



Marshall Islands



Country report card

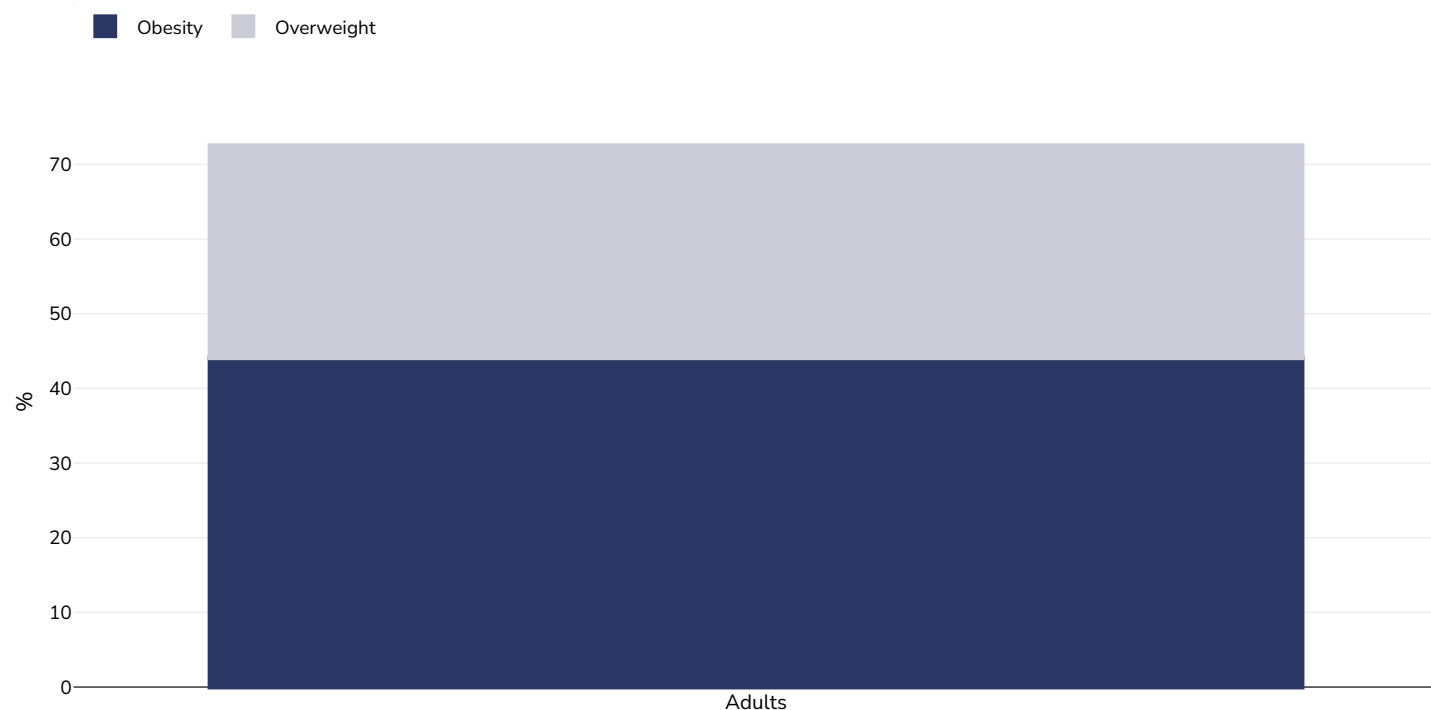
This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity . Where available, data on common and relevant obesity drivers and comorbidities are also presented.

View the latest version of this report on the Global Obesity Observatory at <https://data.worldobesity.org/country/marshall-islands-134/>.

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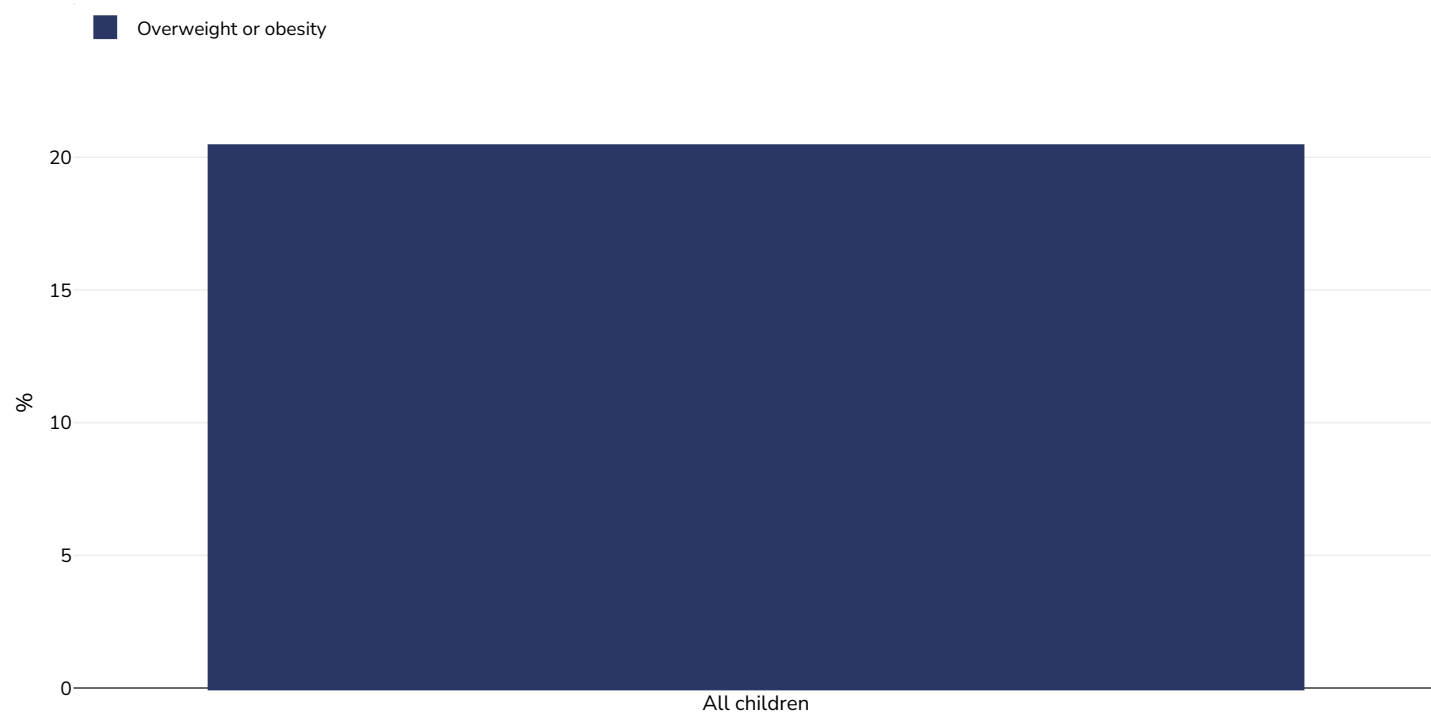
Obesity prevalence

Adults, 2017-2018



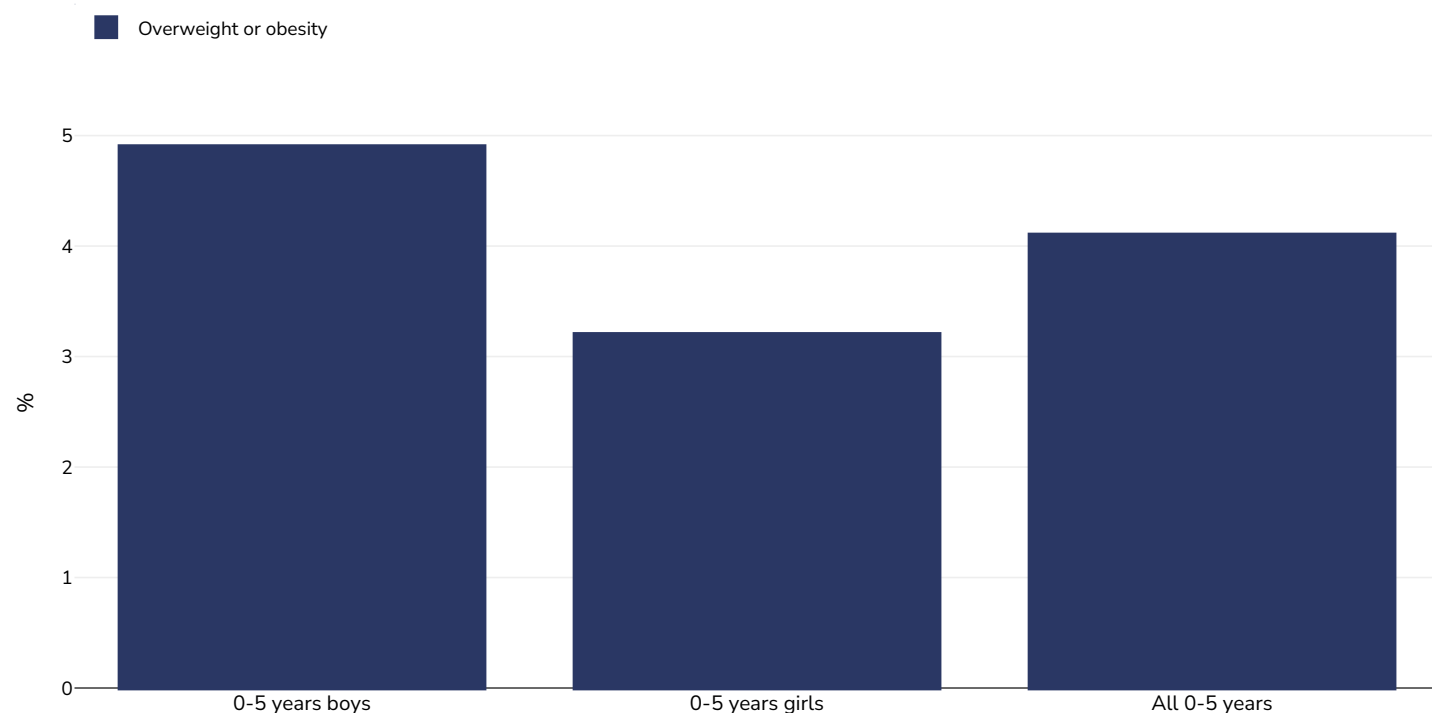
Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	2869
Area covered:	Regional
References:	Republic of Marshall Islands' 2017-2018 Hybrid STEPS Survey. https://extranet.who.int/ncdsmicrodata/index.php/catalog/742 (Accessed 06.10.20)
Notes:	Although all islands were not surveyed, the islands included make up 83% of the overall population of the Republic of Marshall Islands. Despite this, sample size was exceptionally large and included approximately 10% of all adults residing in the Republic of Marshall Islands.
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 .	

