

Report card

Costa Rica



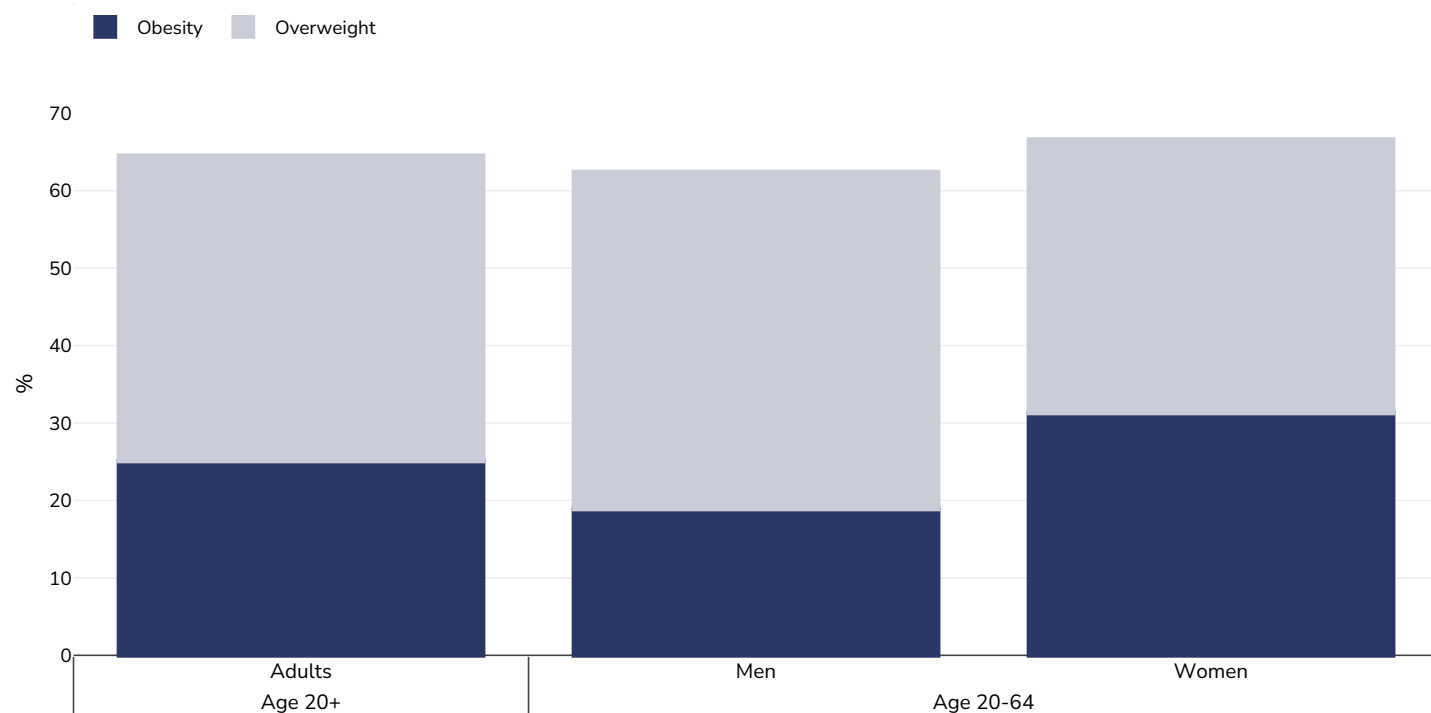
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National obesity risk *7.5/10 This is a composite ‘obesity risk’ score (out of 10, the highest risk) based on obesity prevalence, rate of increase, likelihood of meeting the 2025 target, treatment indicator and childhood stunting levels. **Childhood obesity risk *7.5/11** This is a ‘risk score’ for each country’s likelihood of having or acquiring a major childhood obesity problem during the 2020s, taking account of current prevalence levels and risk for future obesity (based on stunting among infants, maternal obesity, maternal smoking, and breastfeeding rates).

* Based on estimated data. For more information see Publications

Obesity prevalence

Adults, 2008-2009



Survey type: Measured

Sample size: 988 men, 1647 Women

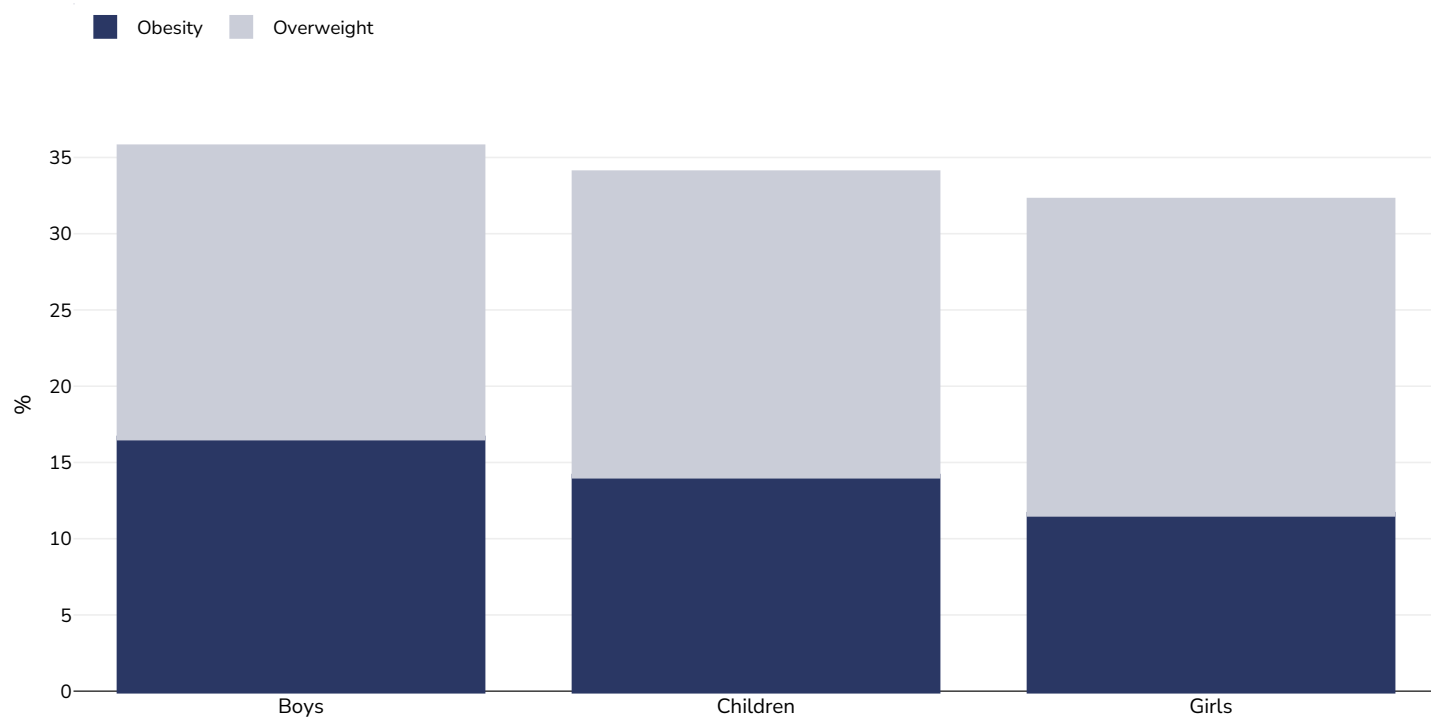
Area covered: National

References: Costa Rica National Nutrition Survey 2008-2009. <https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/biblioteca-de-archivos/centro-de-informacion/material-publicado/investigaciones/encuestas-de-salud/encuestas-de-nutricion/2731-encuesta-nacional-de-nutricion-2008-2009-fasciculo-1-antropometria/file> (Accessed 08.10.21)

Notes: NB. Combined adult data estimated. These estimates were calculated by weighting male and female survey results. Weighting based on World Bank Population % total female 2020 (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS> - accessed 05.10.21)

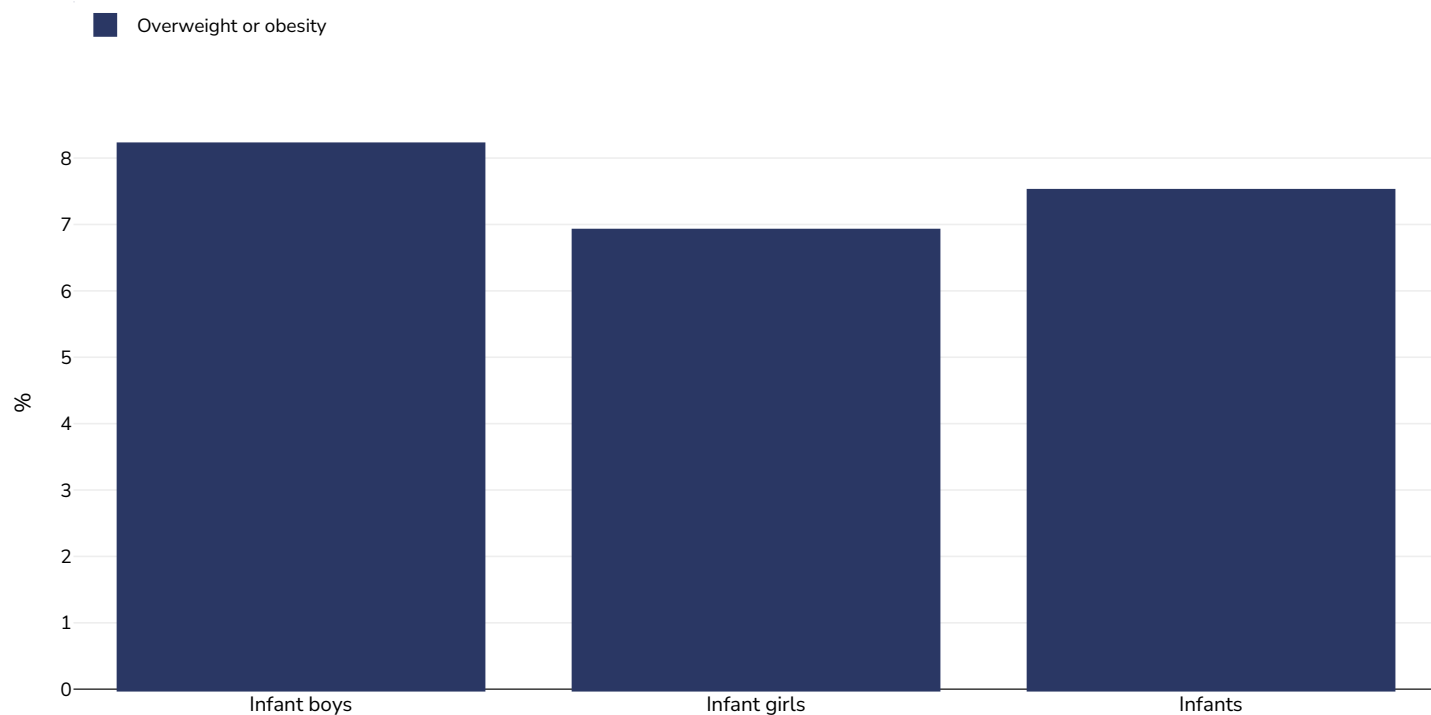
Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².

Children, 2016



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	6-12
Sample size:	347366
Area covered:	National
References:	Gamboa-Gamboa, T., Fantin, R., Cordoba, J., Caravaca, I., & Gómez-Duarte, I. (2021). Relationship between childhood obesity and socioeconomic status among primary school children in Costa Rica. <i>Public Health Nutrition</i> , 1-24. doi:10.1017/S1368980021002032 https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/public-health-nutrition/article/abs/relationship-between-childhood-obesity-and-socioeconomic-status-among-primary-school-children-in-costa-rica/CF0EFAD6CA3F21C42695A675DA5C45A5 (Last accessed 18.05.21)
Notes:	NB. Combined child data estimated. These estimates were calculated by weighting male and female survey results. Weighting based on World Bank Population % total female 2019 (https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS - accessed 21.10.20)
Cutoffs:	WHO

Infants, 2018



Age: 0-5

Sample size: 310954

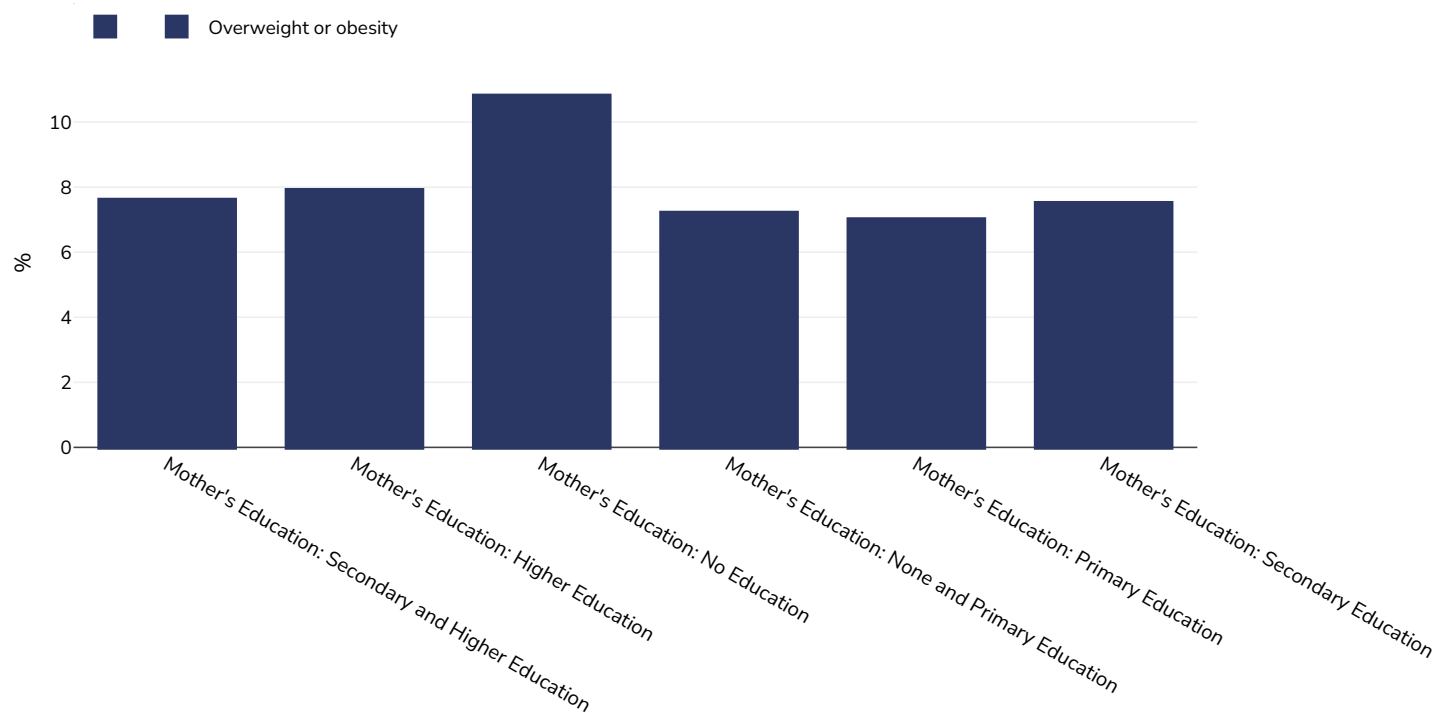
References: MICS: Encuesta de Mujeres, Niñez y Adolescencia (EMNA), Informe de resultados de la encuesta. San José, Costa Rica. 2019

Notes: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates Expanded Database: Overweight (Survey Estimates), May 2023, New York. For more information about the methodology, please consult <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/>

Definitions: =>+SD

Overweight/obesity by education

Infants, 2018



Sample size: 310954

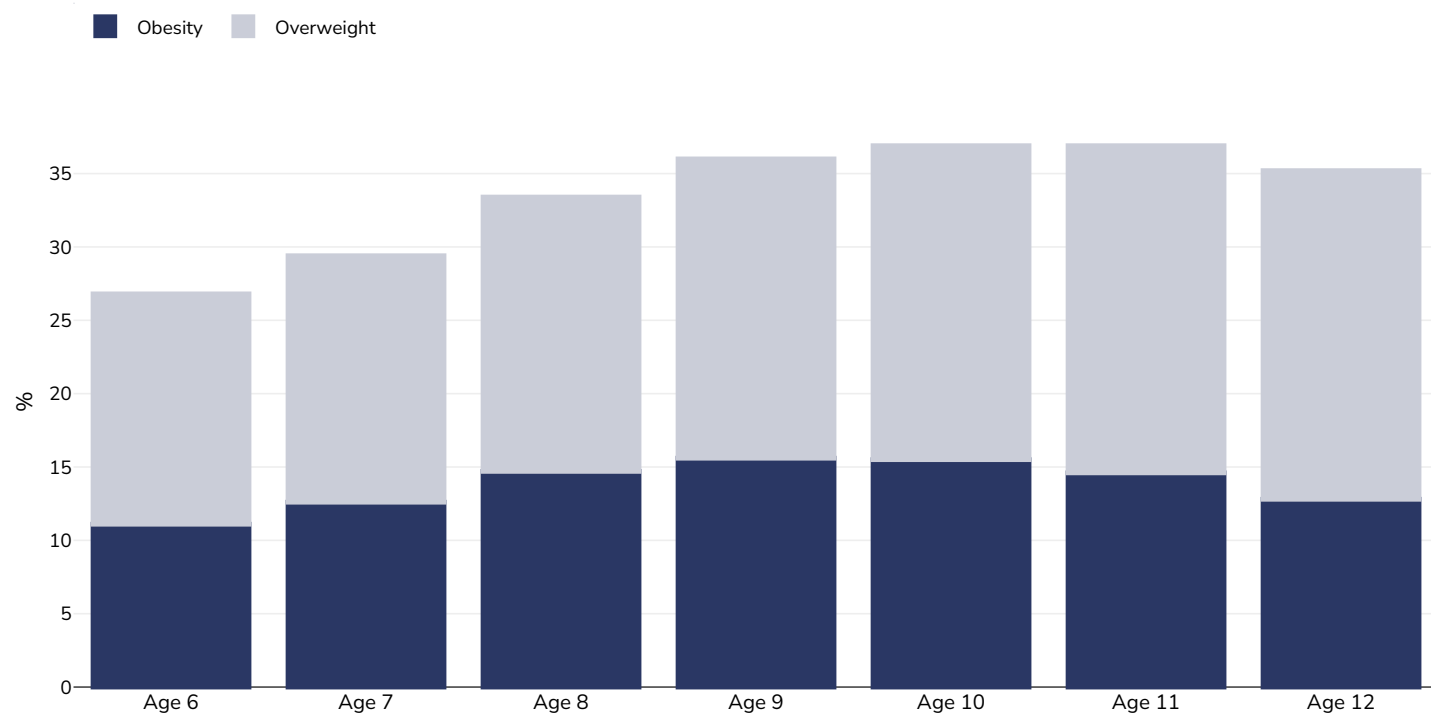
References: MICS: Encuesta de Mujeres, Niñez y Adolescencia (EMNA), Informe de resultados de la encuesta. San José, Costa Rica. 2019

Notes: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates Expanded Database: Overweight (Survey Estimates), May 2023, New York. For more information about the methodology, please consult <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/>

