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.

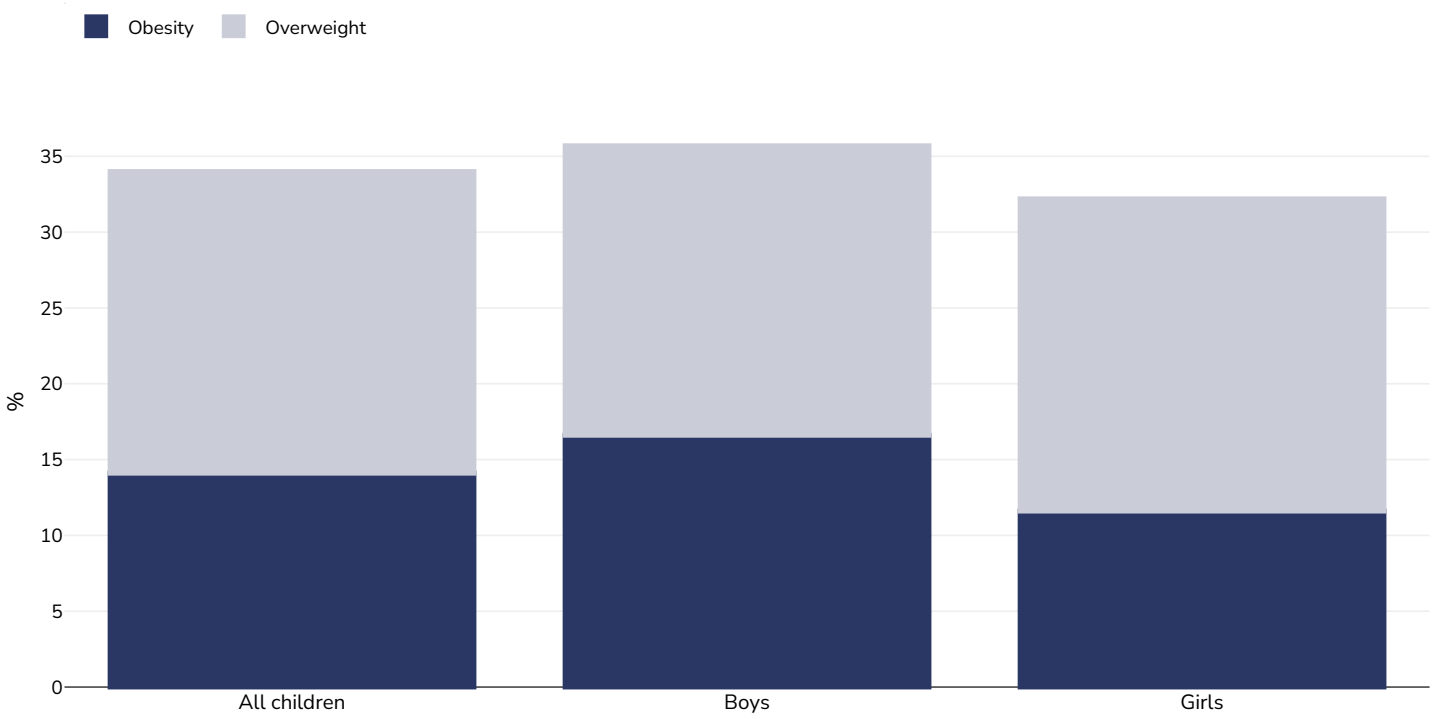
View the latest version of this report on the Global Obesity Observatory at https://data.worldobesity.org/country/costa-rica-49/.

National obesity risk *7.5/10This is a composite â??obesity riskâ?? 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 *7.5/11This is a â??risk scoreâ?? for each countryâ??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

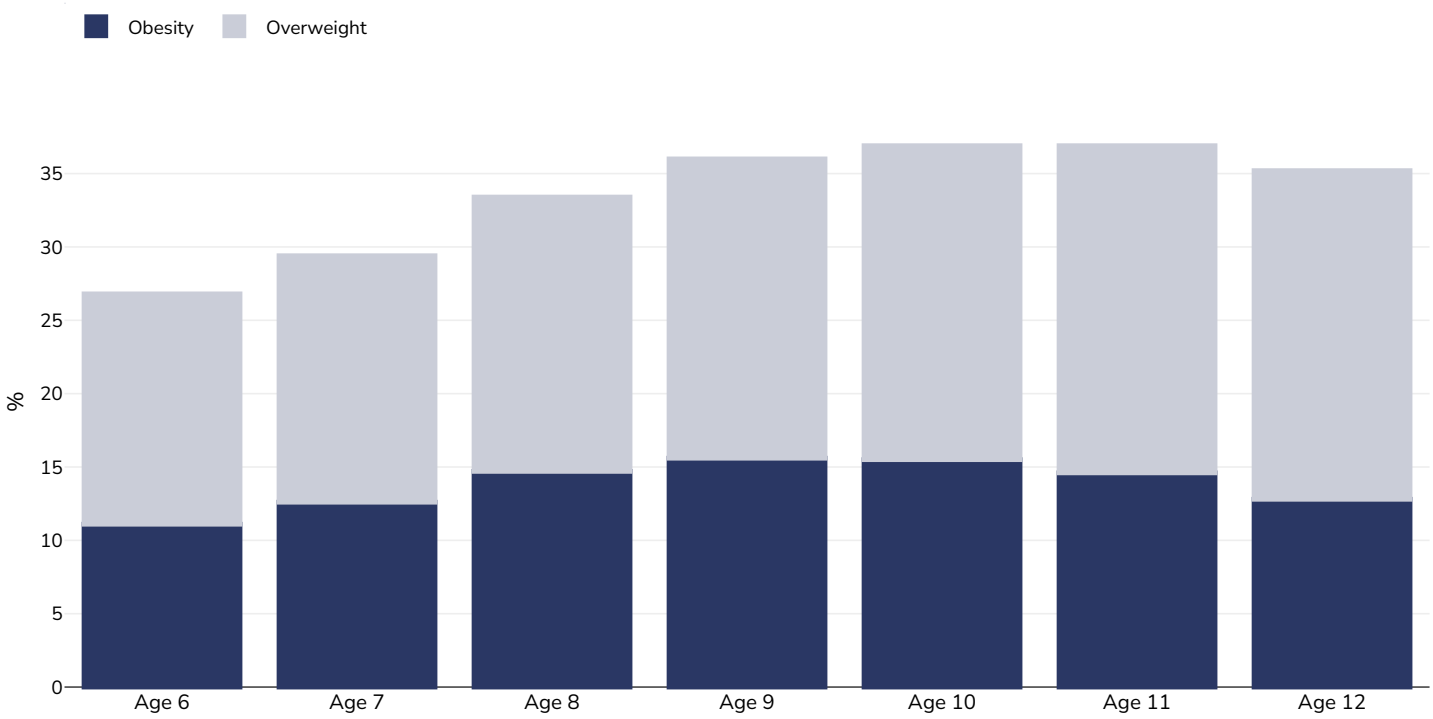
Children, 2016



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)
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

