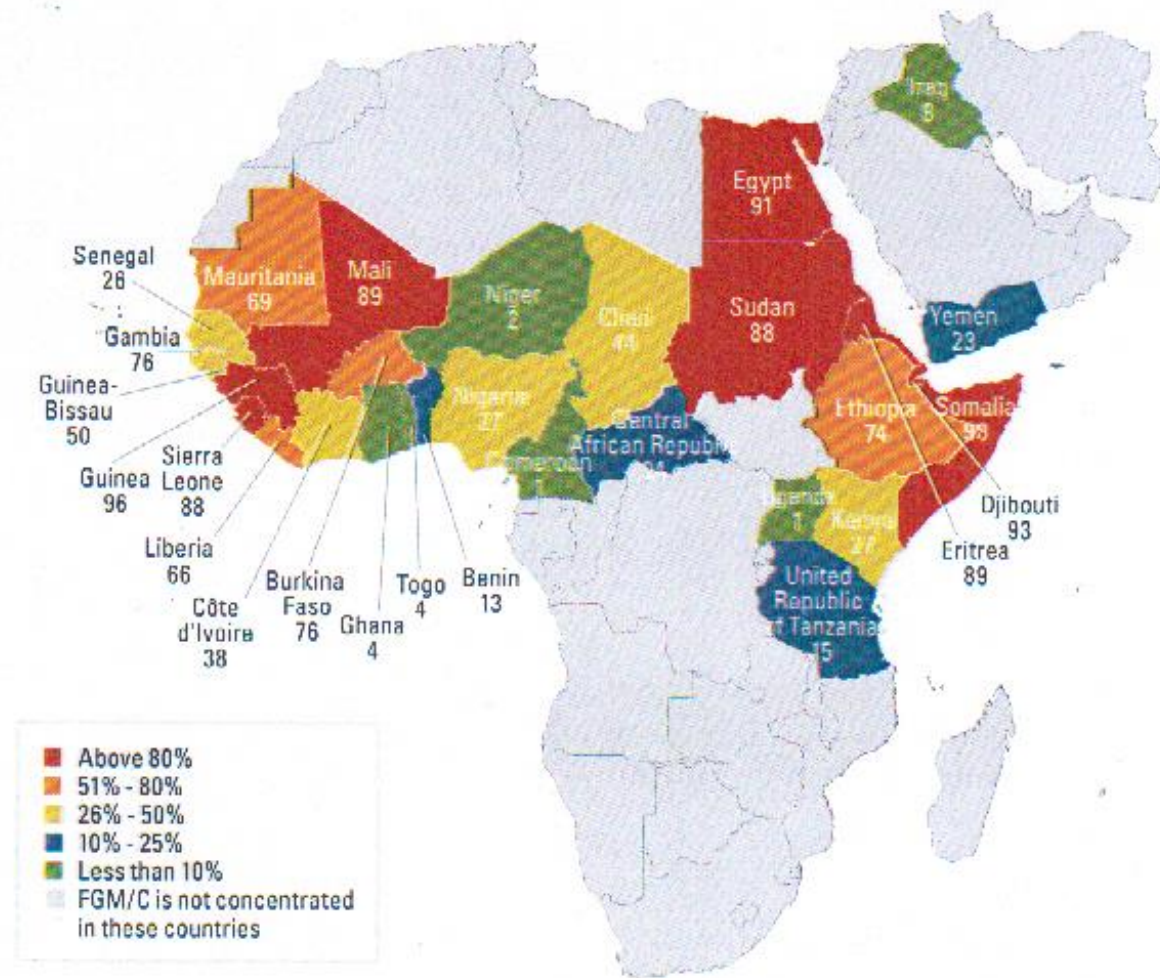
comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the female external genitalia and/or injury to the female genital organs for cultural or non-any other non-therapeutic reasons (WHO 1995).

# WHO classification of FGM by type

- I Partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the prepuce (clitoridectomy).
- II Partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (excision).  
minora and the labia majora.
- III 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).
- IV Unclassified: All other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, usually for cosmetic purposes.

## Map 4.1 FGM/C is concentrated in a swath of countries from the Atlantic Coast to the Horn of Africa

Percentage of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM/C, by country