Children, 2020



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-16
Sample size:	1172
Area covered:	National
References:	Marshall Islands Rapid Youth Survey 2020. https://www.pihoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/RMI-Rapid-Youth-Survey-2020-Final_05_21_21.pdf (Accessed 10.01.2023)
Definitions:	BMI percentiles were used to determine BMI categories for those students under 17 years old

0-5 years, 2017



Age: 0-5

Sample size: 873

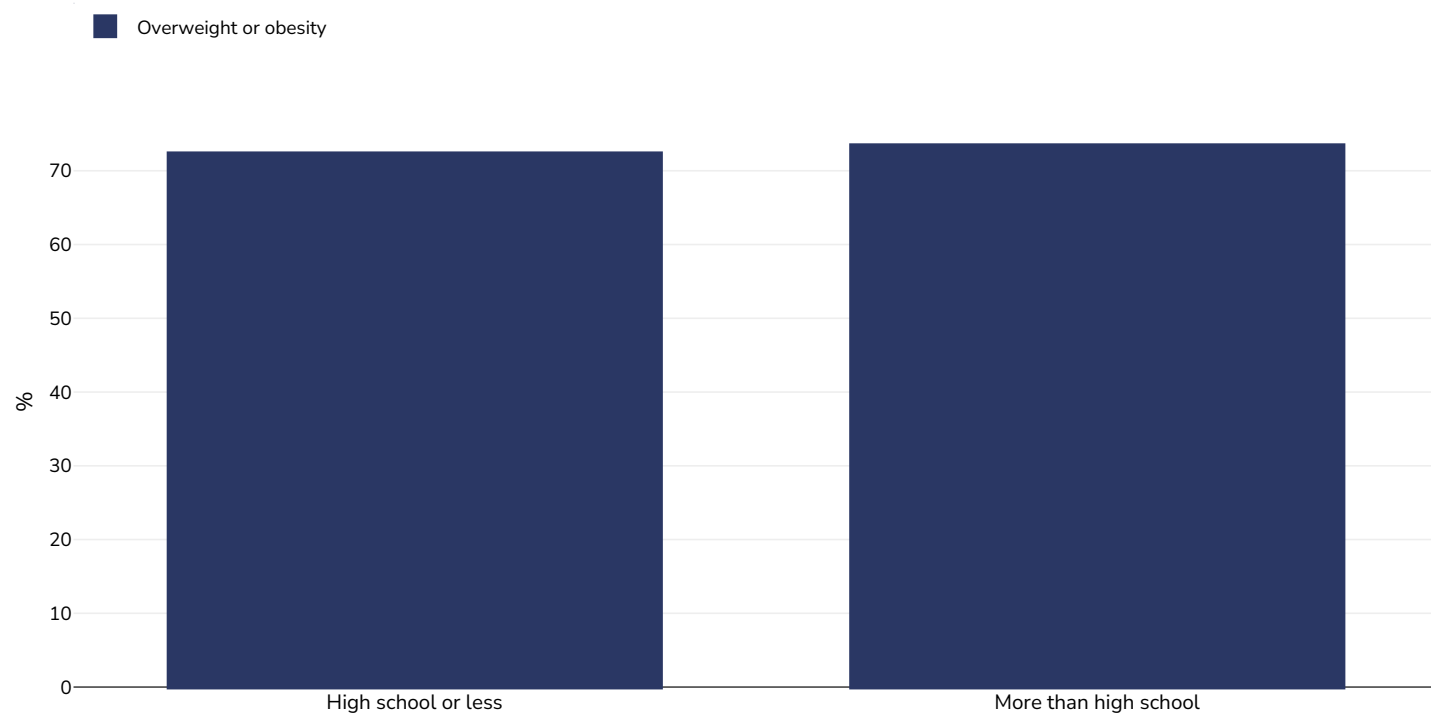
References: MICS-Style: Republic of the Marshall Islands Integrated Child Health and Nutrition Survey 2017, Final Report. Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands: RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services, RMI Economic, Policy Planning and Statistic Office, 2017

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

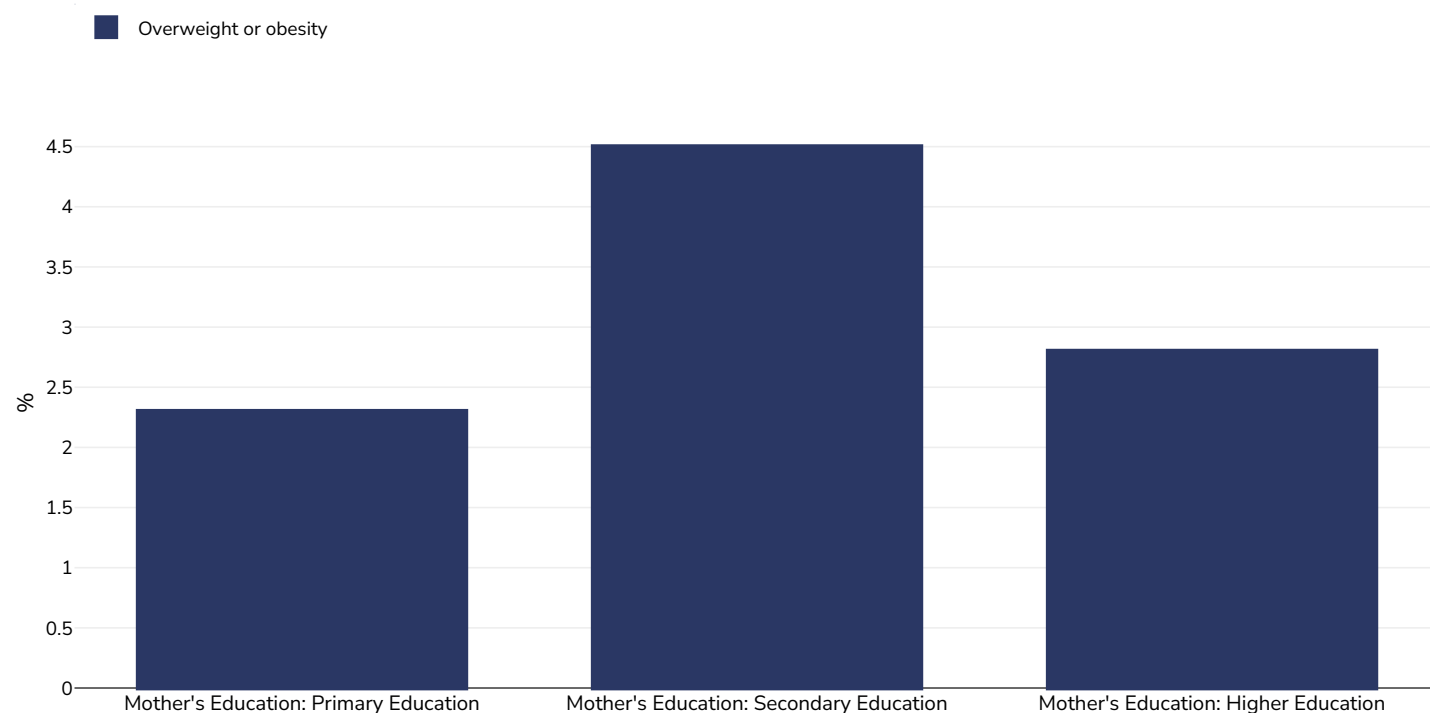
Overweight/obesity by education

Adults, 2017-2018



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	2869
Area covered:	Regional
References:	Republic of Marshall Islands' 2017-2018 STEPS Hybrid Survey. https://extranet.who.int/ncdsmicrodata/index.php/catalog/742 (Accessed 06.10.20)
Notes:	Although all islands were not surveyed, the islands included make up 83% of the overall population of the Republic of Marshall Islands. Despite this, sample size was exceptionally large and included approximately 10% of all adults residing in the Republic of Marshall Islands.
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 .	

0-5 years, 2017



Sample size: 873

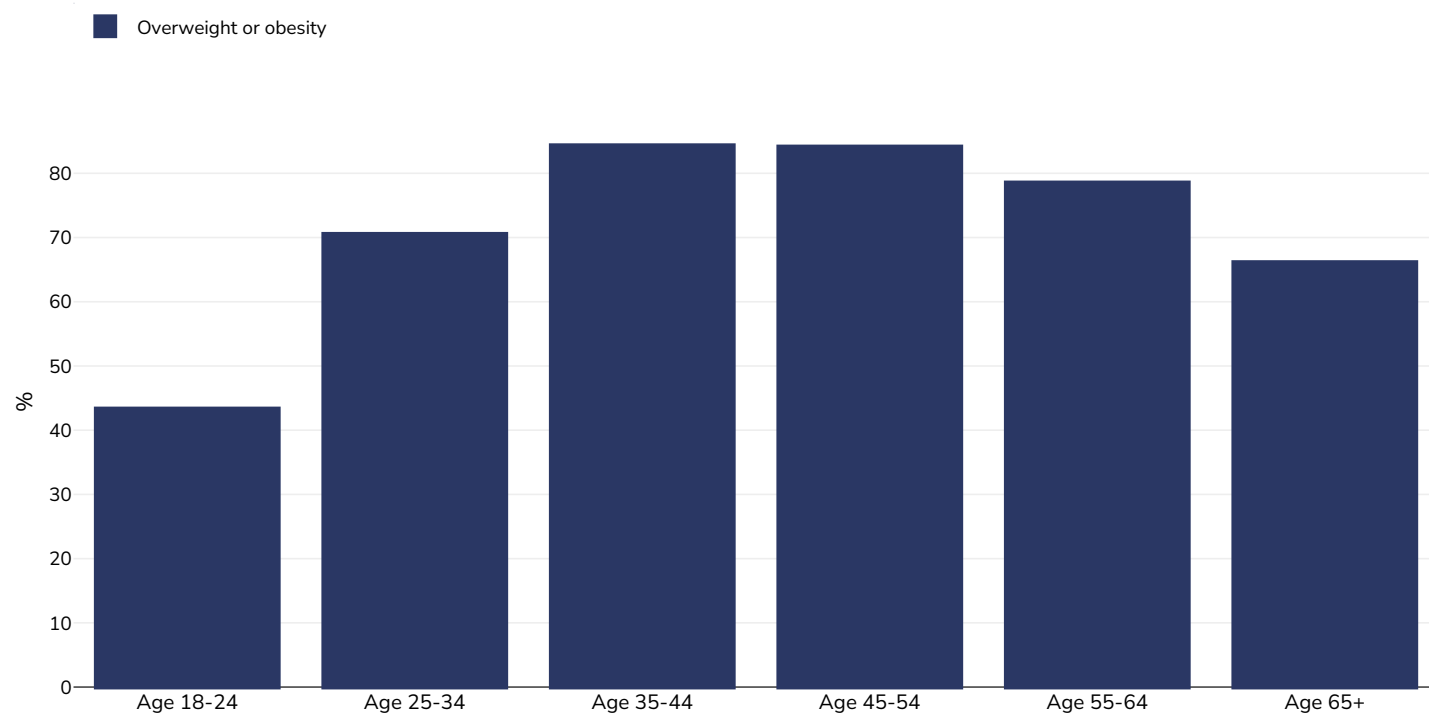
References: MICS-Style: Republic of the Marshall Islands Integrated Child Health and Nutrition Survey 2017, Final Report. Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands: RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services, RMI Economic, Policy Planning and Statistic Office, 2017

