Guatemala

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/guatemala-85/.

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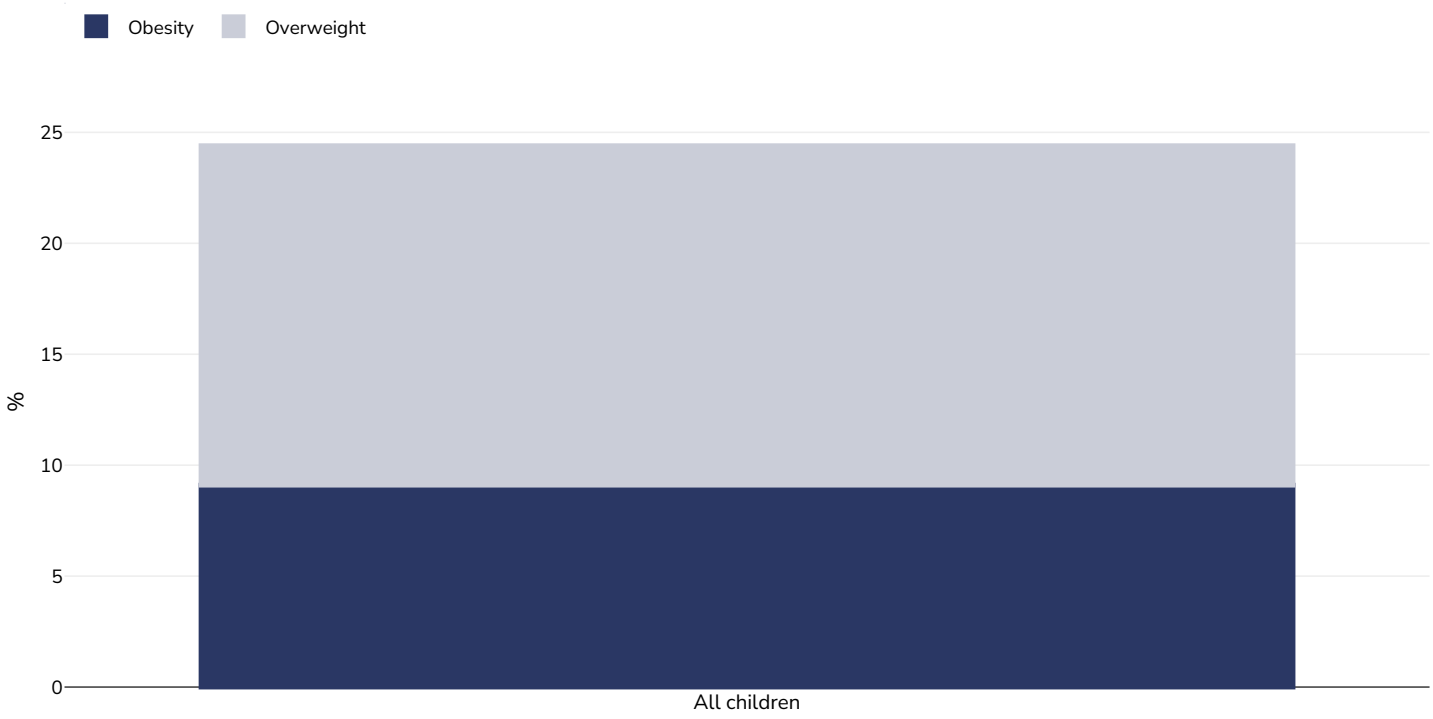
Obesity prevalence

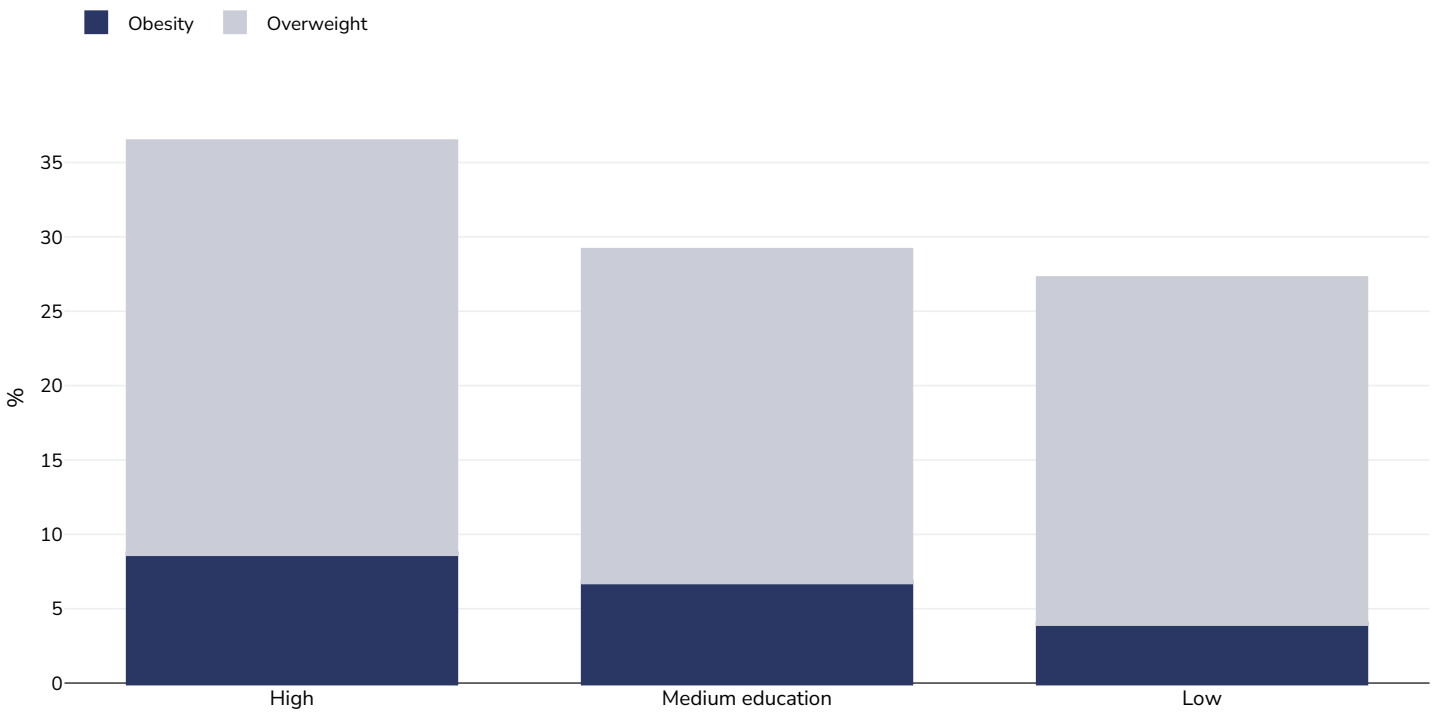
Children, 2017



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	10-14
Sample size:	560
Area covered:	National
References:	Pickens, C. M., Flores-Ayala, R., Addo, O. Y., Whitehead, R. D., Jr, Palmieri, M., Ramirez-Zea, M., Hong, Y., & Jefferds, M. E. (2020). Prevalence and Predictors of High Blood Pressure Among Women of Reproductive Age and Children Aged 10 to 14 Years in Guatemala. Preventing chronic disease, 17, E66. https://doi.org/10.5888/pcd17.190403
Notes:	Small sample size.
Cutoffs:	WHO 2007

