



# Costa Rica



## Country report card - children

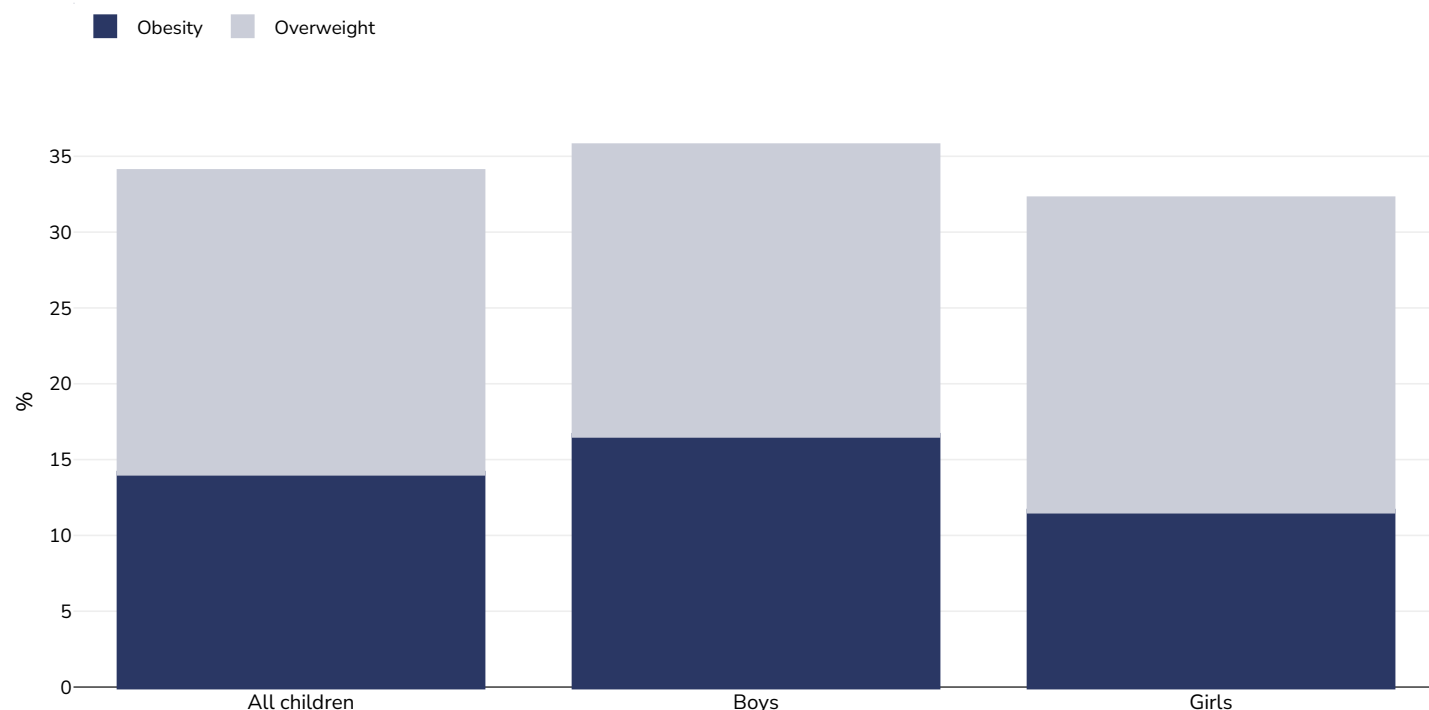
*This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity for children, including adolescents (aged 5 to 18 years). Where available, data on common and relevant obesity drivers and comorbidities are also presented.*

*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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## Obesity prevalence

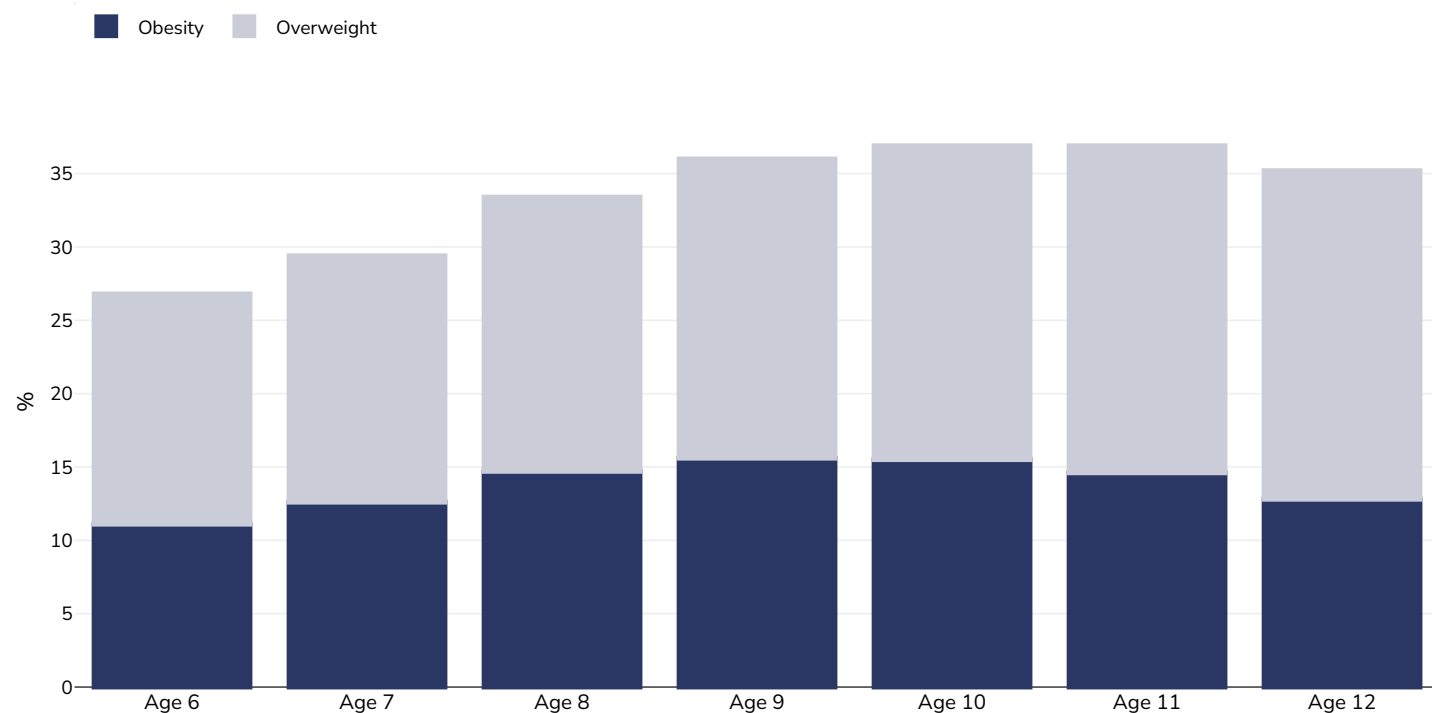
### Children, 2016



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	6-12
Sample size:	347366
Area covered:	National
References:	<p>Gamboa-Gamboa, T., Fantin, R., Cordoba, J., Caravaca, I., &amp; 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</p> <p><a href="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">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</a> (Last accessed 18.05.21)</p>
Notes:	<p>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 (<a href="https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS">https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.ZS</a> - accessed 21.10.20)</p>
Cutoffs:	WHO

