

- Secondary research only → no direct contact with survivors
- Trauma-informed approach aligned with WHO (2024)
- Respectful, non-stigmatising language
- Cultural sensitivity maintained
- No personal data collected

10. Conclusion

This methodological approach provides a transparent, rigorous foundation for analysing the mental health consequences of FGM in the UK. By integrating systematic searching, source tracking, thematic analysis, and trauma-informed ethical considerations, the study ensures credibility and depth.

Results Summary Sheet

Study	Method	Key Findings	Contribution
Mulongo et al. (2014)	Interviews	PTSD, depression	Theme 1
Jones et al. (2023)	Mixed methods	Barriers to care	Theme 2
Warne & Mulongo (2020)	Review	Trauma responses	Theme 1
NHS Digital (2024)	Dataset	UK prevalence	Theme 3
RCPsych (2024)	Policy guidance	Gaps in training	Theme 3

Source Tracking and Evaluation

Author	Focus	Key Insight	Inclusion
Mulongo et al. (2014)	Psychological impact	PTSD, anxiety	✓
Jones et al. (2023)	UK support services	Barriers to care	✓
NHS Digital (2024)	FGM dataset	UK prevalence	✓
FORWARD UK (2024)	Survivor-led insights	Cultural barriers	✓
RCPsych (2024)	Trauma-informed care	Gaps in training	✓

A full table appears in Appendix A

11. Reference List (Poster Version)

Ayton (2024); Braun & Clarke (2006); Cohen et al. (2018); FORWARD UK (2024); Home Office (2024); Jones et al. (2023); Largan & Morris (2024); Mulongo et al. (2014); NHS Digital (2024); Nowell et al. (2017); RCPsych (2024); Warne & Mulongo (2020); Women's Aid (2025); WHO (2024).

1. Introduction & Research Aim

This poster summarises the methodological approach used to investigate the mental health consequences of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among survivors living in the UK. A **secondary qualitative research design** was adopted to synthesise evidence from peer-reviewed studies, national datasets, policy documents, and survivor-led reports (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2018).

Research Aim

To explore the psychological impact of FGM on survivors in the UK and evaluate the accessibility, cultural competence, and trauma-informed nature of mental health support services (Jones et al., 2023; WHO, 2024).

2. Research Strategy

A structured, step-by-step research strategy ensured transparency and methodological rigour.

Step-by-Step Search Process

- Identify keywords & Boolean operators
- Search academic databases
- Apply filters (2014–2025, UK-relevant)
- Screen titles & abstracts
- Full-text review
- Thematic coding & analysis

Databases Used

PubMed • CINAHL • PsycINFO • Google Scholar • NHS Digital • NIHR Journals Library • WHO Library • FORWARD UK

Keywords & Boolean Operators

- “Female Genital Mutilation” OR “FGM”
- “Mental health” OR “psychological impact”
- “PTSD” OR “trauma”
- “UK” OR “United Kingdom”
- “Cultural competence” AND “trauma-informed care”
- “Survivors” AND “support services”

4. Inclusion & Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion

- Published 2014–2025
- Focus on mental health outcomes of FGM
- UK-based or UK-relevant
- Peer-reviewed or official reports
- Qualitative or quantitative evidence

Exclusion

- Physical-health-only studies
- Non-English sources
- Blogs, opinion pieces
- Methodologically weak studies
- Pre-2014 unless historically essential

7. Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis followed Braun & Clarke’s (2006) six-phase framework.

Coding clarification (Tutor requirement):

Codes that appeared consistently across multiple studies were grouped into themes based on frequency, conceptual similarity, and relevance to the research aim.

Themes Identified

- Psychological consequences** (PTSD, depression, anxiety)
- Barriers to mental health support** (stigma, language, trust)
- Gaps in culturally competent & trauma-informed care**

Research Strategy Table

Database	Search Terms	Results	Included
PubMed	“FGM AND mental health UK”	112	21
CINAHL	“FGM AND trauma”	87	14
PsycINFO	“FGM AND PTSD”	64	9
NHS Digital	“FGM dataset”	12	12
Google Scholar	“FGM mental health survivors UK”	250	42

Note: The first number = total search results; the second = number included after screening.

FGM Cases Identified in the UK (NHS Digital, 2024)

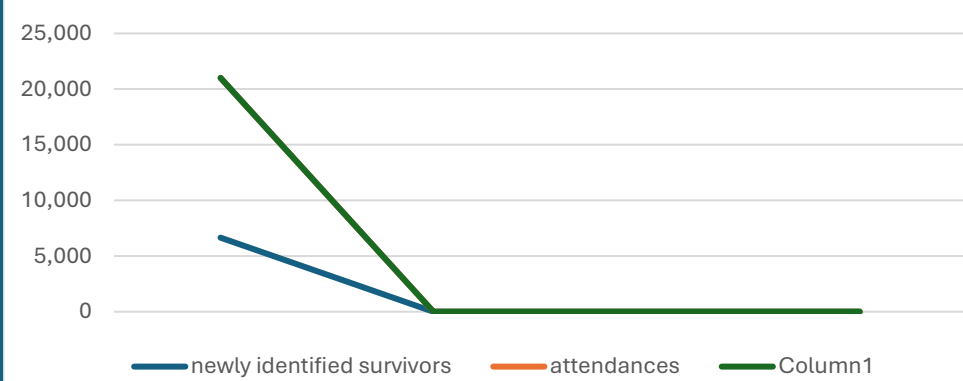


Figure 1 Highest prevalence in London, West Midlands, and Manchester