Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Bristol: An exploration of available data

Sharing Good Practice to End FGM

Nicola Bowtell
Talk outline

• Background
• Brief introduction to the Bristol FGM project
• Available data sources on FGM
• A brief introduction to the data
• The recommended FGM sustainable data reporting system
What is FGM?

‘Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises of all procedures that involve the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons’

(WHO, 1995)

- Girls between infancy and age 15 (Occasionally adult women)
- Western, eastern, and north eastern Africa and some countries in Asia and Middle East (UNICEF, 2013)
- 3 million girls in Africa undergo FGM each year (UNICEF, 2013)
- More than 125 million women in Africa, Asia and the Middle East live with the consequences of FGM (UNICEF, 2013)
% of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM, by country
Differences between regions with lowest and highest prevalences of FGM by country

Data for the regions with lowest prevalence in Egypt and Ethiopia are based on only 25-49 unweighted cases.
Recent Developments

- Government declaration to end FGM in UK and around the world
- Mandated collection of FGM by Trusts
- FGM Prevention Programme
- New Guidance
- New legislation

FGM in England and Wales

• Alison Macfarlane and Efua Dorkenoo (2014)

• 103,000 women aged 15-49 years (66,000 in 2001)

• 10,000 girls 0-14 (have had FGM or are at risk of FGM)

• Since 2008 1.5% of all deliveries to women with FGM

• From 1996 to 2010 144,000 girls born to women from FGM practising countries
The Bristol Project: Aims

- To estimate demand and monitor access to services due to FGM

- Identify gaps in data collation and establish how data collation can be improved across all agencies to ensure Bristol has a sustainable FGM intelligence system
Building up a local picture of FGM

- Bristol FGM Recording System
- School Census
- Police
- Social Services
- Census
- ONS Births Registrations data
- FGM Prevalence dataset
- Local Maternity data set
Using Census and School Census

Definition of FGM Prevalence

• UNICEF (2005) - % of women aged 5-49 who have undergone FGM

Extrapolation-of-African-prevalence data method

• (a) Prevalence data from DHS and MICS, WHO, UNICEF
• (b) Extrapolating these prevalence rates onto data of female population from FGM risk countries
  - Census (age, gender, ethnicity)
  - School Census (age, gender, ethnicity, type of school)
FGM Prevalence Local Authority Tool

- Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales: Updated statistical estimates of the numbers of affected women living in England and Wales and girls at risk: Interim report on provisional estimates

Alison Macfarlane BA Dip Stat C Stat FFPH
Professor of Perinatal Health, City University London

Other Service Level Data: Maternity

- Ethnicity of mother
- Country of birth
- Age at booking
- Postcode
- GP practice code
- Number of pregnancies
- Gestation at booking
- Late booking reason
- Number of babies born
- Baby gender
- Perineum vaginal tears

South West Strategic Clinical Network Maternity Dashboard

- FGM indicator included
- Data is being returned on FGM by 12/14 providers in SW
Other Service Level Data: Police

- Number of FGM incidents and crime referrals
- Referral agency
- Number of FGM live cases
- Number of FGM prosecutions
- Number of preventative visits
- Number of medicals
- Age of involved parties
- Ethnicity of involved parties
Other Service Level Data: Social Services

- Number of FGM referrals
- Gender of child referred
- Age of child referred
- Referring organisation
- Outcome of referral (Advice/assessment)
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http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=16233&q=%22female+genital+mutilation%22&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1#top
What else is collected and not published yet

- Broad age category (under/over 18, or not known or recorded)
- Type of FGM
- Specialised service received or referred to
- Total number of care contacts
- Number of patients undergoing a deinfibulation or repeat deinfibulation
- Data collected at trust level !!

Responsible Statistician – Peter Knighton
enquiries@hscic.gov.uk
Coming Soon: The Maternity and Children’s data set

A FGM Flag has been included and will become available in 2015

Further information:
http://www.hscic.gov.uk/maternityandchildren
School pupils potentially at risk or who undergone FGM in Bristol, by type of school, 2013

Source: School Census, 2013
Number of births in Bristol to Somali parents, 2007-2012

Total pregnancies to Somali parents – 1,938

Approximately 4% of births

1/3 of women with FGM had a late booking
Social Services FGM referrals in Bristol, April 2013 to July 2014

- Dramatic increase in referrals – 5.6 per month to 43.6 per month
- Most referrals from healthcare (95.5%)
- Most pre-school age (55.1%)
Number of FGM incident and crime referrals made to Avon and Somerset Police, by year

45% aged between 5 and 10 years

Nearly half, were Somali. Other ethnic groups included: Gambian, Ethiopian, Kenyan, South Sudanese and African
The FGM multi-agency forum could identify and support a designated individual who will securely receive returns.

Returns should be submitted in an aggregated form with no patient service user identifiable data included in these returns.

I recommend quarterly returns.

Reporting templates for each reporting organisation should be drawn up to facilitate the co-ordination of returns. This should include mutually agreed instructions with stakeholders specifying the exact data requirements required.