



Costa Rica



Country report card - adults

This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity for adults. Where available, data on common and relevant obesity drivers and comorbidities are also presented.

View the latest version of this report on the Global Obesity Observatory at <https://data.worldobesity.org/country/costa-rica-49/>.

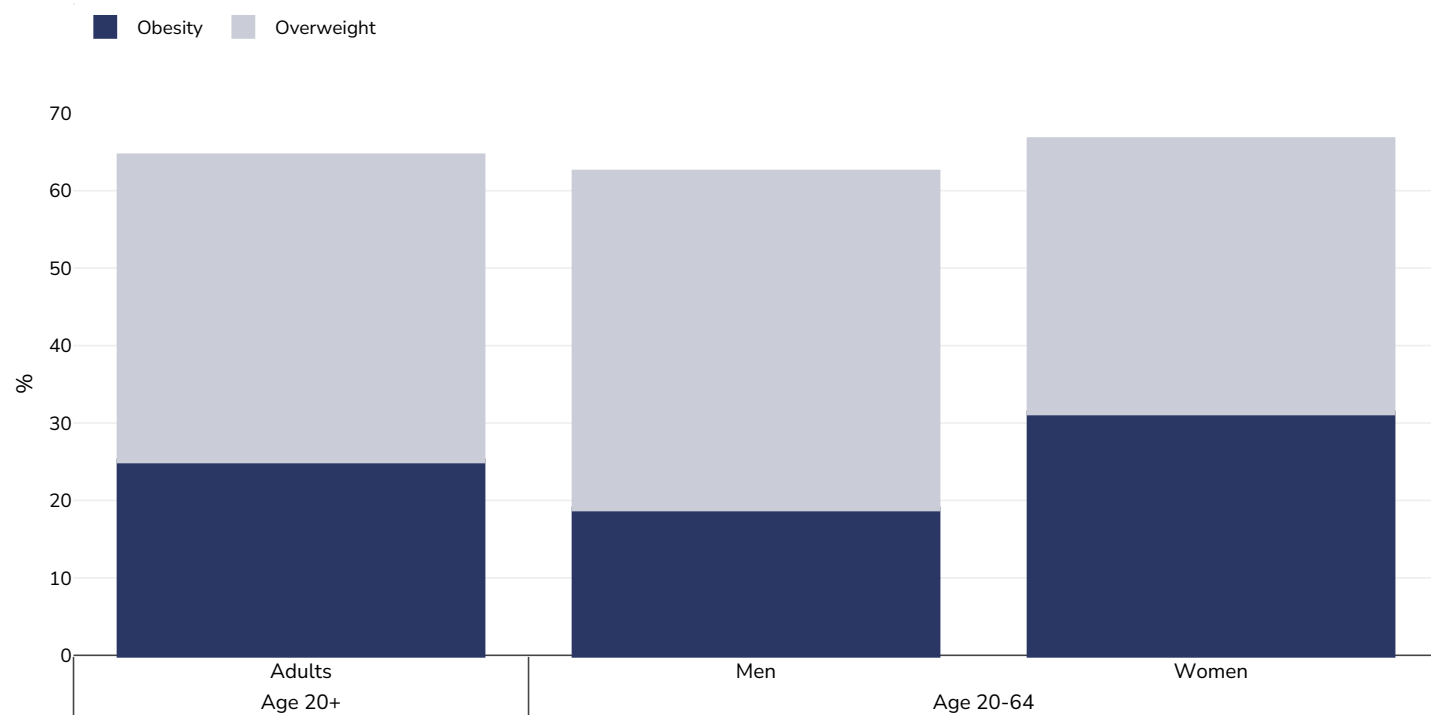
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National obesity risk *7.5/10 This is a composite obesity risk score (out of 10, the highest risk) based on obesity prevalence, rate of increase, likelihood of meeting the 2025 target, treatment indicator and childhood stunting levels. **Childhood 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

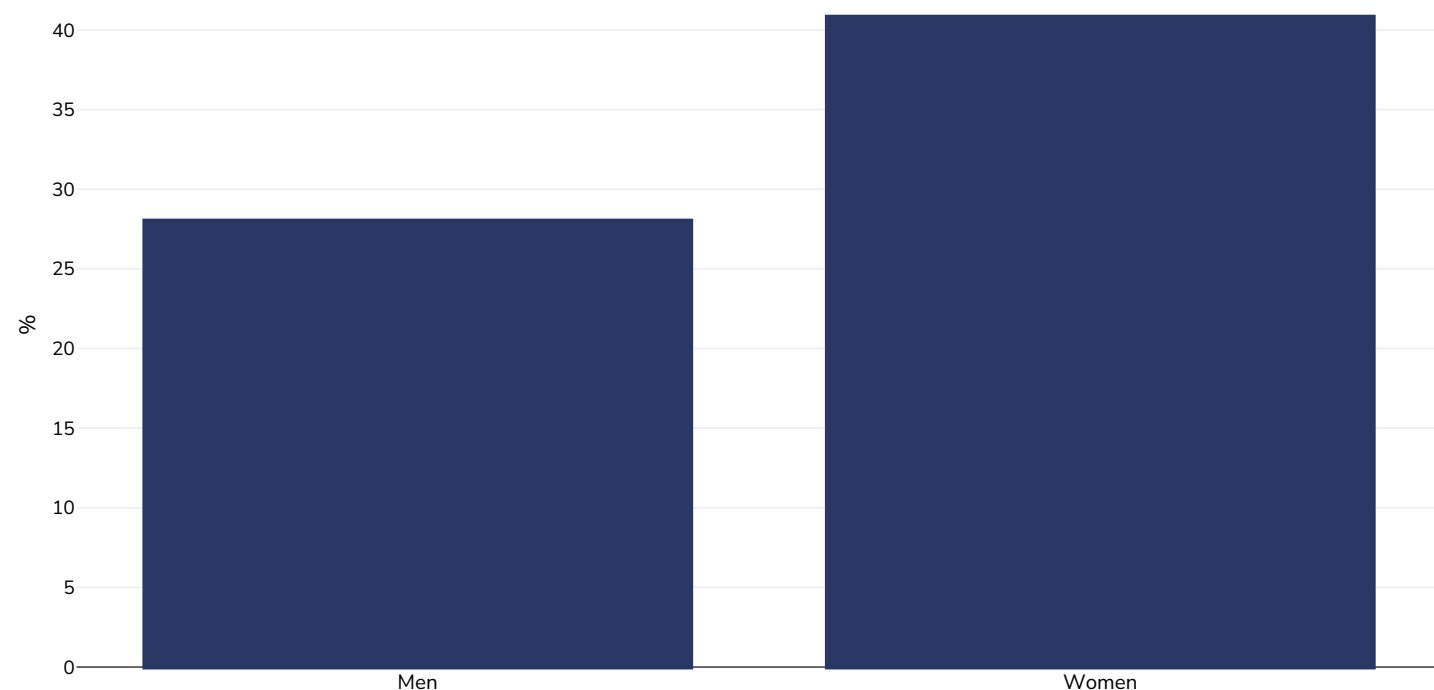
References: Costa Rica National Nutrition Survey 2008-2009. <https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/biblioteca-de-archivos/centro-de-informacion/material-publicado/investigaciones/encuestas-de-salud/encuestas-de-nutricion/2731-encuesta-nacional-de-nutricion-2008-2009-fasciculo-1-antropometria/file>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

Double burden of underweight & overweight

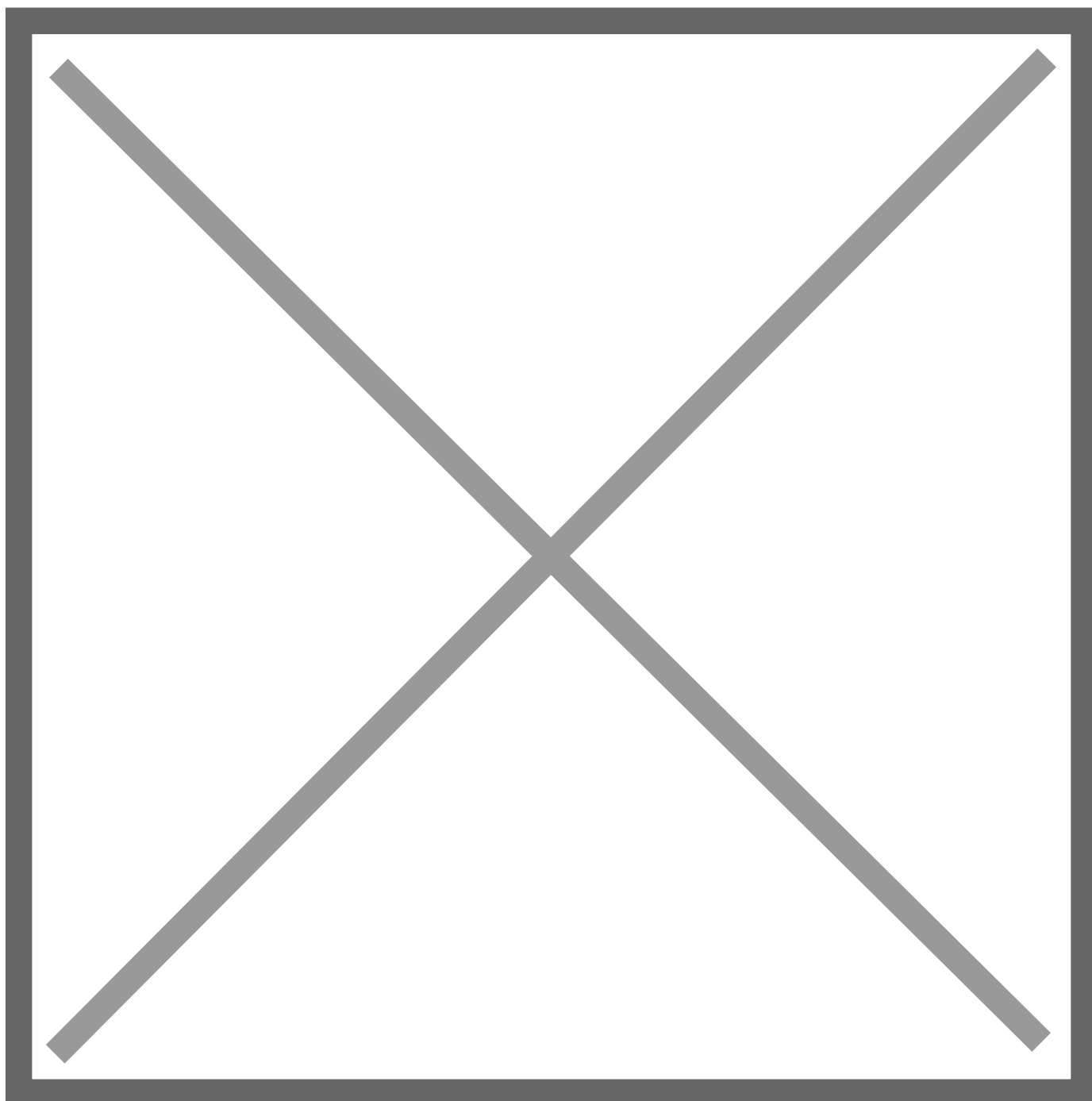
Adults, 2022



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	20+
References:	NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC). Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults. Lancet 2024; published online Feb 29. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2 .
Notes:	Age Standardised estimates
Definitions:	Combined prevalence of BMI<18.5 kg/m ² and BMI≥30 kg/m ² (double burden of underweight and obesity)

Insufficient physical activity

Adults, 2022

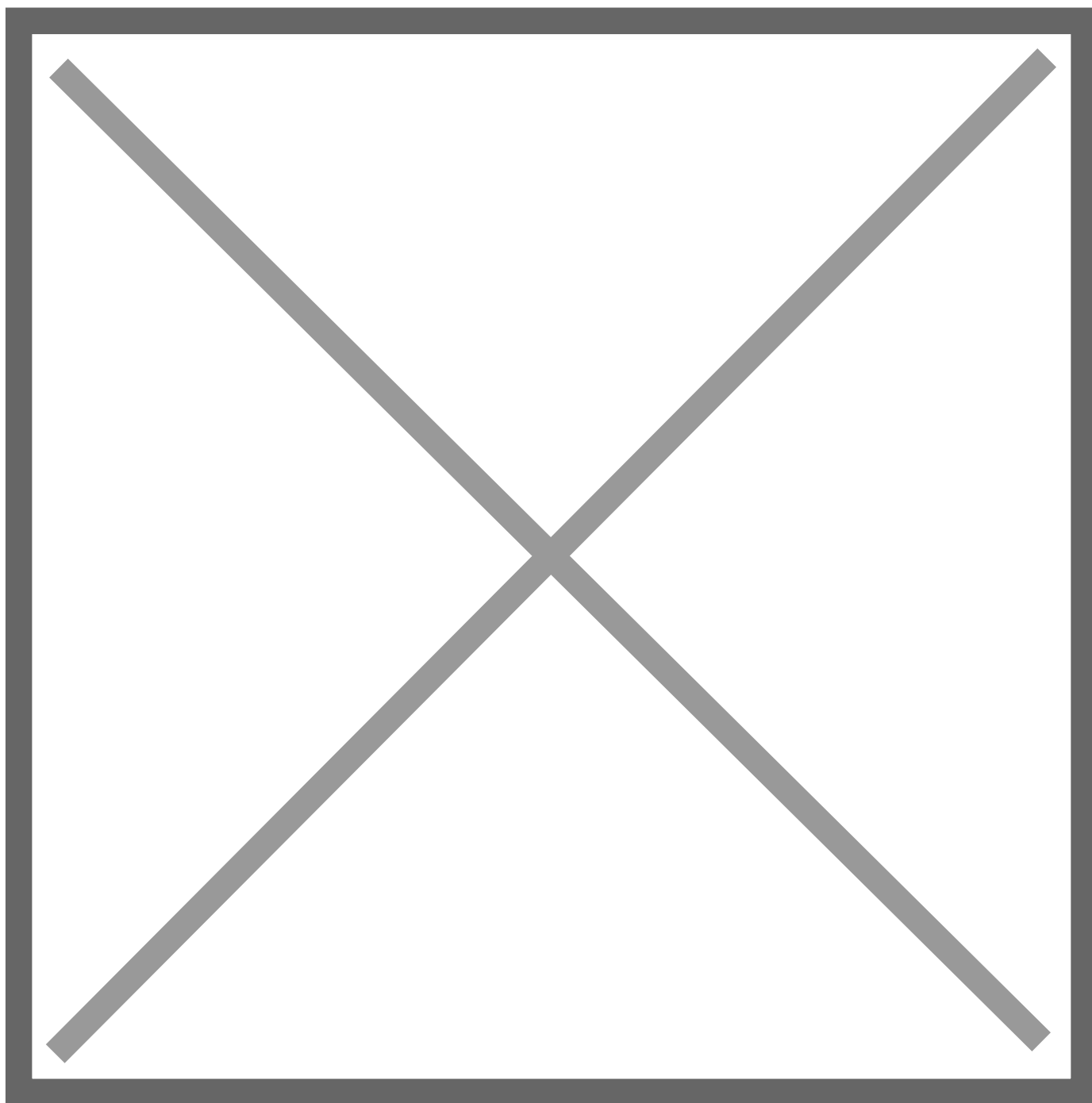


Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	18+
Area covered:	National
References:	WHO (2024). Prevalence of insufficient physical activity among adults aged 18-years age-standardized estimate in 2022. Available at https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-insufficient-physical-activity-among-adults-aged-18-years-(age-standardized-estimate)-(-)

Definitions:

Percent of population attaining less than 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week, or less than 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week, or equivalent.

Men, 2022

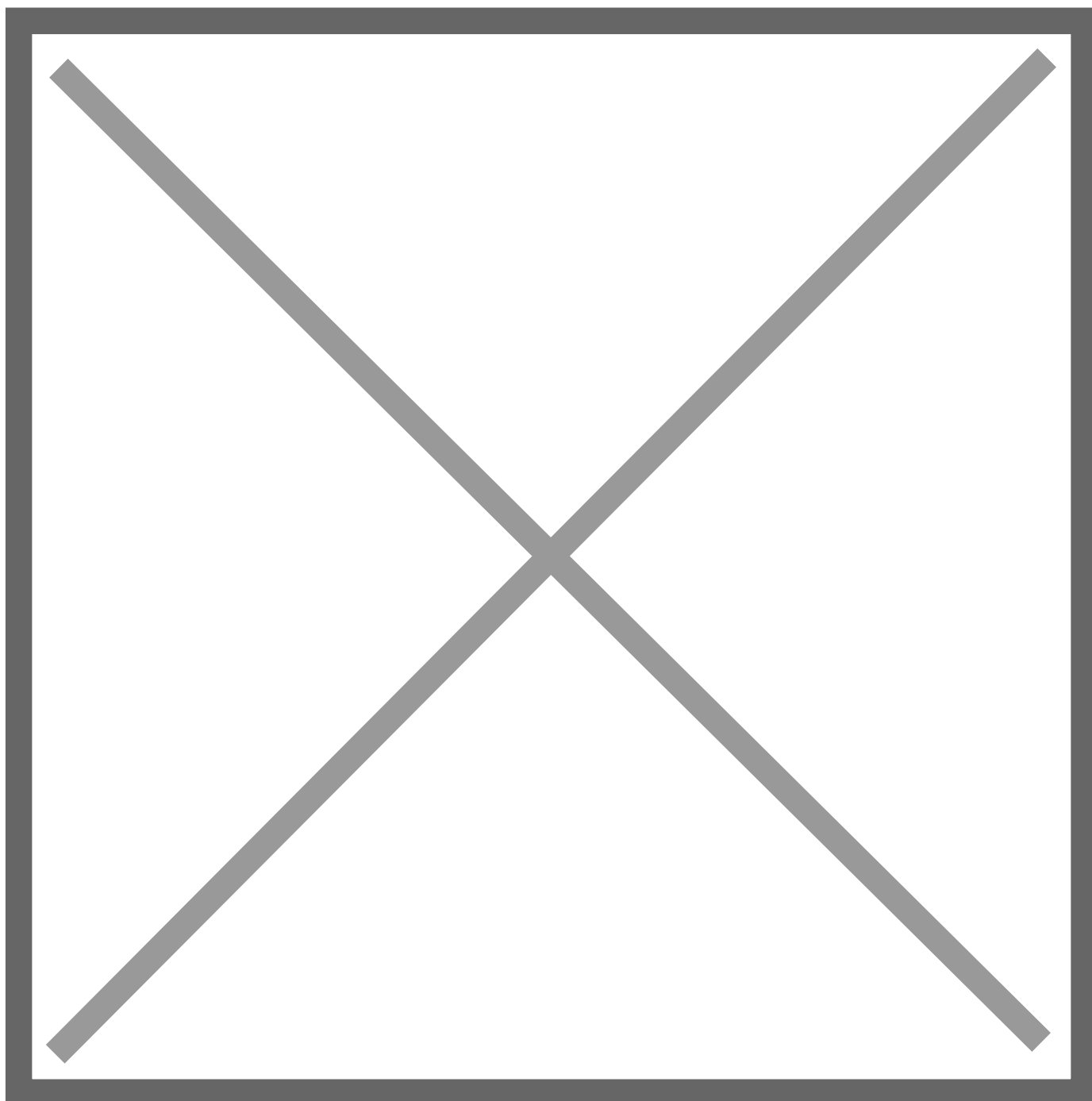


Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	18+
Area covered:	National
References:	WHO (2024). Prevalence of insufficient physical activity among adults aged 18-years age-standardized estimate in 2022. Available at https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-insufficient-physical-activity-among-adults-aged-18-years-(age-standardized-estimate)-(-)

Definitions:

Percent of population attaining less than 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week, or less than 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week, or equivalent.