Definitions: =>+SD

Overweight/obesity by age

Children, 2016



Survey type: Measured

Sample size: 347366

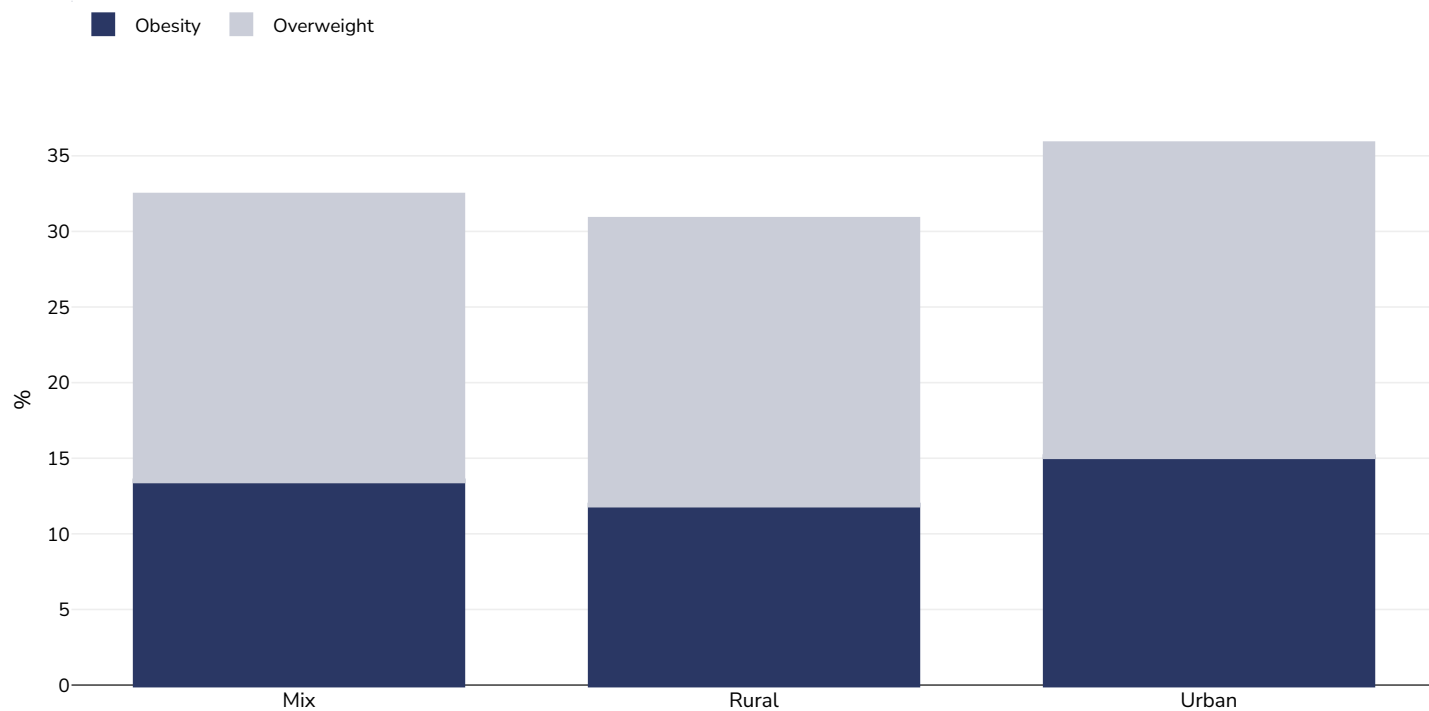
Area covered: National

References: Gamboa-Gamboa, T., Fantin, R., Cordoba, J., Caravaca, I., & Gómez-Duarte, I. (2021). Relationship between childhood obesity and socioeconomic status among primary school children in Costa Rica. *Public Health Nutrition*, 1-24. doi:10.1017/S1368980021002032 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/public-health-nutrition/article/abs/relationship-between-childhood-obesity-and-socioeconomic-status-among-primary-school-children-in-costa-rica/CF0EFAD6CA3F21C42695A675DA5C45A5> (Last accessed 18.05.21)

Cutoffs: WHO

Overweight/obesity by region

Children, 2016



Survey type: Measured

Age: 6-12

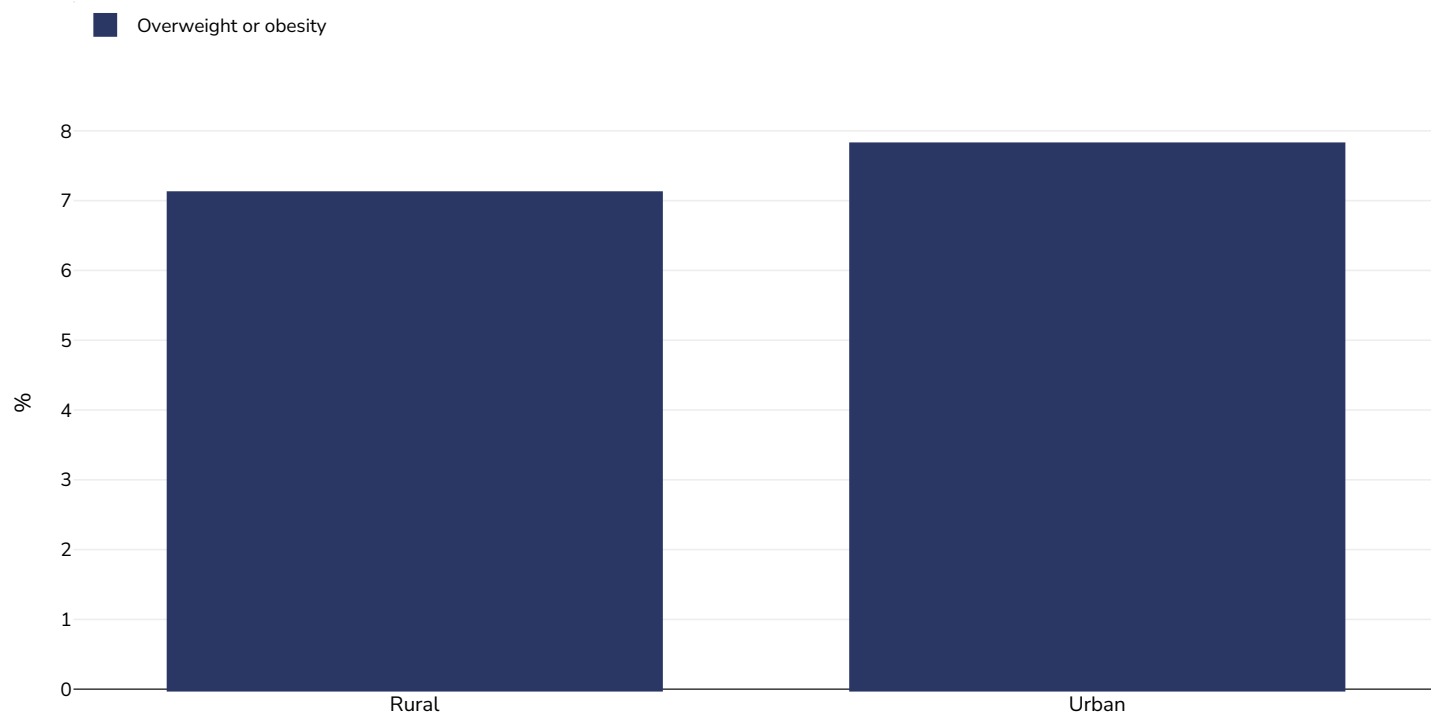
Sample size: 347366

Area covered: National

References: Gamboa-Gamboa, T., Fantin, R., Cordoba, J., Caravaca, I., & Gómez-Duarte, I. (2021). Relationship between childhood obesity and socioeconomic status among primary school children in Costa Rica. *Public Health Nutrition*, 1-24. doi:10.1017/S1368980021002032 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/public-health-nutrition/article/abs/relationship-between-childhood-obesity-and-socioeconomic-status-among-primary-school-children-in-costa-rica/CF0EFAD6CA3F21C42695A675DA5C45A5> (Last accessed 18.05.21)

Cutoffs: WHO

Infants, 2018



Sample size: 310954

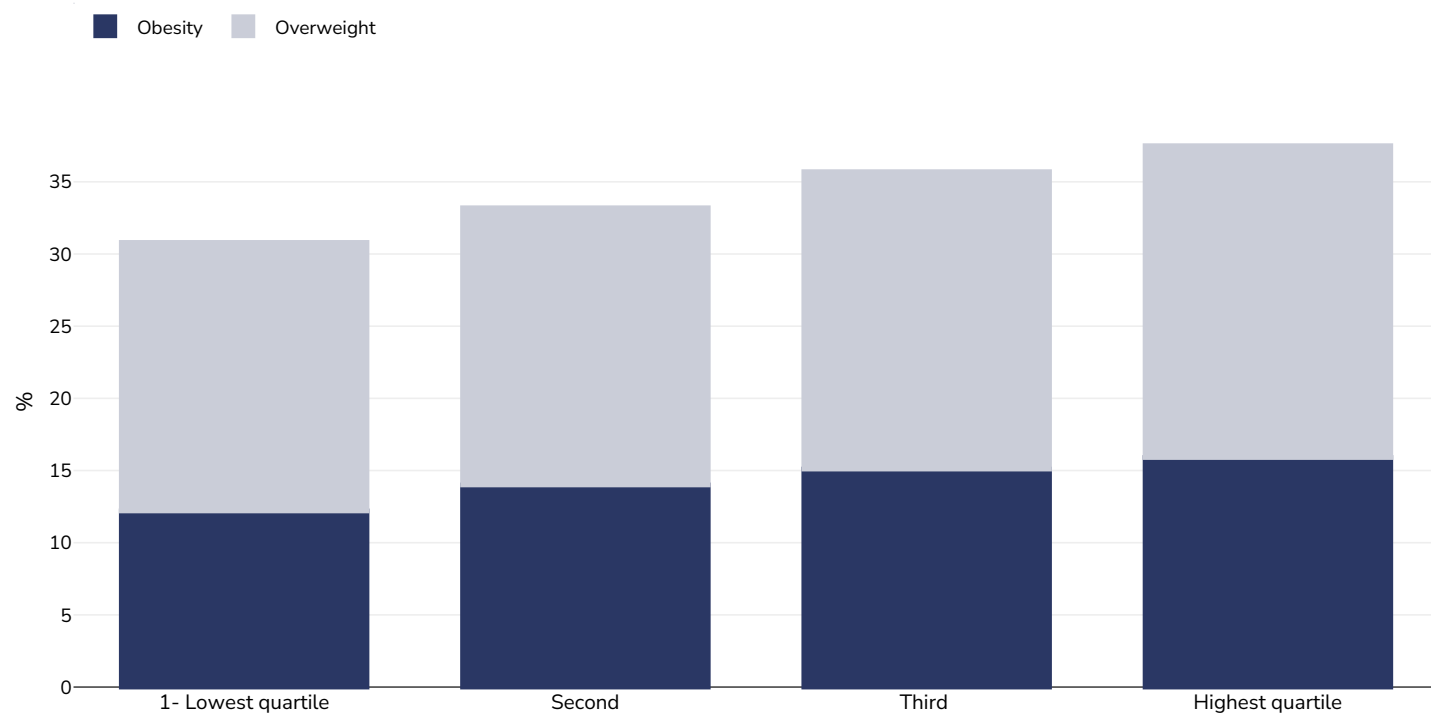
References: MICS: Encuesta de Mujeres, Niñez y Adolescencia (EMNA), Informe de resultados de la encuesta. San José, Costa Rica. 2019

Notes: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates Expanded Database: Overweight (Survey Estimates), May 2023, New York. For more information about the methodology, please consult <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/>

Definitions: =>+SD

Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

Children, 2016



Survey type: Measured

Age: 6-12

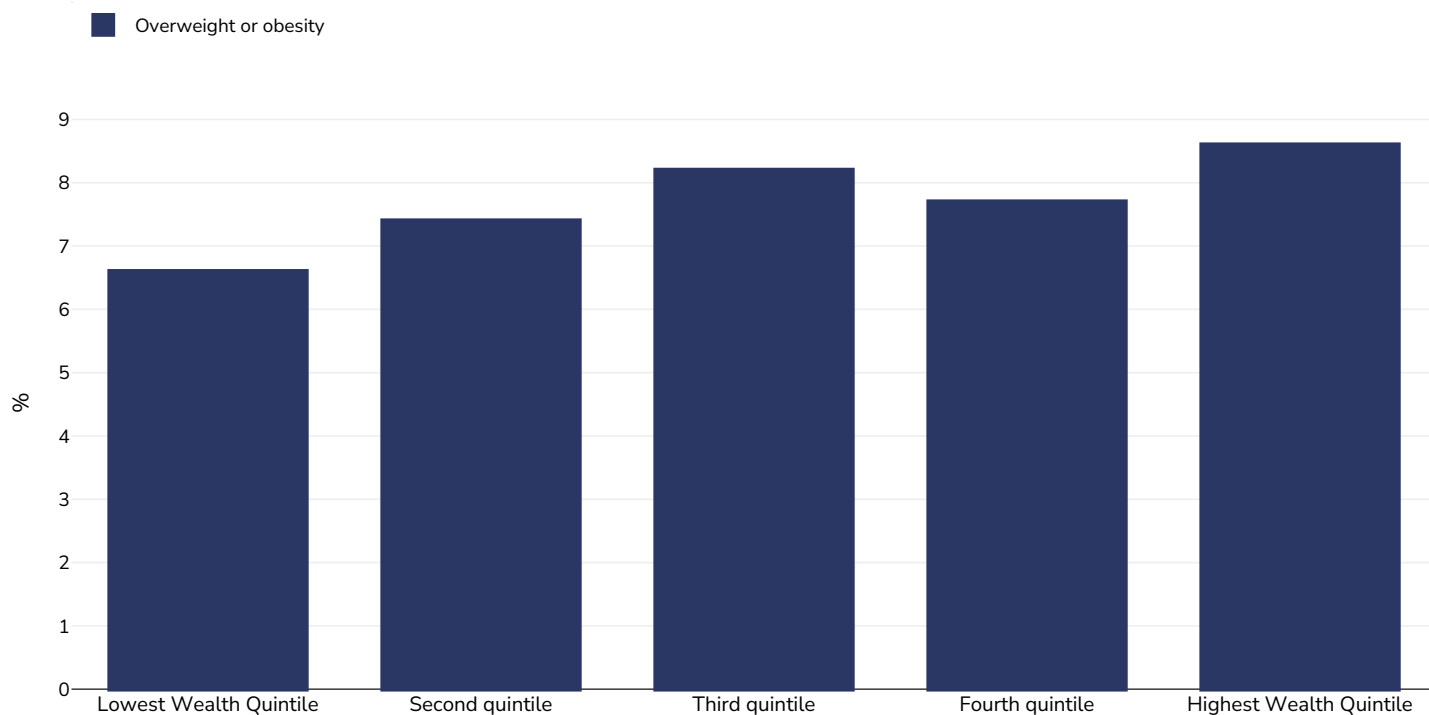
Sample size: 347366

Area covered: National

References: Gamboa-Gamboa, T., Fantin, R., Cordoba, J., Caravaca, I., & Gómez-Duarte, I. (2021). Relationship between childhood obesity and socioeconomic status among primary school children in Costa Rica. *Public Health Nutrition*, 1-24. doi:10.1017/S1368980021002032 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/public-health-nutrition/article/abs/relationship-between-childhood-obesity-and-socioeconomic-status-among-primary-school-children-in-costa-rica/CF0EFAD6CA3F21C42695A675DA5C45A5> (Last accessed 18.05.21)

Cutoffs: WHO

Infants, 2018



Sample size: 310954

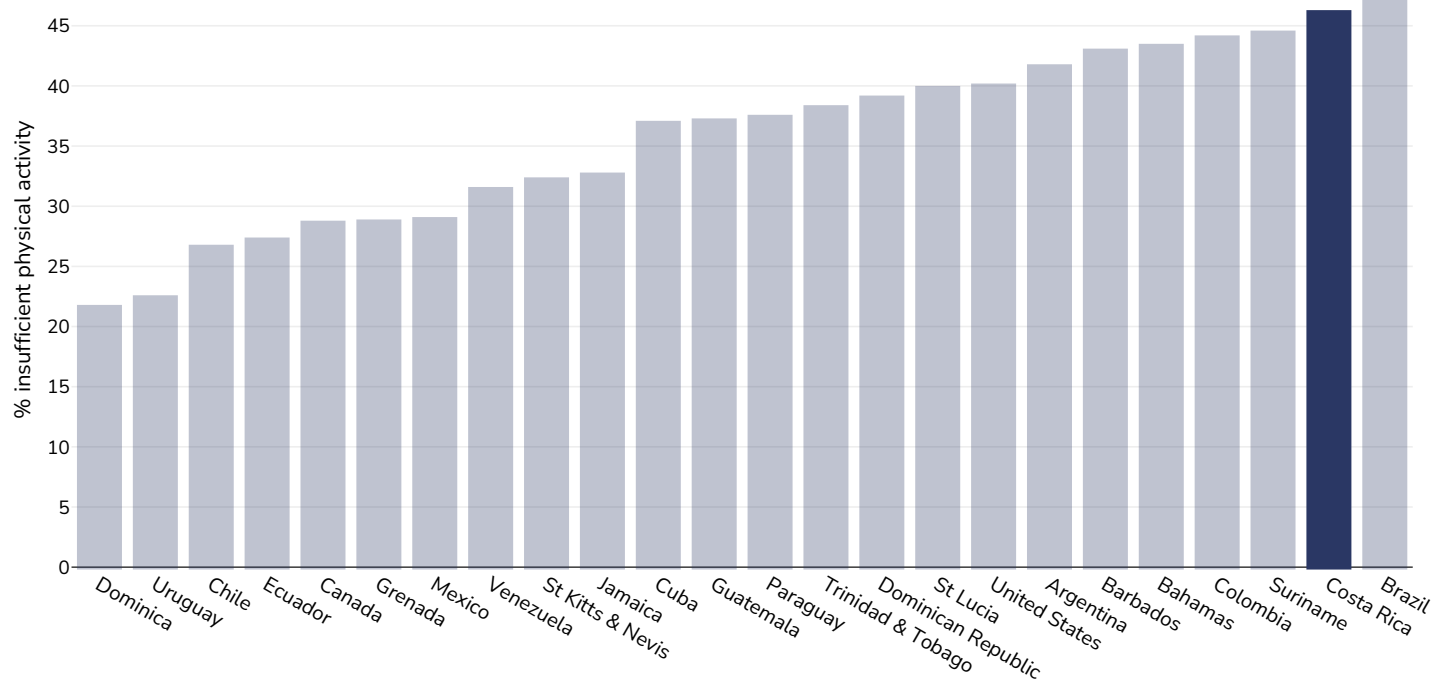
References: MICS: Encuesta de Mujeres, Niñez y Adolescencia (EMNA), Informe de resultados de la encuesta. San José, Costa Rica. 2019

Notes: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates Expanded Database: Overweight (Survey Estimates), May 2023, New York. For more information about the methodology, please consult <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/>

