



# Malawi



## Country report card - under-5s

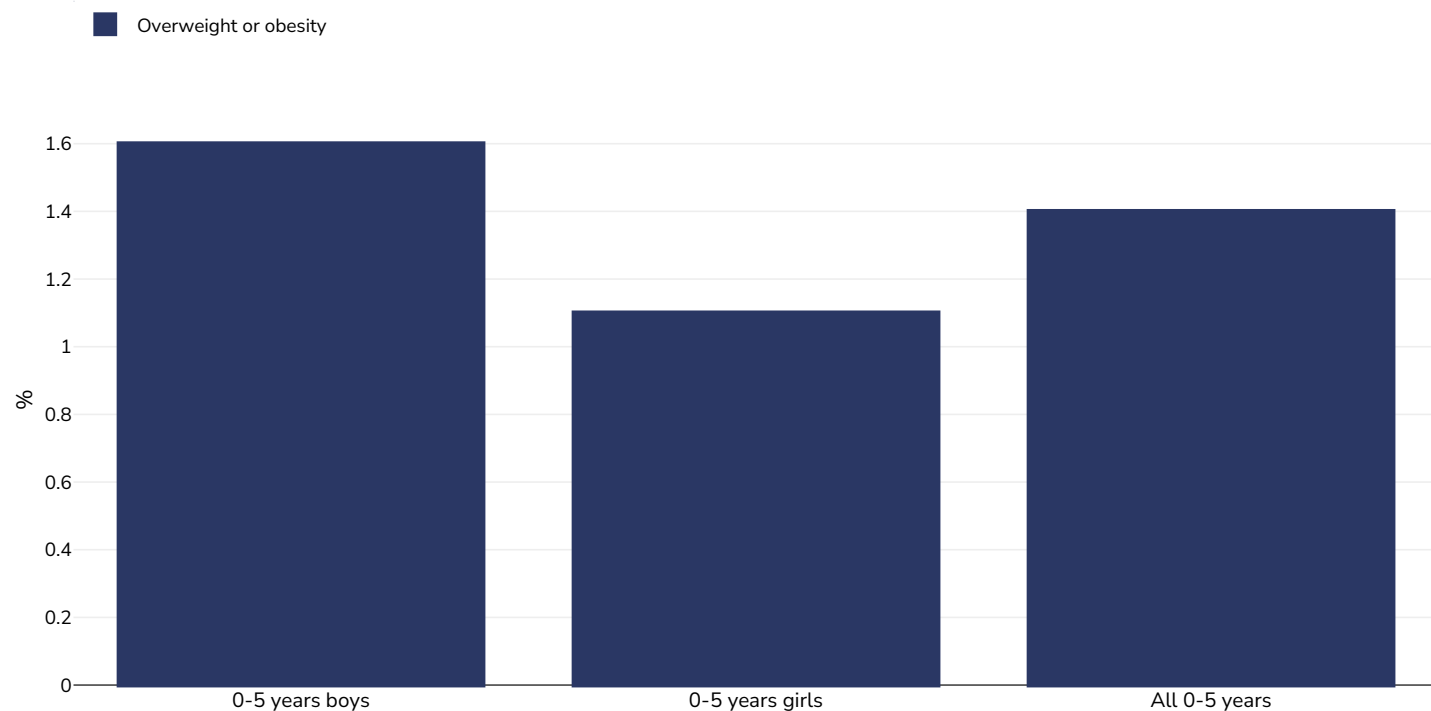
*This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity for children under 5. Where available, data on common and relevant obesity drivers and comorbidities are also presented.*

*View the latest version of this report on the Global Obesity Observatory at <https://data.worldobesity.org/country/malawi-129/>*

