

Malaysia



Country report card - adults

This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity for adults. 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/malaysia-130/.

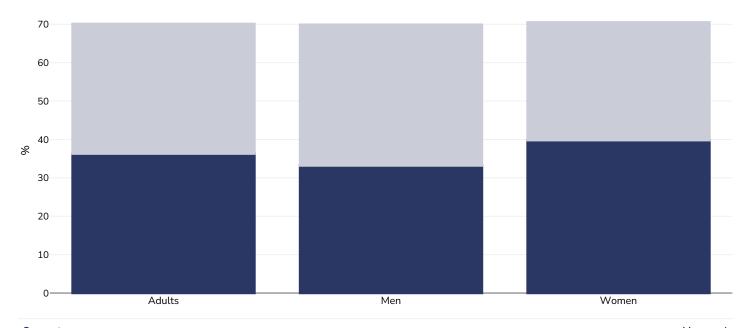


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Obesity prevalence





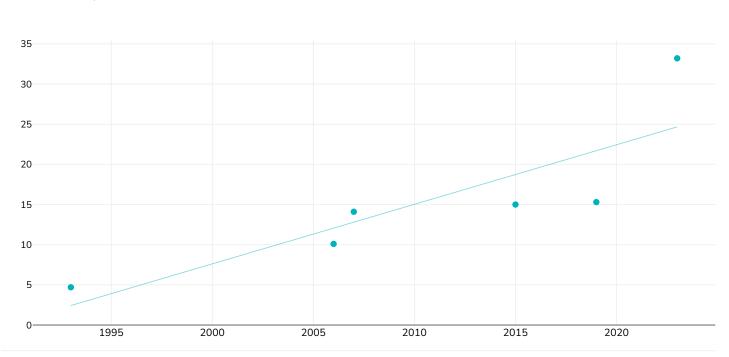
Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	10130
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)
Definitions:	The Malaysian Clinical Practice Guideline Management of Obesity (2023), Overweight BMI 23-27.4kg/m2, Obesity =>27.5 kg/m2
Cutoffs:	Overweight BMI 23-27.4kg/m2, Obesity =>27.5 kg/m2
	Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².



% Adults living with obesity in Malaysia 1993-2023

Men





Survey type: Measured

References:

1993: Ismail MN, Zawaih H, Chee SS, Ng KK. Prevalence of obesity and chronic energy deficiency (CED) in adult Malaysians. Malays J Nutrition. 1995; 1:1-9

2006: Khambalia AZ, Seen LS. Trends in overweight and obese adults in Malaysia (1996-2009): a systematic review. Obesity Reviews 2010; 11:403-412

2007: Mohamud WN, Musa KI, Khir AS, Ismail AA, Ismail IS, Kadir KA, Kamaruddin NA, Yaacob NA, Mustafa N, Ali O, Isa SH, Bebakar WM.Prevalence of overweight and obesity among adult Malaysians: an update. Asia Pac J Clin Nutr. 2011;20(1):35-41.
2015: Institute for Public Health (IPH) 2015. National Health and Morbidity Survey 2015 (NHMS 2015). Vol. II: Non-Communicable Diseases, Risk Factors & Other Health Problems; 2015.

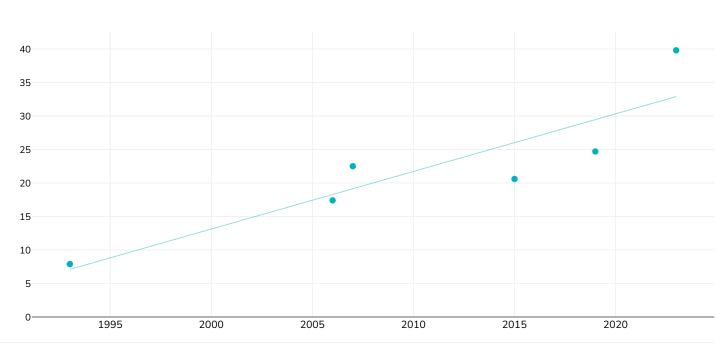
2019: Institute for Public Health (IPH), National Institutes of Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia. 2020. National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019: Vol. I: NCDs – Non-Communicable Diseases: Risk Factors and other Health Problems 2023: Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)

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Women

Obesity



Survey type: Measured

References:

1993: Ismail MN, Zawaih H, Chee SS, Ng KK. Prevalence of obesity and chronic energy deficiency (CED) in adult Malaysians. Malays J Nutrition. 1995; 1:1-9

2006: Khambalia AZ, Seen LS. Trends in overweight and obese adults in Malaysia (1996-2009): a systematic review. Obesity Reviews 2010; 11:403-412

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Diseases, Risk Factors & Other Health Problems; 2015.
2019: Institute for Public Health (IPH), National Institutes of Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia. 2020. National Health and Morbidity
Survey (NHMS) 2019: Vol. I: NCDs – Non-Communicable Diseases: Risk Factors and other Health Problems

Survey (NHMS) 2019: Vol. I: NCDs – Non-Communicable Diseases: Risk Factors and other Health Problems 2023: Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)

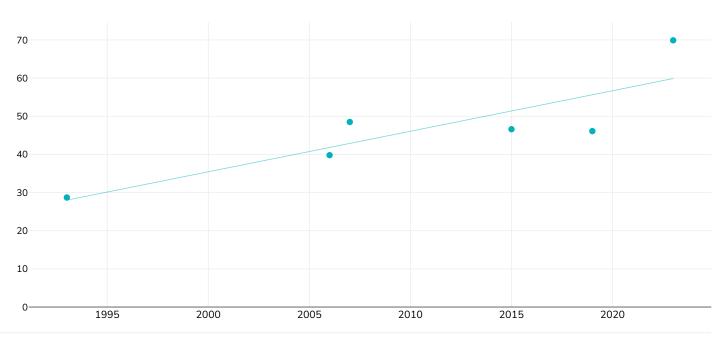
 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, \ obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$



% Adults living with overweight or obesity in Malaysia 1993-2023

Men

Overweight or obesity



Survey type: Measured

References:

1993: Ismail MN, Zawaih H, Chee SS, Ng KK. Prevalence of obesity and chronic energy deficiency (CED) in adult Malaysians. Malays J Nutrition. 1995; 1:1-9

2006: Khambalia AZ, Seen LS. Trends in overweight and obese adults in Malaysia (1996-2009): a systematic review. Obesity Reviews 2010; 11:403-412

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2015: Institute for Public Health (IPH) 2015. National Health and Morbidity Survey 2015 (NHMS 2015). Vol. II: Non-Communicable Diseases, Risk Factors & Other Health Problems; 2015.

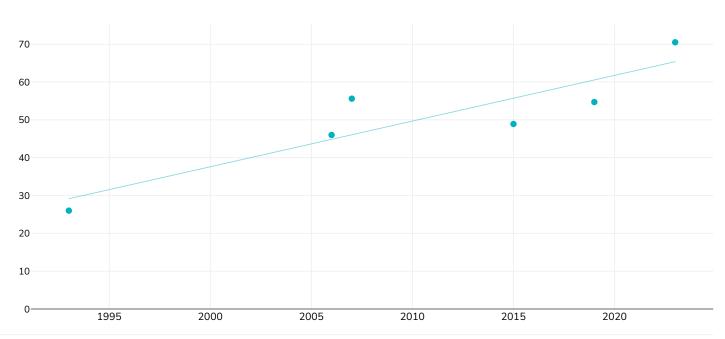
2019: Institute for Public Health (IPH), National Institutes of Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia. 2020. National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2019: Vol. I: NCDs – Non-Communicable Diseases: Risk Factors and other Health Problems 2023: Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)

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Women

Overweight or obesity



Survey type: Measured

References:

1993: Ismail MN, Zawaih H, Chee SS, Ng KK. Prevalence of obesity and chronic energy deficiency (CED) in adult Malaysians. Malays J Nutrition. 1995; 1:1-9

2006: Khambalia AZ, Seen LS. Trends in overweight and obese adults in Malaysia (1996-2009): a systematic review. Obesity Reviews 2010; 11:403-412

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Diseases, Risk Factors & Other Health Problems; 2015.
2019: Institute for Public Health (IPH), National Institutes of Health, Ministry of Health Malaysia. 2020. National Health and Morbidity

Survey (NHMS) 2019: Vol. I: NCDs – Non-Communicable Diseases: Risk Factors and other Health Problems 2023: Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)

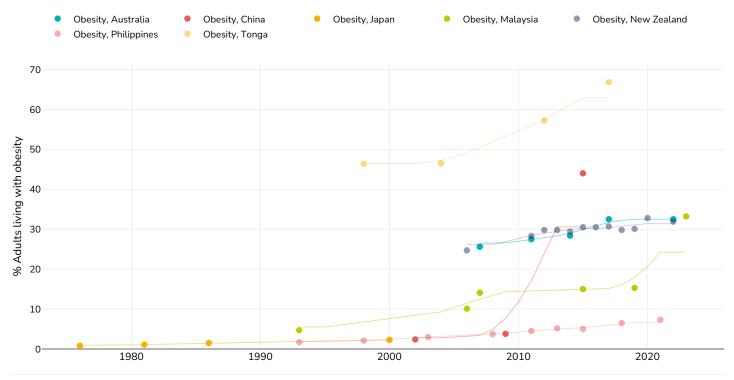
Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².