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 age

Adults, 2017-2018

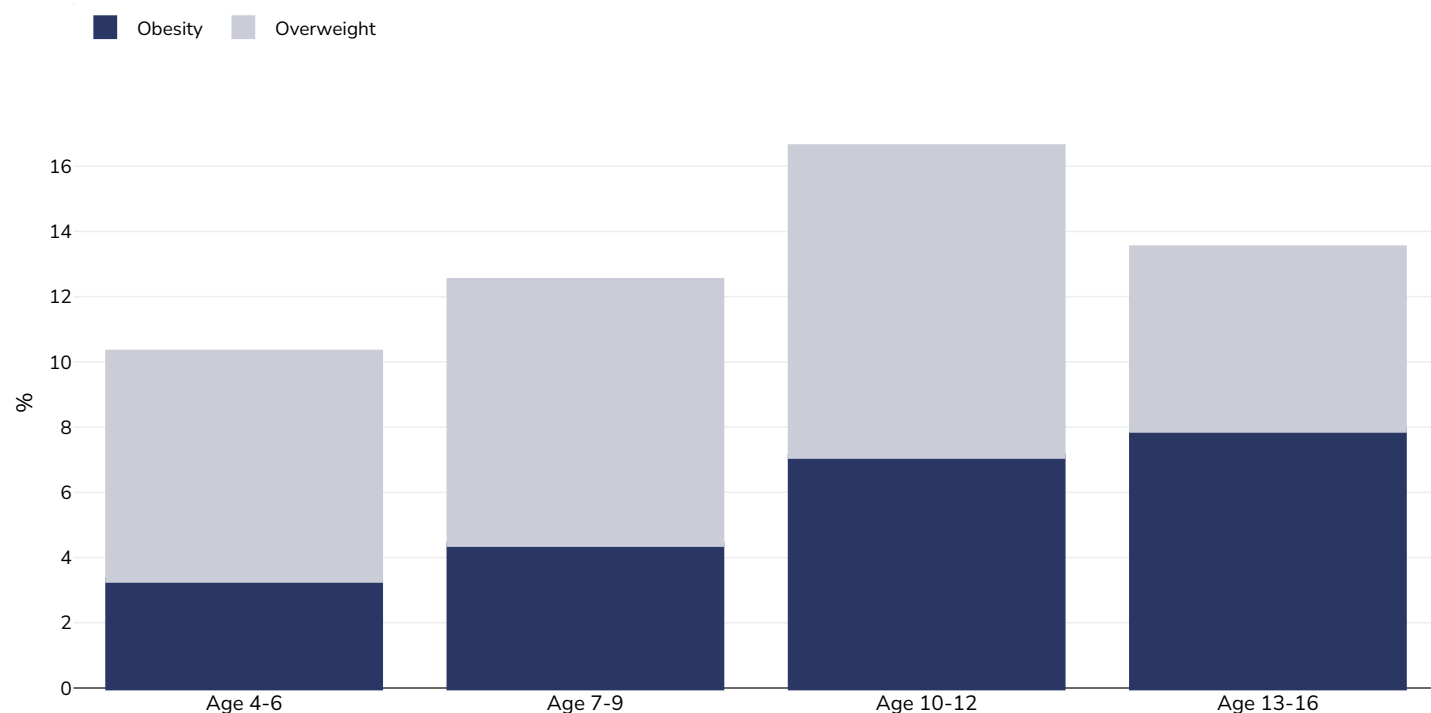


Survey type:	Measured
Sample size:	2869
Area covered:	Regional
References:	Republic of Marshall Islands' 2017-2018 Hybrid Survey. https://extranet.who.int/ncdsmicrodata/index.php/catalog/742 (Accessed 06.10.20)

Notes: Although all islands were not surveyed, the islands included make up 83% of the overall population of the Republic of Marshall Islands. Despite this, sample size was exceptionally large and included approximately 10% of all adults residing in the Republic of Marshall Islands.

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

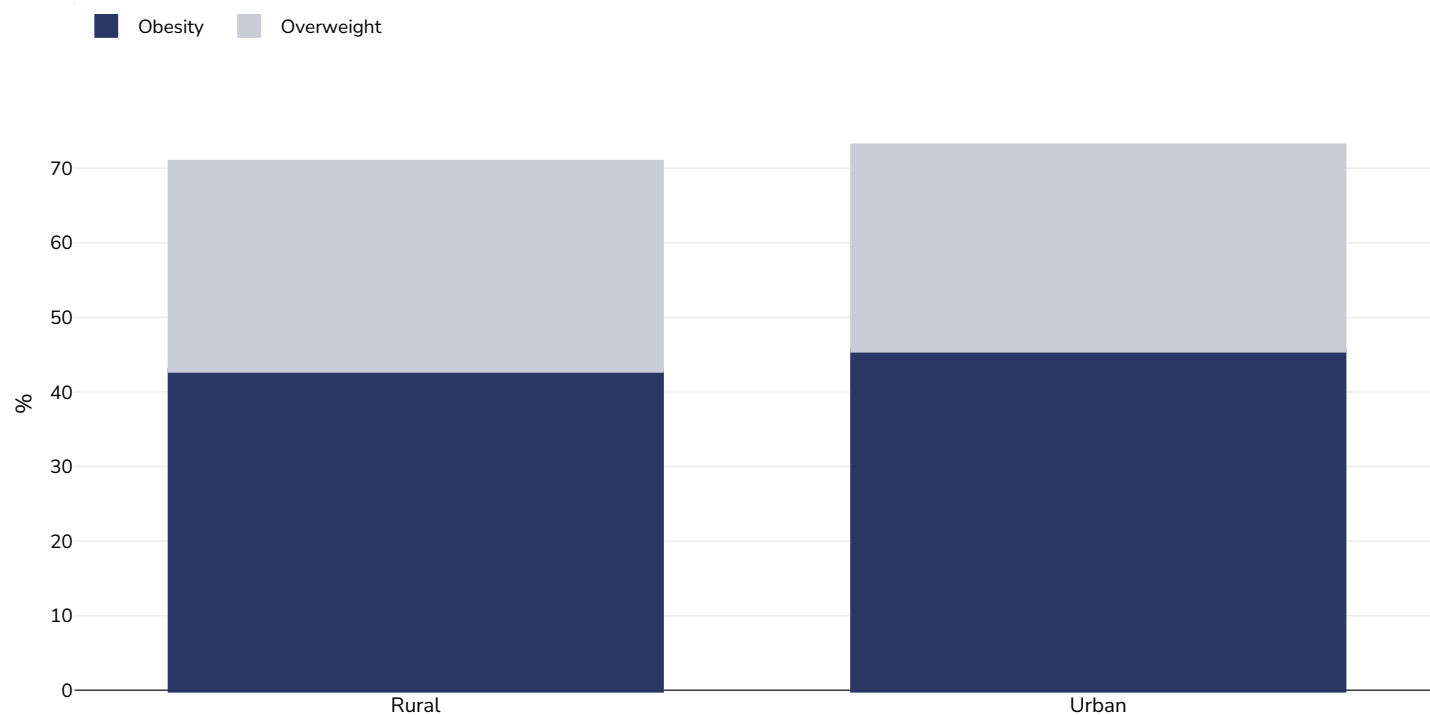
Children, 2017-2018



Survey type:	Measured
Sample size:	3271
Area covered:	Subnational
References:	Passmore, E. and Smith, T., 2019. Dual Burden of Stunting and Obesity Among Elementary School Children on Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands. <i>Hawai'i Journal of Health & Social Welfare</i> , 78(8), p.262.
Notes:	CDC Cut-offs
Cutoffs:	CDC

Overweight/obesity by region

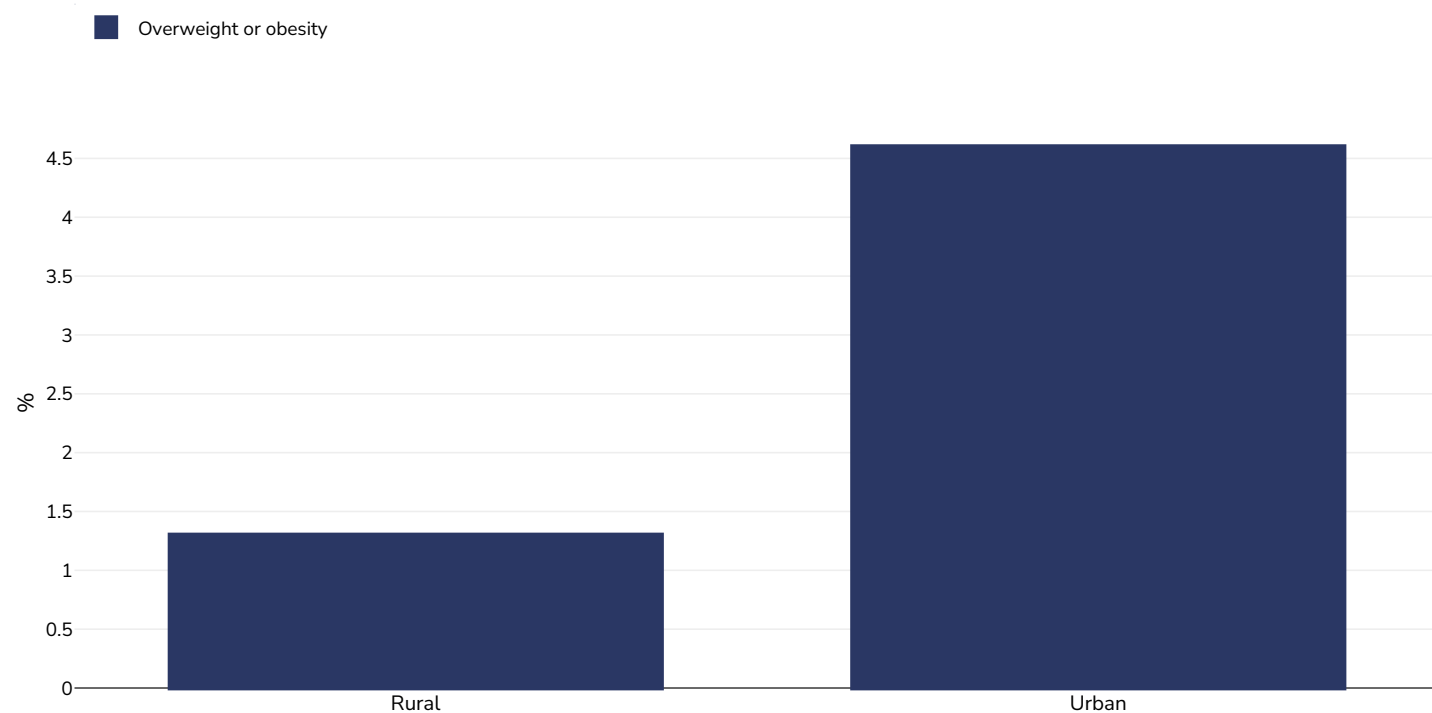
Women, 2016-2017



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-49
Sample size:	673
Area covered:	National
References:	Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Health and Human Services, RMI Economic, Policy Planning and Statistics Office and UNICEF. 2017. Republic of the Marshall Islands Integrated Child Health and Nutrition Survey 2017, Final Report. Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands: Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Health and Human Services, RMI Economic, Policy Planning and Statistics Office
Notes:	Demographic Health Survey - Mothers or female caregivers

