Ireland



Country report card - children

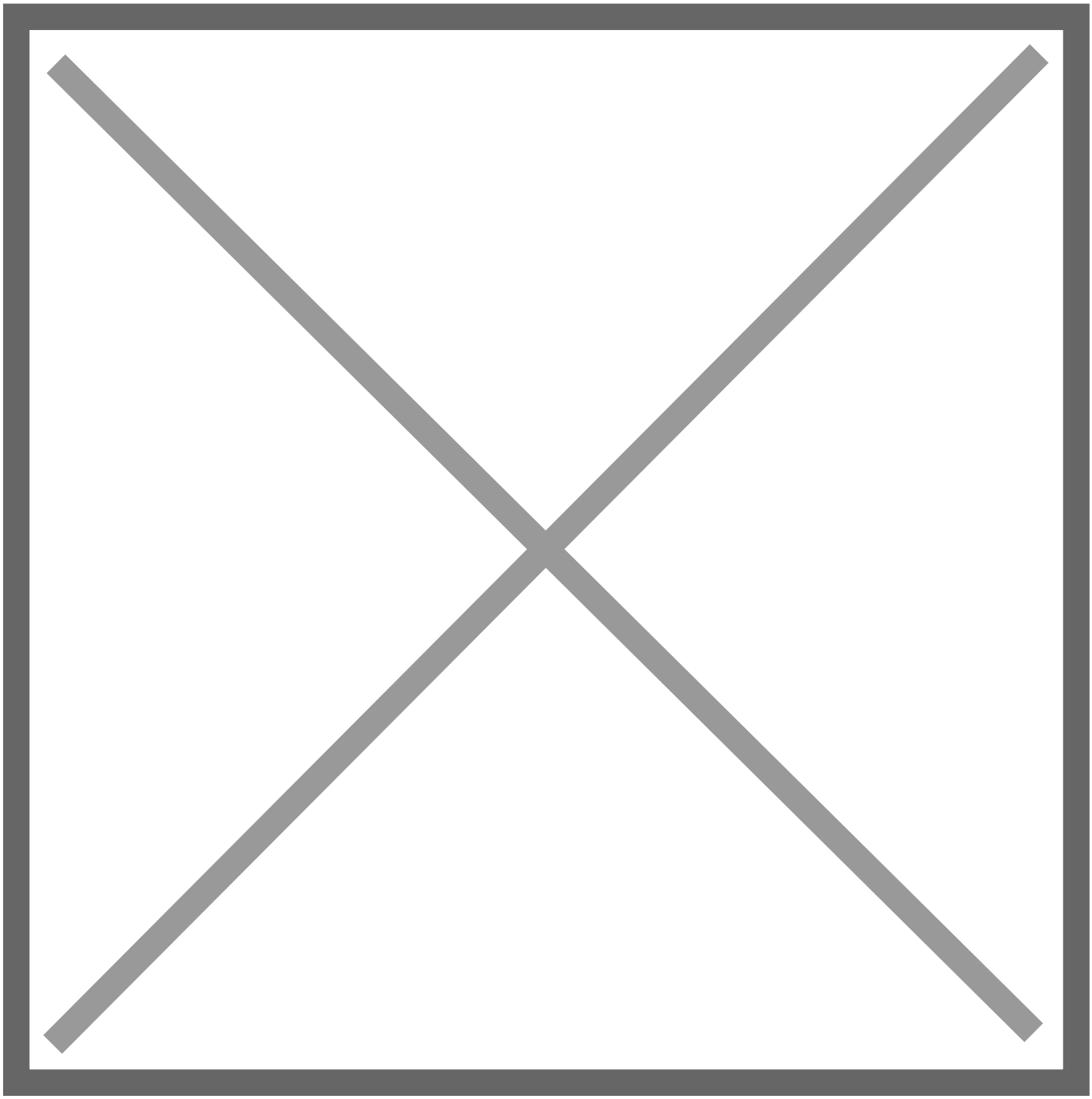
This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity for children, including adolescents (aged 5 to 18 years). Where available, data on common and relevant obesity drivers and comorbidities are also presented.

View the latest version of this report on the Global Obesity Observatory at https://data.worldobesity.org/country/ireland-99/.

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Obesity prevalence

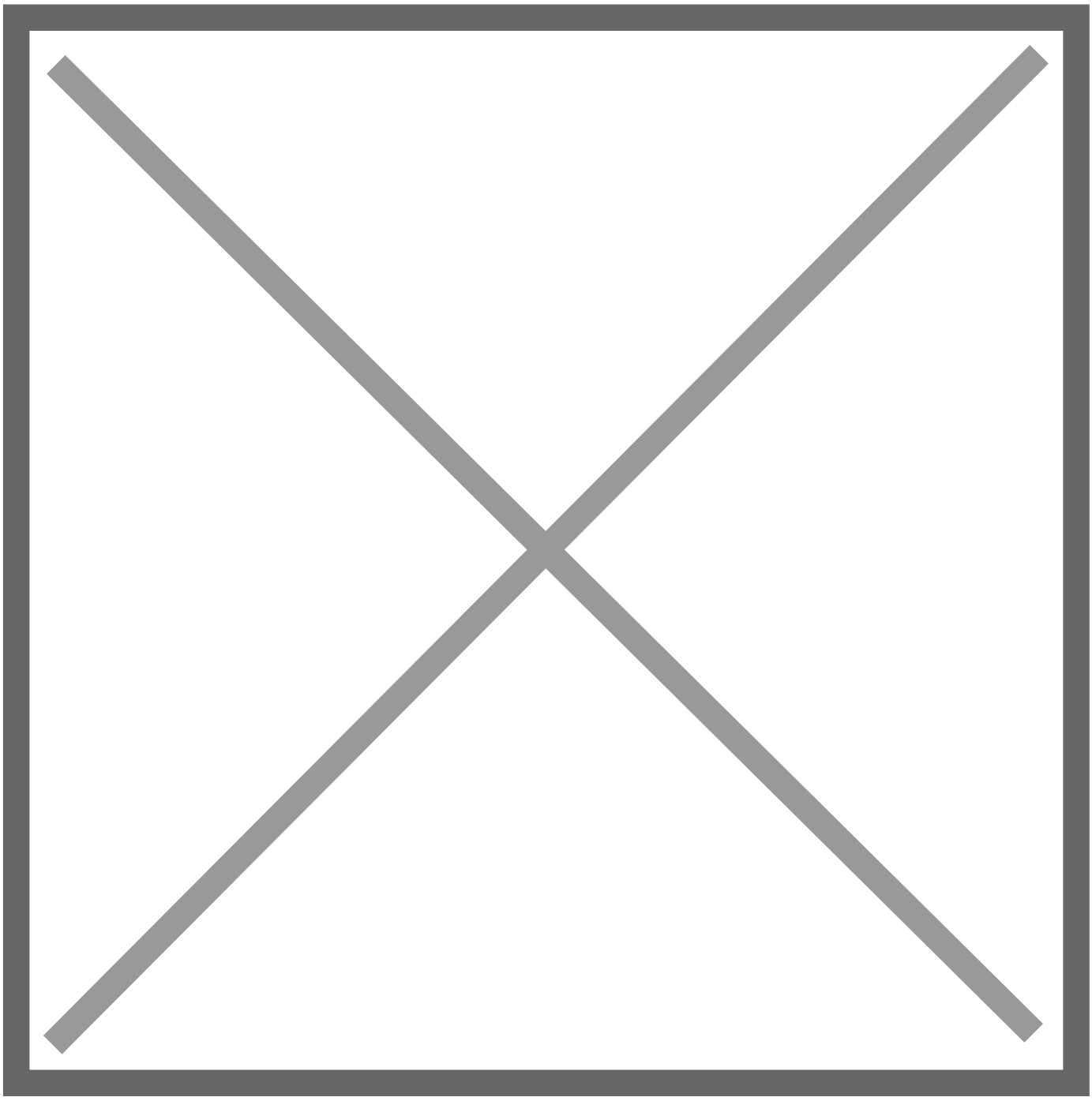
Children, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	7
Sample size:	1285
Area covered:	National
References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Cutoffs:	WHO 2007

% Children (age 6-7) living with overweight or obesity in Ireland 2008-2022

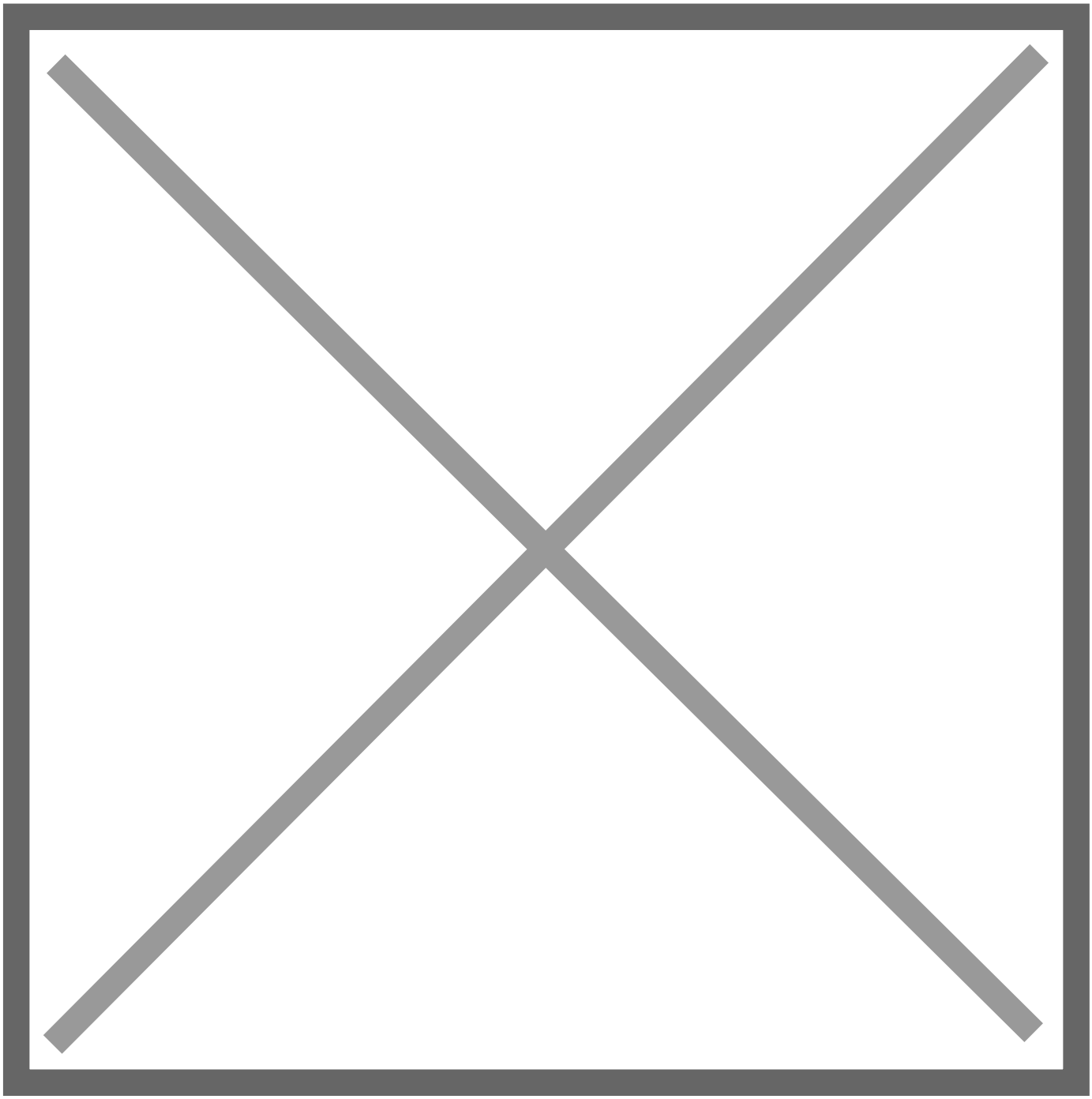


Survey type:	Measured
References:	Bel-Serrat S, Heinen MM, Murrin CM, Daly L, Mehegan J, Concannon M, Flood C, Farrell D, O'Brien S, Eldin N, Kelleher CC [2017]. The Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in the Republic of Ireland: Findings from 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2015. Dublin: Health Service Executive.
Notes:	Aged 6-7. IOTF International Cut off point

Different methodologies may have been used to collect this data and so data from different surveys may not be strictly comparable. Please check with original data sources for methodologies used.

% Children (aged 7) living with obesity in Ireland, 2007-2022 (WHO)

Boys

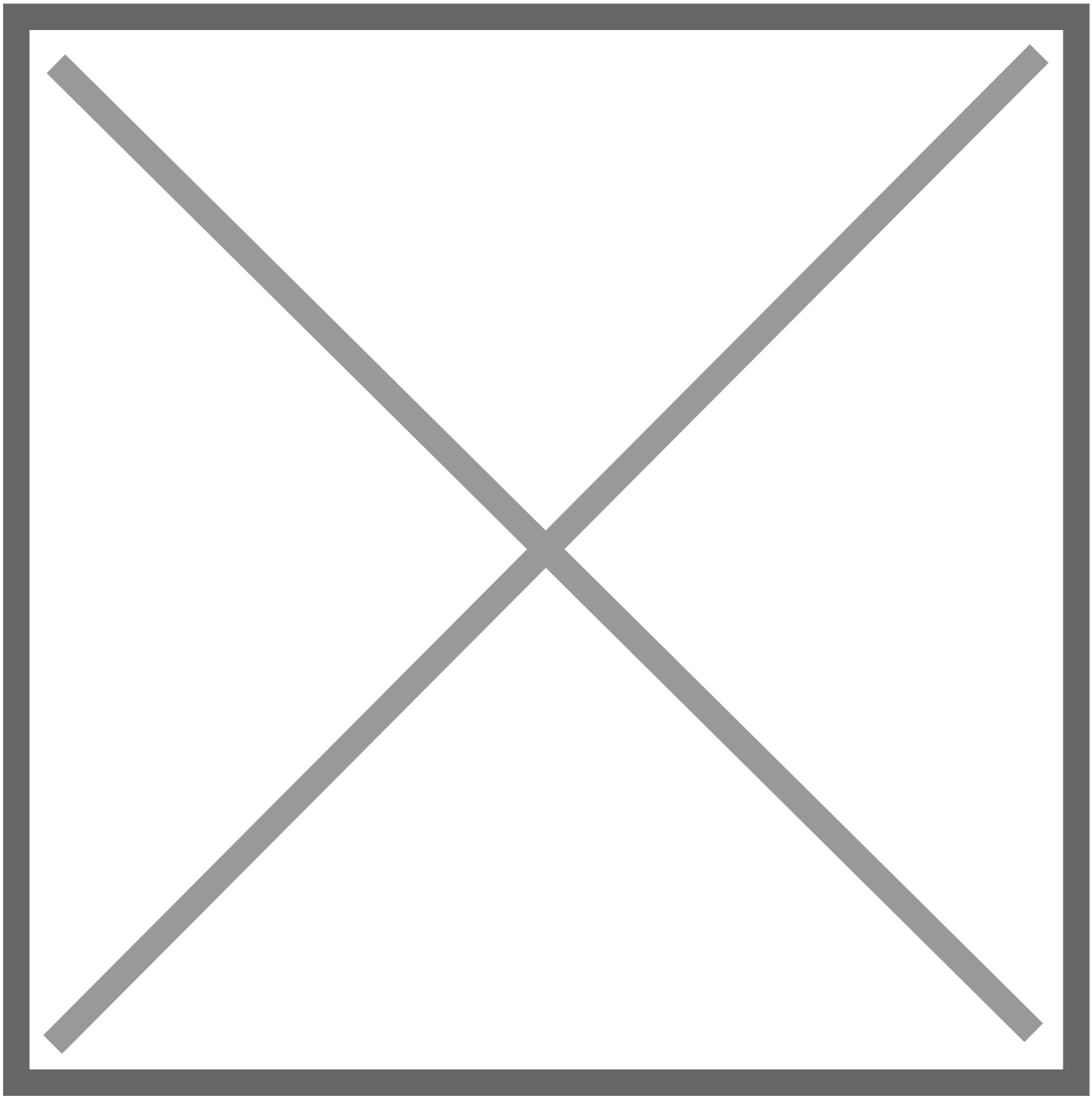


Survey type:	Measured
References:	2007: Wijnhoven, T.M.A., van Raaij, J.M.A., Spinelli, A., Rito, A.I., Hovengen, R., Kunesova, M., Starc, G., Rutter, H., Sjoberg, A., Petrauskiene, A., O'Dwyer, U., Petrova, S., Farrugia Sant'Angelo, V., Wauters, M., Yngve, A., Rubana, I.-M. and Breda, J. (2013), WHO-COSI 2008: weight, height and BMI. Pediatric Obesity, 8: 79-97. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2047-6310.2012.00090.x 2009: Wijnhoven, T.M., van Raaij, J.M., Spinelli, A. et al. WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative: body mass index and level of overweight among 6-9-year-old children from school year 2007/2008 to school year 2009/2010. BMC Public Health 14, 806 (2014). https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2458-14-806 2012: World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe. 2018. WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative: overweight and obesity among 6-9-year-old children: report of the third round of data collection 2012-2013.World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe. https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/346108

Notes:	COSI
Definitions:	WHO 2007 cutoffs

Different methodologies may have been used to collect this data and so data from different surveys may not be strictly comparable. Please check with original data sources for methodologies used.