## Overweight/obesity by age

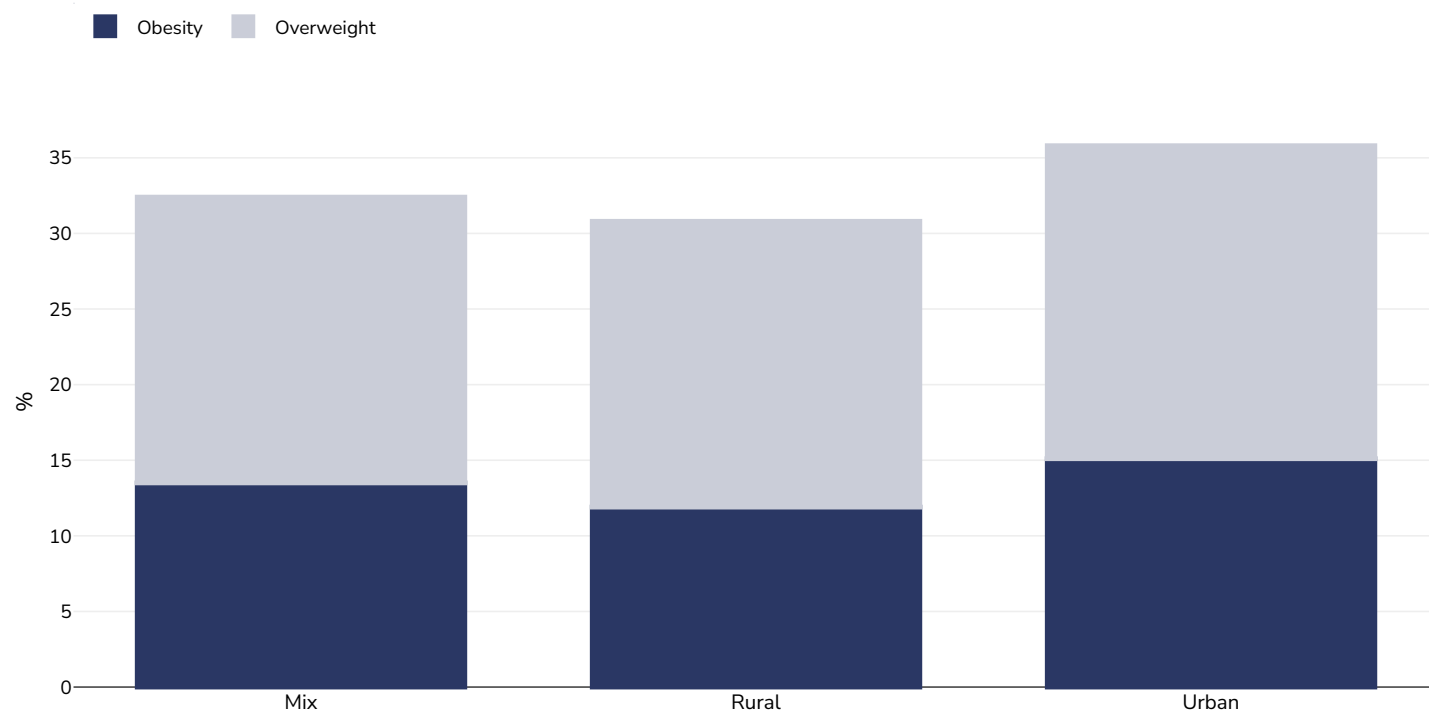
### Children, 2016



Survey type:	Measured
Sample size:	347366
Area covered:	National
References:	<p>Gamboa-Gamboa, T., Fantin, R., Cordoba, J., Caravaca, I., &amp; 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</p> <p><a href="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">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</a> (Last accessed 18.05.21)</p>
Cutoffs:	WHO

## Overweight/obesity by region

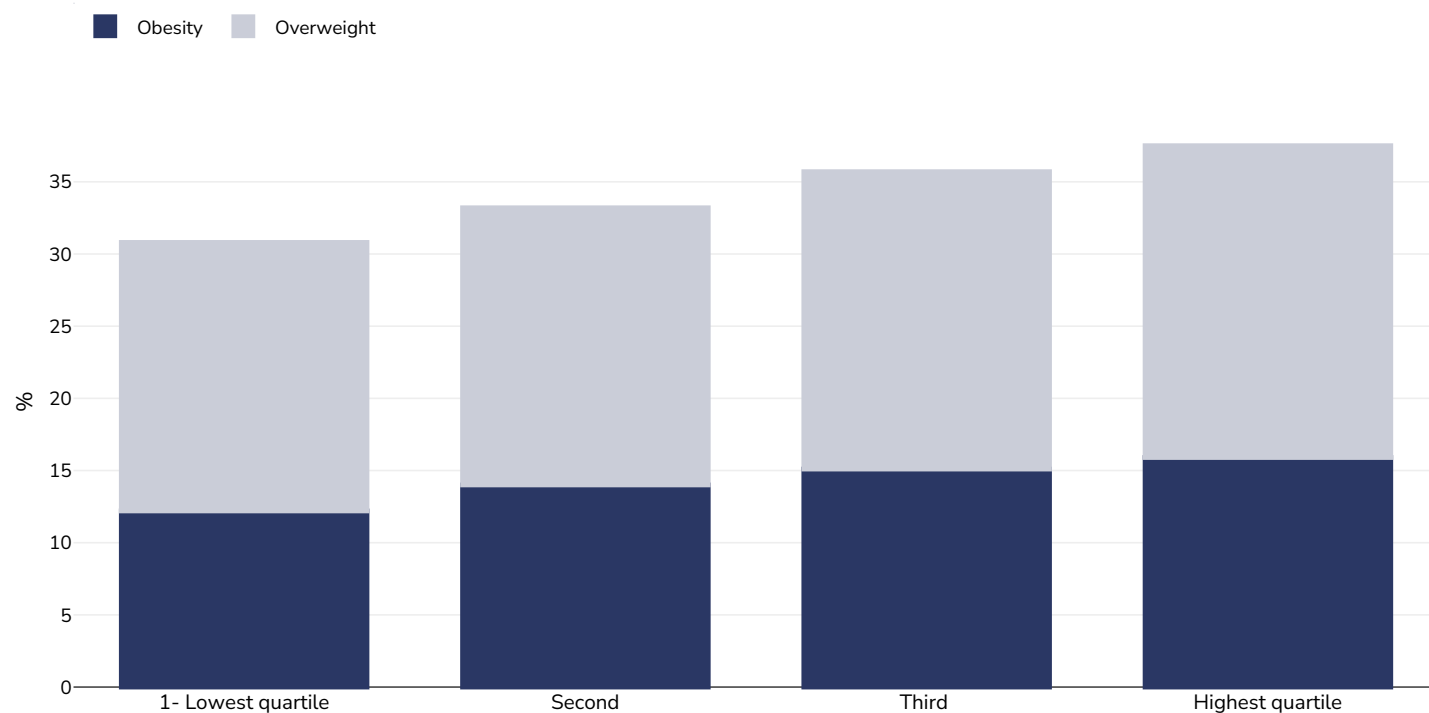
### Children, 2016



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	6-12
Sample size:	347366
Area covered:	National
References:	<p>Gamboa-Gamboa, T., Fantin, R., Cordoba, J., Caravaca, I., &amp; 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</p> <p><a href="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">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</a> (Last accessed 18.05.21)</p>
Cutoffs:	WHO

## Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

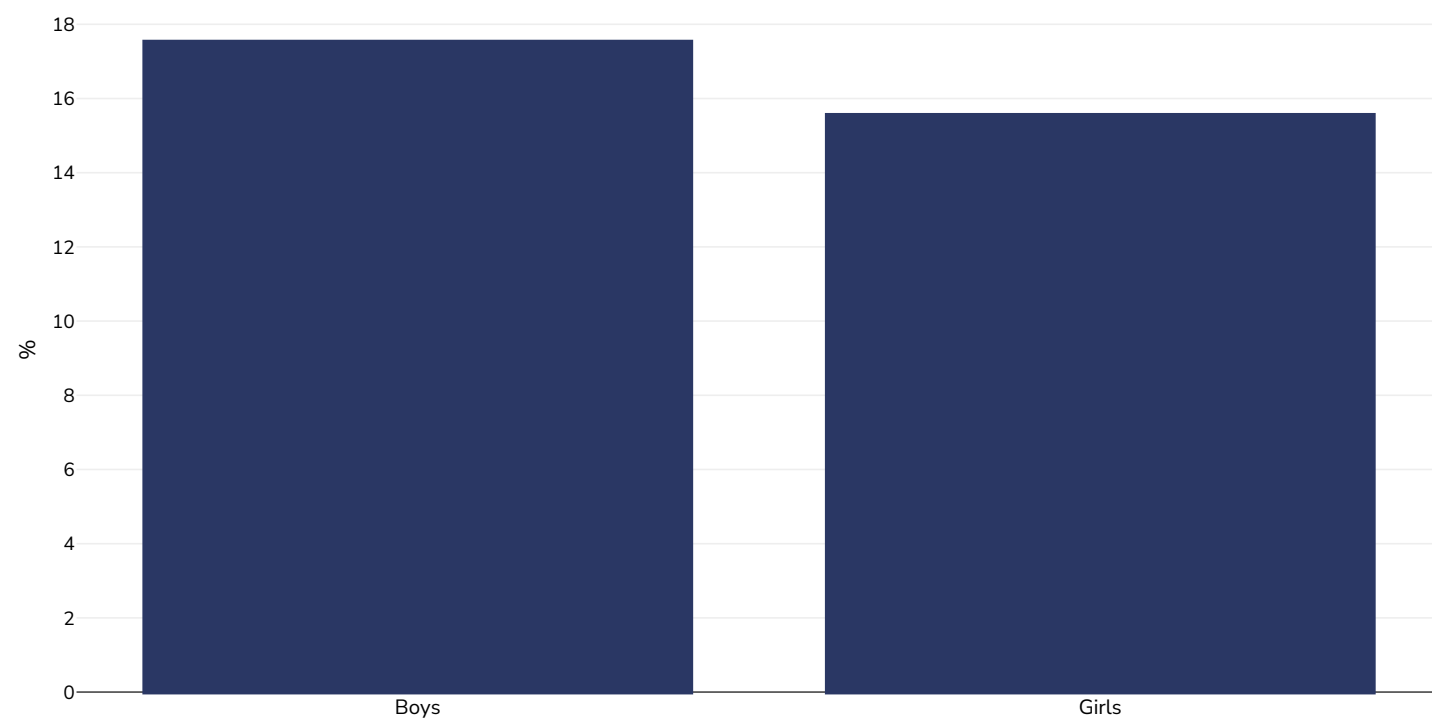
### Children, 2016



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	6-12
Sample size:	347366
Area covered:	National
References:	<p>Gamboa-Gamboa, T., Fantin, R., Cordoba, J., Caravaca, I., &amp; 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</p> <p><a href="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">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</a> (Last accessed 18.05.21)</p>
Cutoffs:	WHO

## Double burden of underweight & overweight

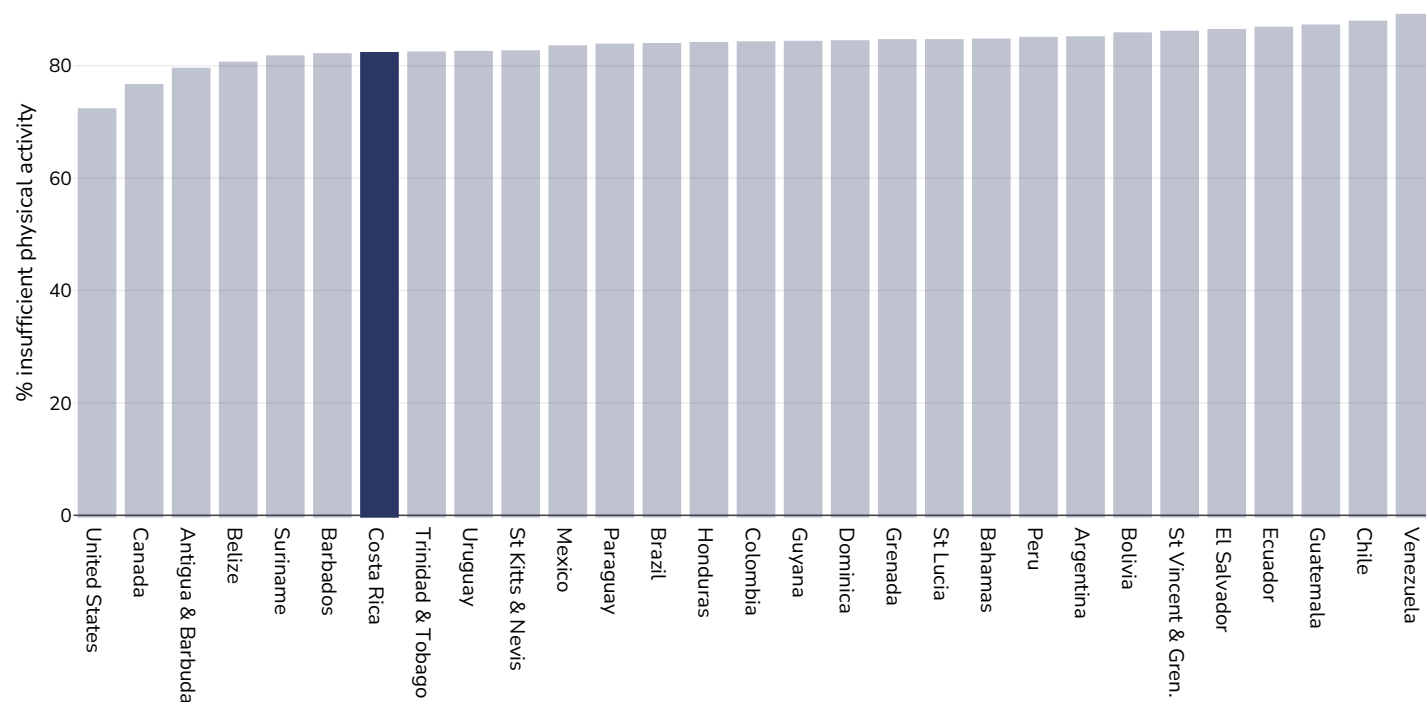
### Children, 2022



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	5-19
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. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2">https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2</a> .
Notes:	Age standardised estimates
Definitions:	Combined prevalence of BMI < -2SD and BMI > 2SD (double burden of thinness and obesity)
Cutoffs:	BMI < -2SD and BMI > 2SD