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

0-5 years, 2017



Sample size: 873

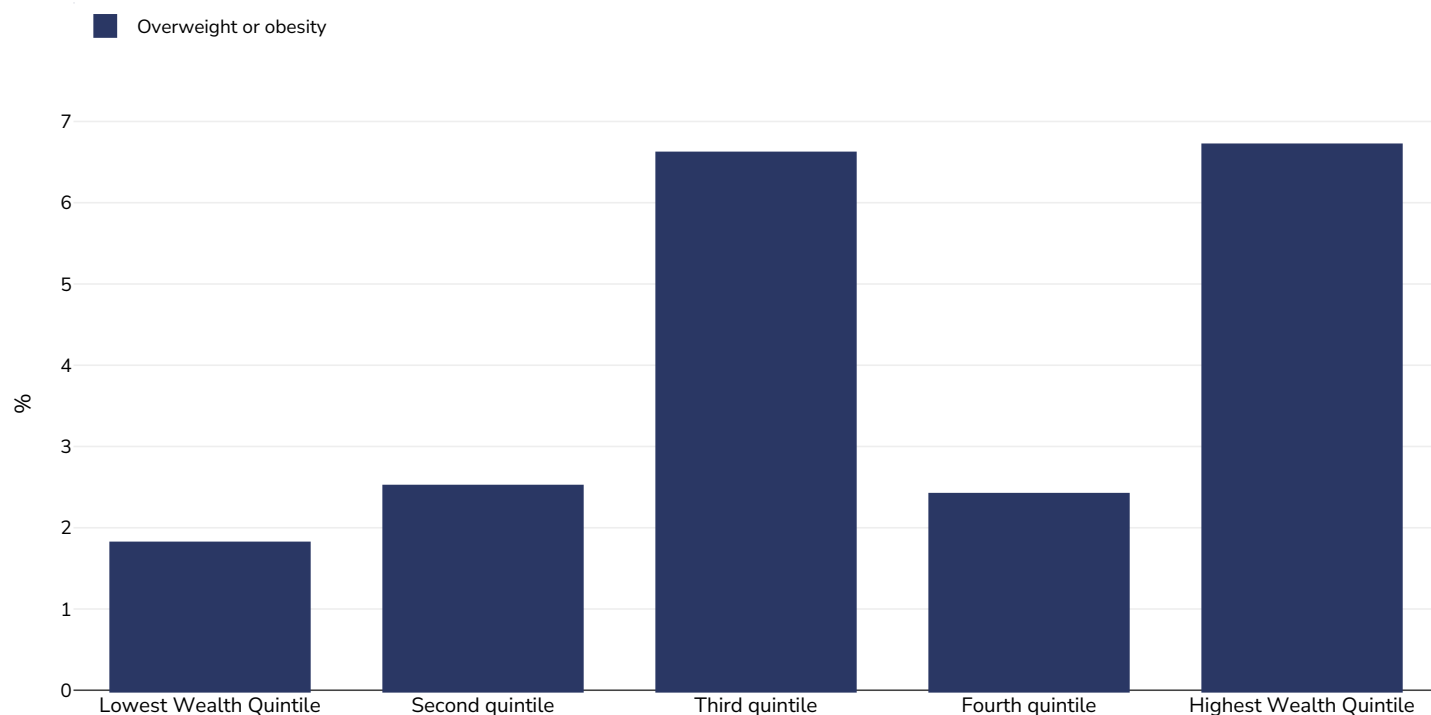
References: MICS-Style: Republic of the Marshall Islands Integrated Child Health and Nutrition Survey 2017, Final Report. Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands: RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services, RMI Economic, Policy Planning and Statistic Office, 2017

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, 2017



Sample size: 873

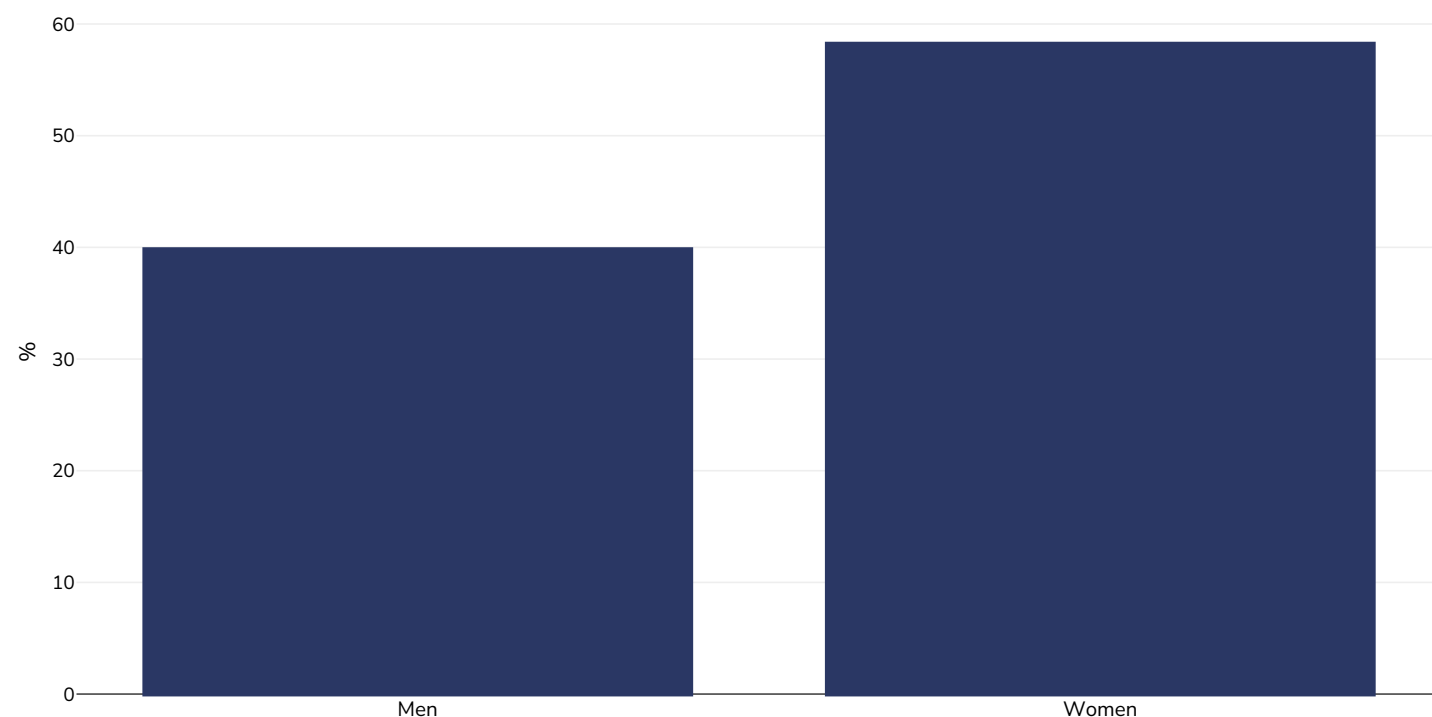
References: MICS-Style: Republic of the Marshall Islands Integrated Child Health and Nutrition Survey 2017, Final Report. Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands: RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services, RMI Economic, Policy Planning and Statistic Office, 2017