% Adults living with obesity in selected countries in the Asia/Oceania Region 1975-2019, selected countries



Men



References:

1976, 1981, 1986: Yoshiike N, Seino F, Tajima S, Arai Y, Kawano M, Furuhata T, Inoue S. Twenty-year changes in the prevalence of overweight in Japanese adults: The National Nutrition Survey 1976-95. Obesity Reviews 2002;3:183-190

1993, 2005, 2013: Chang HC, Yang HC, Chang HY, et al. Morbid obesity in Taiwan: Prevalence, trends, associated social demographics, and lifestyle factors. PLoS One. 2017;12(2):e0169577. Published 2017 Feb 2. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0169577

1995, 1996: Martorell R, Khan LK, Hughes ML, Grummer Strawn LM. Obesity in women from developing countries. EJCN (2000) 54;247-

1998: Colaguir S, Colagiuri R, Na'ati S, Muimuiheata S, Hussain Z and Palau T. (2002). The prevalence of diabetes in the Kingdom of Tonga. Diabetes care, 25: 1378 - 1383.

2000: Asia Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration. The burden of overweight and obesity in the Asia-Pacific region. Obesity Reviews 2007:8:191-196.

2001: SCN (2004). 5th Report on the World Nutrition Situation. Nutrition for Improved Development Outcomes. Appendix 11 2002: Report of the 2002 China National Nutrition and Health Survey. 2004. (In Chinese). Chinese Ministry of Public Health (CMPH). 2003: http://www.fnri.dost.gov.ph/files/fnri%20files/nns/factsandfigures2003/anthropometric.pdf (last accessed June 14th 2011) 2004: Tonga STEPS Survey 2004

2006: Gerritsen S, Stefanogiannis N, Galloway Y, Devlin M, Templaton R and Yeh L. A portrait of health: key results of the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey.

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2009: Yan, S., Li, J., Li, S., Zhang, B., Du, S., Gordon-Larsen, P., Adair, L. and Popkin, B. (2012), The expanding burden of cardiometabolic risk in China: the China Health and Nutrition Survey. Obesity Reviews. doi: 10.1111/j.1467-789X.2012.01016.x

2011: National Institute of Population Research and Training - NIPORT/Bangladesh, Mitra and Associates/Bangladesh, and ICF International. 2013. Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2011. Dhaka, Bangladesh: NIPORT, Mitra and Associates, and ICF International.

2012: New Zealand Health Survey. https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/annual-update-key-results-2018-19-new-zealand-health-survey (last accessed 14.07.20)

2014: National Institute of Population Research and Training - NIPORT/Bangladesh, Mitra and Associates, and ICF International. 2016. Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014. Dhaka, Bangladesh: NIPORT, Mitra and Associates, and ICF International... http://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR311-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm (last accessed 11th April 2016)

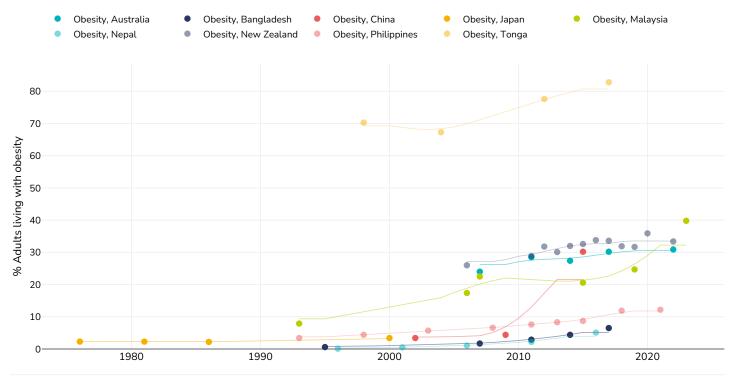
2015: Institute for Public Health (IPH) 2015. National Health and Morbidity Survey 2015 (NHMS 2015). Vol. II: Non-Communicable
Diseases, Risk Factors & Other Health Problems; 2015.

2016: Ministry of Health - MOH/Nepal, New ERA/Nepal, and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: MOH/Nepal, New ERA/Nepal, and ICF.





Women



References:

1976, 1981, 1986: Yoshiike N, Seino F, Tajima S, Arai Y, Kawano M, Furuhata T, Inoue S. Twenty-year changes in the prevalence of overweight in Japanese adults: The National Nutrition Survey 1976-95. Obesity Reviews 2002;3:183-190

1993, 2005, 2013: Chang HC, Yang HC, Chang HY, et al. Morbid obesity in Taiwan: Prevalence, trends, associated social demographics, and lifestyle factors. PLoS One. 2017;12(2):e0169577. Published 2017 Feb 2. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0169577

1995, 1996: Martorell R, Khan LK, Hughes ML, Grummer Strawn LM. Obesity in women from developing countries. EJCN (2000) 54;247-

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2011: National Institute of Population Research and Training - NIPORT/Bangladesh, Mitra and Associates/Bangladesh, and ICF International. 2013. Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2011. Dhaka, Bangladesh: NIPORT, Mitra and Associates, and ICF International.

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2014: National Institute of Population Research and Training - NIPORT/Bangladesh, Mitra and Associates, and ICF International. 2016. Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014. Dhaka, Bangladesh: NIPORT, Mitra and Associates, and ICF International... http://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR311-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm (last accessed 11th April 2016)

2015: Institute for Public Health (IPH) 2015. National Health and Morbidity Survey 2015 (NHMS 2015). Vol. II: Non-Communicable Diseases, Risk Factors & Other Health Problems; 2015.

2016: Ministry of Health - MOH/Nepal, New ERA/Nepal, and ICF. 2017. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2016. Kathmandu, Nepal: MOH/Nepal, New ERA/Nepal, and ICF.

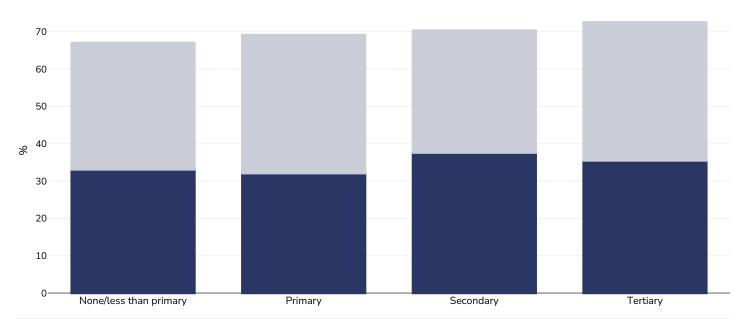




Overweight/obesity by education

Adults, 2023





Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	10130
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)
Definitions:	The Malaysian Clinical Practice Guideline Management of Obesity (2023)
Cutoffs:	Overweight BMI 23-27.4kg/m2, Obesity =>27.5 kg/m2

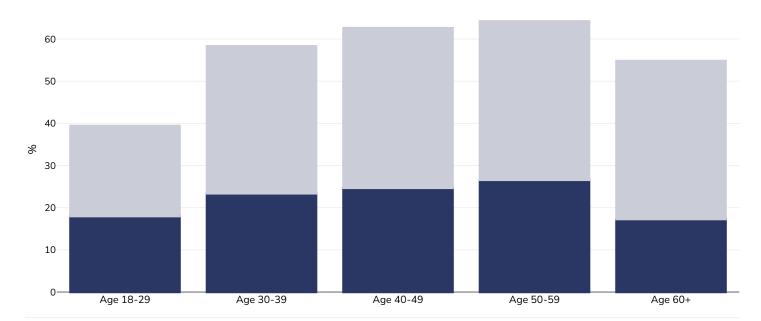
 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$



Overweight/obesity by age

Adults, 2023





Notes:	Asia cut off also available
References:	Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)
Area covered:	National
Sample size:	10130
Survey type:	Measured

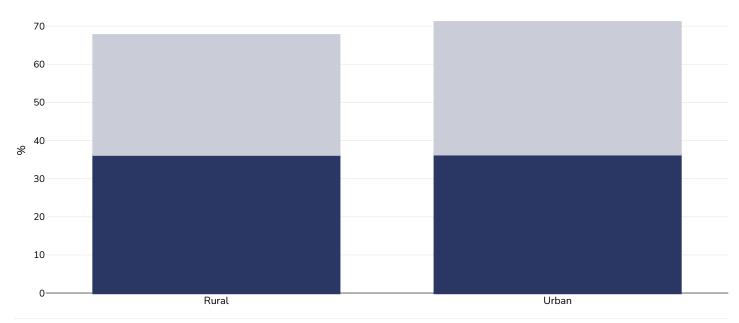
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Overweight/obesity by region

Adults, 2023





Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	10130
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)
Definitions:	The Malaysian Clinical Practice Guideline Management of Obesity (2023)
Cutoffs:	Overweight BMI 23-27.4kg/m2, Obesity =>27.5 kg/m2

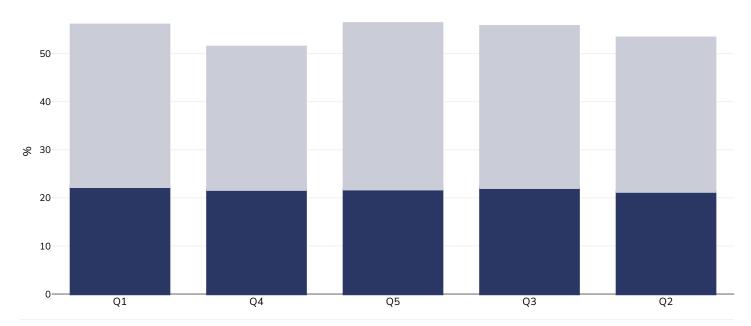
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Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

Adults, 2023





Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	10130
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Public Health (IKU). National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2023: Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand: Technical Report; 2024. Available at https://iku.nih.gov.my/nhms-2023 (last accessed 04.02.25)
Notes:	Malaysian Cut off also available

Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².