Women, 2022



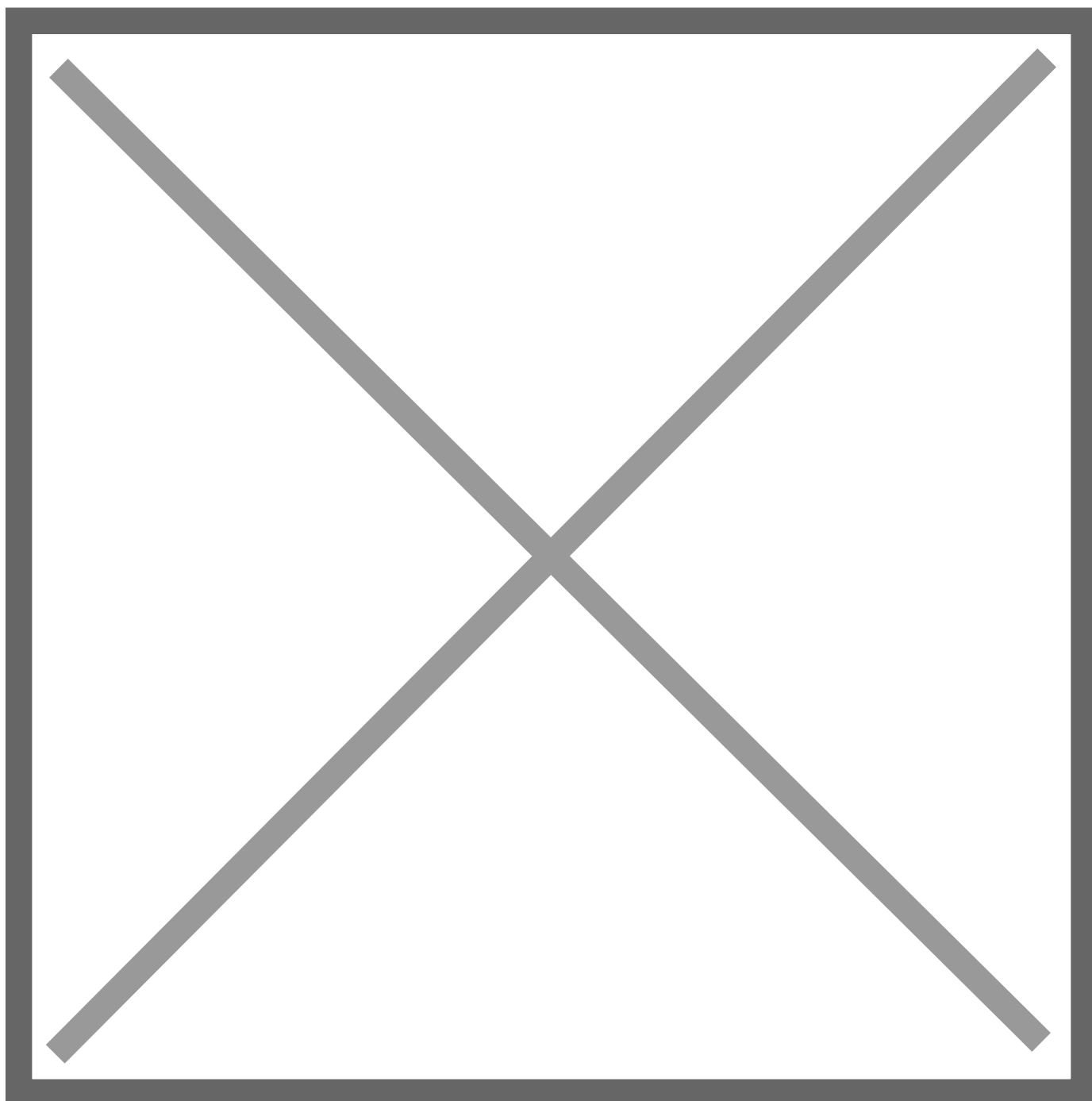
Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	18+
Area covered:	National
References:	WHO (2024). Prevalence of insufficient physical activity among adults aged 18-years age-standardized estimate in 2022. Available at https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-insufficient-physical-activity-among-adults-aged-18-years-(age-standardized-estimate)-(-)

Definitions:

Percent of population attaining less than 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week, or less than 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week, or equivalent.

Estimated per capita fruit intake

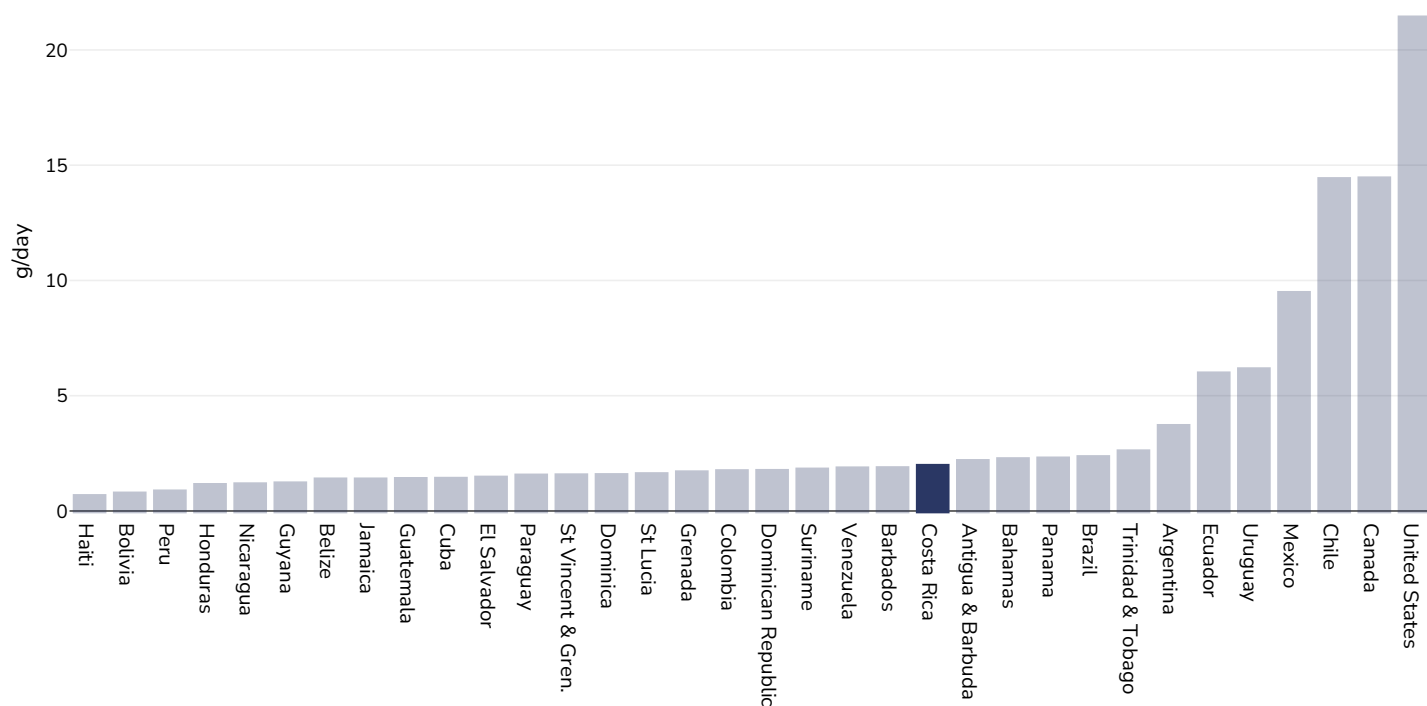
Adults, 2017



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)

Estimated per-capita processed meat intake

Adults, 2017



Survey type: Measured

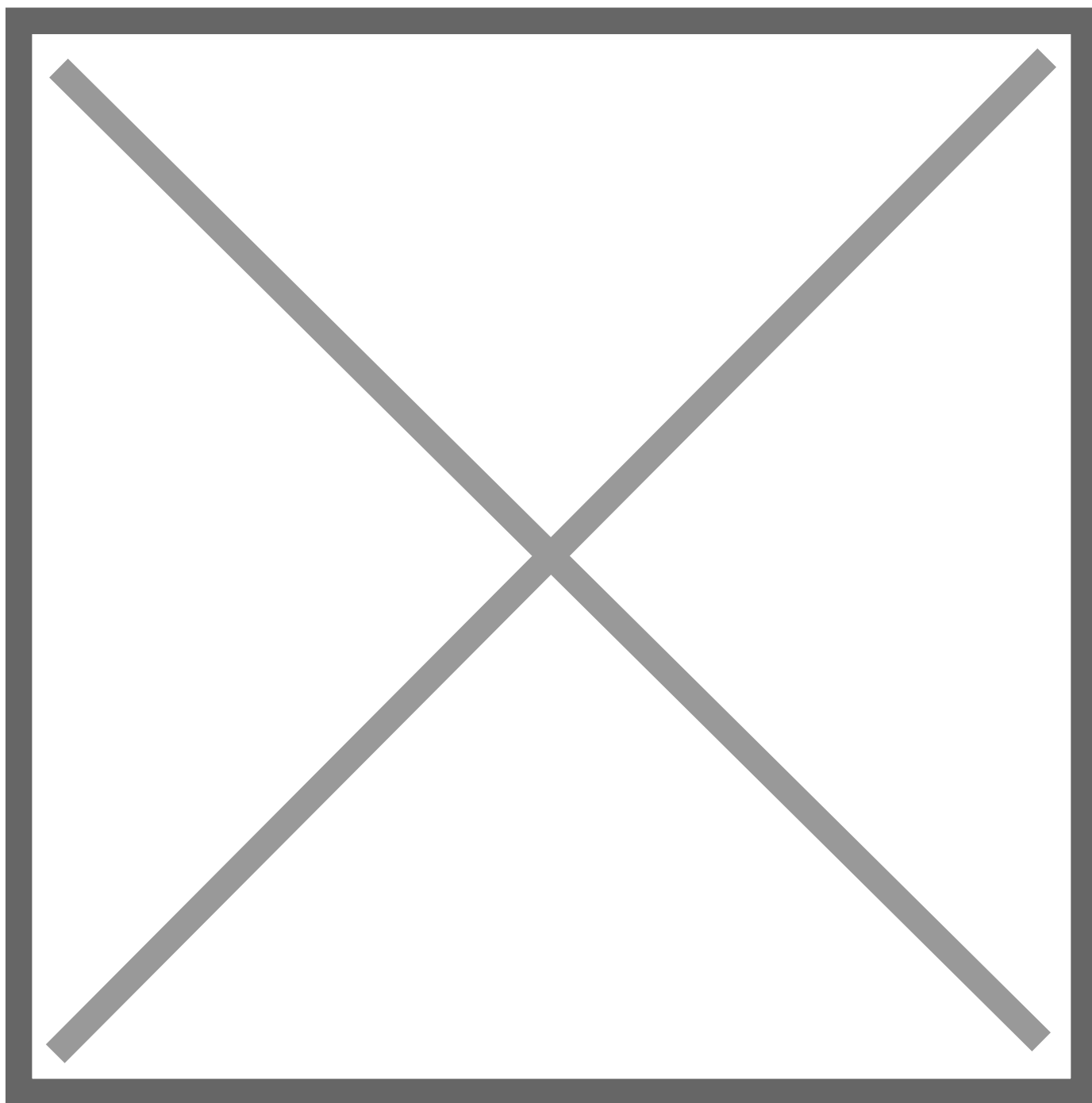
Age: 25+

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)

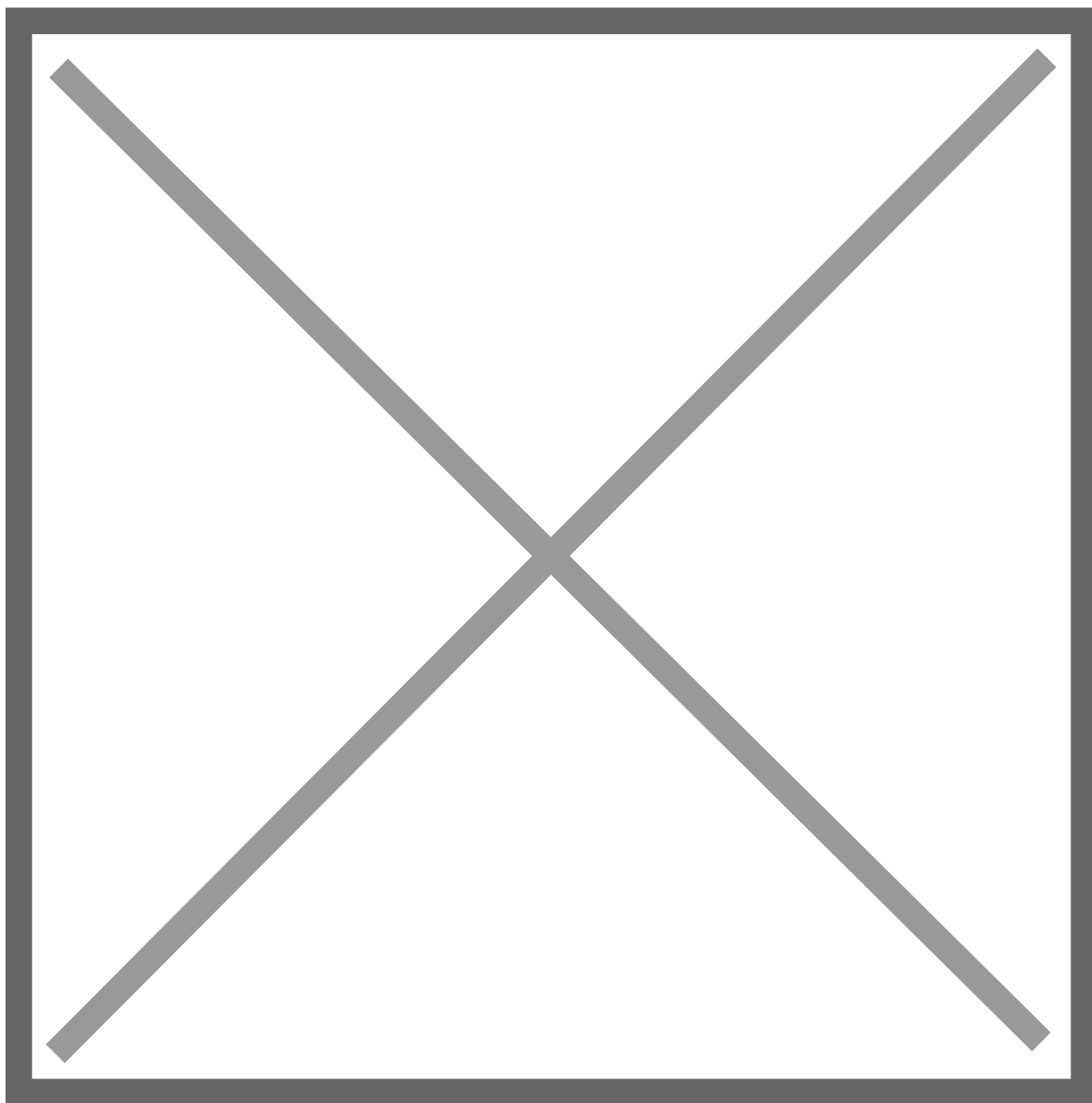
Mental health - depression disorders

Adults, 2021



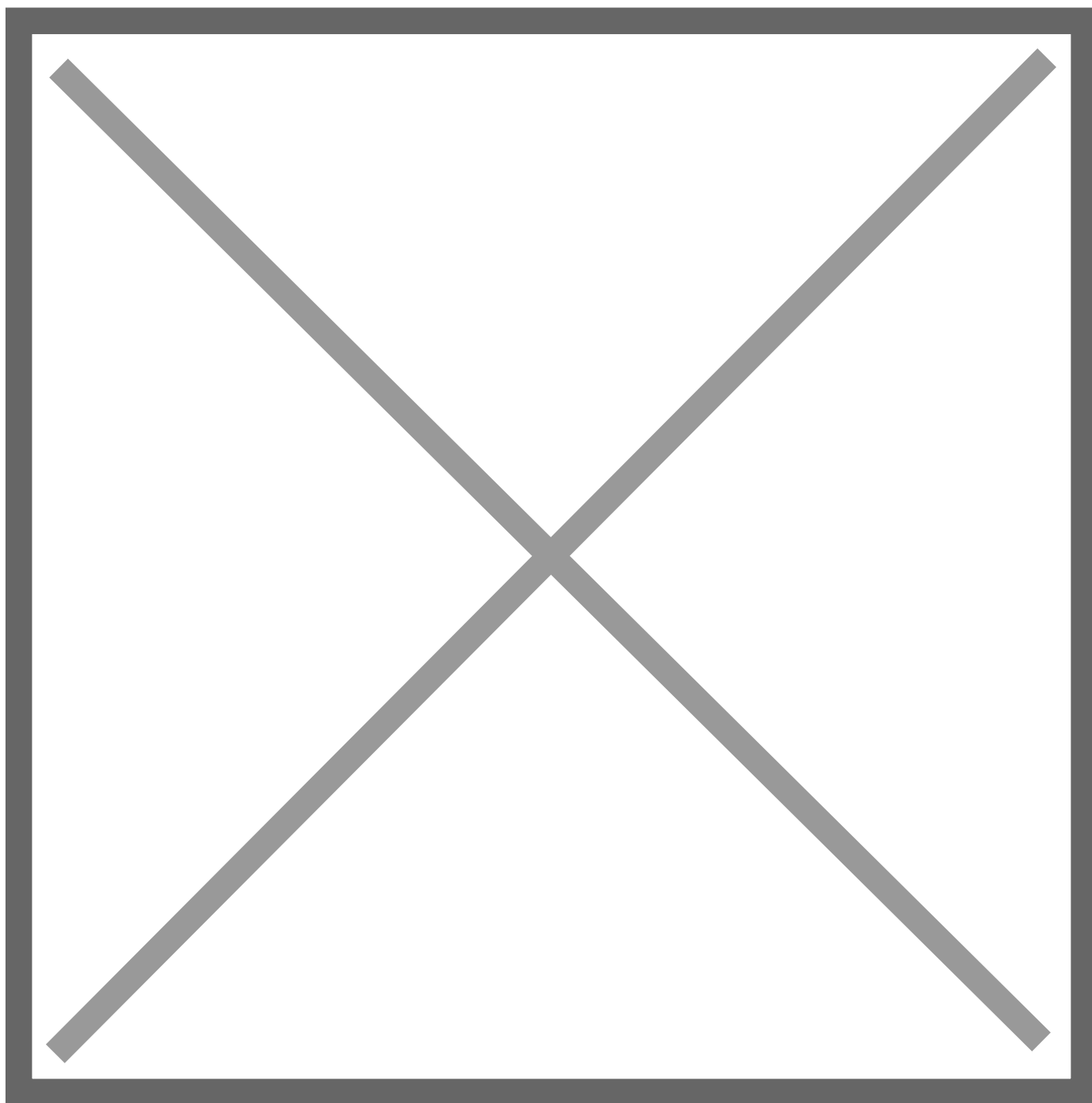
Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare . (Last accessed 23.04.25)
Definitions:	Number living with depression per 100,000 population (adults 20+ years)

Men, 2021



Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare . (Last accessed 23.04.25)
Definitions:	Number living with depression per 100,000 population (adults 20+ years)

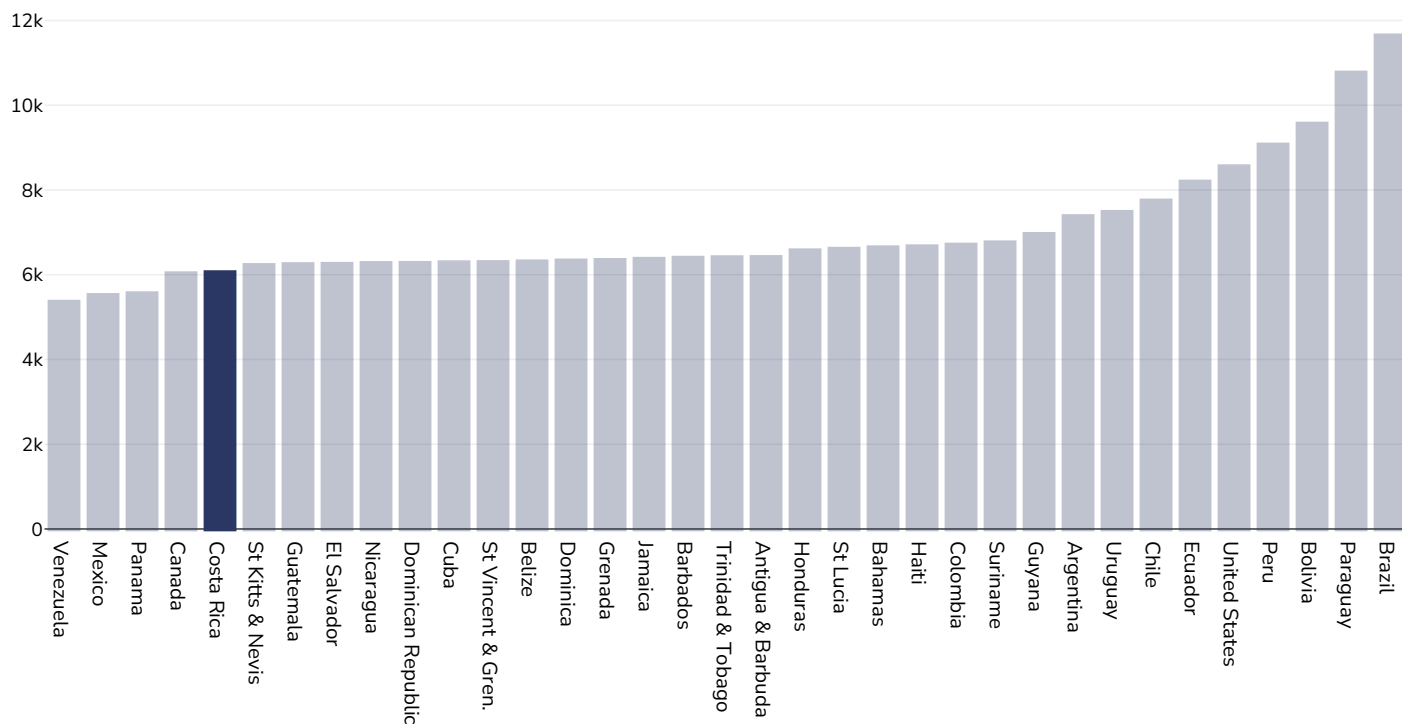
Women, 2021



Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare . (Last accessed 23.04.25)
Definitions:	Number living with depression per 100,000 population (adults 20+ years)