Overweight/obesity by education

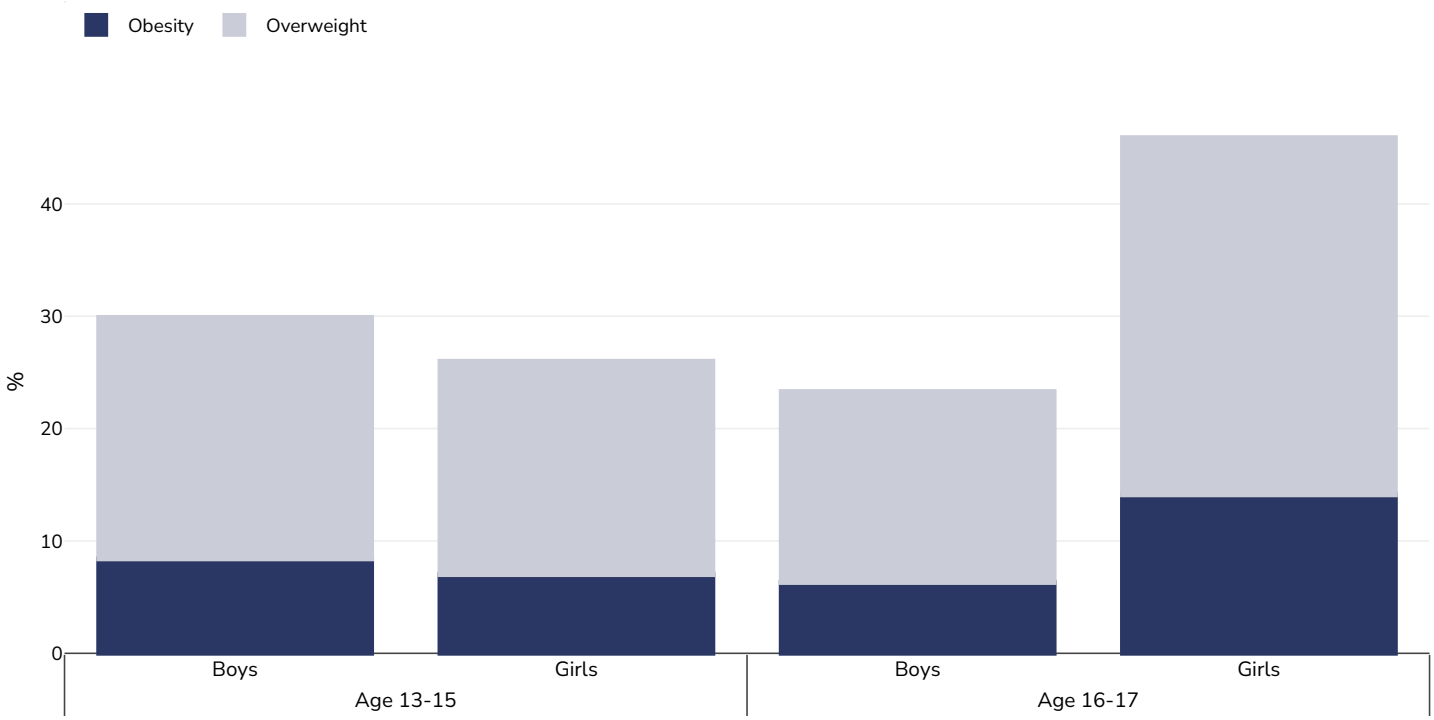
Girls, 2014-2015



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-19
Sample size:	1086
Area covered:	National
References:	Mazariegos M, Kroker-Lobos MF, Ramírez-Zea M. Socio-economic and ethnic disparities of malnutrition in all its forms in Guatemala. Public Health Nutr. 2020 Aug;23(S1):s68-s76. doi: 10.1017/S1368980019002738. Epub 2019 Oct 7. PMID: 31588883.
Cutoffs:	WHO

Overweight/obesity by age

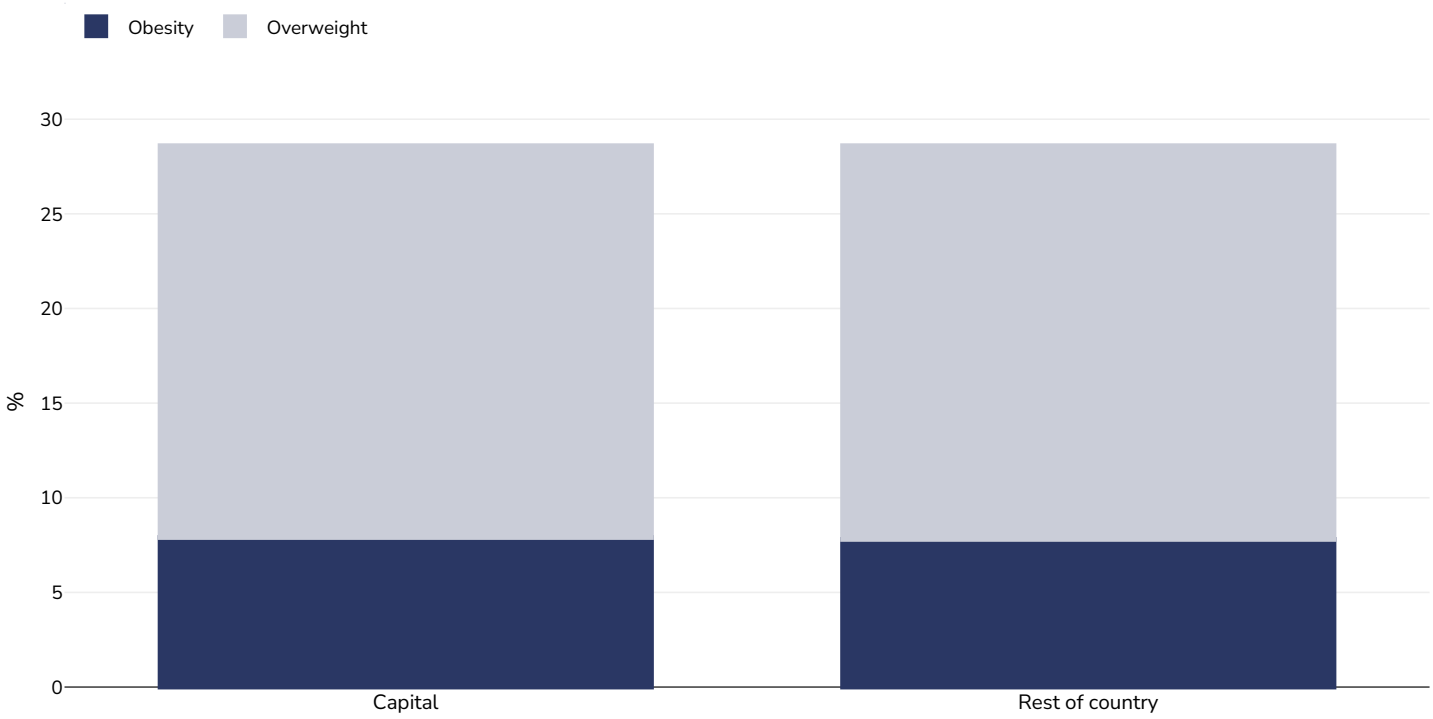
Children, 2015



Survey type:	Self-reported
Sample size:	4374
Area covered:	National
References:	Global School-based Student Health Survey, Guatemala ,2015 Fact Sheet https://www.who.int/ncds/surveillance/gshs/gshs_fs_guatemala_2015.pdf (last accessed 28.09.20)
Cutoffs:	WHO

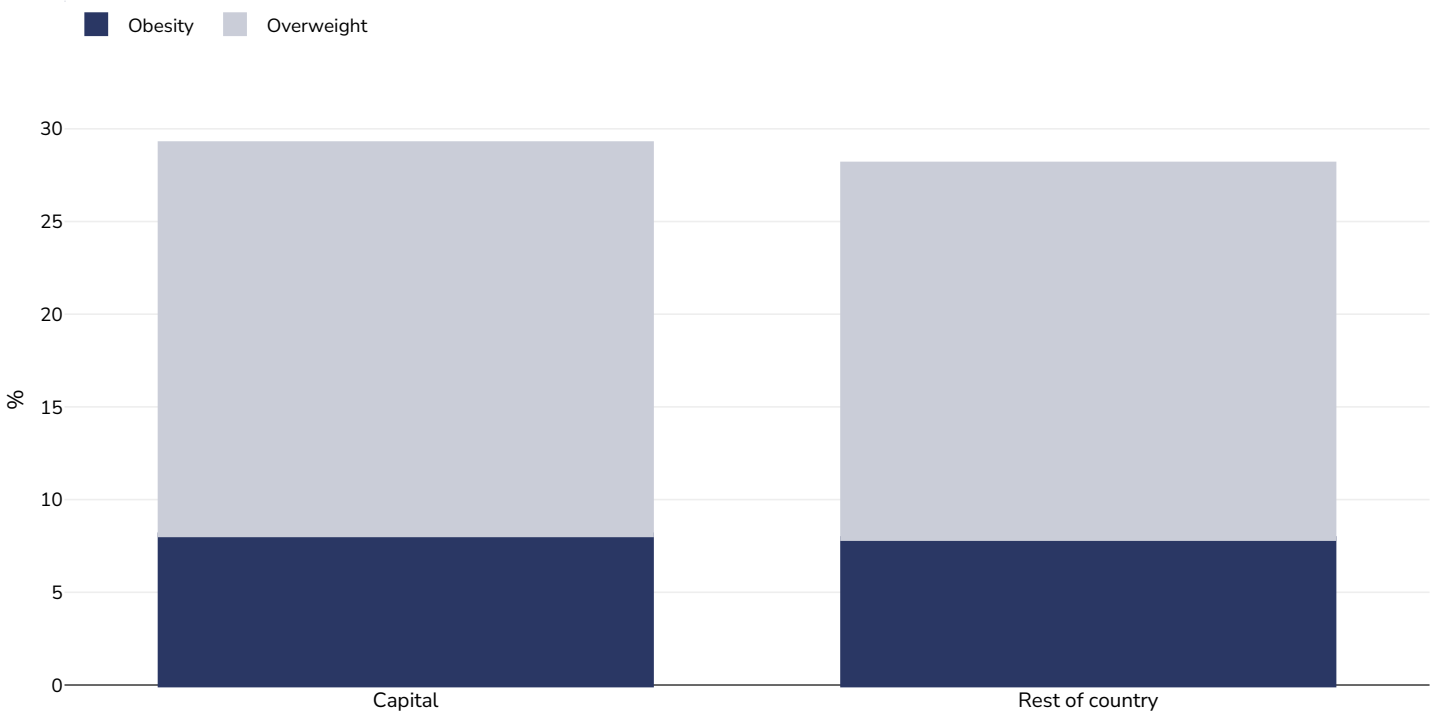
Overweight/obesity by region

Boys, 2015



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	13-17
Sample size:	4374
Area covered:	National
References:	World Health Organization. Global school-based student health survey (GSHS). Available from: https://www.who.int/ncds/surveillance/gshs/factsheets/en/. [Accessed 20 February 2019].
Notes:	WHO cut-offs used and based on Self-reported data.
Cutoffs:	WHO