## Insufficient physical activity

### Children, 2016



Survey type: Self-reported

Age: 11-17

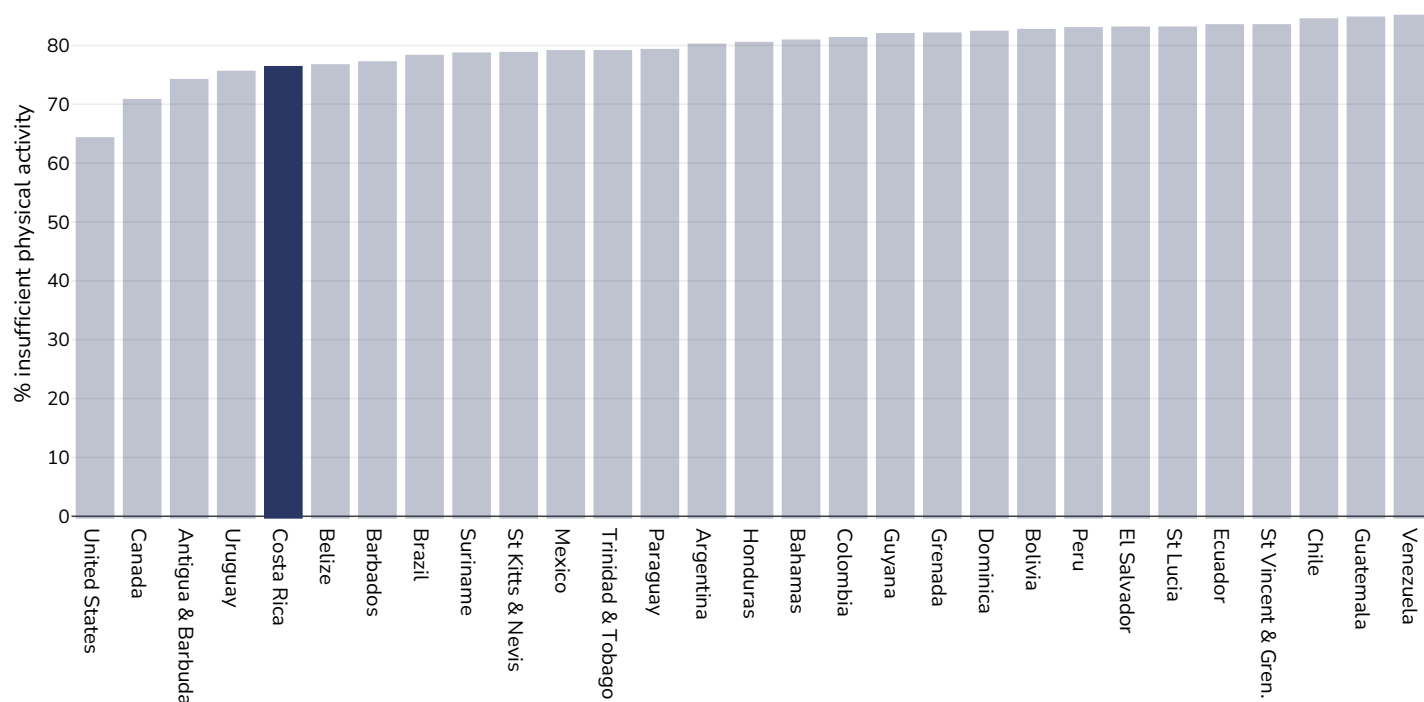
References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en> (last accessed 16.03.21)

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

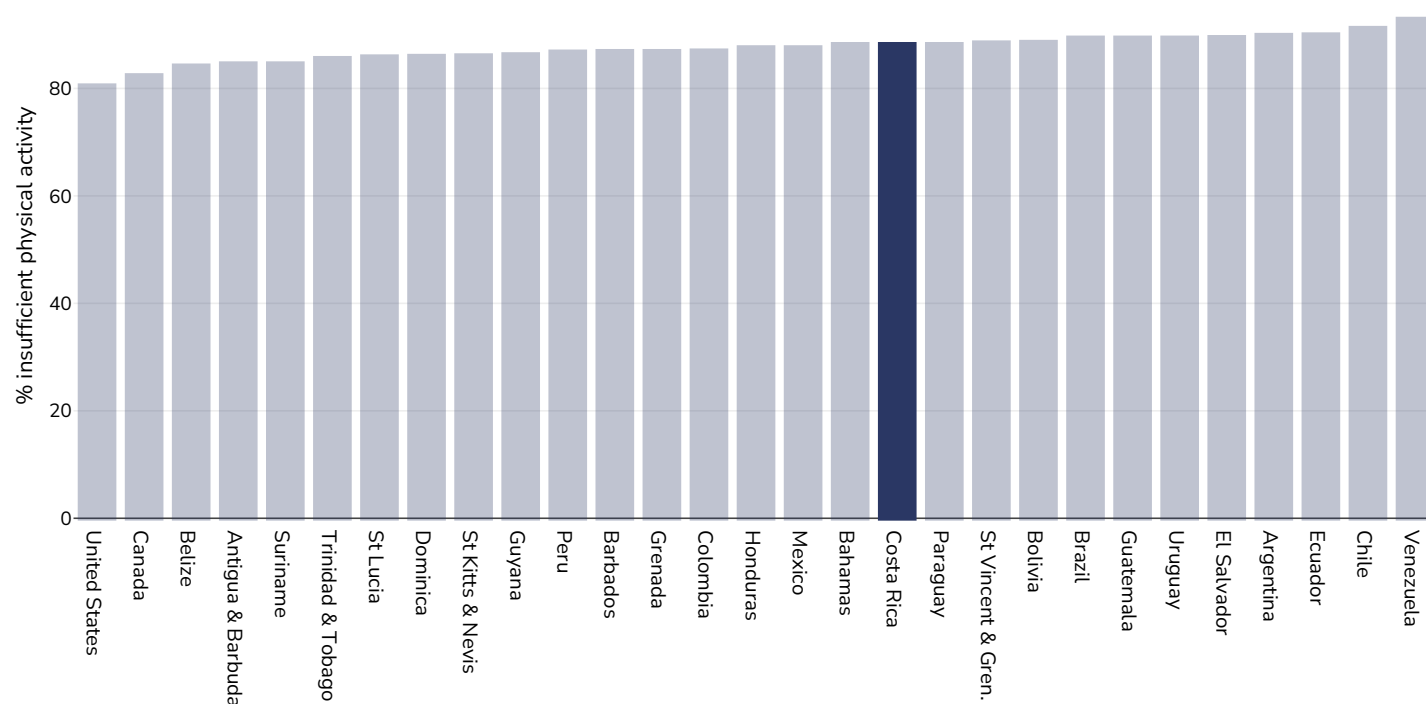
Age: 11-17

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

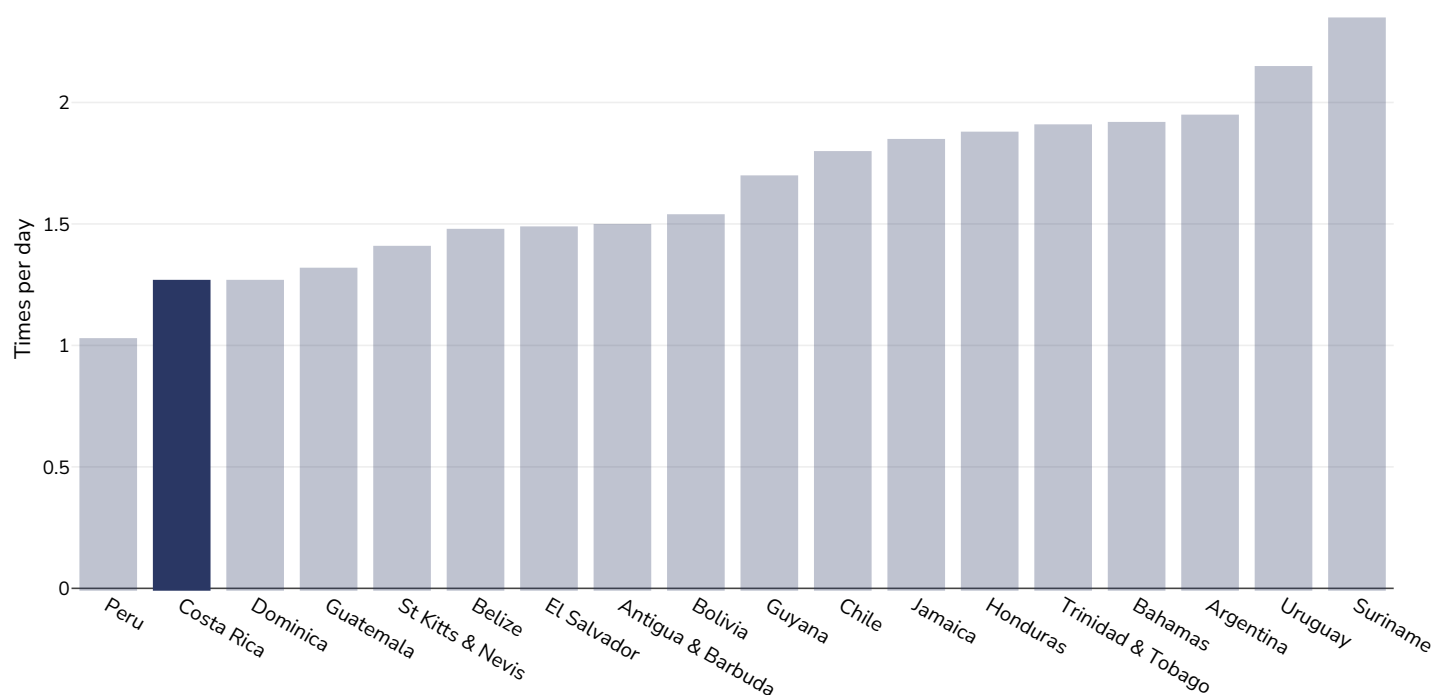
References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en>  
(last accessed 16.03.21)

