

**Table 6. Percentage of ever-married women who favor or oppose continuation of female circumcision, by reasons given for attitude, according to region**

| Reason for attitude         | Haj-Yousif | Shendi  | Juba    |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| <b>Favor</b>                | (N=744)    | (N=569) | (N=35)  |
| Good tradition              | 18.7       | 13.5    | 8.6     |
| Custom                      | 69.4       | 75.0    | 34.3    |
| Religious demand            | 11.2       | 17.0    | 40.0    |
| Cleanliness                 | 25.7       | 26.0    | 62.9    |
| Better marriage prospects   | 1.0        | 3.3     | 68.6    |
| Greater pleasure of husband | 6.9        | 6.3     | 31.4    |
| Preservation of virginity   | 12.9       | 6.2     | 0.0     |
| Increases fertility         | 1.2        | 0.2     | 0.0     |
| Never thought about reason  | 0.8        | 0.7     | 0.0     |
| Other                       | 3.5        | 0.5     | 0.0     |
| Missing                     | 1.3        | 1.9     | 0.0     |
| <b>Oppose</b>               | (N=368)    | (N=445) | (N=955) |
| Religious prohibition       | 27.9       | 31.9    | 65.0    |
| Sexual dissatisfaction      | 6.5        | 5.4     | 6.9     |
| Medical complication        | 63.0       | 87.9    | 31.4    |
| Painful personal experience | 28.8       | 27.9    | 7.7     |
| Against woman's dignity     | 4.5        | 7.4     | 22.6    |
| Other                       | 7.6        | 0.7     | 0.2     |
| Missing                     | 4.9        | 1.6     | 19.4    |

*Note:* Percentages do not add to 100% because of multiple responses.