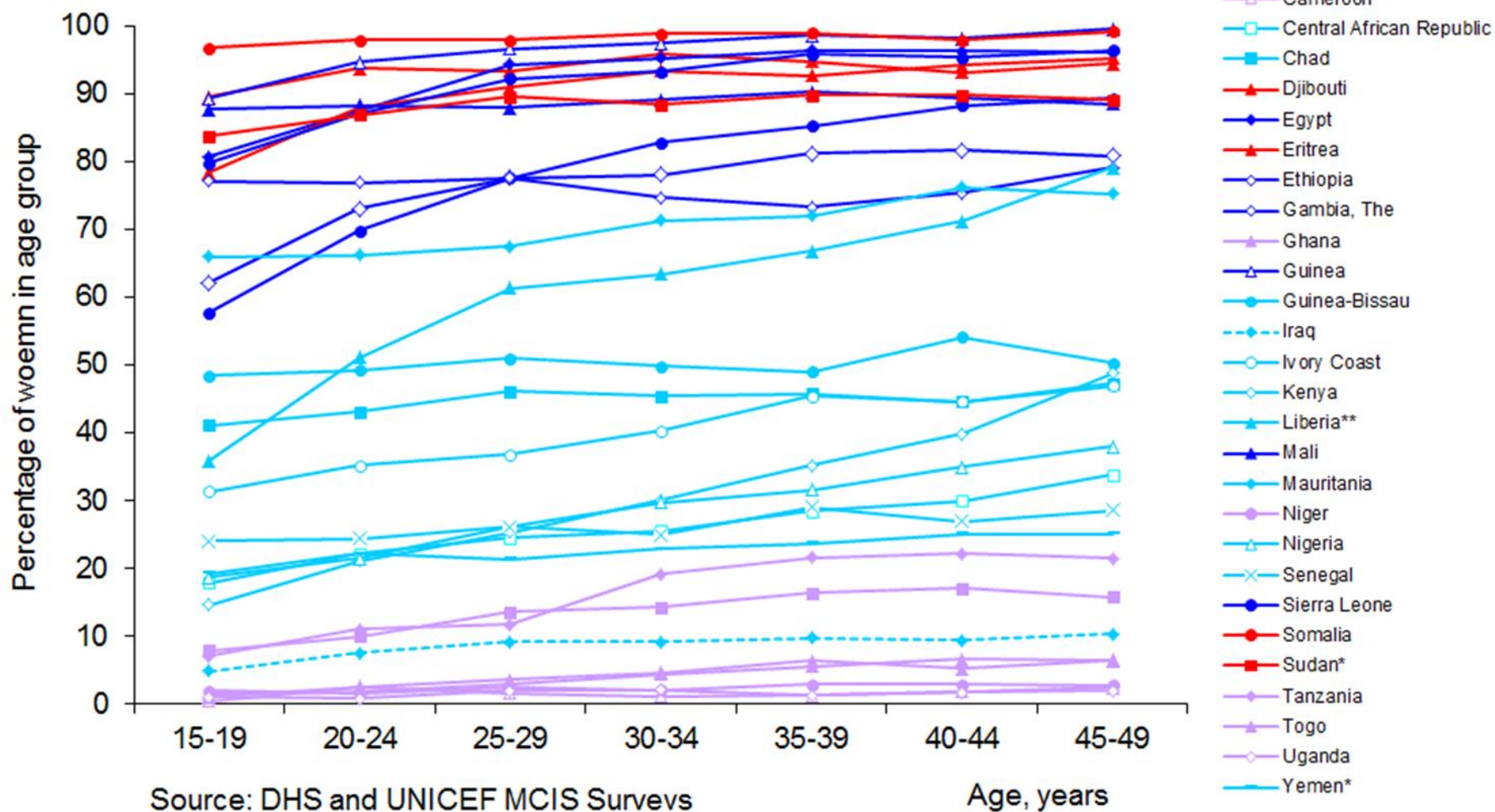


Source: UNICEF: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change. 2013

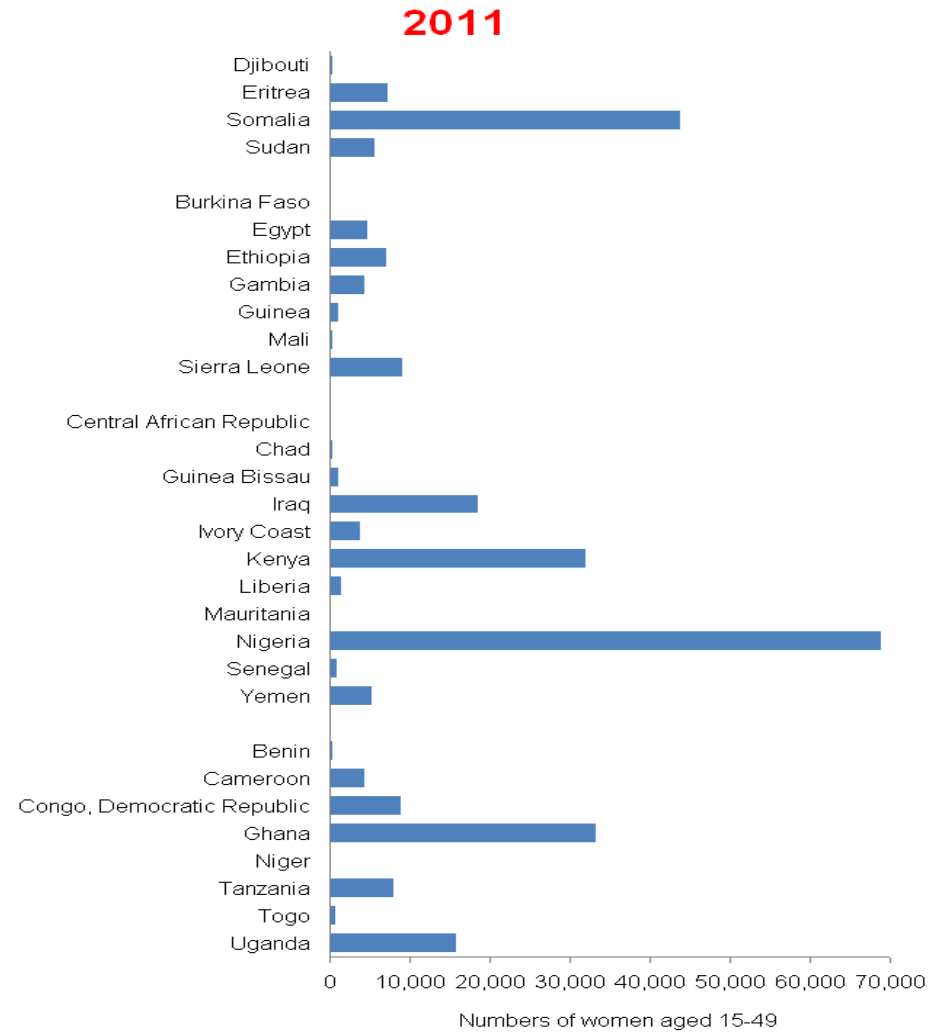
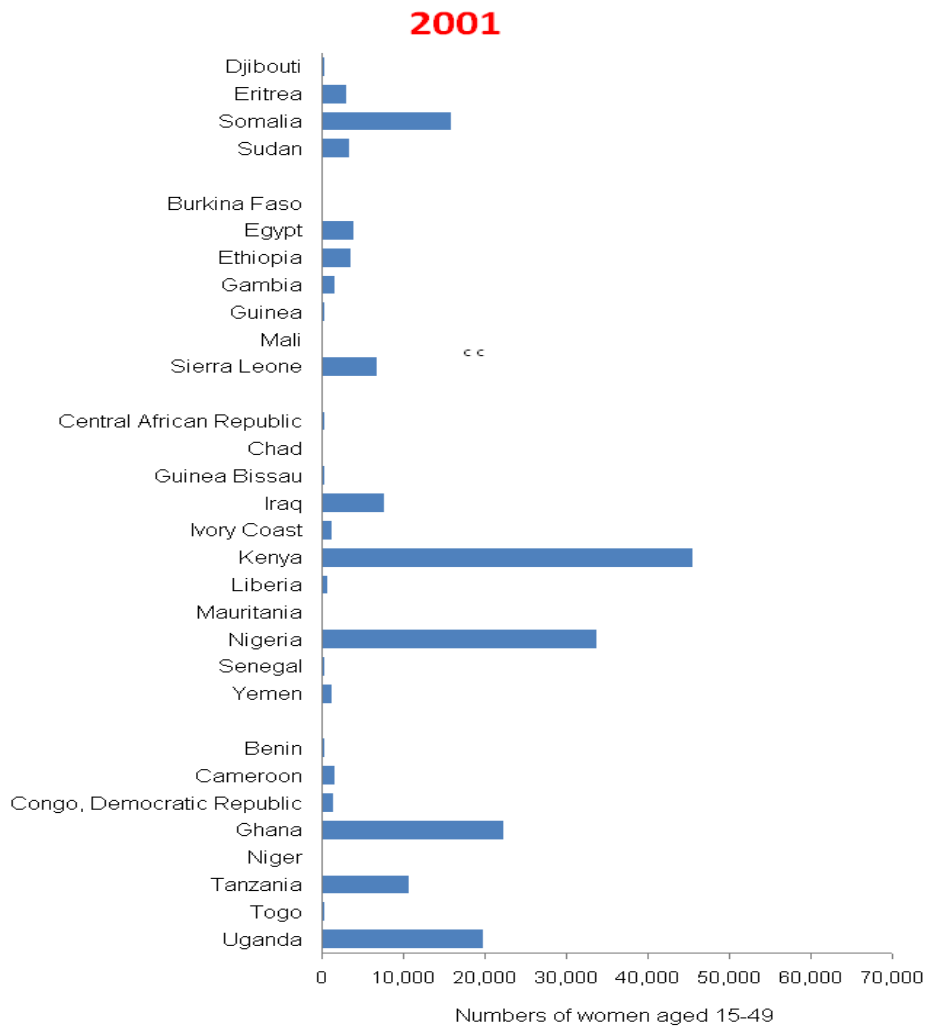
# Grouping of countries by level and types of FGM

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 1.1 | Almost universal FGM, over 30% WHO Type III             | Sudan (north), Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti  |
| 1.2 | High national prevalence of FGM, WHO Types I and II     | Egypt, Ethiopia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone  |
| 2   | Moderate national prevalence of FGM, WHO Types I and II | Central African Republic, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Iraq (Kurdistan), Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo |
| 3   | Low national prevalence of FGM, WHO Types FGM I and II  | Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Niger, (Democratic Republic of Congo), United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Yemen                    |

# Percentages of women with FGM by age and country



# Numbers of women aged 15-49 born in FGM-practising countries, England and Wales

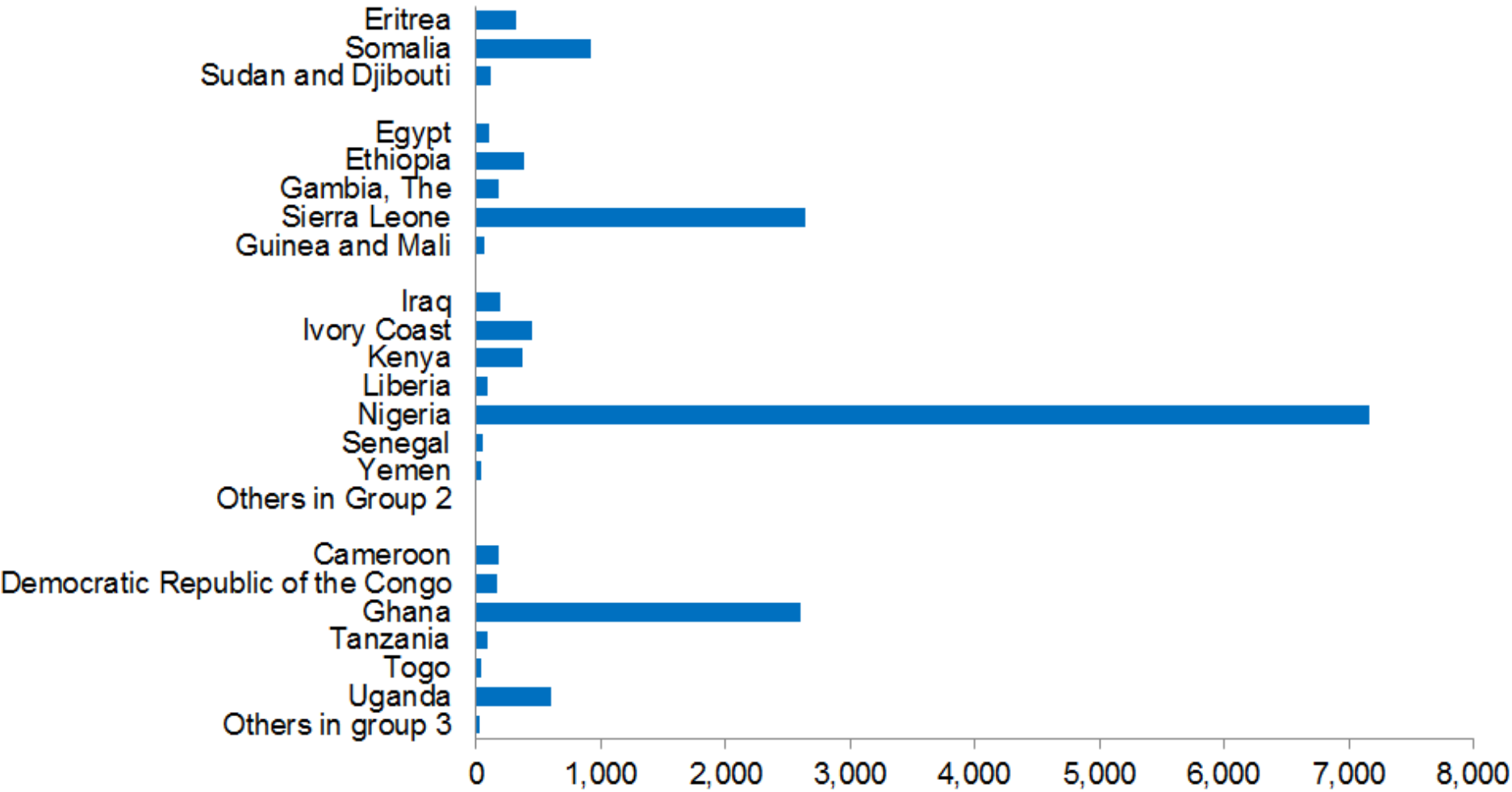




# Numbers of women aged 15-49 born in FGM practising countries, England and Wales, 2001 and 2011

Country group	2001	2011
1.1	21,841	56,245
1.2	15,306	25,664
2	89,795	130,663
3	55,132	70,417
<b>All</b>	<b>182,074</b>	<b>282,989</b>

# Numbers of women and girls of all ages permanently resident in Southwark born in FGM practising countries, 2011



## Numbers of women and girls born in FGM practising countries, Southwark, 2011

Country group	Under 15	15-49	50 and over
1.1	47	1,056	248
1.2	109	2,646	618
2	390	6,054	1,930
3	98	2,542	1,067
<b>All</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>12,298</b>	<b>3,863</b>

## **Why estimates are needed**

Estimates of the prevalence of FGM in England and Wales are needed:

To plan services for affected women

To inform child protection for their daughters

As numbers of women resident in England and Wales and born in countries where FGM is practised have increased, previous estimates based on 2001 census and births from 2001 to 2004 are out of date.

# Aims

To produce for England and Wales and for each local authority area, estimates of:

1. Numbers of women with FGM in the population enumerated in 2011 census
2. Numbers of women with FGM giving birth, 2005-2013
3. Numbers of daughters born, 2005-2013 to women with FGM

# **Indirect estimates of prevalence of FGM**

**Used data on age specific prevalence by country of origin from surveys in FGM practising countries with data:**

Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)  
implemented by Macro International for USAID.

Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys (MCIS)  
undertaken by governments with help from UNICEF or other UN agencies.