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



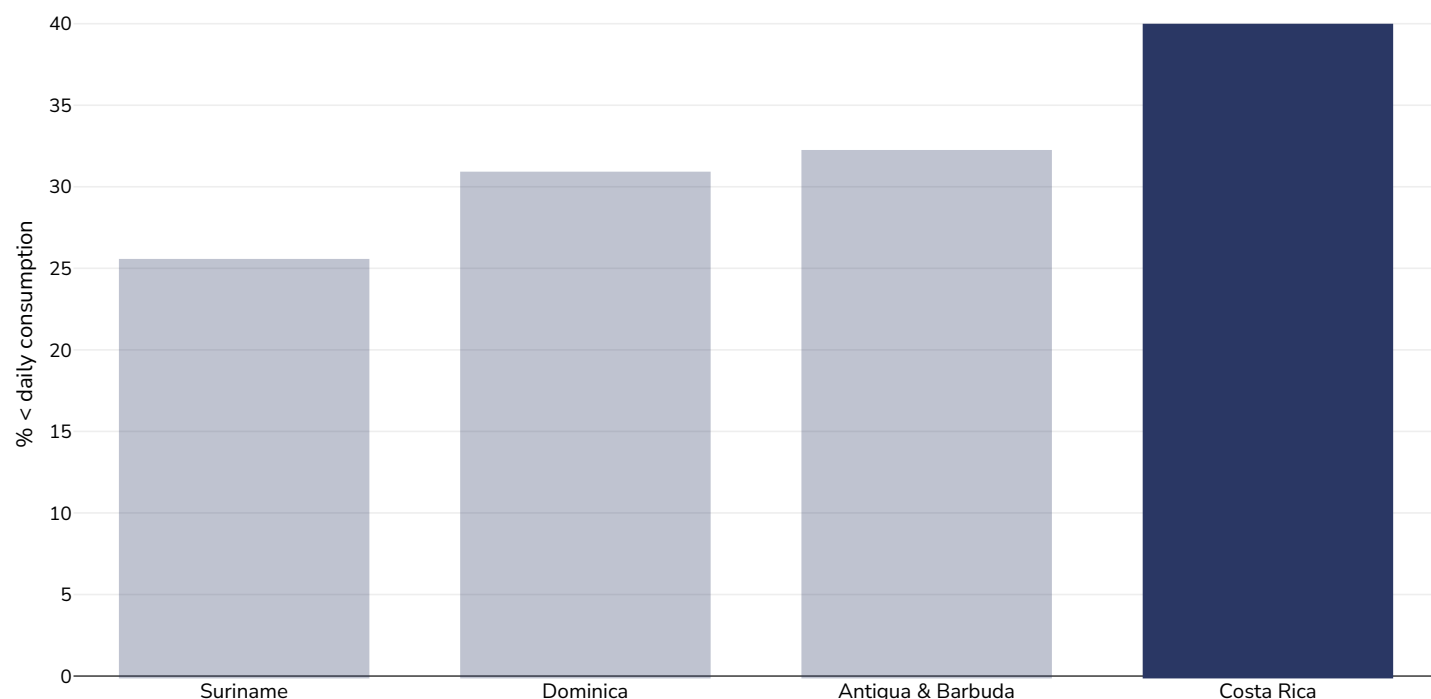
Survey type: Measured

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>

## Prevalence of less than daily fruit consumption

### Children, 2009



Survey type: Self-reported

Age: 12-17

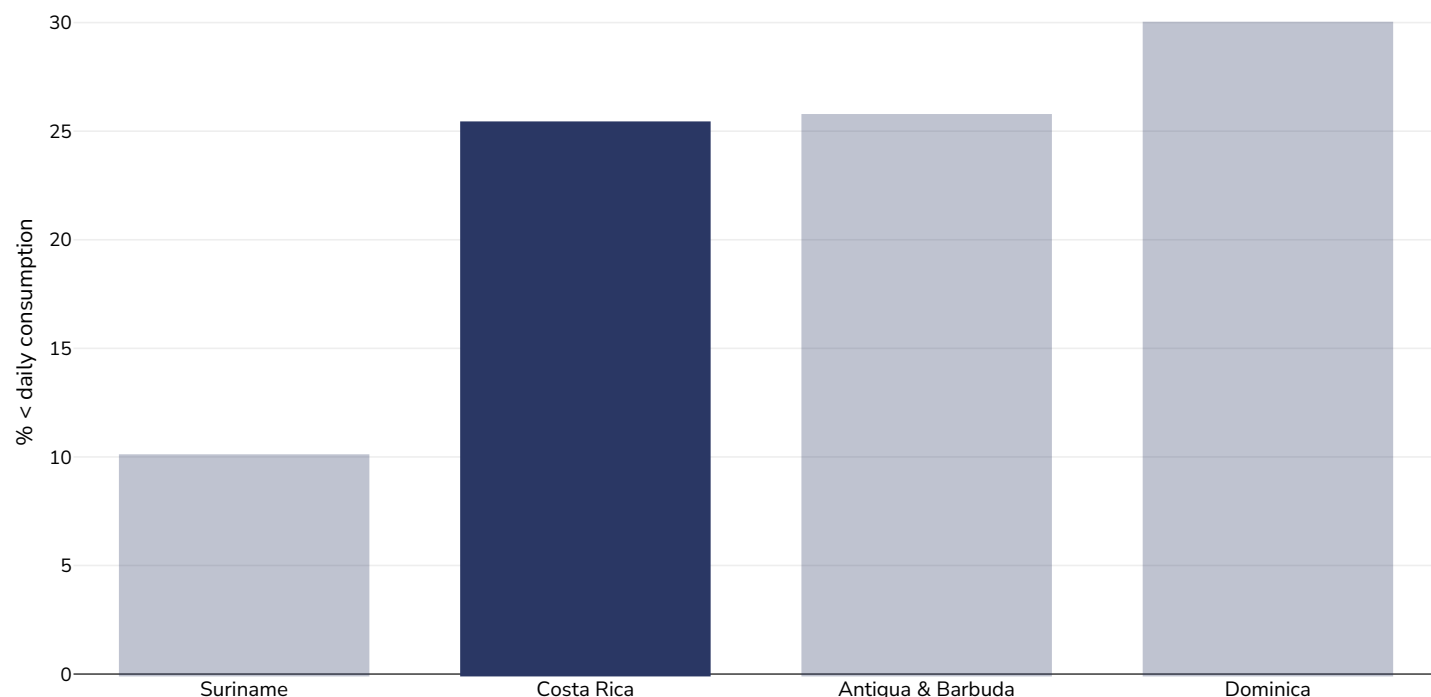
Area covered: National