Definitions: =>+SD

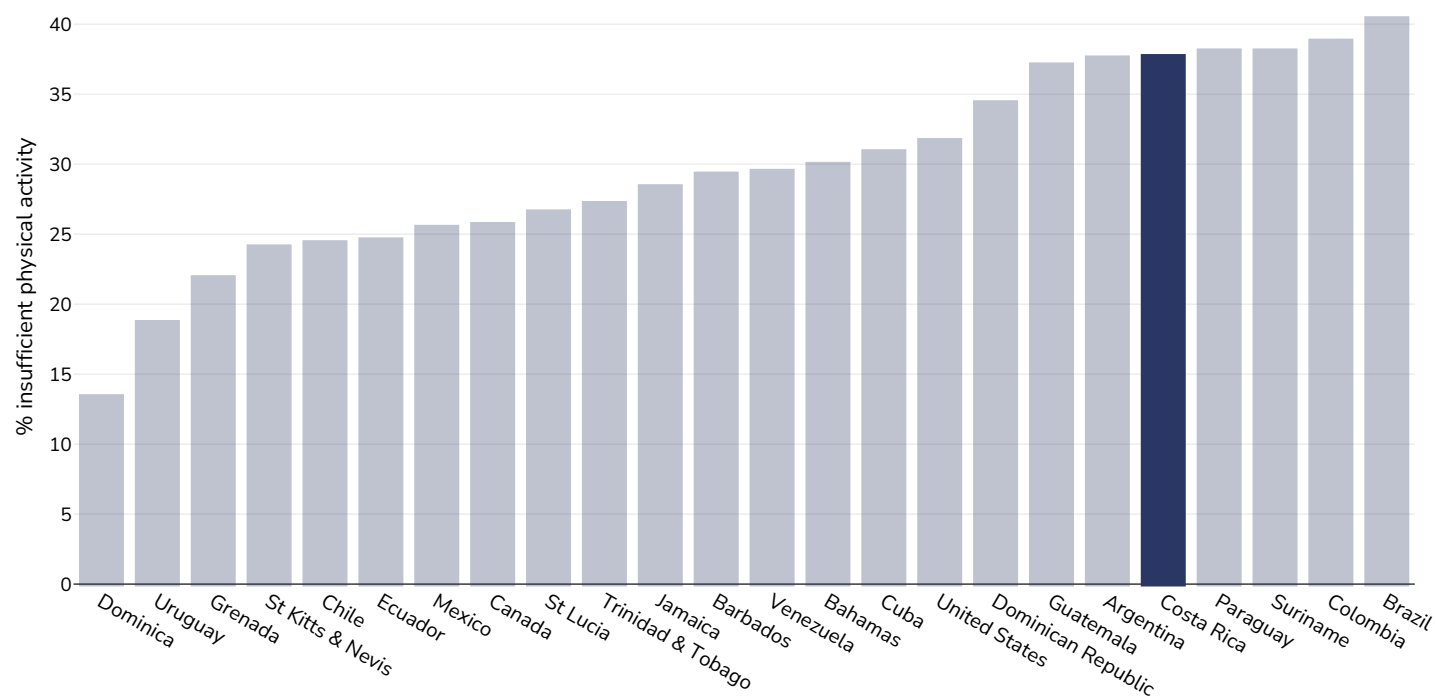
Insufficient physical activity

Adults, 2016



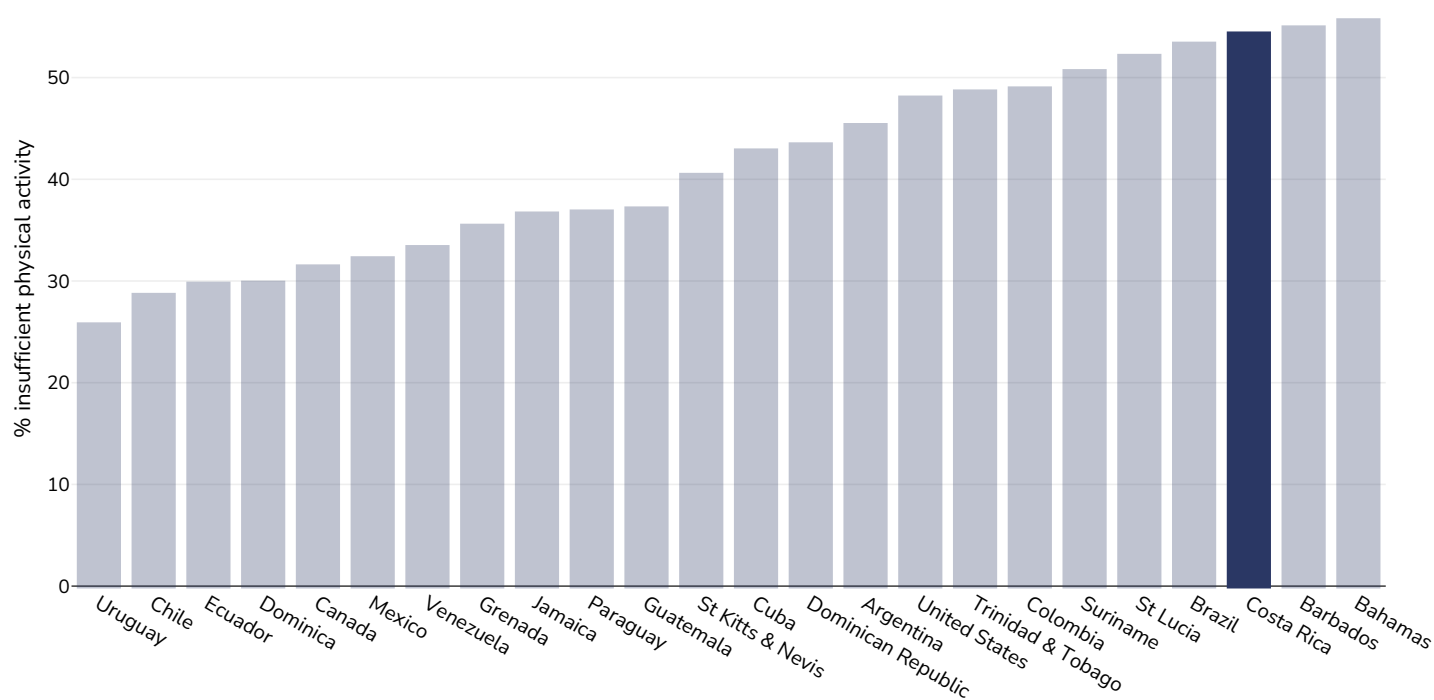
References: Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. *Lancet* 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

Men, 2016



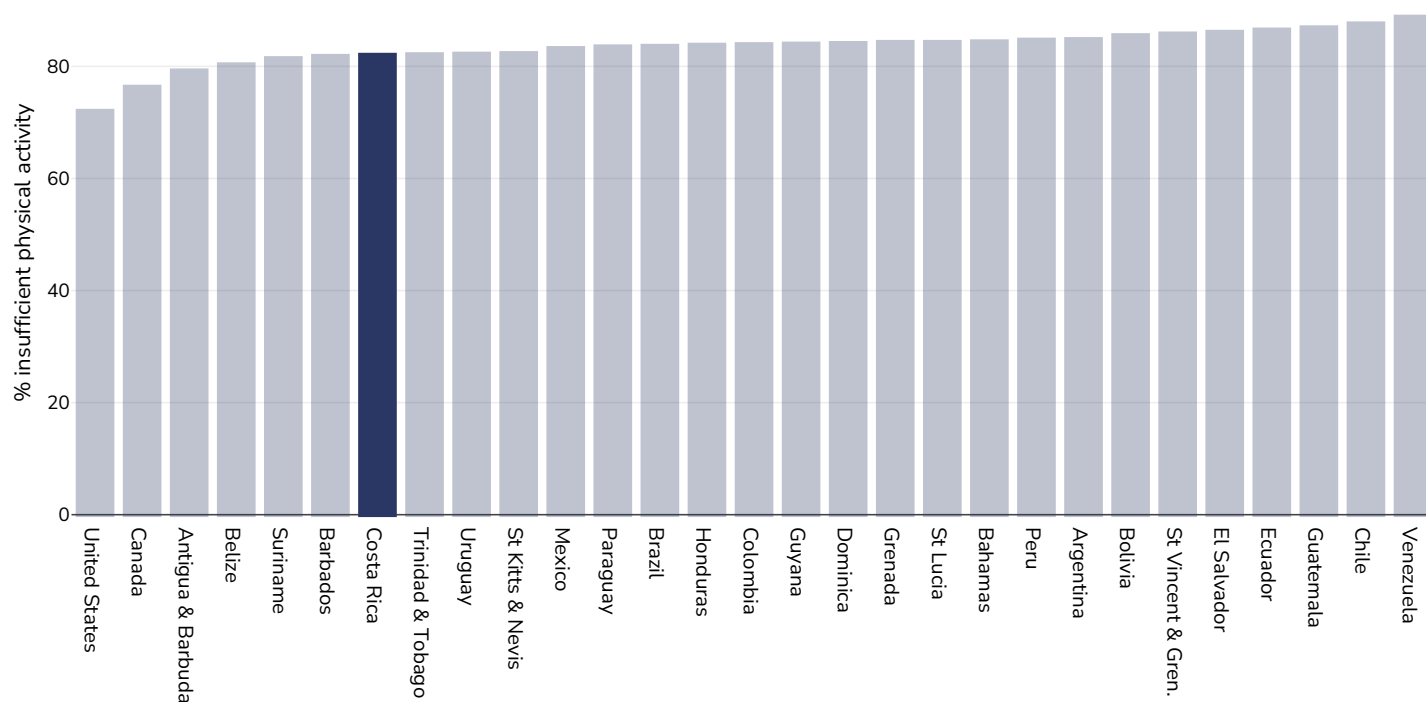
References: Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. Lancet 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

Women, 2016



References: Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. Lancet 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

Children, 2016



Survey type: Self-reported

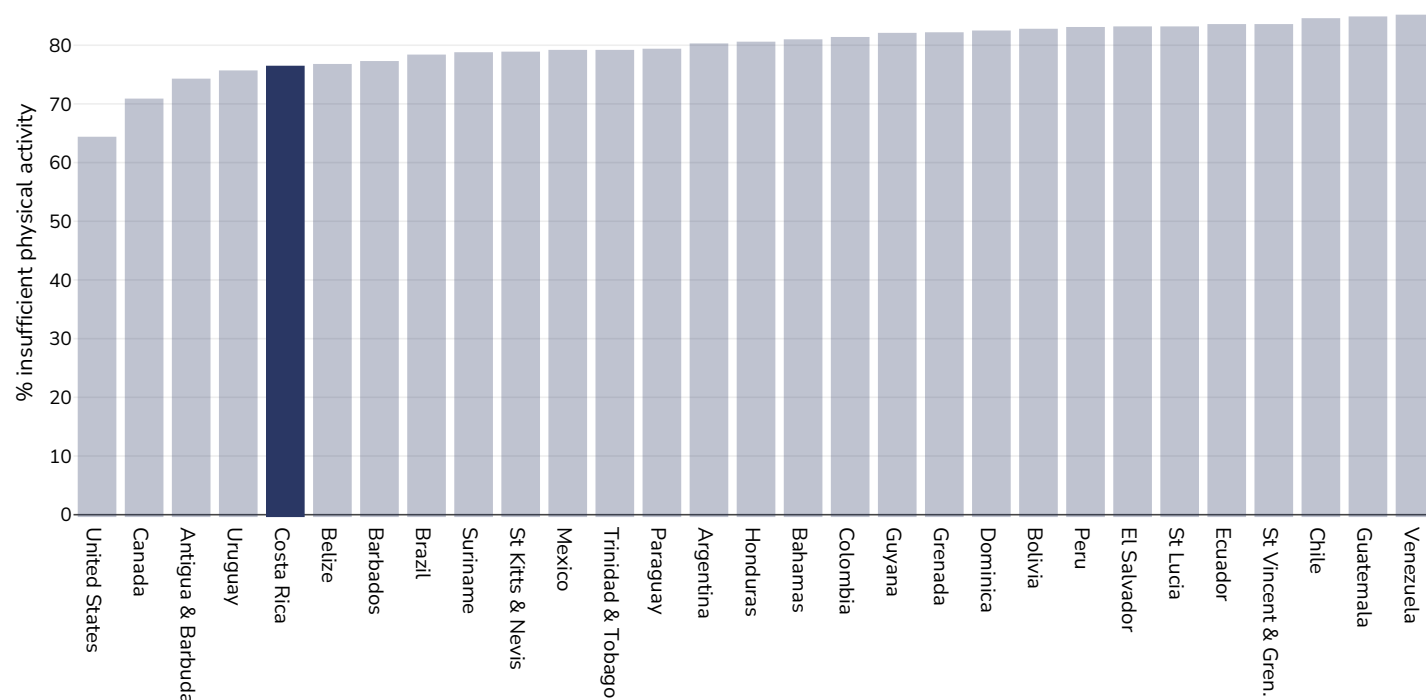
Age: 11-17

References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en> (last accessed 16.03.21)

Notes: % of school going adolescents not meeting WHO recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, i.e. doing less than 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.

Definitions: % Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Boys, 2016



Survey type: Self-reported

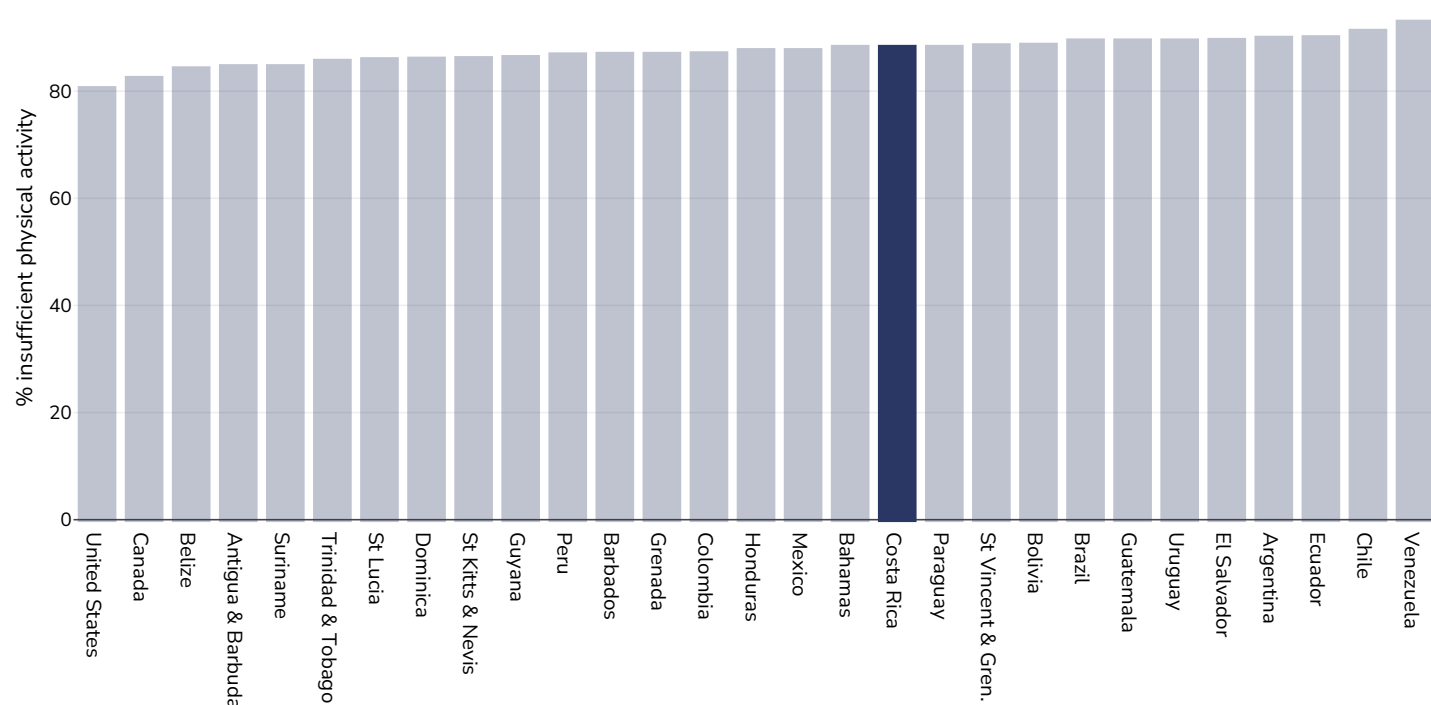
Age: 11-17

References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en> (last accessed 16.03.21)

Notes: % of school going adolescents not meeting WHO recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, i.e. doing less than 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.

Definitions: % Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Girls, 2016



Survey type: Self-reported

Age: 11-17

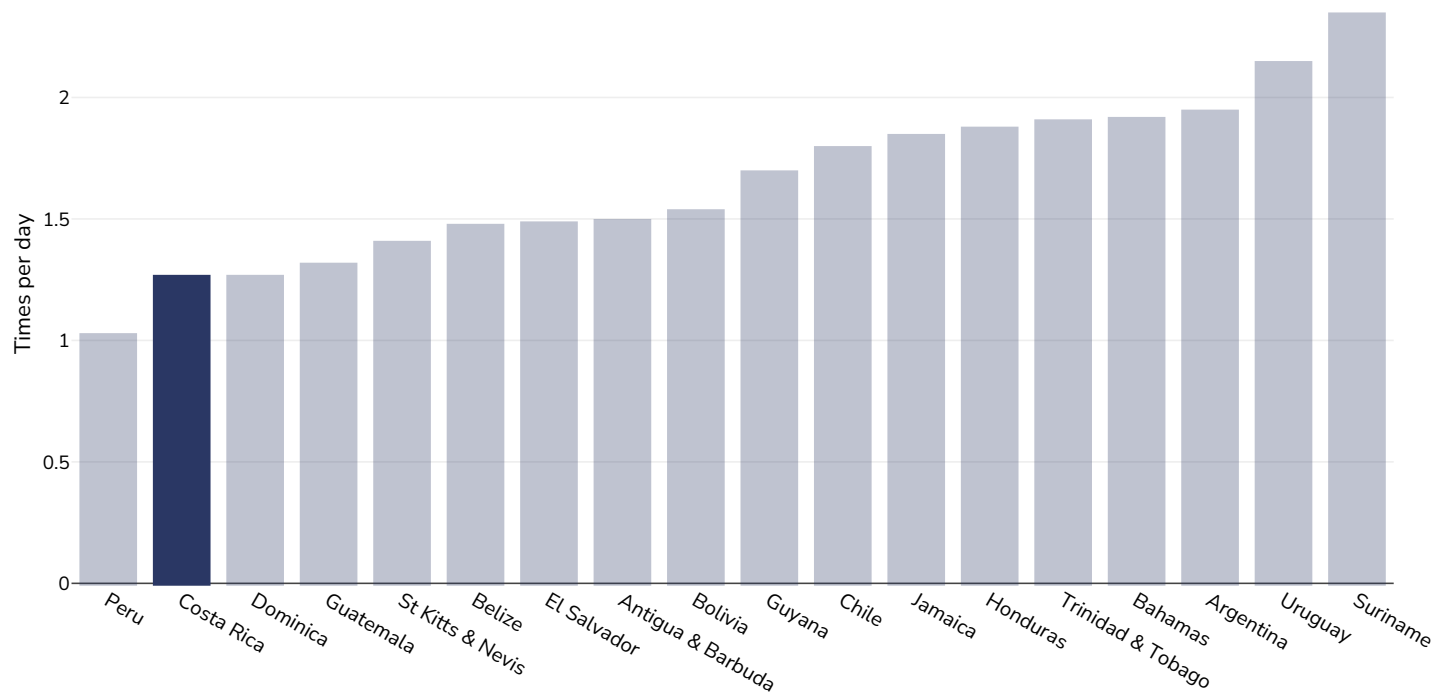
References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en> (last accessed 16.03.21)

Notes: % of school going adolescents not meeting WHO recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, i.e. doing less than 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.