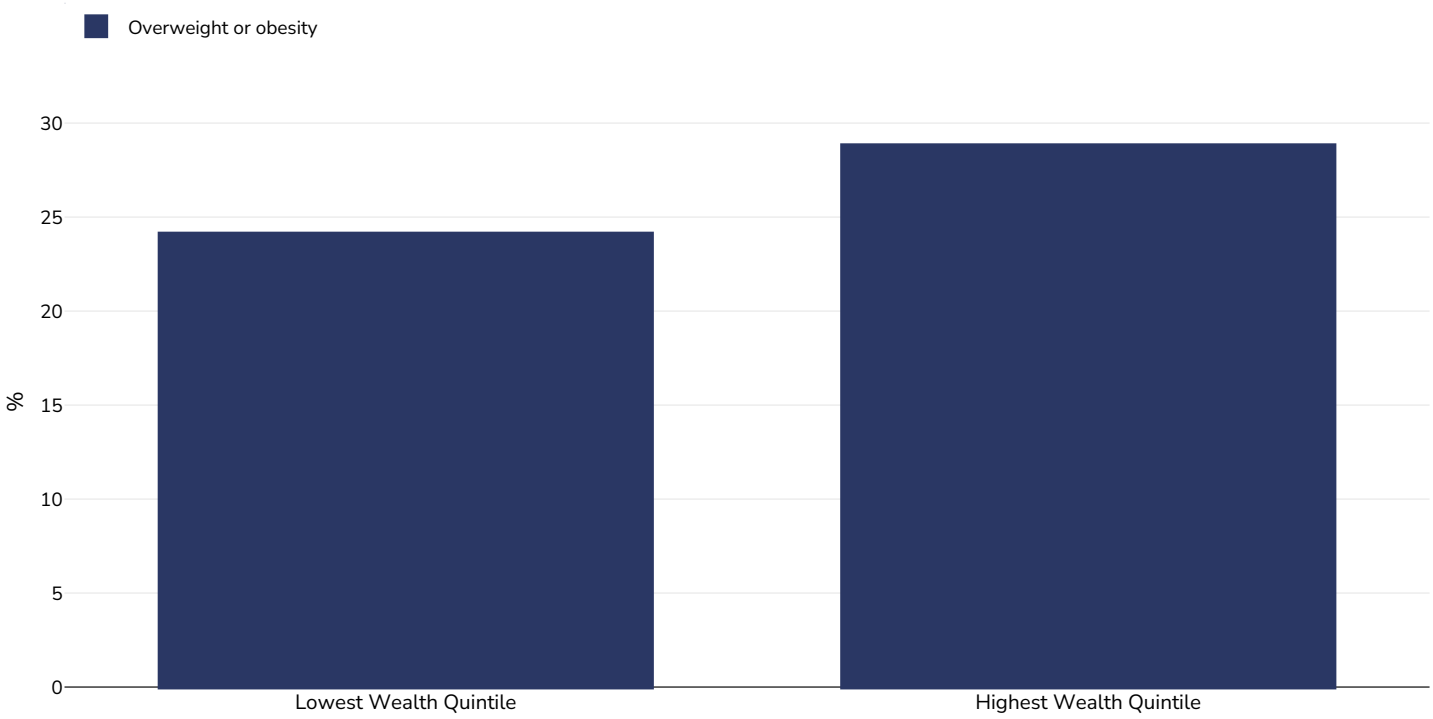
Girls, 2015



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	13-17
Sample size:	4374
Area covered:	National
References:	World Health Organization. Global school-based student health survey (GSHS). Available from: https://www.who.int/ncds/surveillance/gshs/factsheets/en/. [Accessed 20 February 2019].
Notes:	WHO cut-offs used and based on Self-reported data.
Cutoffs:	WHO

Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

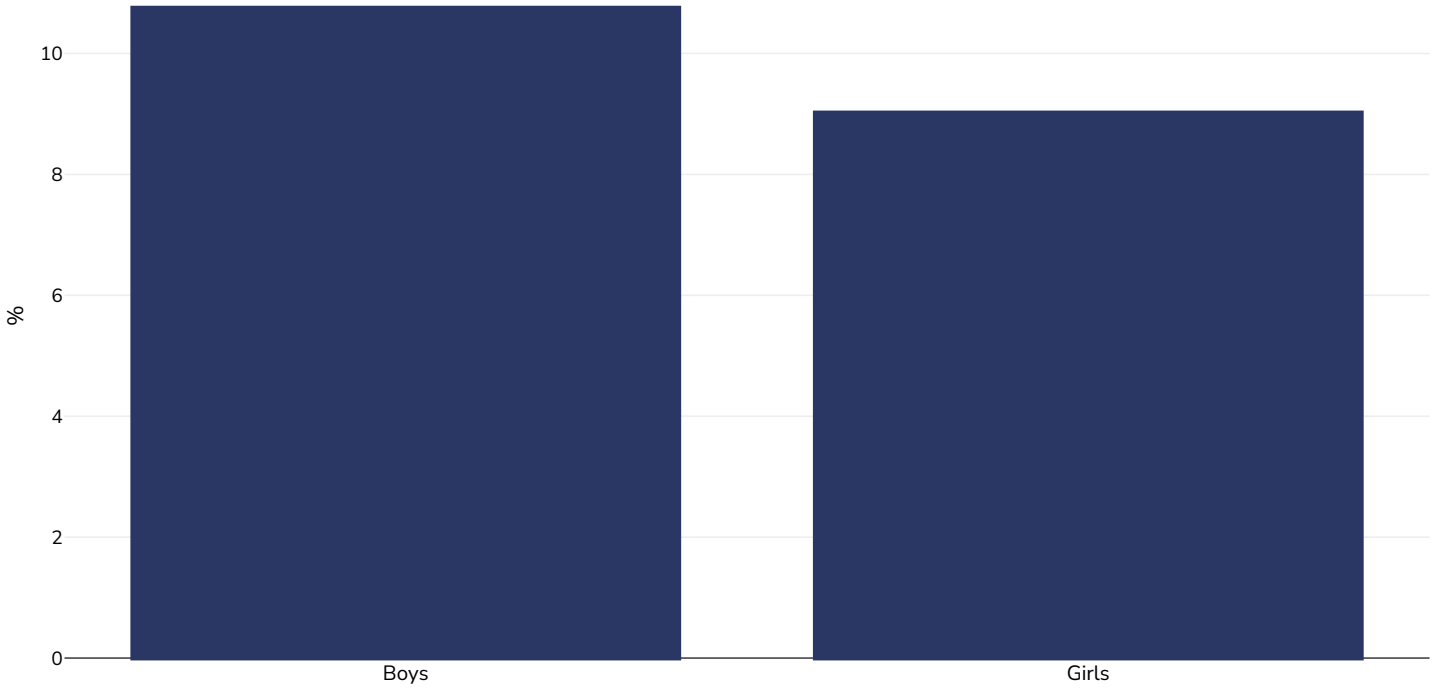
Girls, 2014-2015



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-19
Sample size:	4487
Area covered:	National
References:	Benedict, Rukundo K., Allison Schmale, and Sorrel Namaste. 2018. Adolescent Nutrition 2000-2017: DHS Data on Adolescents Age 15-19. DHS Comparative Report No. 47. Rockville, Maryland, USA: ICF. Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social - MSPAS/Guatemala, Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE/Guatemala, Secretaría de Planificación y Programación del la Presidencia - Segeplán/Guatemala and ICF International. 2017. Encuesta Nacional de Salud Materno Infantil 2014-2015: Informe Final. Rockville, Maryland, USA: MSPAS, INE, Segeplán and ICF International.
Definitions:	BMI for age: between +1 SD and +2 SD is overweight and greater than +2 SD is obesity
Cutoffs:	WHO 2007