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## Obesity prevalence

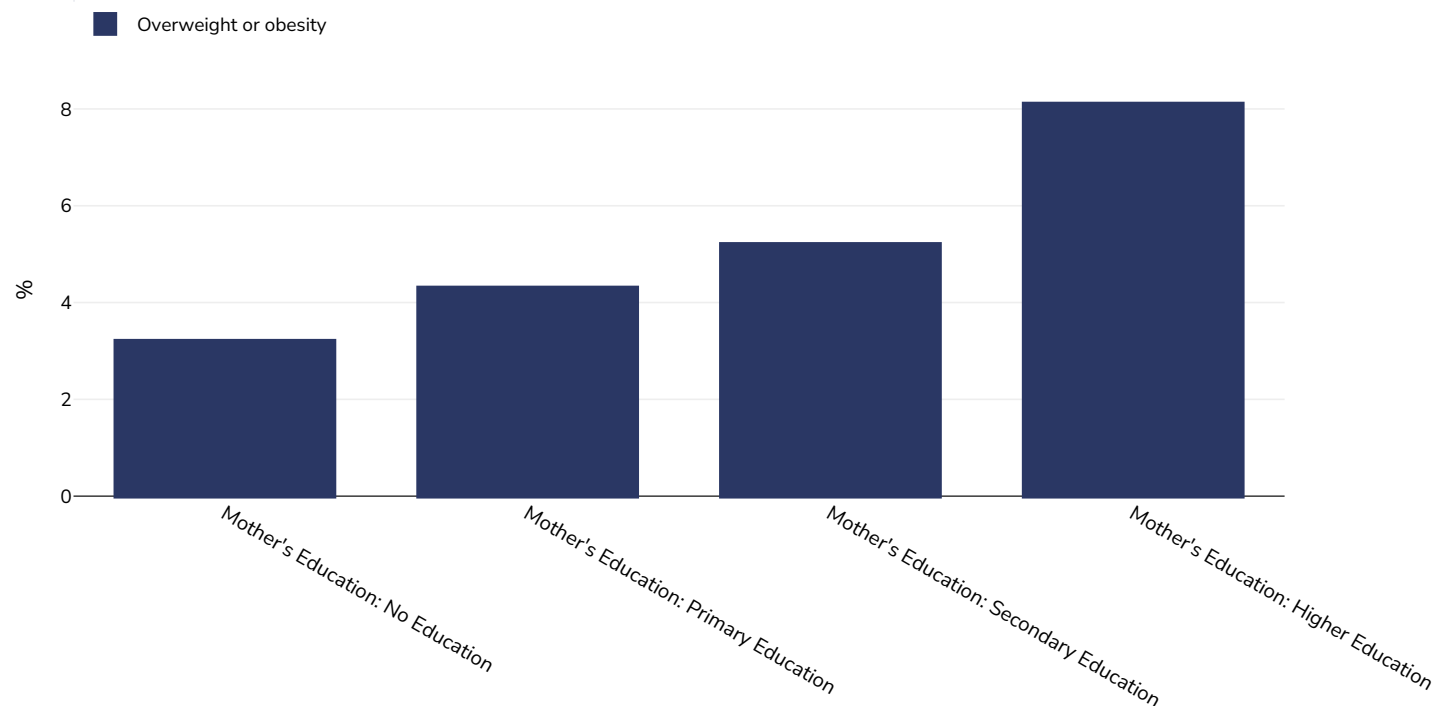
### 0-5 years, 2020



Age:	0-5
Sample size:	2142
References:	SMART: Report of the Round 7 Nutrition SMART Surveys Conducted in the Flood- and Drought- Prone Livelihood Zones of Malawi
Notes:	UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates Expanded Database: Overweight (Survey Estimates), May 2023, New York. For more information about the methodology, please consult <a href="https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/">https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/</a> Percentage of children under 5 years of age falling above 2 standard deviations (moderate and severe) from the median weight-for-height of the reference population.
Definitions:	=>+2SD