Malaysian Cut off available

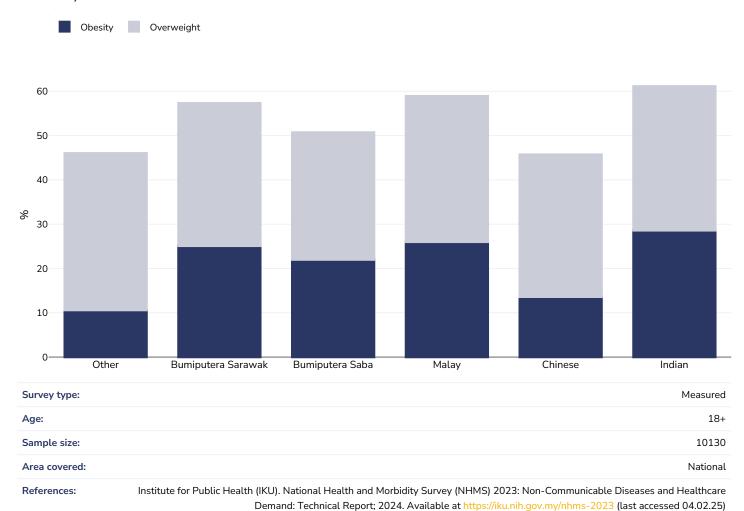


Overweight/obesity by ethnicity

Ethnic groups are as defined by publication of origin and are not as defined by WOF. In some instances ethnicity is conflated with nationality and/or race.

Adults, 2023

Notes:



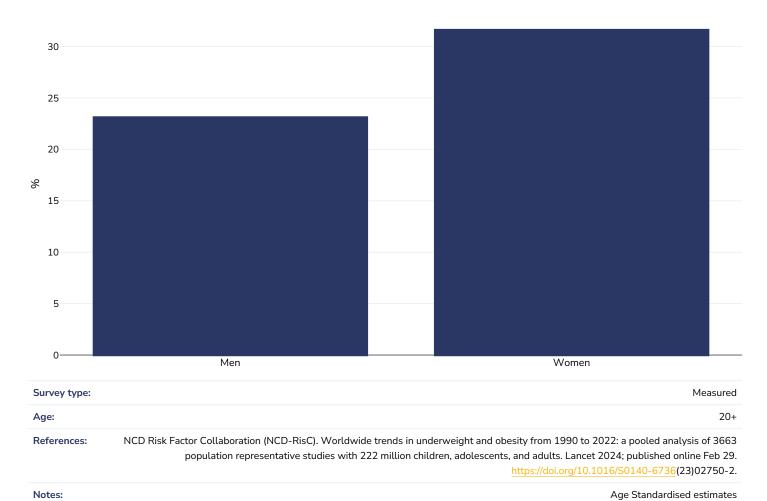
Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².



Double burden of underweight & overweight

Adults, 2022

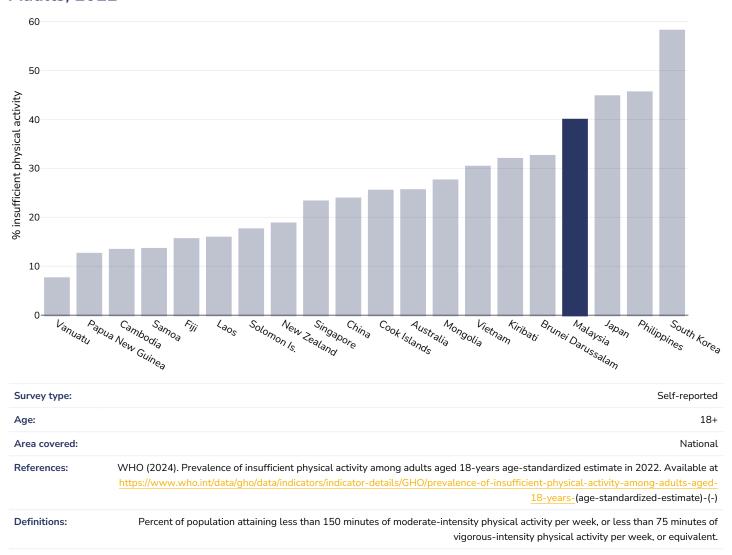
Definitions:



Combined prevalence of BMI<18.5 kg/m 2 and BMI>=30 kg/m 2 (double burden of underweight and obesity)