Double burden of underweight & overweight

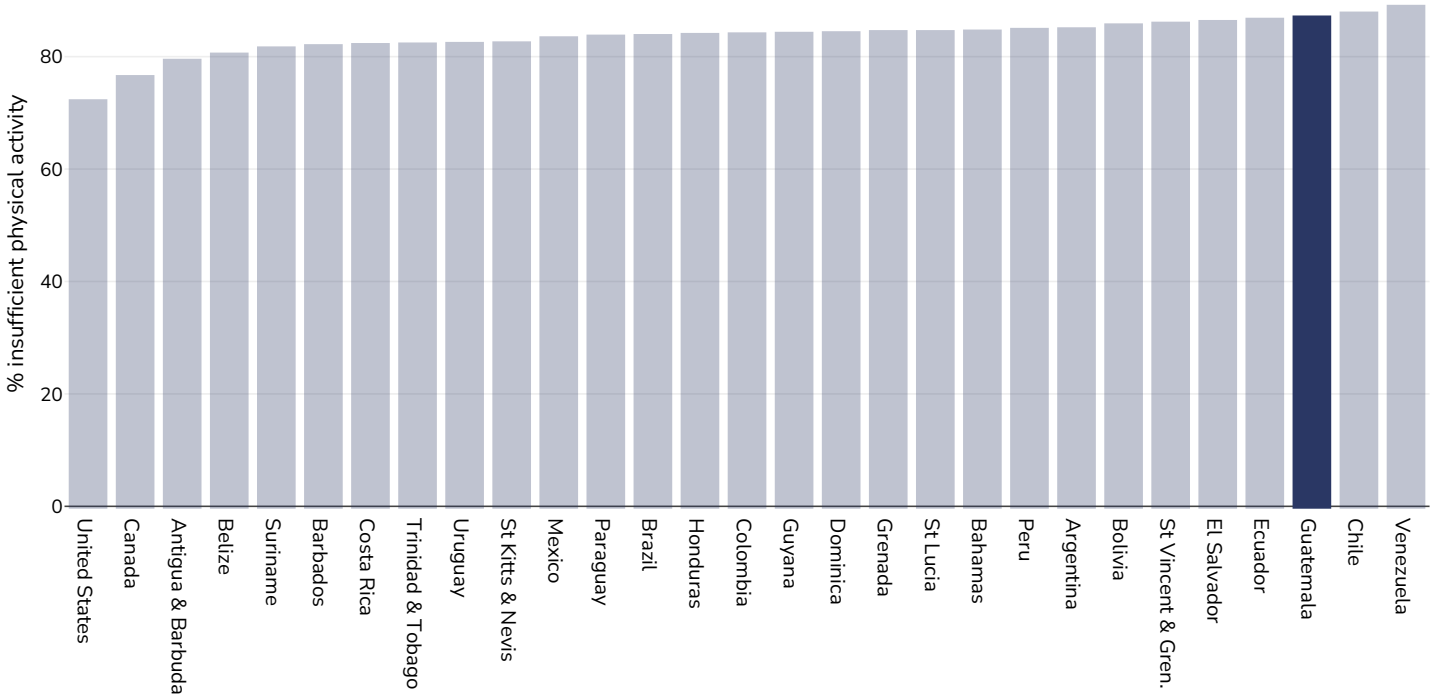
Children, 2022



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

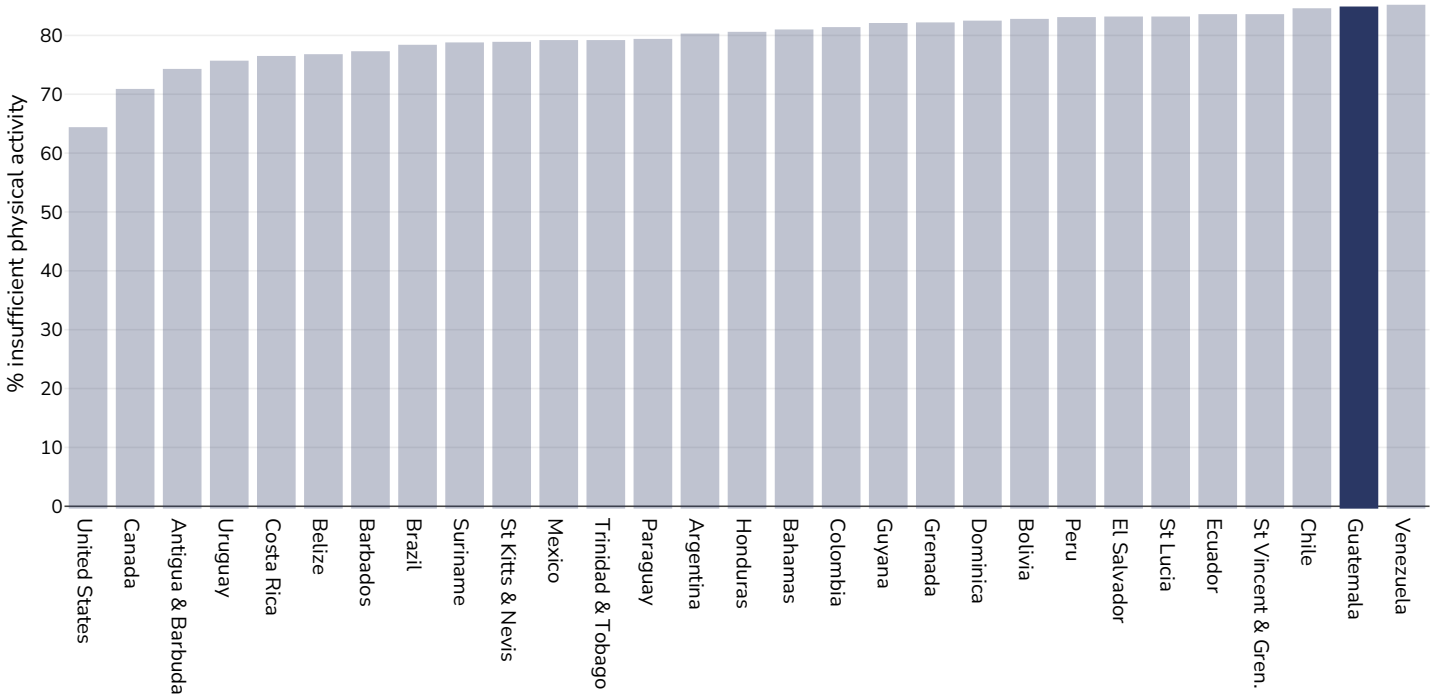
Insufficient physical activity

Children, 2016



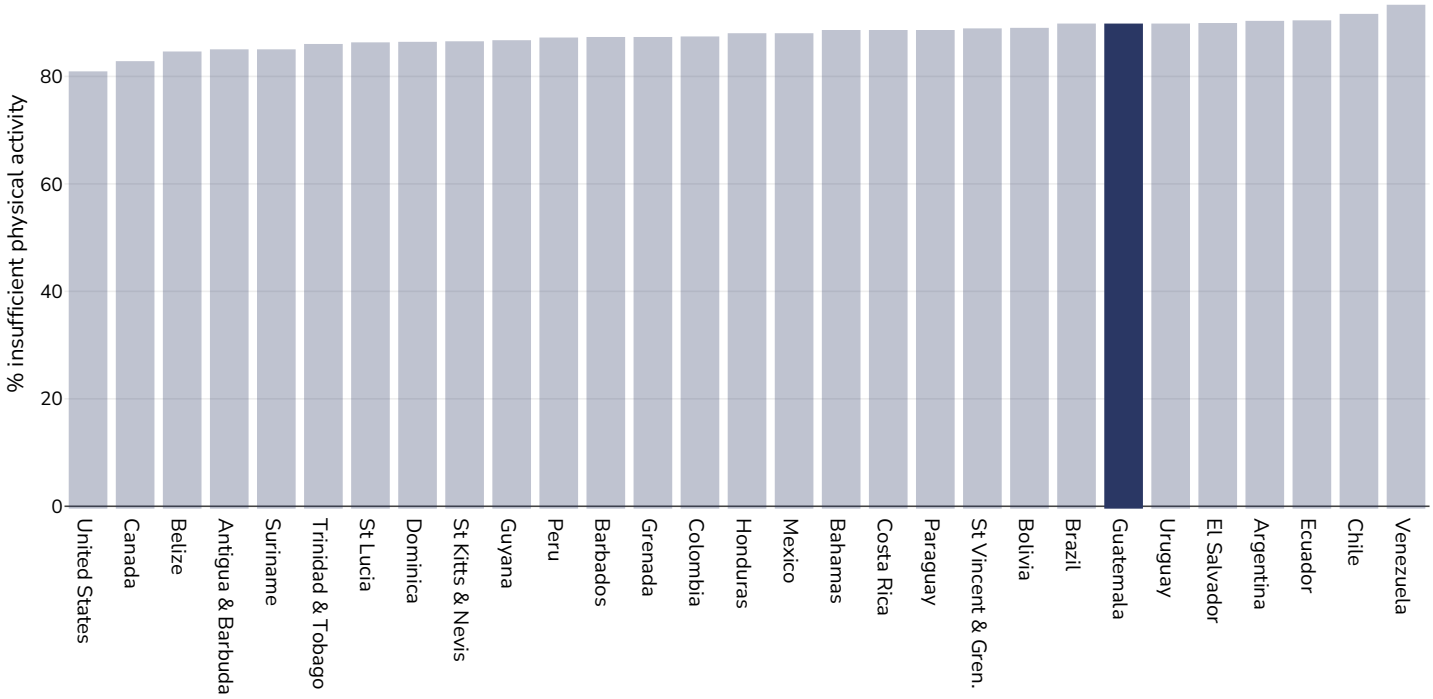
Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	11-17
References:	Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en (last accessed 16.03.21)
Notes:	% of school going adolescents not meeting WHO recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, i.e. doing less than 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.
Definitions:	% Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Boys, 2016