Overweight/obesity by age

Children, 2016



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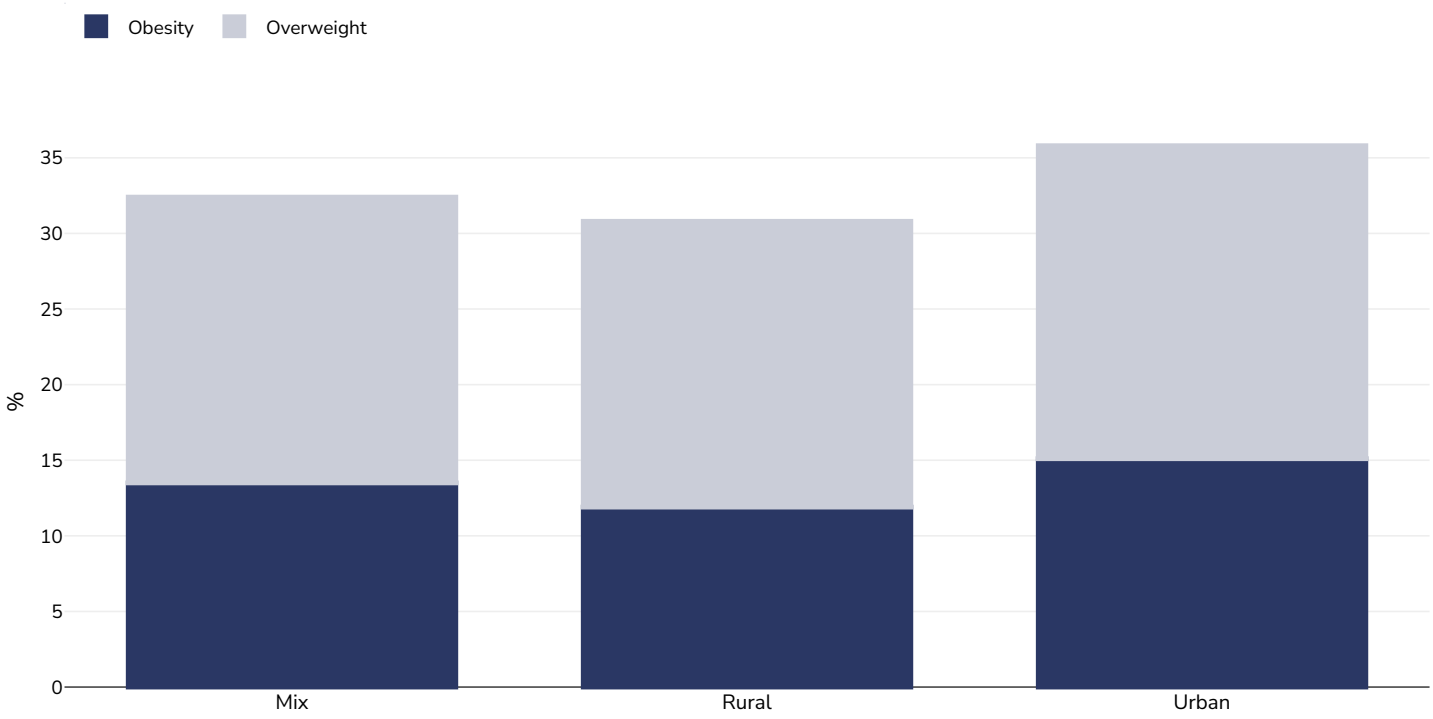
Cutoffs:	WHO

Overweight/obesity by region

Children, 2016



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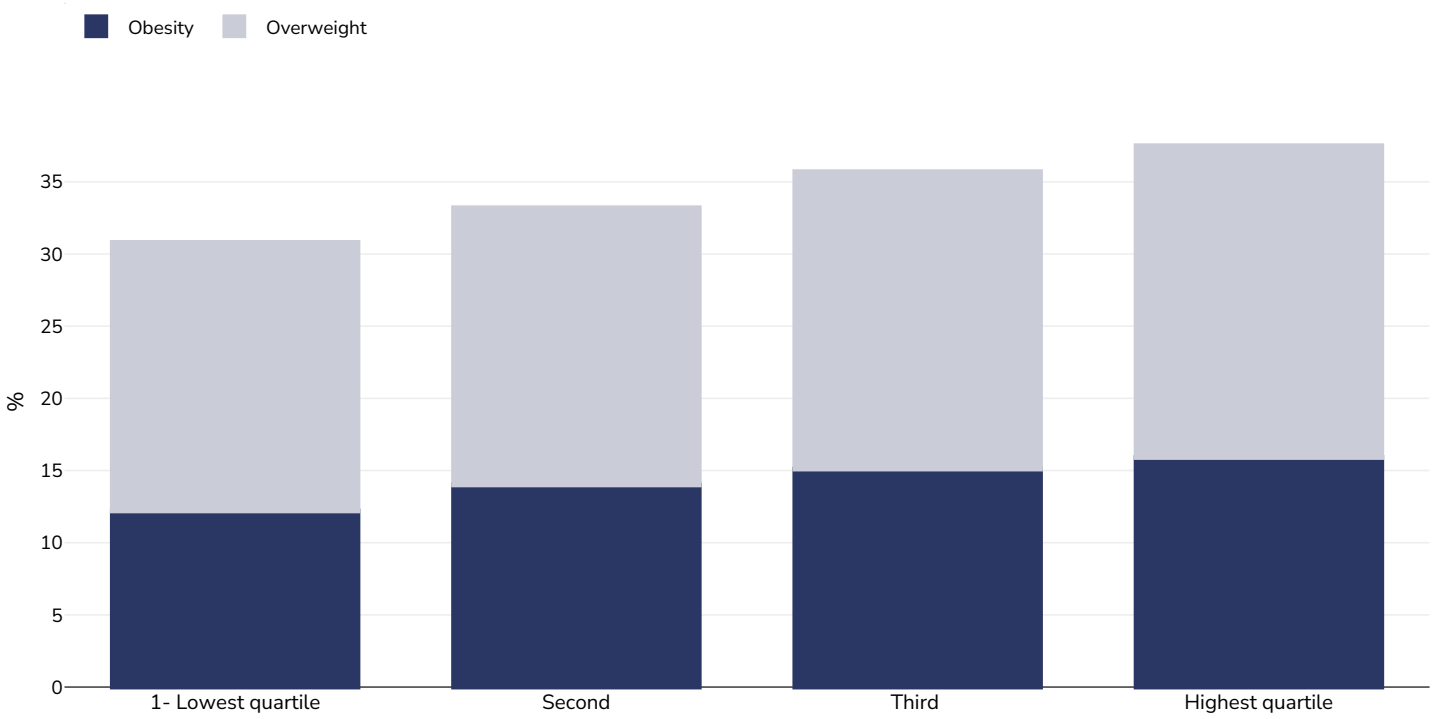
Cutoffs:	WHO

Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

Children, 2016



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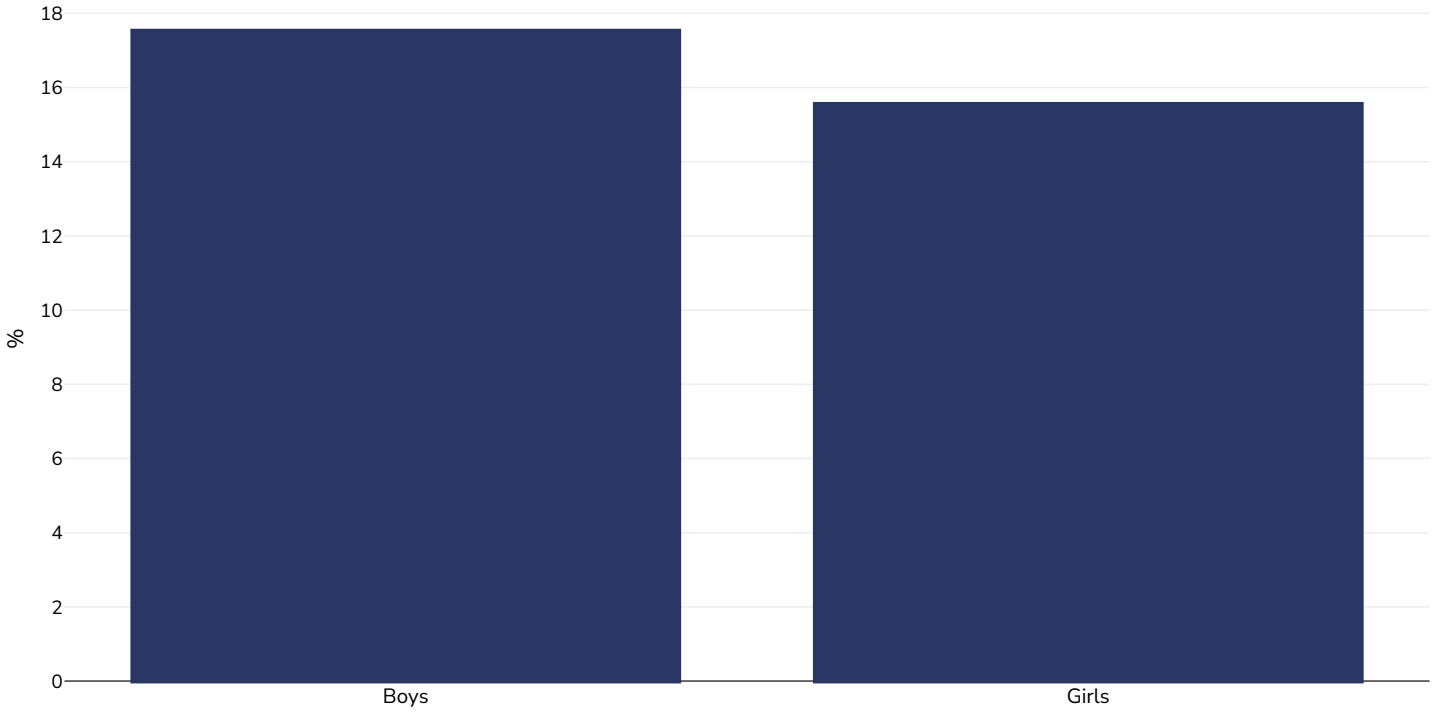
Cutoffs:	WHO