## Overweight/obesity by education

0-5 years, 2019-2020



**Sample size:** 14990

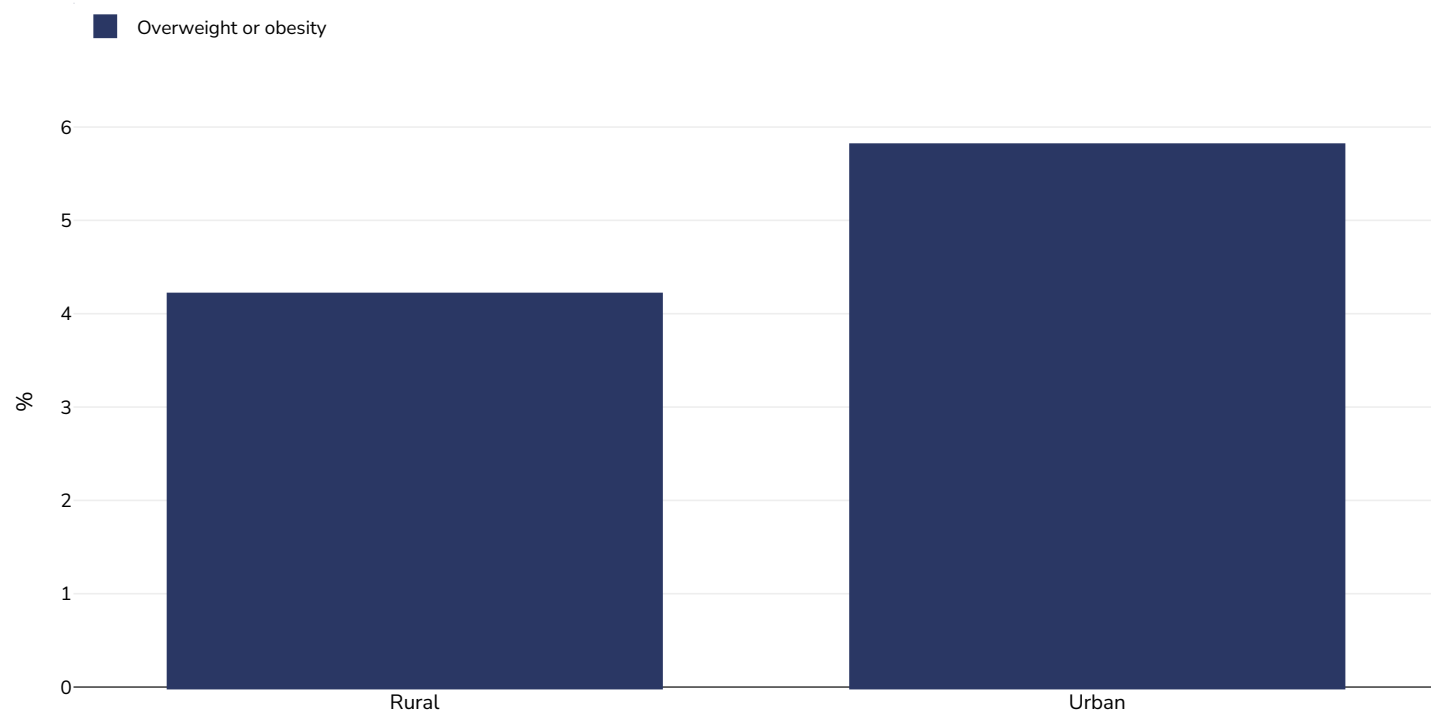
**References:** MICS: Malawi Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-20, Survey Findings Report. Zomba, Malawi: National Statistical Office

**Notes:** UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates Expanded Database: Overweight (Survey Estimates), May 2023, New York.  
For more information about the methodology, please consult <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/>  
Percentage of children under 5 years of age falling above 2 standard deviations (moderate and severe) from the median weight-for-height of the reference population.

