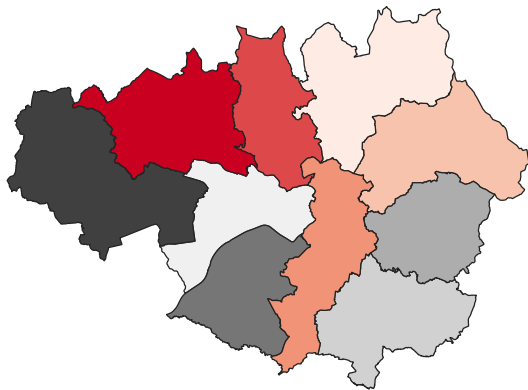


Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority brings together Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan, a city-region of more than 2.7 million people, and attempts to improve the lives of its residents in accordance with the 10 priority areas set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy. As an intern in the Policing, Crime, Justice and Fire Research Team, the main body of my work was towards Priority 8: Safe and Strong Communities. In particular, I was working to provide an evidence base for policies to tackle violence against women and girls, a key priority of Deputy Mayor Beverley Hughes.



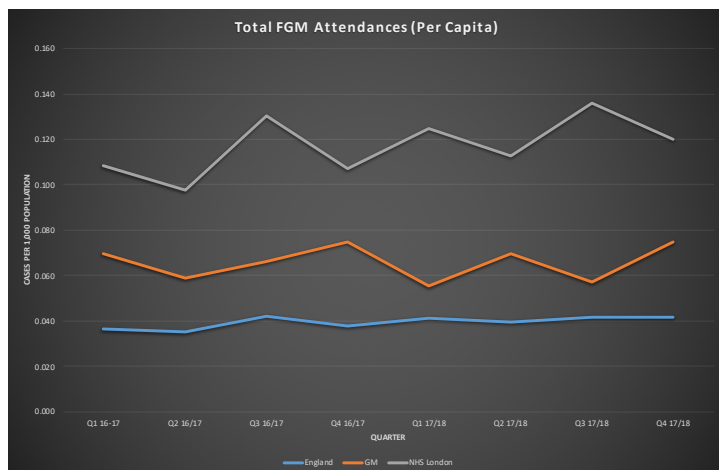
Map of the 10 districts that make up Greater Manchester made in QGIS.

Data and Method

The data I used in this project was taken from quarterly datasets produced by NHS Digital, ranging from April 2016 to March 2018. I collated all eight of the datasets from this time period to calculate the total number of attendances relating to FGM across the NHS, and the number of women recorded recorded for the first time by the NHS as having undergone FGM in each quarter.

In addition, I used population data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to generate per capita figures which would allow for a more useful comparison of the prevalence of FGM given the huge variation in population across the three areas.

During the collation of the eight quarterly datasets I was confronted with several challenges in the form of corrupted Excel files, changes to recording practices, and to the techniques for rounding and suppressing smaller figures. This limited the number of variables I was able to analyse and made a district-level analysis within Greater Manchester unreliable.

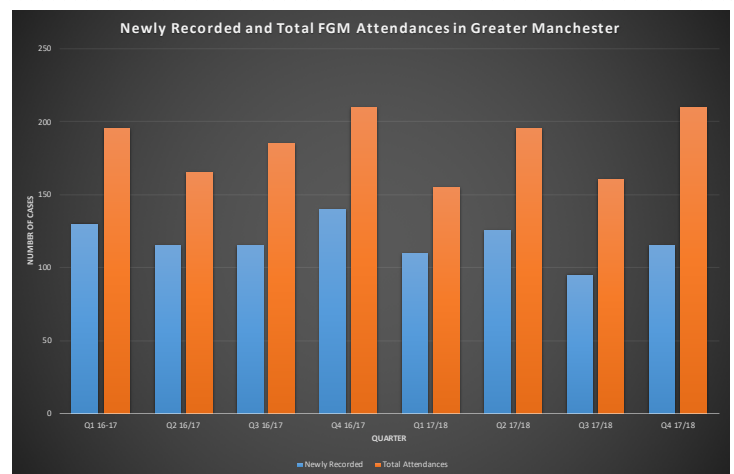


Graph shows the total attendances relating to FGM per capita.

Objectives

A large part of my work into violence against women and girls involved looking in detail at the prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) across Greater Manchester. FGM is a non-medical procedure where the female genitals are cut or damaged, often causing huge physical and psychological damage throughout the victim's life.

The primary source of data used was NHS Digital Datasets, which contained information about attendances at NHS hospitals where FGM was recorded. The primary aim of my work was to build a picture of the scale and nature of FGM in Greater Manchester, particularly in comparison to other areas of England, as an evidence base for future policy decisions aimed at identifying and providing support to victims of the practice.



Graph shows the number of FGM related attendances (orange) and the number of newly recorded cases of FGM (blue).

Results and Conclusions

In total, there were 945 newly recorded cases of Female Genital Mutilation in Greater Manchester across the two-year period studied; these cases were either self-reported or identified through clinical examination. In total there were 1,475 FGM related attendances during this time. As the graph above shows, the number of newly recorded cases over the period remained fairly consistently at more than 100 per quarter.

The graph to the left shows the per capita figures for Greater Manchester (orange), NHS London (grey) and the whole of England (blue). Across the time period, the per capita rate of FGM attendances was considerably higher in London than in Greater Manchester, which was in turn somewhat higher than the level in England as a whole.

Due to higher than national average presentations of FGM in Greater Manchester, further steps are required to prevent the abuse of women and girls in this way and to provide the support victims require.