Double burden of underweight & overweight

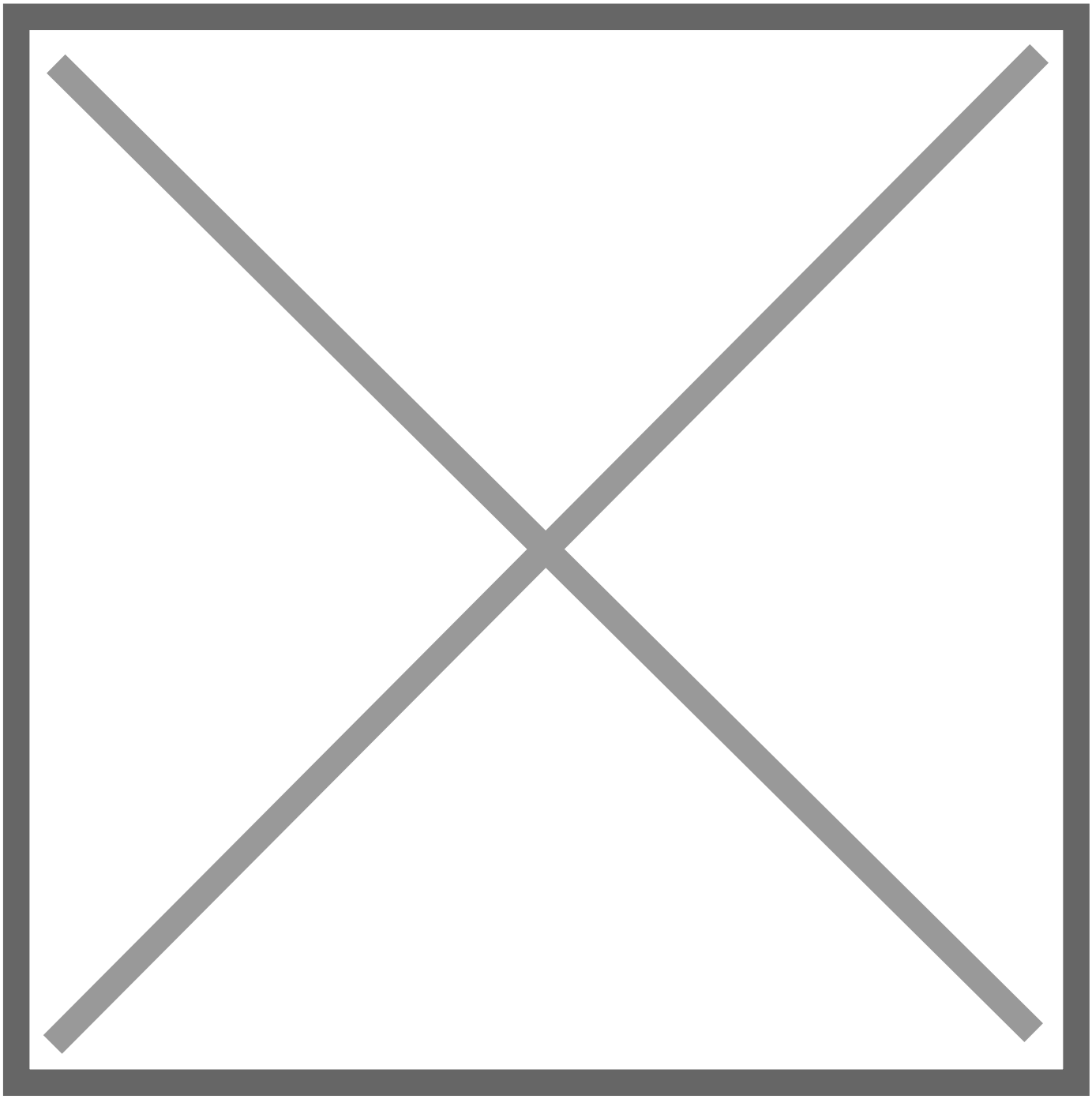
Children, 2022



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. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2.
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