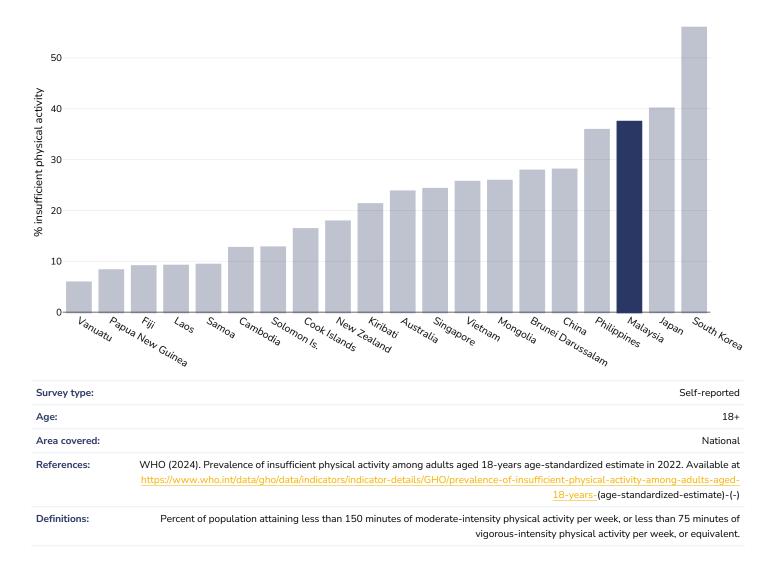


Insufficient physical activity



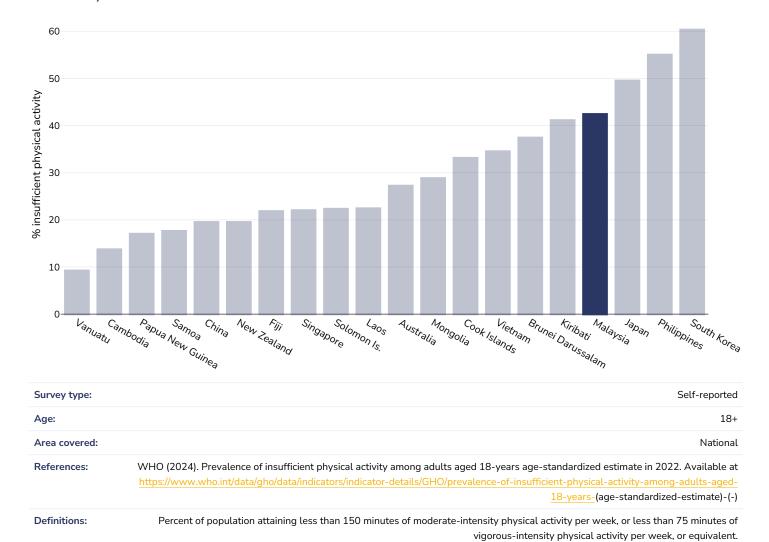


Men, 2022



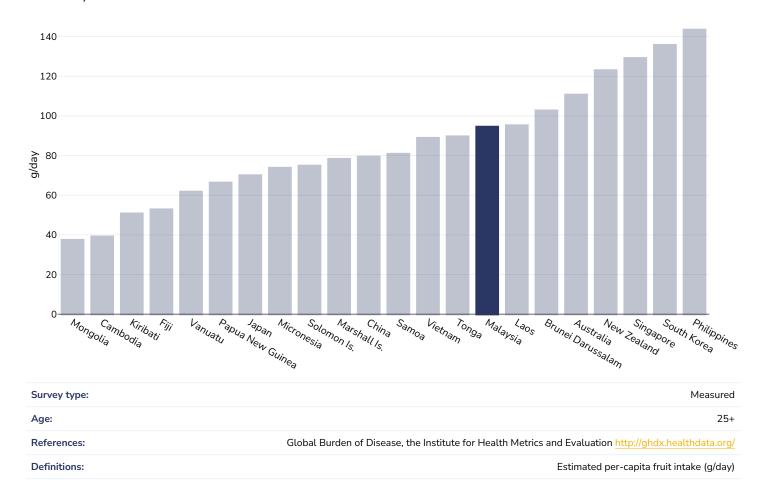


Women, 2022



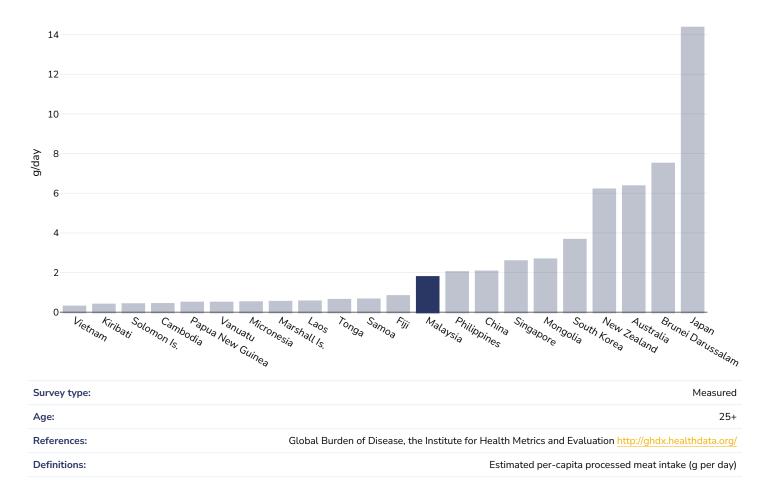


Estimated per capita fruit intake



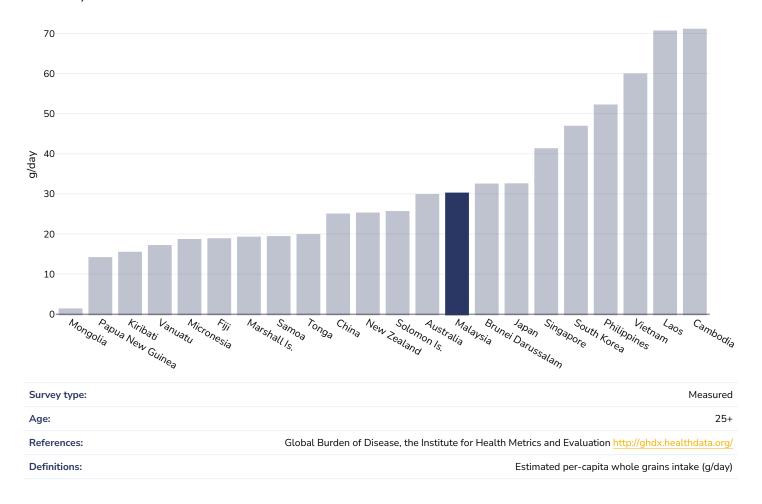


Estimated per-capita processed meat intake



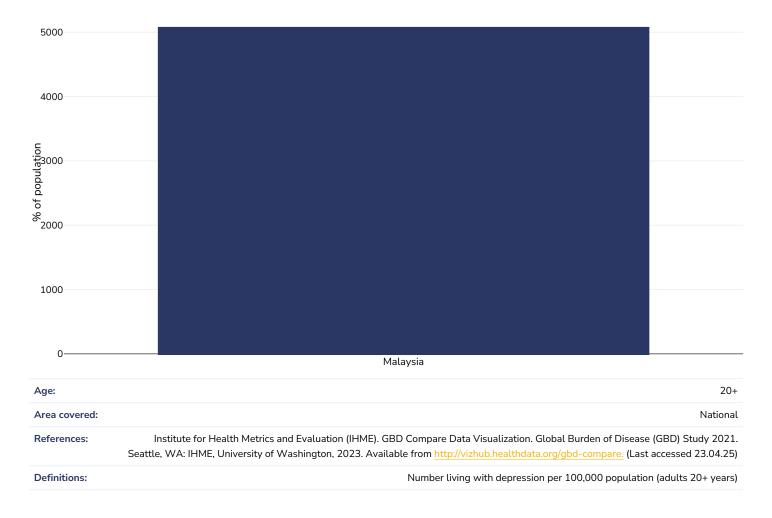


Estimated per capita whole grains intake



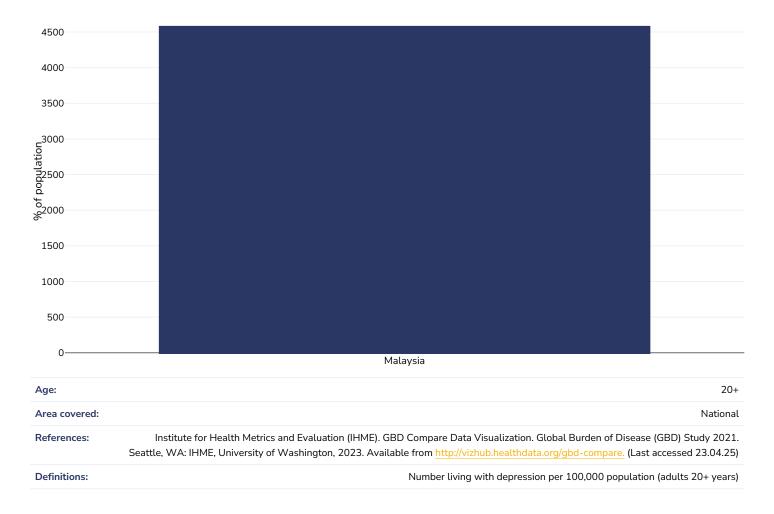


Mental health - depression disorders





Men, 2021



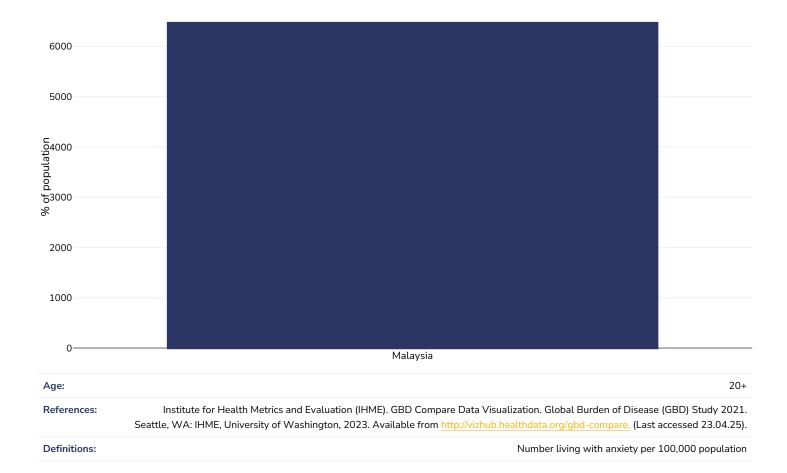


Women, 2021





Mental health - anxiety disorders





Men, 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).

Definitions:

Number living with anxiety per 100,000 population



Women, 2021



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).

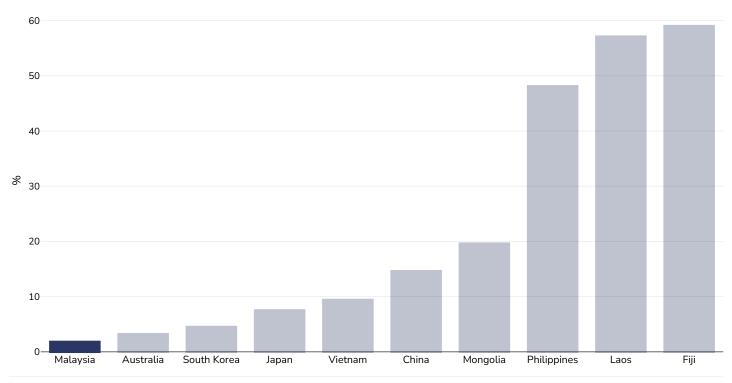
Definitions:

Number living with anxiety per 100,000 population



Percent of population who cannot afford a healthy diet

Adults, 2022



Area covered: National

References:

The Food Systems Dashboard. The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), The Columbia Climate School, and Cornell University

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. 2024. Geneva, Switzerland. https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org. DOI:

https://doi.org/10.36072/db.