# Indirect estimates of prevalence of FGM

Applied data on age specific prevalence to:

Numbers of women born in these countries  
enumerated in 2011 population census

Birth registration data about women delivering and  
numbers of girls born 2005-2013

# Accessing data for analysis

Anonymised census and birth registration records were analysed in the secure environment of the Office for National Statistics' Virtual Microprocessor Laboratory (VML)

Disclaimer;

'This work contains statistical data from ONS which is Crown Copyright. The use of the ONS statistical data in this work does not imply the endorsement of the ONS in relation to the interpretation or analysis of the statistical data. This work uses research datasets which may not exactly reproduce National Statistics aggregates'



# Estimating number of women with FGM

Census data:

Country of birth

Age

Ethnicity, standard categories

Ethnicity, self reported

Religion

Exclusions

Hindu, Buddhist or Sikh religion

White or South Asian ethnicity

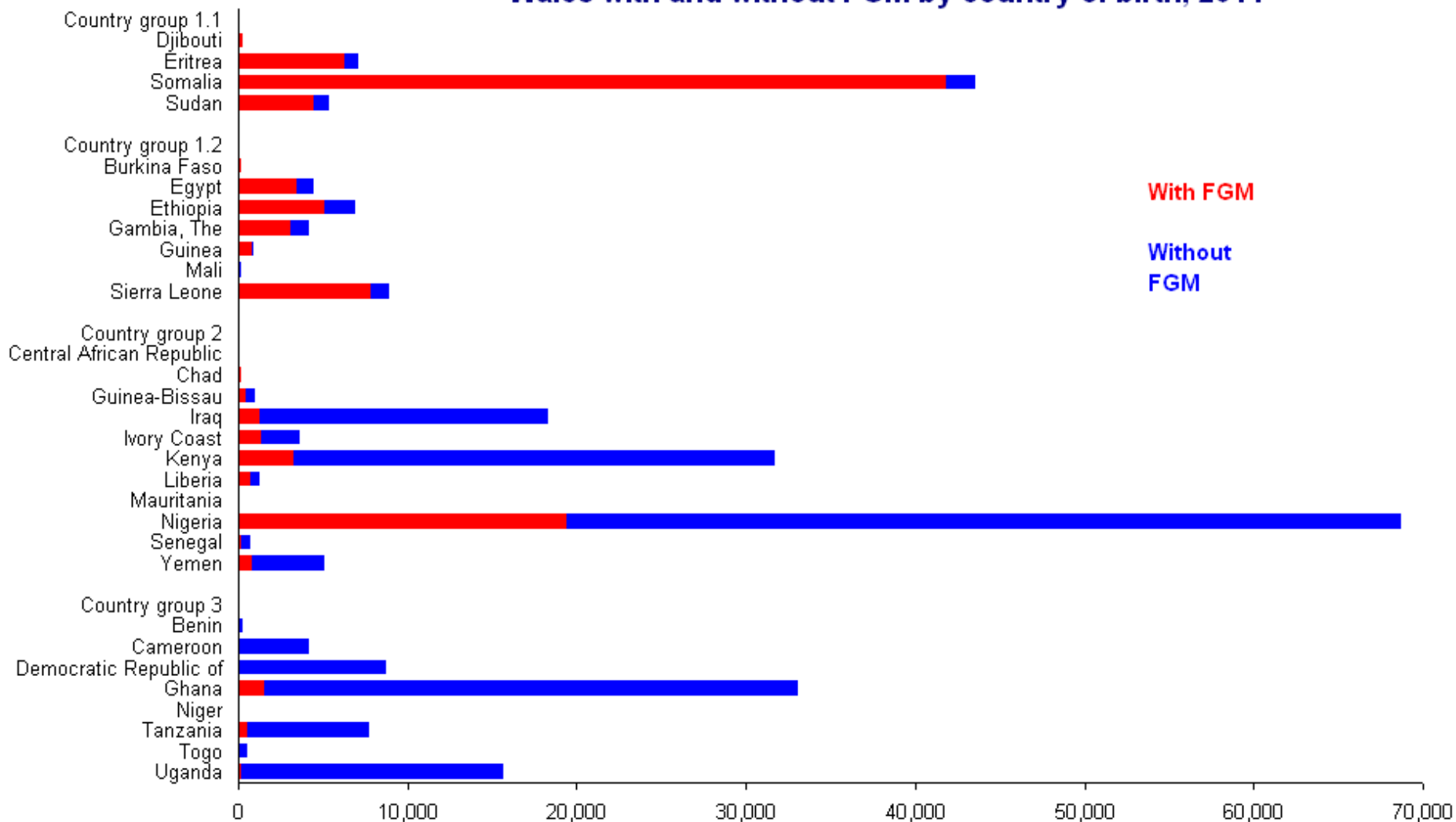
# Estimating number of women with FGM

Tabulate anonymised census records by country of birth and age group nationally, regionally and for each local authority of residence

Multiply numbers in each age group prevalence rates for each age group in country of birth, using rate for 15-19 for 0-14 age group and rate for 40-49 for 50+ age group

Produce aggregated totals for 0-14, 15-49 and 50+ age groups

## Estimated numbers of women aged 15-49 permanently resident in England and Wales with and without FGM by country of birth, 2011



# Numbers of women aged 15-49 born in FGM practising countries and estimated numbers with FGM, 2011

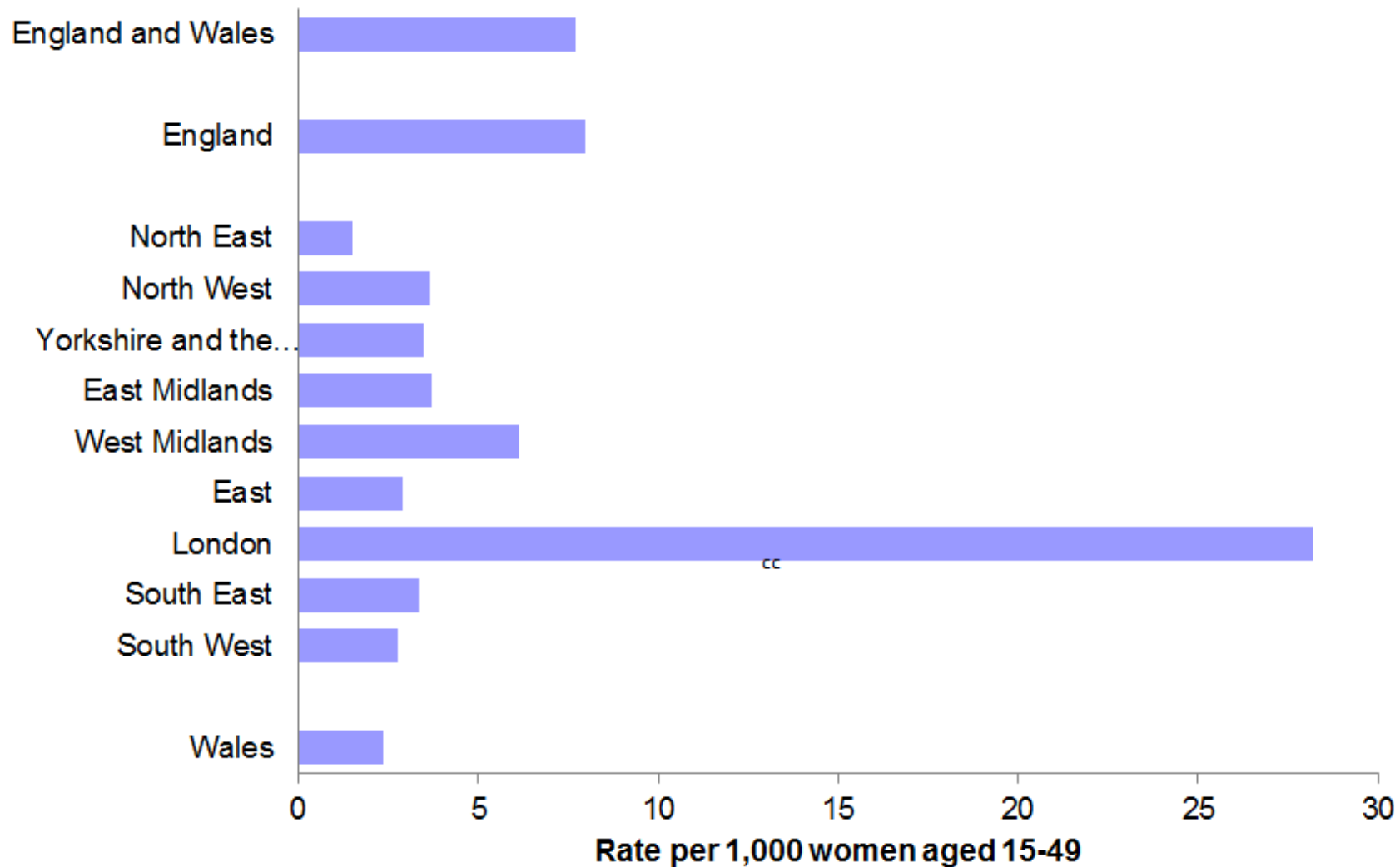
Country group	Enumerated	Estimated numbers with FGM
1.1	56,245	52,717
1.2	25,664	20,556
2	130,663	27,269
3	70,417	2,276
<b>All</b>	<b>282,989</b>	<b>103,177</b>