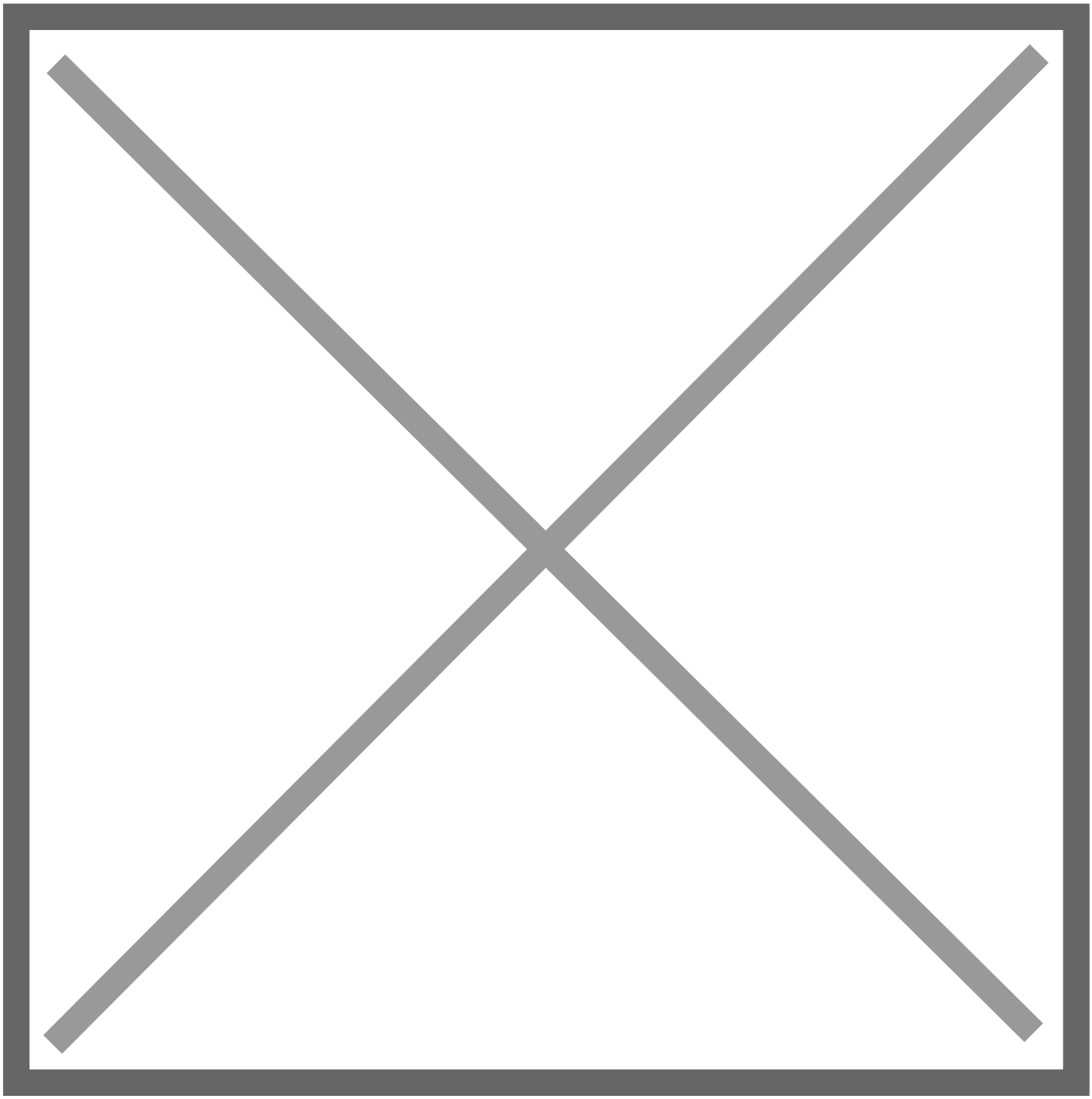
Children, 2016



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



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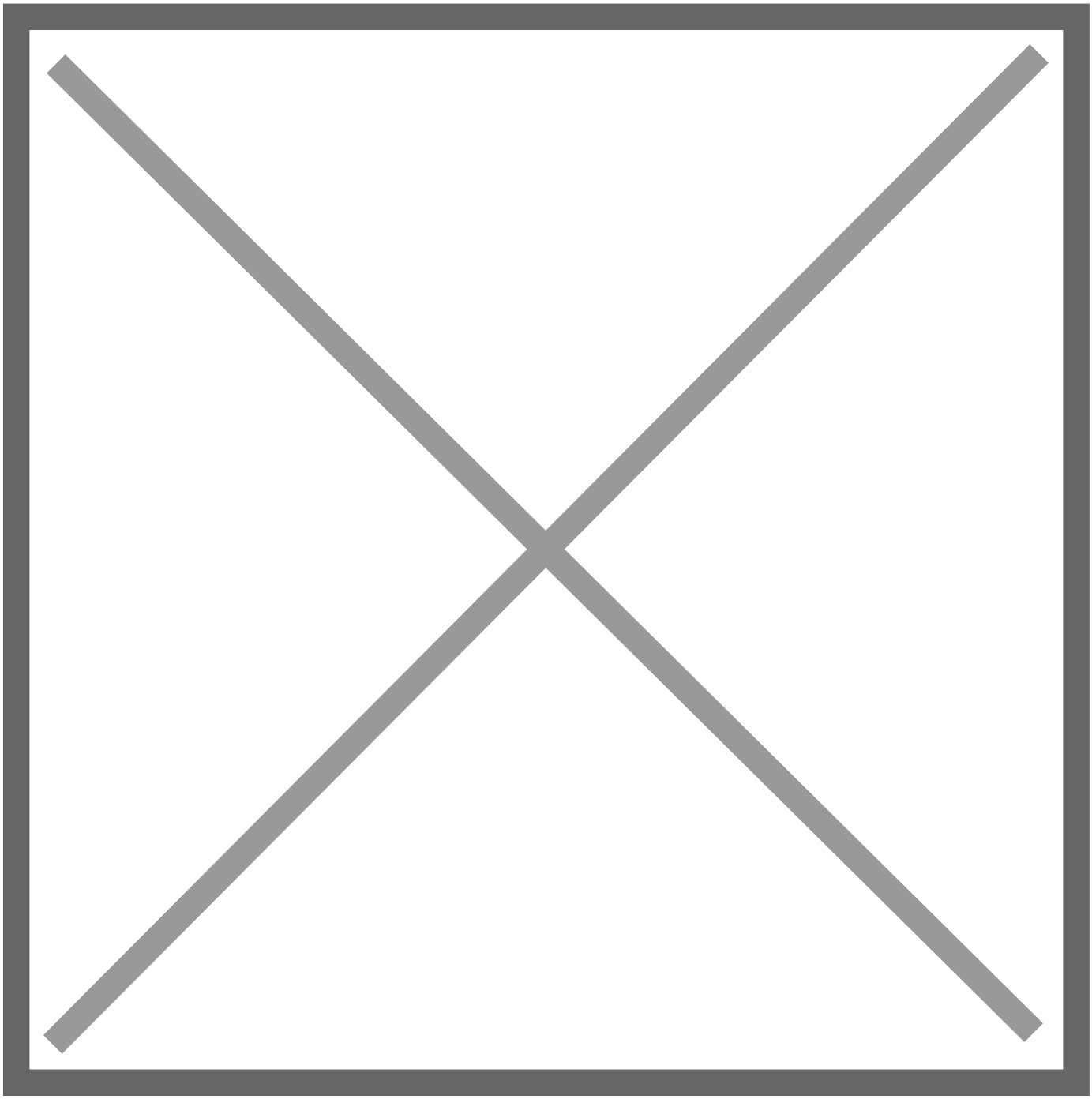
Definitions:	% Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Girls, 2016



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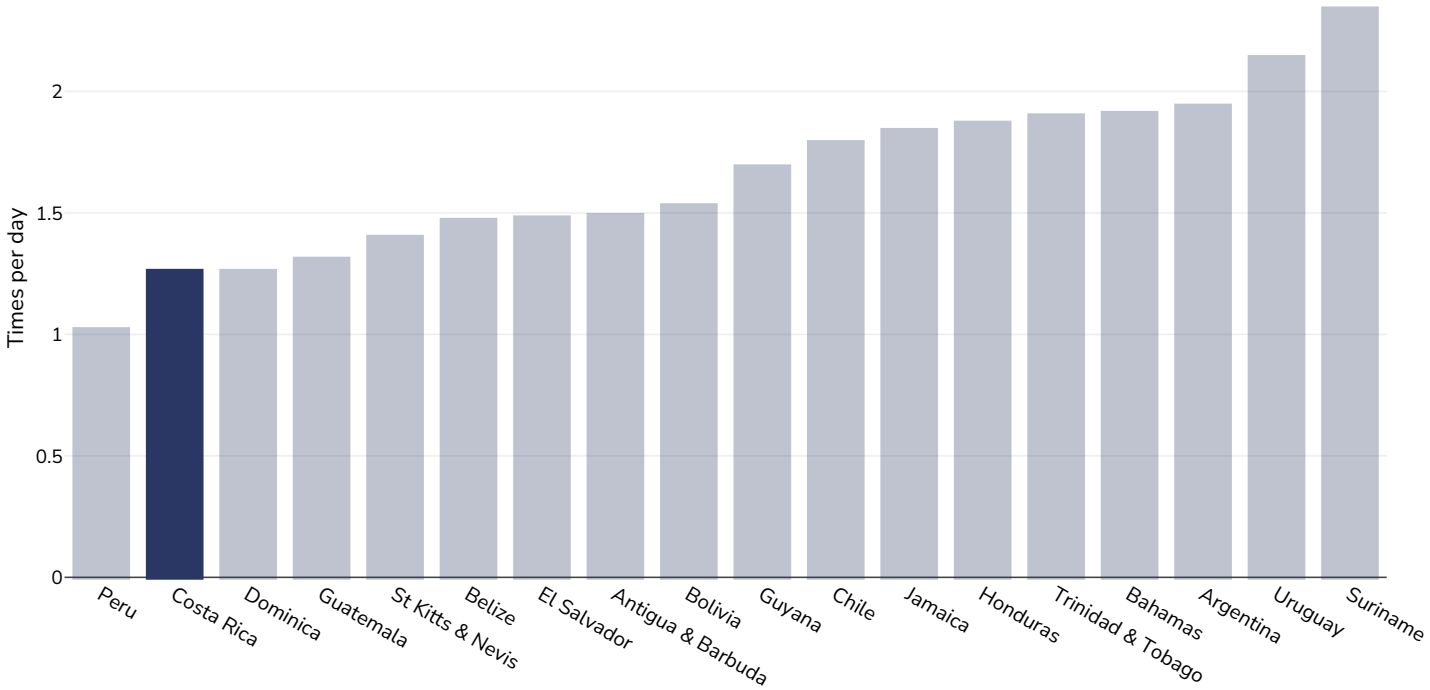
Definitions:	% Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Average daily frequency of carbonated soft drink consumption