Girls



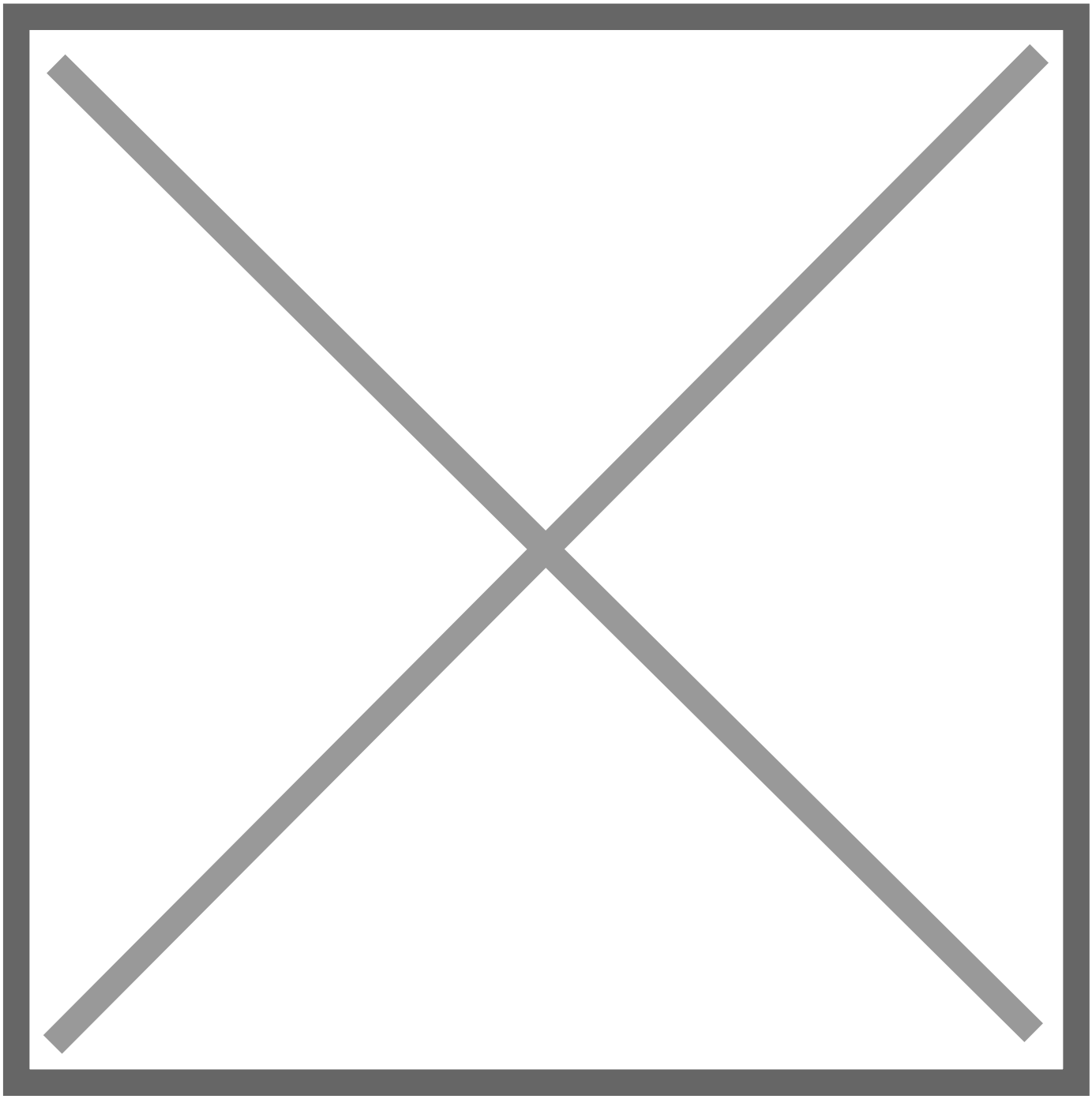
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Notes:	COSI
Definitions:	WHO 2007 cutoffs

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% Children (aged 7) living with overweight or obesity in Ireland, 2007-2022 (WHO)

Boys

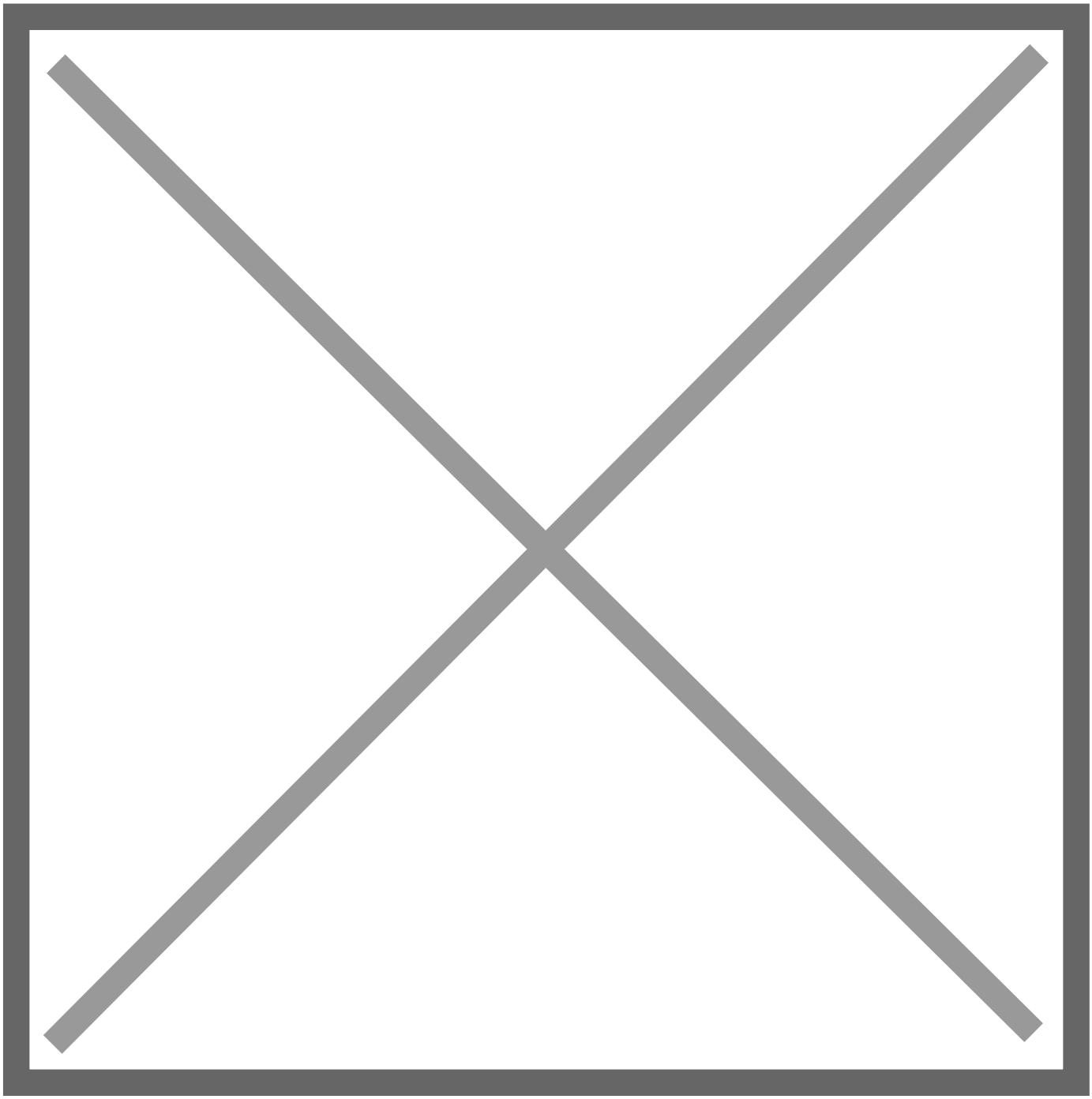


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Notes:	COSI
Definitions:	WHO 2007 cutoffs

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Girls

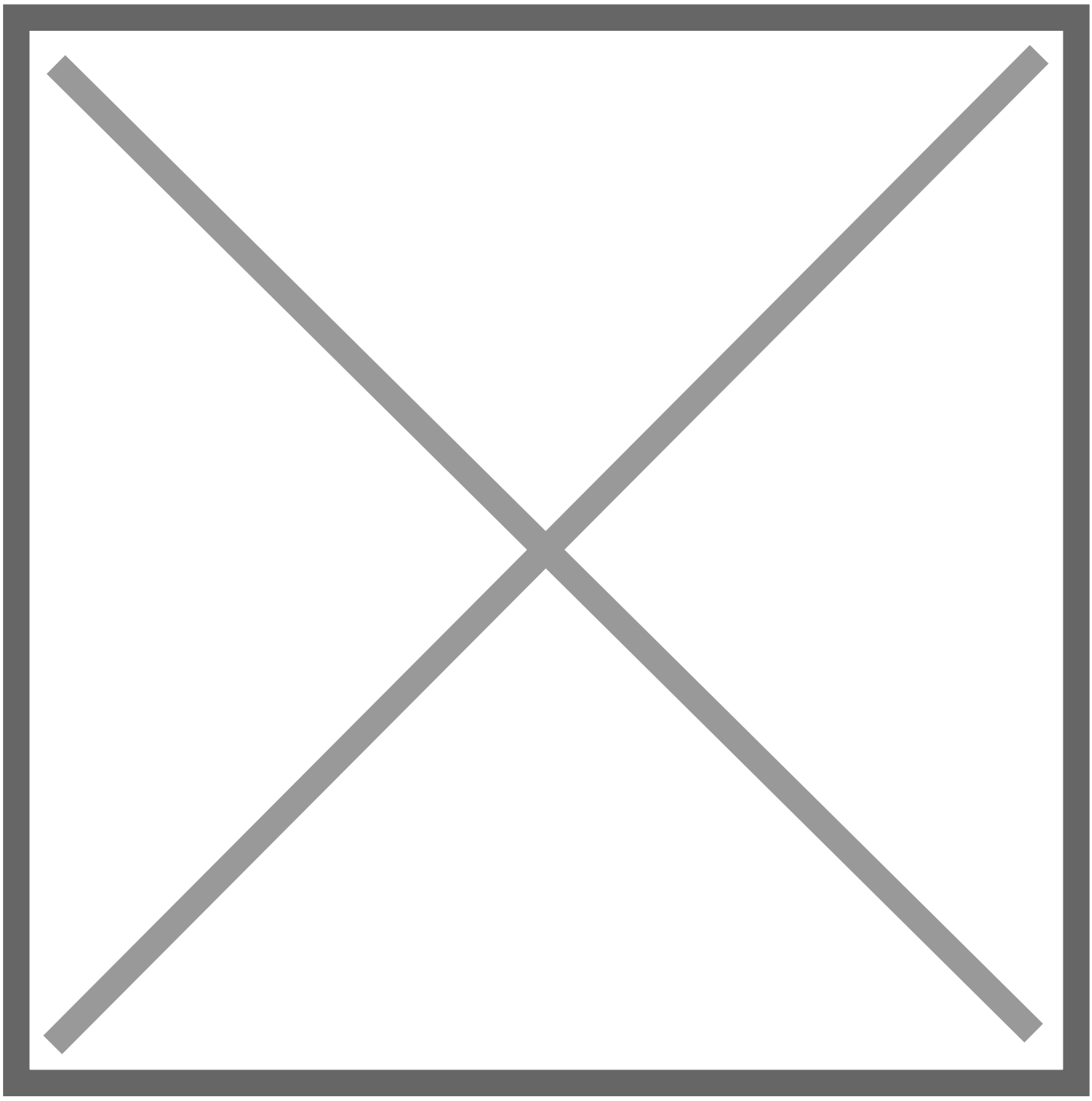


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Notes:	COSI
Definitions:	WHO 2007 cutoffs

Different methodologies may have been used to collect this data and so data from different surveys may not be strictly comparable. Please check with original data sources for methodologies used.

% Children living with overweight or obesity by urbanisation in Ireland 2008-2022

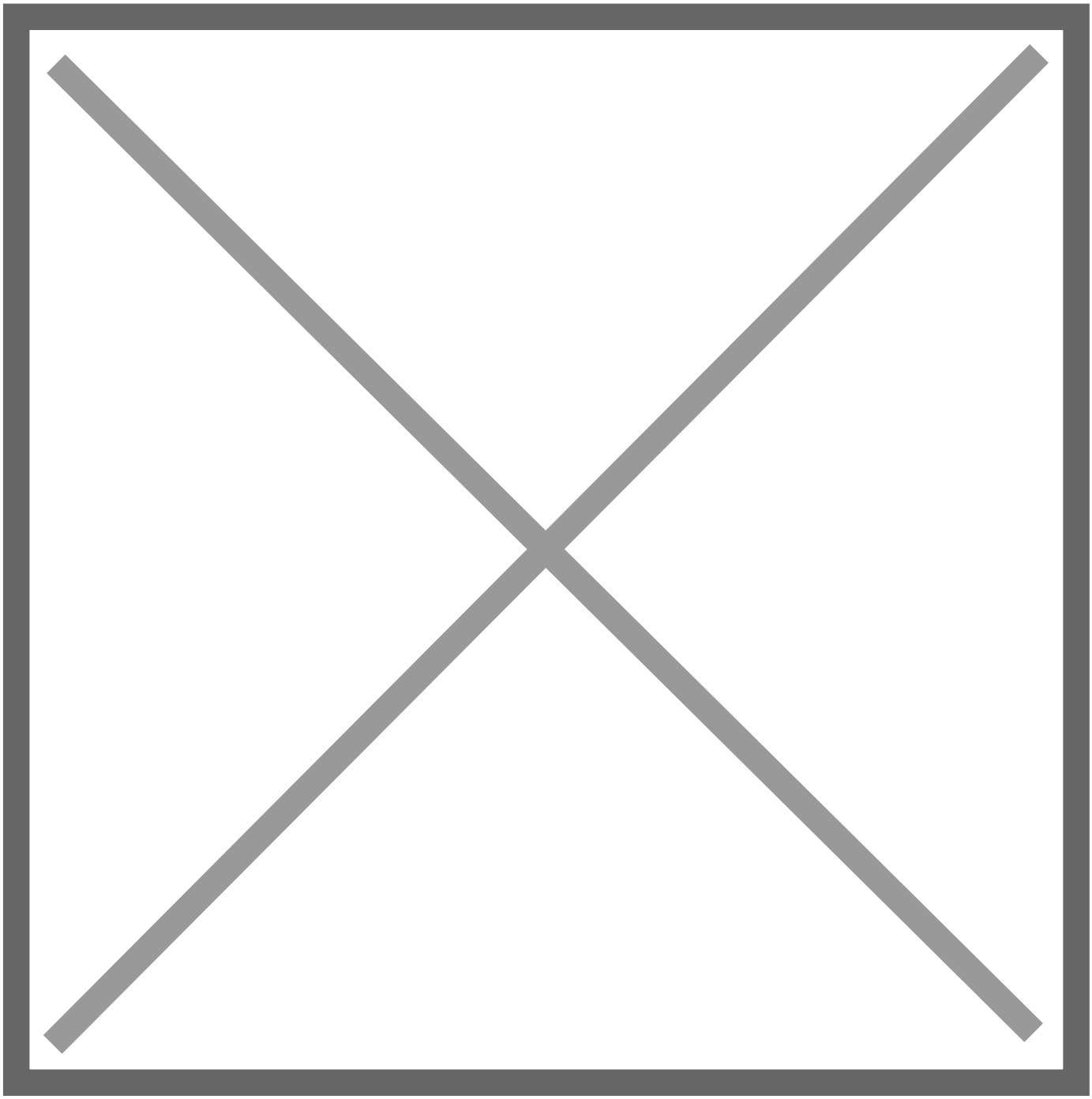


Survey type:	Measured
References:	Bel-Serrat S, Heinen MM, Murrin CM, Daly L, Mehegan J, Concannon M, Flood C, Farrell D, O'Brien S, Eldin N, Kelleher CC [2017]. The Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in the Republic of Ireland: Findings from 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2015. Dublin: Health Service Executive.
Notes:	Aged 6-7. IOTF International Cut off point

Different methodologies may have been used to collect this data and so data from different surveys may not be strictly comparable. Please check with original data sources for methodologies used.