# Estimates for local authority areas

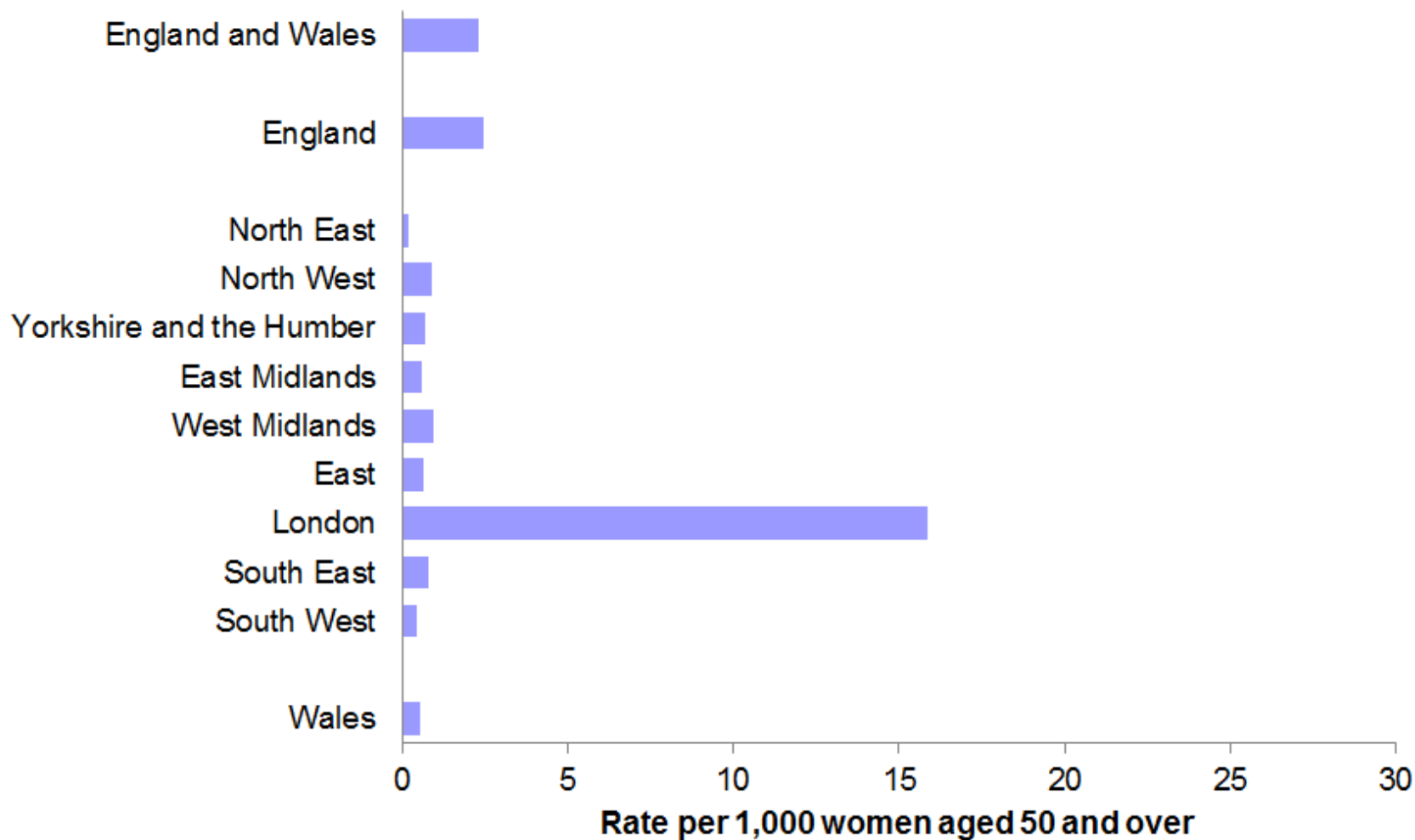
Numbers related to numbers of women in population.

Prevalence = number per 1,000 women in area

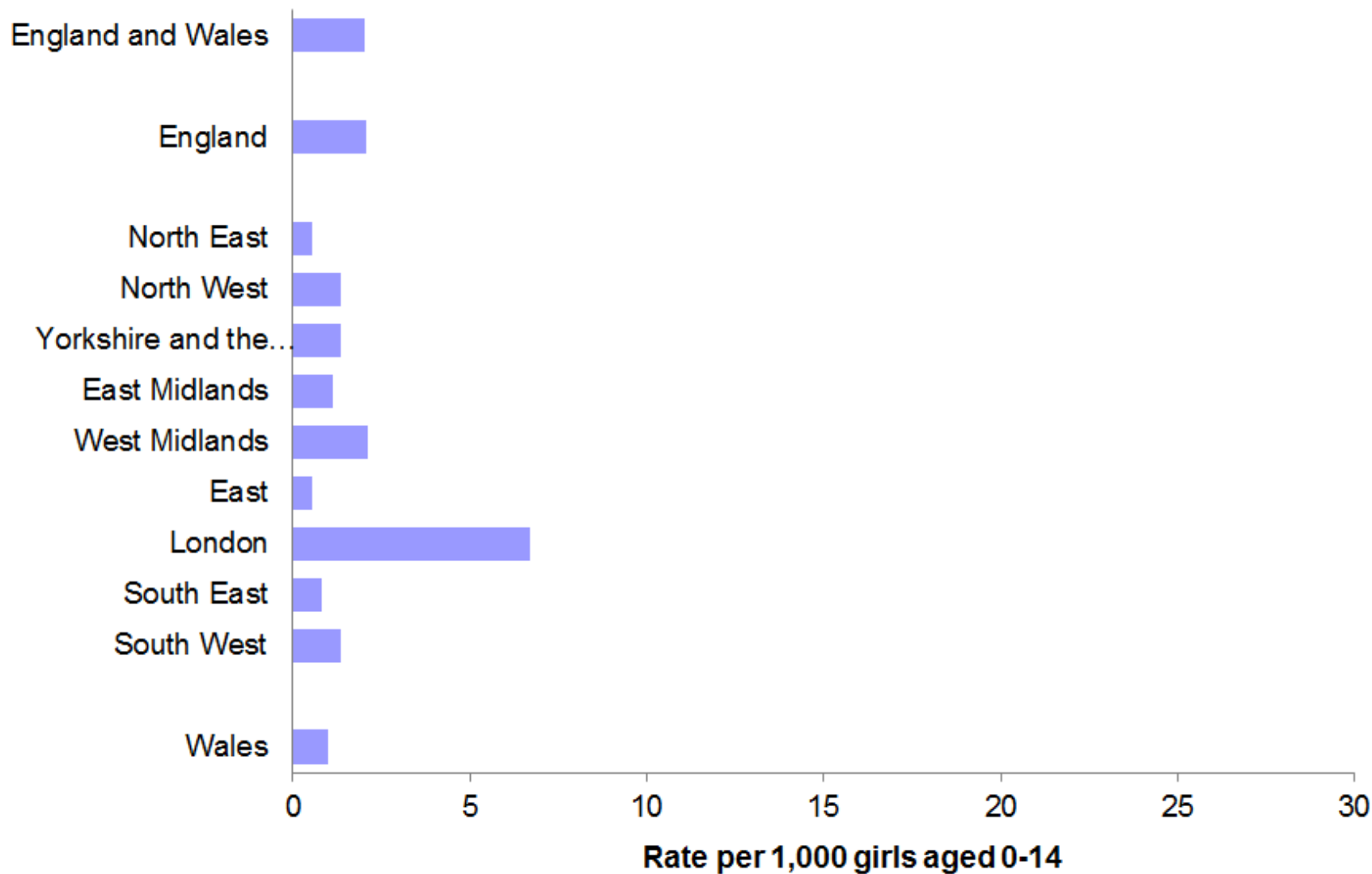
## Estimated prevalence of FGM among women aged 15-49 by region



## Estimated prevalence of FGM among women aged 50 and over by region



## Estimated prevalence of FGM among women aged 0-14 by region



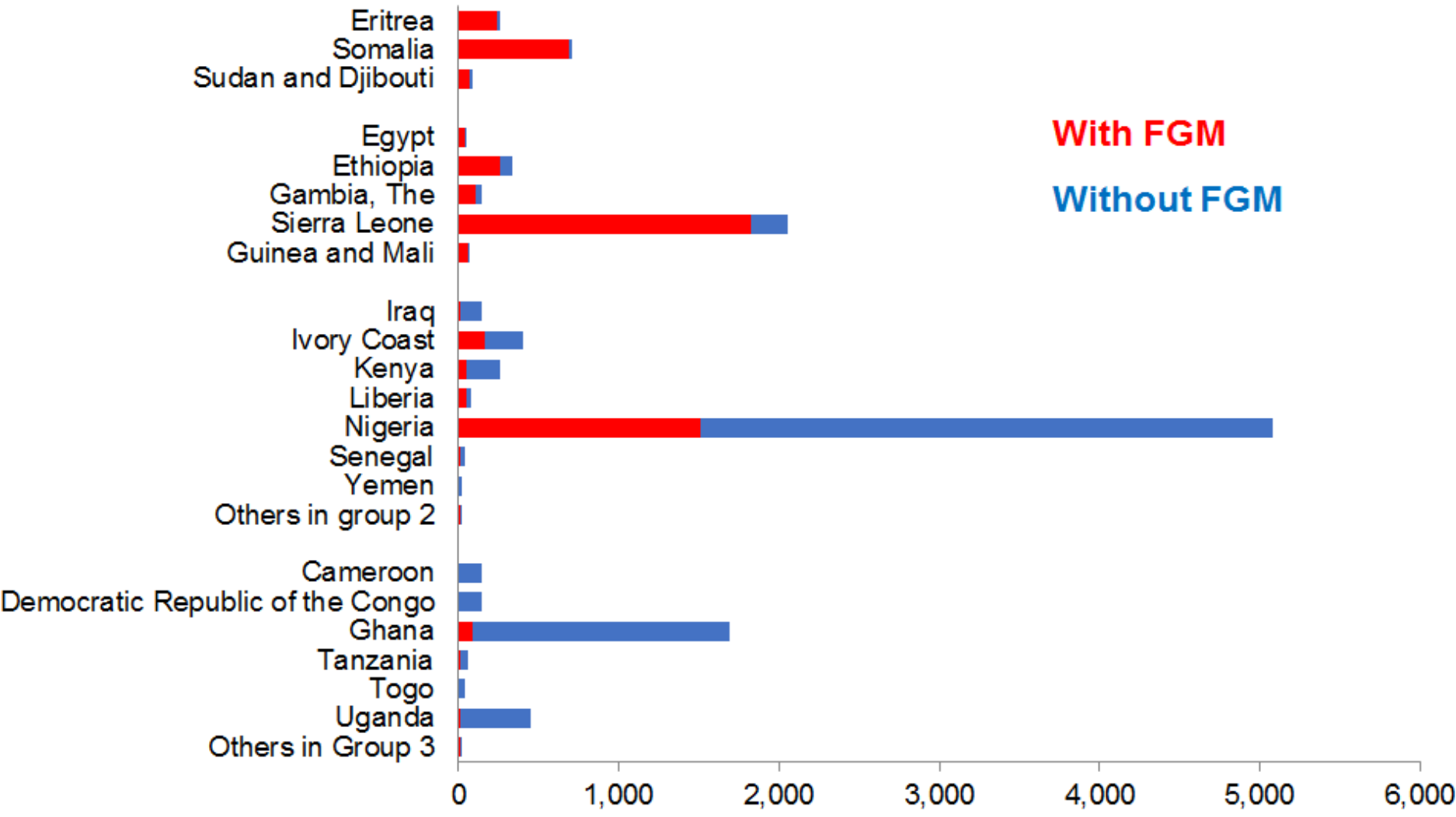


# **Estimated prevalence rates per 1,000 women in the population by local authority, 2011**

For maps of prevalence rates, see:

<http://gicentre.org/fgm2015/>

## Estimated numbers of women aged 15-49 permanently resident in Southwark with and without FGM by country of birth, 2011



**Estimated numbers of women and girls born in  
FGM practising countries with FGM,  
Southwark, 2011**

<b>Country group</b>	<b>Under 15</b>	<b>15-49</b>	<b>50 and over</b>
1.1	43	990	237
1.2	84	2,278	545
2	73	1,804	683
3	1	104	57
<b>All</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>5,176</b>	<b>1,523</b>

# Numbers of women with FGM giving birth

# Estimation of numbers of women with FGM giving birth and daughters born

Same principle as for census, but data more limited

Country of birth of mother and father

Age of mother

Sex of child

Number of children born – singleton, twins ...