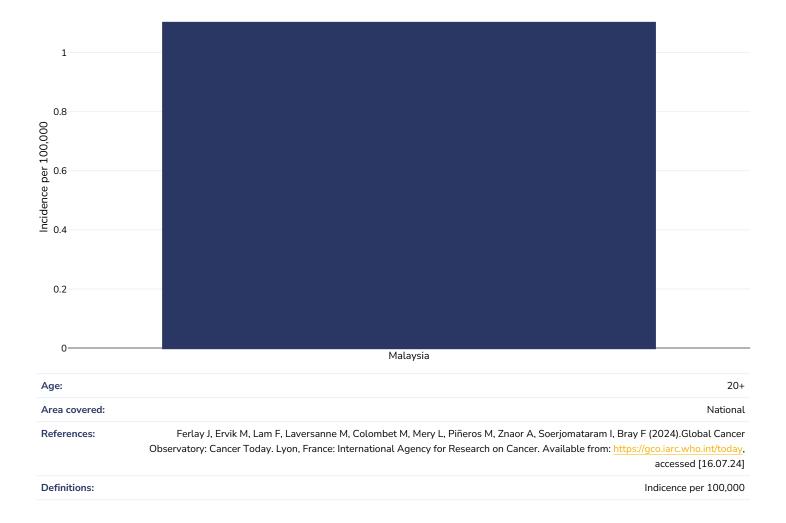
Oesophageal cancer

Men, 2022





Women, 2022

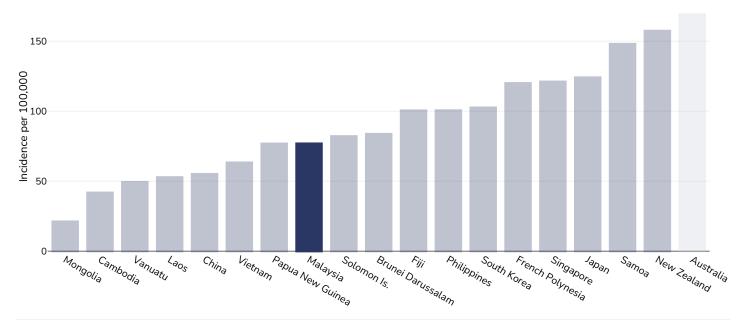




Breast cancer

Women, 2022





Area covered: National

References:

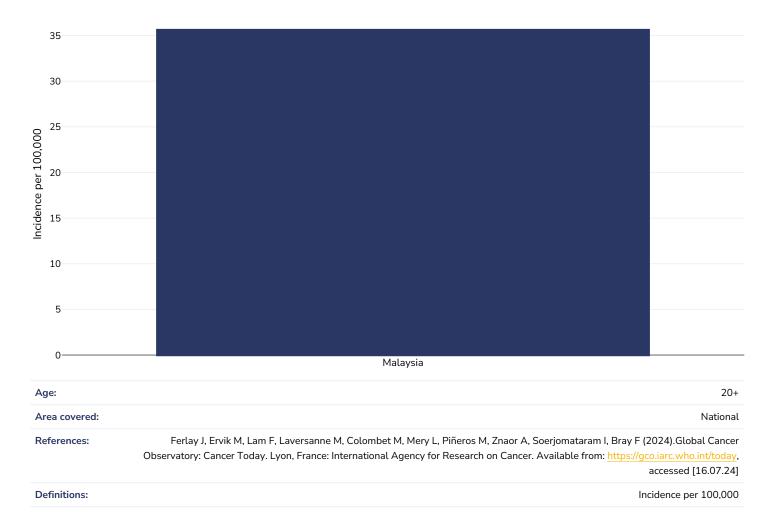
Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000