Overweight/obesity by education

Children, 2022-2024

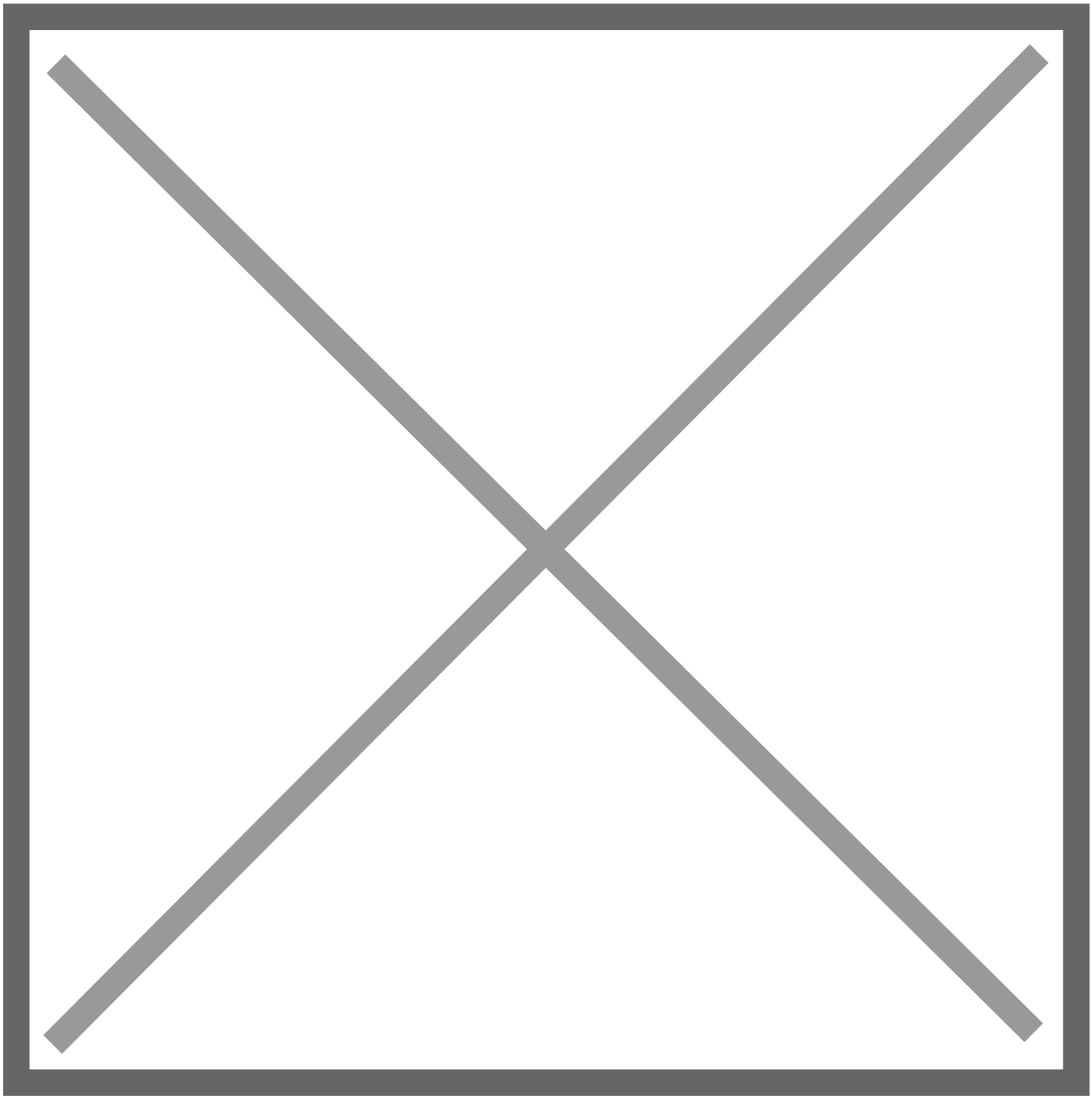


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1019
Area covered:	National
References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Definitions:	Level of parental education: (i) low to medium, where both parents have lower education or one parent has lower education and the other has higher education; and (ii) high, where both parents have higher education. Lower education was defined as “primary school or less”, “lower secondary education”, or “upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education”. Higher education included “short-cycle tertiary education or bachelor’s or equivalent level” and “master’s or doctoral or equivalent level”. In single-parent families, parental education was determined based on the educational attainment of the single parent.
Cutoffs:	WHO 2007

Overweight/obesity by age

Children, 2022-2023

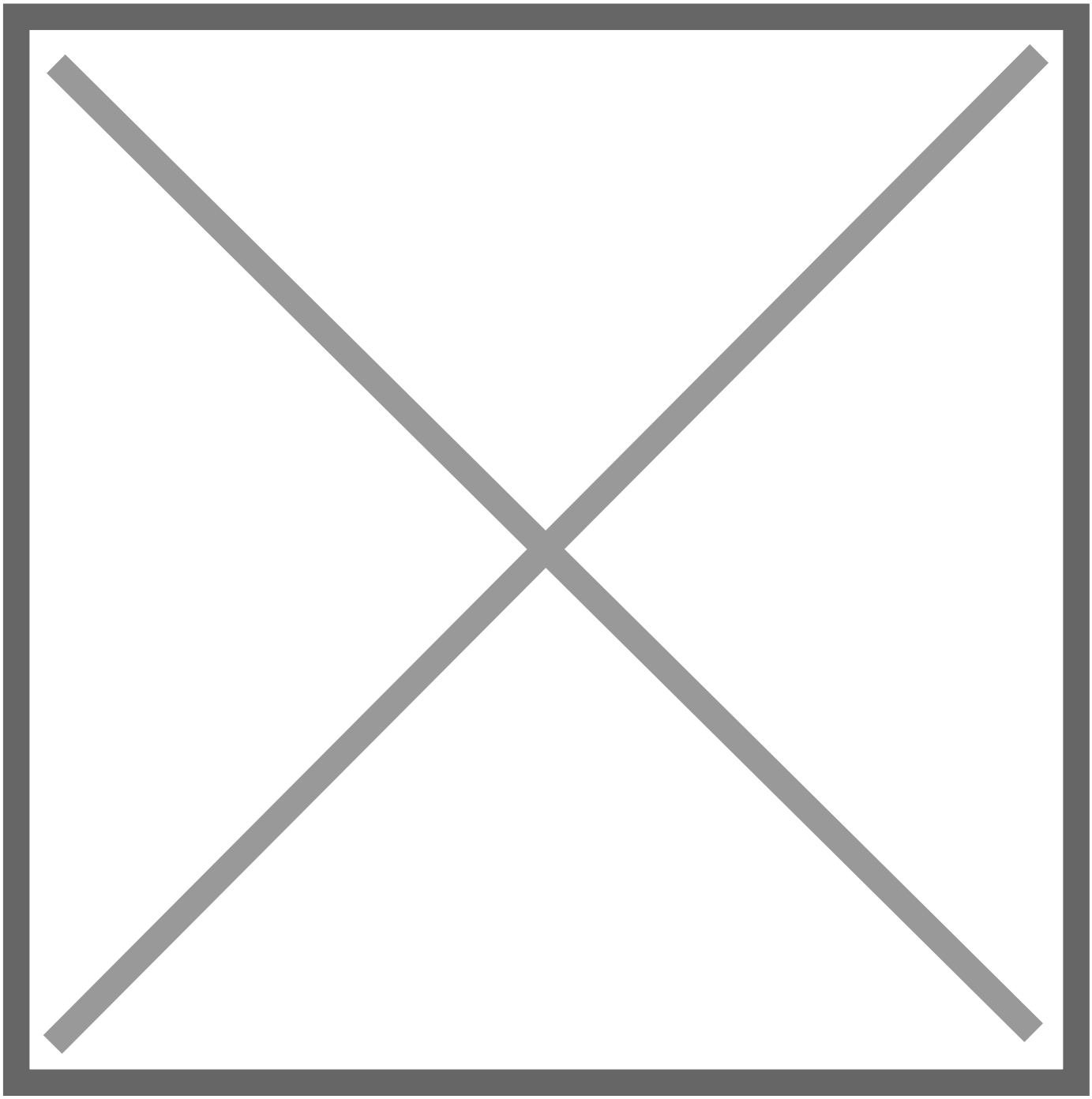


Survey type:	Measured
Sample size:	5072
Area covered:	National
References:	Kilduff O, Slattery J, Lee C, O' Brien S, Murrin C, Kelleher C (2024). The Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in the Republic of Ireland - Findings from 2022 and 2023.
Notes:	Data from COSI Round 6 (2022-24). Children surveyed from 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th classes

Cutoffs:	IOTF

Overweight/obesity by region

Children, 2022-2023

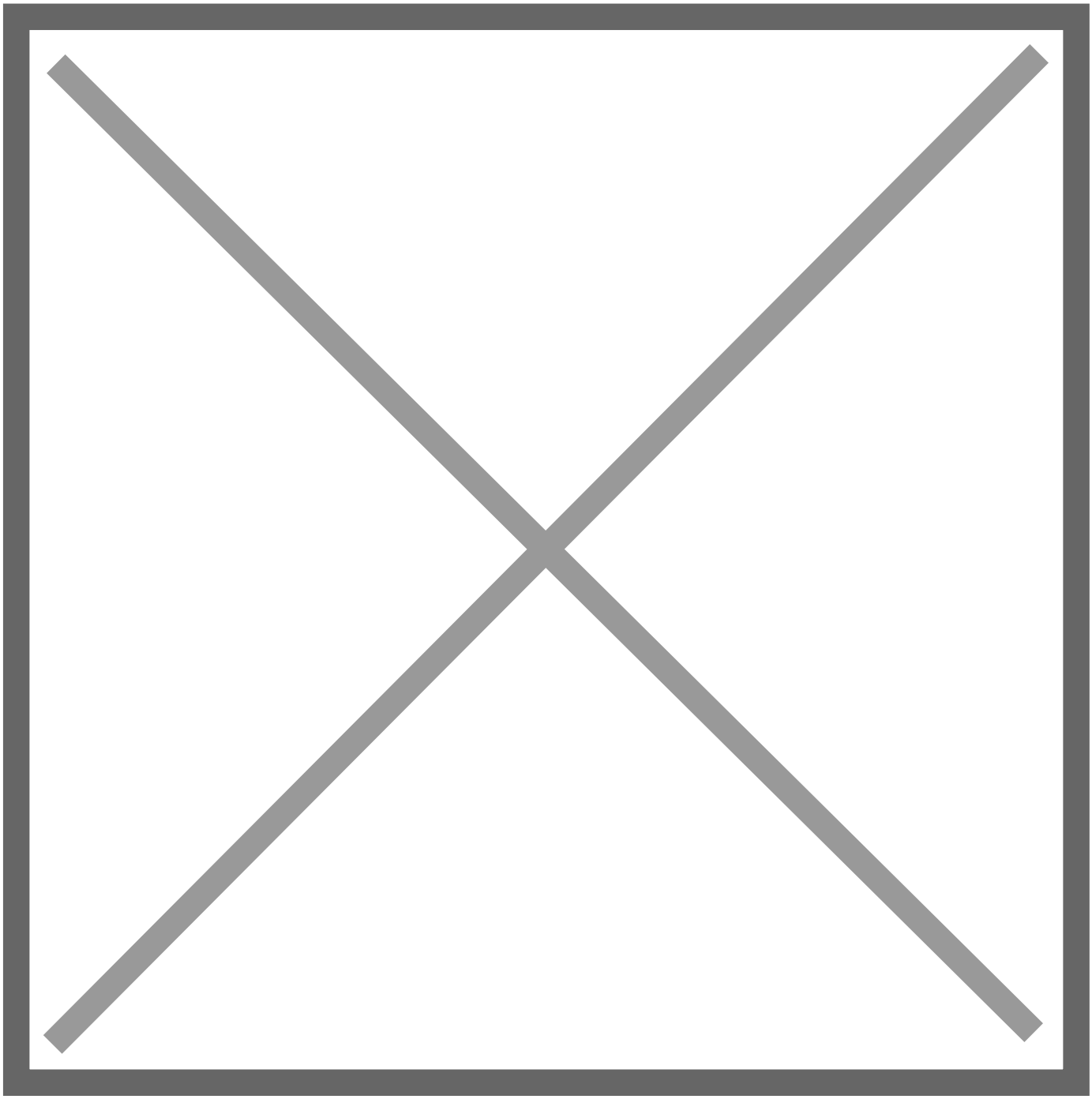


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	6-12
Sample size:	5072
Area covered:	National
References:	Kilduff O, Slattery J, Lee C, O' Brien S, Murrin C, Kelleher C (2024). The Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in the Republic of Ireland - Findings from 2022 and 2023.