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)

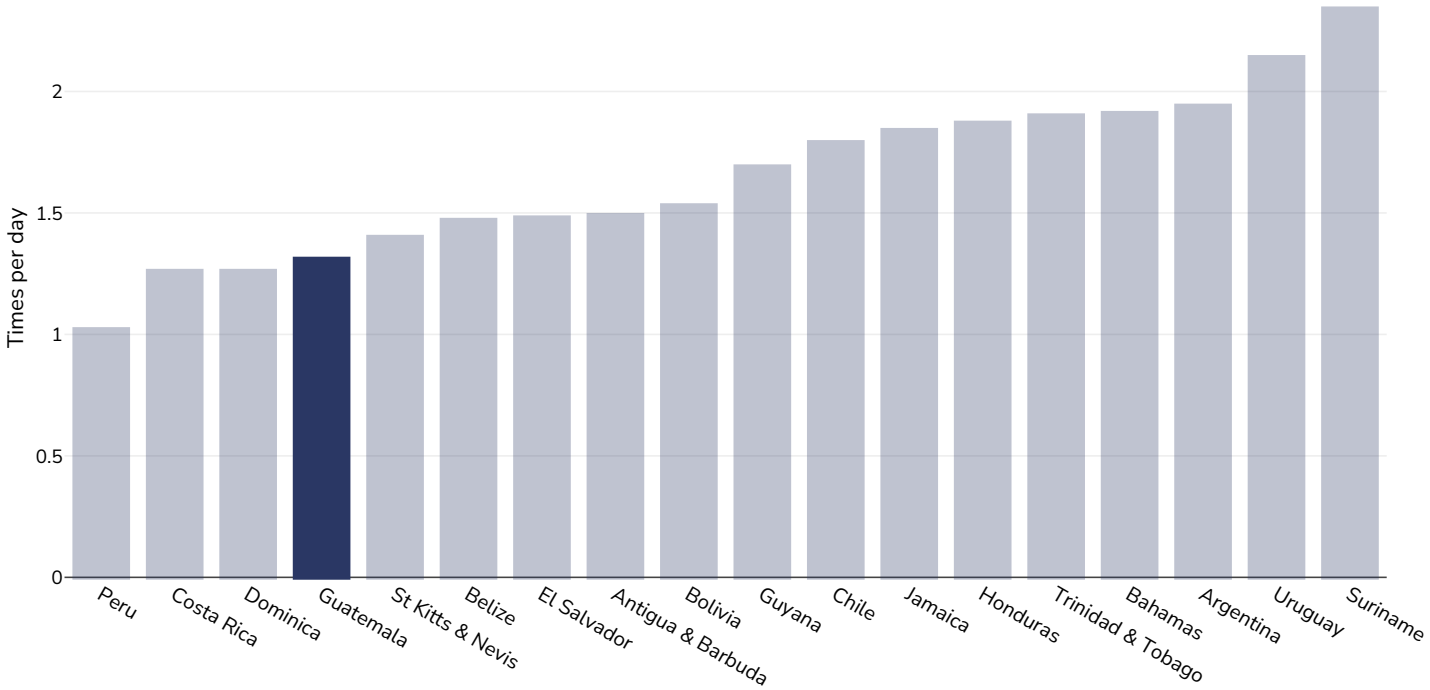
Girls, 2016



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

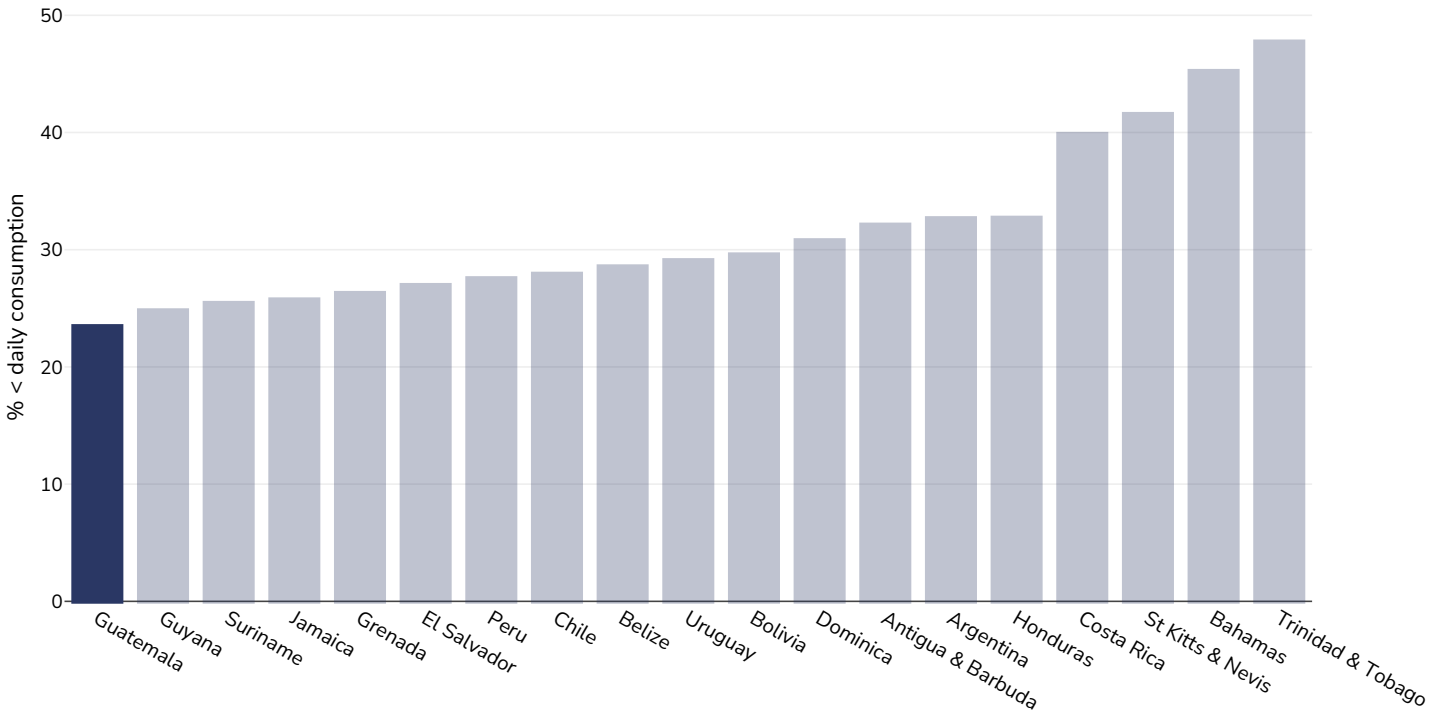
Children, 2009-2015



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

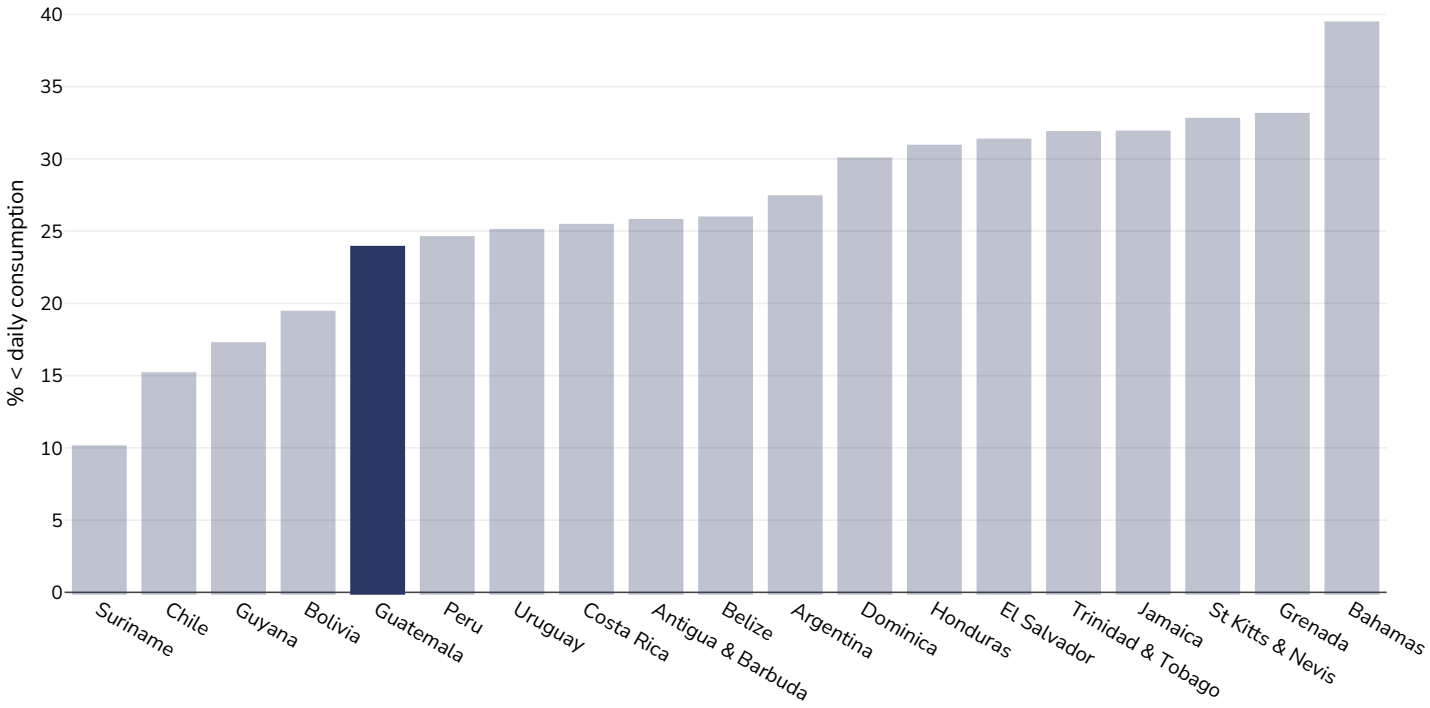