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



Survey type: Self-reported

Age: 12-17

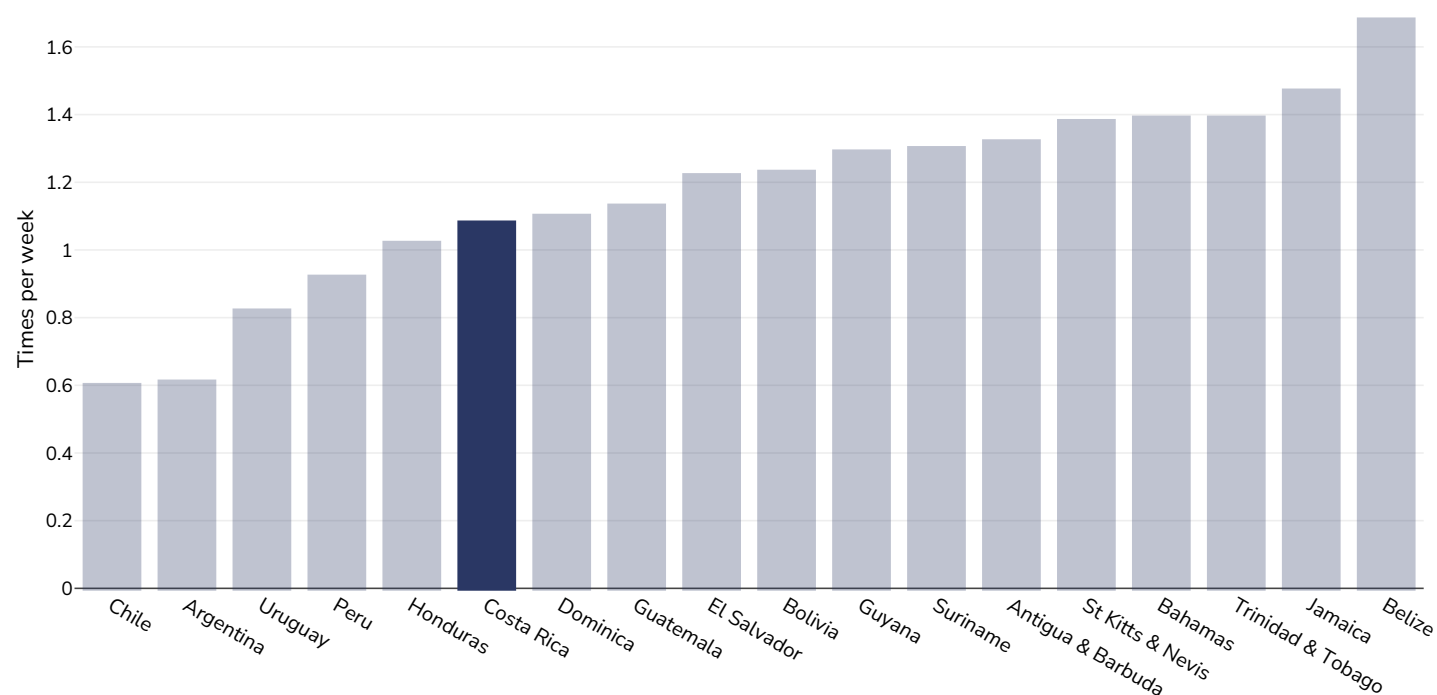
Area covered: National

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:

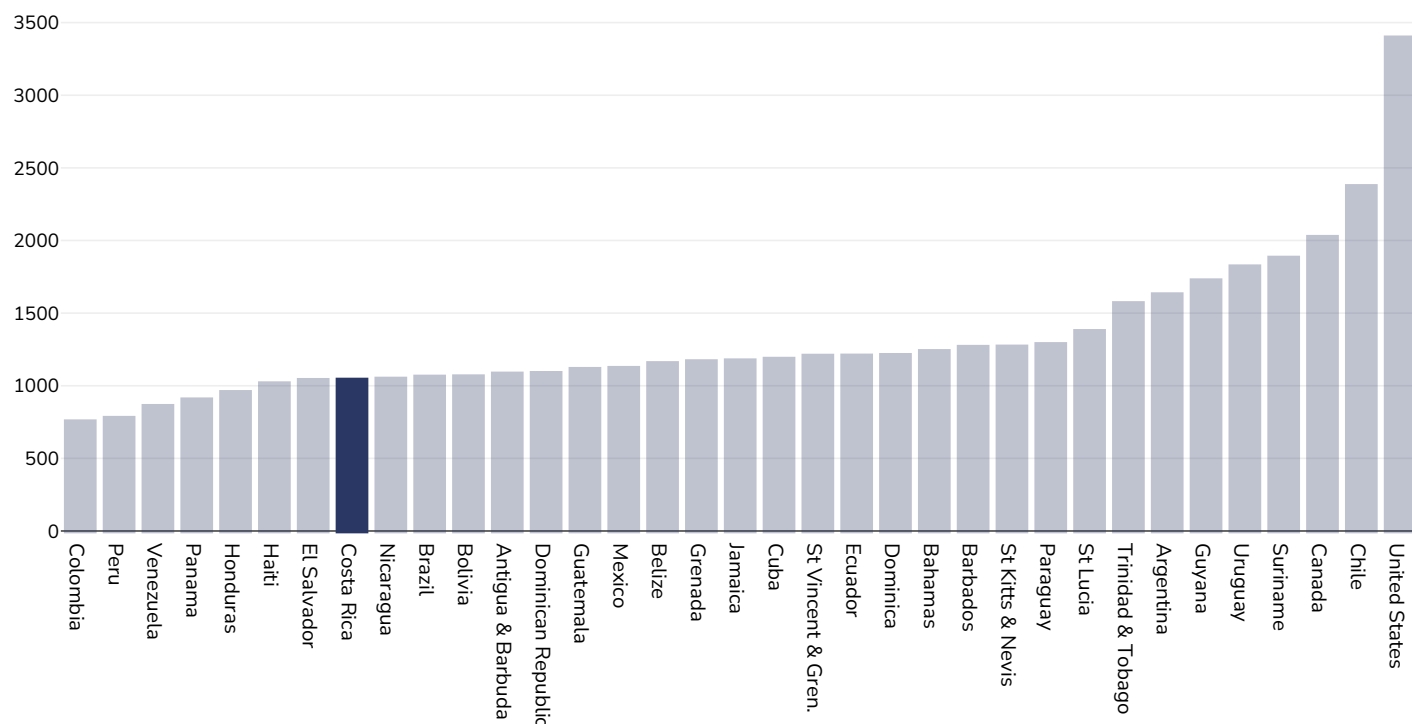
12-17

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>

## Mental health - depression disorders

### Children, 2021



Area covered:

National

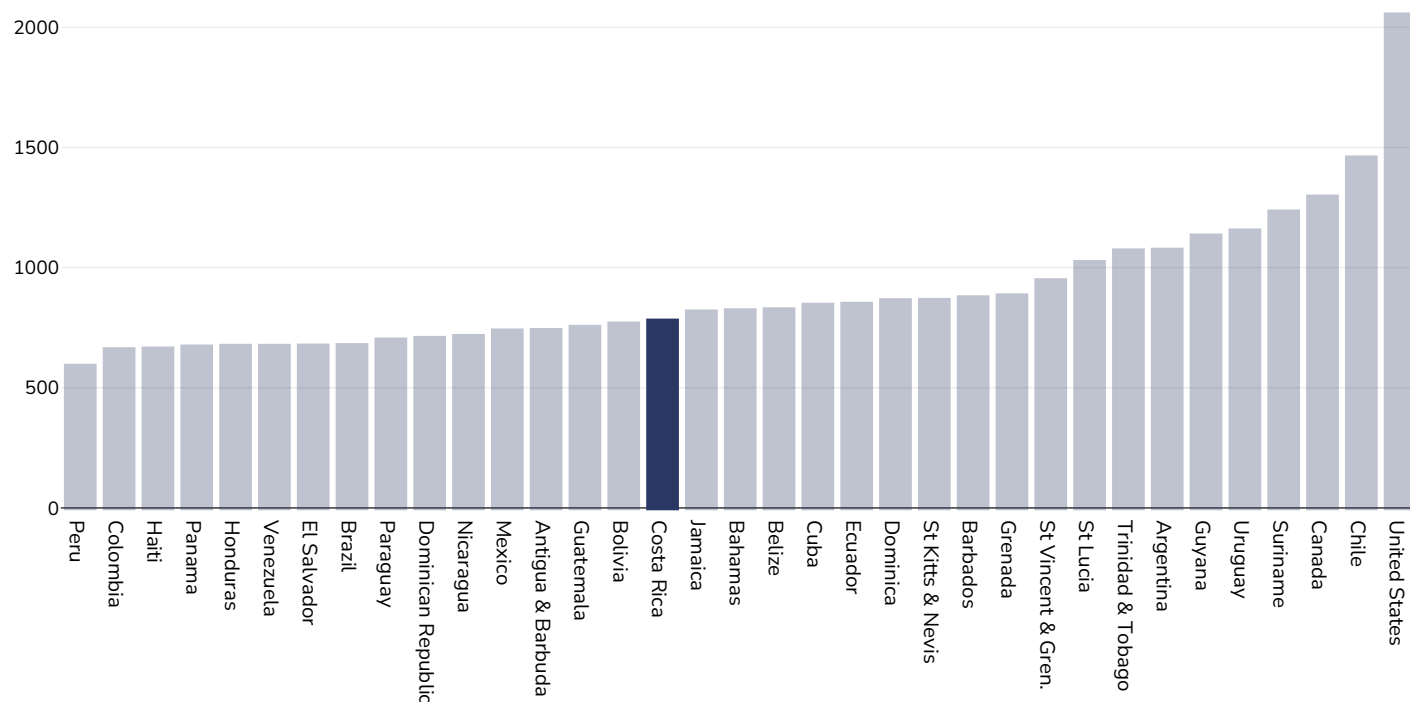
References:

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 depressive disorder per 100,000 population (Under 20 years of age)

## Boys, 2021



Area covered:

National

References:

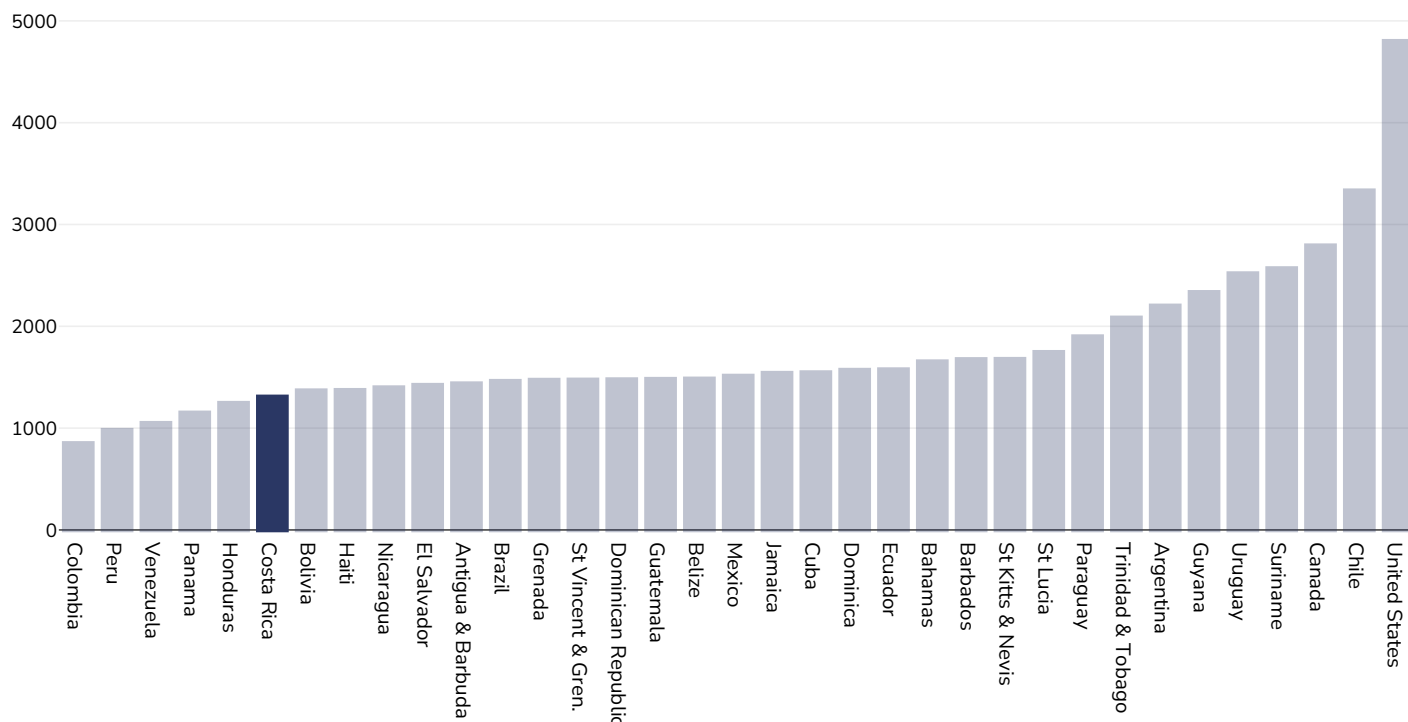
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>. (Last accessed 23.04.25)

Definitions:

Number living with depressive disorder per 100,000 population (Under 20 years of age)



## Girls, 2021



Area covered:

National

References:

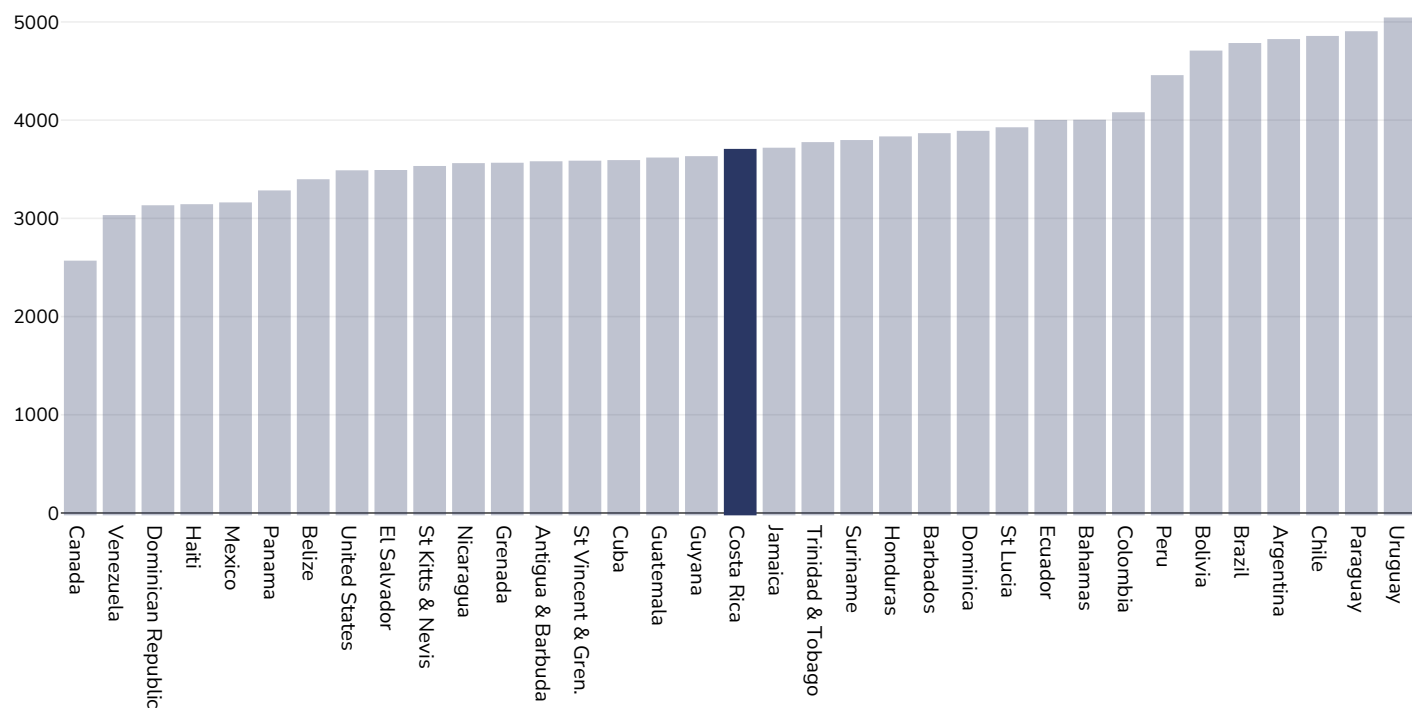
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>. (Last accessed 23.04.25)