Notes:	Data from COSI Round 6 (2022-24). Children surveyed from 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th classes
Cutoffs:	IOTF

Overweight/obesity by age and region

Children, 2022-2023

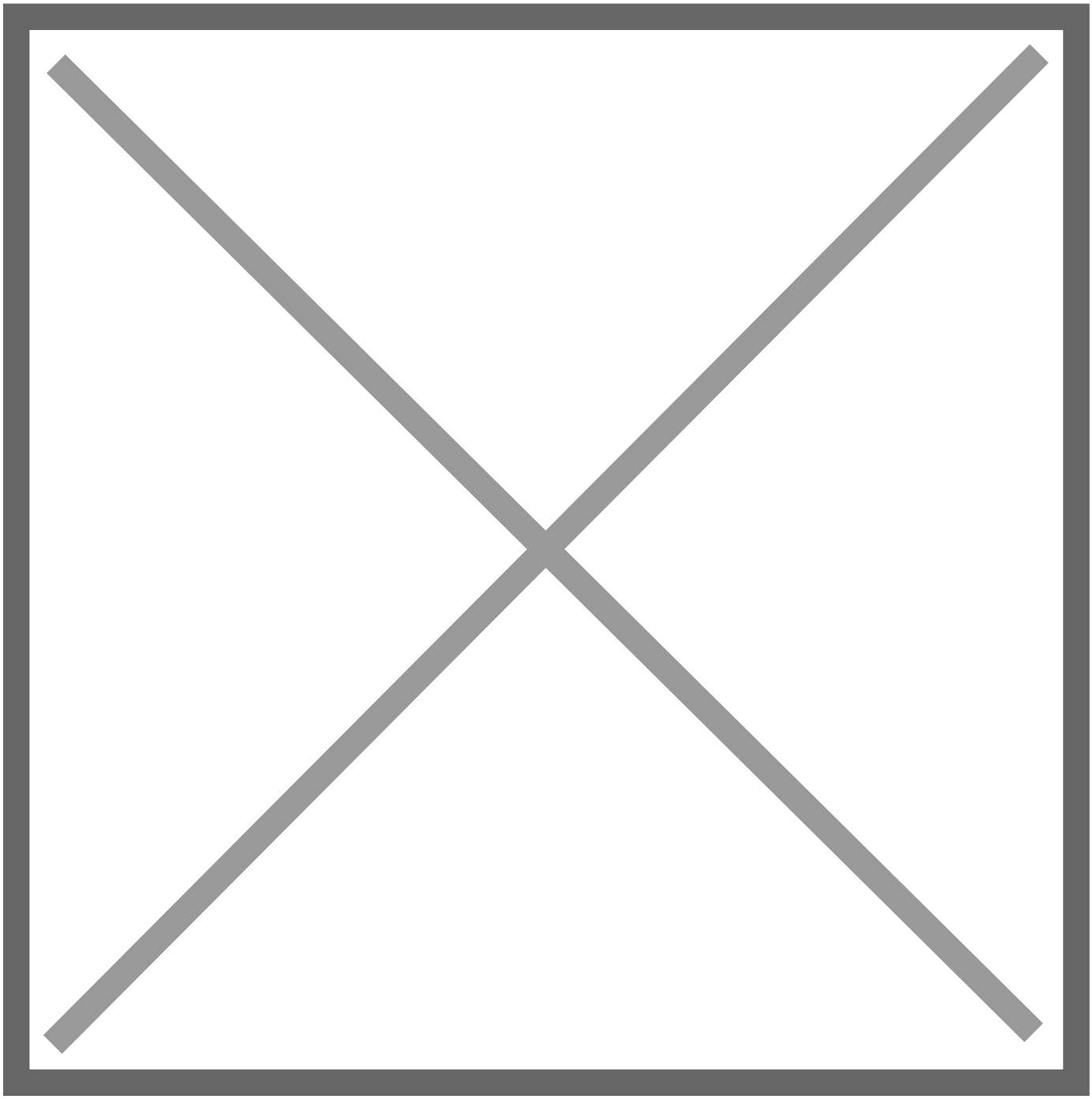


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	6-7
Sample size:	1279
Area covered:	National
References:	Kilduff O, Slattery J, Lee C, O' Brien S, Murrin C, Kelleher C (2024). The Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in the Republic of Ireland - Findings from 2022 and 2023.

Notes:	Data from COSI Round 6 (2022-24). Children surveyed from 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th classes
Cutoffs:	IOTF

Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

Children, 2022-2023

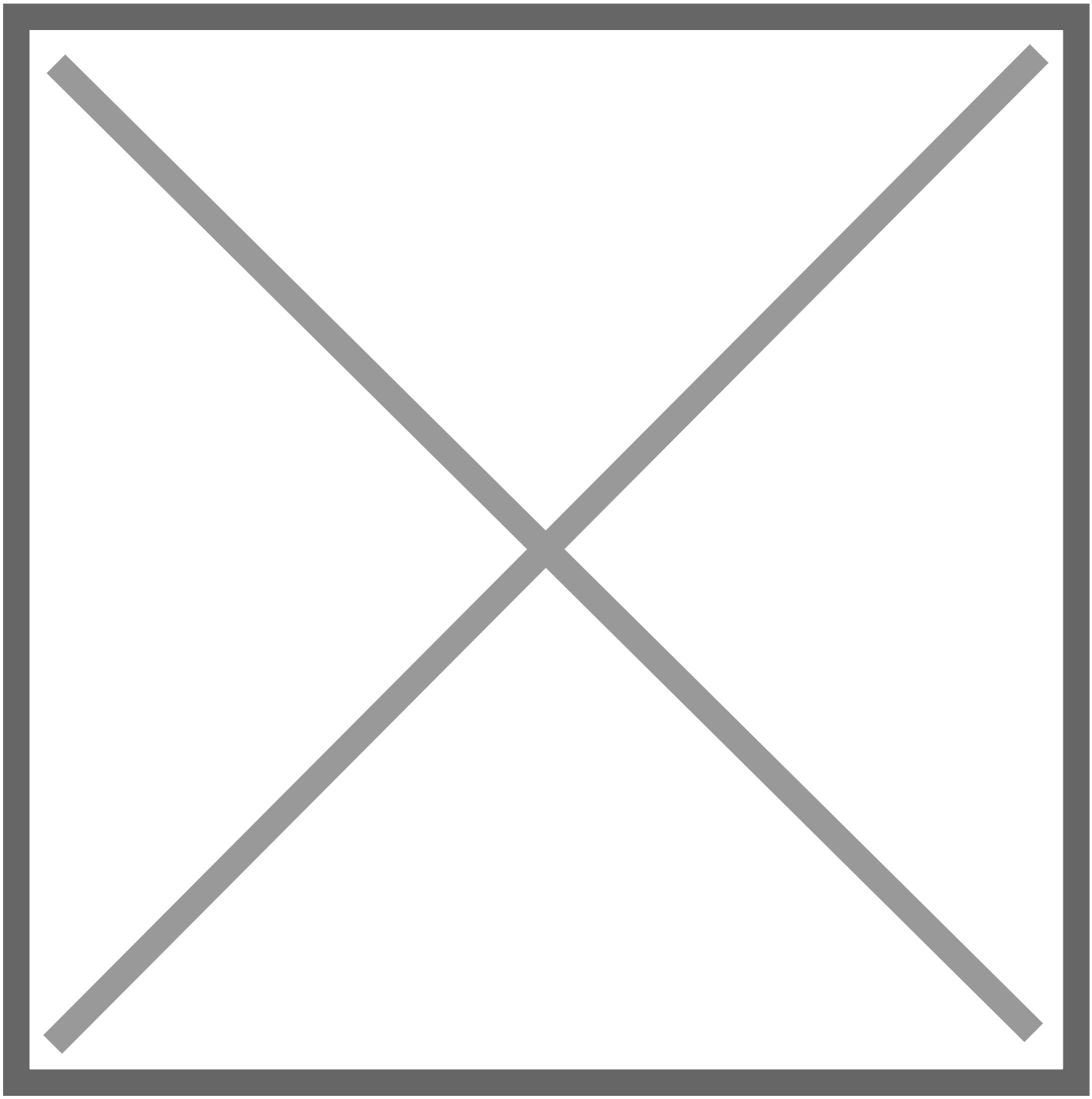


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	7-12
Sample size:	5072
Area covered:	National
References:	Kilduff O, Slattery J, Lee C, O' Brien S, Murrin C, Kelleher C (2024). The Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in the Republic of Ireland - Findings from 2022 and 2023.

Notes:	Data from COSI Round 6 (2022-24). Children surveyed from 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th classes
Definitions:	Disadvantaged schools are those in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme
Cutoffs:	IOTF

Double burden of underweight & obesity

Children, 2022

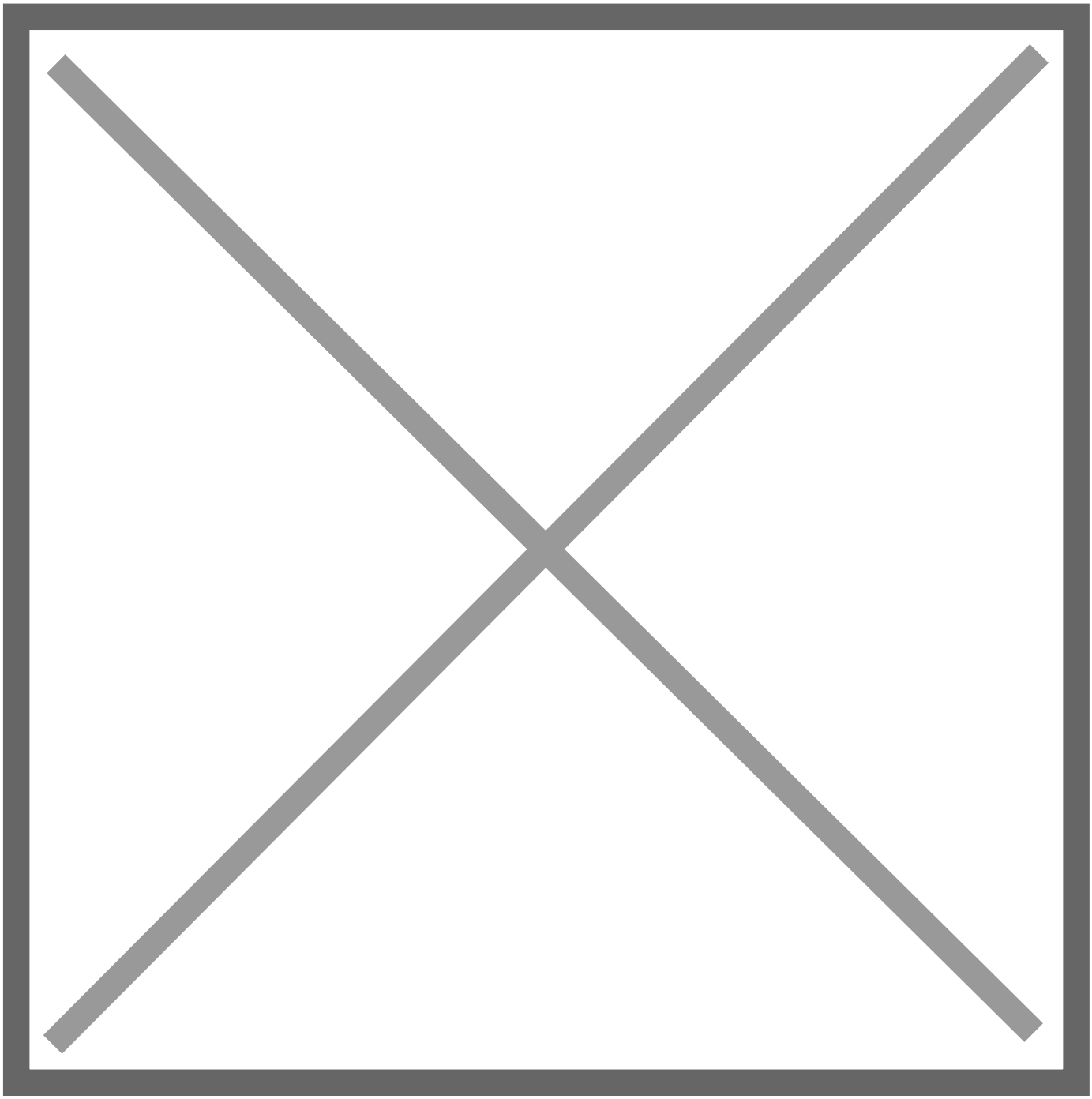


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	5-19
References:	NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC). Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults. Lancet 2024; published online Feb 29. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2.
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

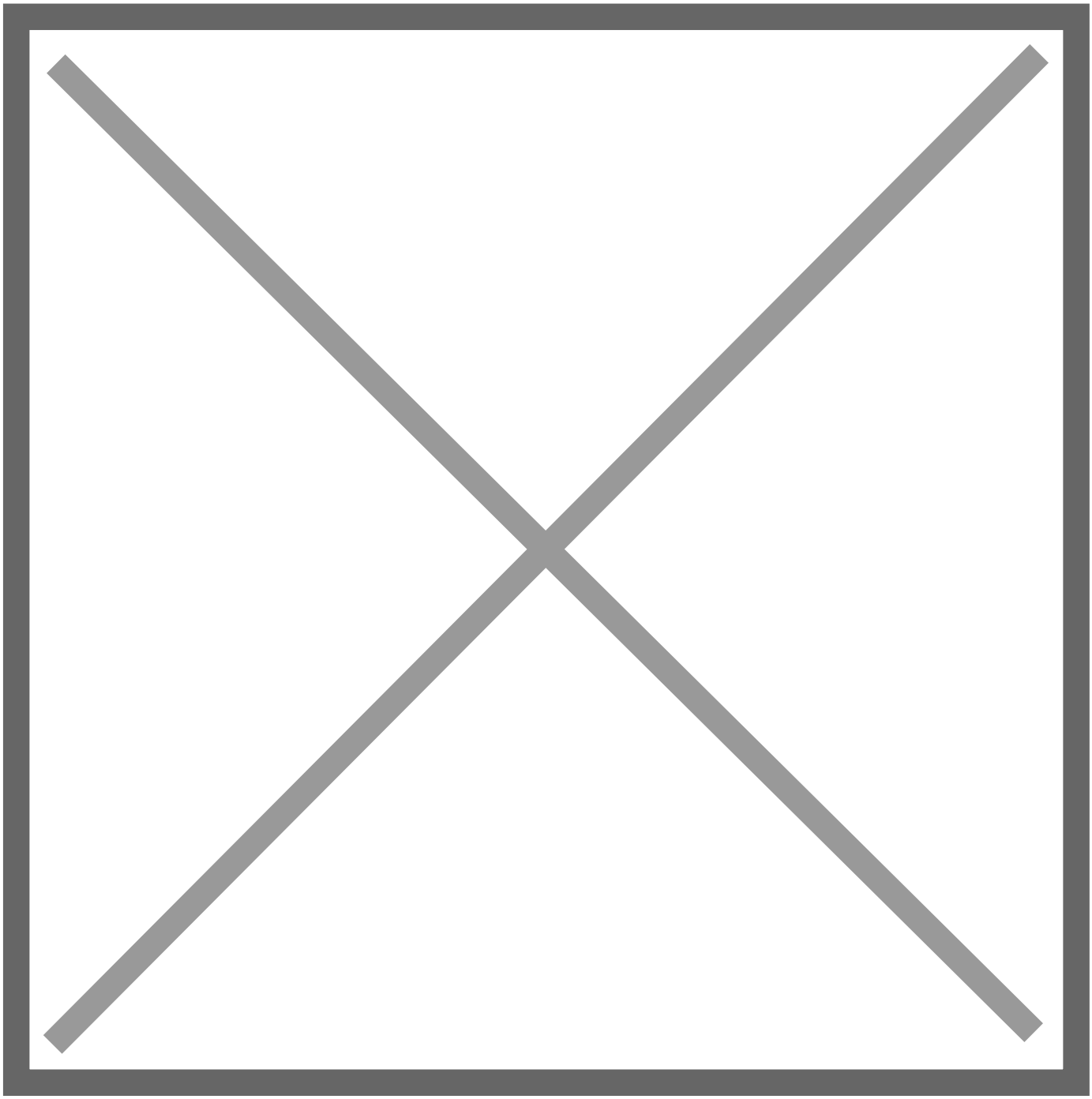
Children, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1019
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only).
Definitions:	Percentage of children not meeting WHO recommendations for physical activity, i.e. not playing actively/vigorously for at least one hour a day on an average day, as reported by their parent