Children, 2009-2015



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

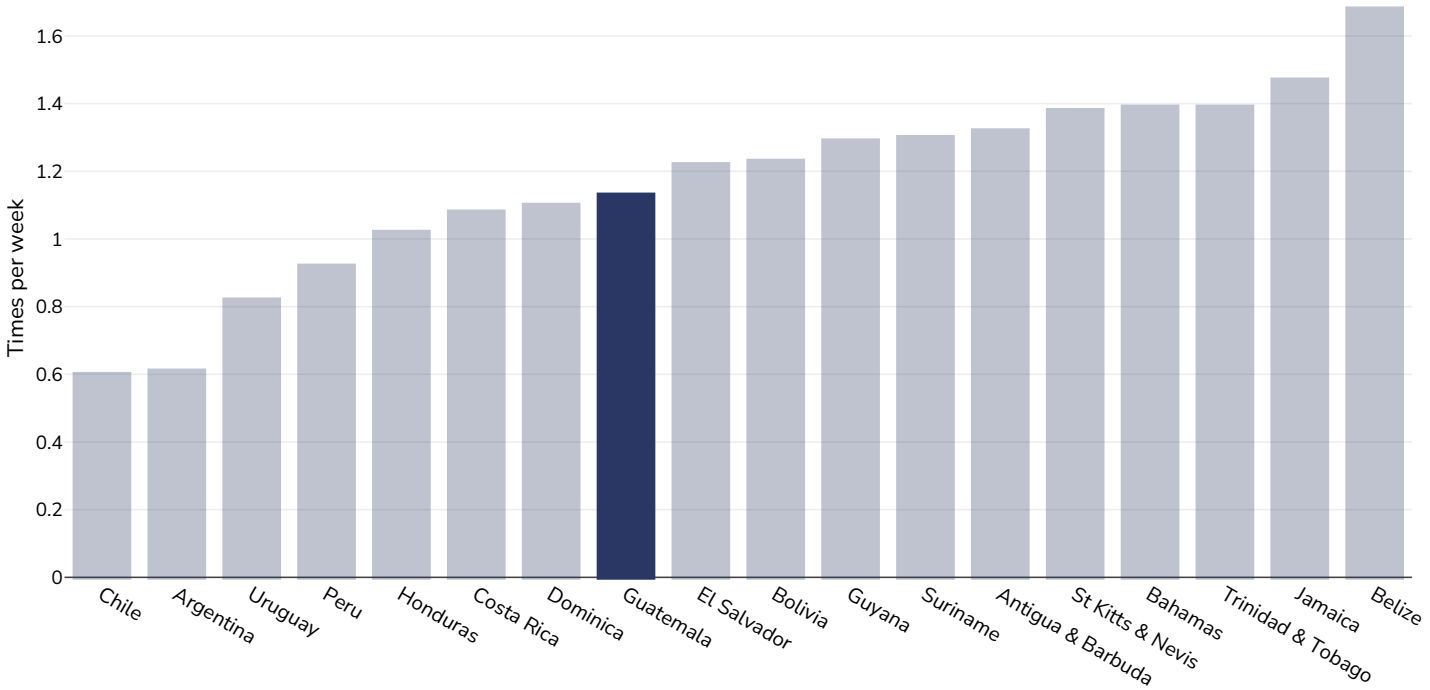
Children, 2009-2015



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

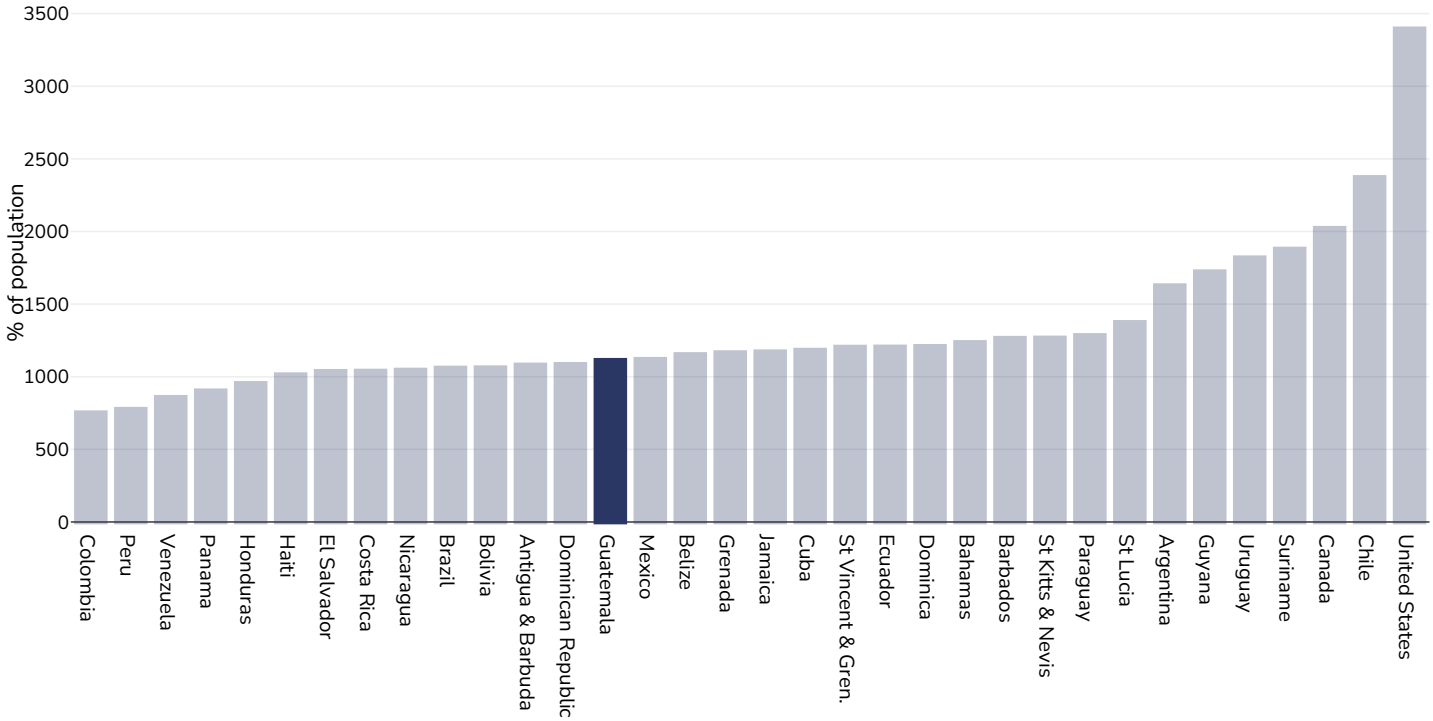
Children, 2009-2015



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