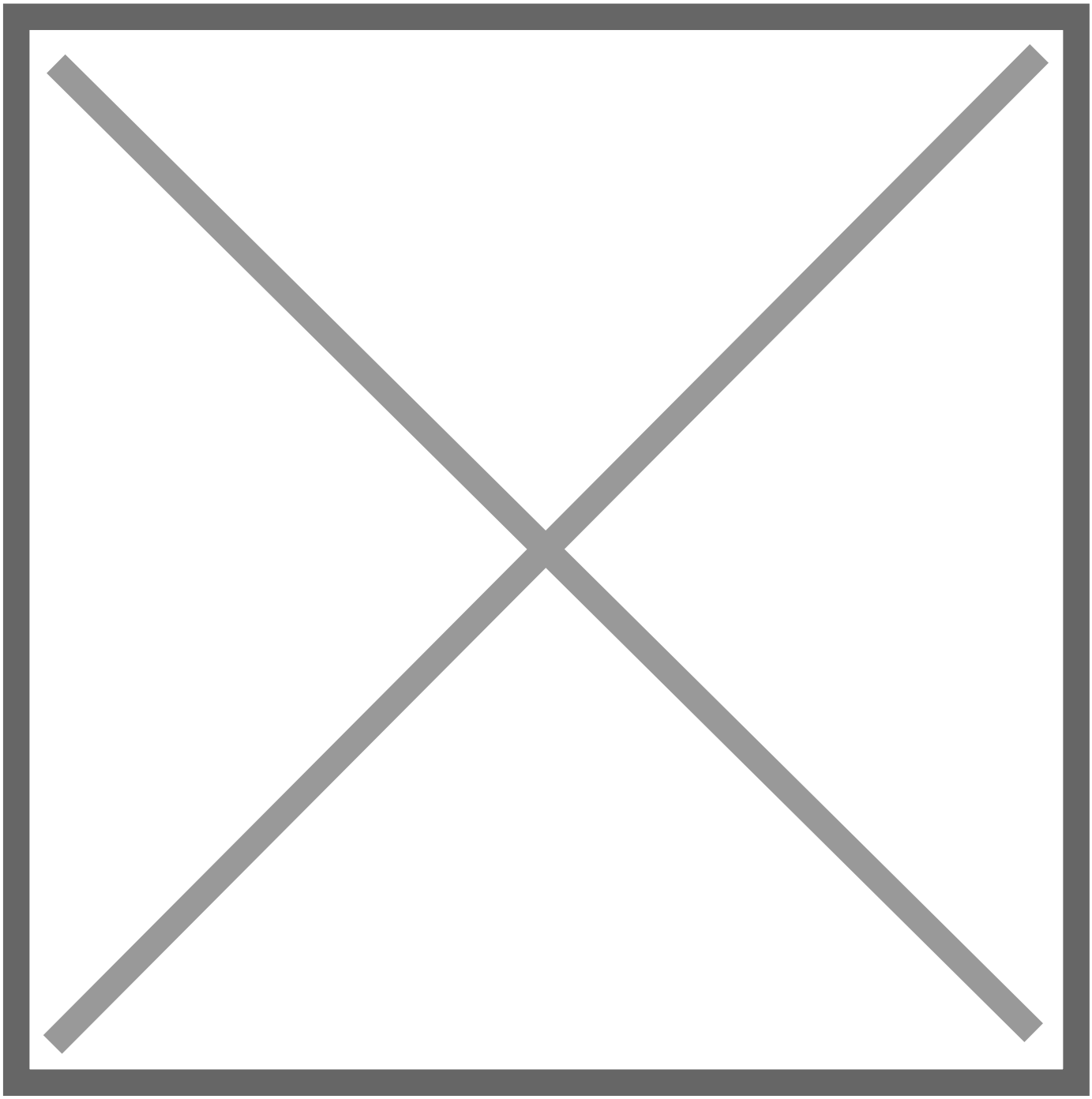
Children, 2009-2015



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
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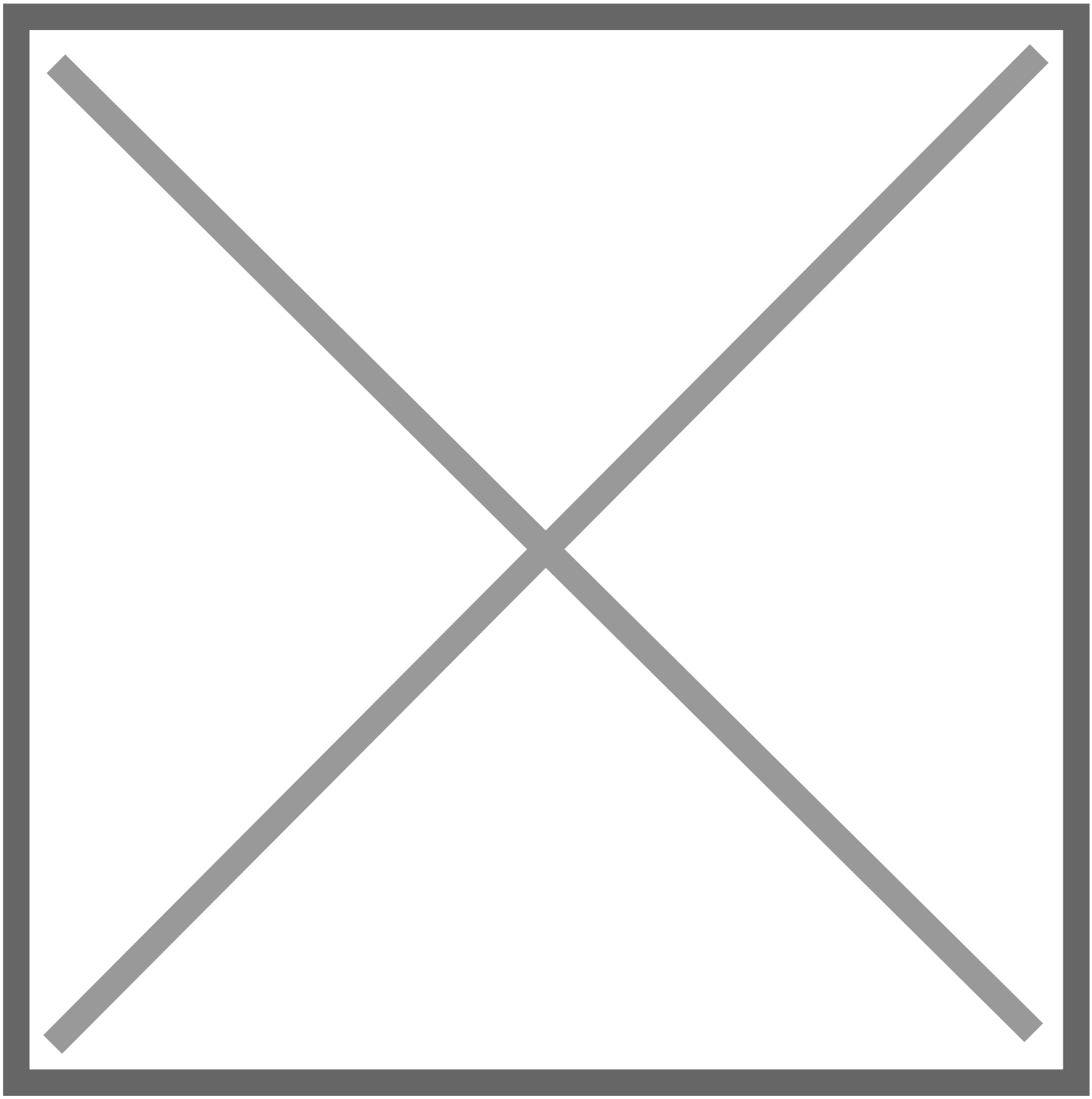
Area covered:	National
References:	Global School-based Student Health Surveys. Beal et al (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287. 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