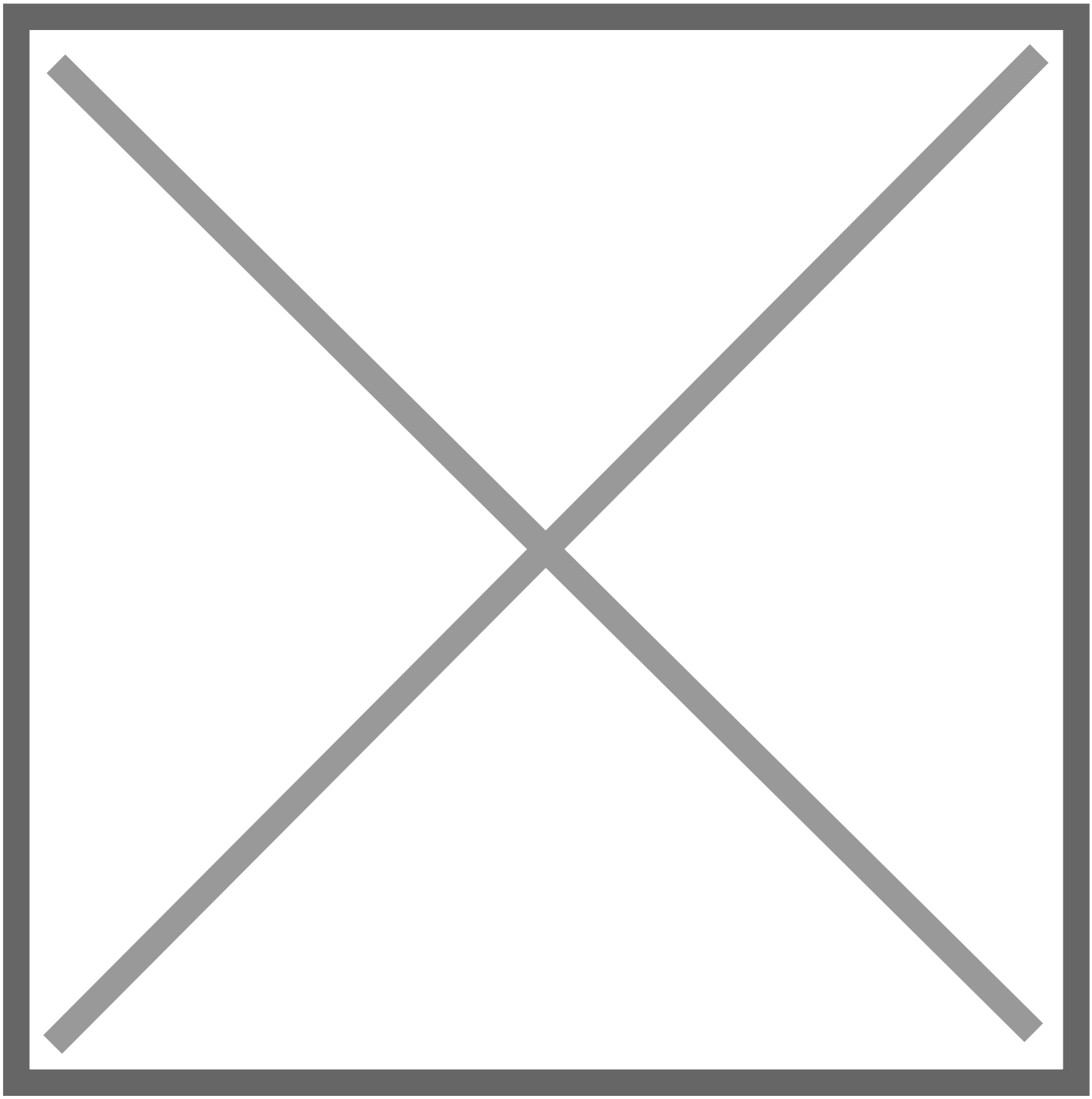
Boys, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1019
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only).
Definitions:	Percentage of children not meeting WHO recommendations for physical activity, i.e. not playing actively/vigorously for at least one hour a day on an average day, as reported by their parent

Girls, 2022-2024

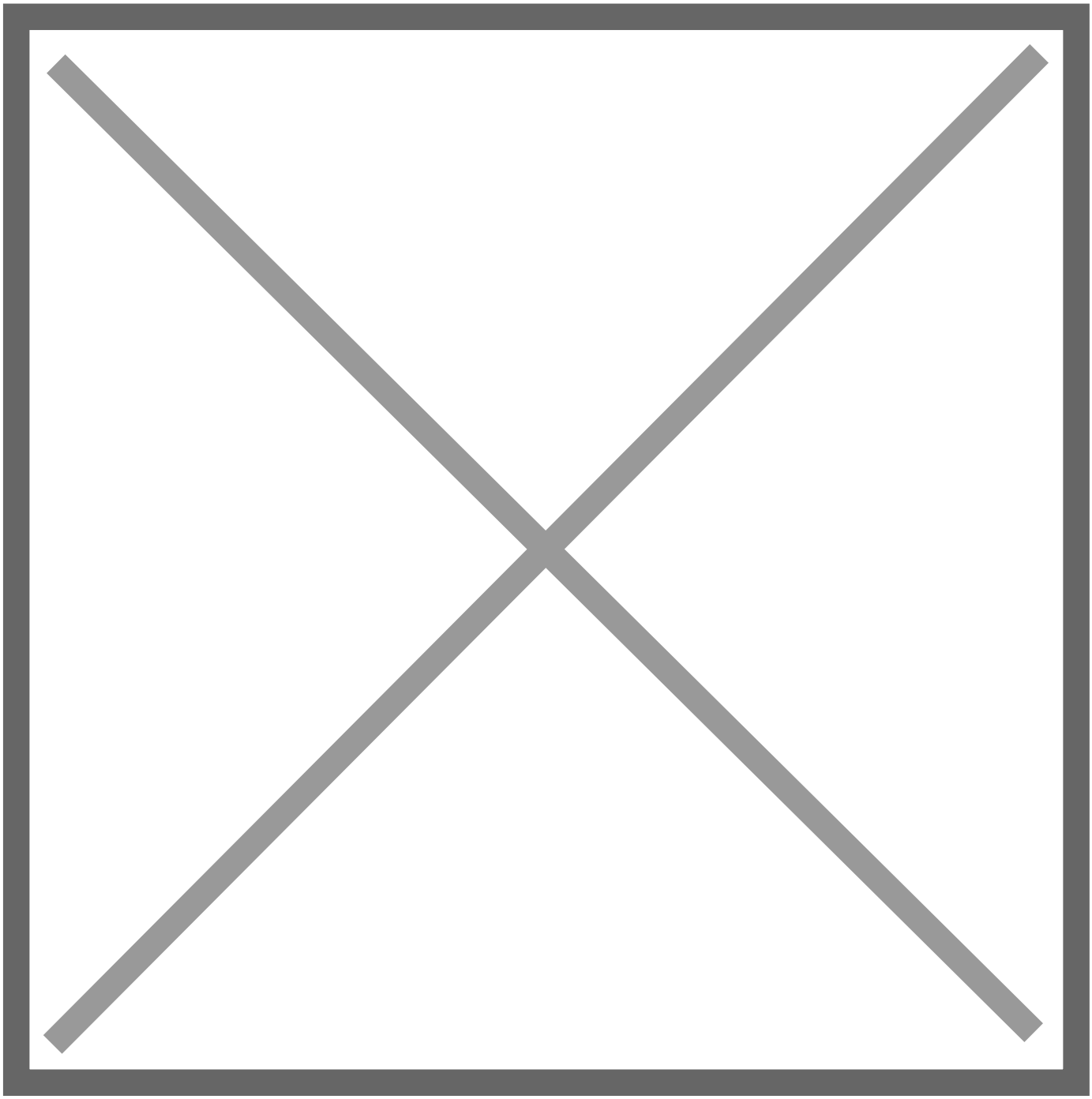


Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1019
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only).
Definitions:	Percentage of children not meeting WHO recommendations for physical activity, i.e. not playing actively/vigorously for at least one hour a day on an average day, as reported by their parent

Prevalence of at least daily soft drink consumption

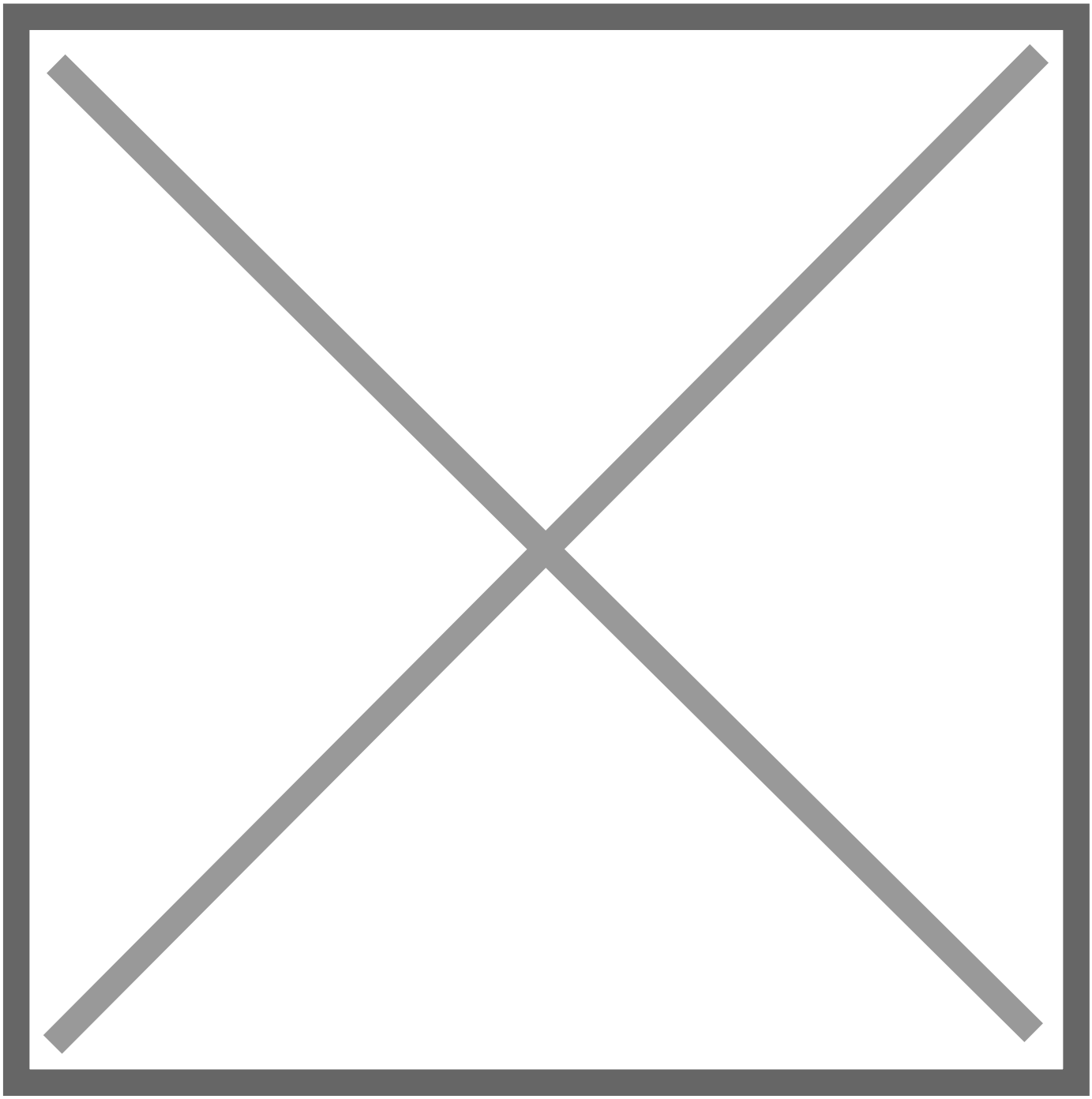
Children, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1078
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only)
Definitions:	Prevalence of daily consumption of soft drinks containing sugar, as reported by the child's parent (%)

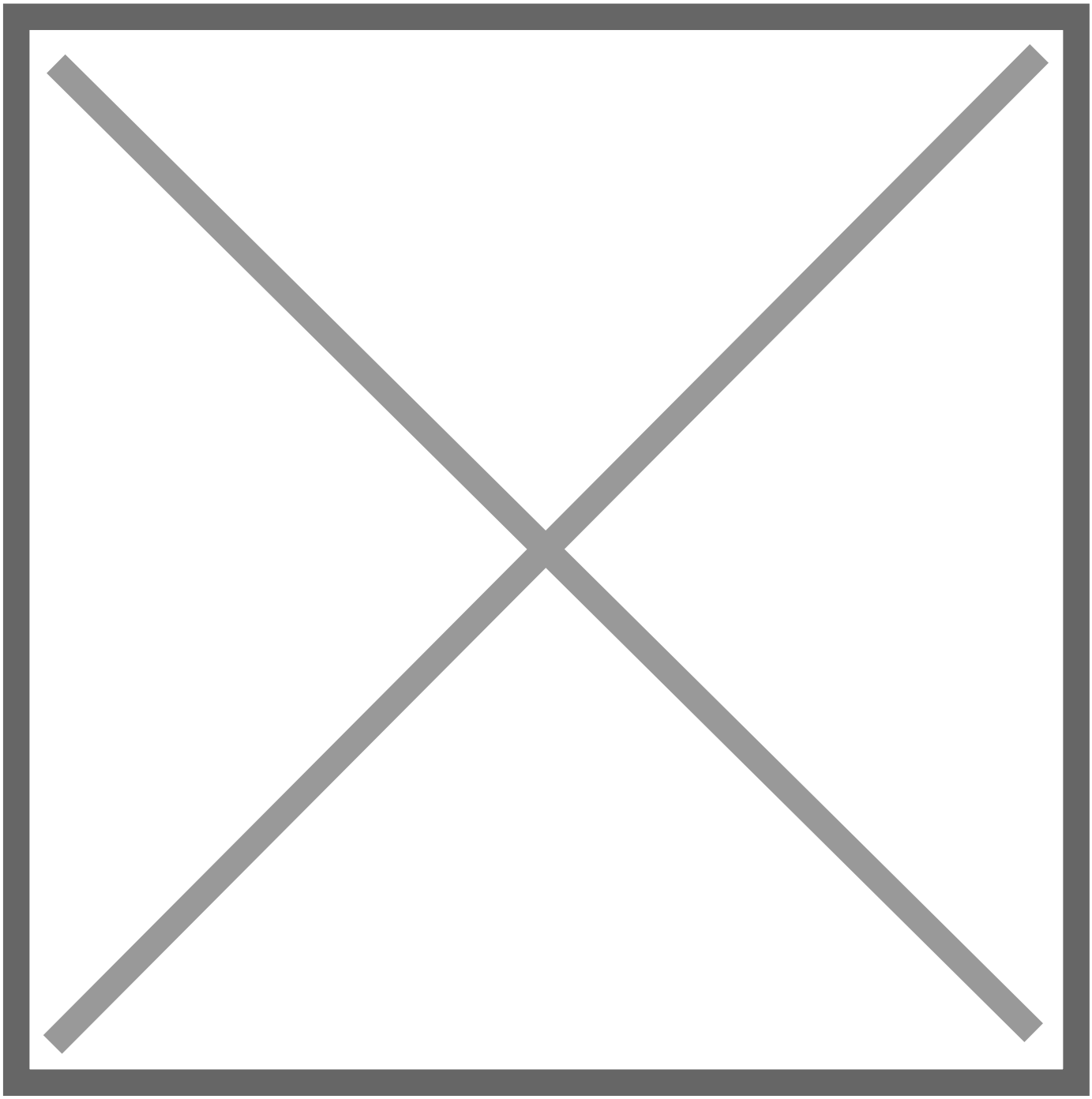
Boys, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1078
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only)
Definitions:	Prevalence of daily consumption of soft drinks containing sugar, as reported by the child's parent (%)