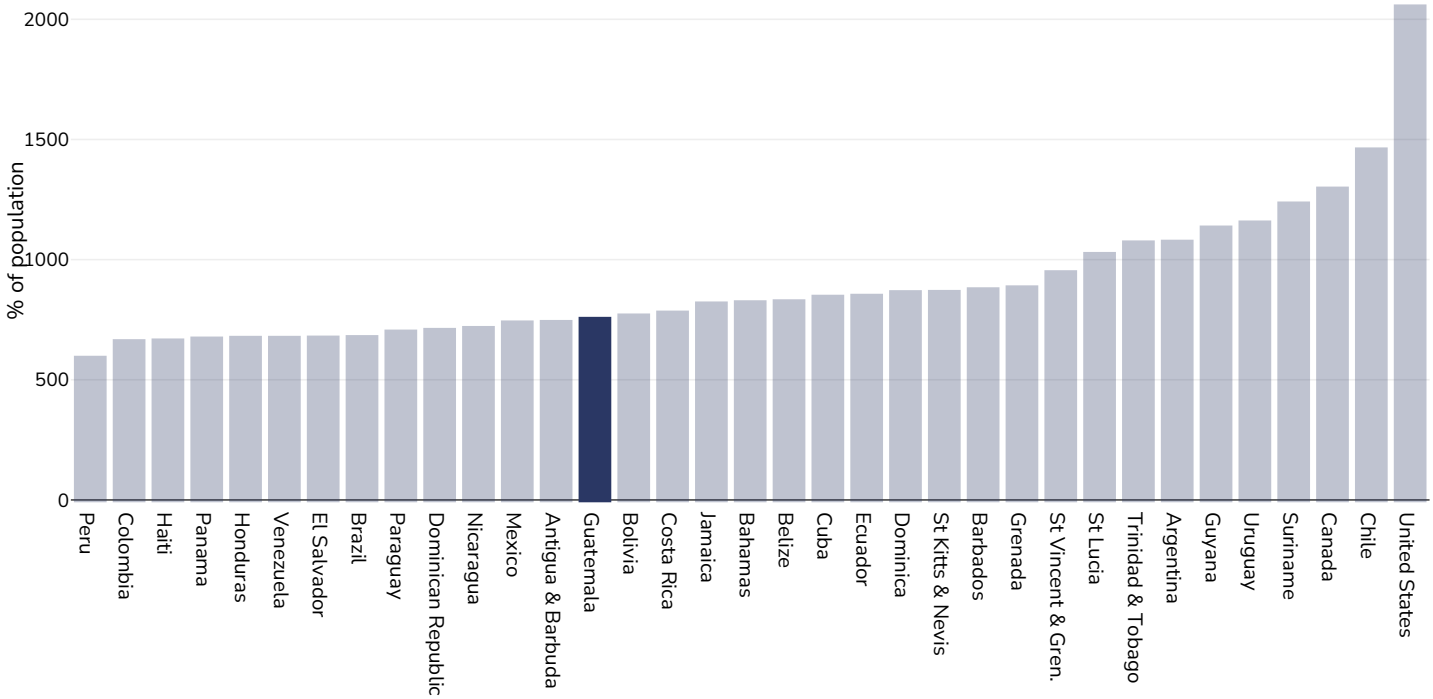
Mental health - depression disorders

Children, 2021



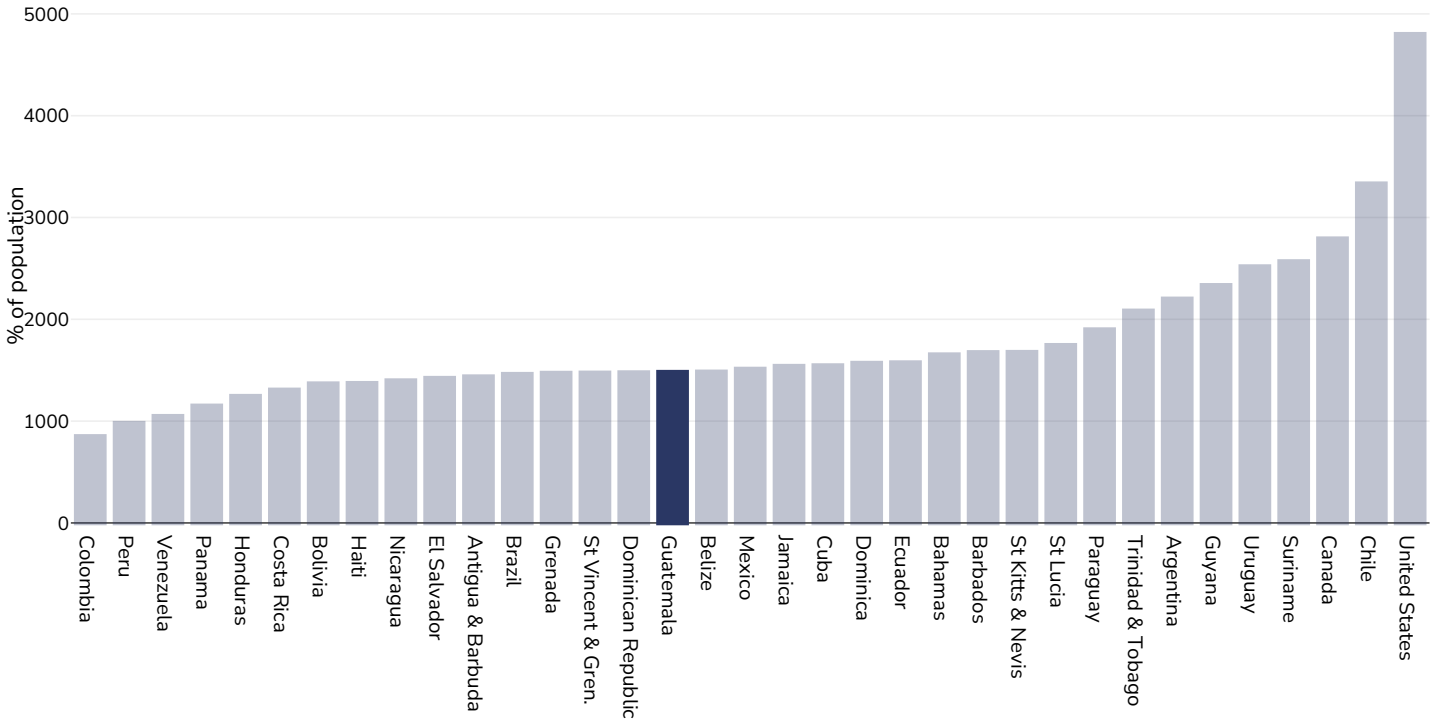
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare. (Last accessed 23.04.25)
Definitions: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