Ethnicity and religion not recorded so country and age specific multiplying factors derived from census data to estimate numbers of women who should be excluded.

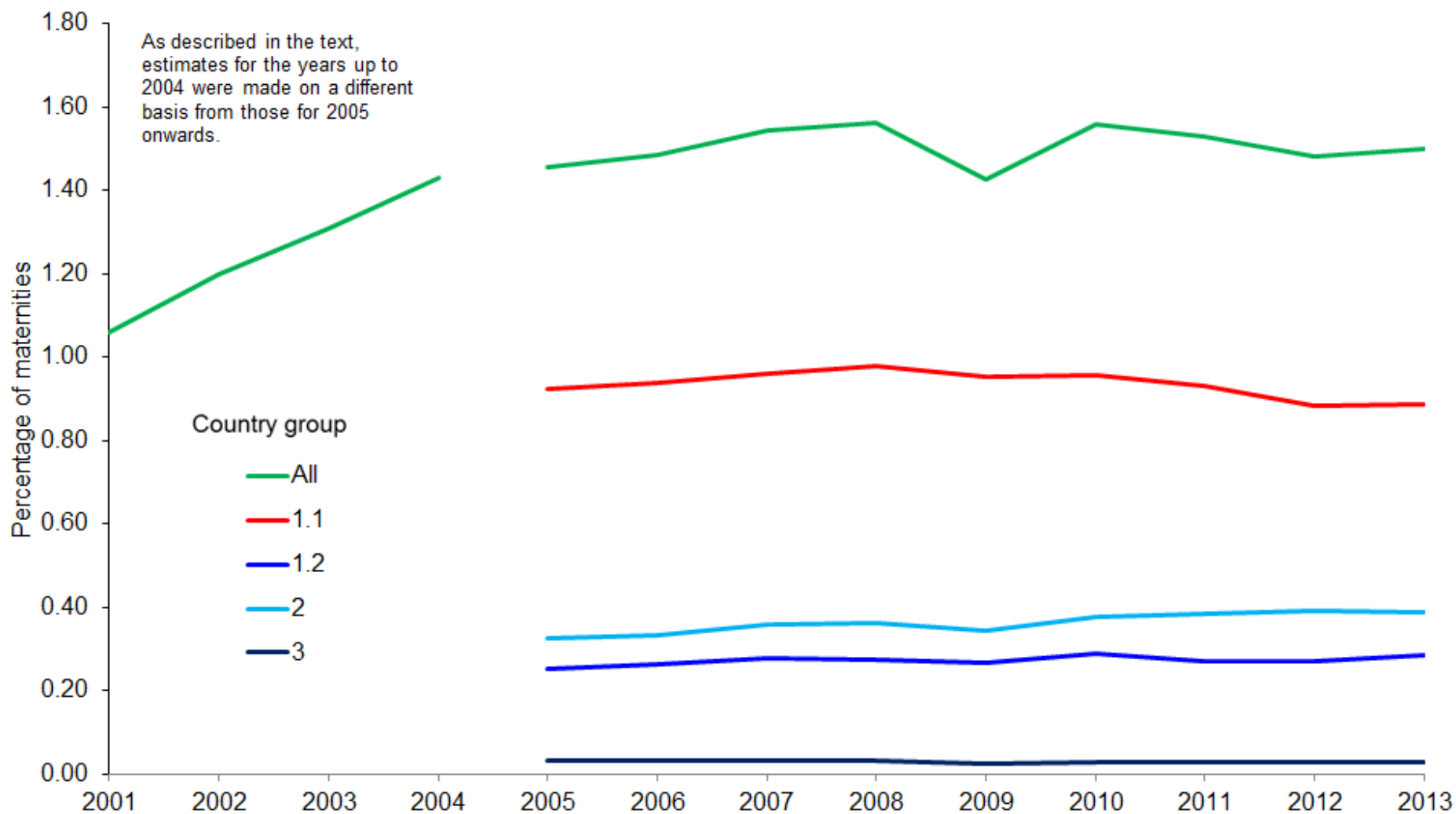
# Definition

## Maternity:

A pregnancy ending with one or more registered live or stillbirth

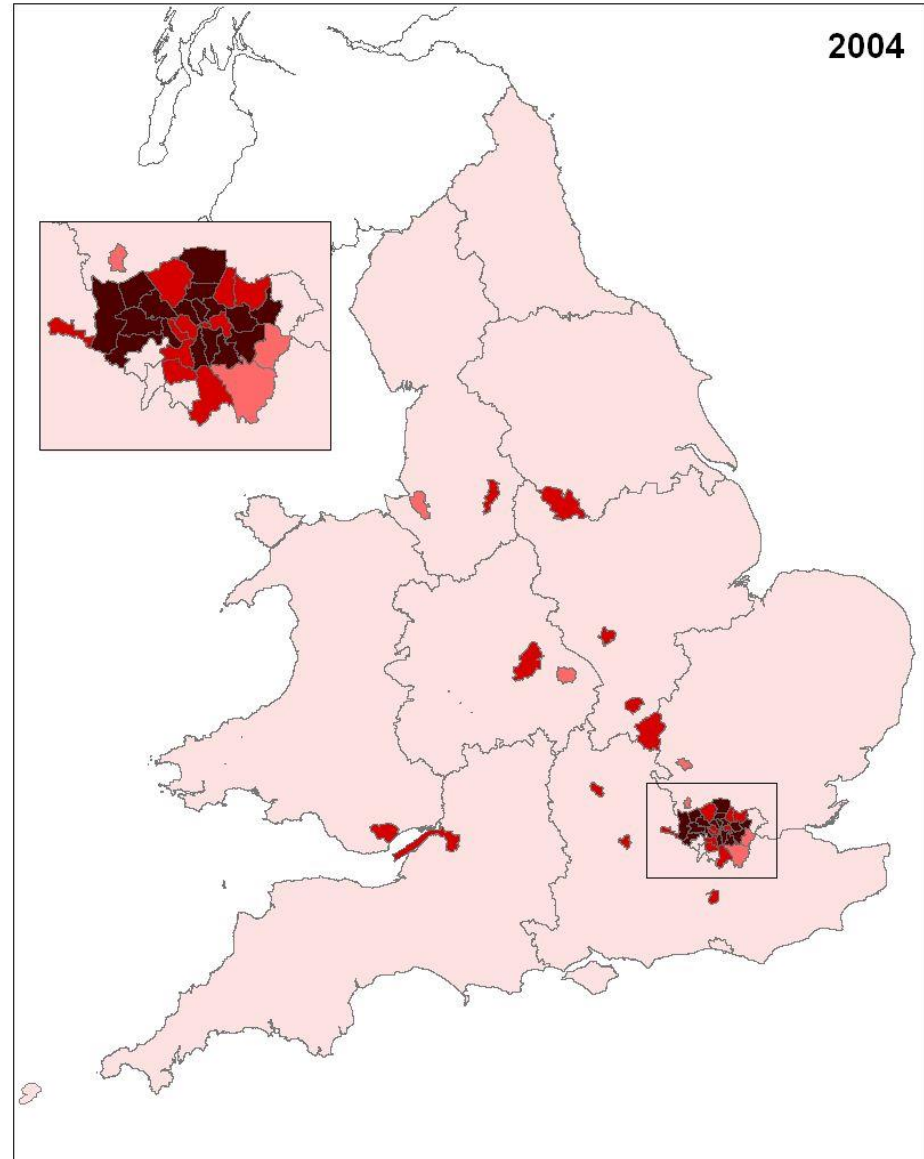
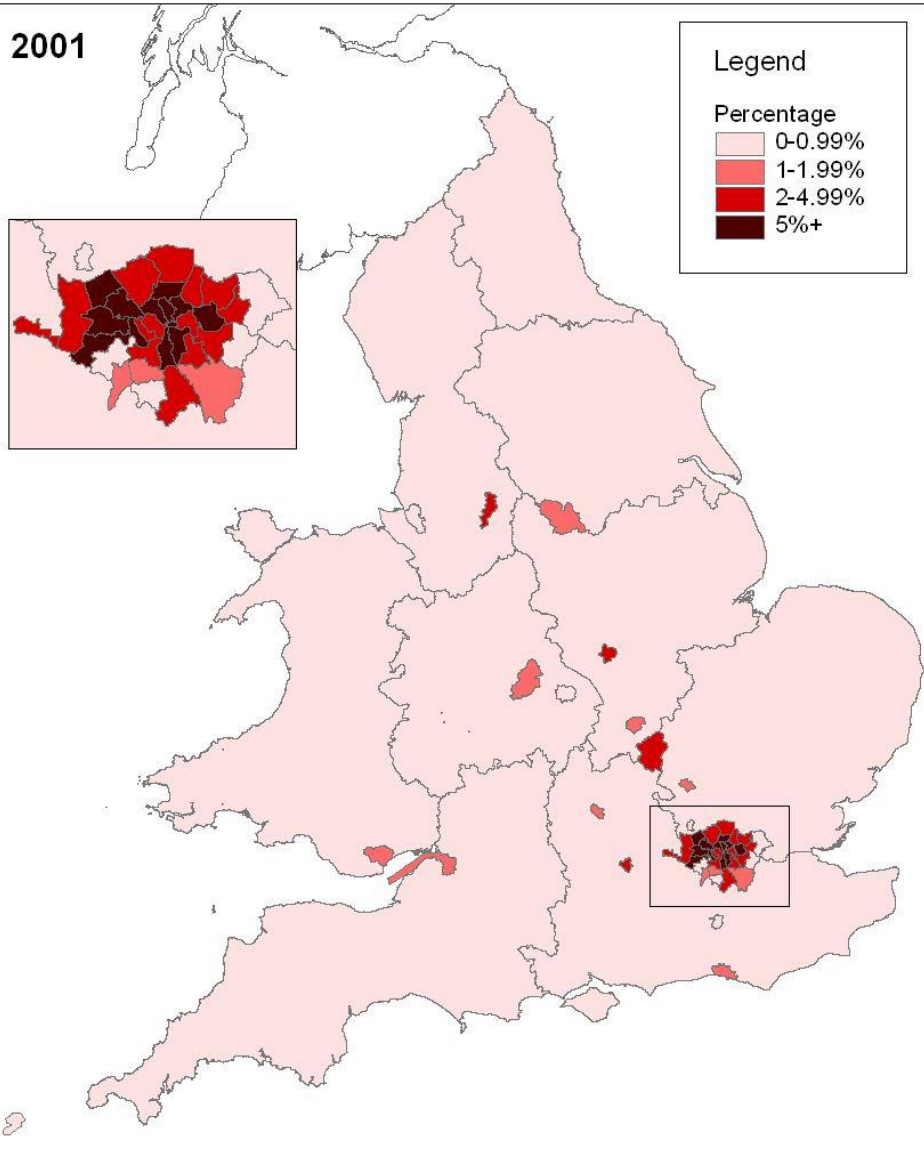
This is a measure of the number of women giving birth. If a woman has twins this counts as one maternity