Girls, 2022-2024

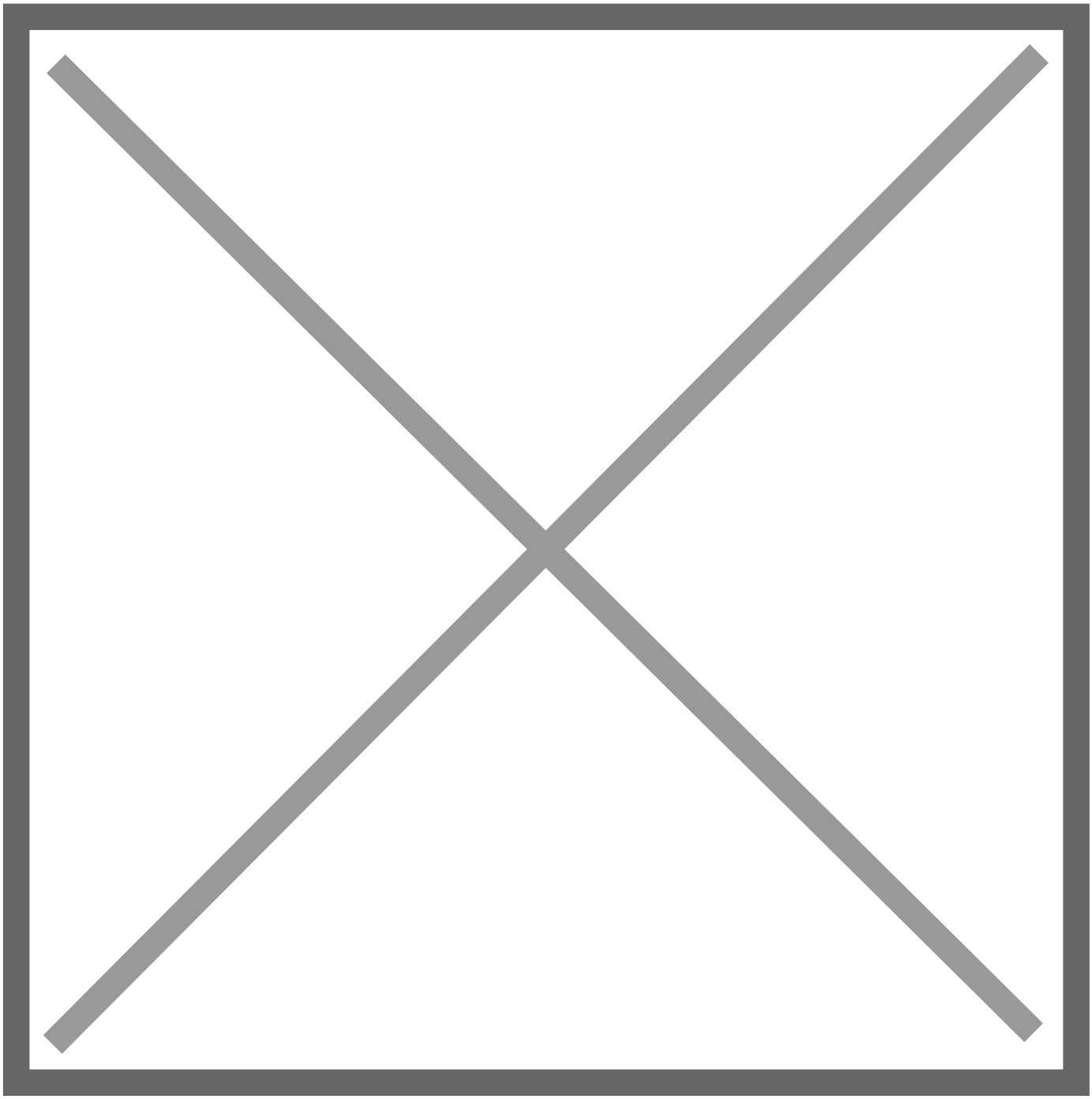


Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1078
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only)
Definitions:	Prevalence of daily consumption of soft drinks containing sugar, as reported by the child's parent (%)

Prevalence of less than daily fruit consumption

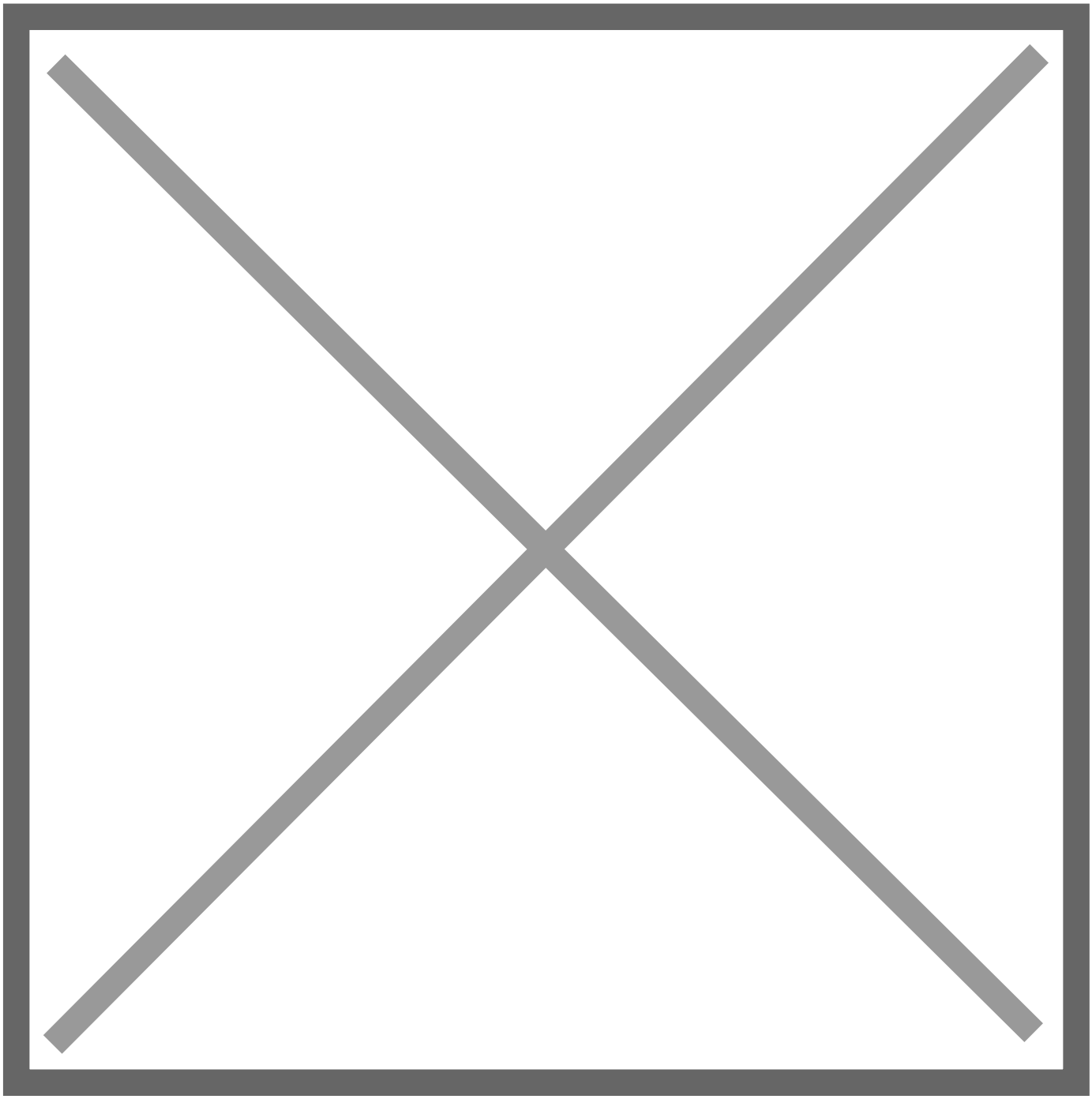
Children, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1070
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only).
Definitions:	Proportion of children whose parents reported that their child consumes fruit less than daily

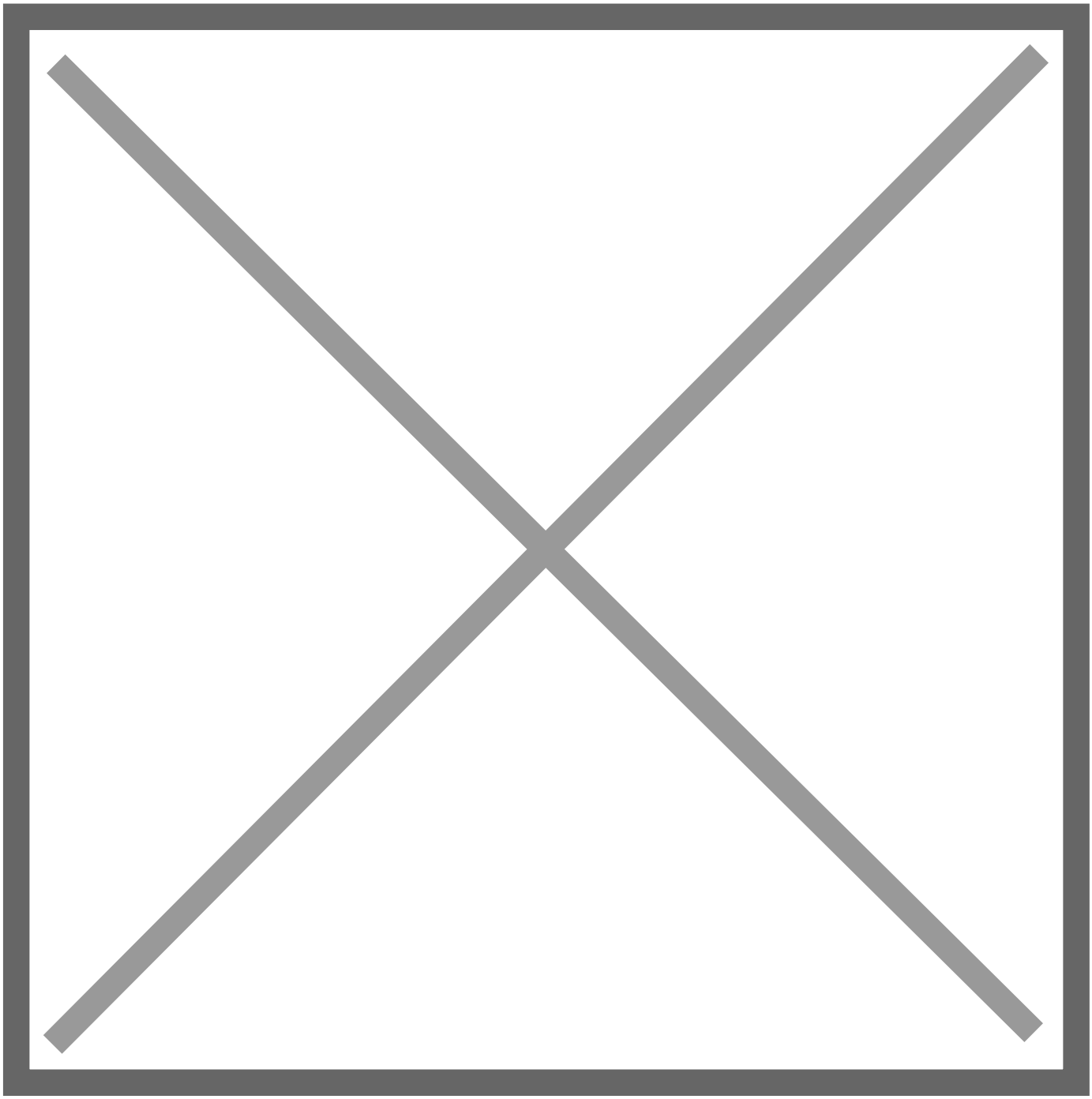
Boys, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1070
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only).
Definitions:	Proportion of children whose parents reported that their child consumes fruit less than daily

Girls, 2022-2024

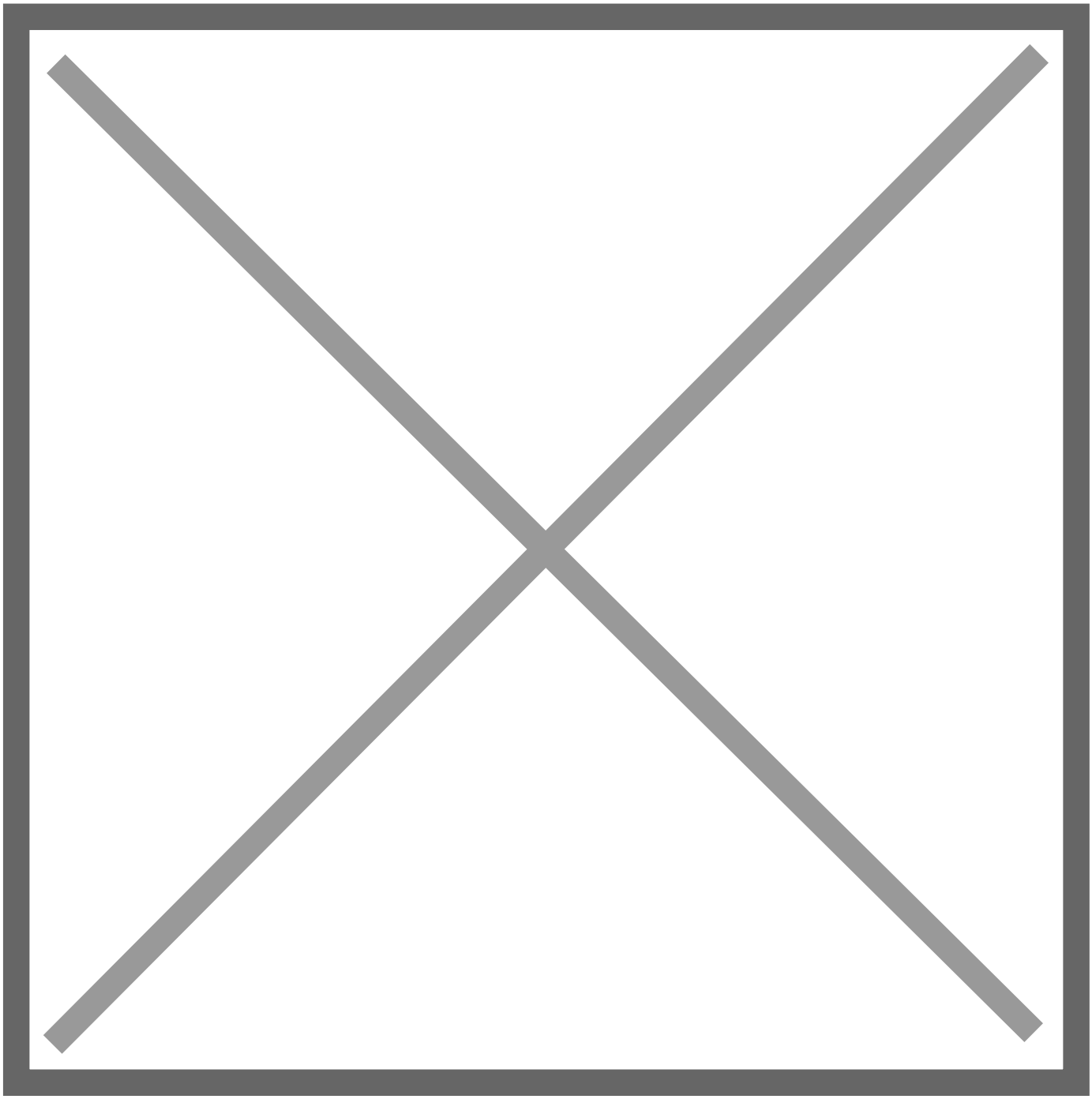


Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1070
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only).
Definitions:	Proportion of children whose parents reported that their child consumes fruit less than daily