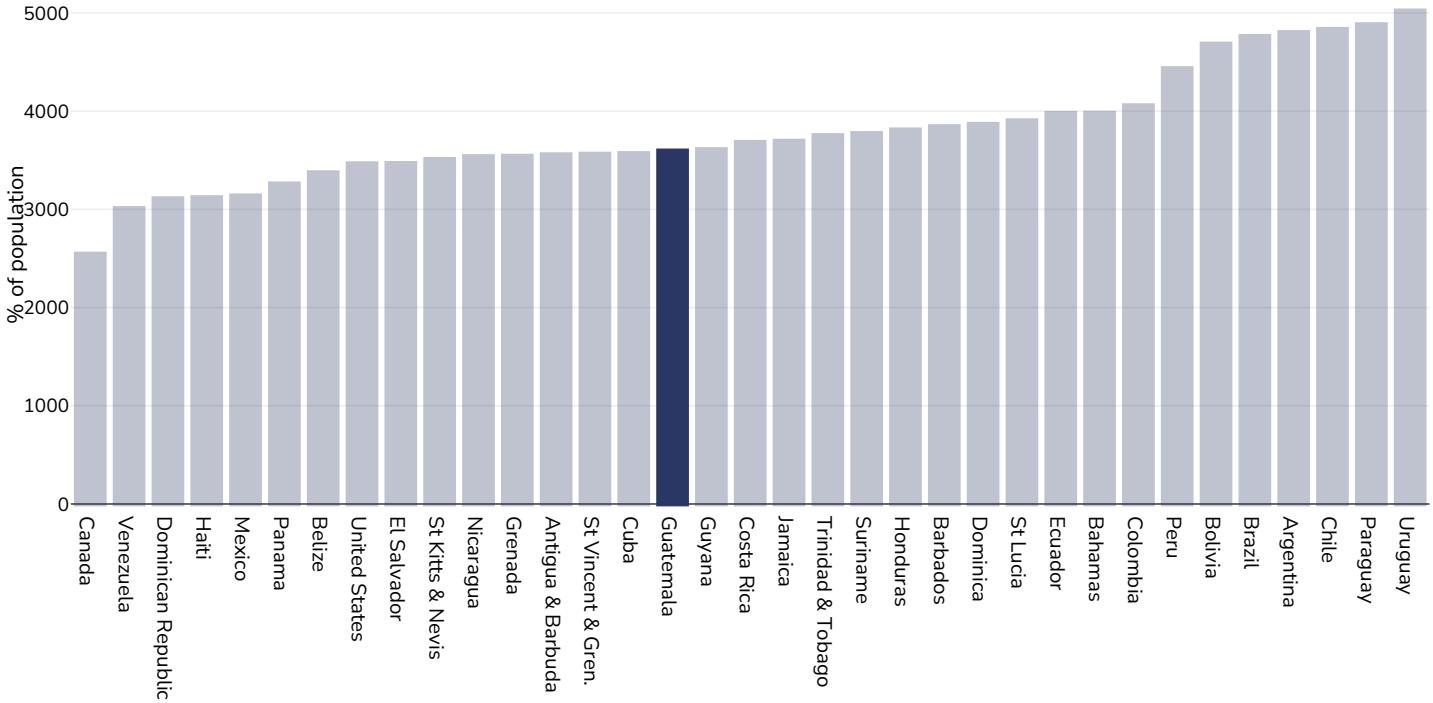
Girls, 2021



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)

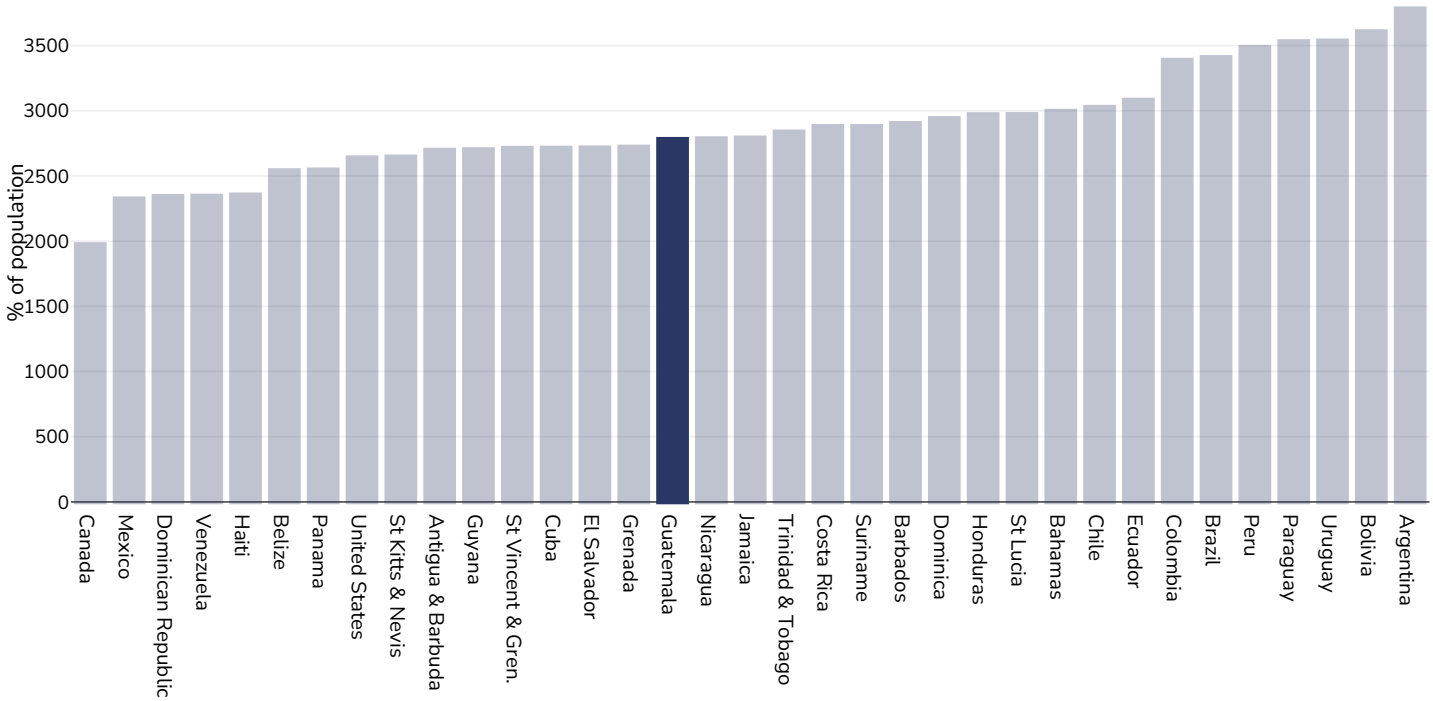
Mental health - anxiety disorders

Children, 2021



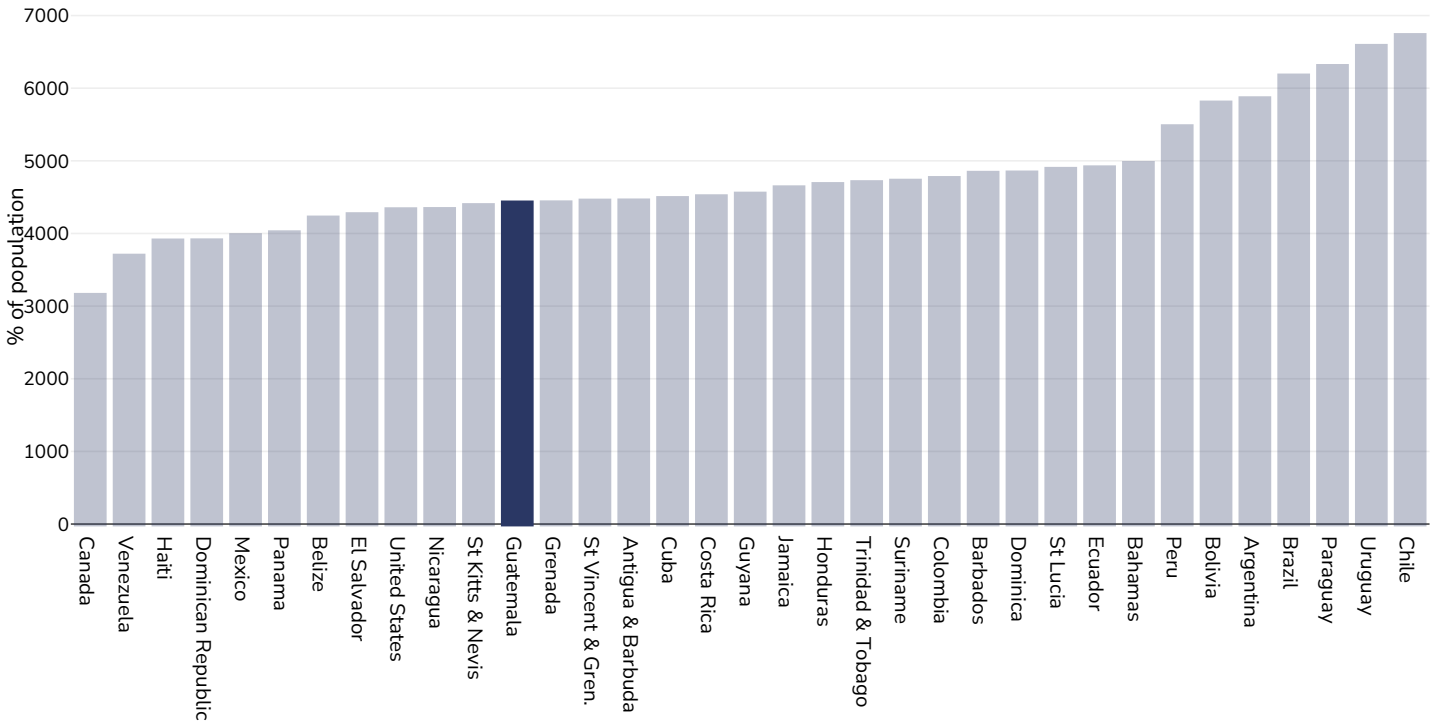
References: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare. (Last accessed 23.04.25)

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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