## Estimated percentage of all maternities in England and Wales to women with FGM, 2001-2013



Source: Authors' analysis of ONS data

# Estimated percentage of maternities to women with FGM in England and Wales, 2001 and 2004



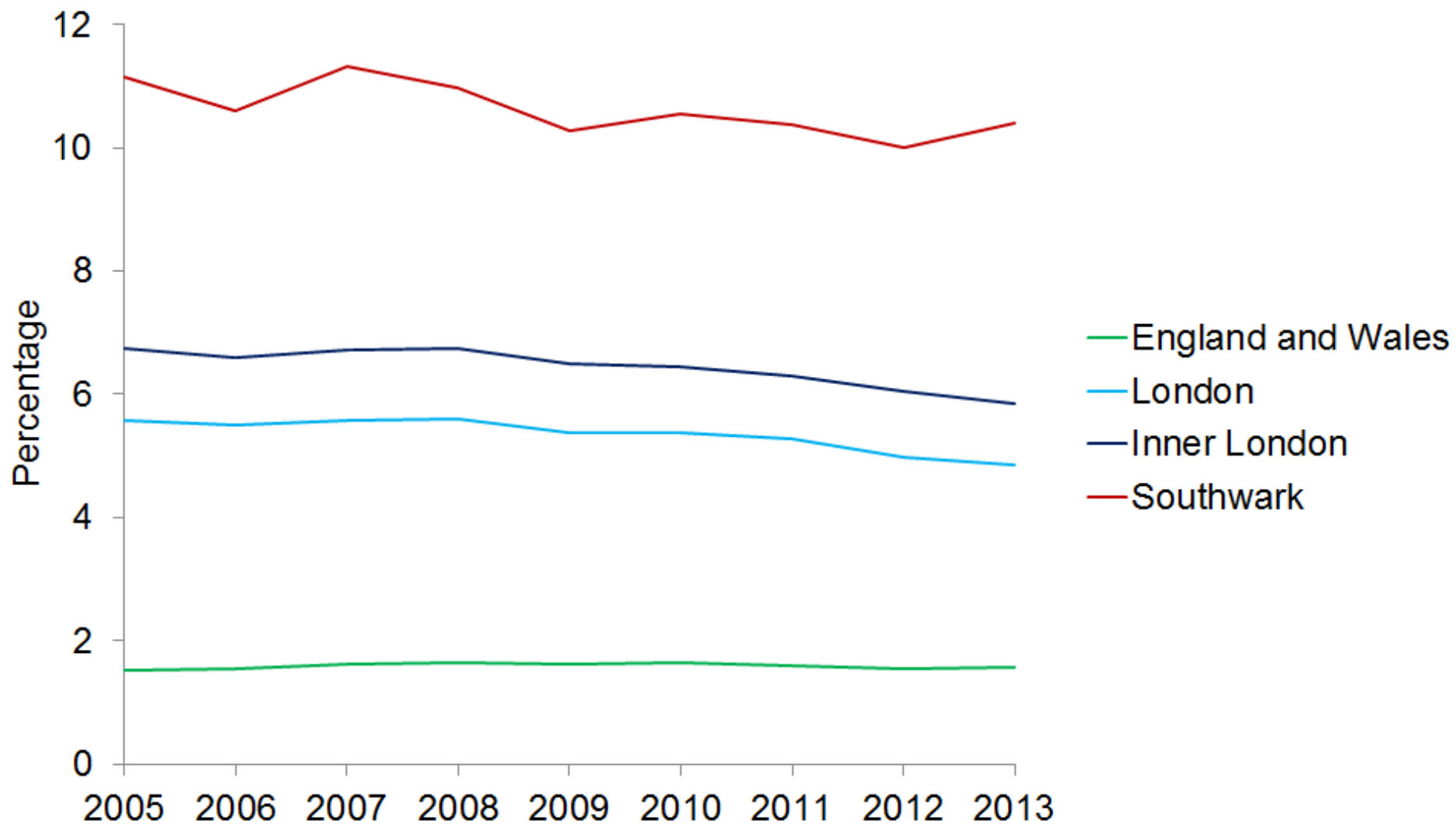


# **Estimated percentages of maternities which were to mothers with FGM by local authority, 2005-2013**

For maps, see:

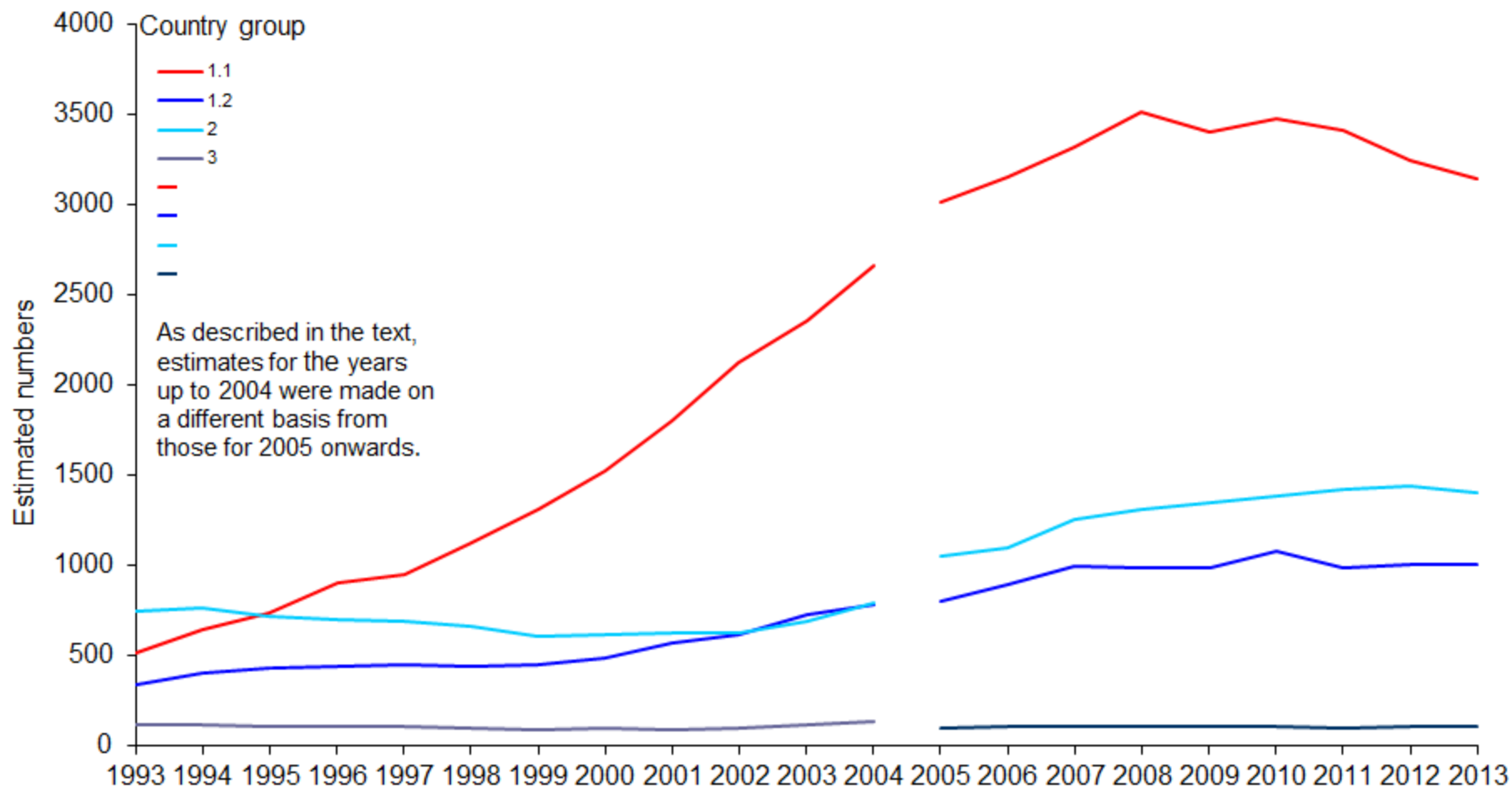
<http://gicentre.org/fgm2015/>

## Estimated percentage of maternities to women with FGM, 2005-2013



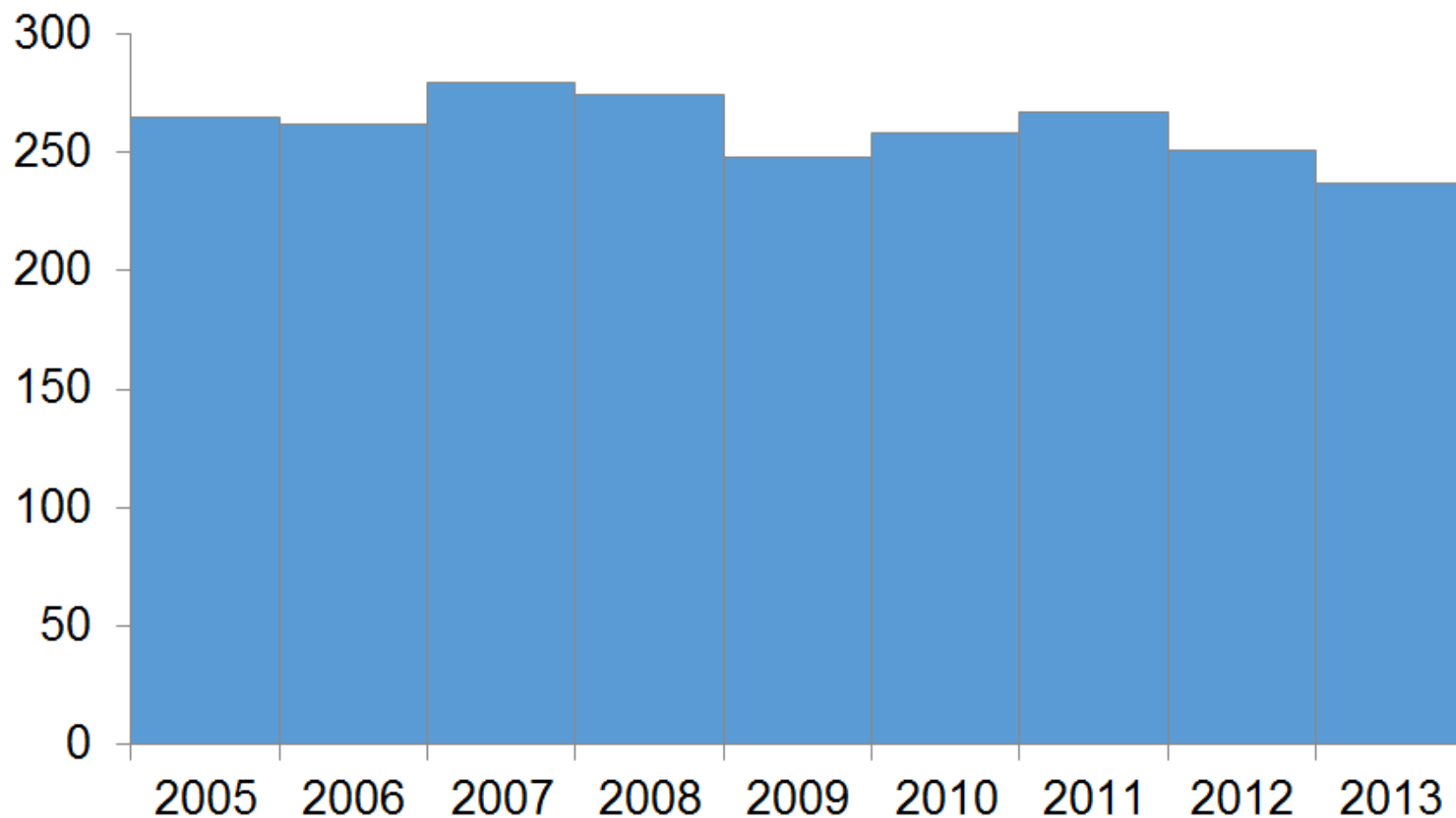
# Numbers of daughters born

## Estimated numbers of girls born to women with FGM, England and Wales, 1993-2013



Source: Authors' analysis of ONS data

## Estimated numbers of girls born to women with FGM resident in Southwark, 2005-2013



# Limitations

Prevalence in practising countries varies by region, ethnic and religious group.

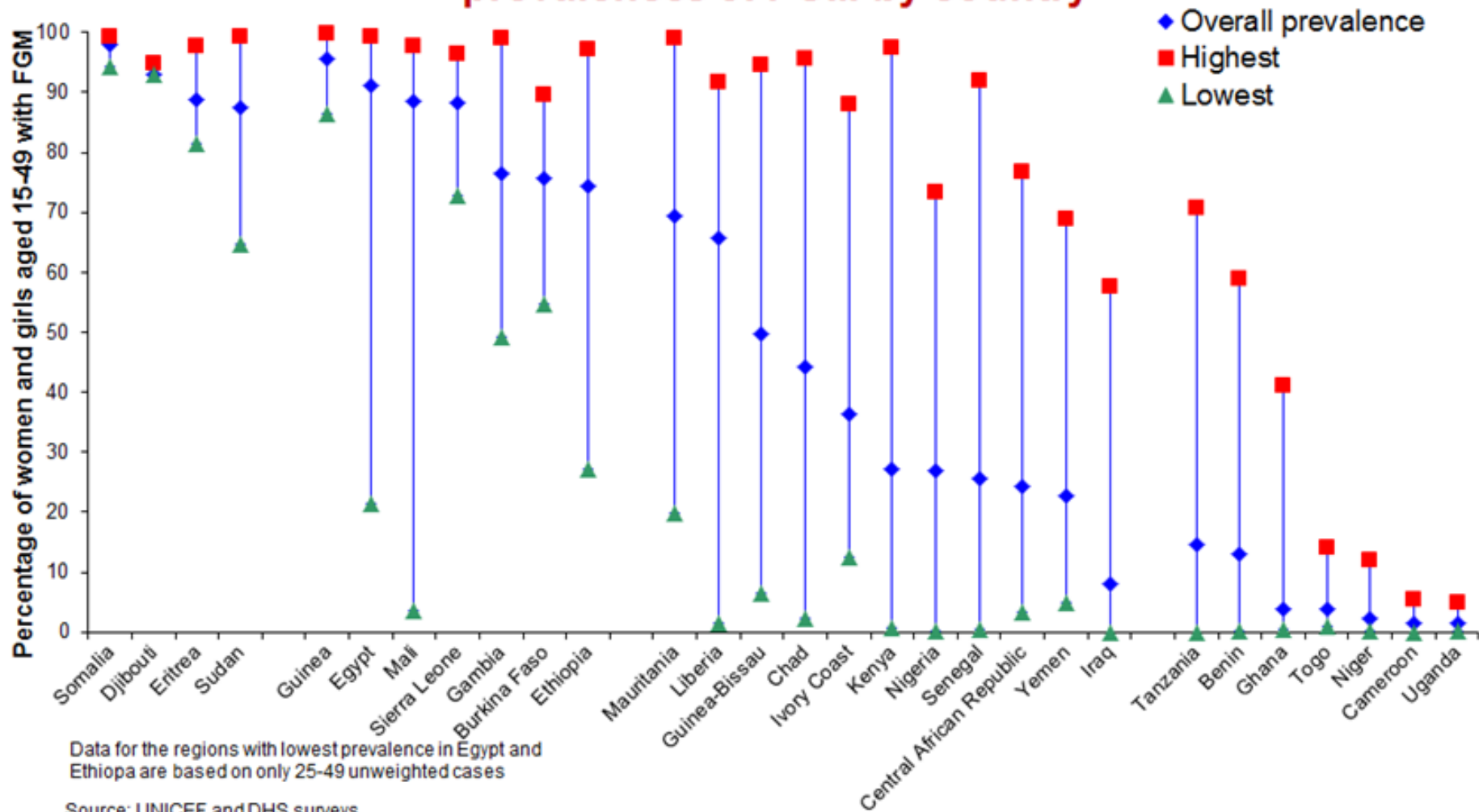
Regions of birth within countries are not recorded in data systems in the United Kingdom

Language spoken is not a useful proxy as many women give English as their main language in census

Ethnic categories used in England and Wales do not relate to those in women's countries of birth

Black women known to be under-enumerated in census.

## Differences between regions with lowest and highest prevalences of FGM by country



# Selective migration?

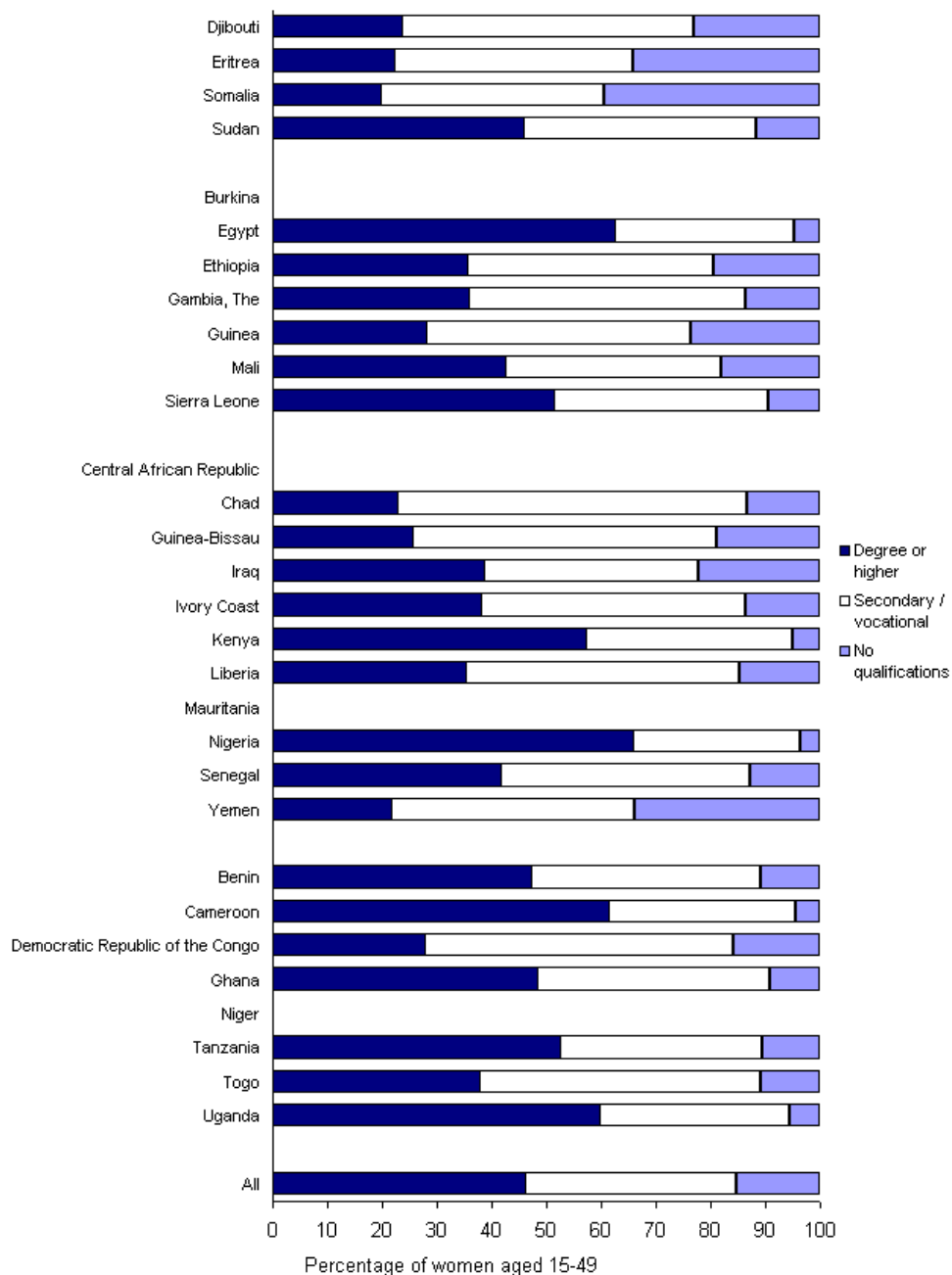
Reasons for migration to UK vary between countries and over time