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

Adults, 2022



Survey type: Measured

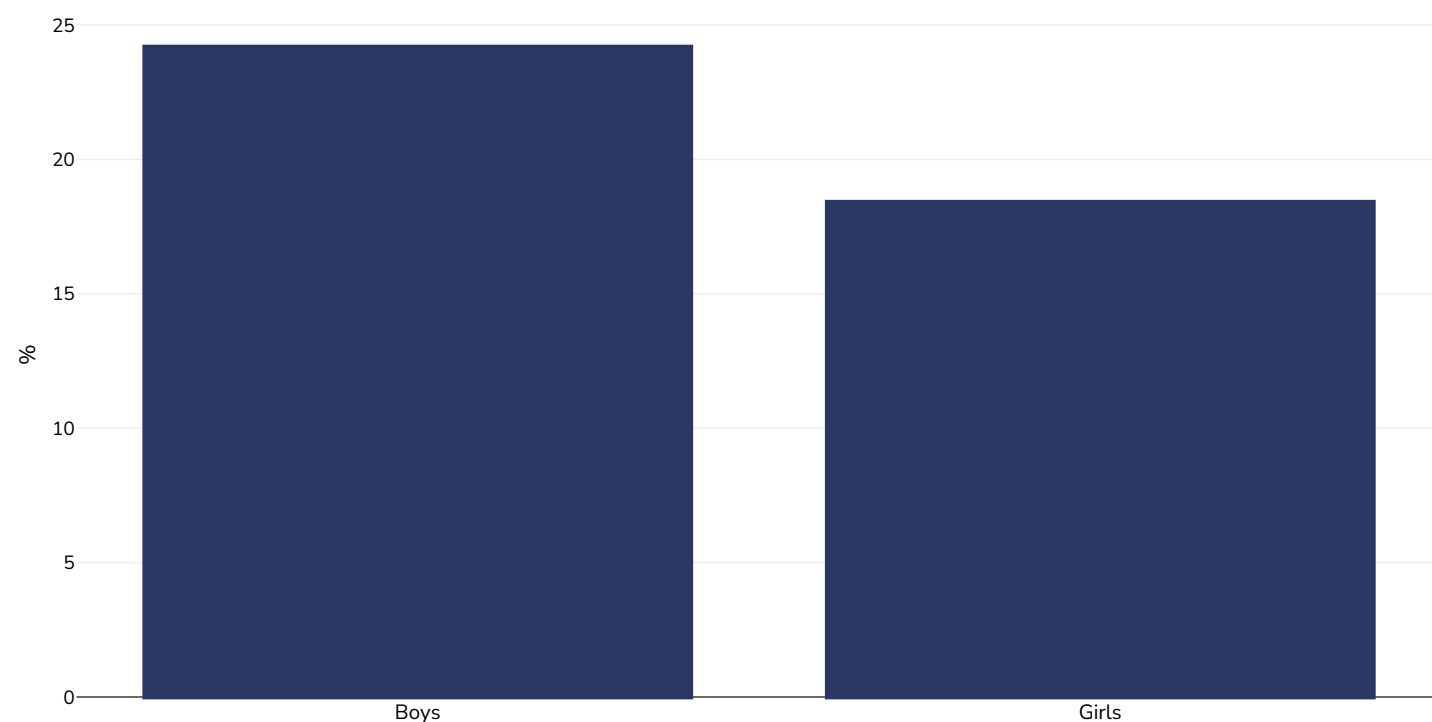
Age: 20+

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

Notes: Age Standardised estimates

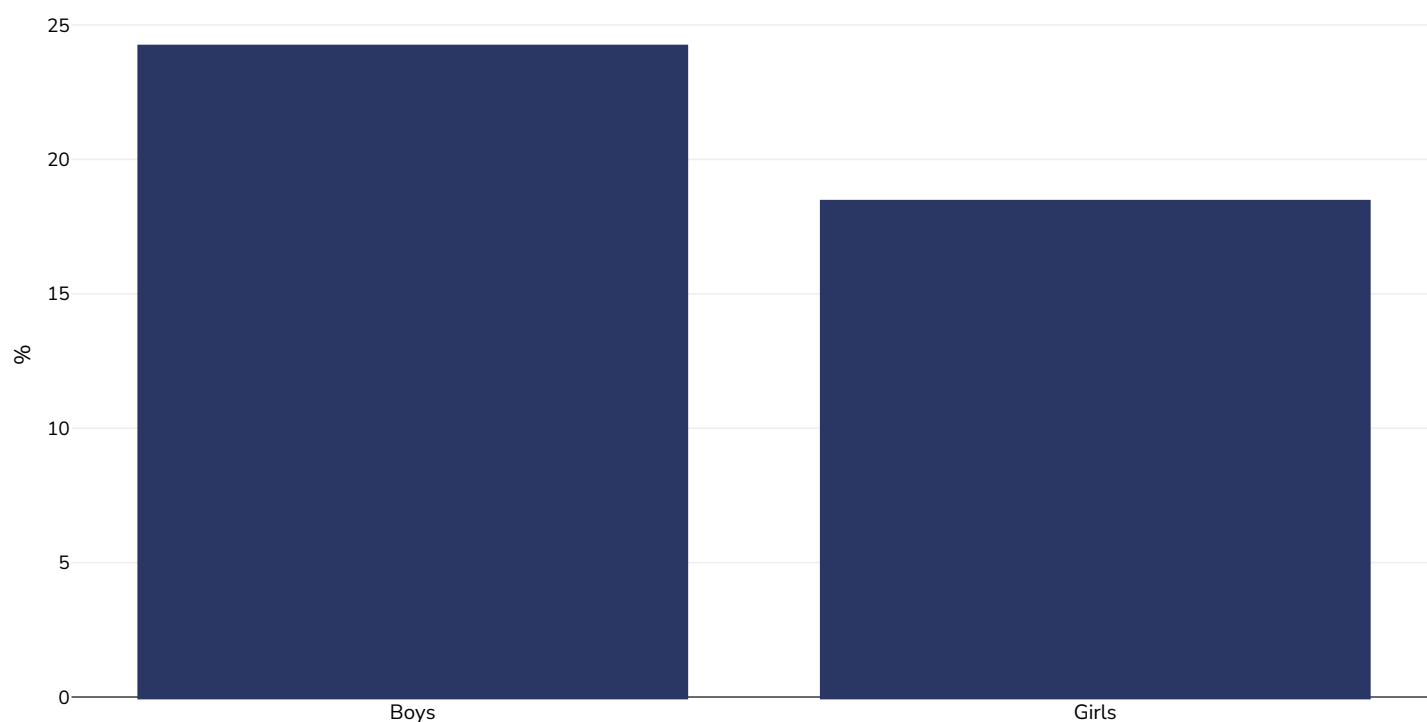
Definitions: Combined prevalence of BMI<18.5 kg/m² and BMI≥30 kg/m² (double burden of underweight and obesity)

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

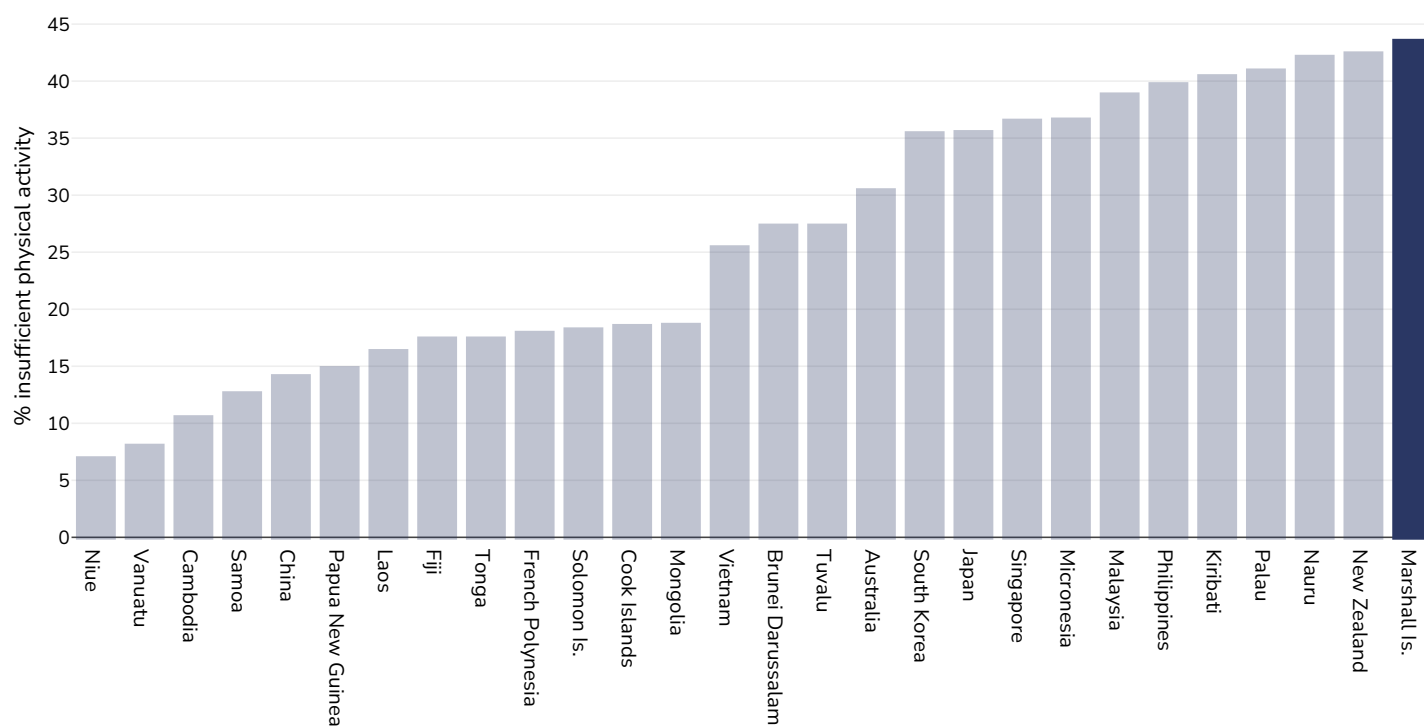
0-5 years, 2017-2017



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

Insufficient physical activity

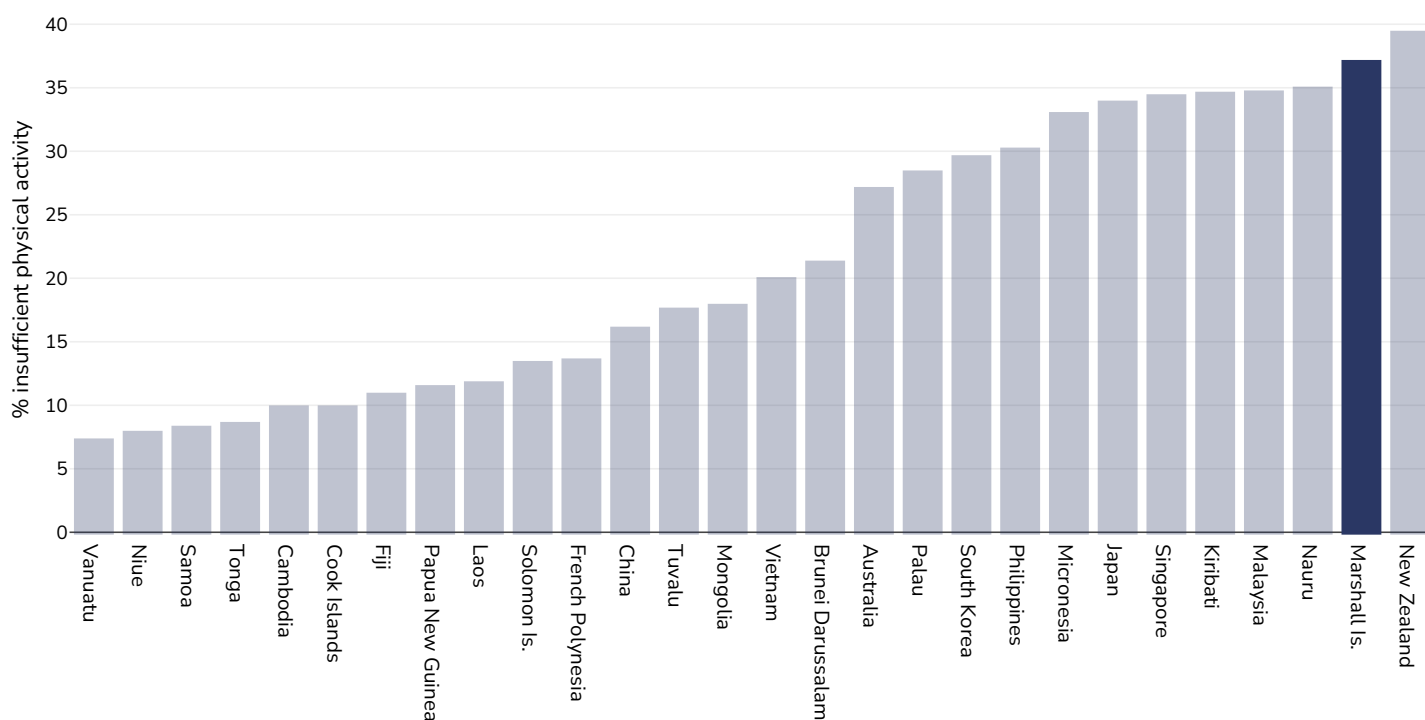
Adults, 2016



References:

Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. Lancet 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