**Definitions:** =>+2SD

## Overweight/obesity by region

0-5 years, 2019-2020



Sample size: 14990

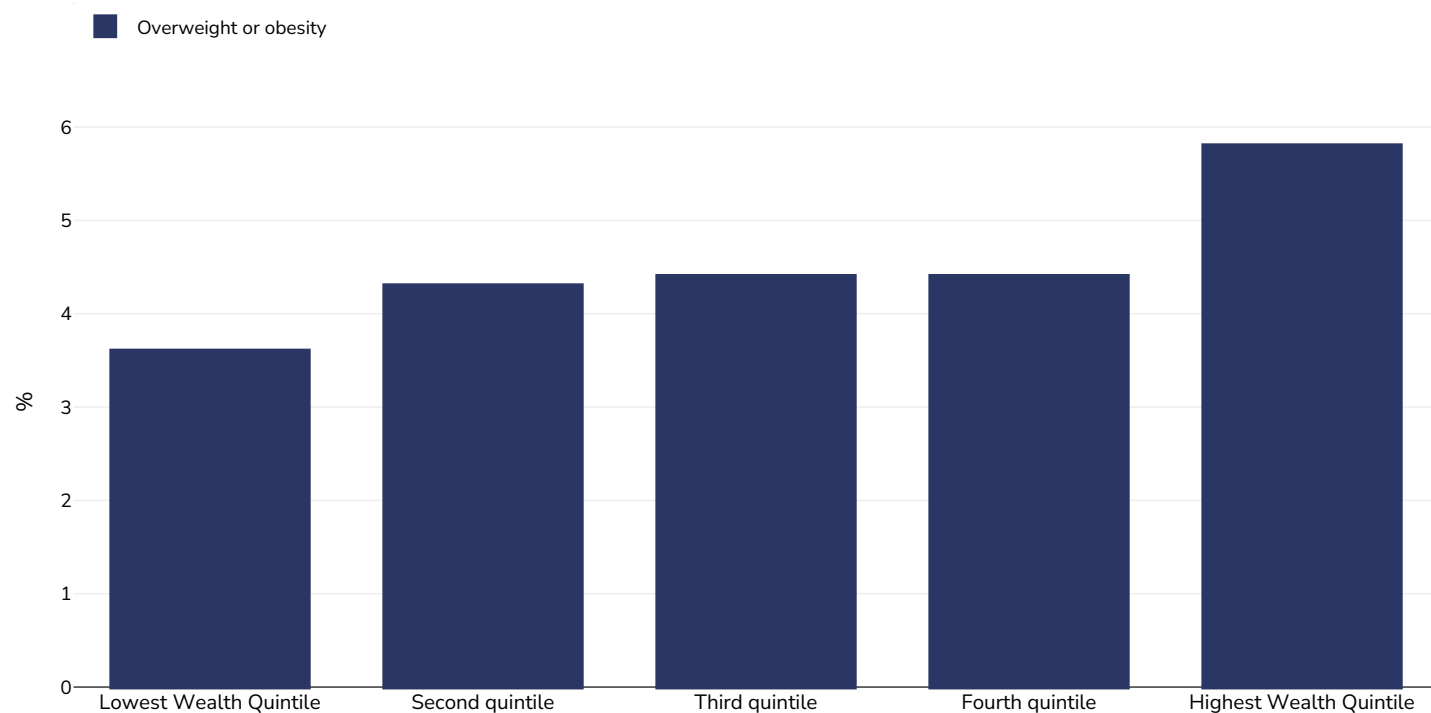
References: MICS: Malawi Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-20, Survey Findings Report. Zomba, Malawi: National Statistical Office

Notes: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates Expanded Database: Overweight (Survey Estimates), May 2023, New York.  
For more information about the methodology, please consult <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/>  
Percentage of children under 5 years of age falling above 2 standard deviations (moderate and severe) from the median weight-for-height of the reference population.