Women born in many but not all FGM-practising countries include a high proportion of graduates, especially in 15-49 age group.

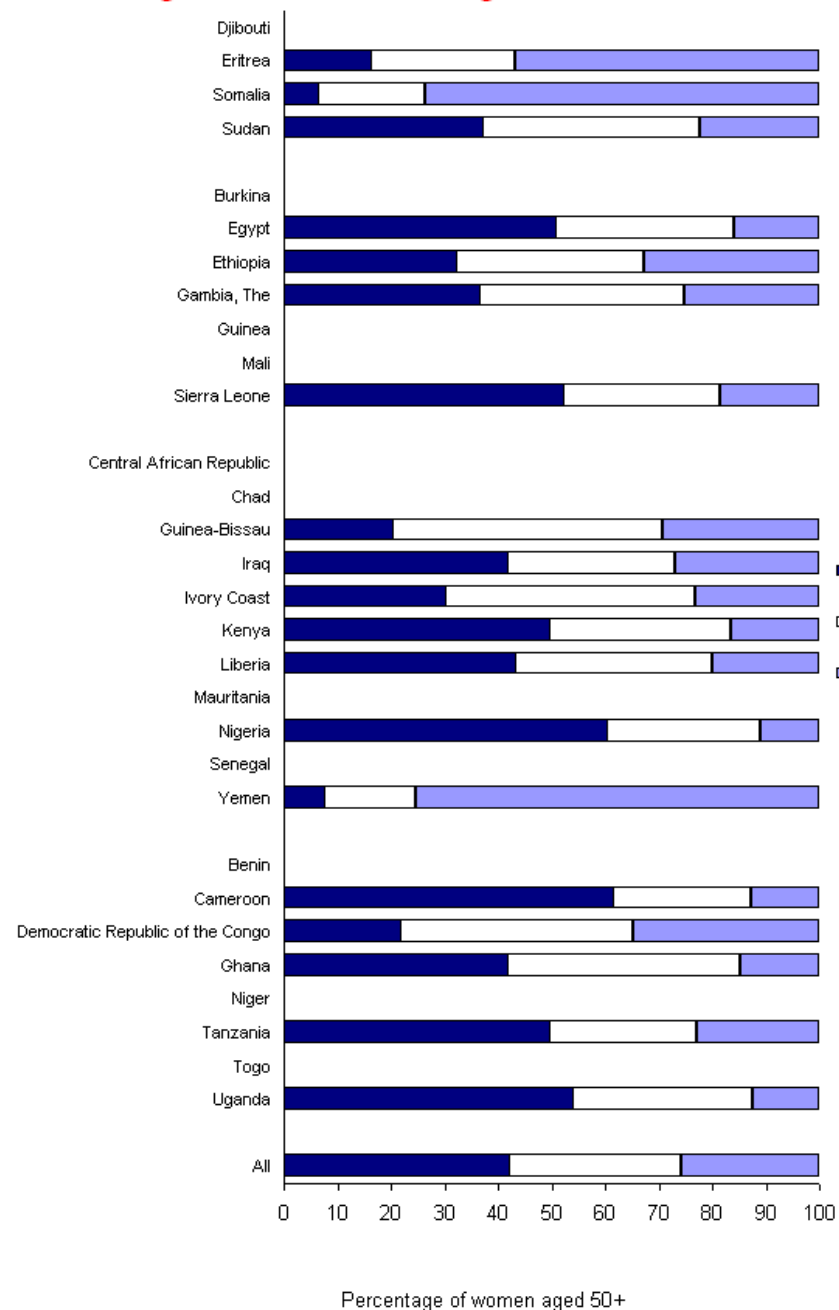
More educated women less likely to have FGM in some but not all countries



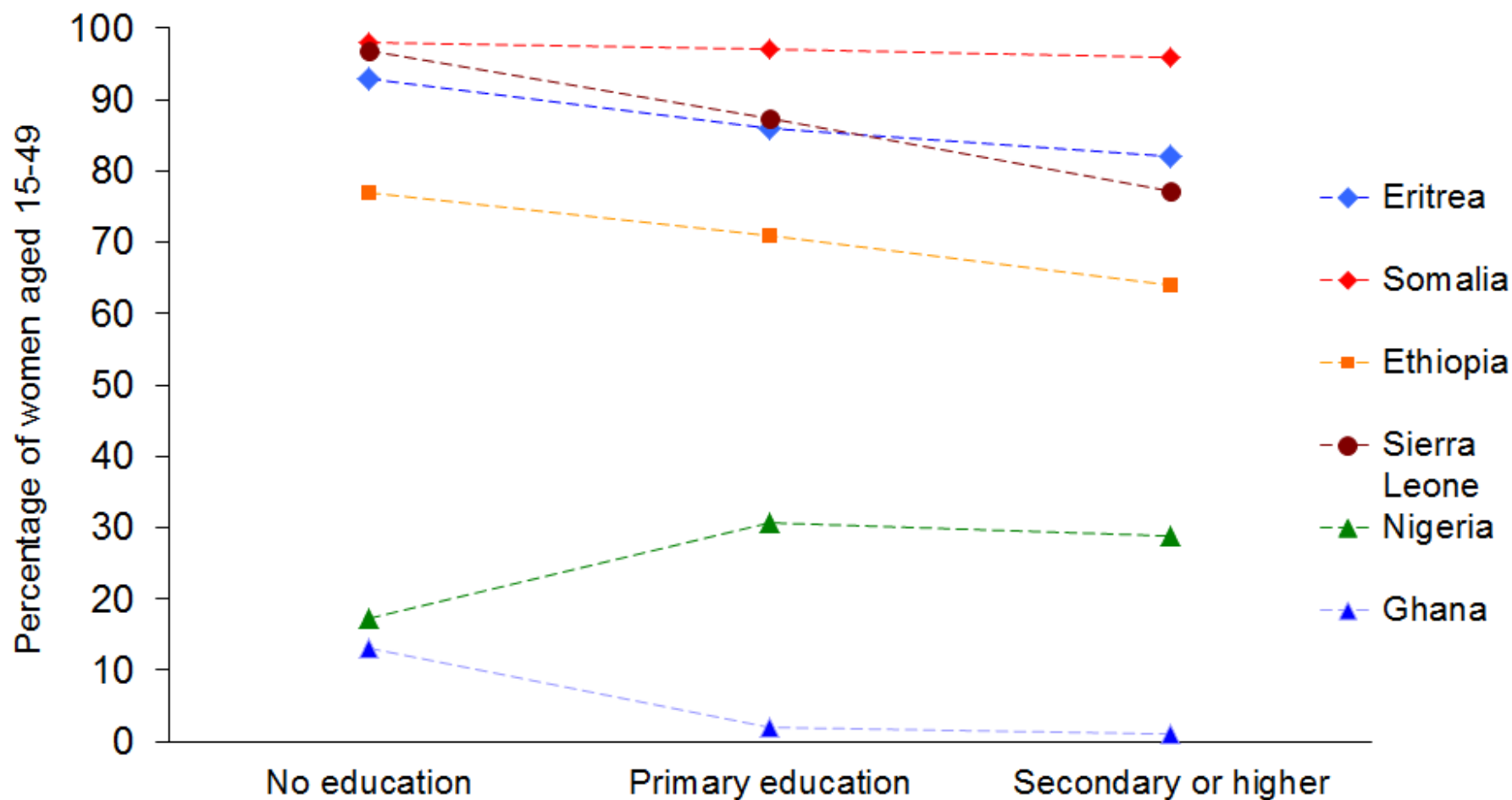
## Educational qualifications by country of birth, women aged 15-49 resident in England and Wales, 2011



## Educational qualifications by country of birth, women aged 50+ resident in England and Wales, 2011



## Prevalence of FGM in country of origin by level of education, selected countries



# Can we estimate risks to daughters born in England and Wales?

It is illegal to perform FGM in the UK or to perform it elsewhere on UK residents

Qualitative studies and news reports suggest that many families give up FGM on migration

Despite this, some girls born in the UK are subjected to FGM in their parents' countries of birth or other countries or in the UK

No reliable data to quantify this.

# Use of estimates of prevalence of FGM

- National and local estimates are signposts for planning services but should be supplemented by local information.
- Lack of information about region of birth makes estimates problematic for populations with wide differences. Locally, health professionals can ask fuller details about women's origins within their country.
- Women who migrate cannot be assumed to be typical of women in their country so this should influence interpretation of estimates.

# Where to find the report

Web page

[http://www.city.ac.uk/news/2015/july/no-local-authority-area-in-england-and-wales-free-from-fgm/\\_nocache](http://www.city.ac.uk/news/2015/july/no-local-authority-area-in-england-and-wales-free-from-fgm/_nocache)

Report and tables

<http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/12382/>

Maps

<http://gicentre.org/fgm2015/>

For further information, contact

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