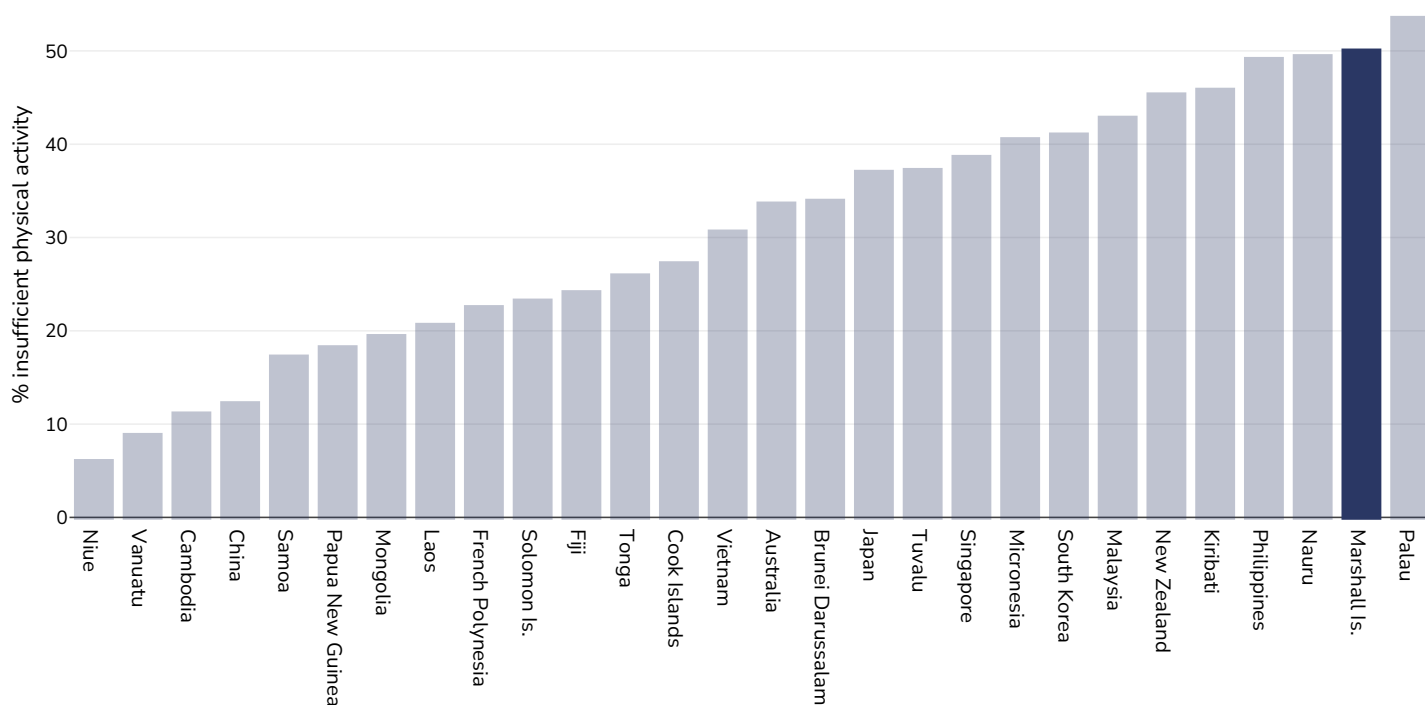
Men, 2016



References:

Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. Lancet 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

Women, 2016

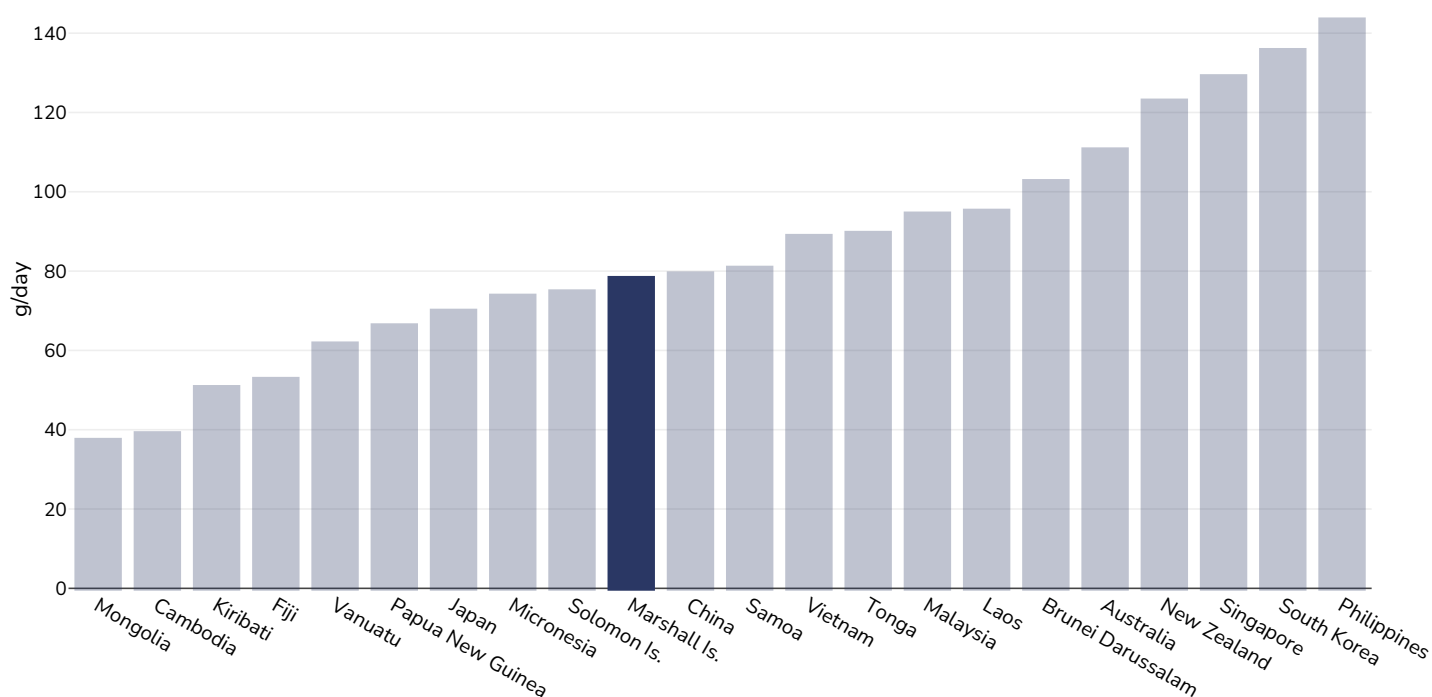


References:

Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. Lancet 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

Estimated per capita fruit intake

Adults, 2017



Survey type: Measured

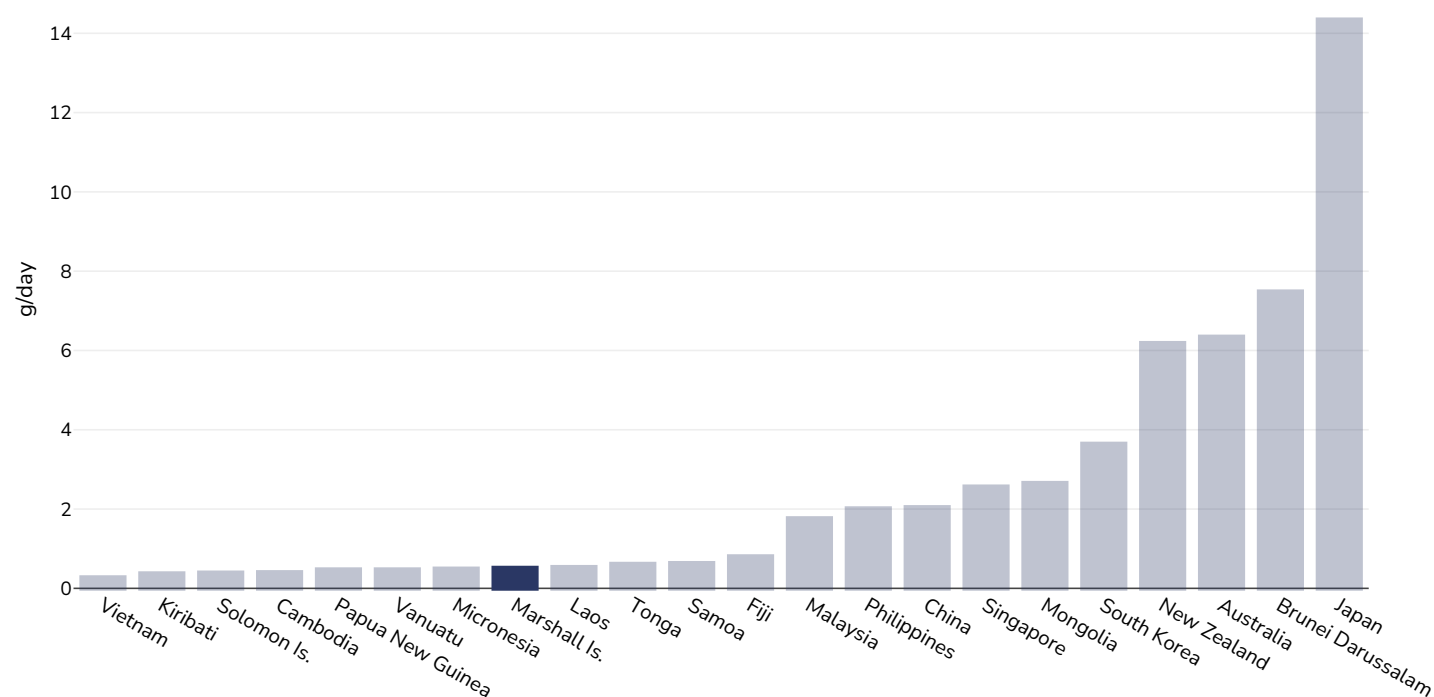
Age: 25+

References: Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/>

Definitions: Estimated per-capita fruit intake (g/day)

Estimated per-capita processed meat intake

Adults, 2017



Survey type: Measured

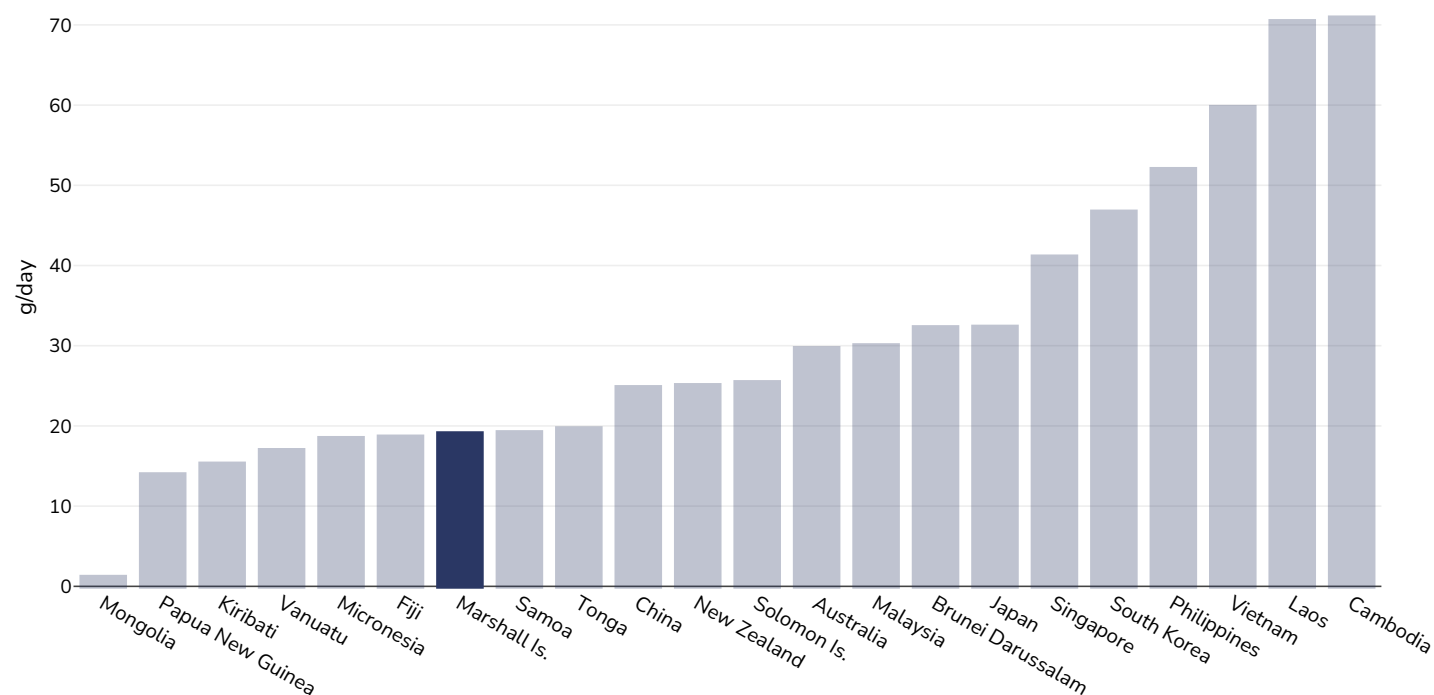
Age: 25+

References: Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/>

Definitions: Estimated per-capita processed meat intake (g per day)