Definitions: % Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Average daily frequency of carbonated soft drink consumption

Children, 2009-2015



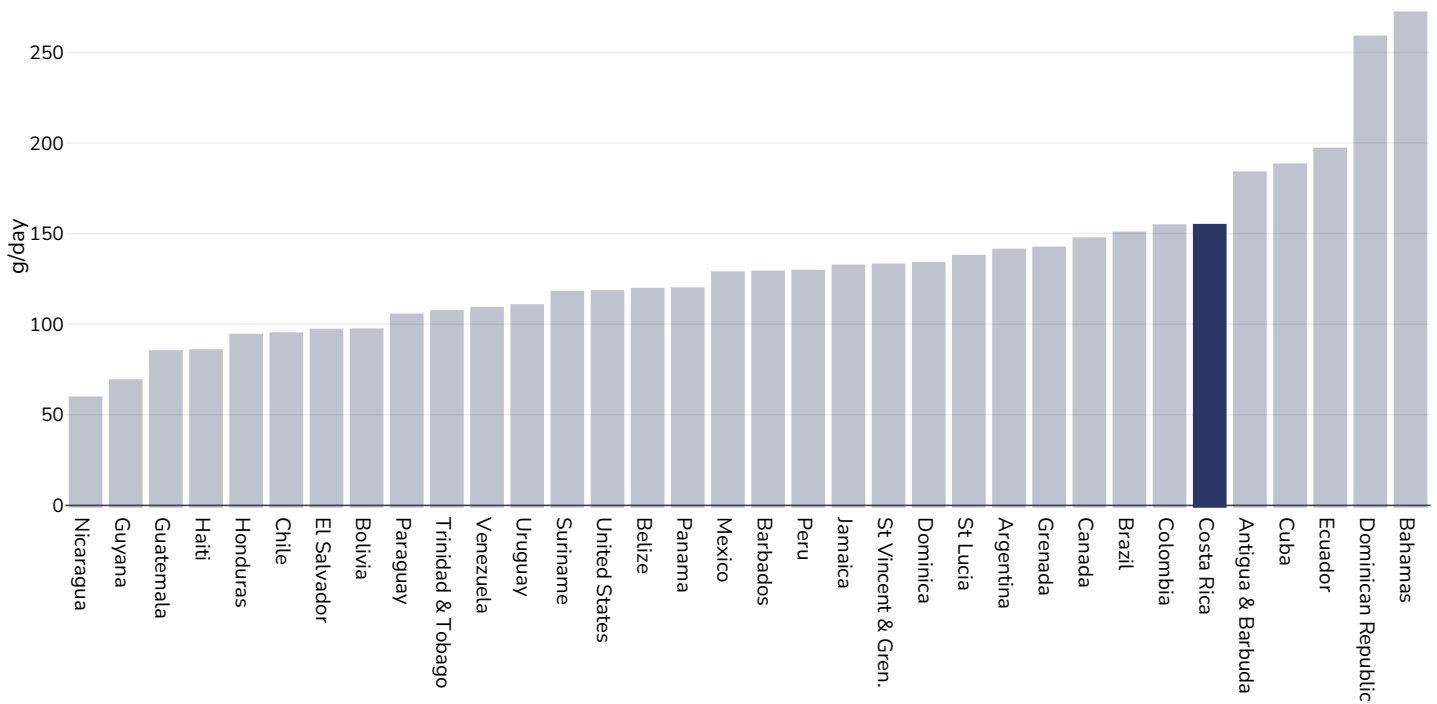
Survey type: Measured

Age: 12-17

References: Beal et al. (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287> sourced from Food Systems Dashboard <http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system>

Estimated per capita fruit intake

Adults, 2017



Survey type:

Measured

Age:

25+

References:

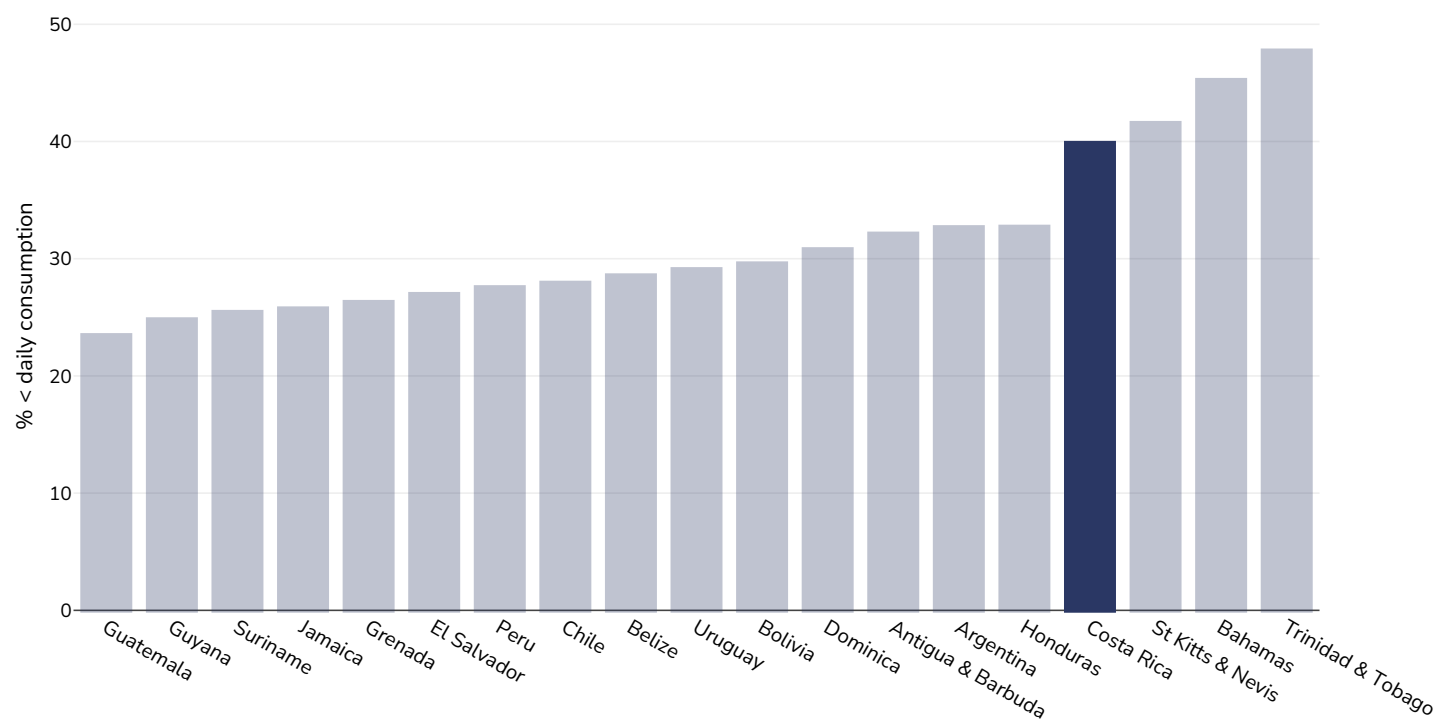
Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/>

Definitions:

Estimated per-capita fruit intake (g/day)

Prevalence of less than daily fruit consumption

Children, 2009-2015



Survey type: Measured

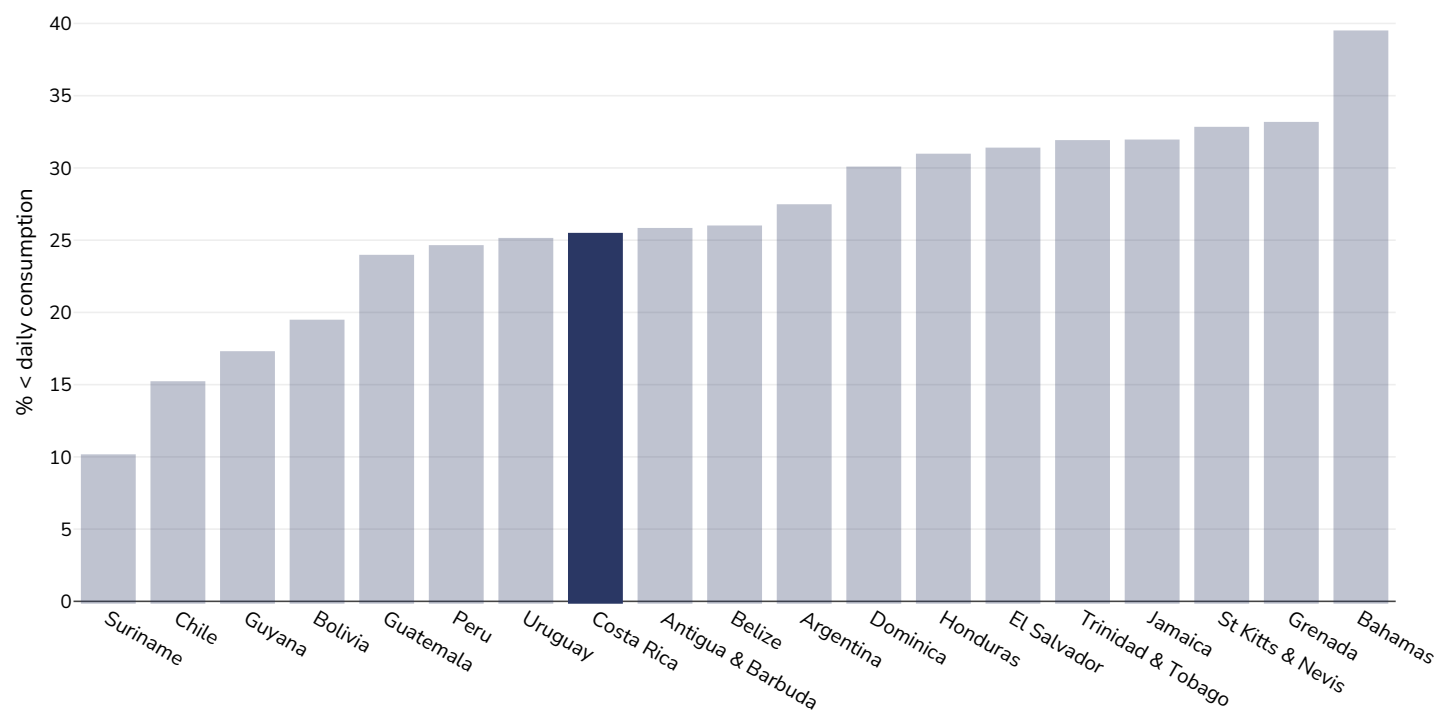
Age: 12-17

References: Global School-based Student Health Surveys. Beal et al (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287>. Sourced from Food Systems Dashboard <http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system>

Definitions: Prevalence of less-than-daily fruit consumption (% less-than-daily fruit consumption)

Prevalence of less than daily vegetable consumption

Children, 2009-2015



Survey type: Measured

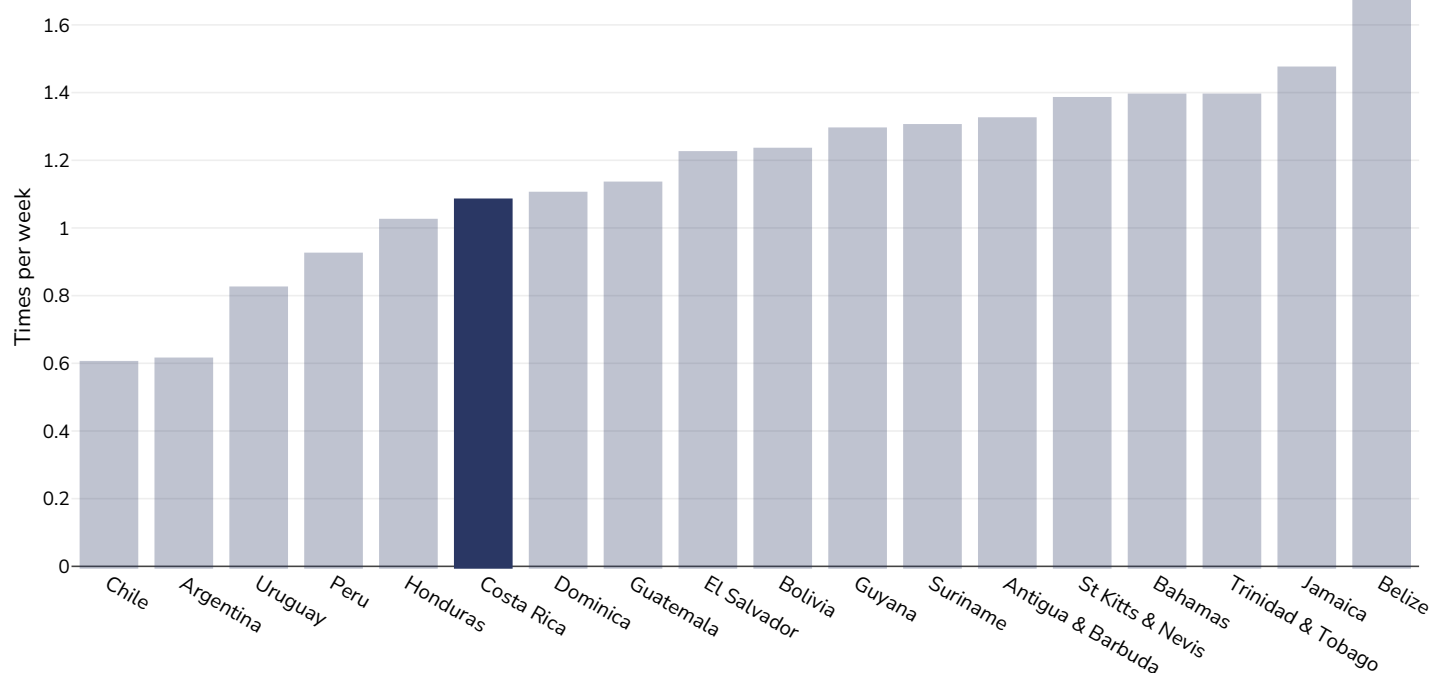
Age: 12-17

References: Beal et al. (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287> sourced from Food Systems Dashboard <http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system>

Definitions: Prevalence of less-than-daily vegetable consumption (% less-than-daily vegetable consumption)

Average weekly frequency of fast food consumption

Children, 2009-2015

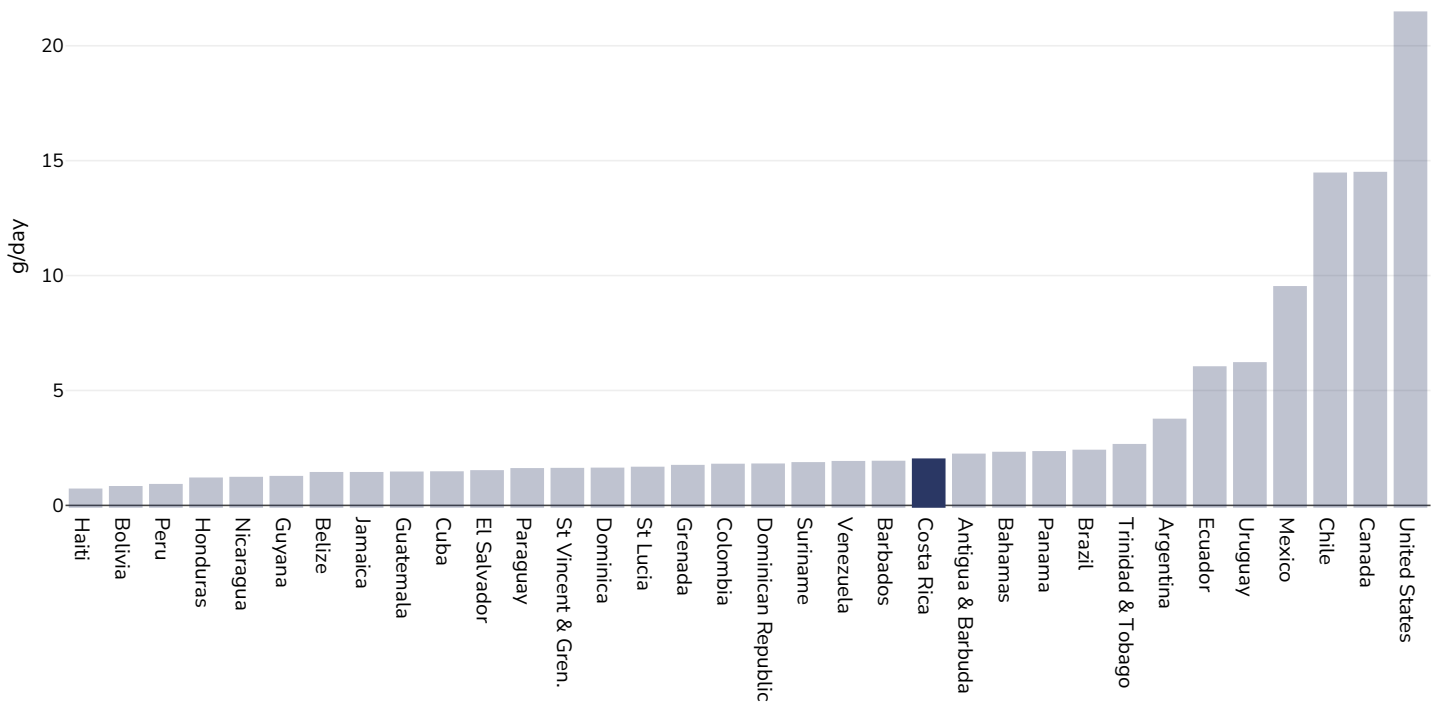


Age: 12-17

References: Beal et al. (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287> sourced from Food Systems Dashboard <http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system>

Estimated per-capita processed meat intake

Adults, 2017



Survey type:

Measured

Age:

25+

References:

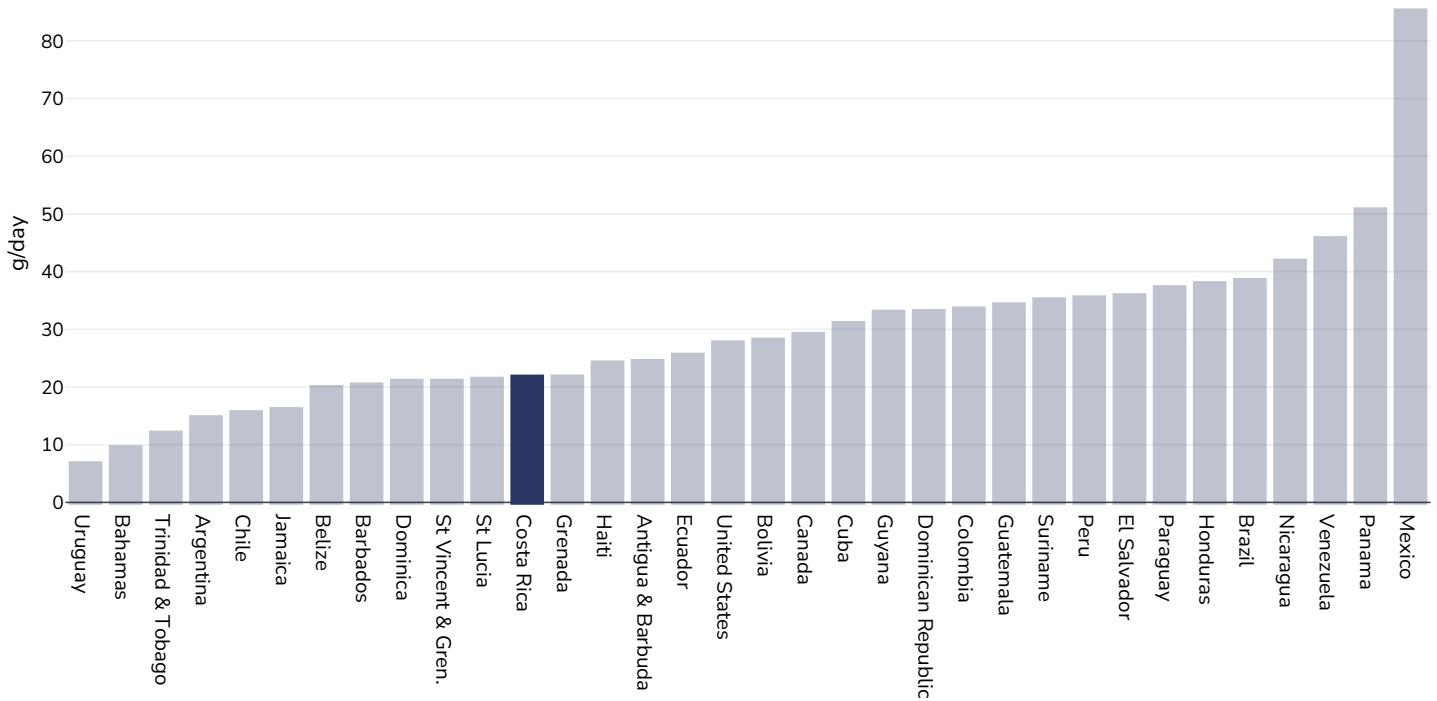
Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/>

Definitions:

Estimated per-capita processed meat intake (g per day)

Estimated per capita whole grains intake

Adults, 2017



Survey type:

Measured

Age:

25+

References:

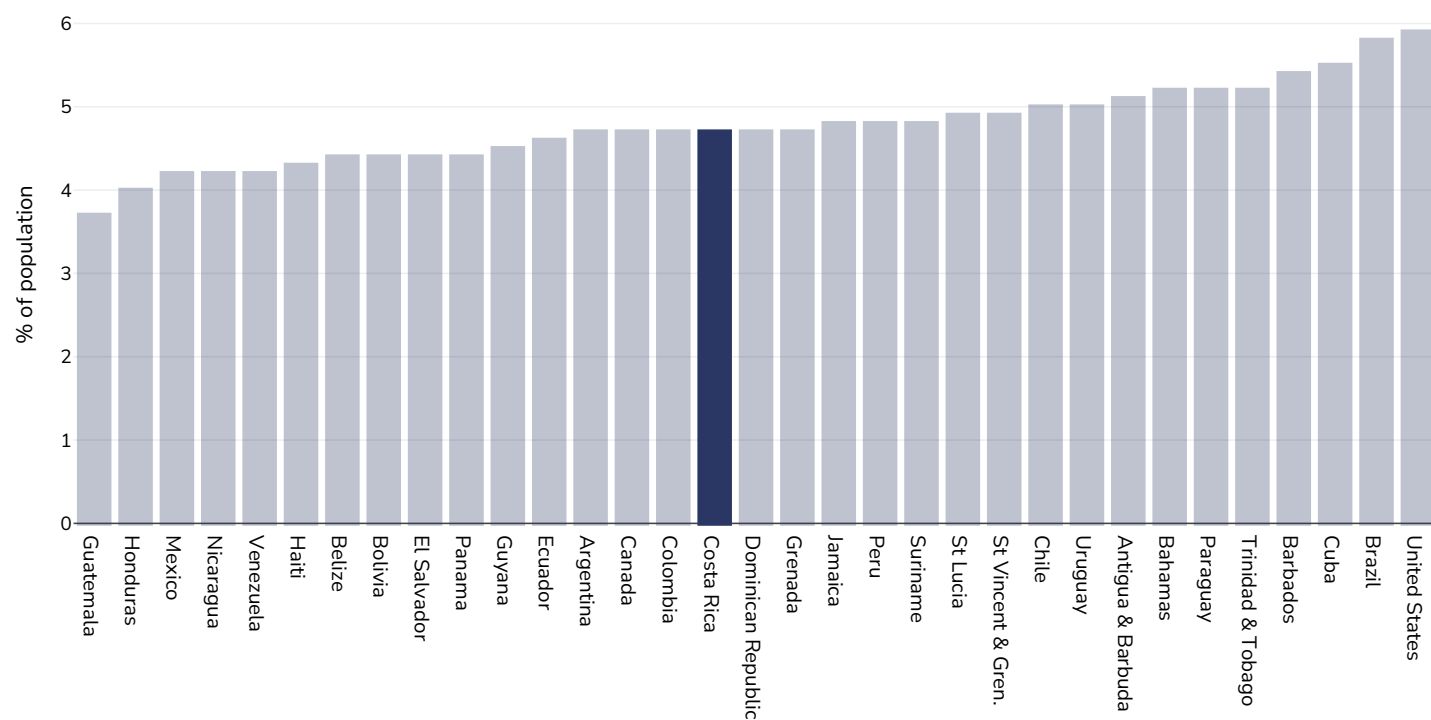
Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/>