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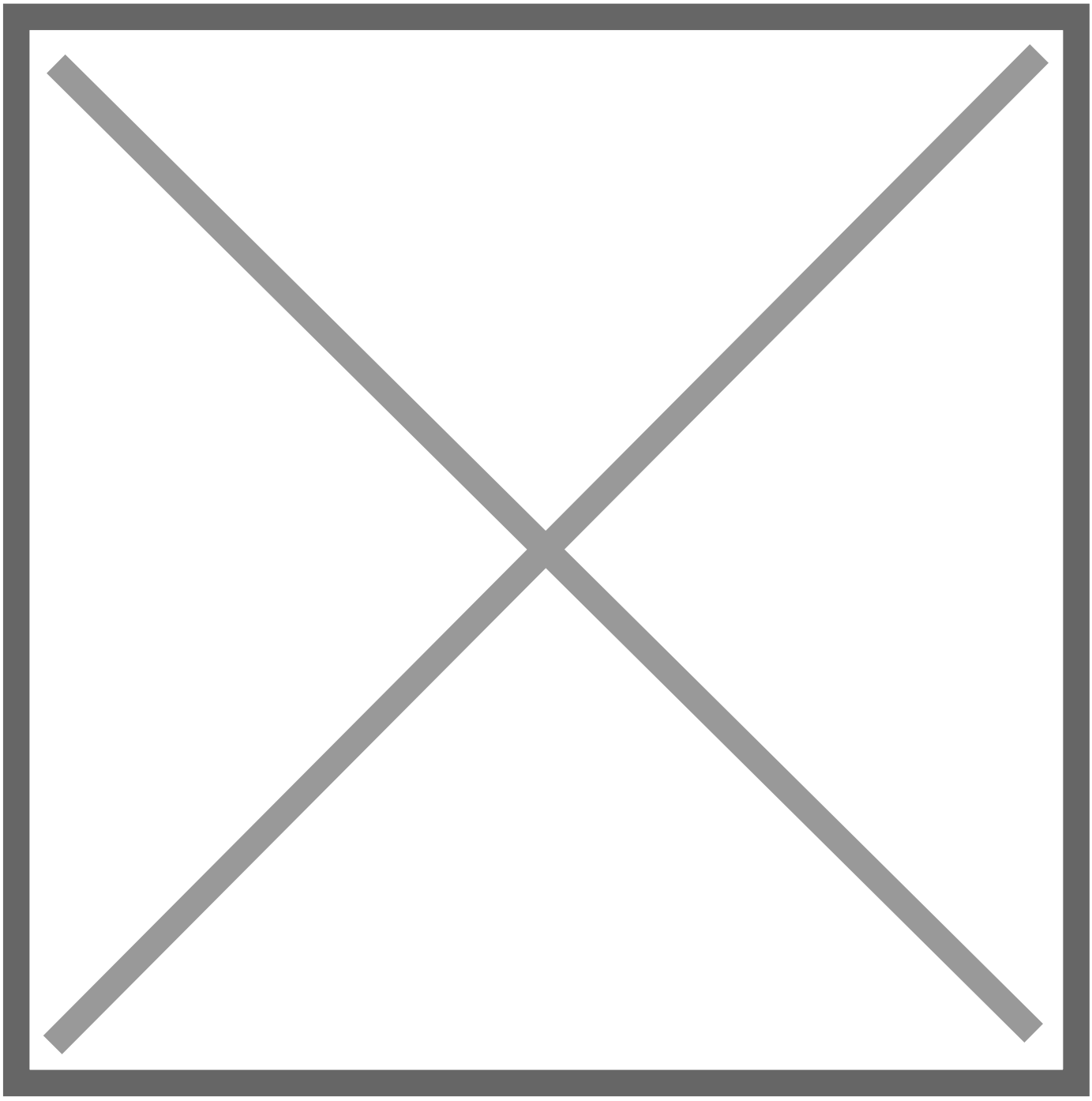
Definitions:	Prevalence of less-than-daily vegetable consumption (% less-than-daily vegetable consumption)

Average weekly frequency of fast food consumption

Children, 2009-2015



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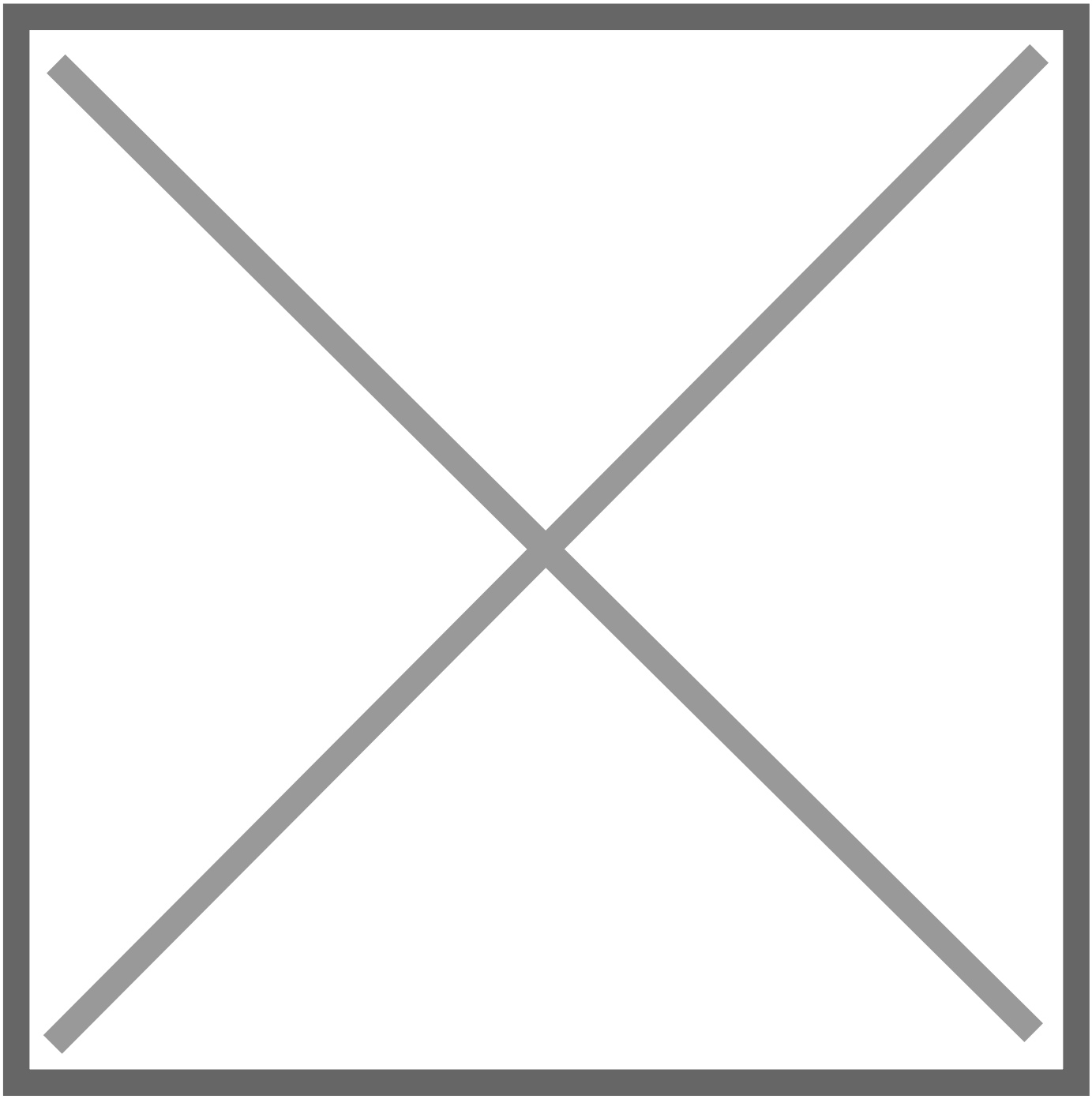
References:	Beal et al. (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287 sourced from Food Systems Dashboard http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system