Estimated per capita whole grains intake

Adults, 2017



Survey type: Measured

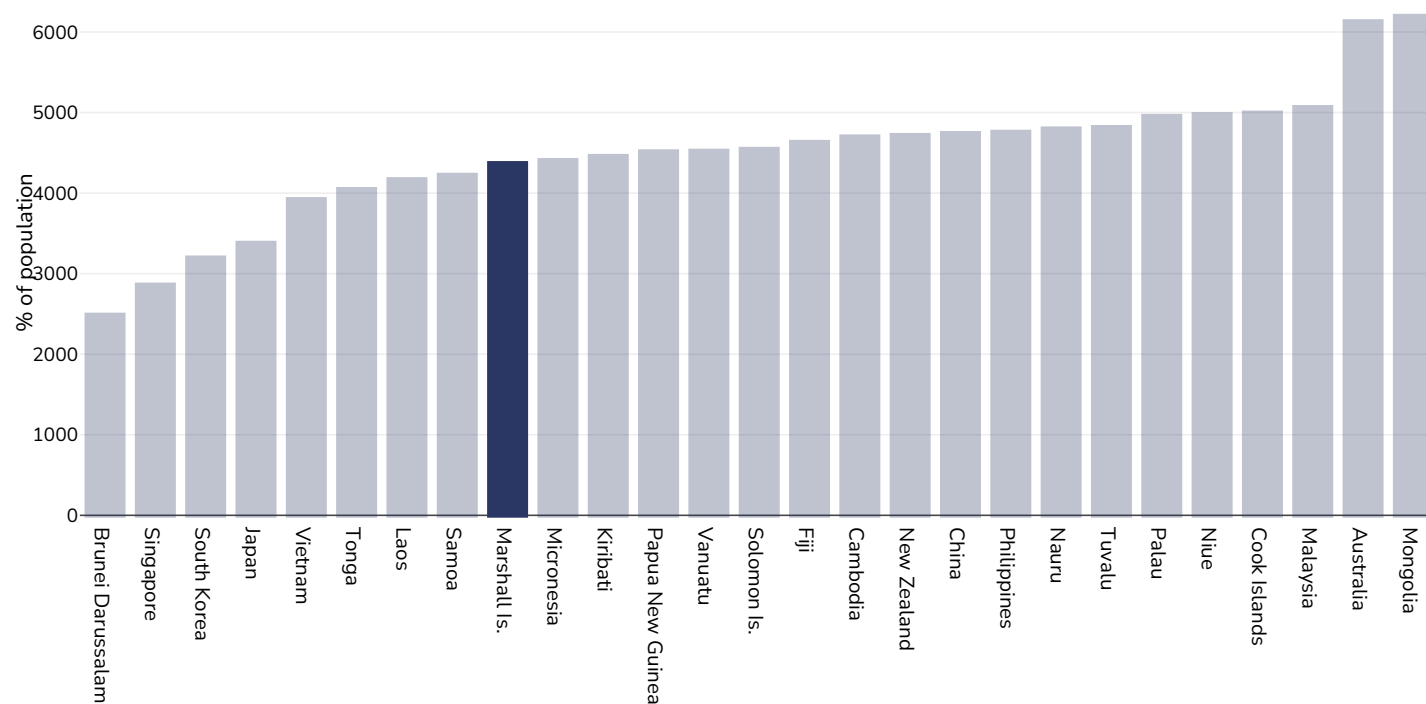
Age: 25+

References: Global Burden of Disease, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/>

Definitions: Estimated per-capita whole grains intake (g/day)

Mental health - depression disorders

Adults, 2021



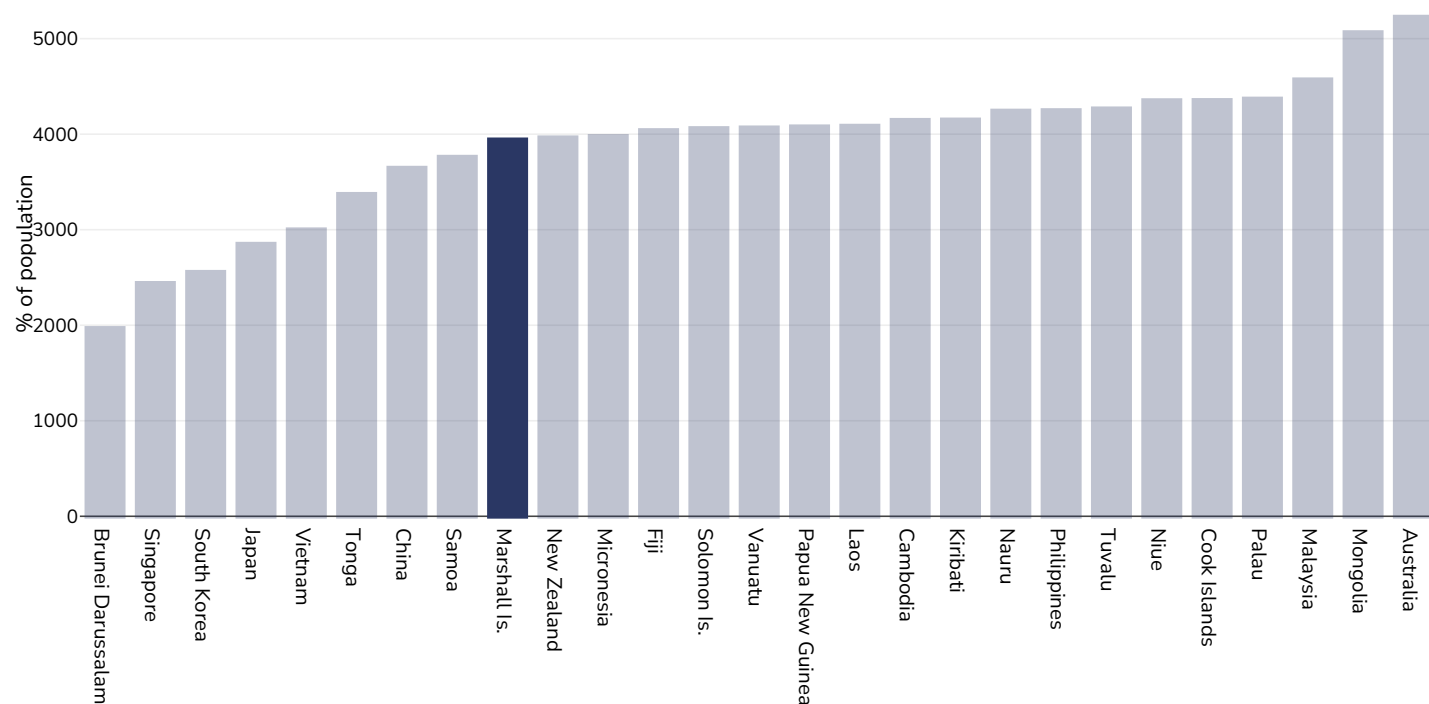
Age: 20+

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 depression per 100,000 population (adults 20+ years)

Men, 2021



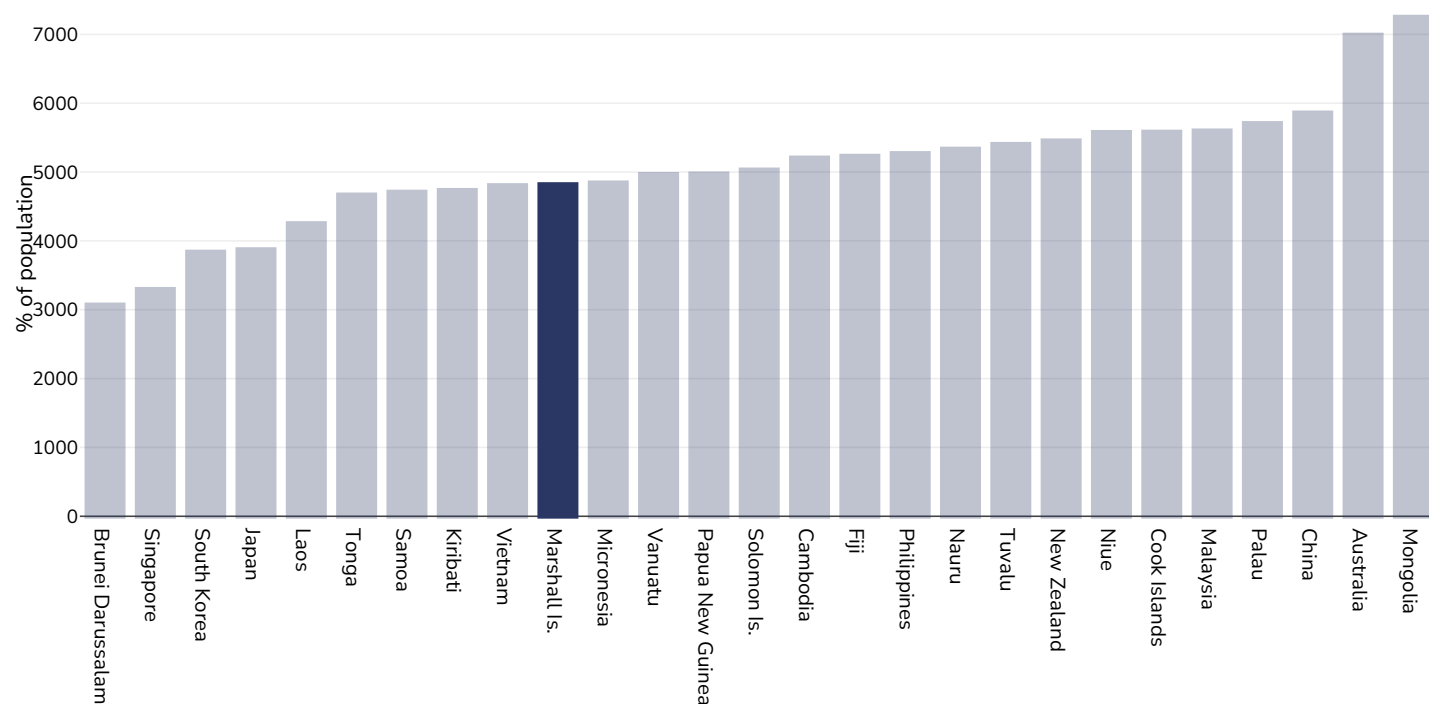
Age: 20+

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 depression per 100,000 population (adults 20+ years)