Mental health - anxiety disorders

Adults, 2021

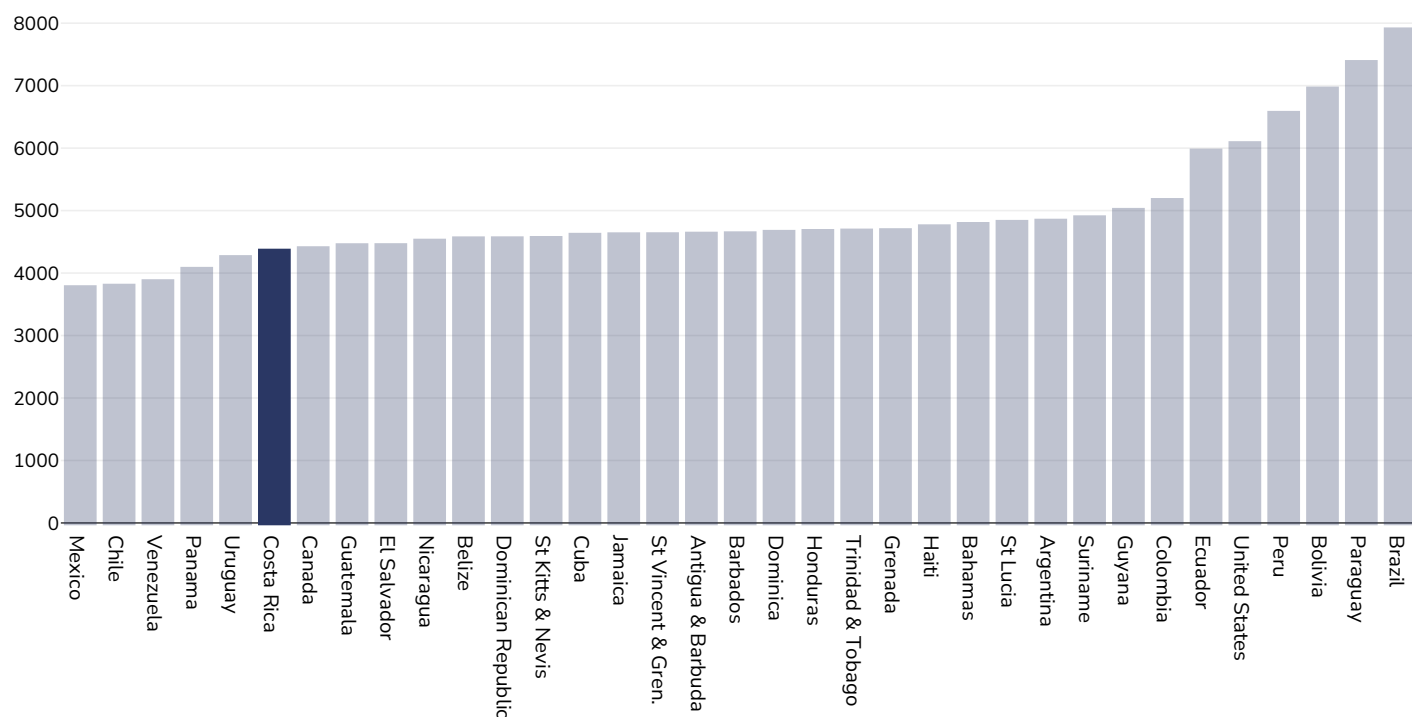


Age: 20+

References: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>. (Last accessed 23.04.25).

Definitions: Number living with anxiety per 100,000 population

Men, 2021

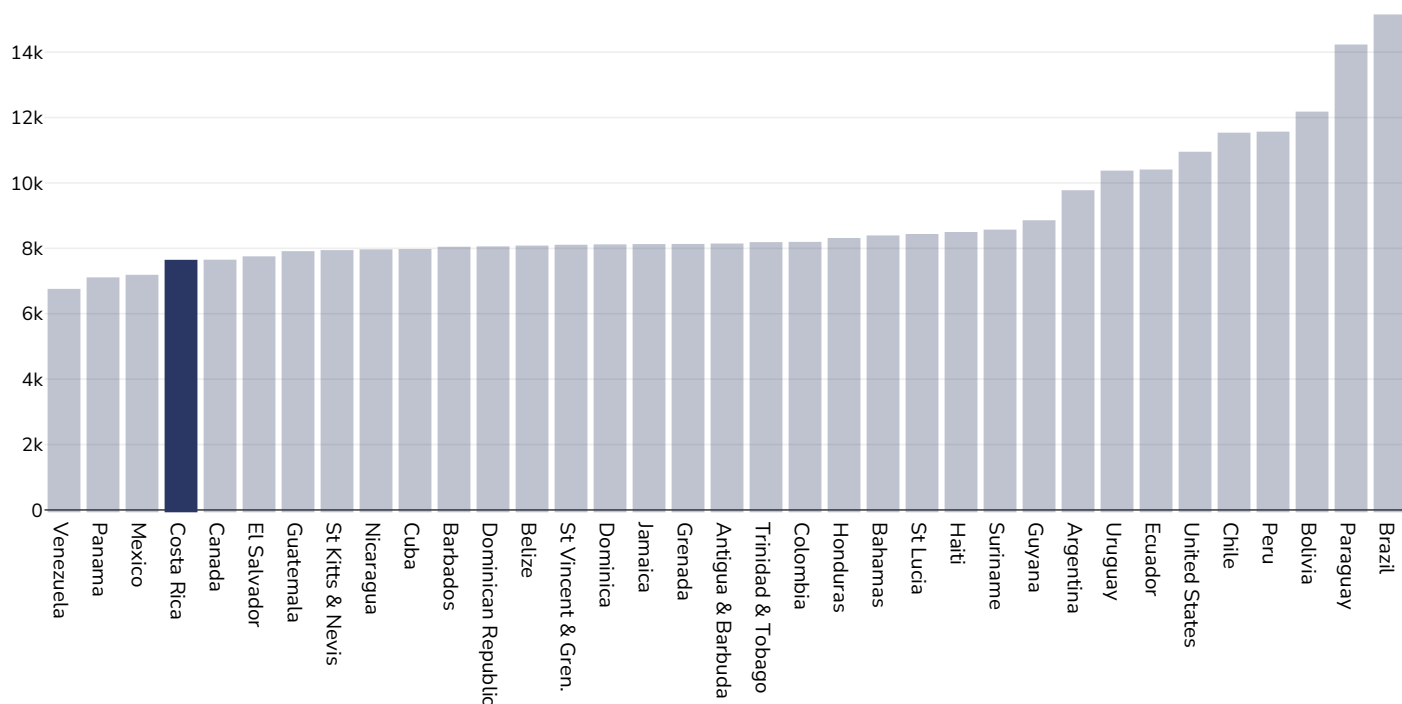


Age: 20+

References: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>. (Last accessed 23.04.25).

Definitions: Number living with anxiety per 100,000 population

Women, 2021



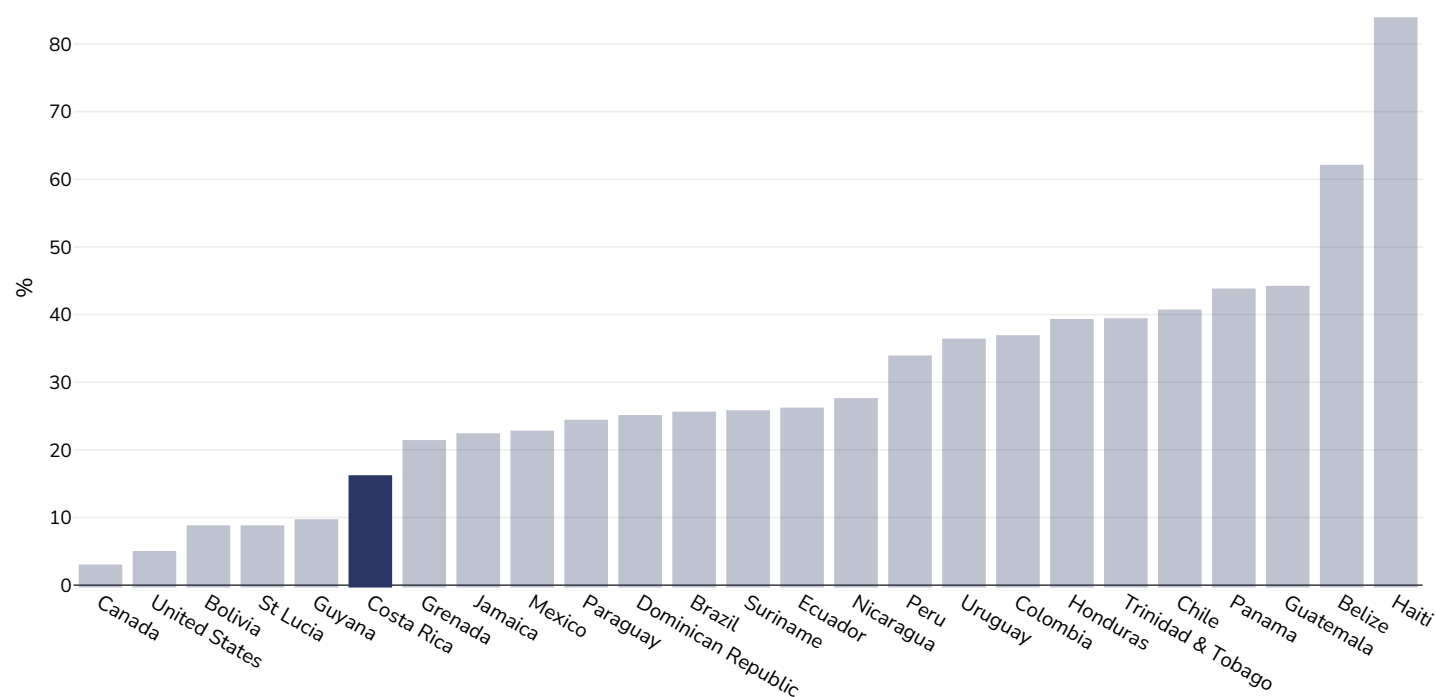
Age: 20+

References: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>. (Last accessed 23.04.25).

Definitions: Number living with anxiety per 100,000 population

Percent of population who cannot afford a healthy diet

Adults, 2022



Area covered:

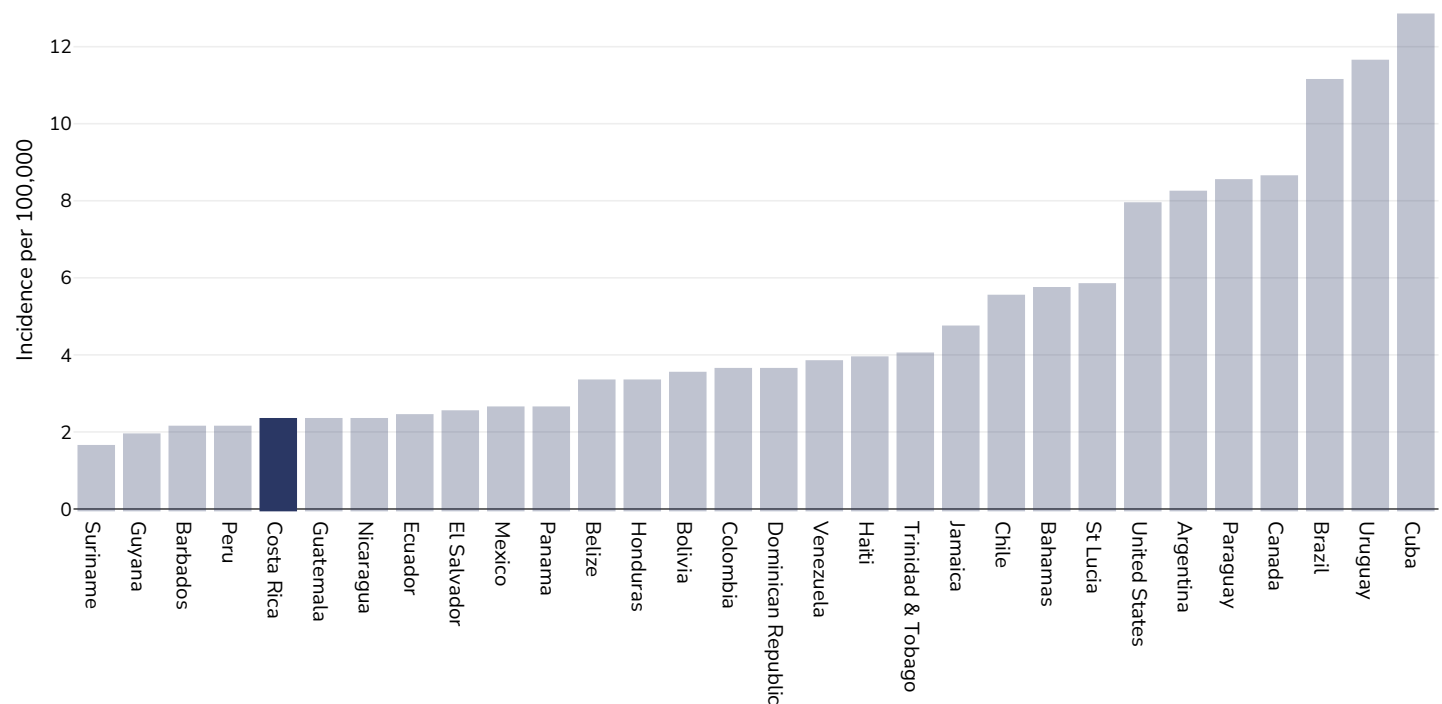
National

References:

The Food Systems Dashboard. The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), The Columbia Climate School, and Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. 2024. Geneva, Switzerland. <https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org>. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36072/db>.

Oesophageal cancer

Men, 2022



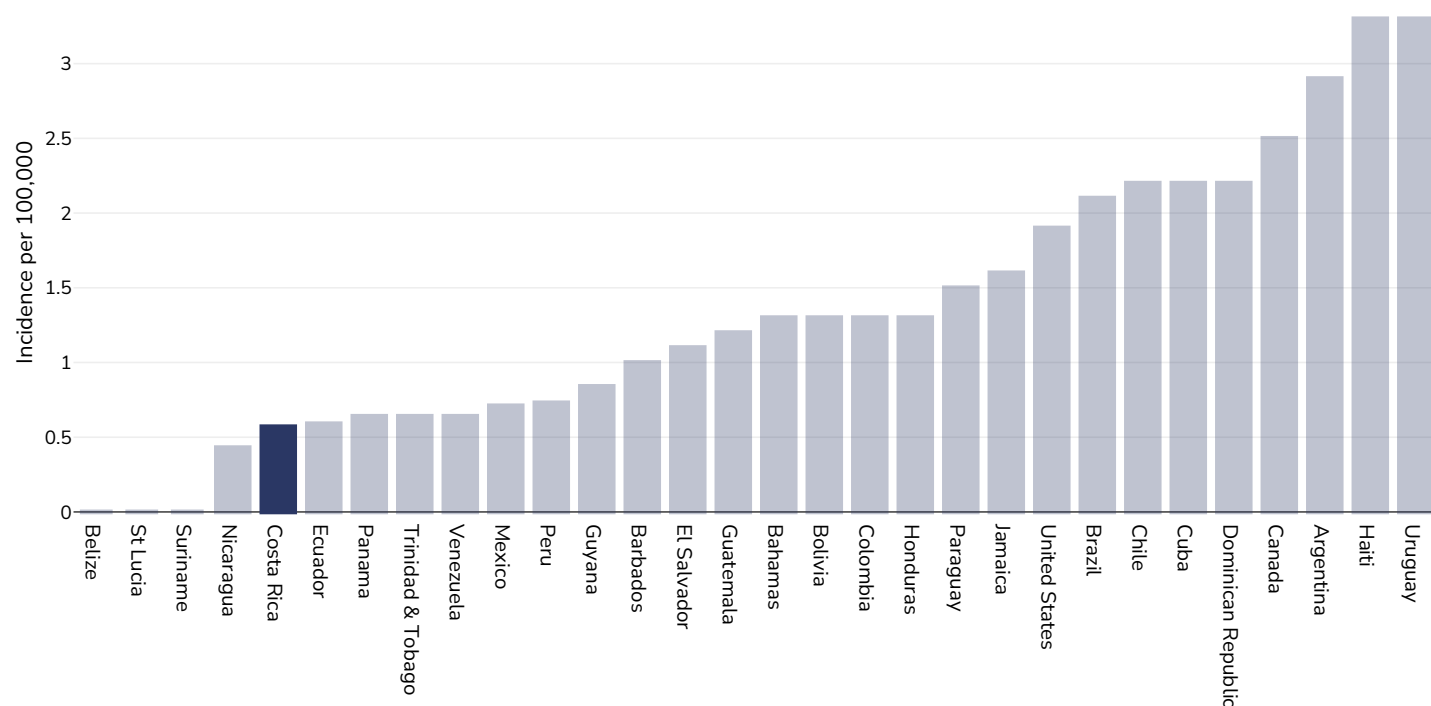
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Women, 2022



Age: 20+

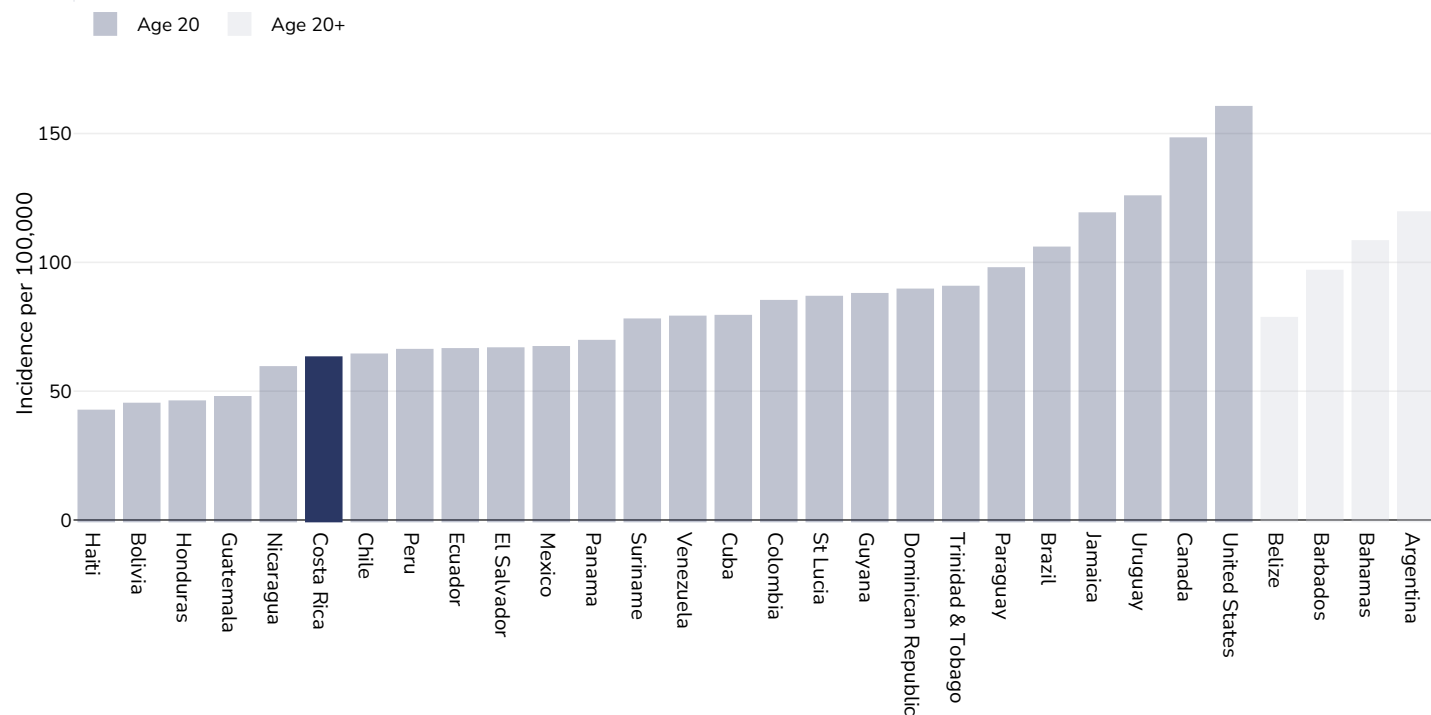
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Breast cancer

Women, 2022



Area covered:

National

References:

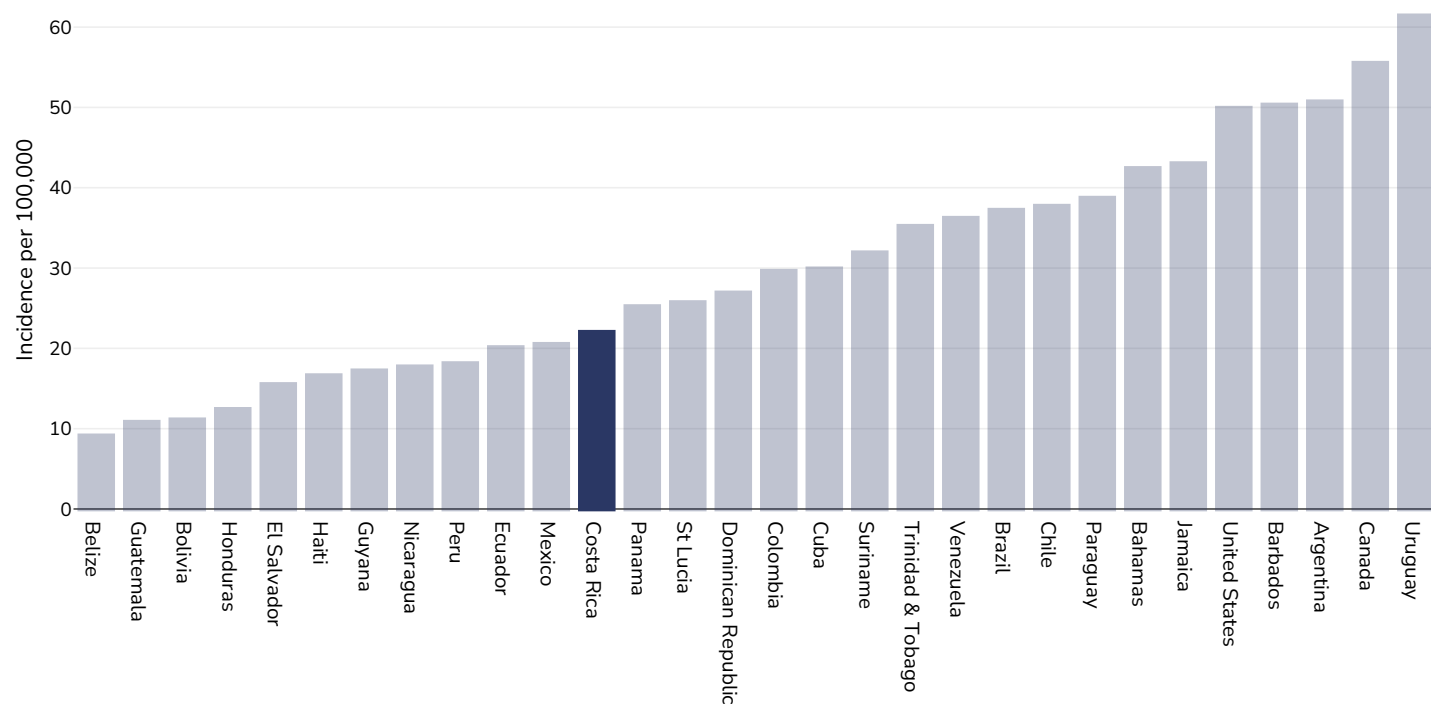
Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions:

Incidence per 100,000

Colorectal cancer

Men, 2022



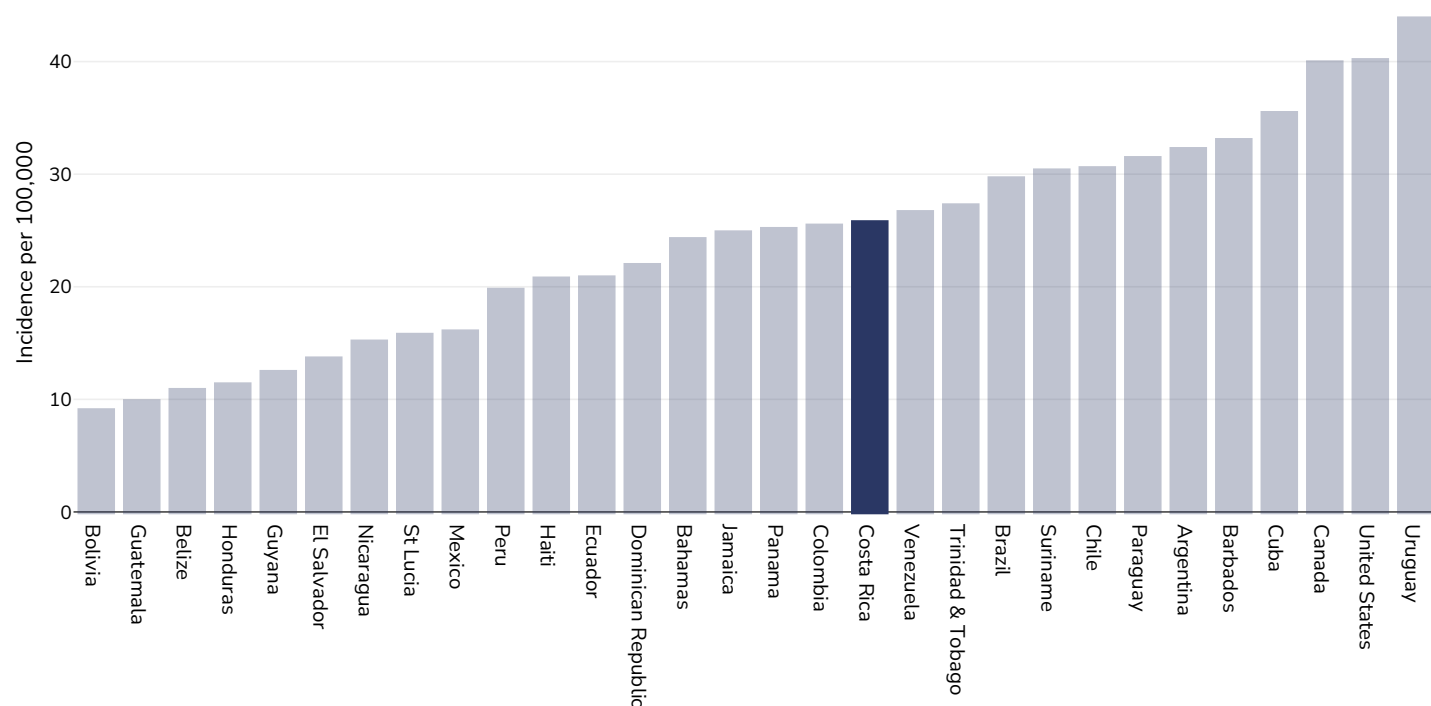
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Women, 2022



Age: 20+

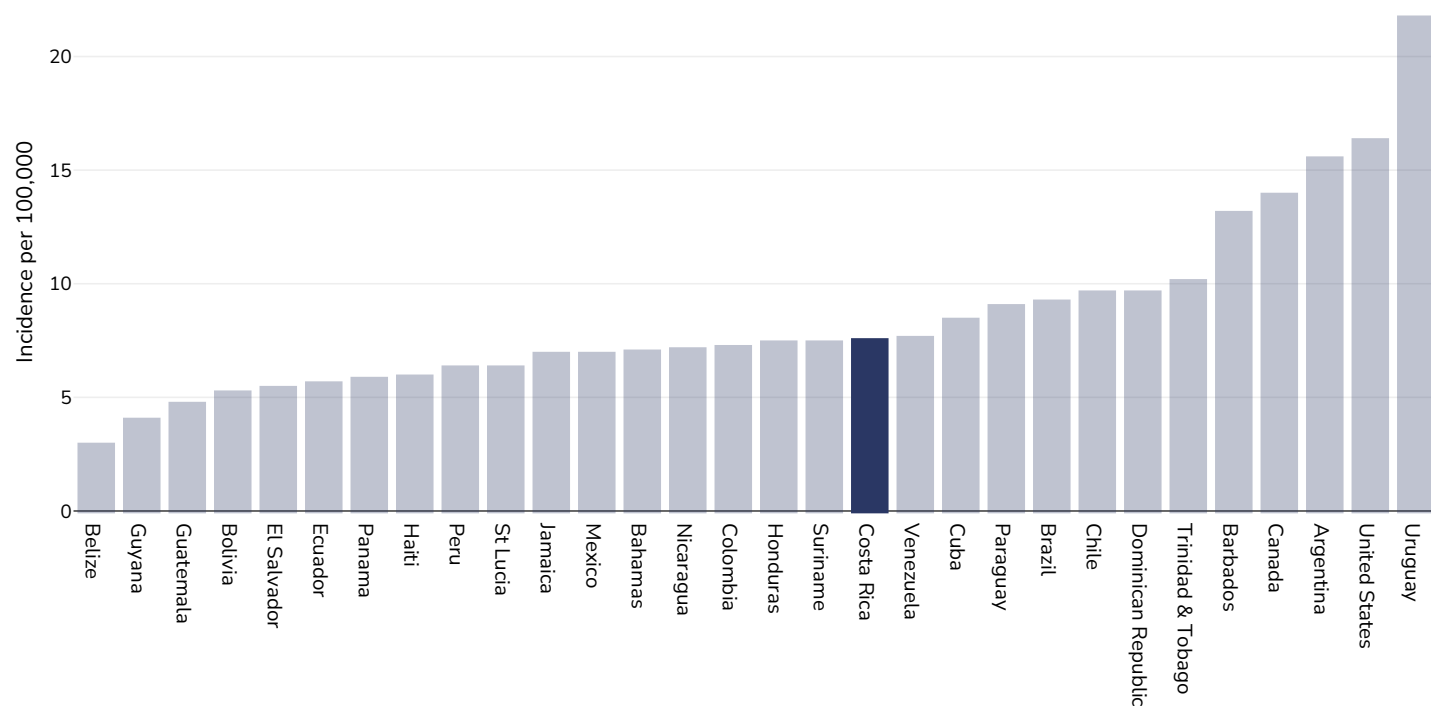
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Pancreatic cancer

Men, 2022



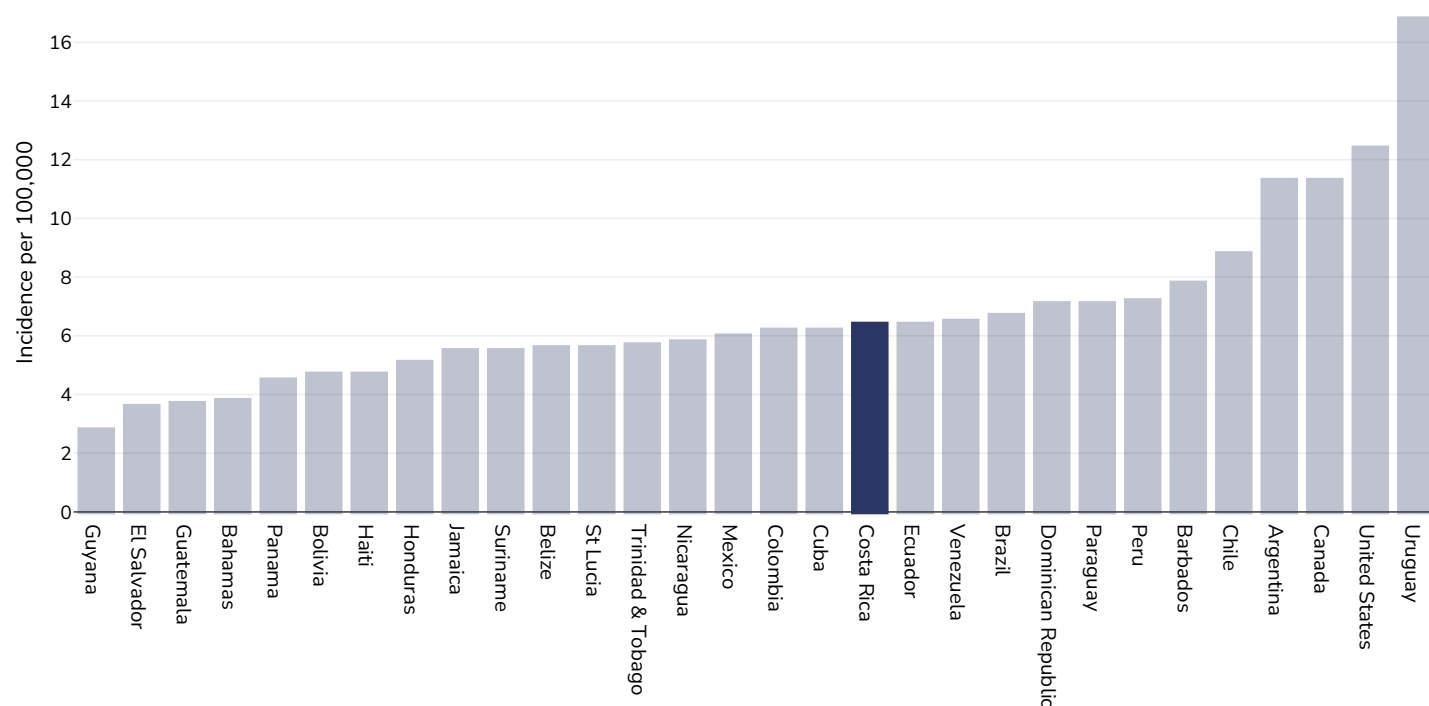
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Women, 2022



Age: 20+

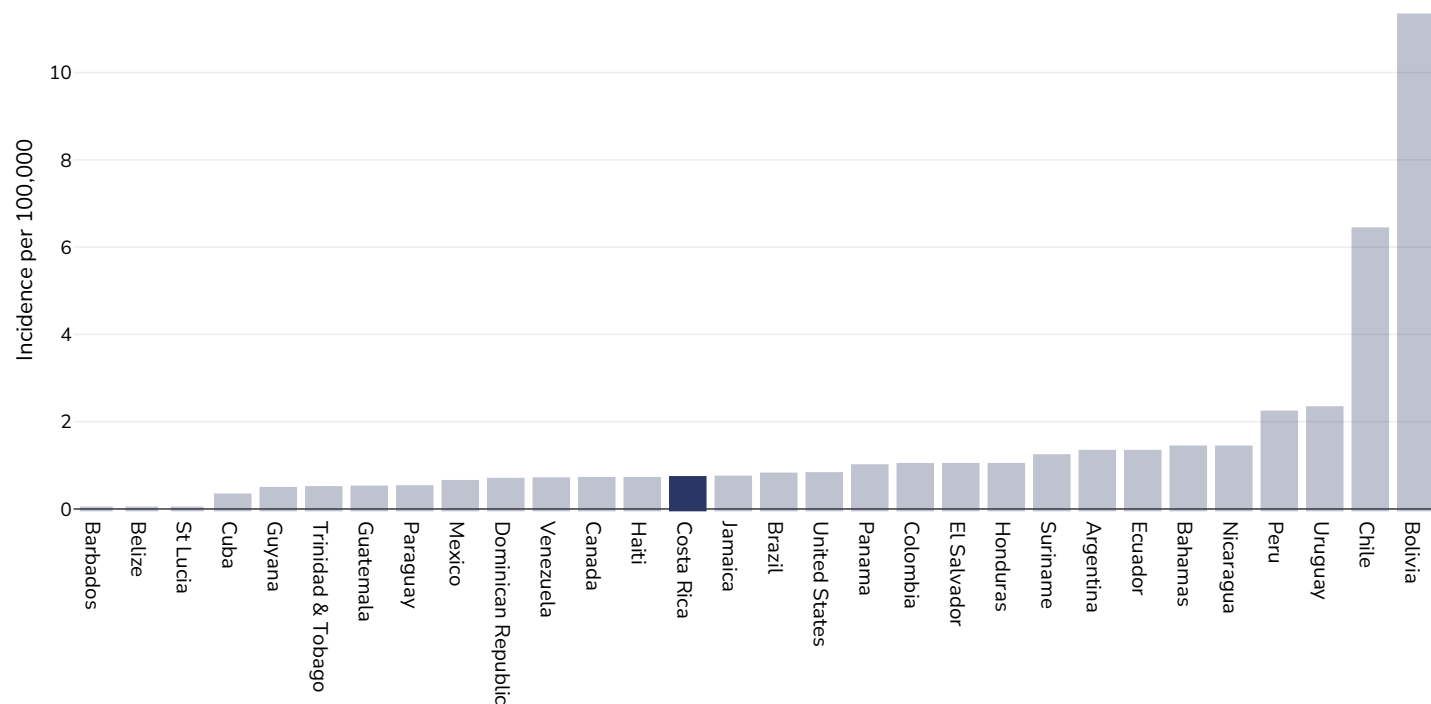
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Gallbladder cancer

Men, 2022



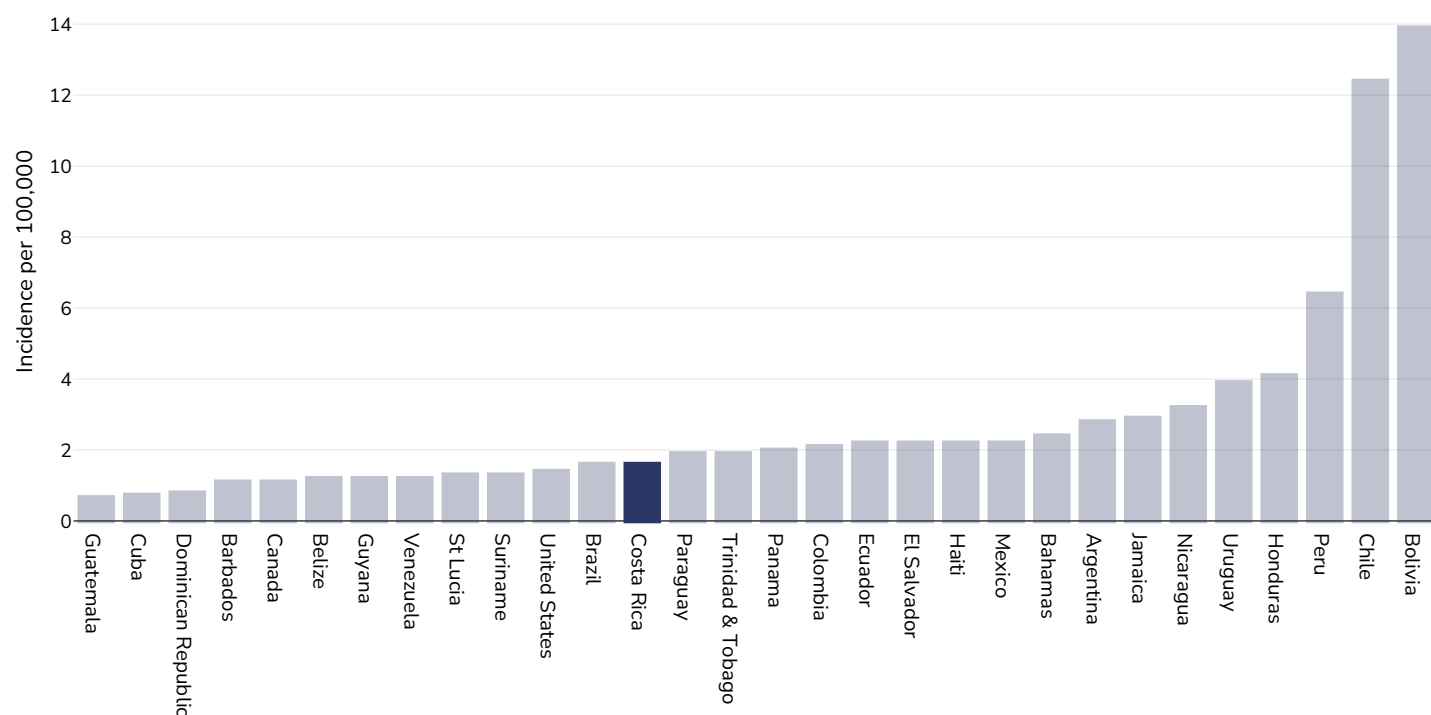
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Women, 2022