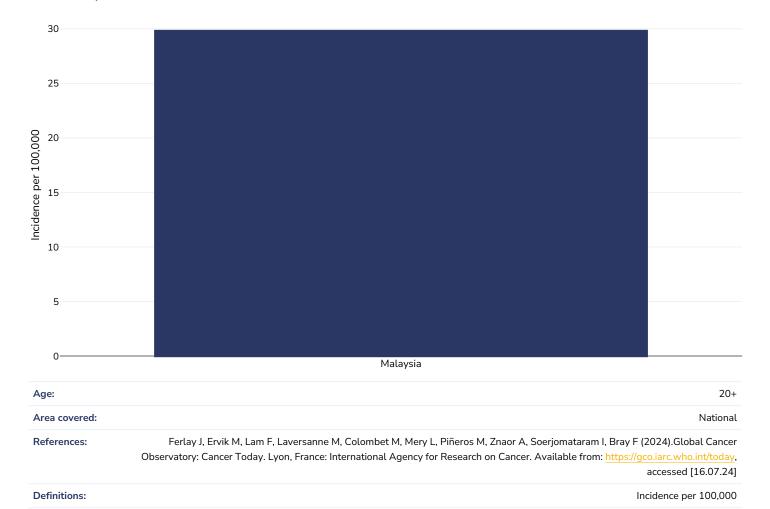
Colorectal cancer

Men, 2022





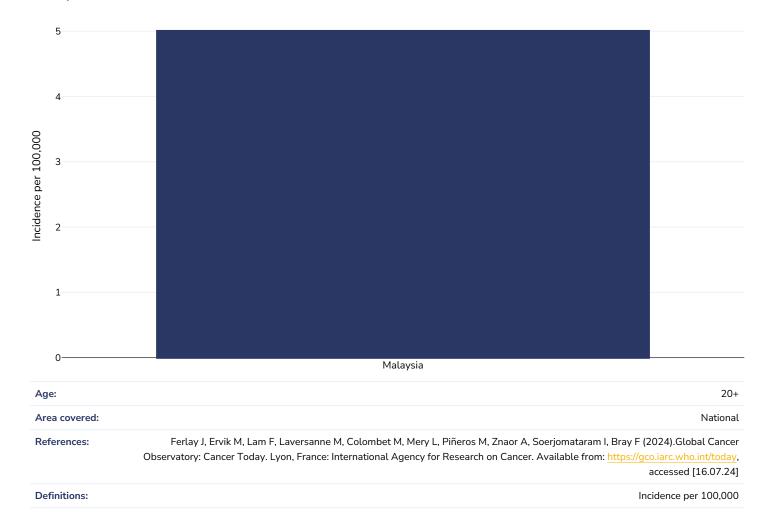
Women, 2022



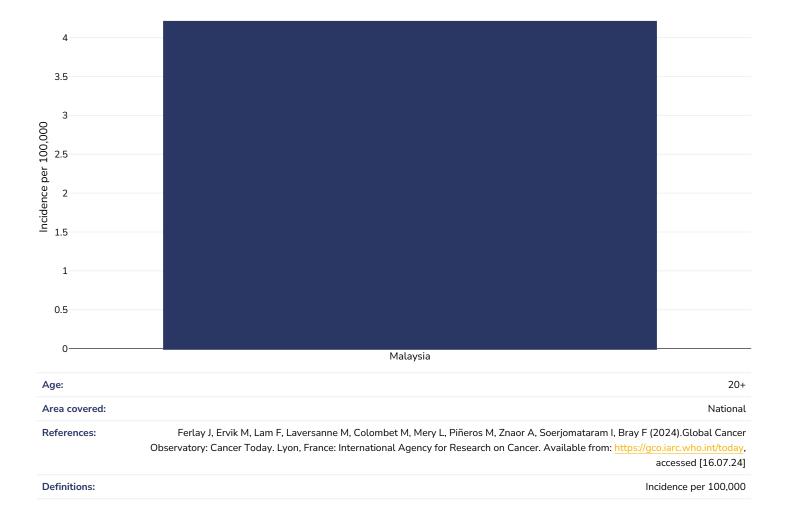


Pancreatic cancer

Men, 2022



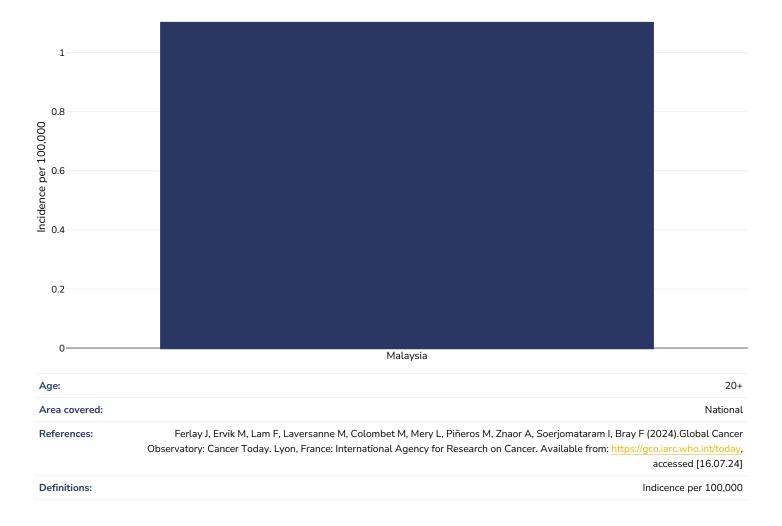




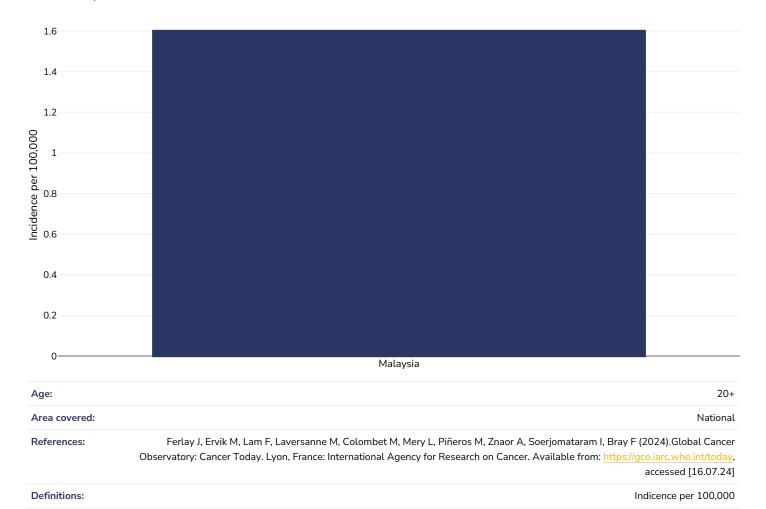


Gallbladder cancer

Men, 2022



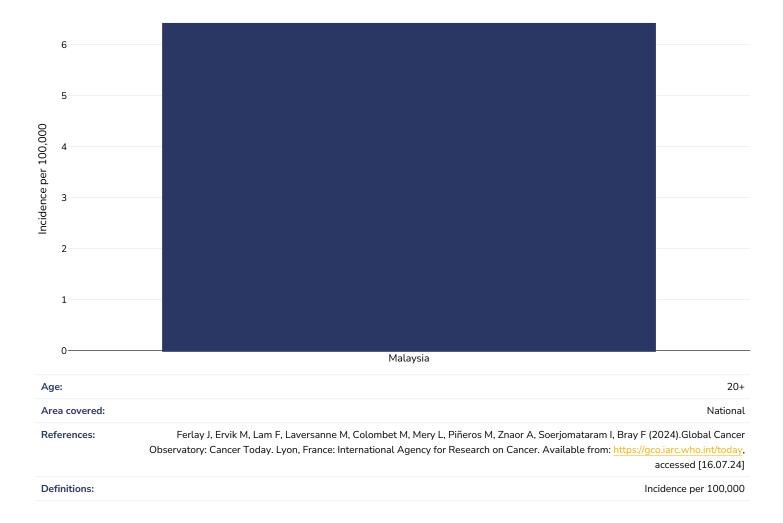




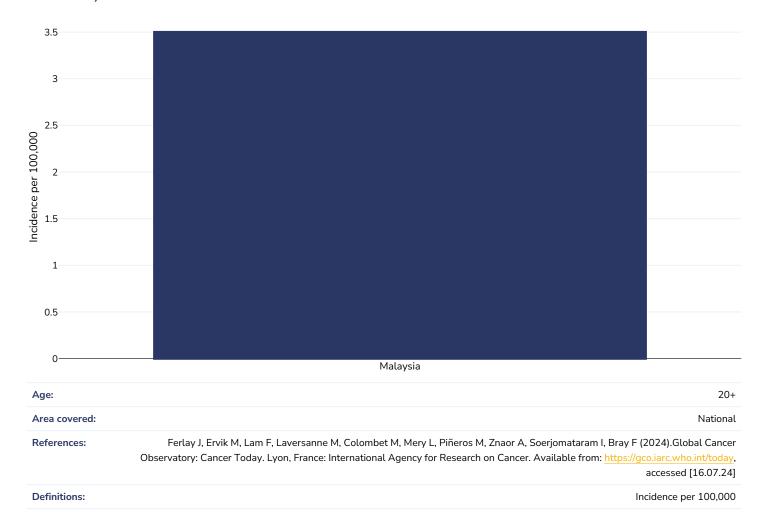


Kidney cancer

Men, 2022



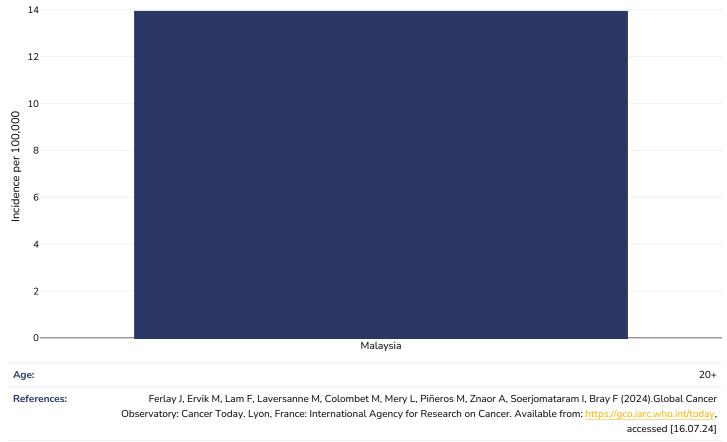






Cancer of the uterus

Women, 2022

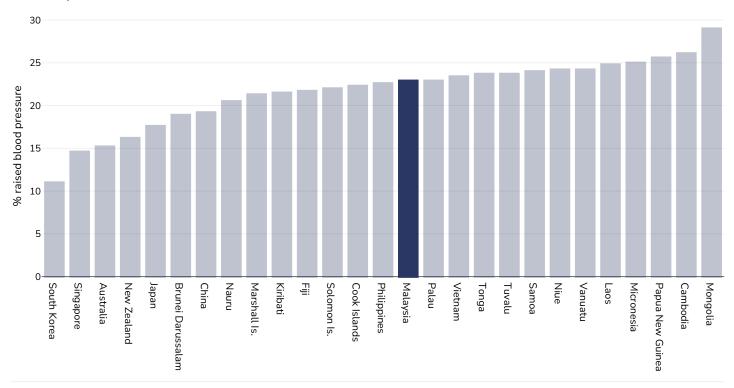


Definitions: Incidence per 100,000



Raised blood pressure

Adults, 2015



References:

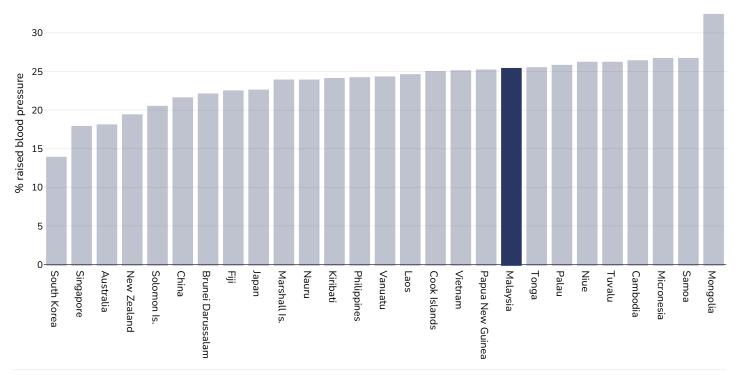
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en

Definitions:

Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP>=140 OR DBP>=90).



Men, 2015



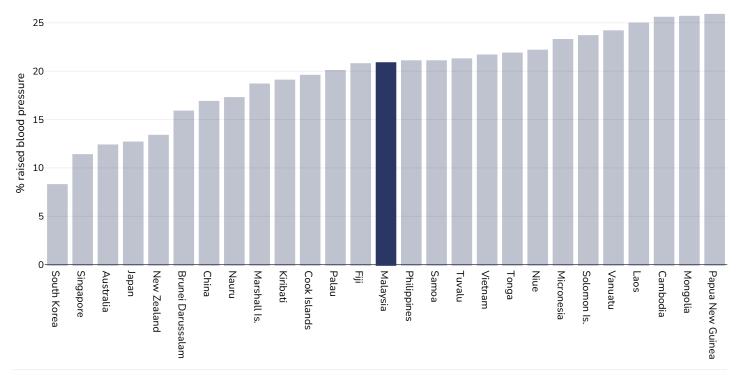
References:

Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en

Definitions:

Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP>=140 OR DBP>=90).





References:

Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en

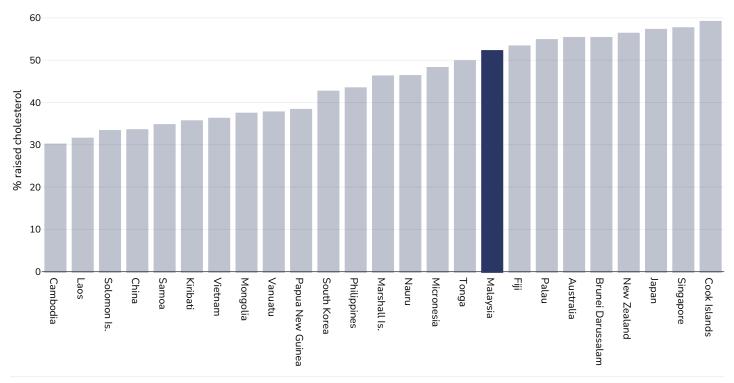
Definitions:

Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP>=140 OR DBP>=90).



Raised cholesterol

Adults, 2008



References:

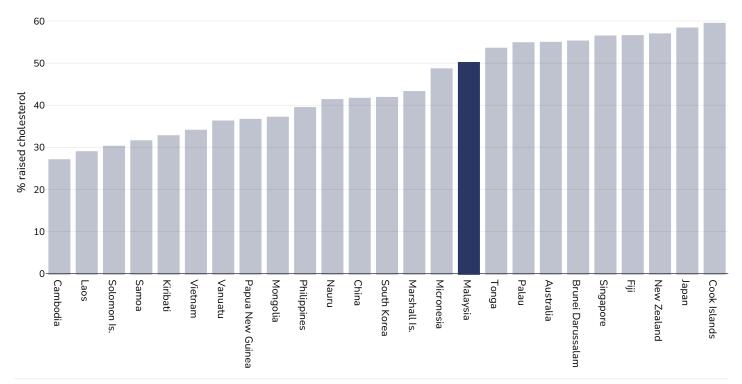
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885

Definitions:

% Raised total cholesterol (>= 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).