Definitions:

Estimated per-capita whole grains intake (g/day)

Mental health - depression disorders

Adults, 2015

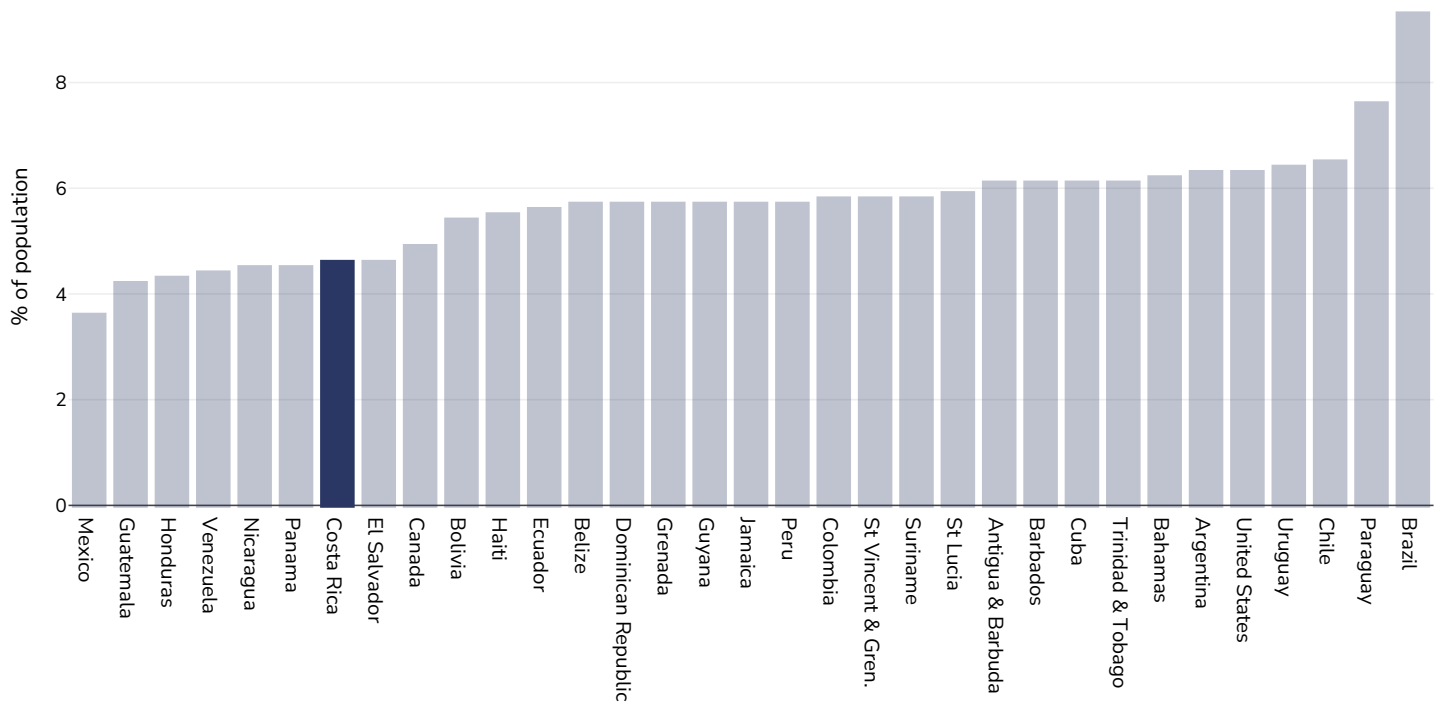


References: Prevalence data from Global Burden of Disease study 2015 (<http://ghdx.healthdata.org>) published in: Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates. Geneva:World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Definitions: % of population with depression disorders

Mental health - anxiety disorders

Adults, 2015

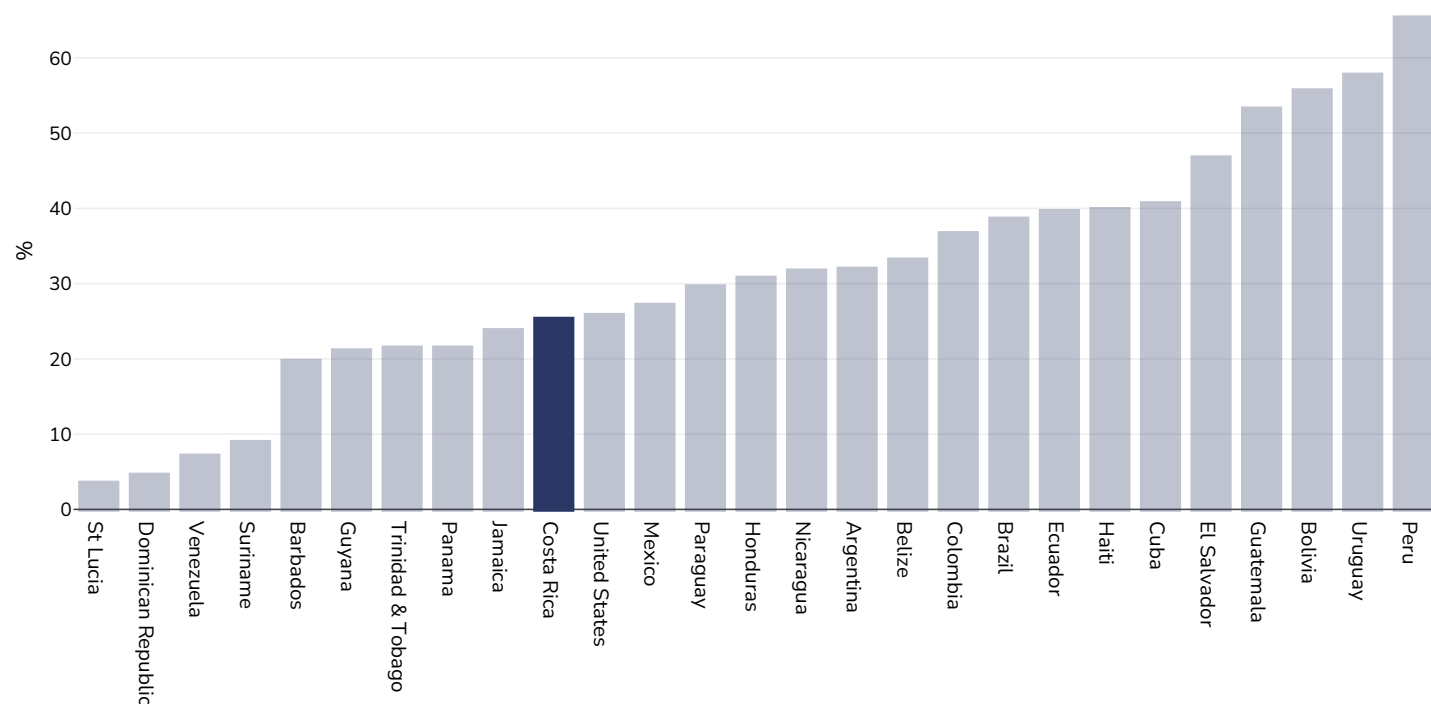


References: Prevalence data from Global Burden of Disease study 2015 (<http://ghdx.healthdata.org>) published in: Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates. Geneva:World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Definitions: % of population with anxiety disorders

% Infants exclusively breastfed 0-5 months

Children, 1998-2019



Area covered: National

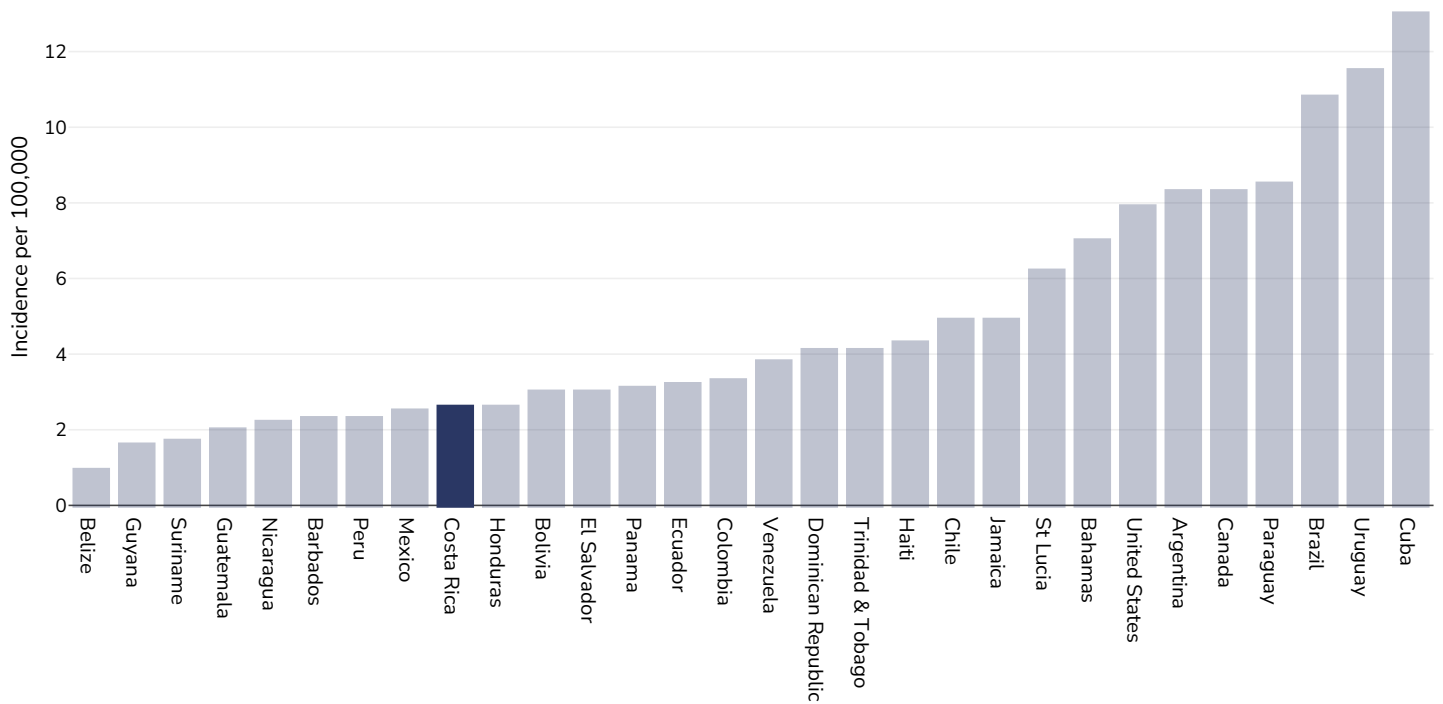
References: Encuesta de Mujeres, Niñez y Adolescencia (EMNA), Informe de resultados de la encuesta. San José, Costa Rica. 2019

Notes: See UNICEF website for further survey information. Available at : <https://data.unicef.org/resources/dataset/infant-young-child-feeding/> (last accessed 28.9.21) Citation: United Nations Children's Fund, Division of Data, Analysis, Planning and Monitoring (2021). Global UNICEF Global Databases: Infant and Young Child Feeding: Exclusive breastfeeding, New York, September 2021.

Definitions: % exclusively breastfed 0-5 months

Oesophageal cancer

Men, 2020



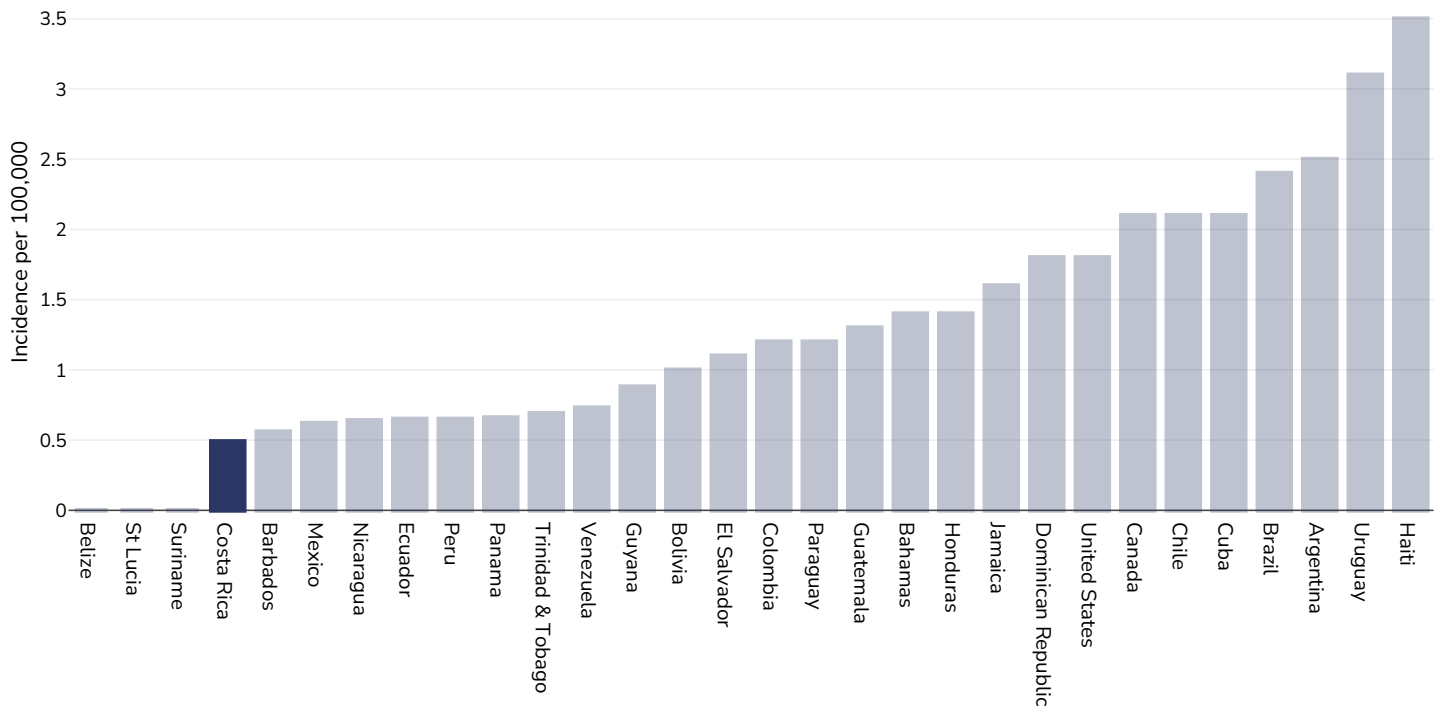
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

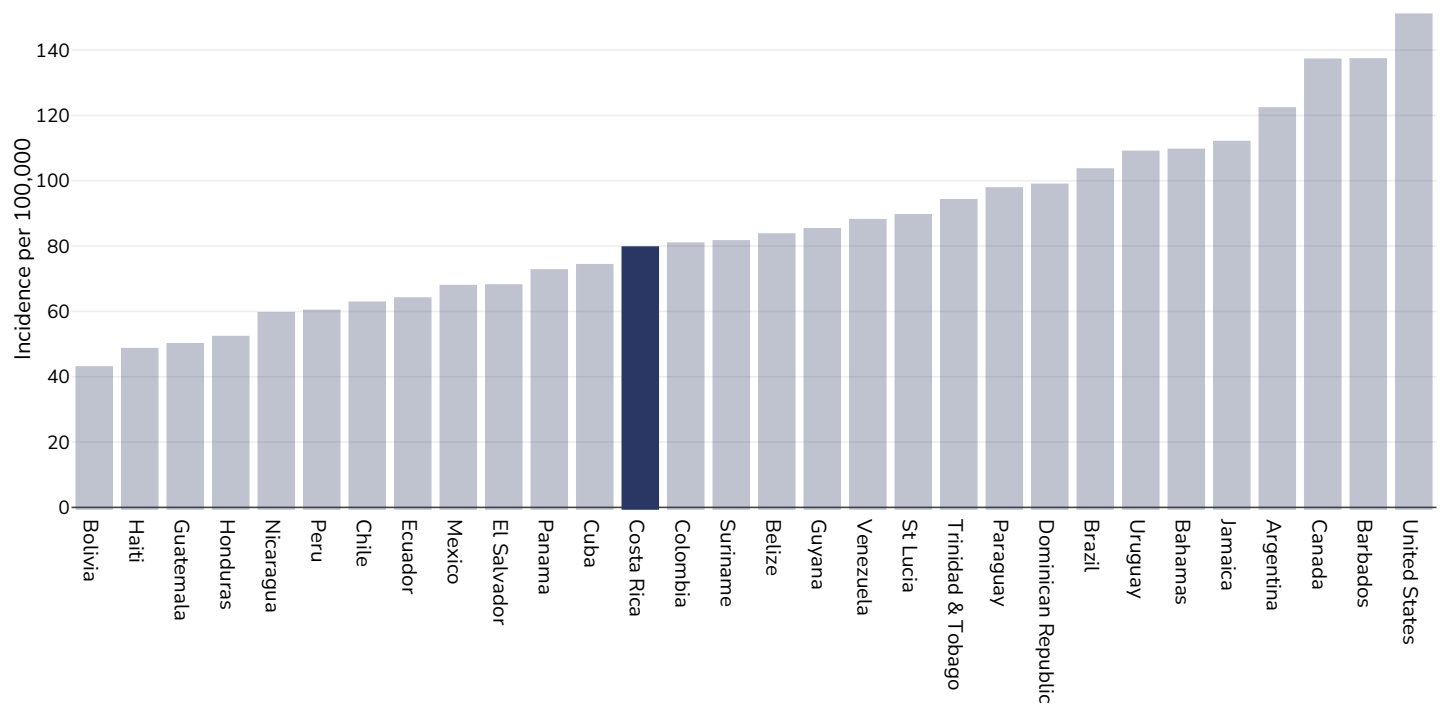
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Breast cancer