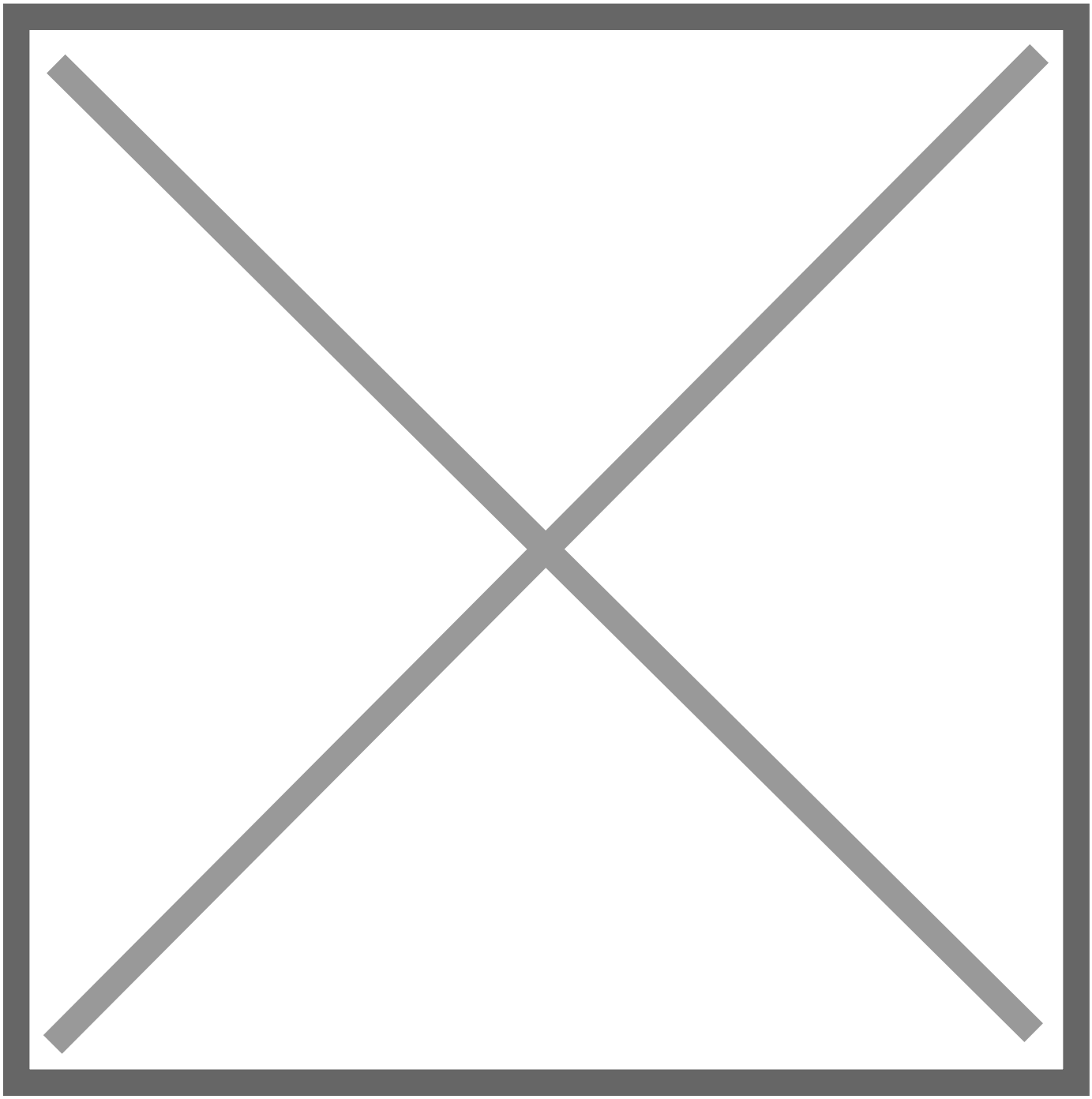
Mental health - depression disorders

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



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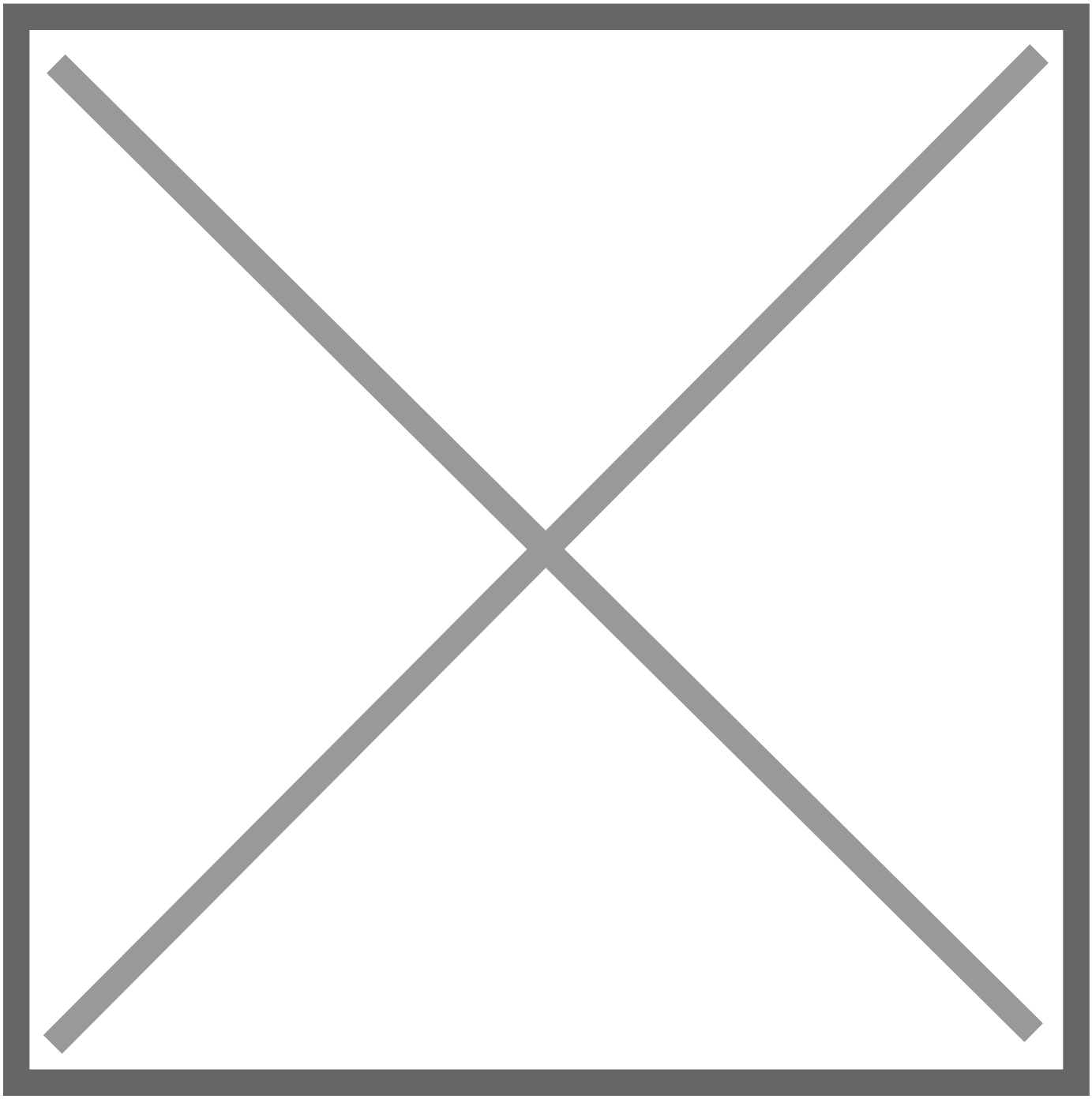
Girls, 2021



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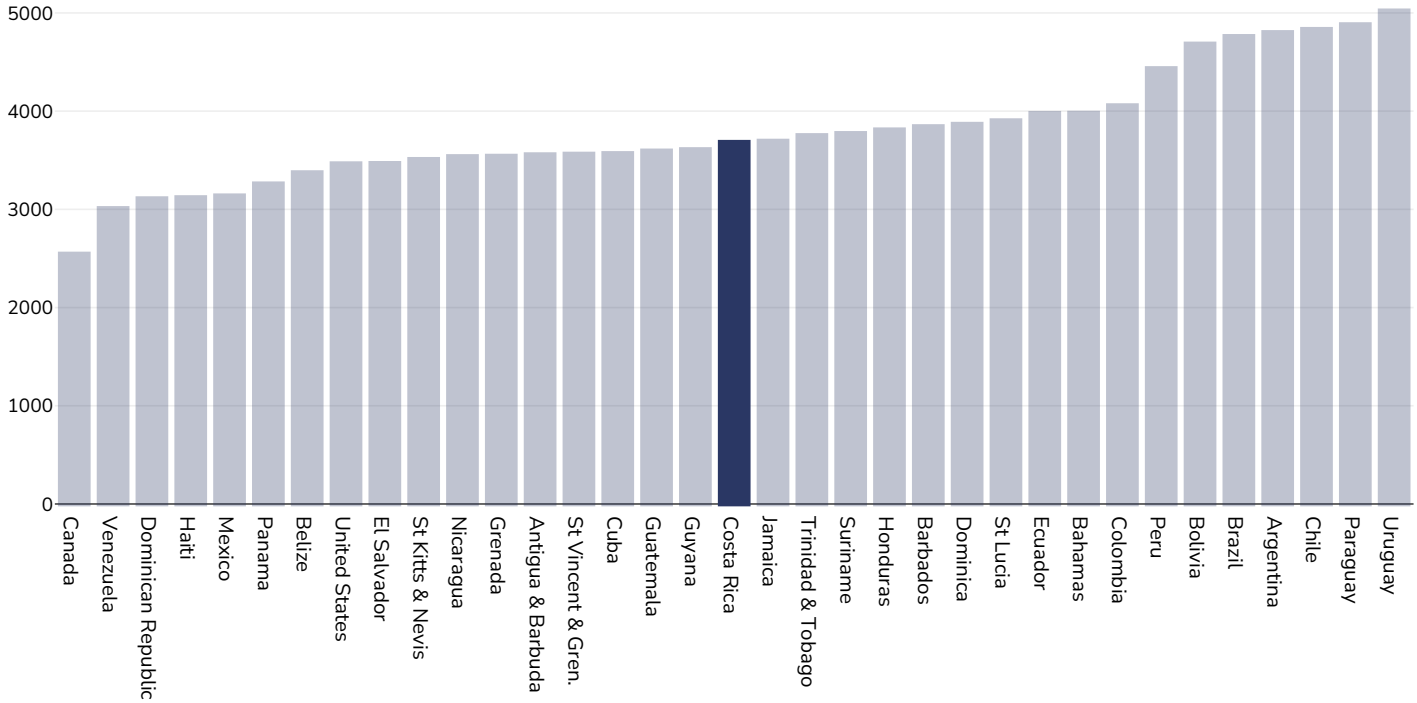
Definitions:	Number living with depressive disorder per 100,000 population (Under 20 years of age)