Men, 2008



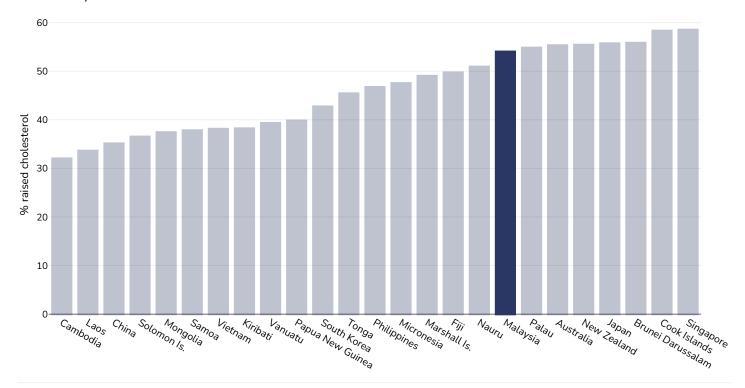
References:

Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885

Definitions:

% Raised total cholesterol (>= 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).





References:

 ${\sf Global\ Health\ Observatory\ data\ repository,\ World\ Health\ Organisation,\ } \underline{{\sf http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.} A885}$

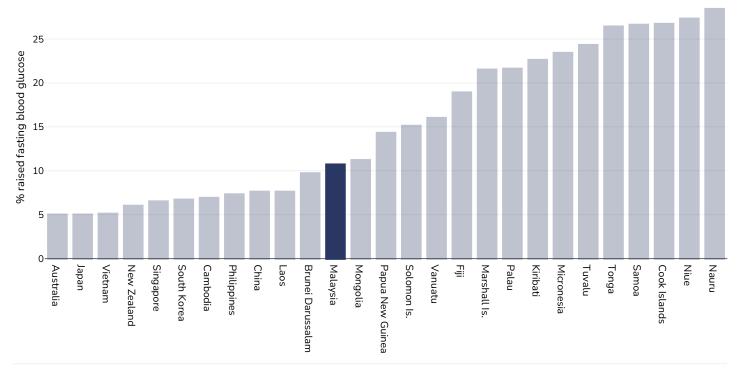
Definitions:

% Raised total cholesterol (>= 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).



Raised fasting blood glucose

Men, 2014



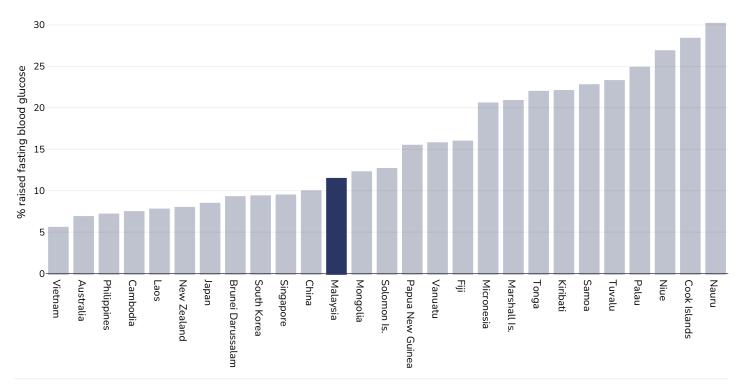
References:

Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A869?lang=en

Definitions:

Age Standardised % raised fasting blood glucose (>= 7.0 mmoVL or on medication).





References:

Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A869?lang=en

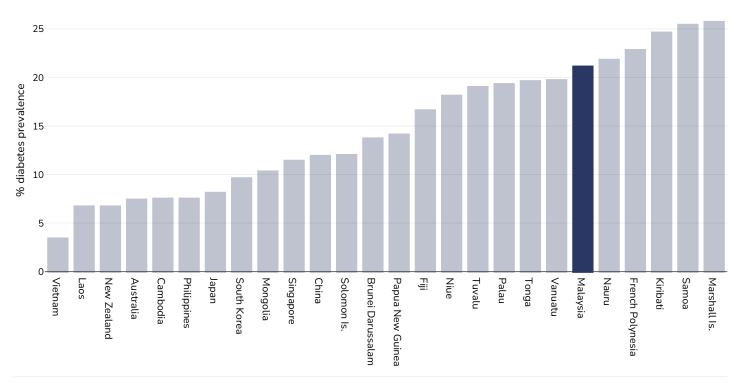
Definitions:

Age Standardised % raised fasting blood glucose (>= 7.0 mmol/L or on medication).



Diabetes prevalence

Adults, 2024



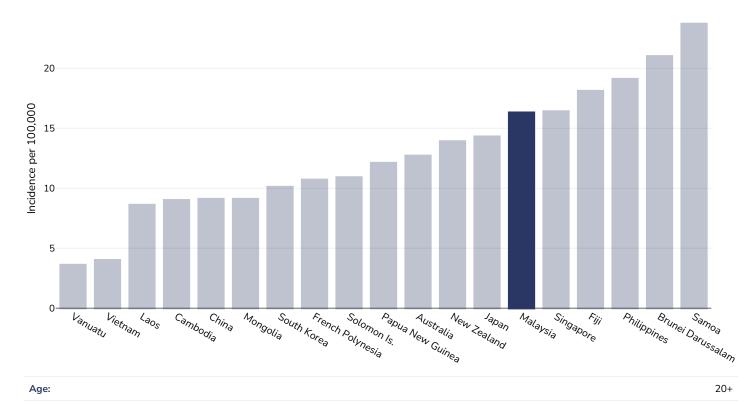
References:

Reproduced with kind permission International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas, 11th edn. Brussels, Belgium:International Diabetes Federation, 2025. http://www.diabetesatlas.org



Ovarian Cancer

Women, 2022



References:

Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000



Leukemia

Men, 2022										
4										
3										
2										
1-										
-										
0										
⁻¹ _1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6			
Age:							20+			
Area covered:							National			
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]									
Definitions:						Incidence pe	er 100,000			
	Unless ot	herwise noted, overw	reight refers to a BMI	between 25kg and 29	.9kg/m², obesity refers	to a BMI greater thar	n 30kg/m².			

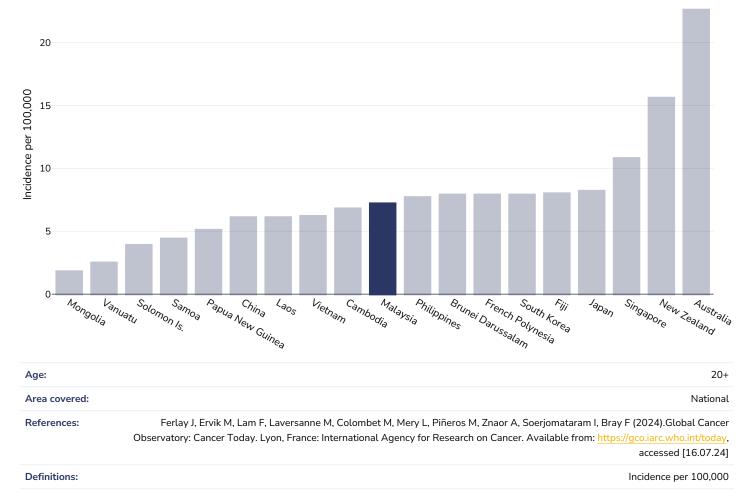


Women, 20	022										
4											
3											
2											
1											
0———											
⁻¹ 1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6				
Age:							20+				
Area covered:							National				
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]										
Definitions:						Incidence pe	er 100,000				
	Unless oth	erwise noted, overw	reight refers to a BMI l	petween 25kg and 29	.9kg/m², obesity refers	s to a BMI greater than	n 30kg/m².				



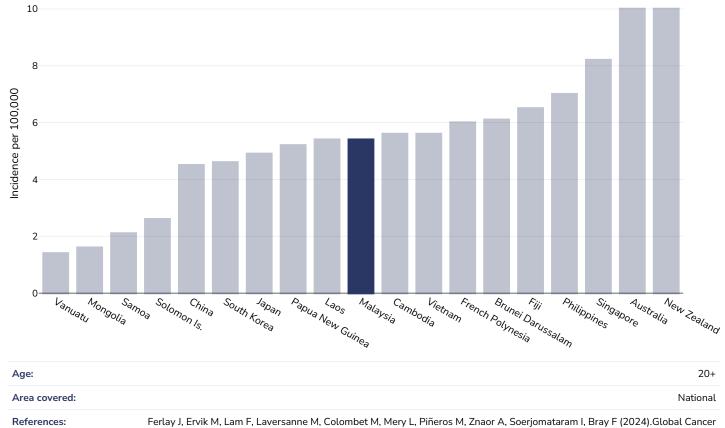
Leukemia

Men, 2022



 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$





Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today.

accessed [16.07.24]

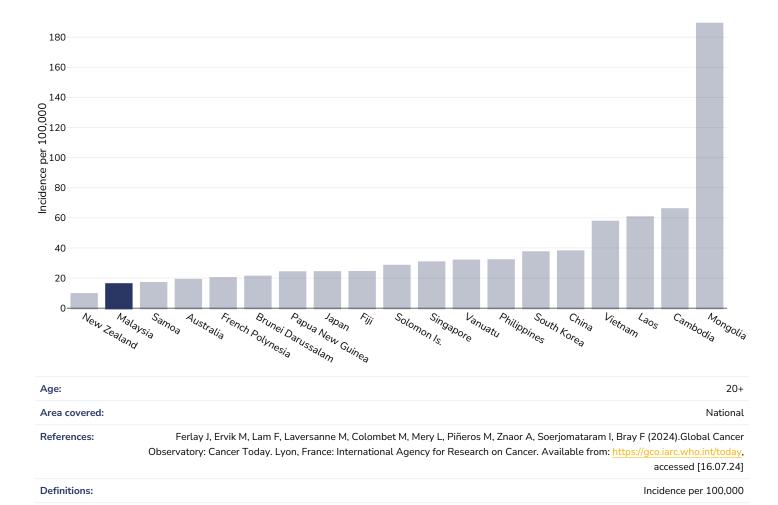
Definitions: Incidence per 100,000

Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².