Definitions: =>+2SD

## Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

0-5 years, 2019-2020



Sample size: 14990

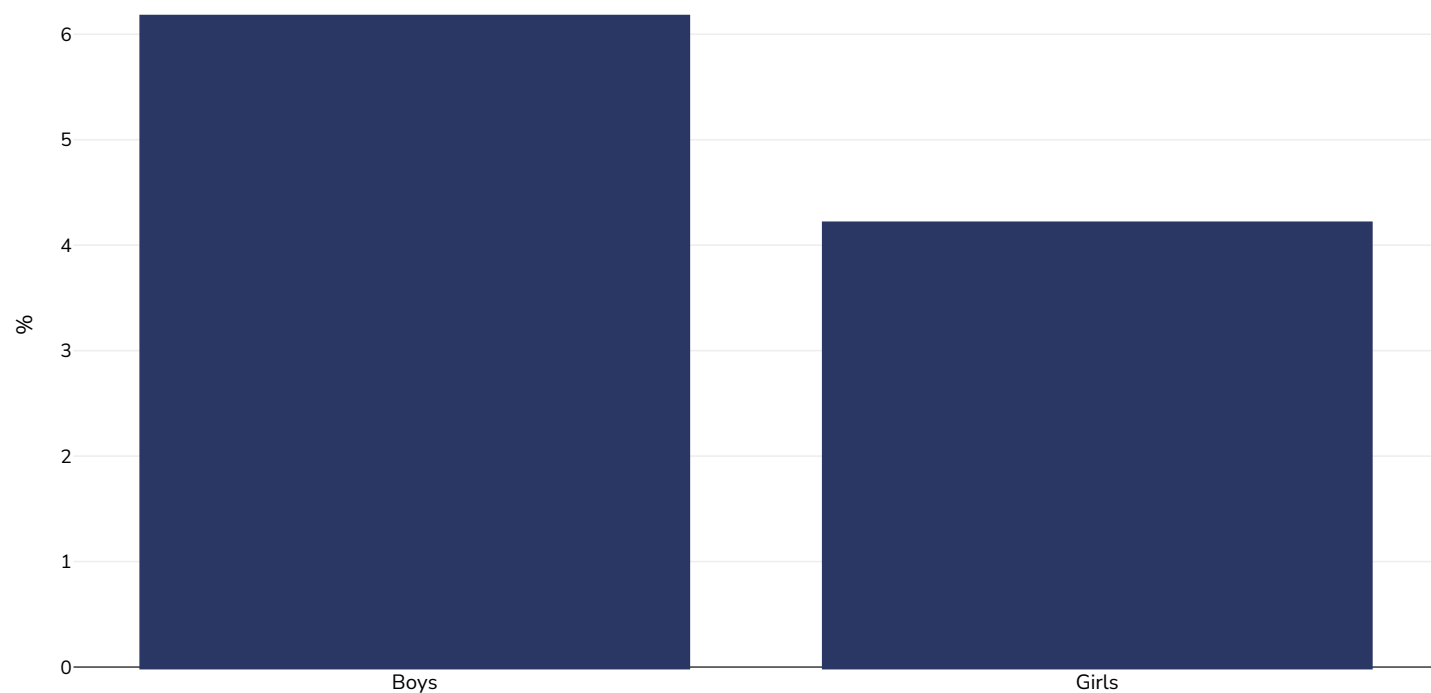
References: MICS: Malawi Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-20, Survey Findings Report. Zomba, Malawi: National Statistical Office

Notes: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates Expanded Database: Overweight (Survey Estimates), May 2023, New York.  
For more information about the methodology, please consult <https://data.unicef.org/resources/jme-2023-country-consultations/>  
Percentage of children under 5 years of age falling above 2 standard deviations (moderate and severe) from the median weight-for-height of the reference population.