Age: 20+

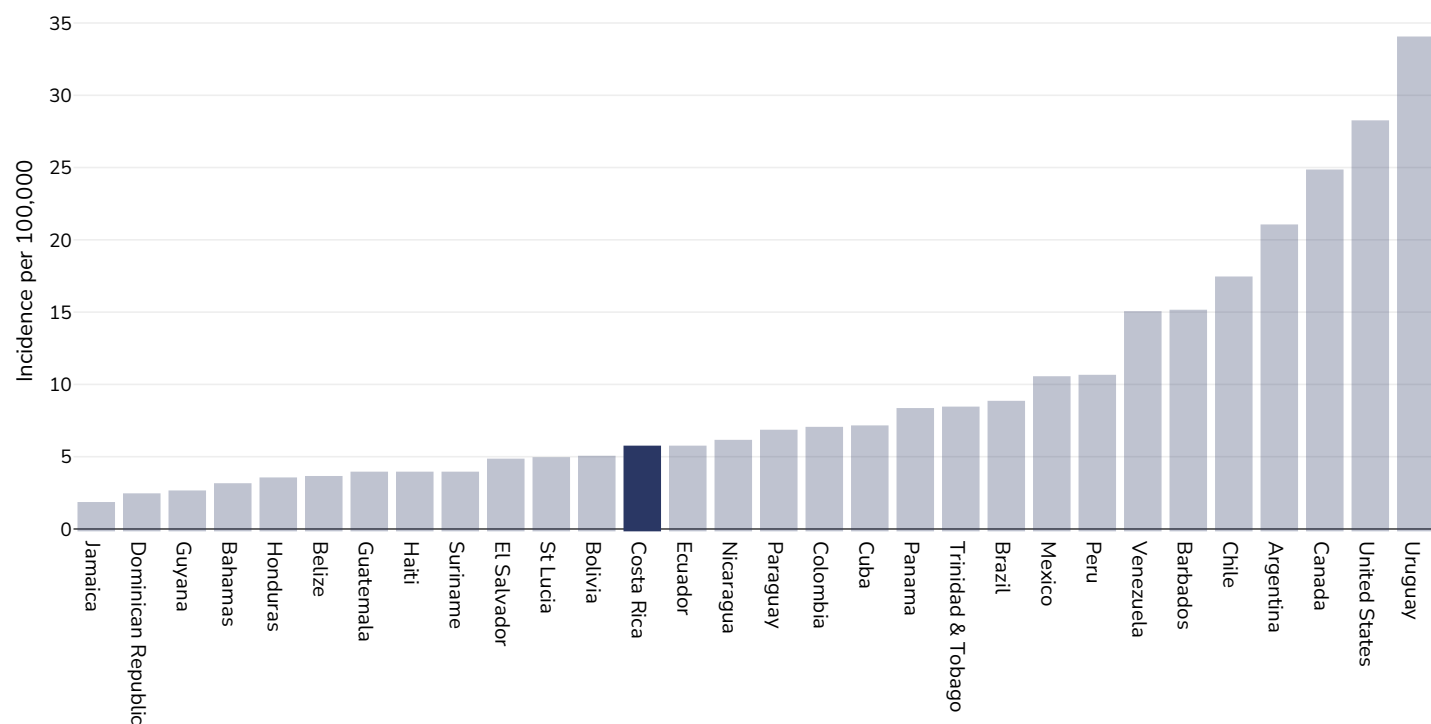
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Kidney cancer

Men, 2022



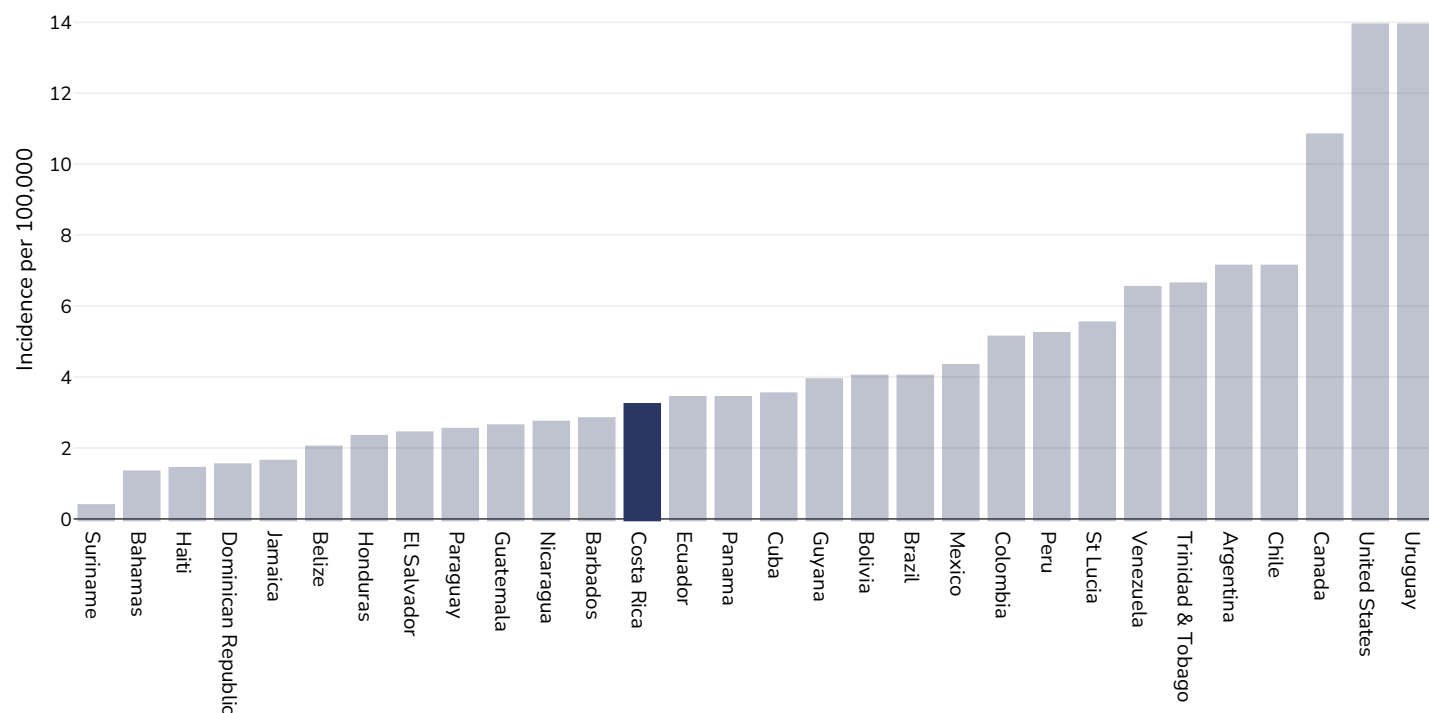
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Women, 2022



Age: 20+

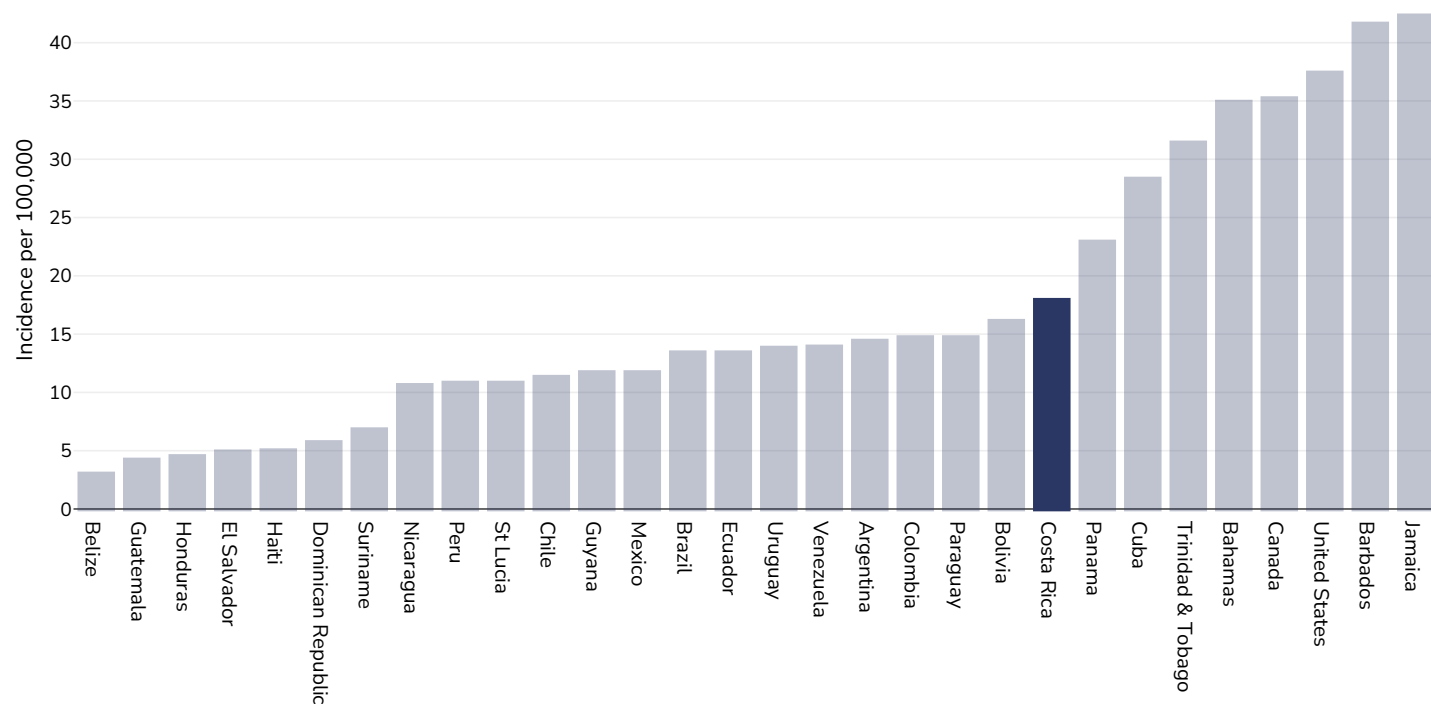
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Cancer of the uterus

Women, 2022



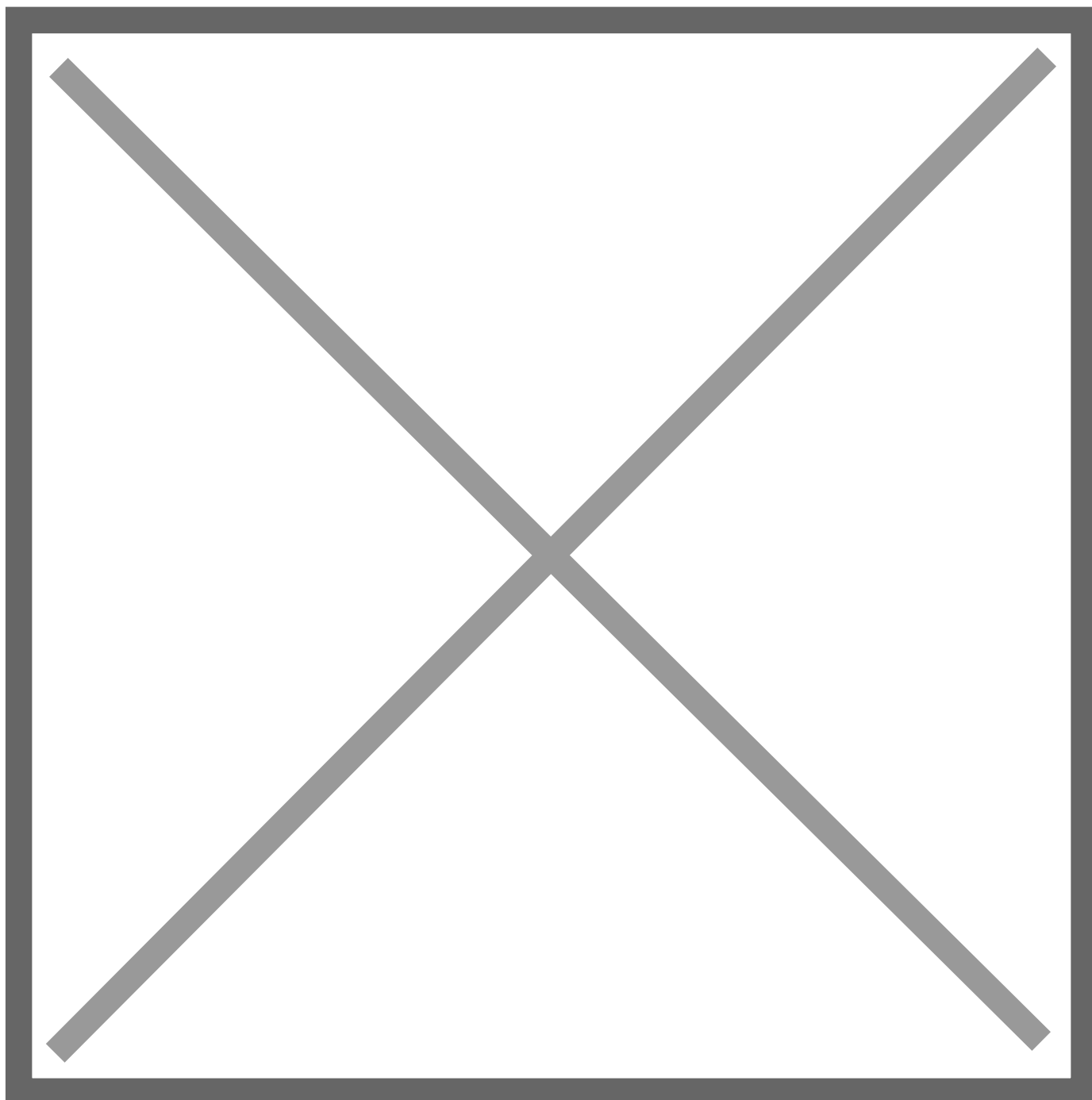
Age: 20+

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Raised blood pressure

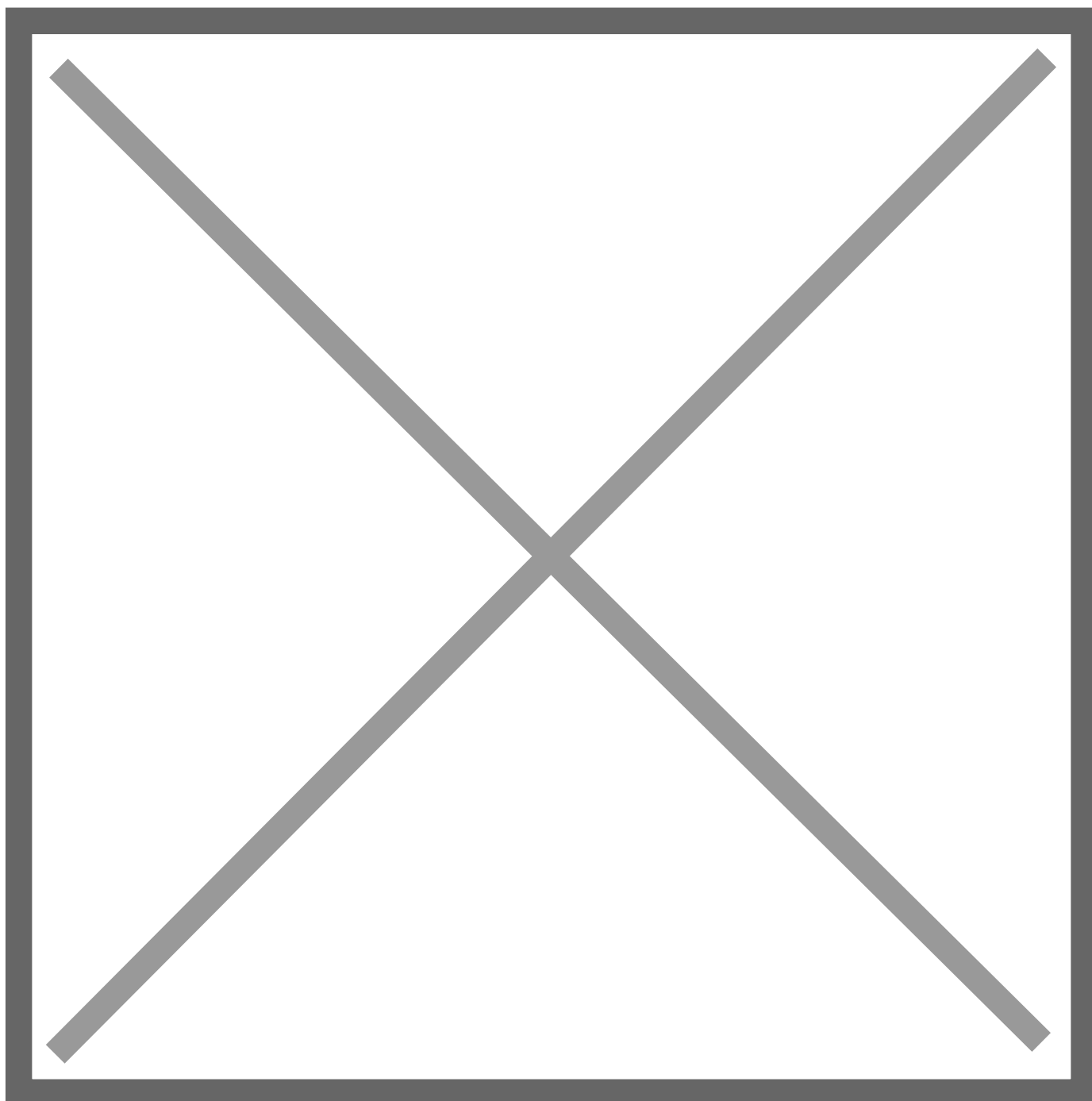
Adults, 2015



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

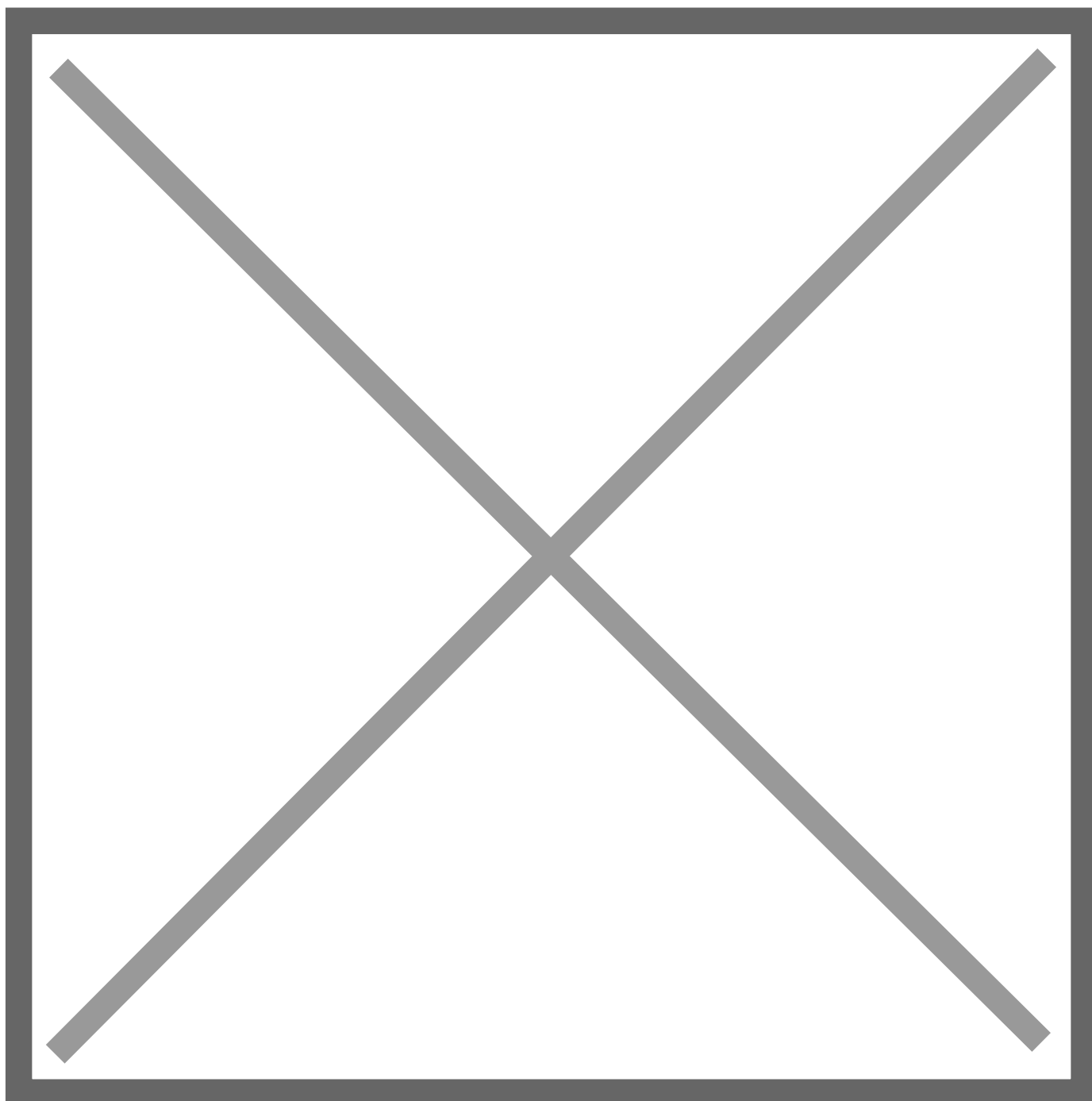
Definitions: Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP $\geq$ 140 OR DBP $\geq$ 90).

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).