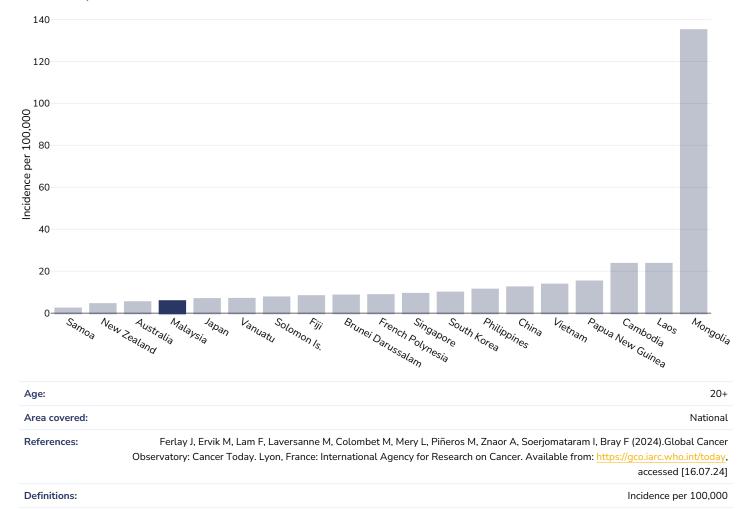


Liver and intrahepatic bile duct Cancer

Men, 2022



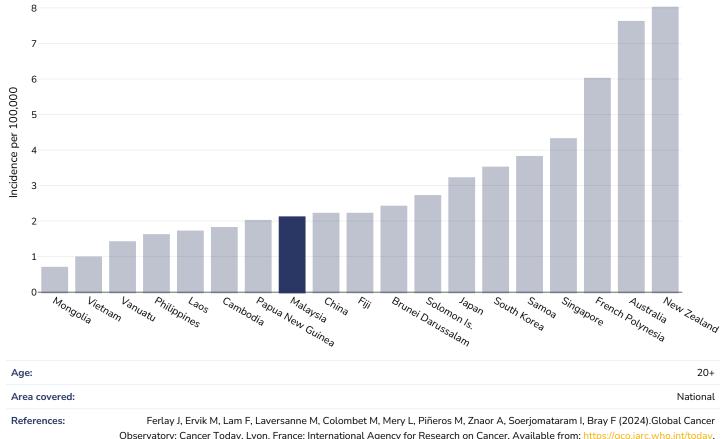






Multiple Myeloma

Men, 2022



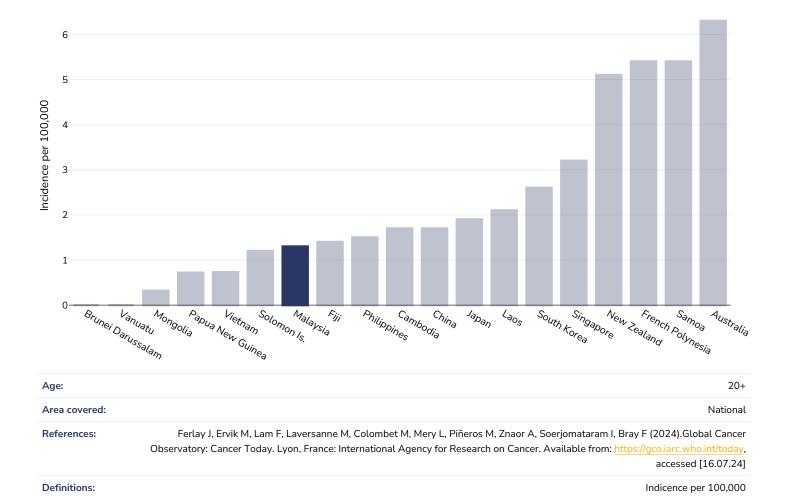
Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today, accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions:

Indicence per 100,000

Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².



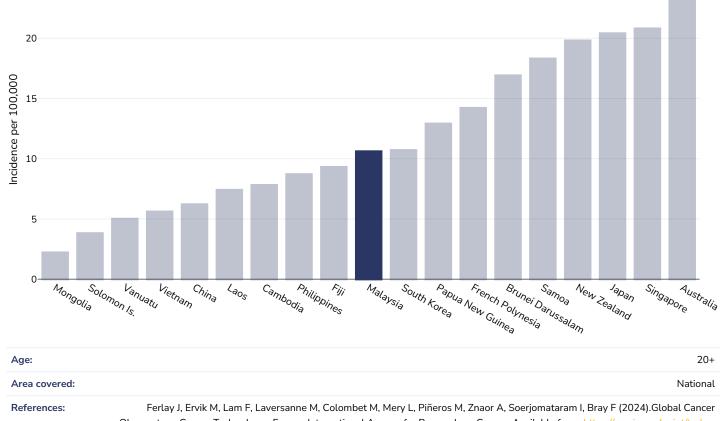


 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$



Non Hodgkin Lymphoma

Men, 2022



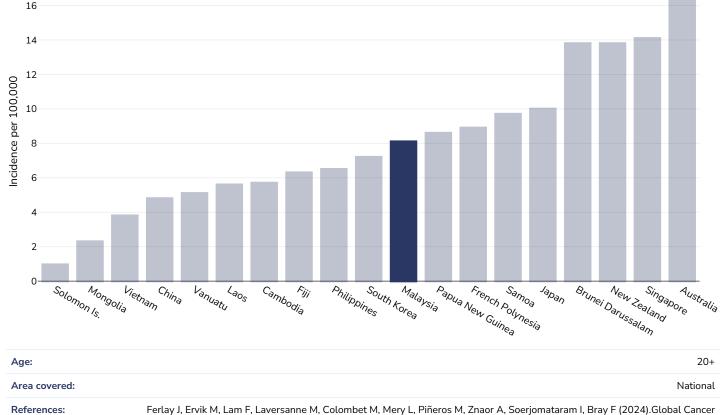
Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today, accessed [16.07.24]

Incidence per 100,000

Definitions:

Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².





Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today,

accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions:

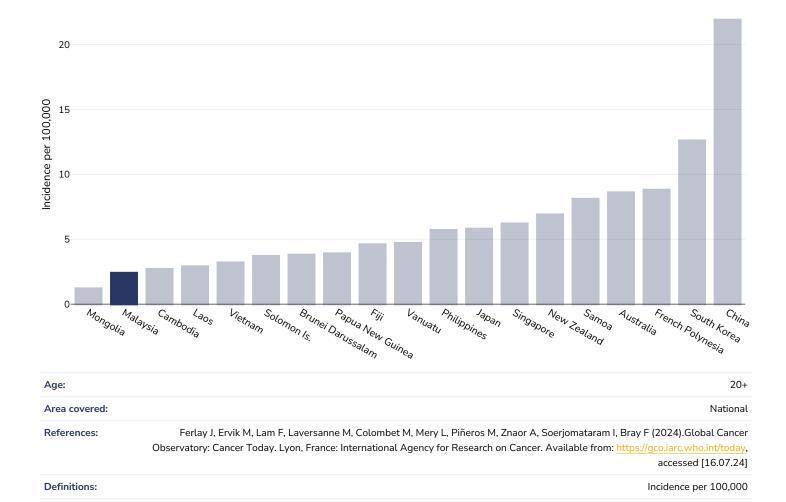
Incidence per 100,000

 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, \ overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, \ obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$

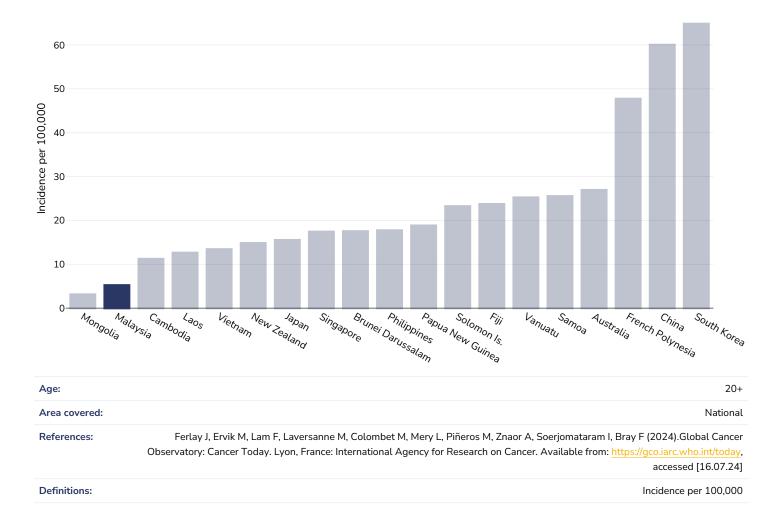


Thyroid Cancer

Men, 2022







PDF created on July 18, 2025