Definitions: =>+2SD

## Double burden of underweight & overweight

0-5 years, 2020-2020



Survey type: Measured

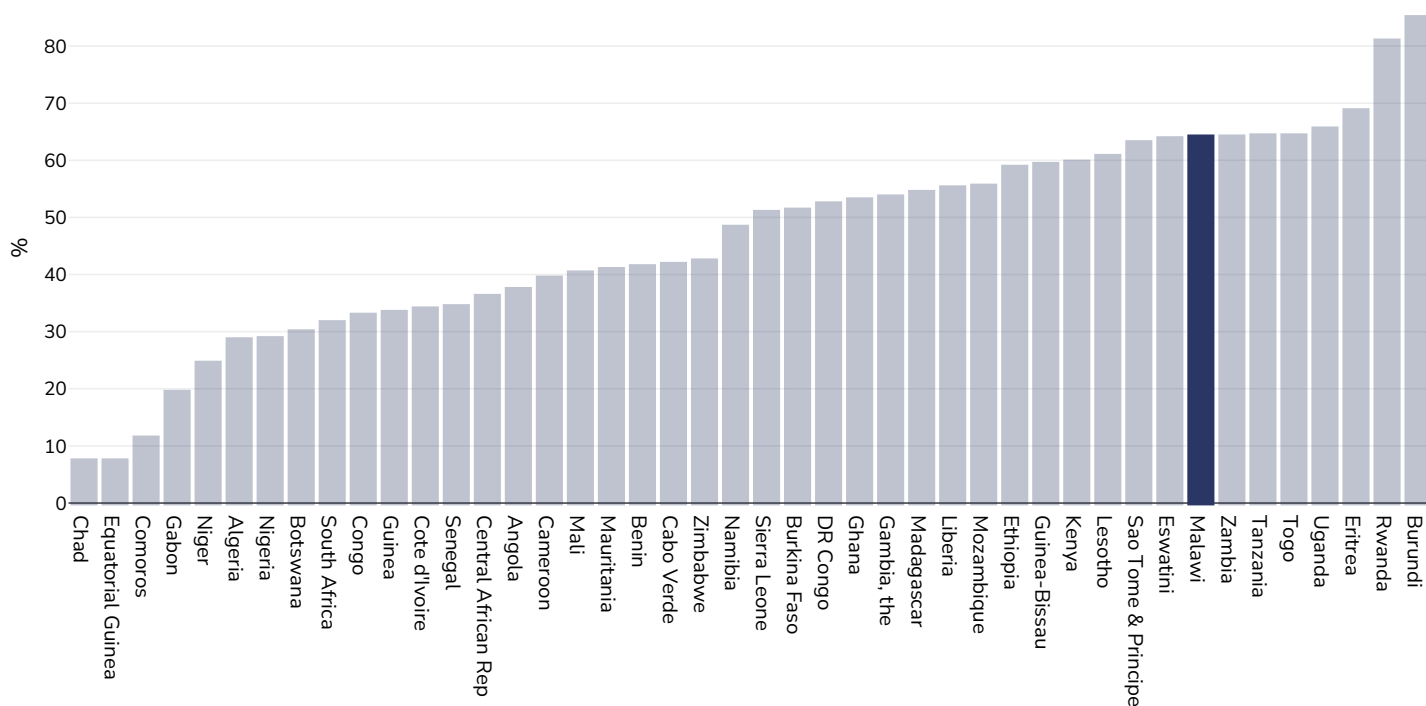
Age: 0-5

References: UNICEF data available at <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/> (last accessed 12.03.25)

Notes: Children under 5 falling below -2 standard deviations from the median height for age and falling at or above +2 standard deviations from the median weight-for-height of the reference population

## % Infants exclusively breastfed 0-5 months

0-5 years, 2010-2024



**References:** Malawi Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-20, Survey Findings Report. Zomba, Malawi: National Statistical Office

**Notes:** Full details are available. Original citation United Nations Children's Fund, Division of Data, Analysis, Planning and Monitoring (2023). Global UNICEF Global Databases: Infant and Young Child Feeding: Exclusive breastfeeding, New York, October 2023.

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