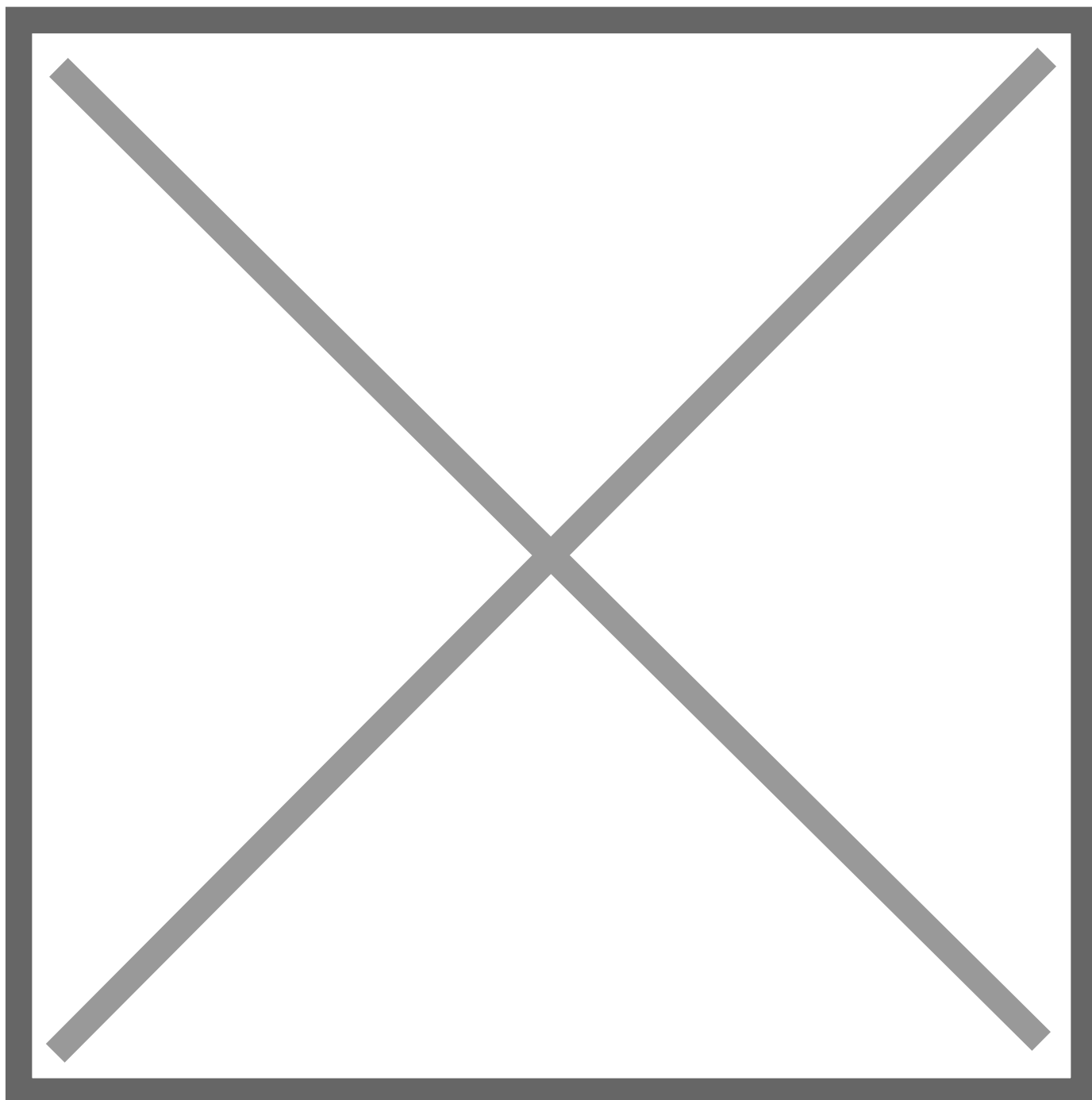
Women, 2015



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 $\geq$ 140 OR DBP $\geq$ 90).

Raised cholesterol

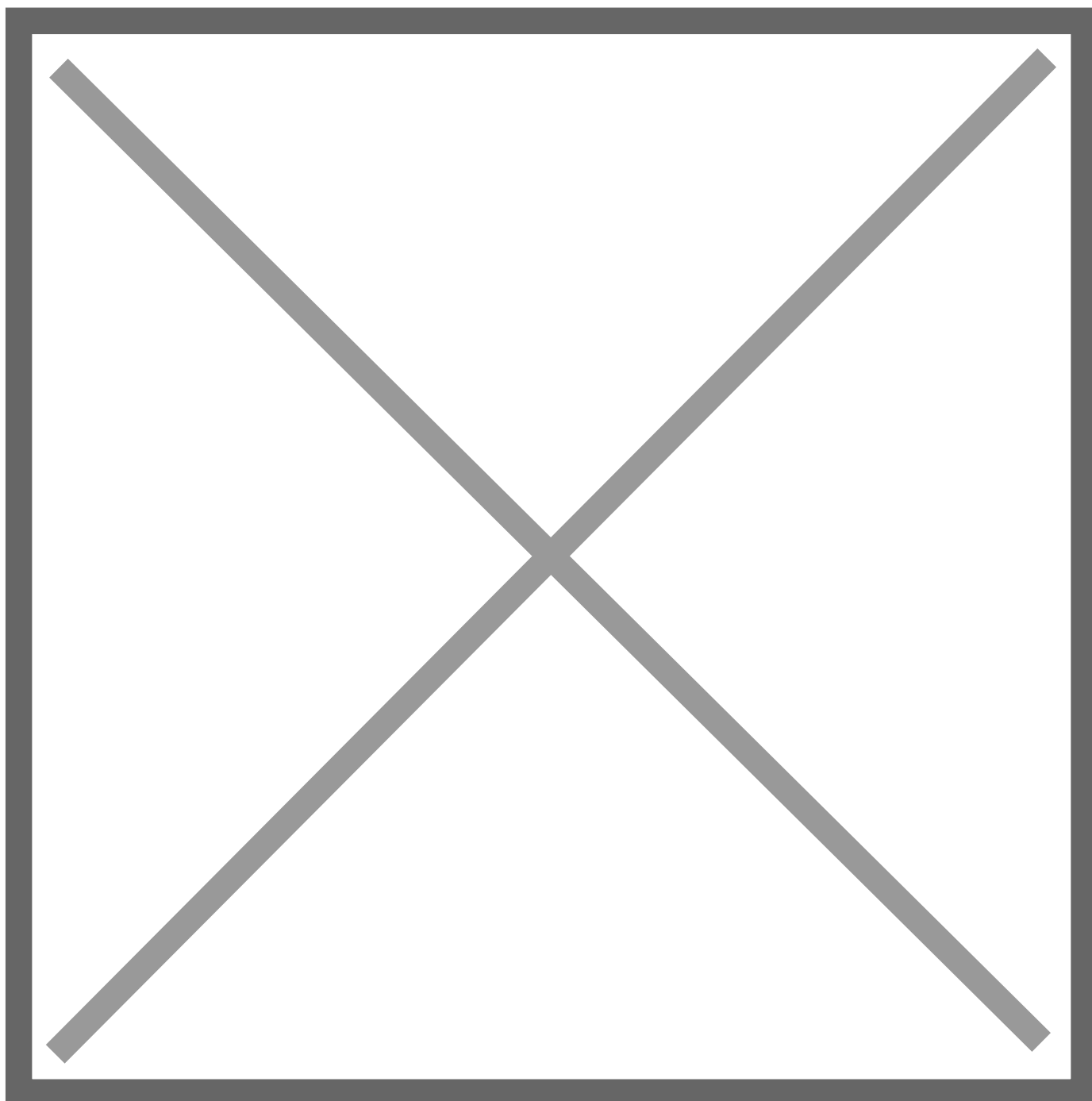
Adults, 2008



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

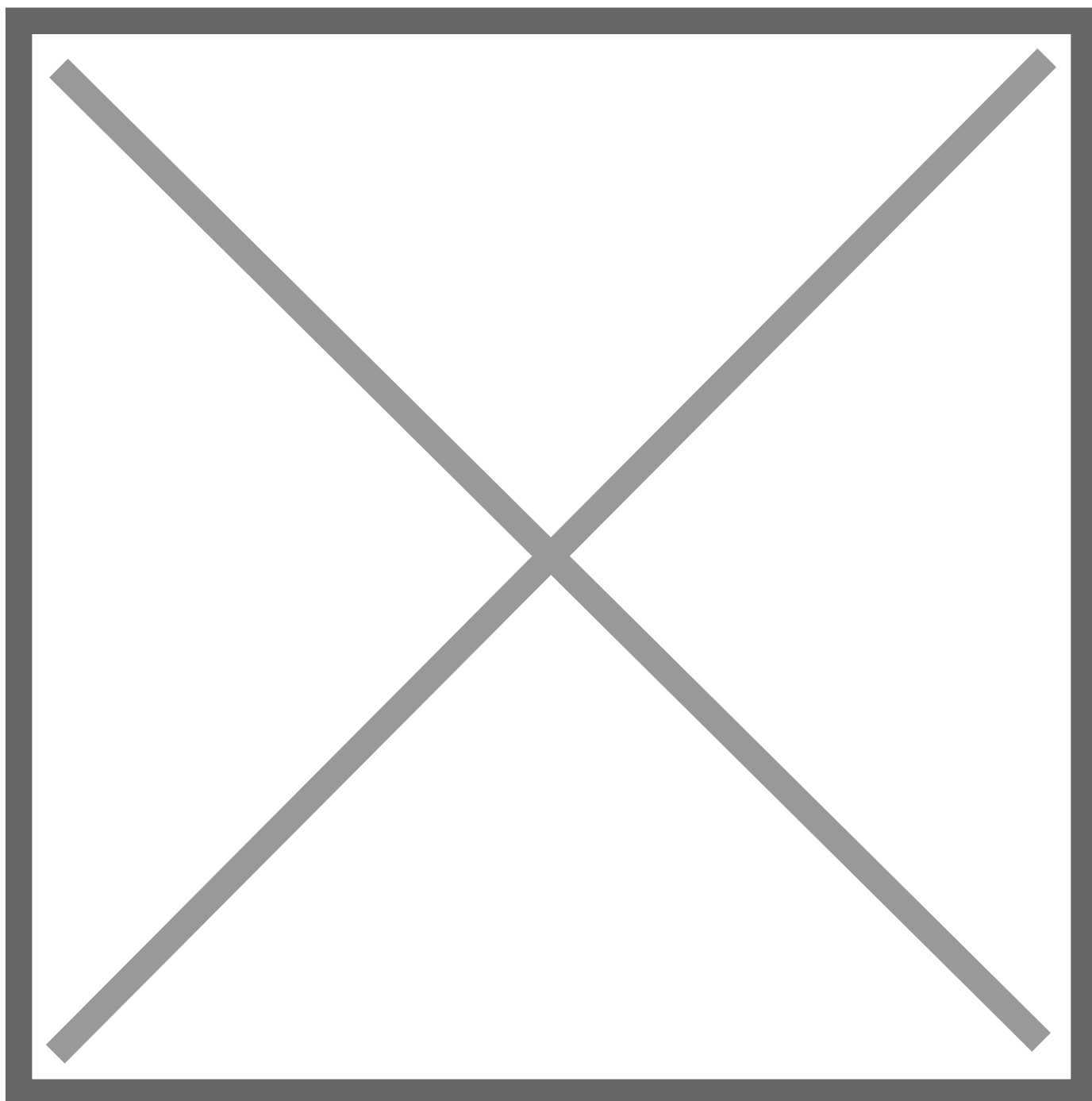
Definitions: % Raised total cholesterol (≥ 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).

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).

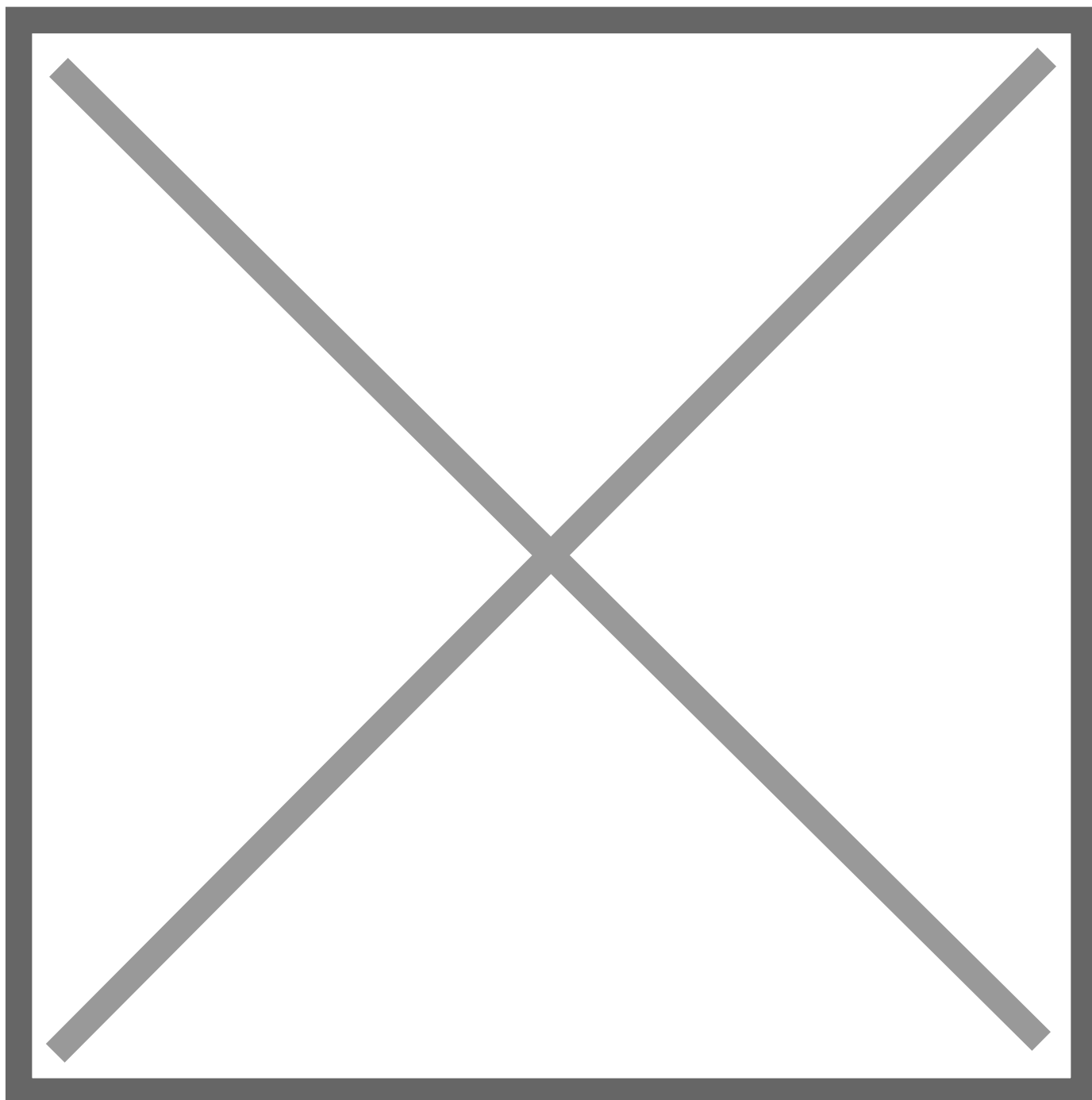
Women, 2008



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

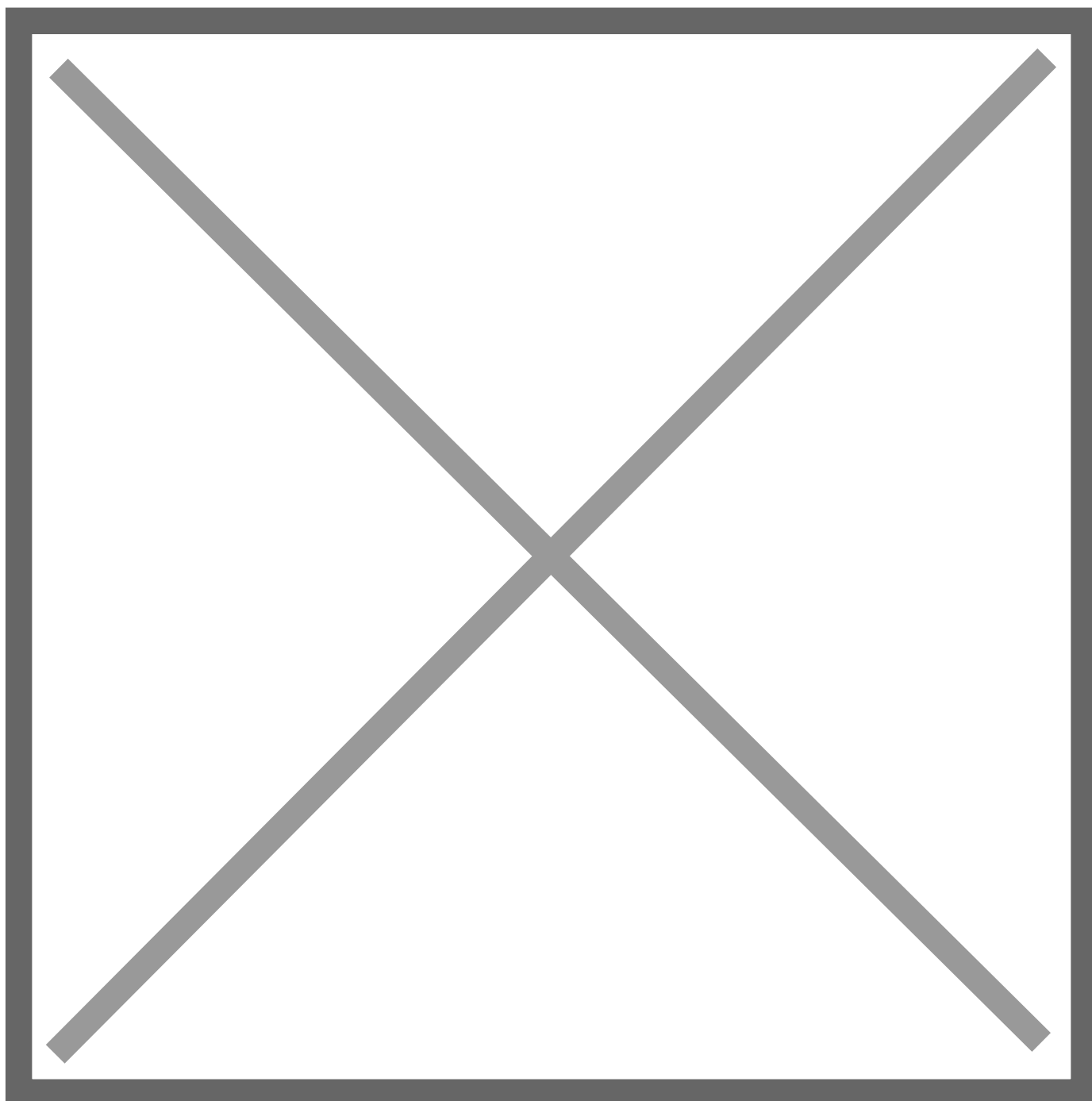
Men, 2014



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).