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

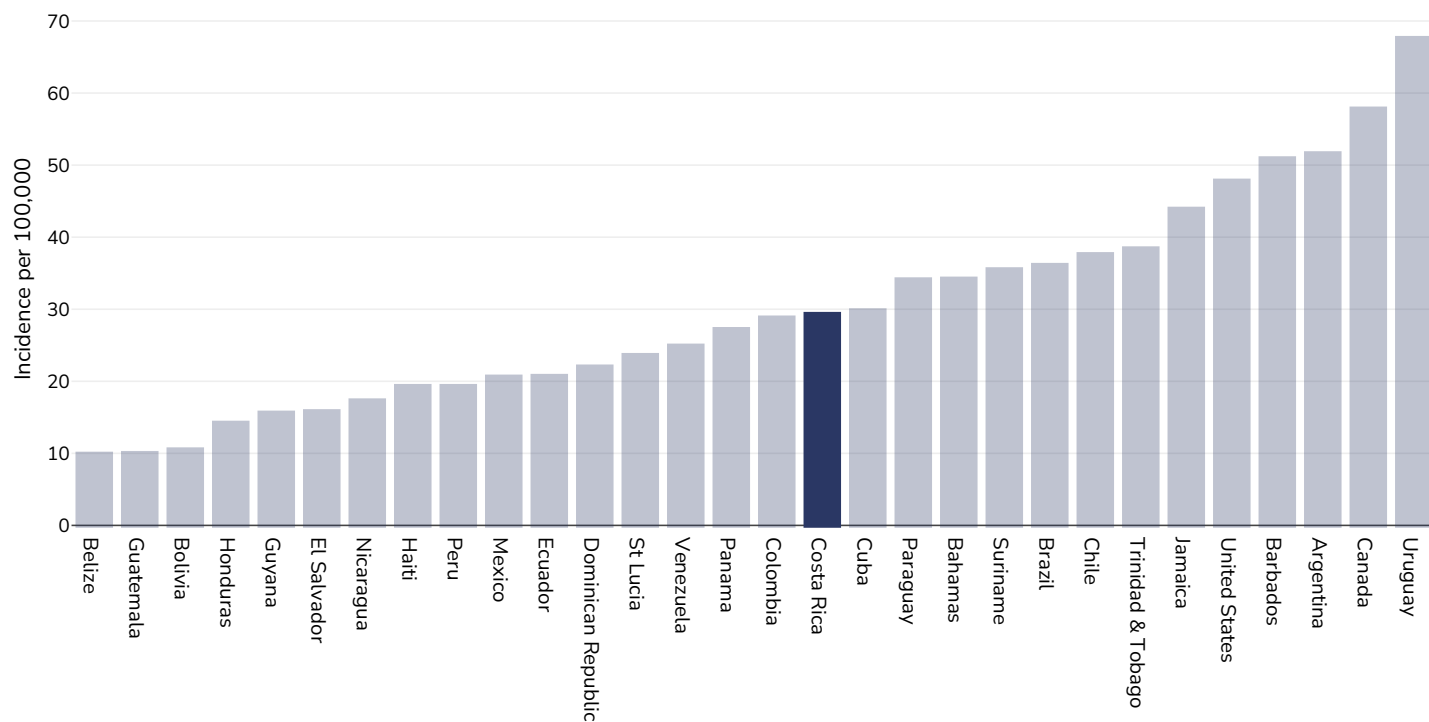
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Colorectal cancer

Men, 2020



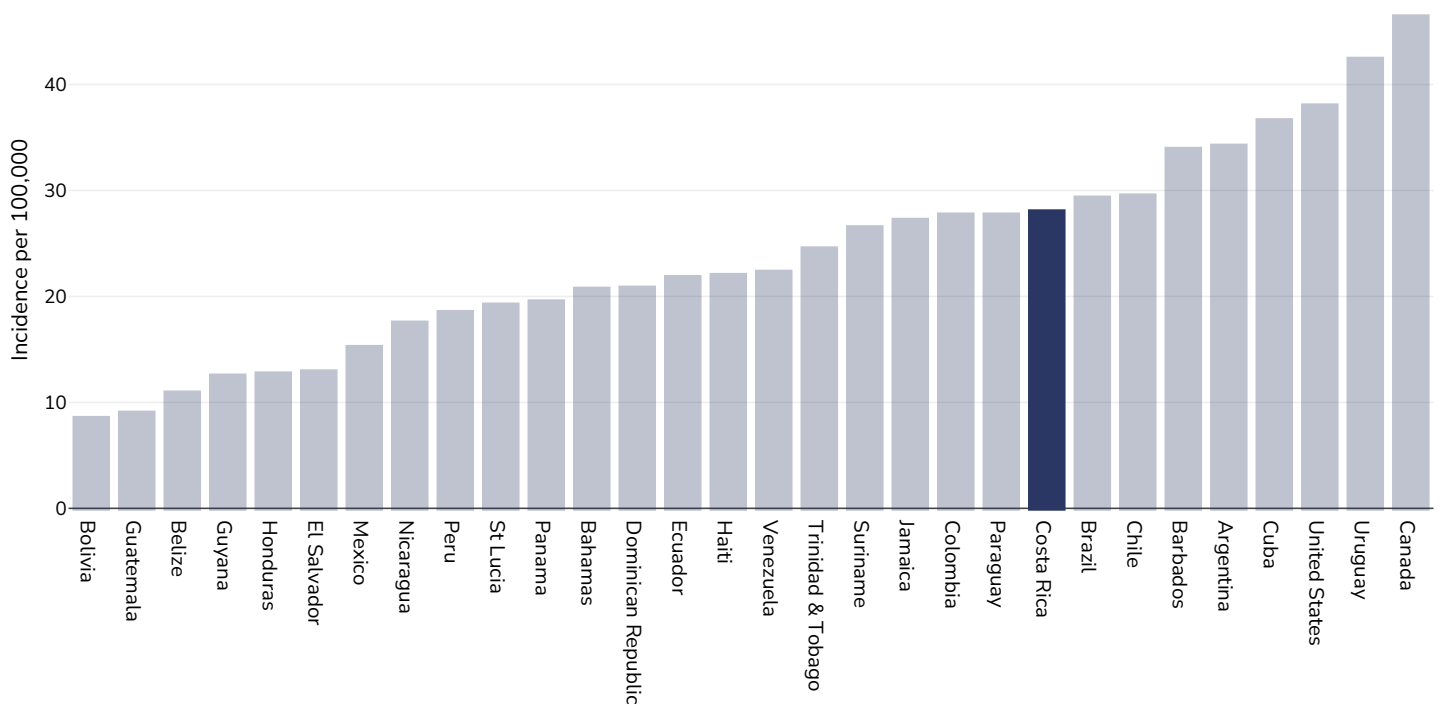
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

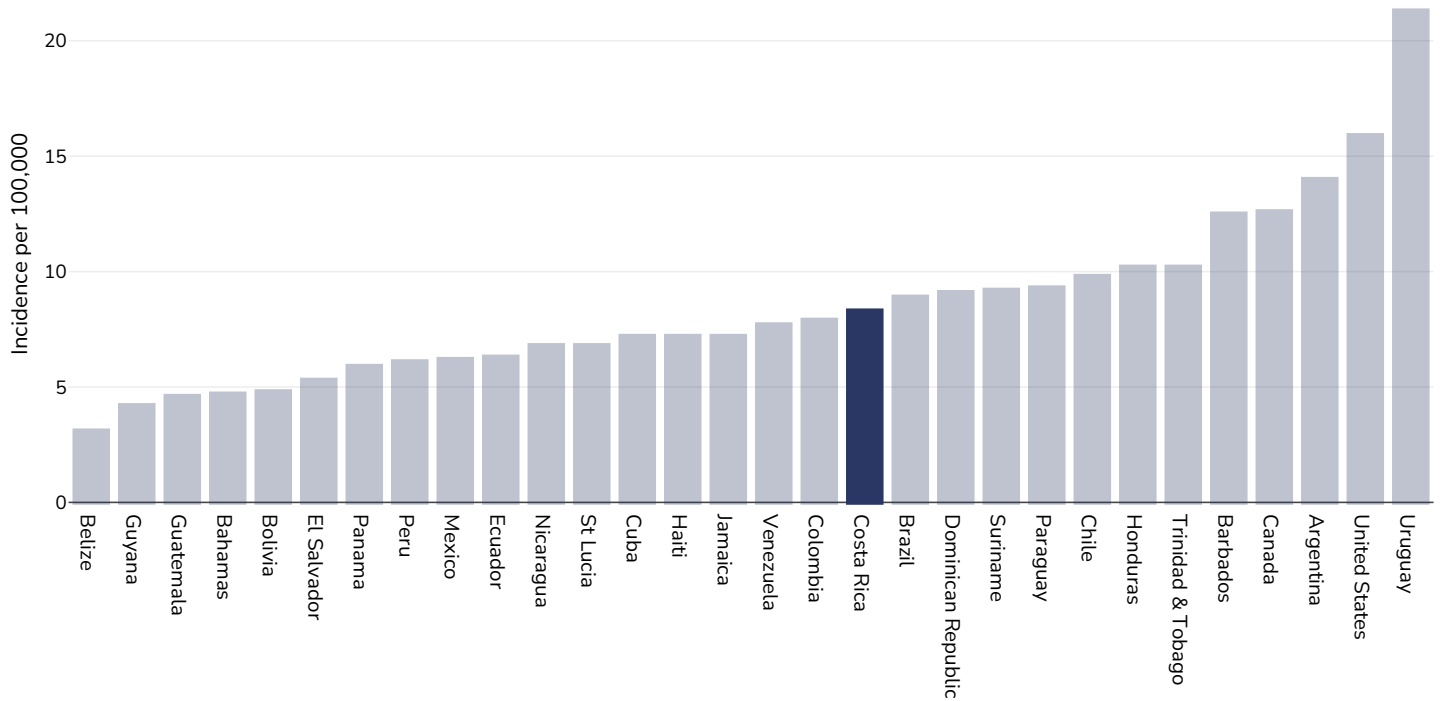
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Pancreatic cancer

Men, 2020



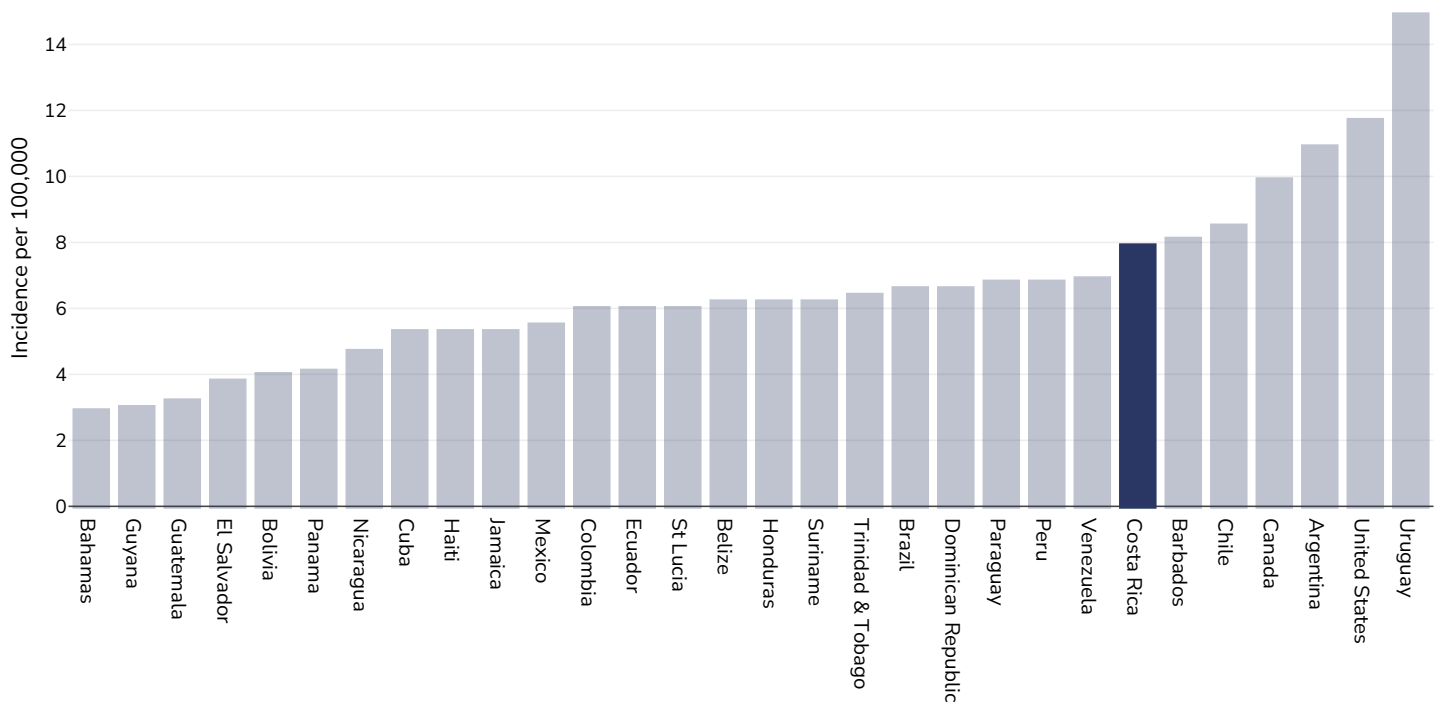
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

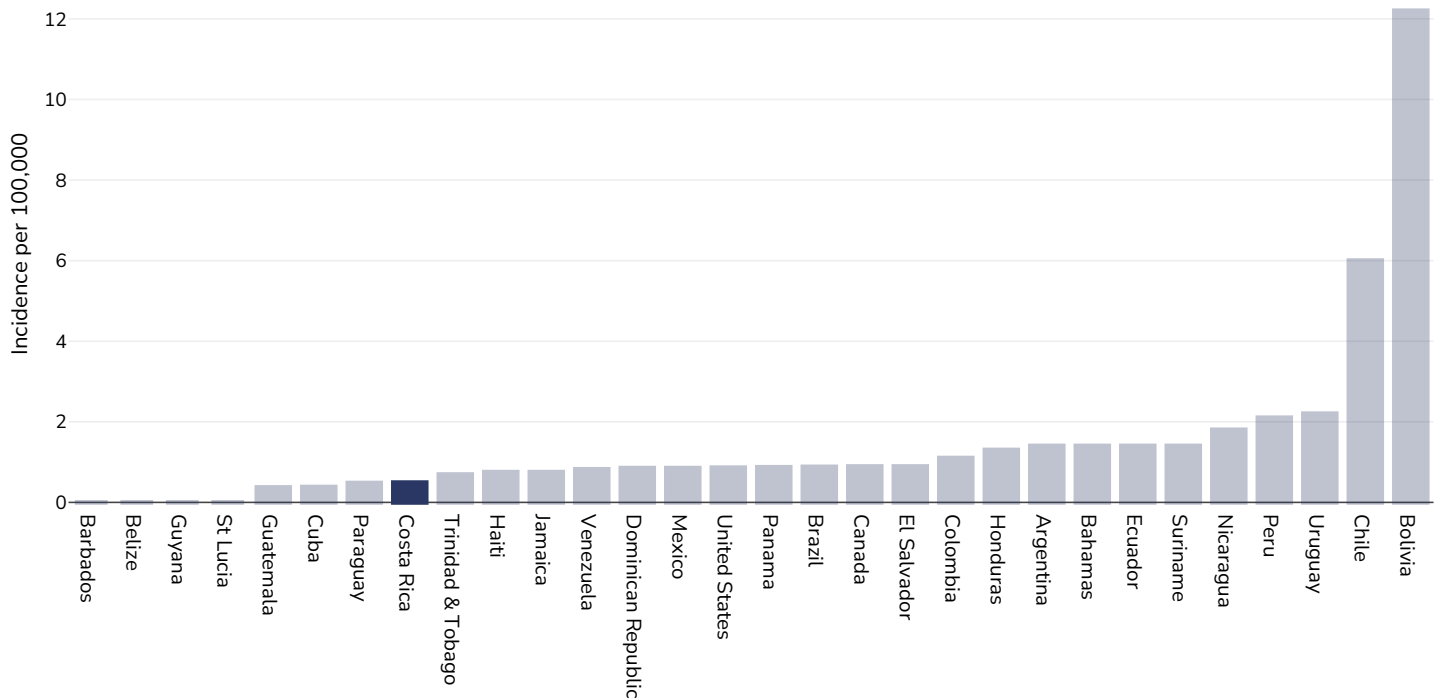
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Gallbladder cancer

Men, 2020



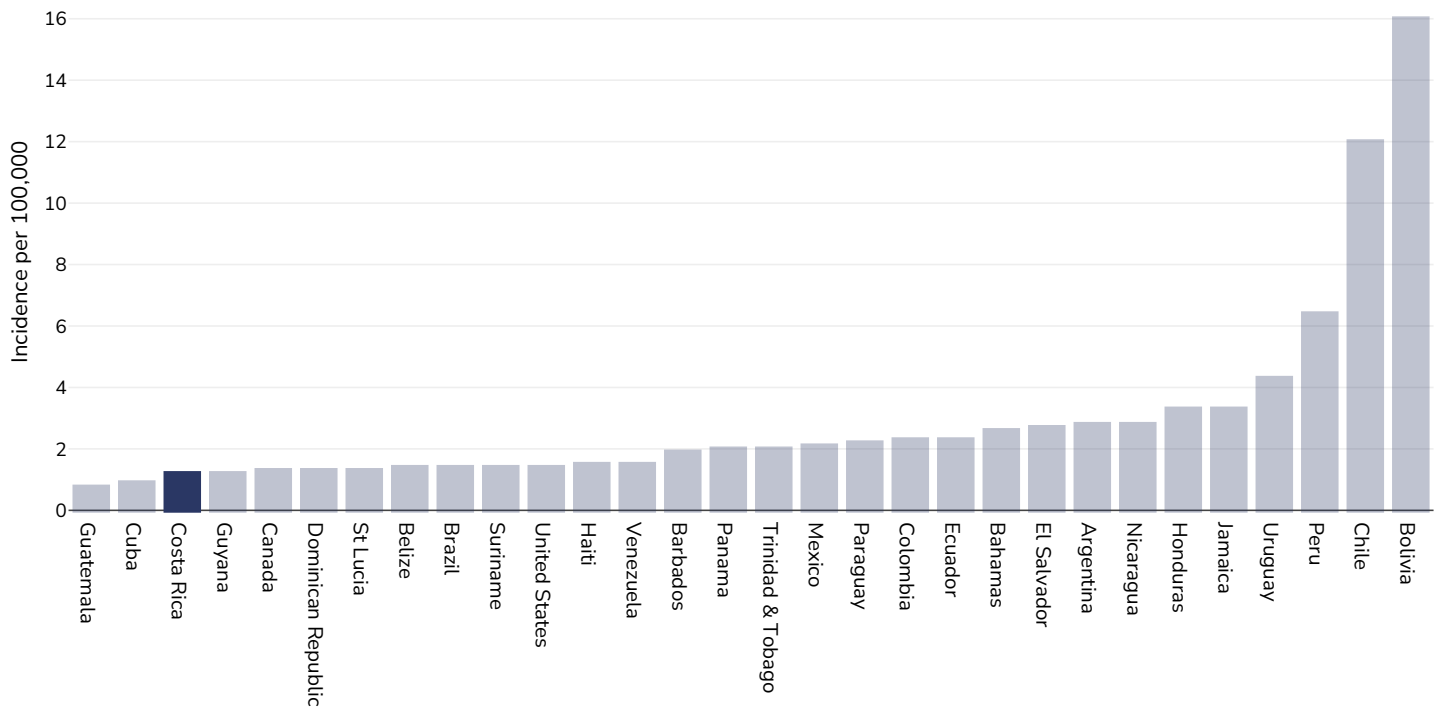
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

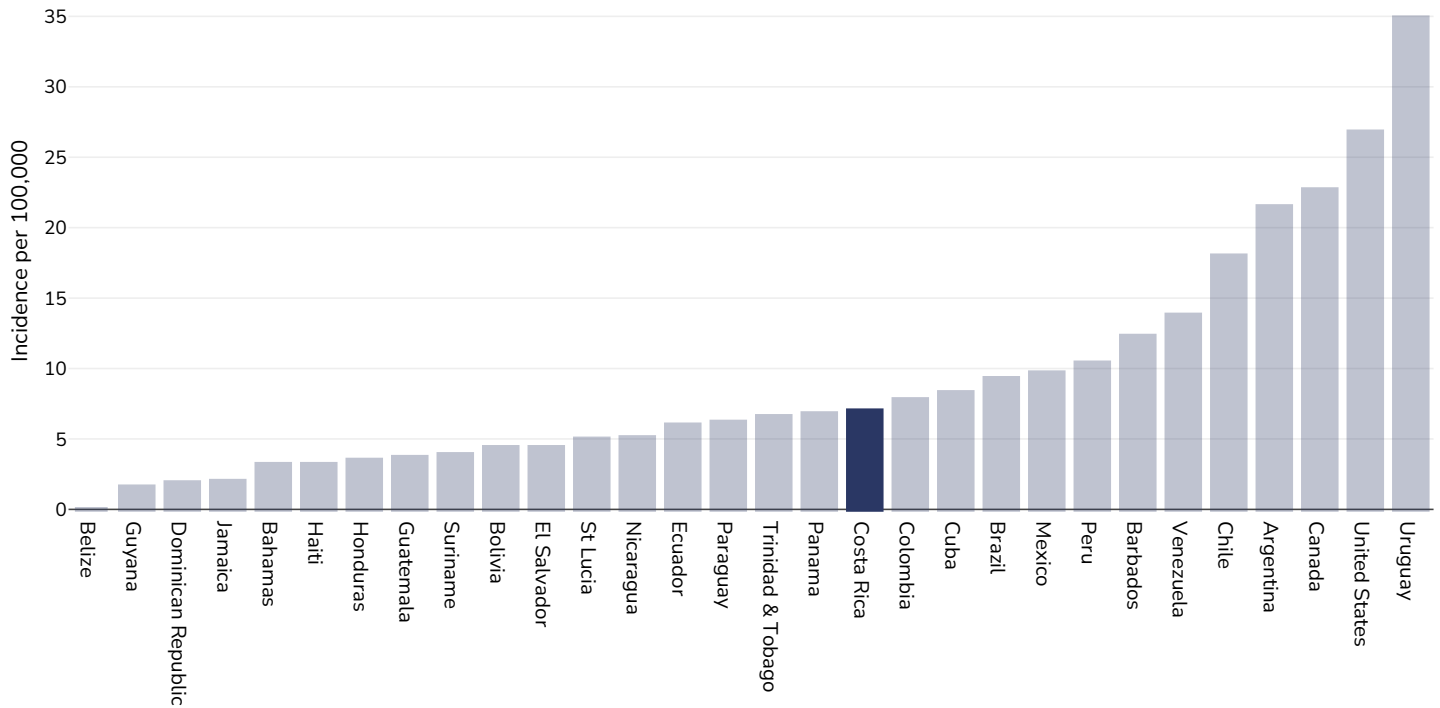
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Kidney cancer