Prevalence of less than daily vegetable consumption

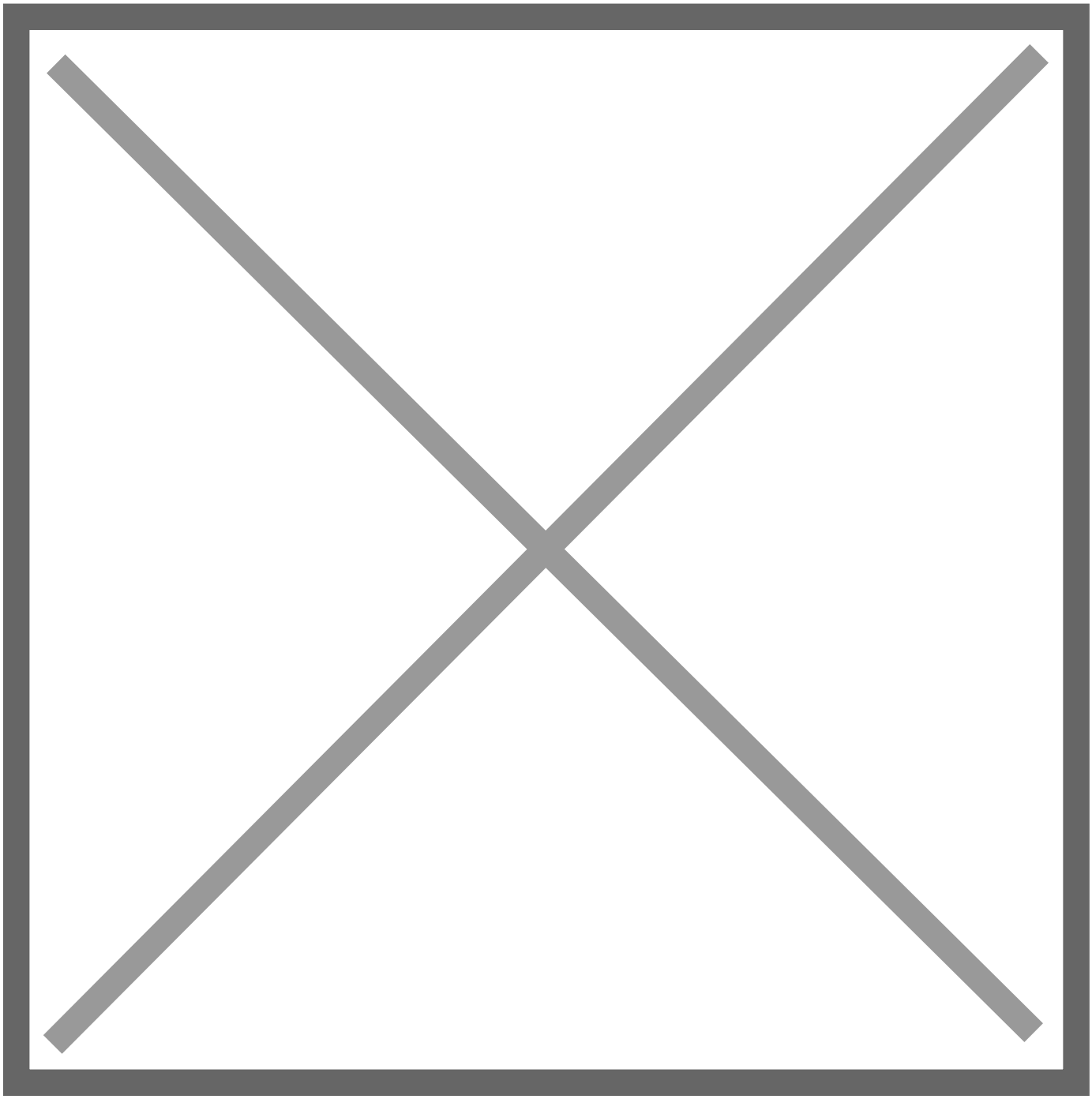
Children, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1071
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only).
Definitions:	Proportion of children whose parents reported that their child consumes vegetables less than daily

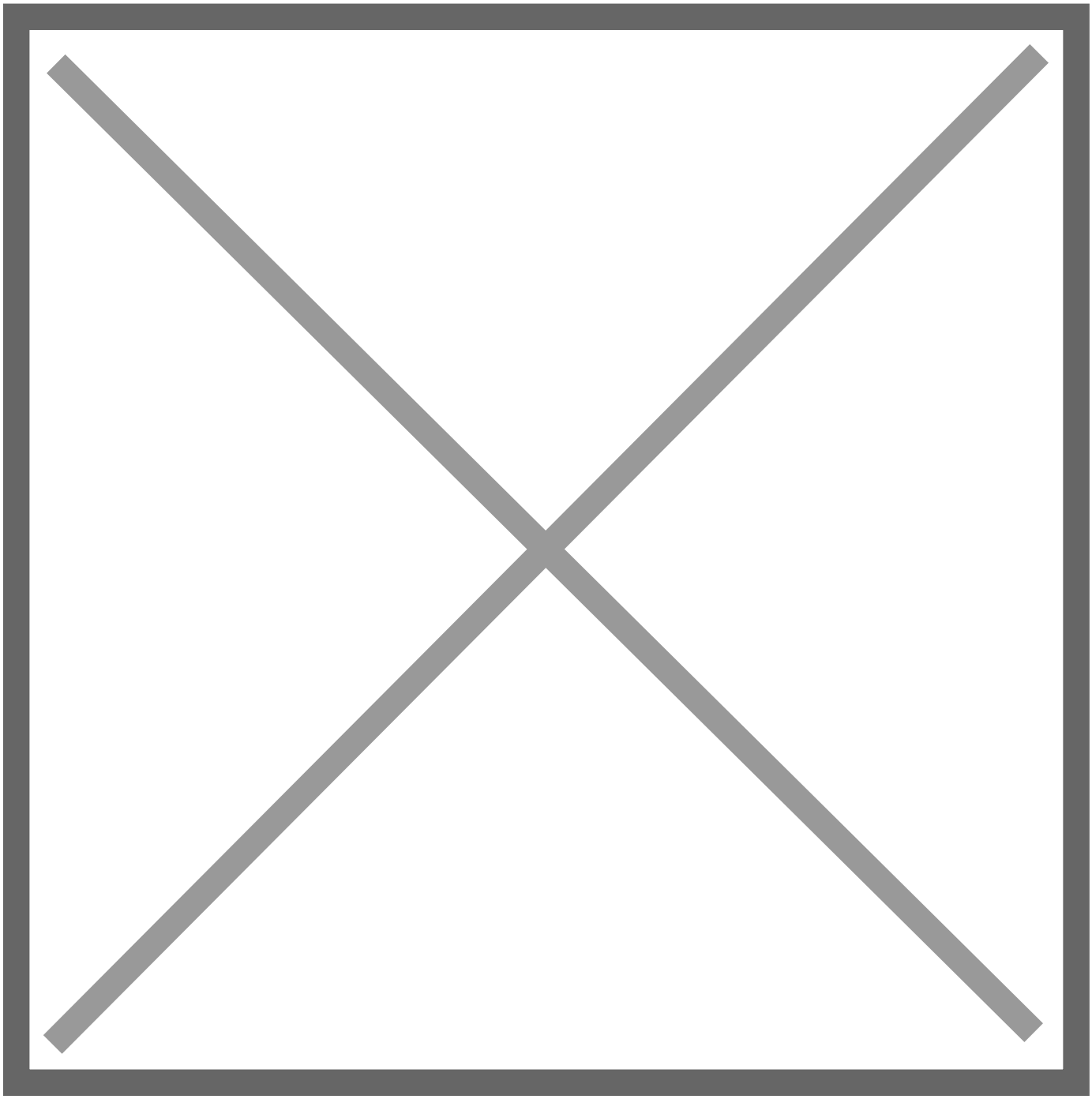
Boys, 2022-2024



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	6-9
Sample size:	1071
Area covered:	National

References:	WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI): report on the sixth round of data collection, 2022– 2024. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2025. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Notes:	National data excluding Germany (Bremen only) and Kazakhstan (Almaty only).
Definitions:	Proportion of children whose parents reported that their child consumes vegetables less than daily

Girls, 2022-2024

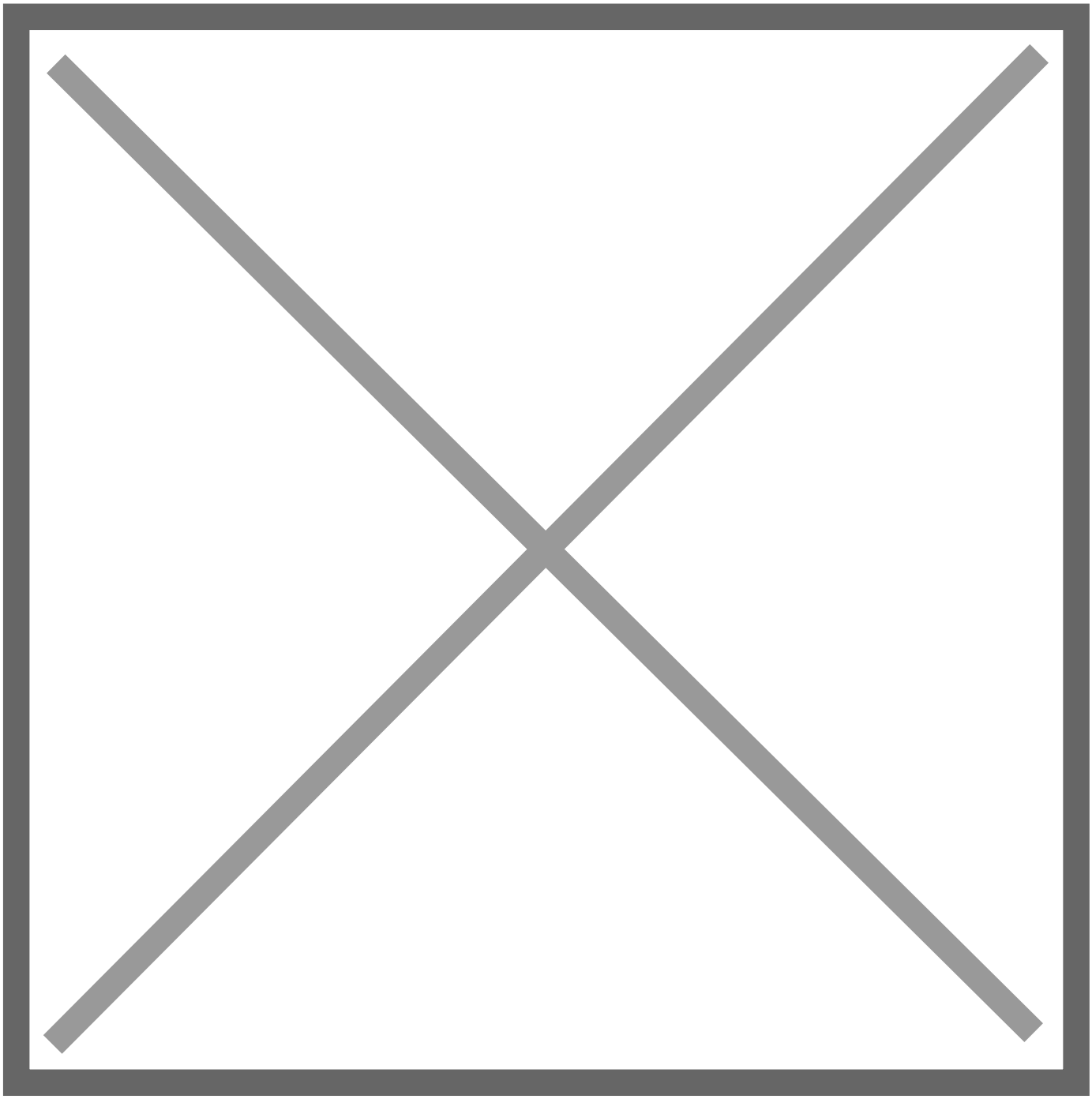


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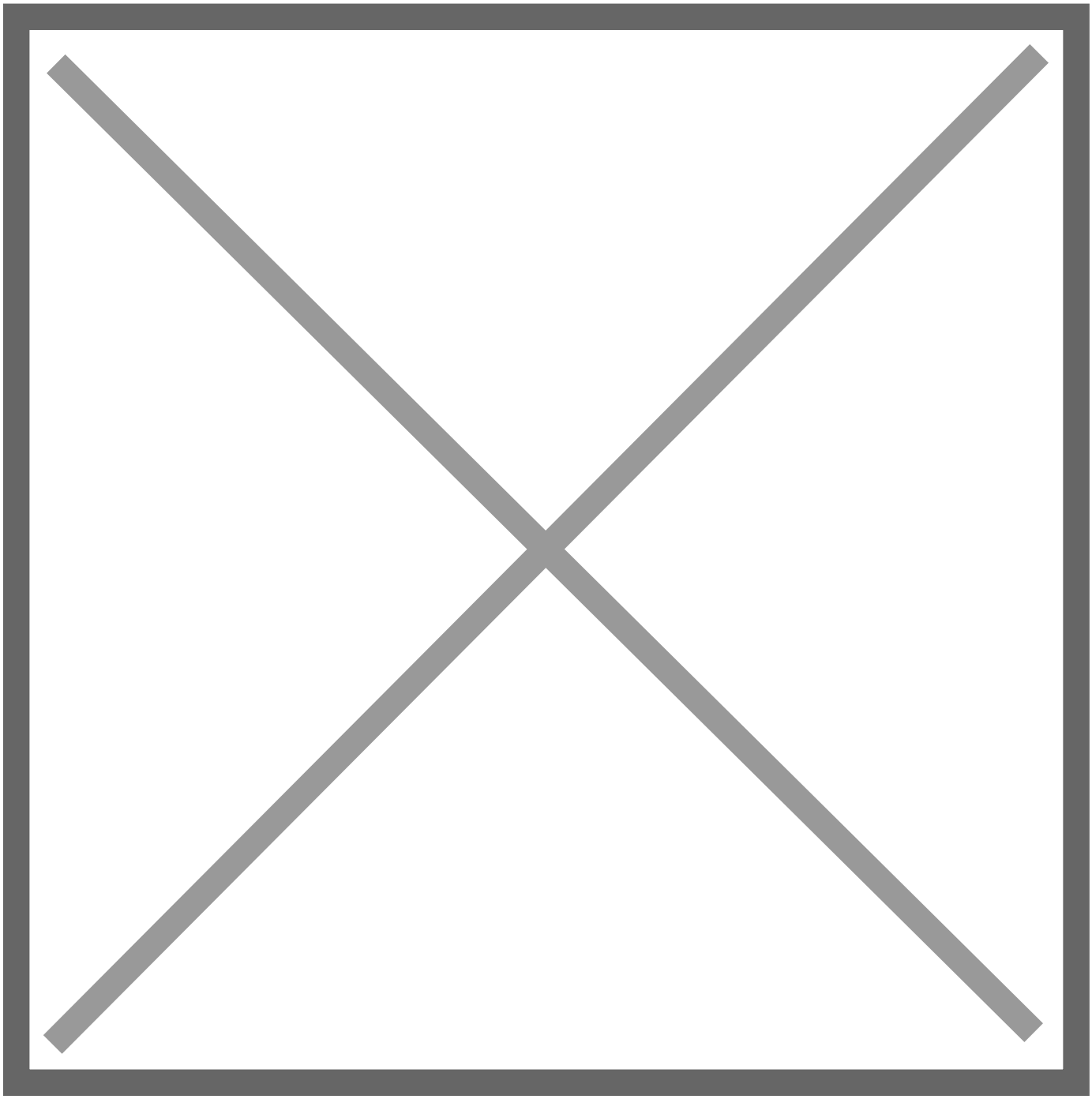
Mental health - depression disorders