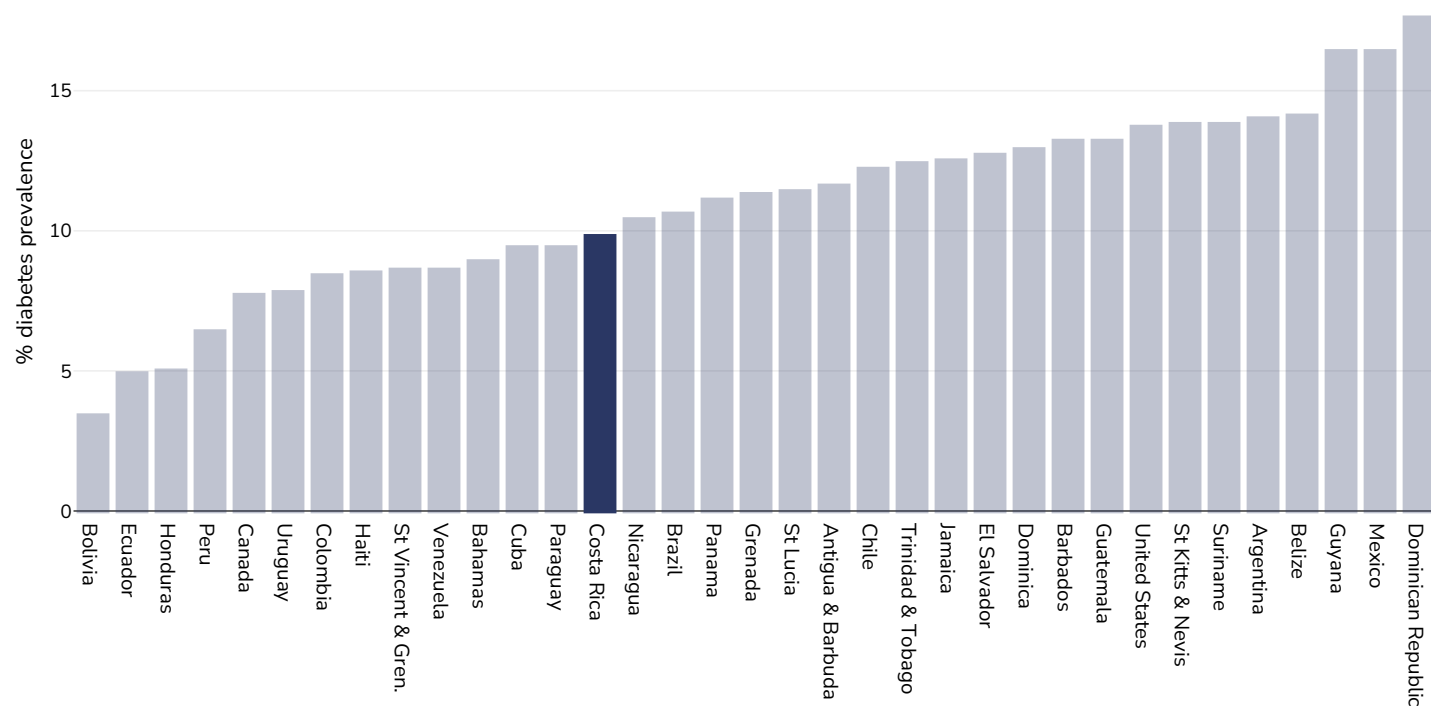
Women, 2014



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, 2024

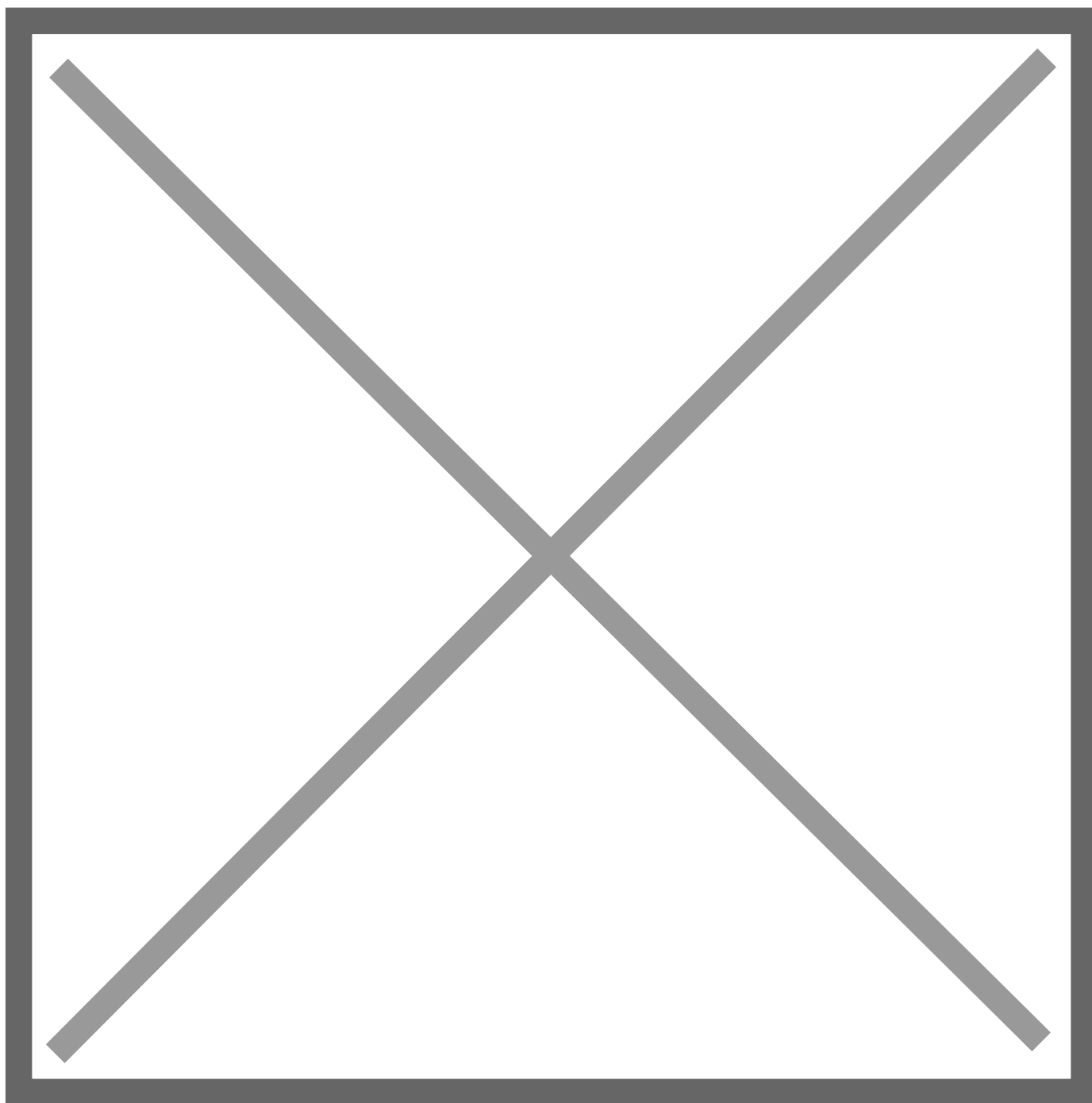


References:

Reproduced with kind permission International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas, 11th edn. Brussels, Belgium:International Diabetes Federation, 2025. <http://www.diabetesatlas.org>

Ovarian Cancer

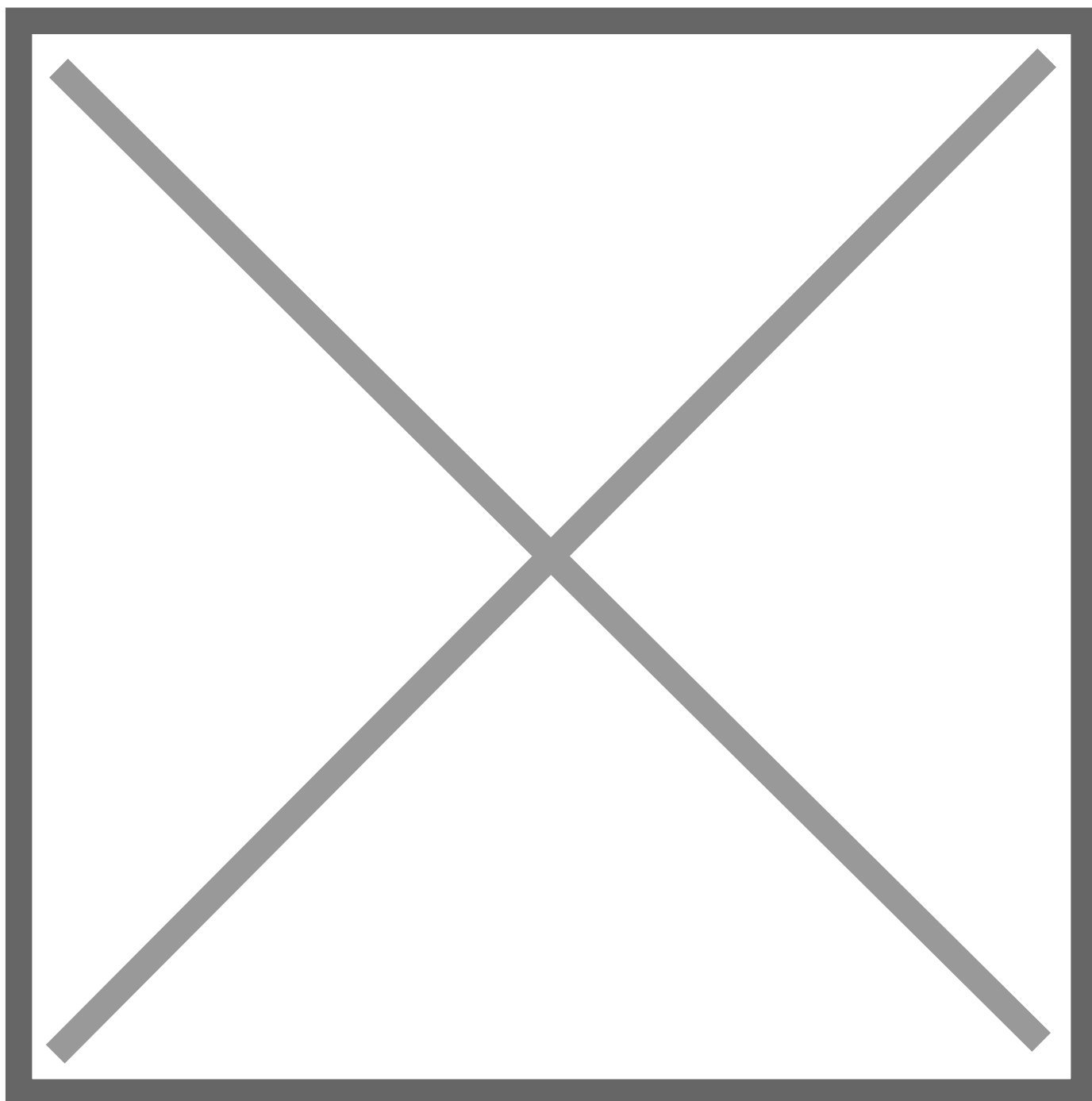
Women, 2022



Age:	20+
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000

Leukemia

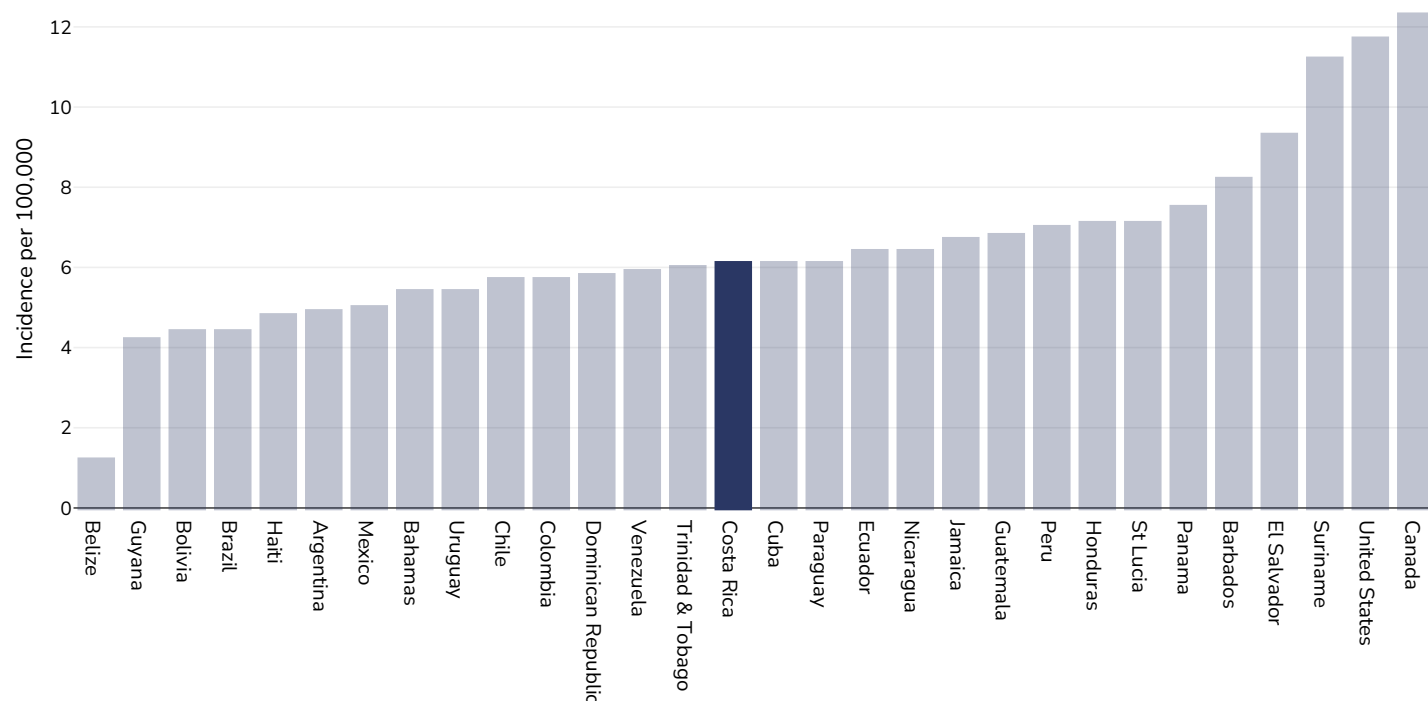
Men, 2022



Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000

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

Women, 2022



Age: 20+

Area covered: National

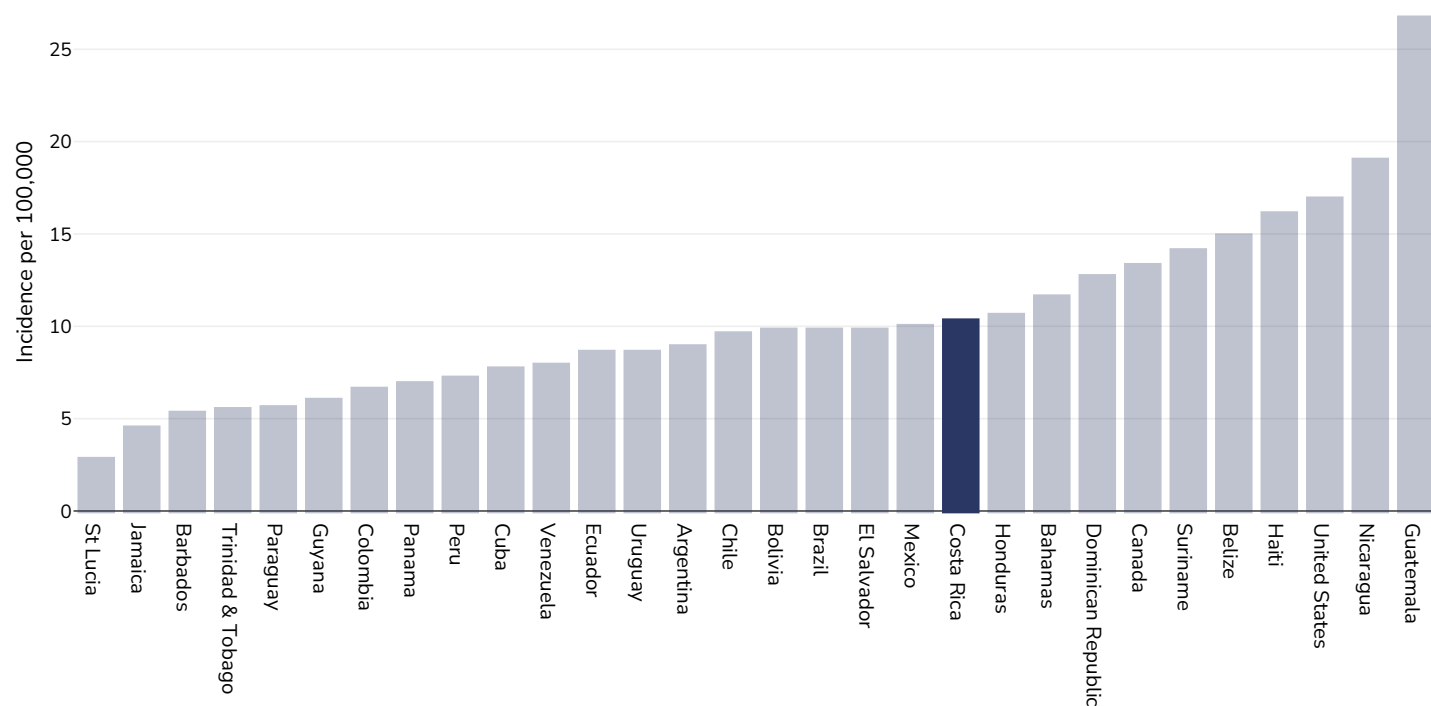
References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

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

Liver and intrahepatic bile duct Cancer

Men, 2022



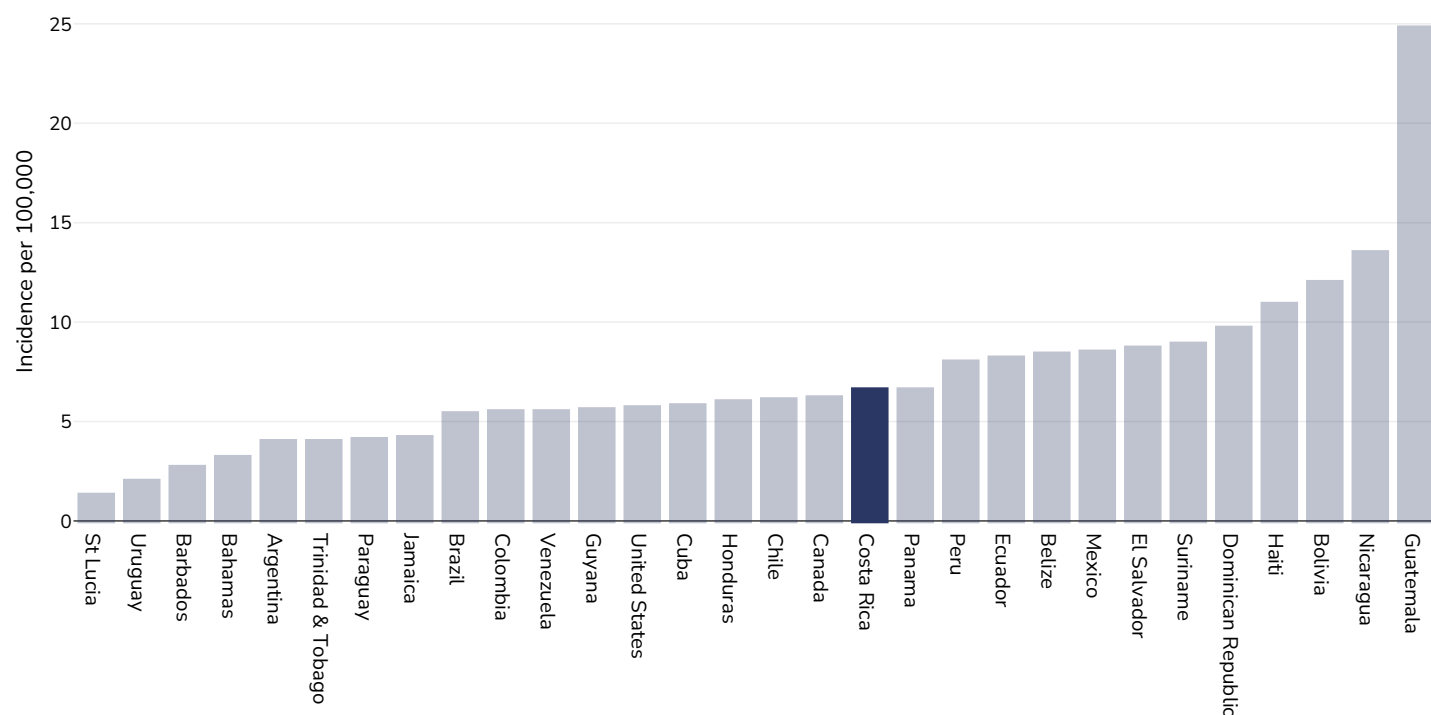
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Women, 2022



Age: 20+

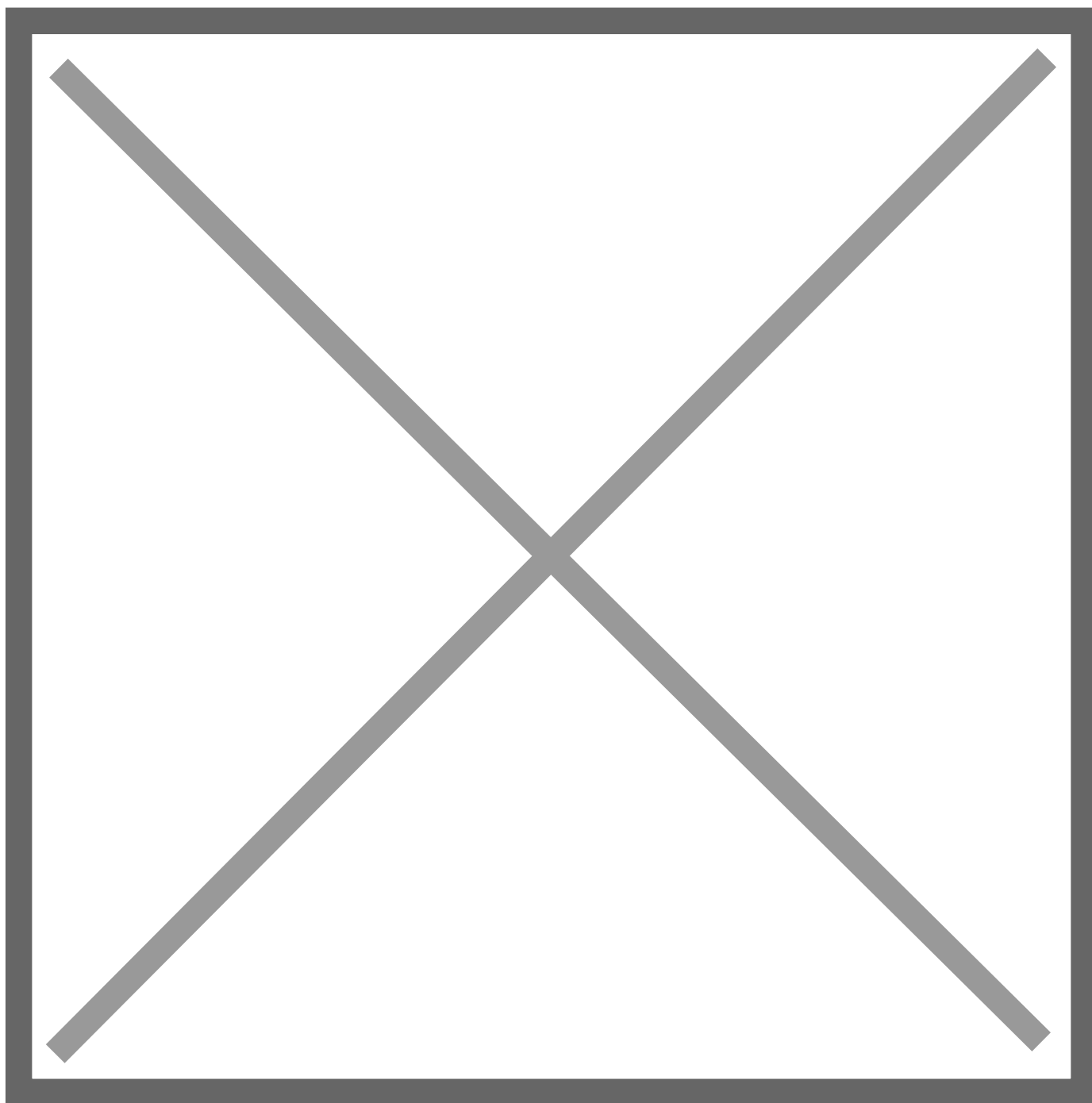
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.who.int/today>, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Multiple Myeloma