Men, 2020



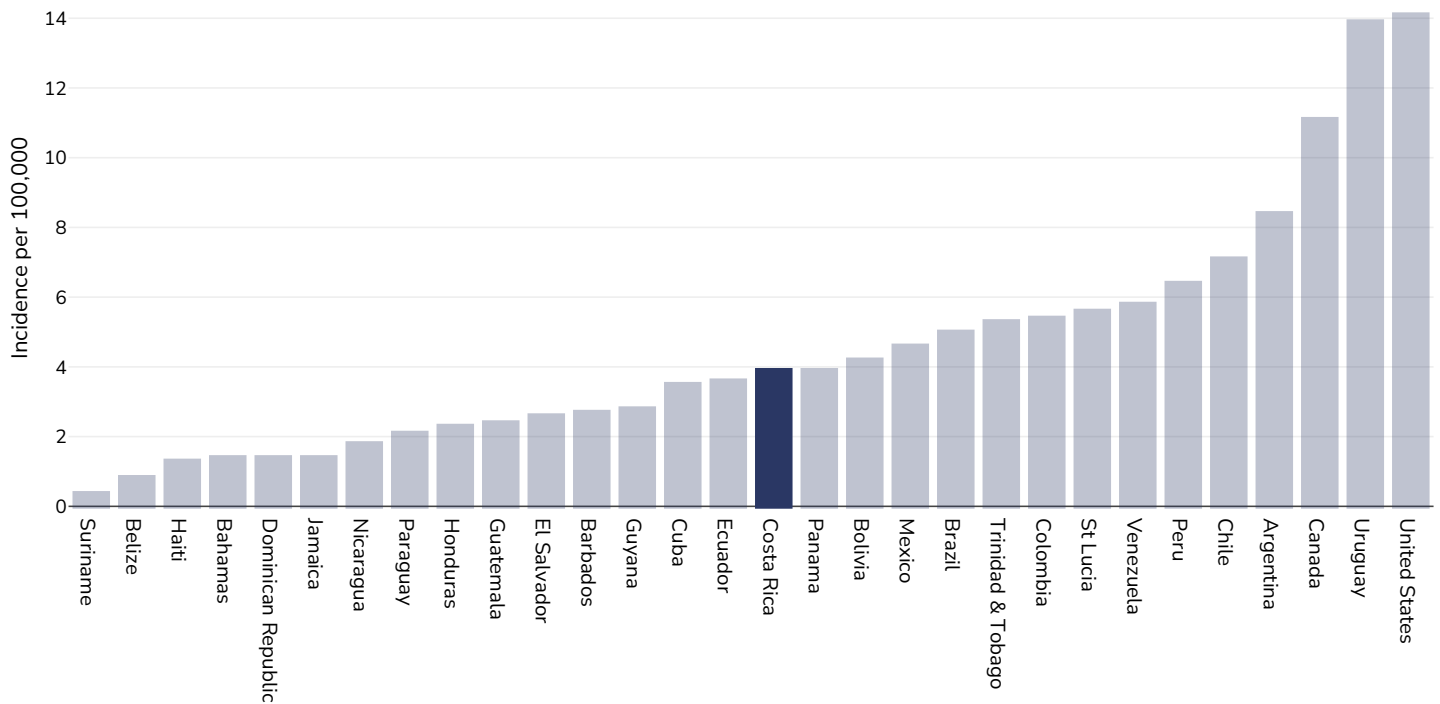
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

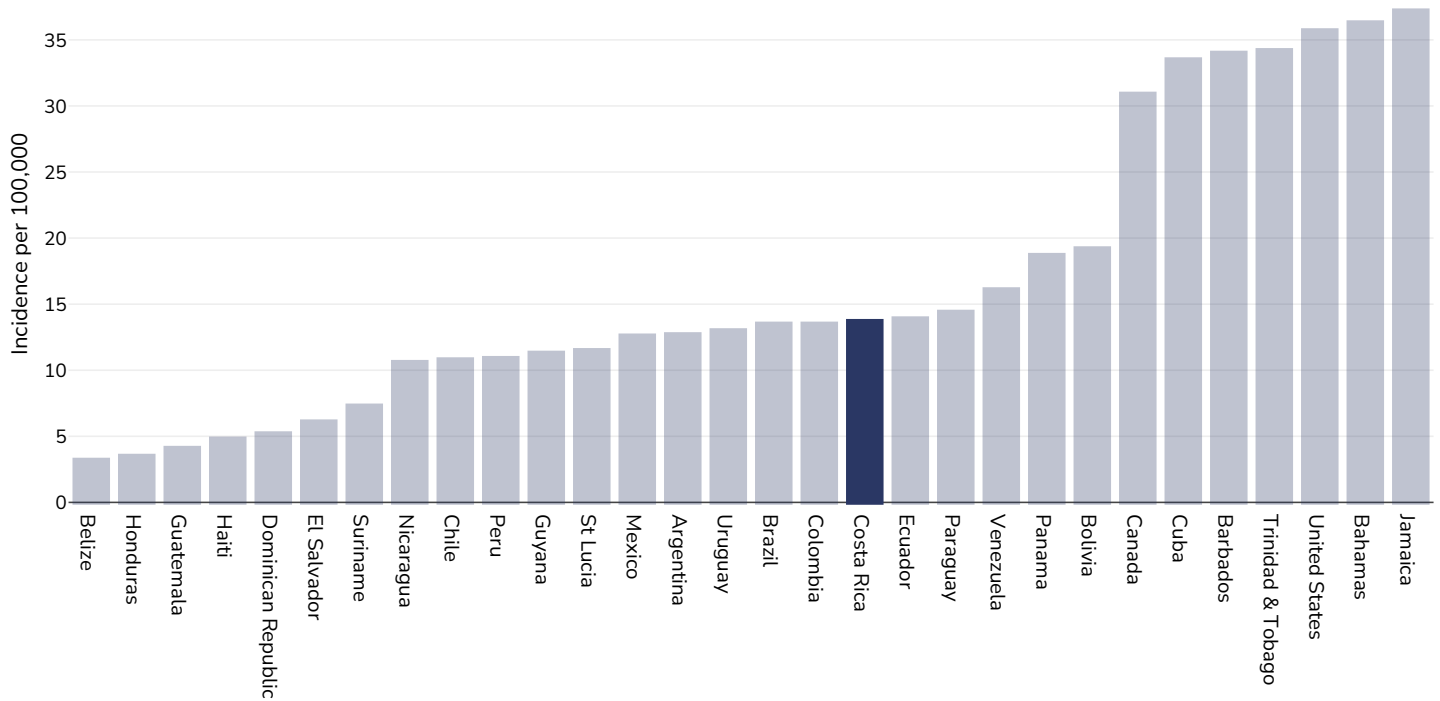
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Cancer of the uterus

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

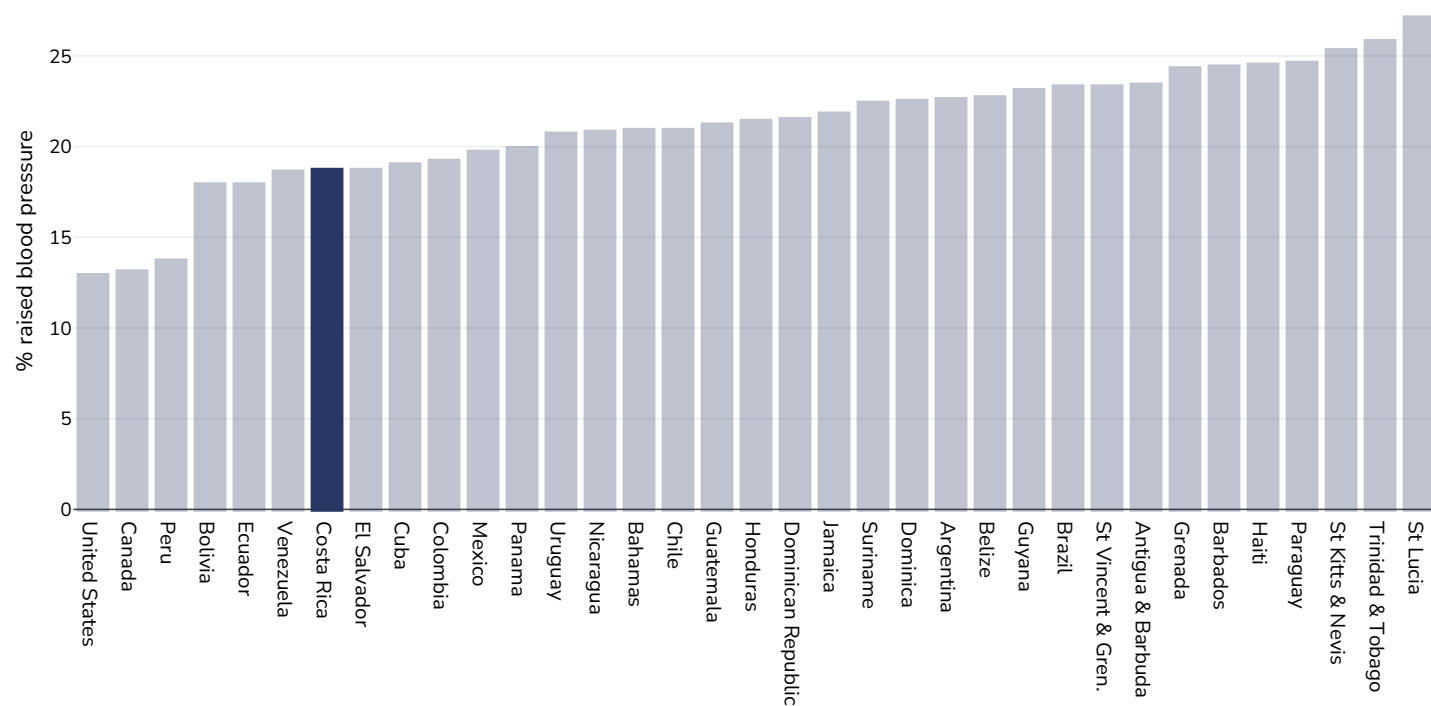
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2099

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Raised blood pressure

Adults, 2015



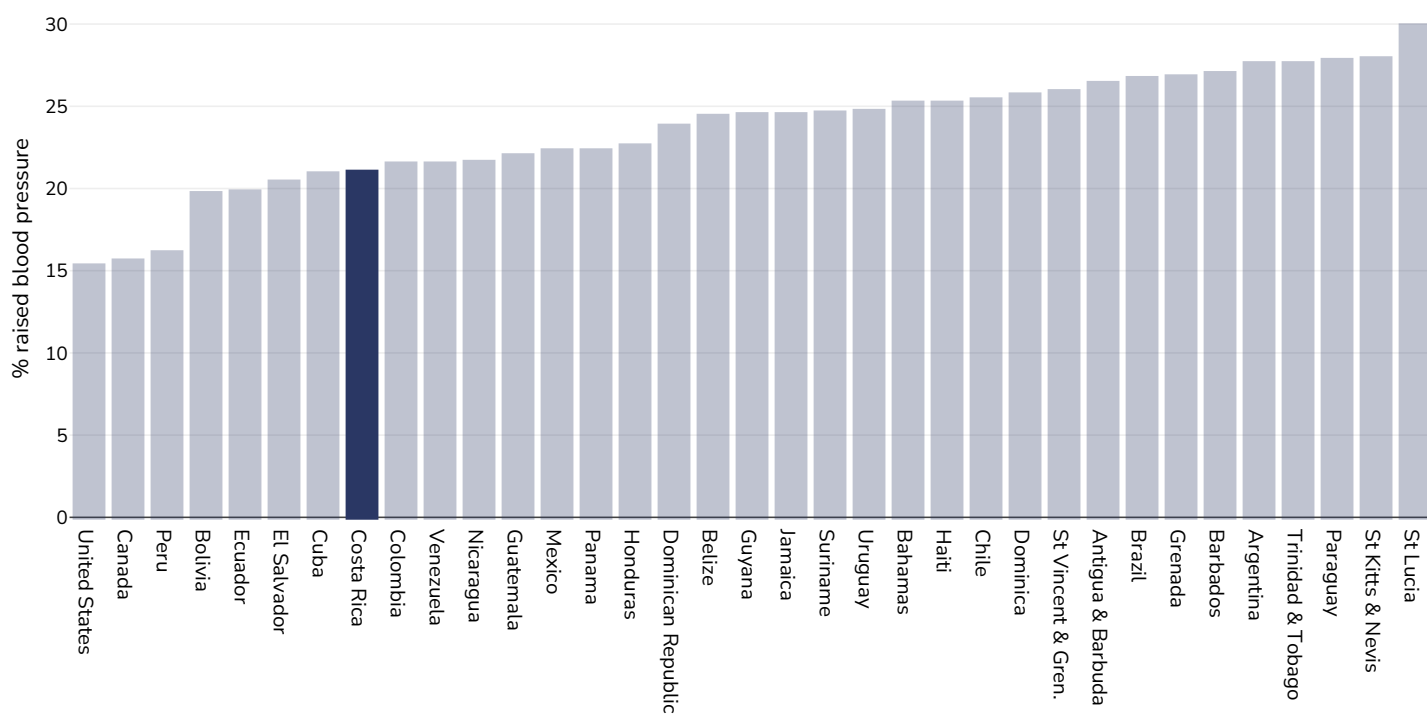
References:

Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation,
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en>

Definitions:

Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP \geq 140 OR DBP \geq 90).

Men, 2015



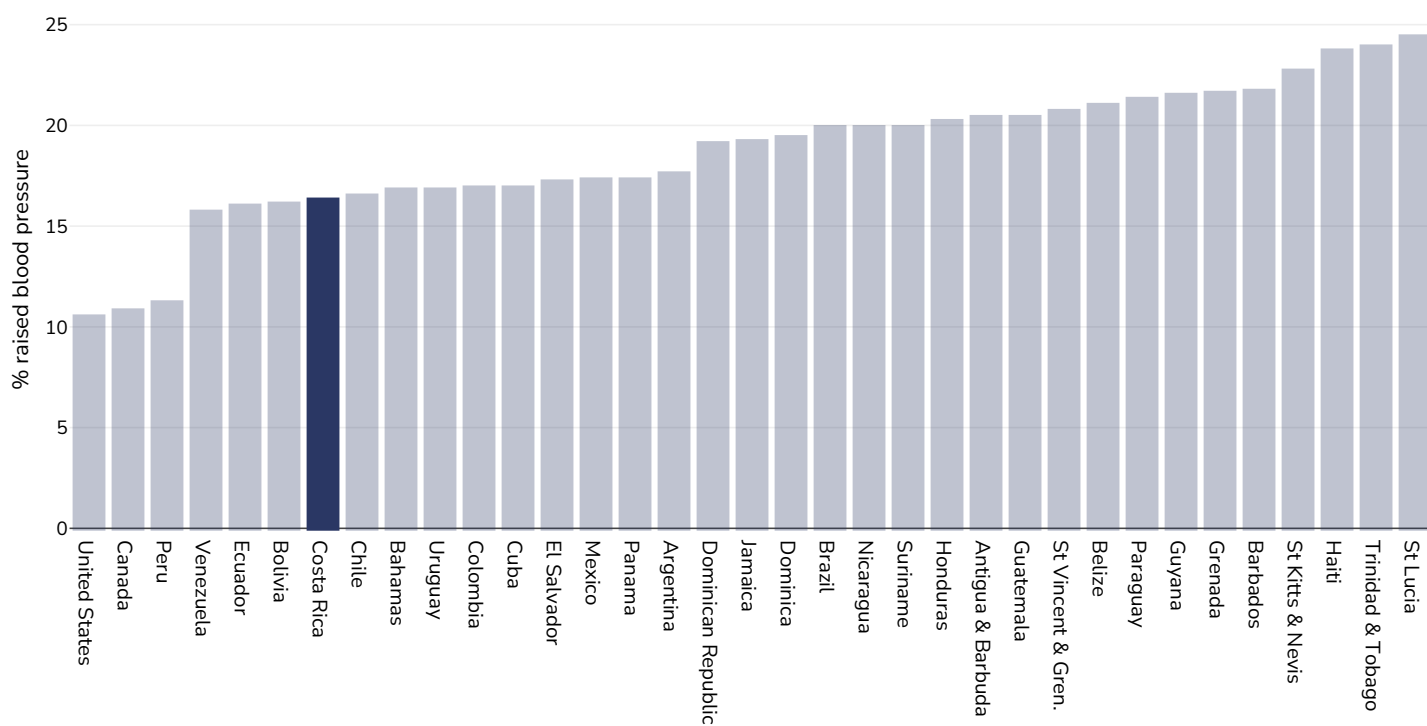
References:

Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation,
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en>

Definitions:

Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP \geq 140 OR DBP \geq 90).

Women, 2015



References:

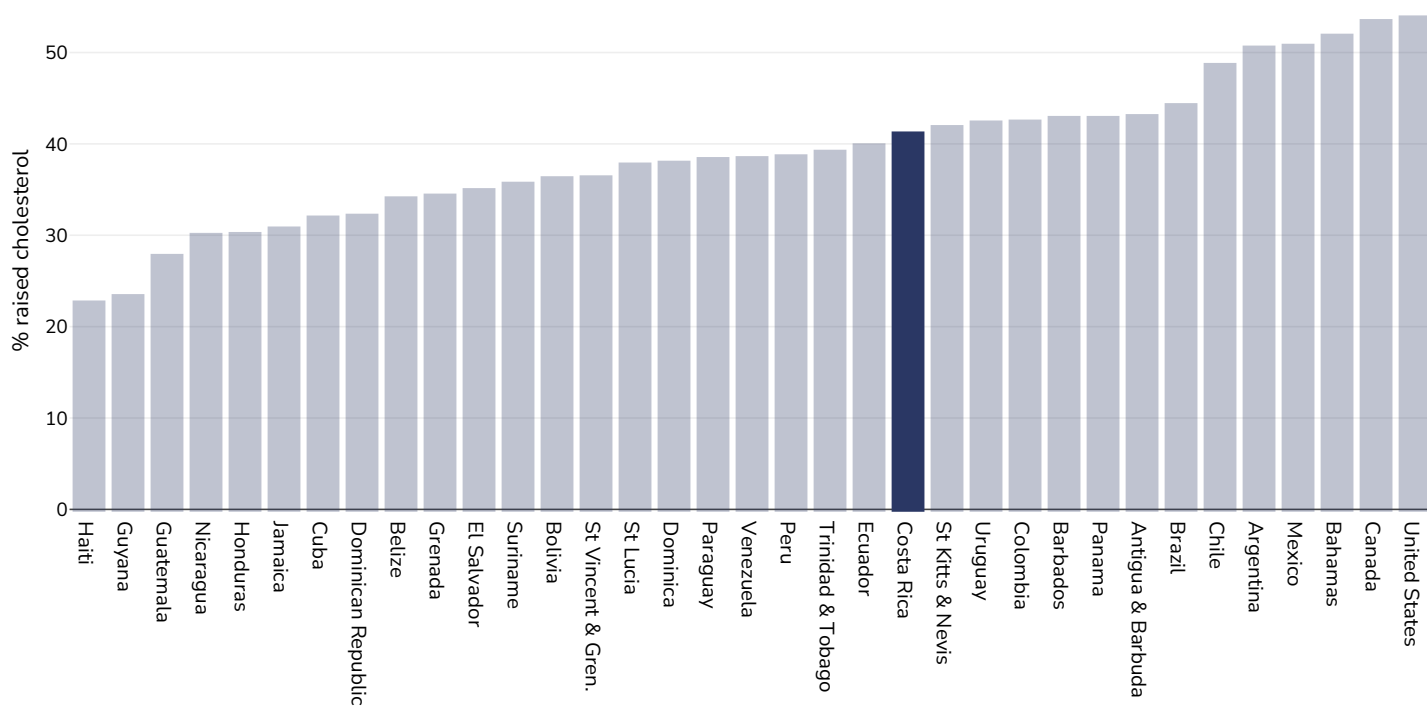
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation,
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en>

Definitions:

Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP>=140 OR DBP>=90).