Children, 2023



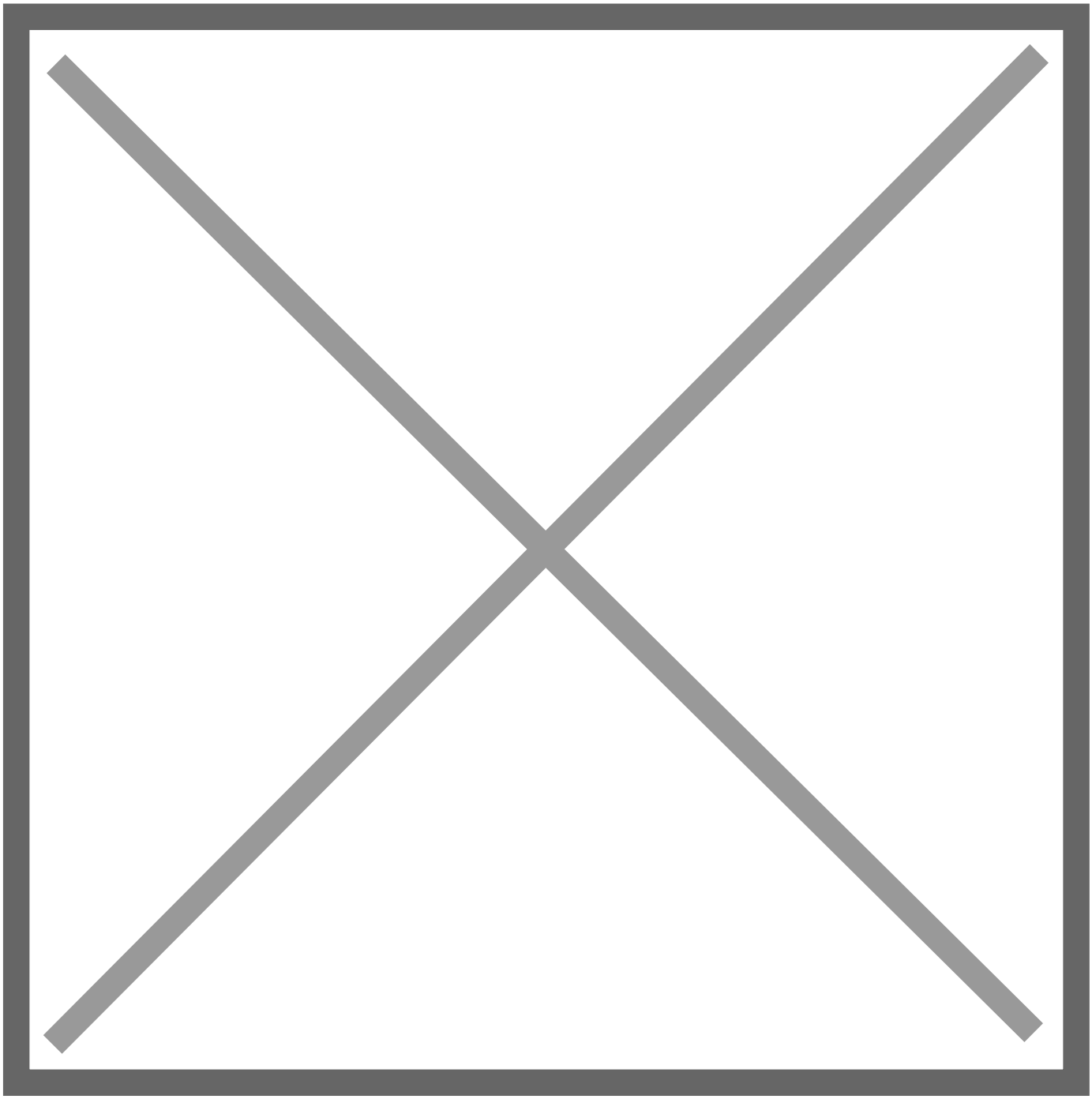
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
Definitions:	Estimated number living with depressive disorders per 100,000 population (under 20 years of age)

Boys, 2023



Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
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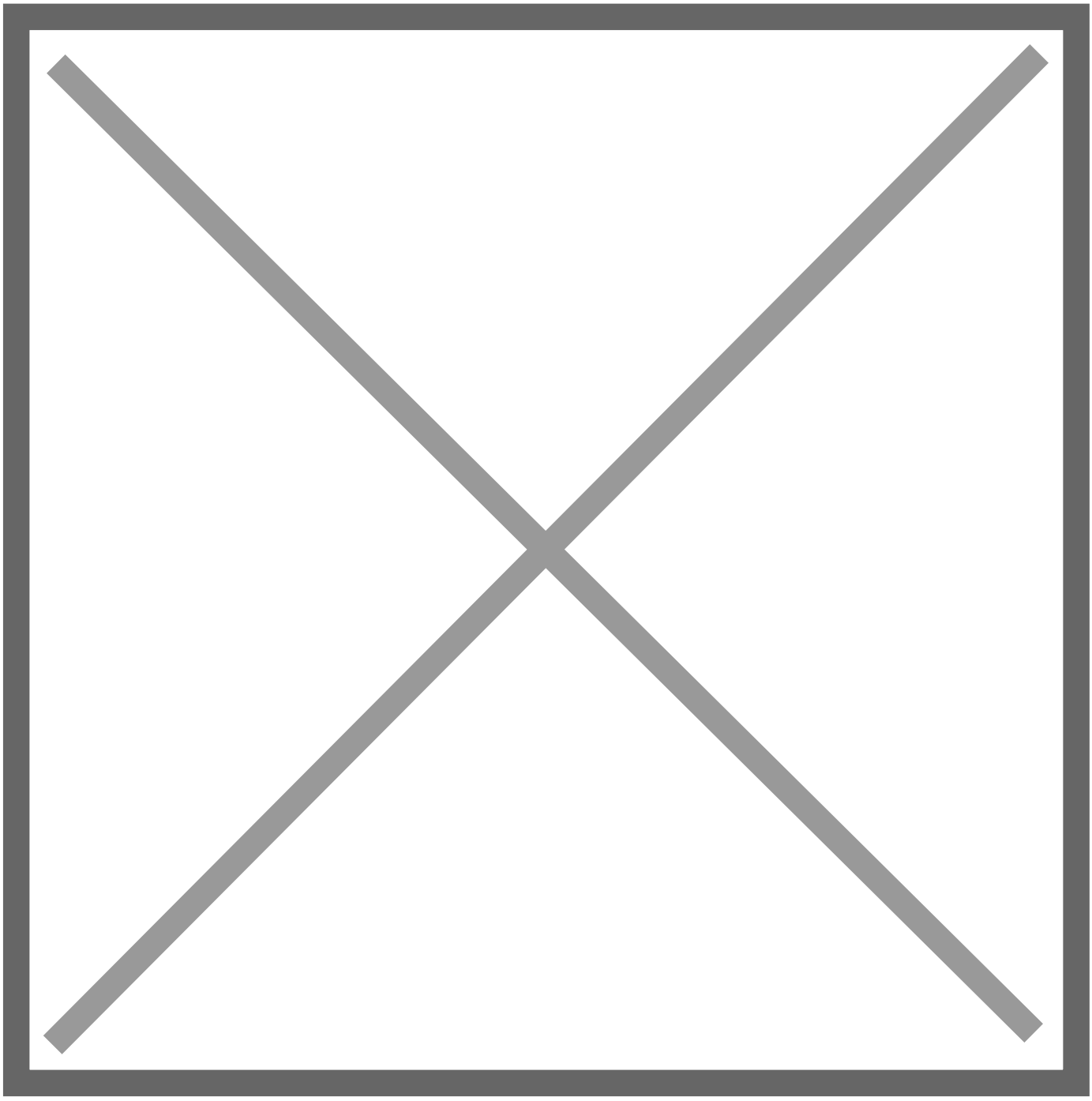
Girls, 2023



Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
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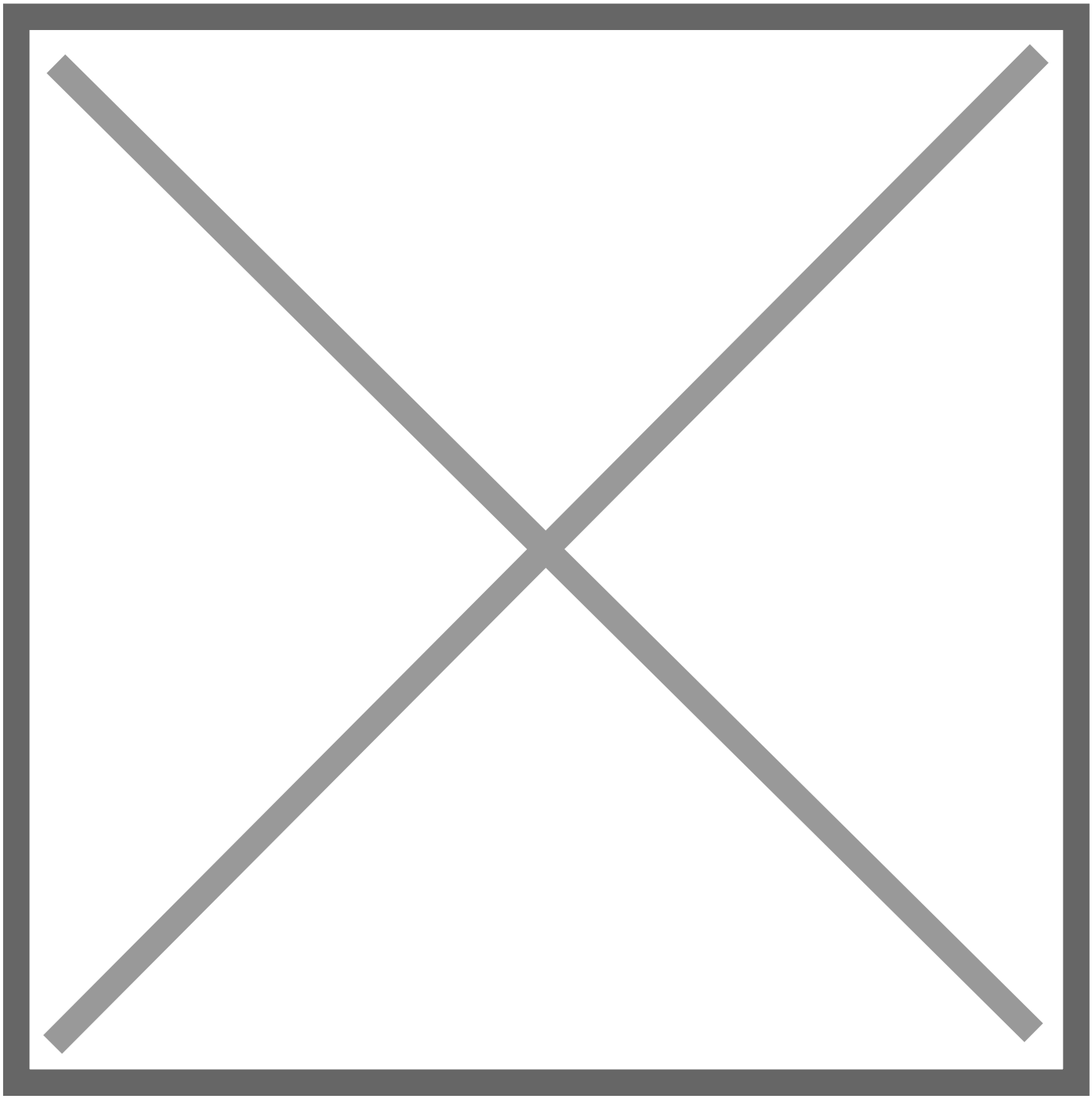
Mental health - anxiety disorders

Children, 2023



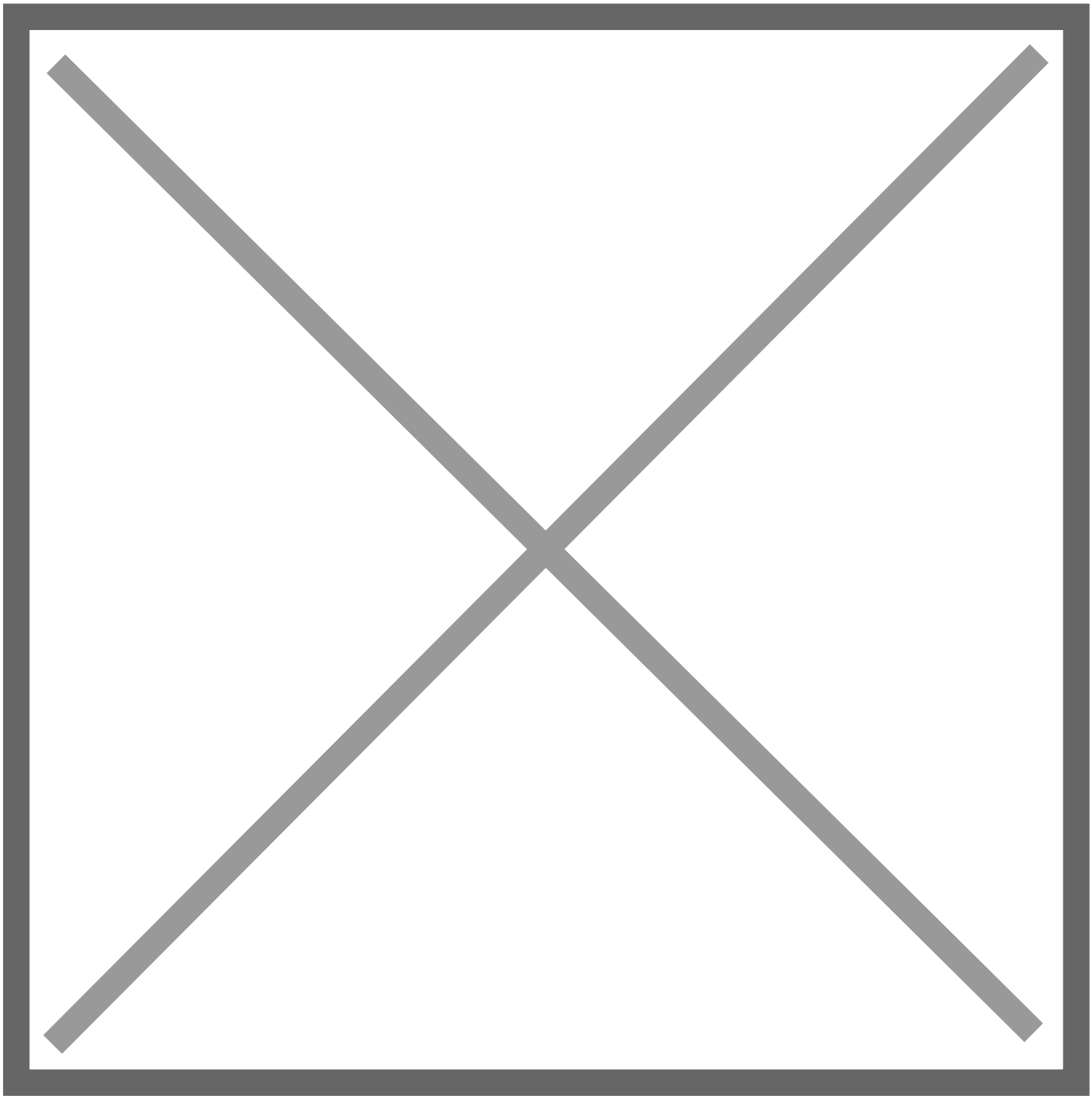
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Definitions:	Estimated number living with anxiety disorders per 100,000 population (under 20 years of age)

Boys, 2023



Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
Definitions:	Estimated number living with anxiety disorders per 100,000 population (under 20 years of age)

Girls, 2023



Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
Definitions:	Estimated number living with anxiety disorders per 100,000 population (under 20 years of age)

PDF created on November 4, 2026