Mental health - anxiety disorders

Children, 2021



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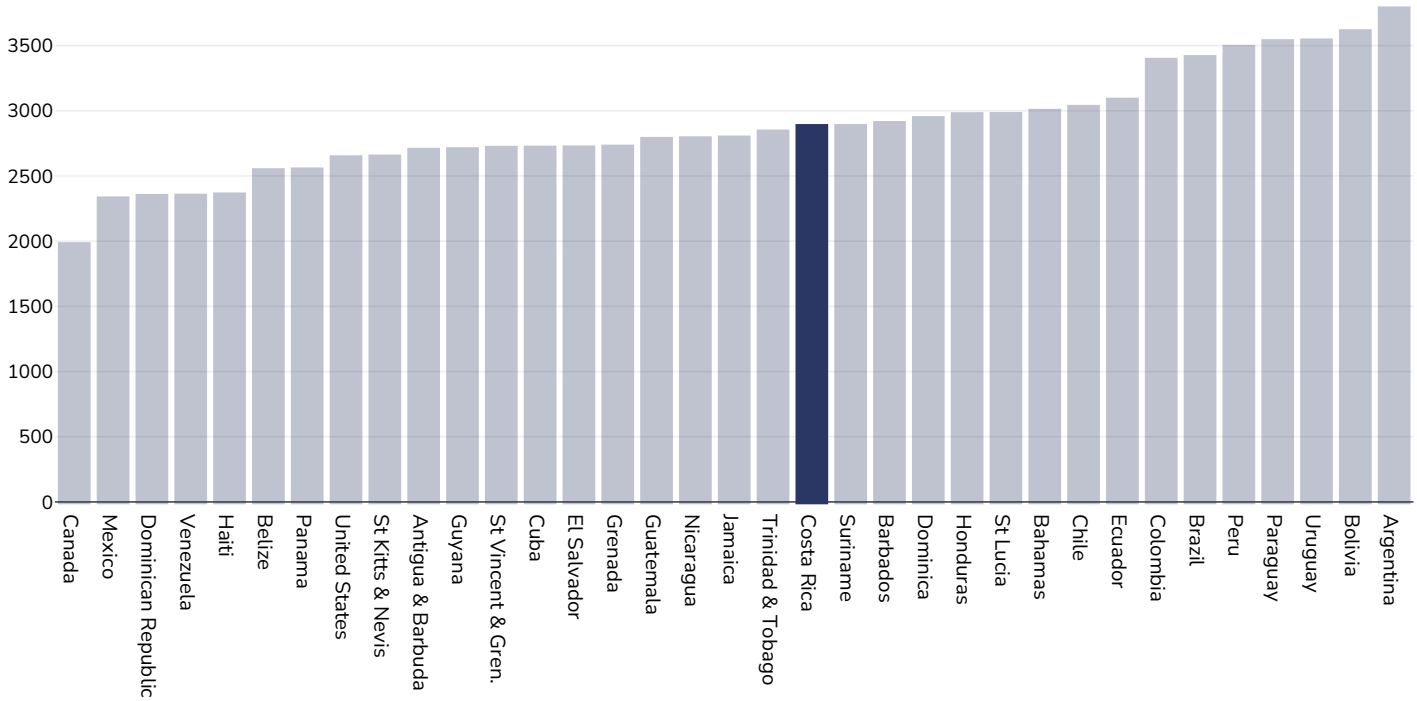
Boys, 2021



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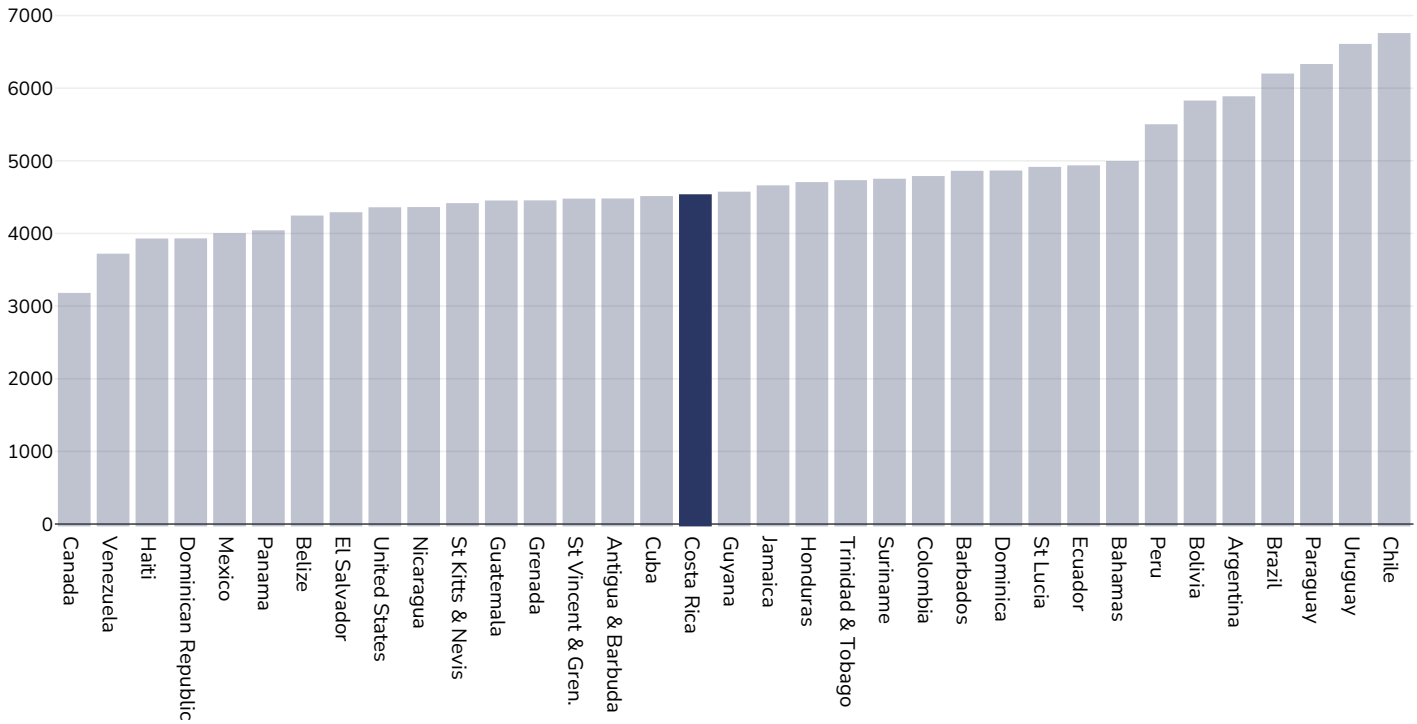
Girls, 2021



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