Raised cholesterol

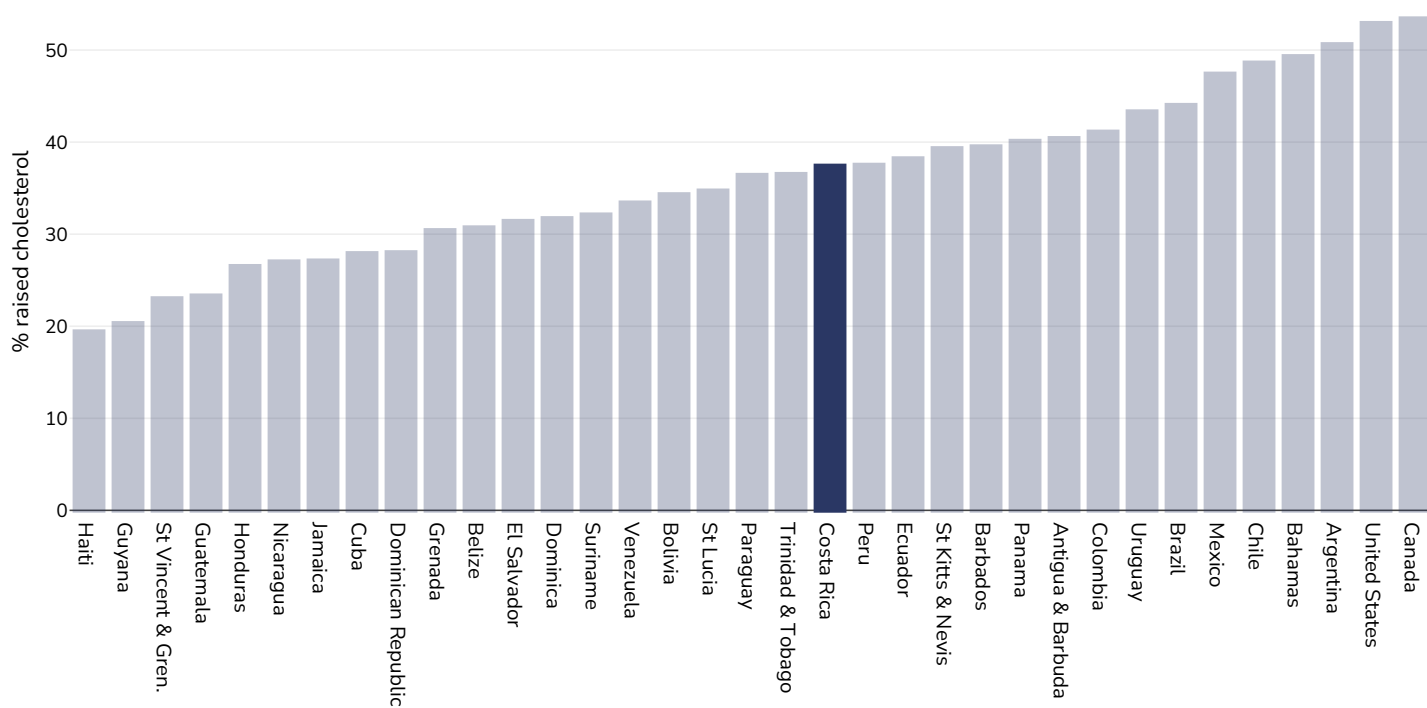
Adults, 2008



References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885>

Definitions: % Raised total cholesterol (≥ 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).

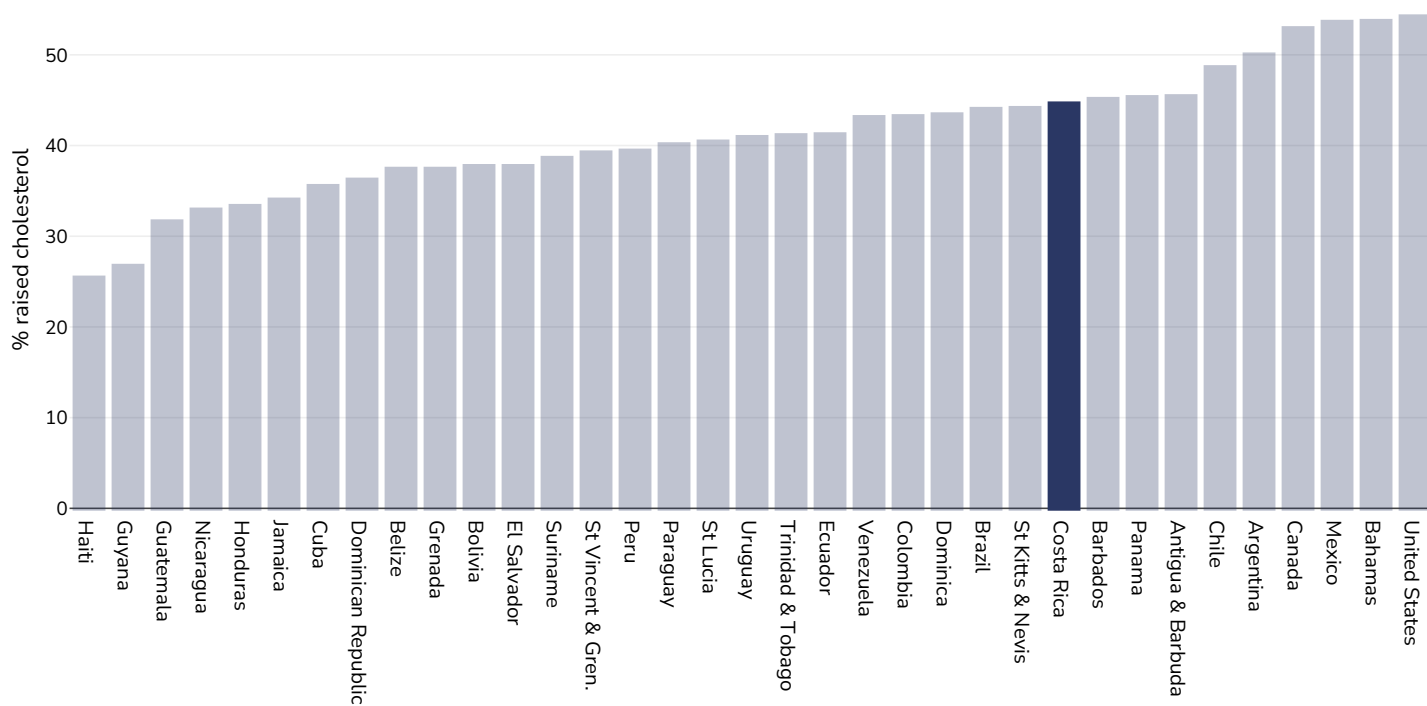
Men, 2008



References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885>

Definitions: % Raised total cholesterol (≥ 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).

Women, 2008

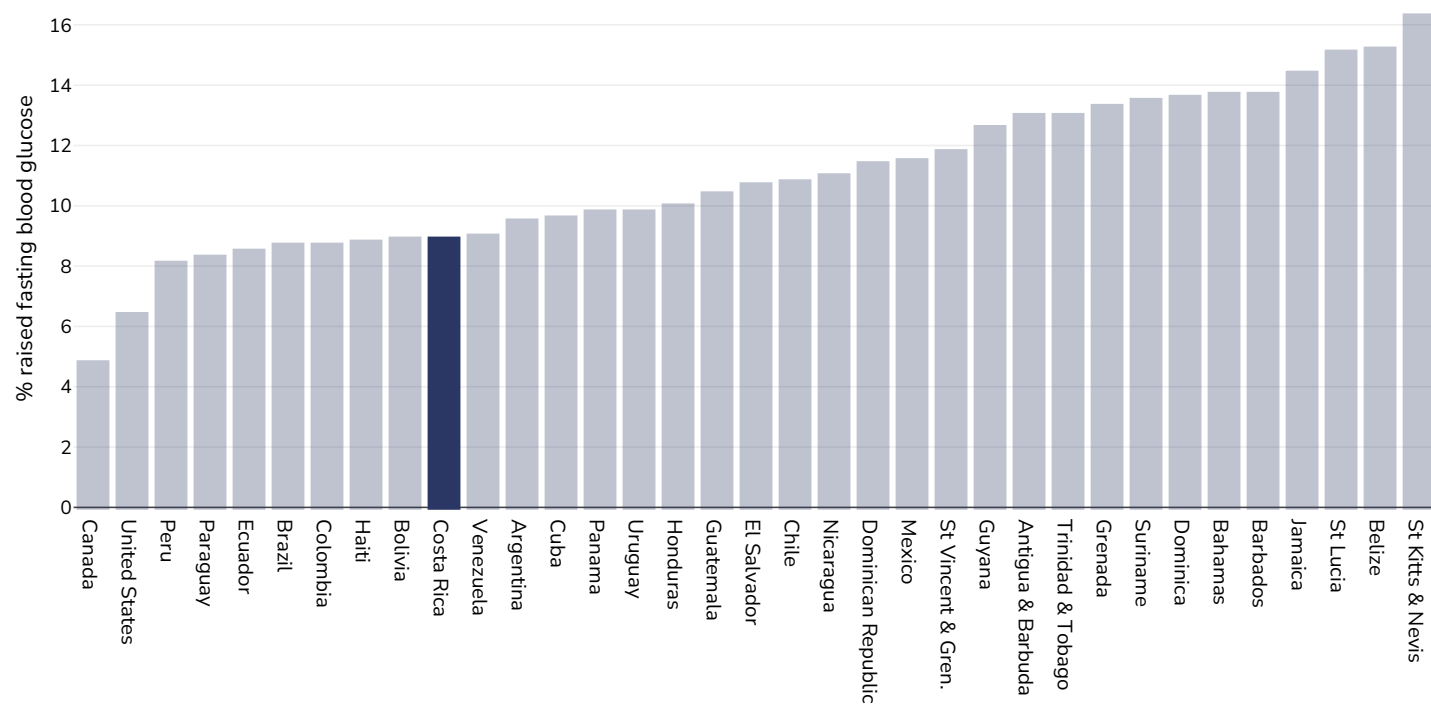


References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885>

Definitions: % Raised total cholesterol (≥ 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).

Raised fasting blood glucose

Men, 2014



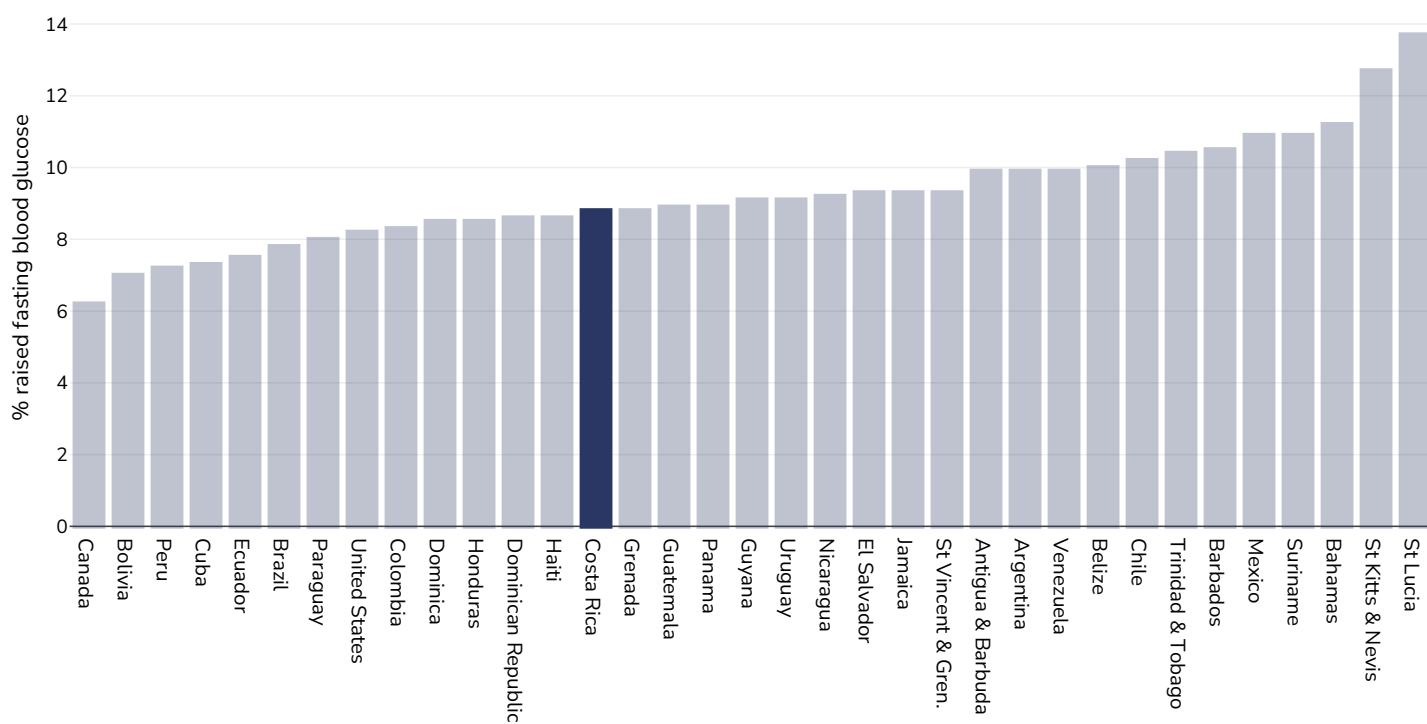
References:

Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation,
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A869?lang=en>

Definitions:

Age Standardised % raised fasting blood glucose (≥ 7.0 mmol/L or on medication).

Women, 2014



References:

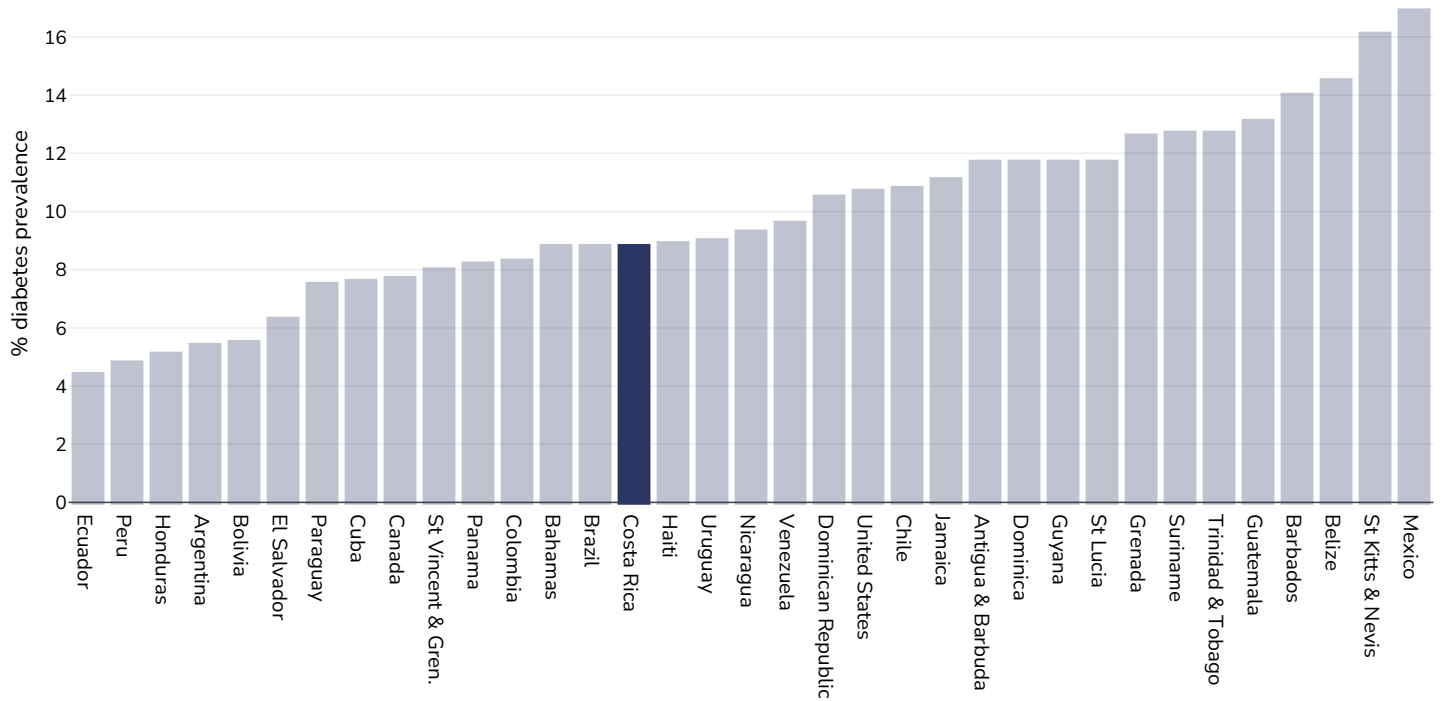
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation,
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A869?lang=en>

Definitions:

Age Standardised % raised fasting blood glucose (≥ 7.0 mmol/L or on medication).

Diabetes prevalence

Adults, 2021



Age: 20-79

Area covered: National

References: Reproduced with kind permission International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas, 10th edn. Brussels, Belgium:International Diabetes Federation, 2021. <http://www.diabetesatlas.org>

Definitions: Age-adjusted comparative prevalence of diabetes, %

Contextual factors

Disclaimer: These contextual factors should be interpreted with care. Results are updated as regularly as possible and use very specific criteria. The criteria used and full definitions are available for download at the bottom of this page.



Labelling

Is there mandatory nutrition labelling?	
Front-of-package labelling?	
Back-of-pack nutrition declaration?	
Color coding?	
Warning label?	



Regulation and marketing

Are there fiscal policies on unhealthy products?	✓
Tax on unhealthy foods?	✗
Tax on unhealthy drinks?	✓
Are there fiscal policies on healthy products?	✗
Subsidy on fruits?	✗
Subsidy on vegetables?	✗
Subsidy on other healthy products?	✗
Mandatory limit or ban of trans fat (all settings)?	✗
Mandatory limit of trans fats in place (all settings)?	✗
Ban on trans-fats or phos in place (all settings)?	✗
Are there any mandatory policies/marketing restrictions on the promotion of unhealthy food/drinks to children?	✗
Mandatory restriction on broadcast media?	✗
Mandatory restriction on non-broadcast media?	✗
Voluntary policies/marketing restrictions on the promotion of unhealthy food/drinks to children?	✗
Are there mandatory standards for food in schools?	✓
Are there any mandatory nutrient limits in any manufactured food products?	✗
Nutrition standards for public sector procurement?	✗



Political will and support

National obesity strategy or nutrition and physical activity national strategy?	✓
National obesity strategy?	✗
National childhood obesity strategy?	✓
Comprehensive nutrition strategy?	✓
Comprehensive physical activity strategy?	✓
Evidence-based dietary guidelines and/or RDAs?	✓
National target(s) on reducing obesity?	✓
Guidelines/policy on obesity treatment?	✗
Promotion of breastfeeding?	✓



Monitoring and surveillance

Monitoring of the prevalence and incidence for the main obesity-related NCDs and risk factors?	✓
Within 5 years?	✗



Governance and resource

Multi-sectoral national co-ordination mechanism for obesity or nutrition (including obesity)?	?
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Key

✓ Present	✓ _v Present (voluntary)	✓ Incoming	✗ Absent	? Unknown
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