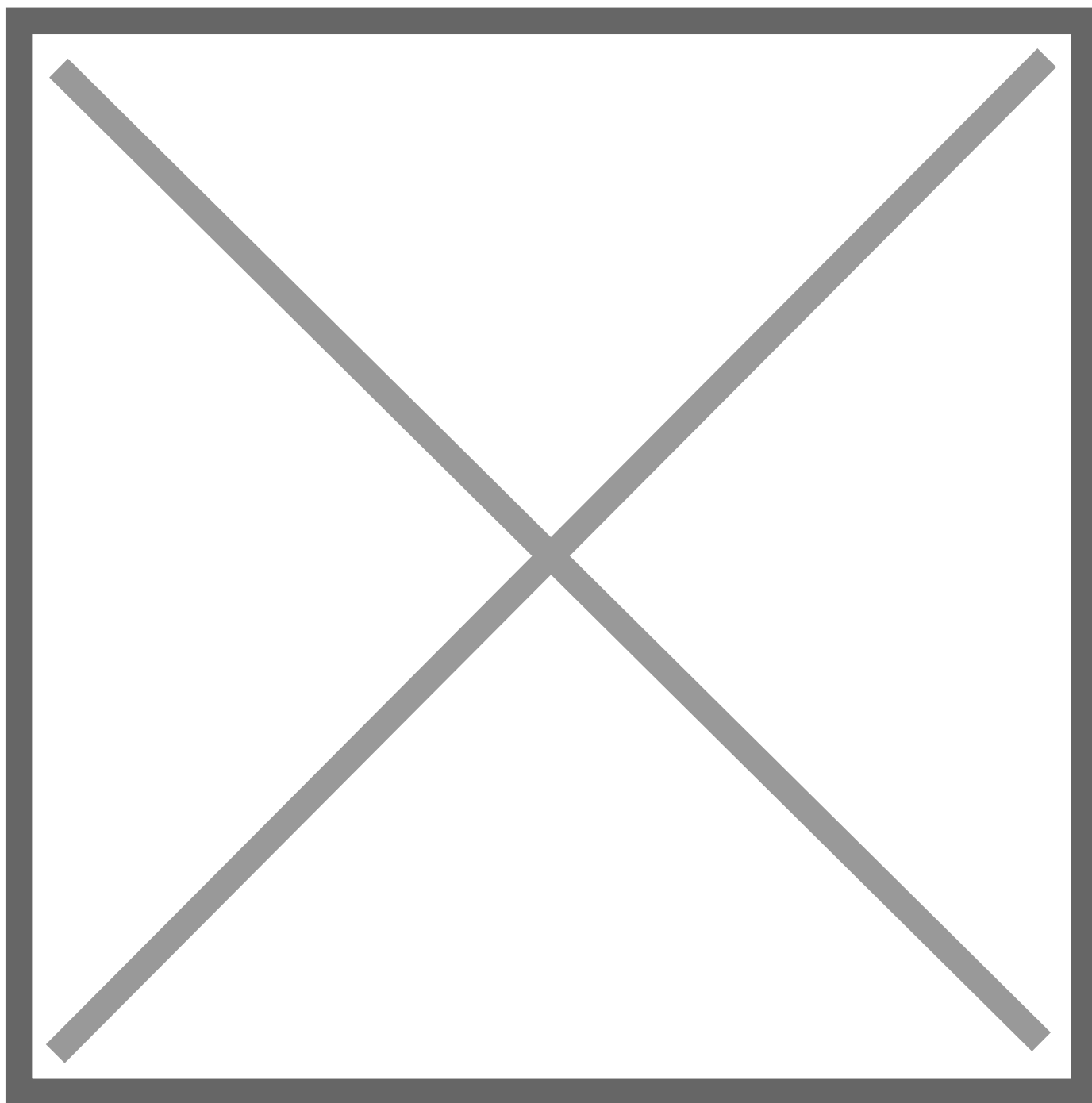
Men, 2022



Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000

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

Women, 2022

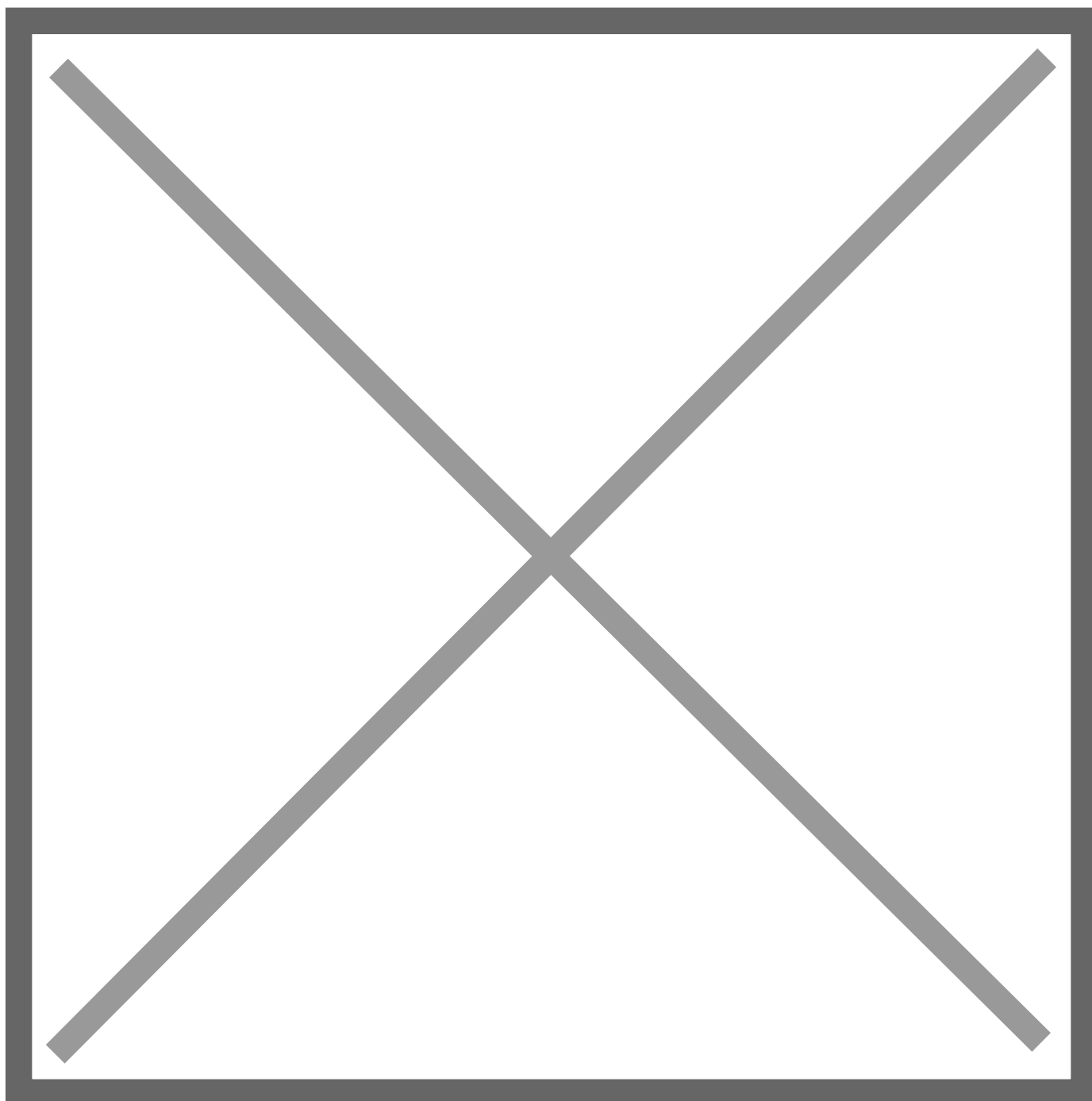


Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000

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

Non Hodgkin Lymphoma

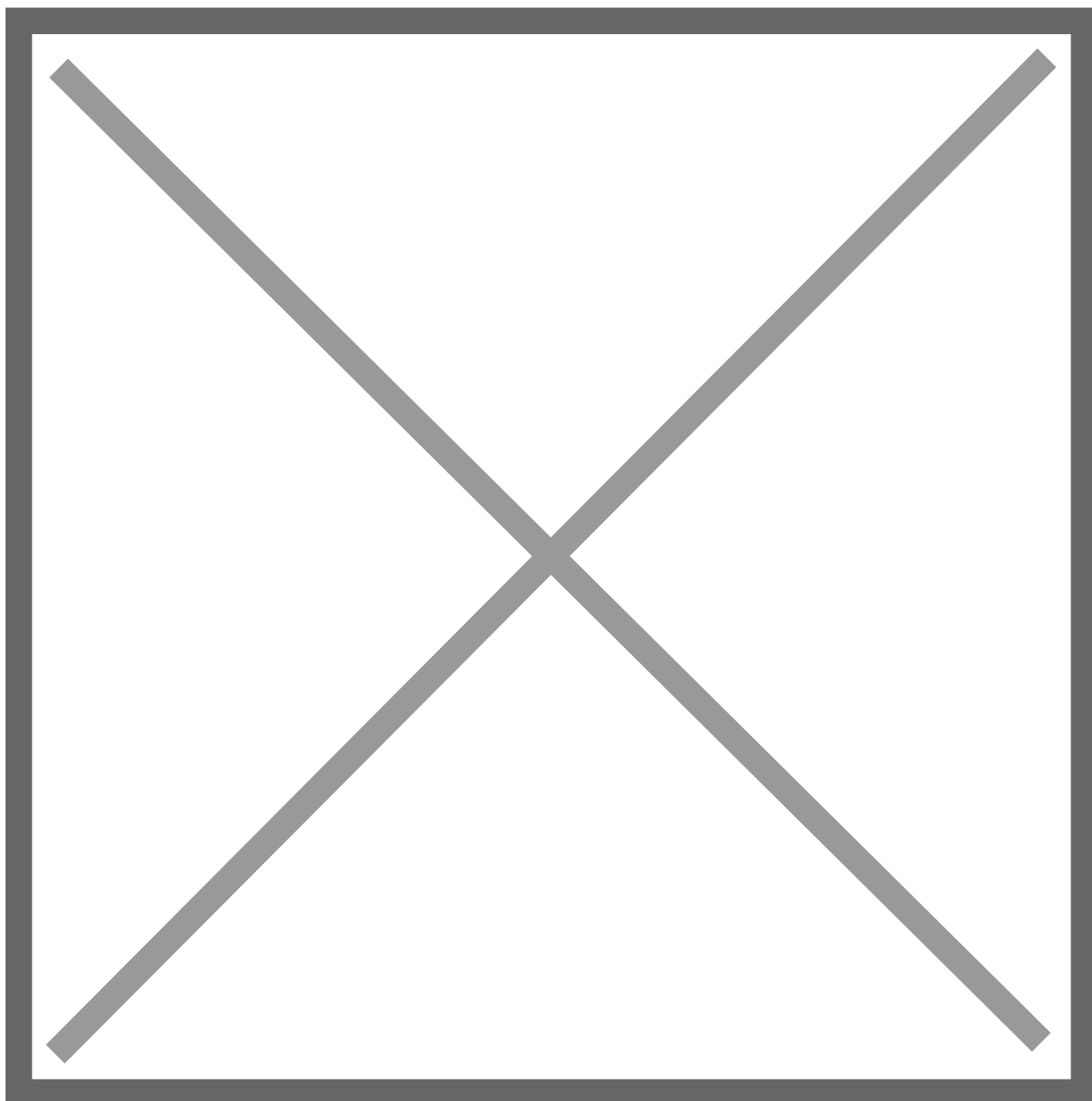
Men, 2022



Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000

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

Women, 2022

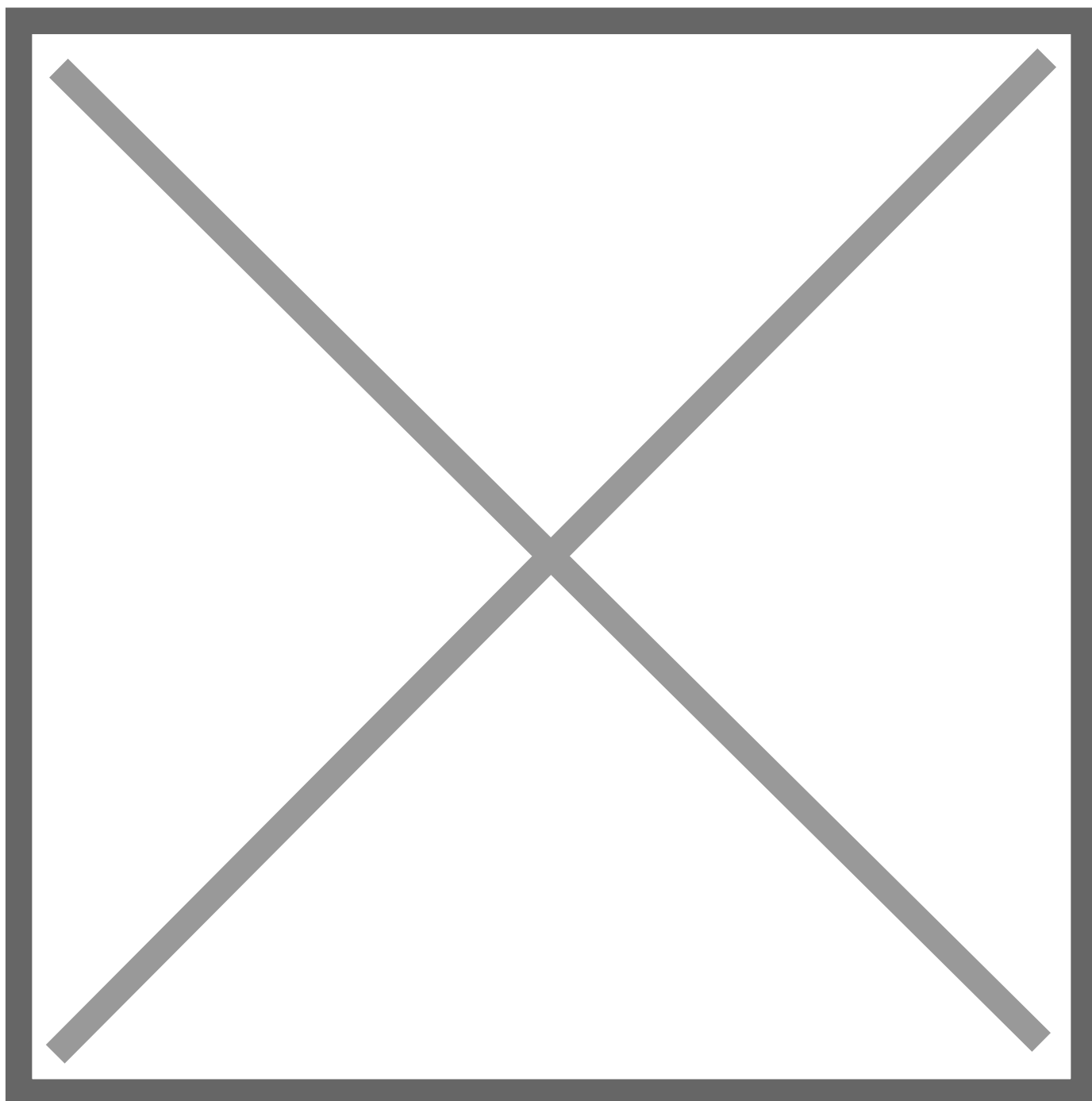


Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000

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

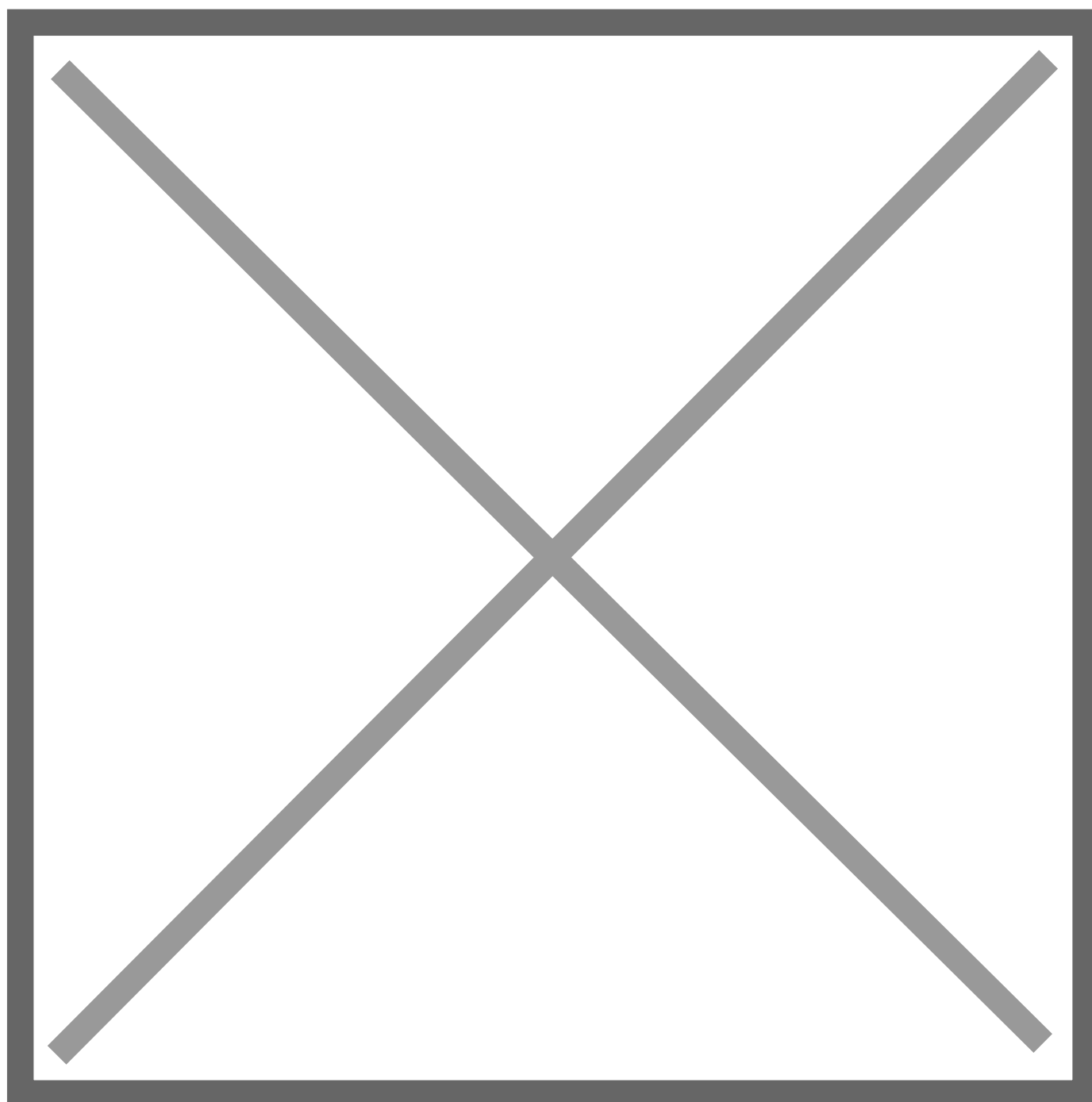
Thyroid Cancer

Men, 2022



Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000

Women, 2022



Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000

PDF created on September 30, 2025