Definitions:

Number living with depressive disorder per 100,000 population (Under 20 years of age)

## Mental health - anxiety disorders

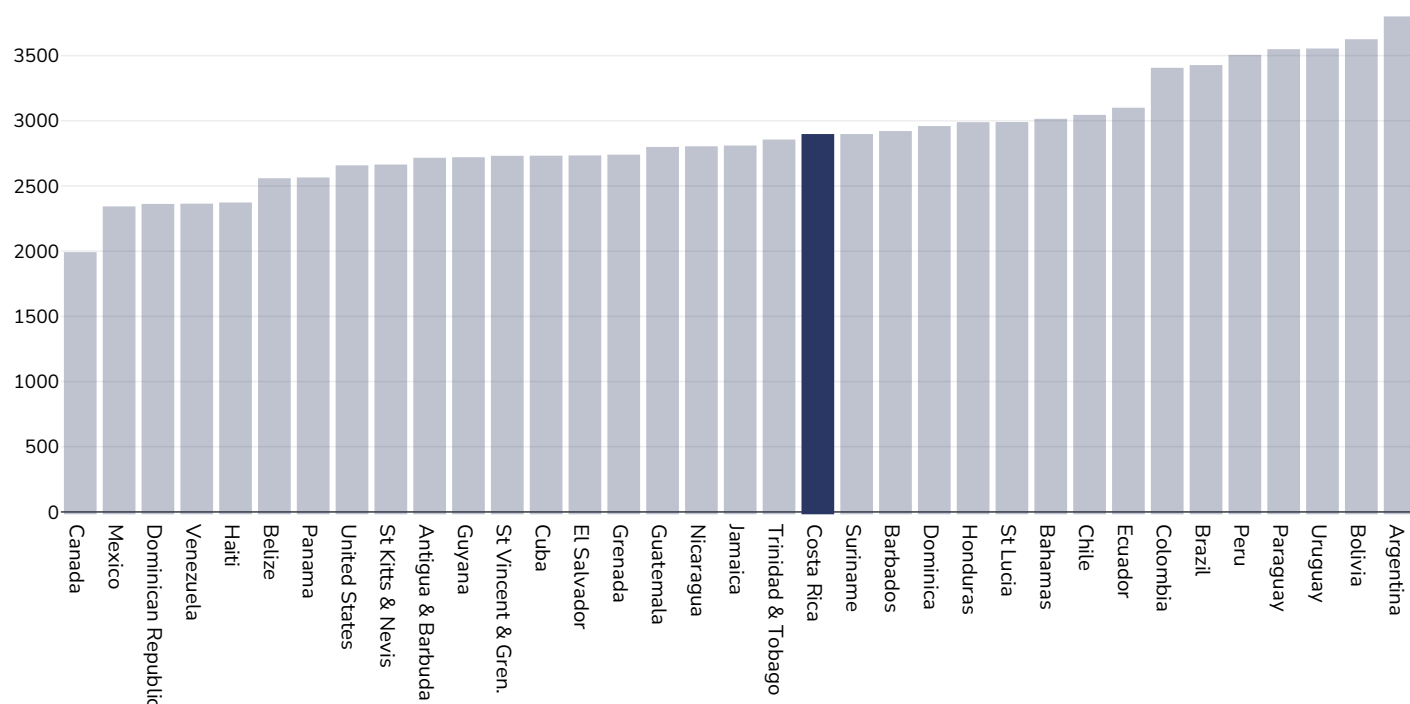
### Children, 2021



**References:**

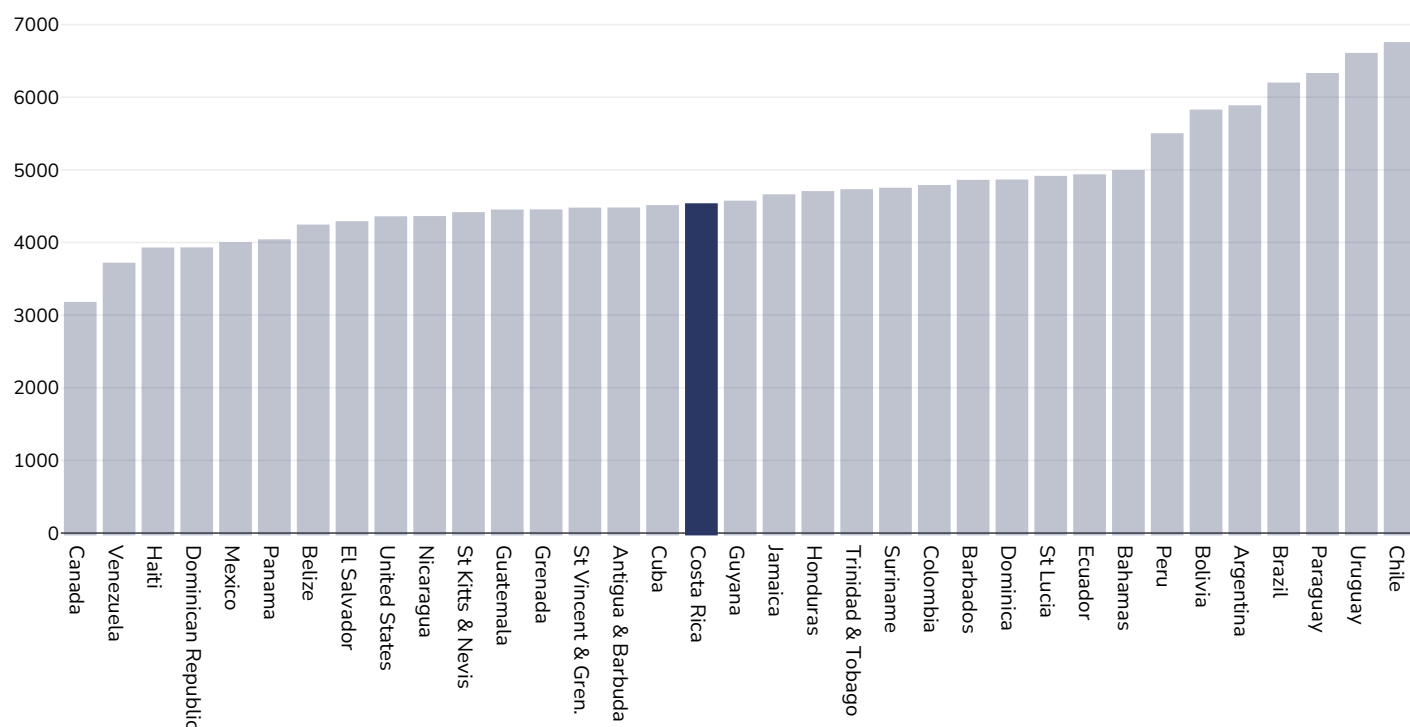
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>. (Last accessed 23.04.25)

## Boys, 2021



**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)

## Girls, 2021



**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)

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