Women, 2021



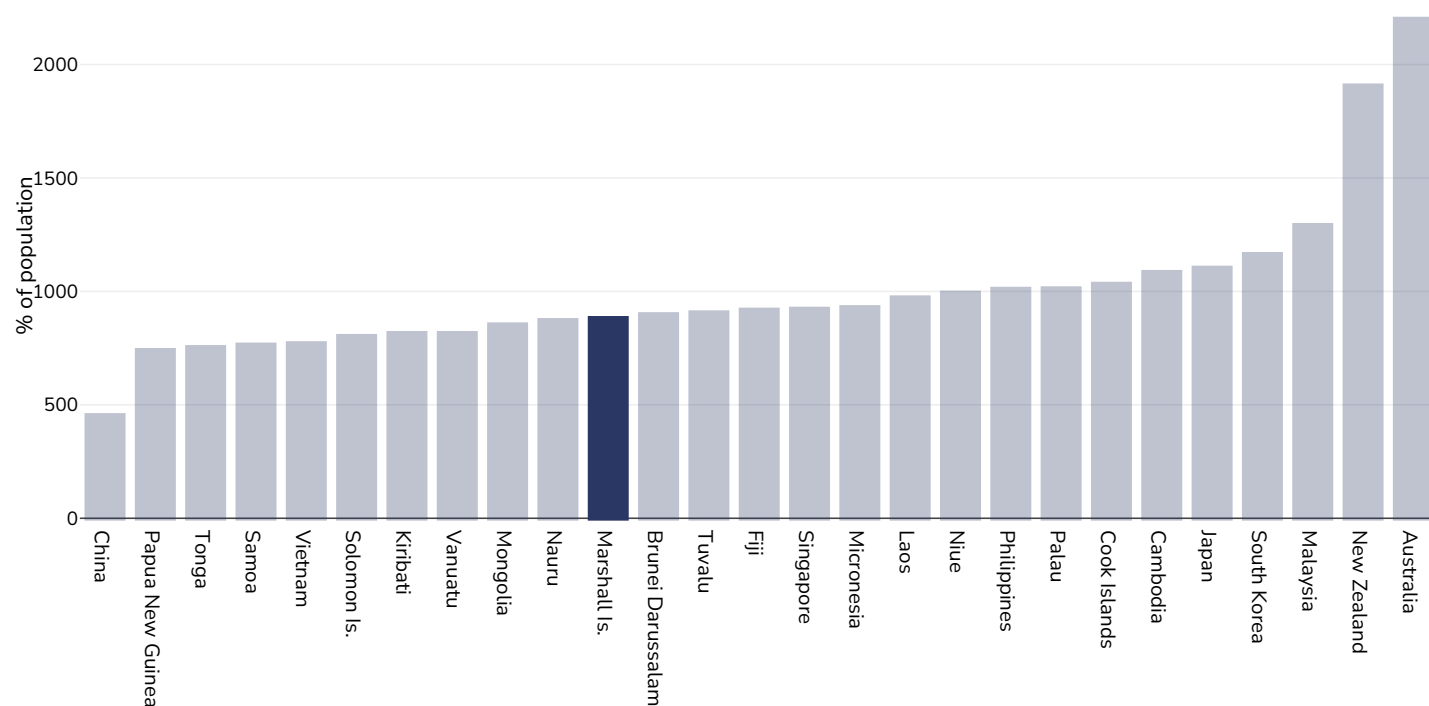
Age: 20+

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 depression per 100,000 population (adults 20+ years)

Children, 2021



Area covered:

National

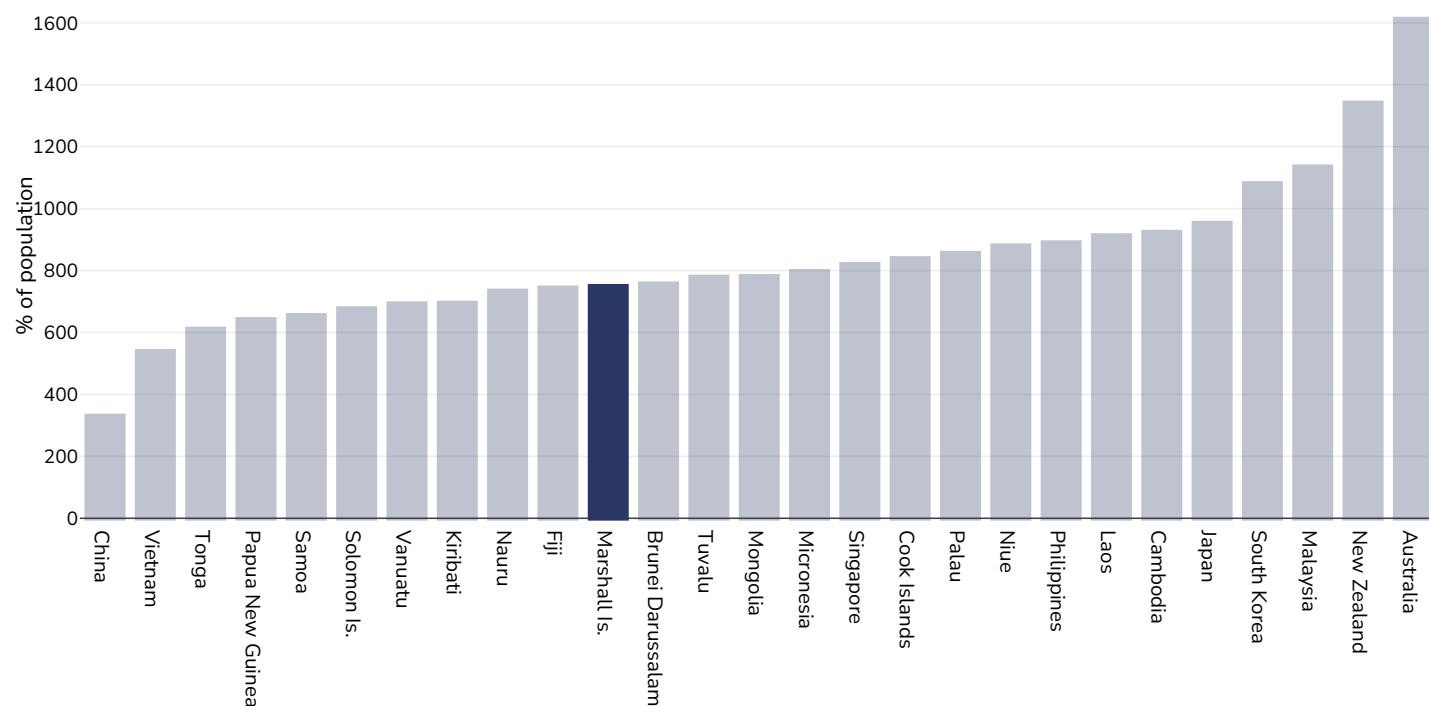
References:

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

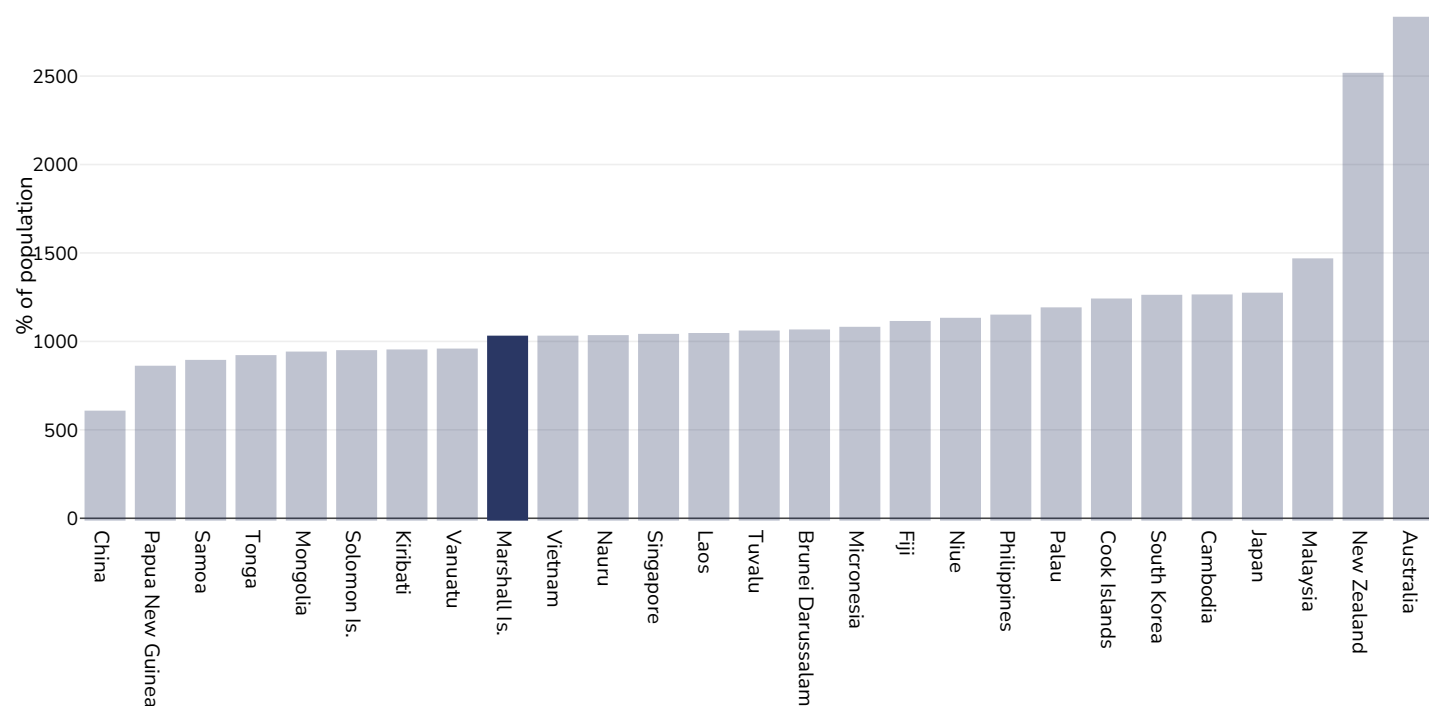
References:

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:

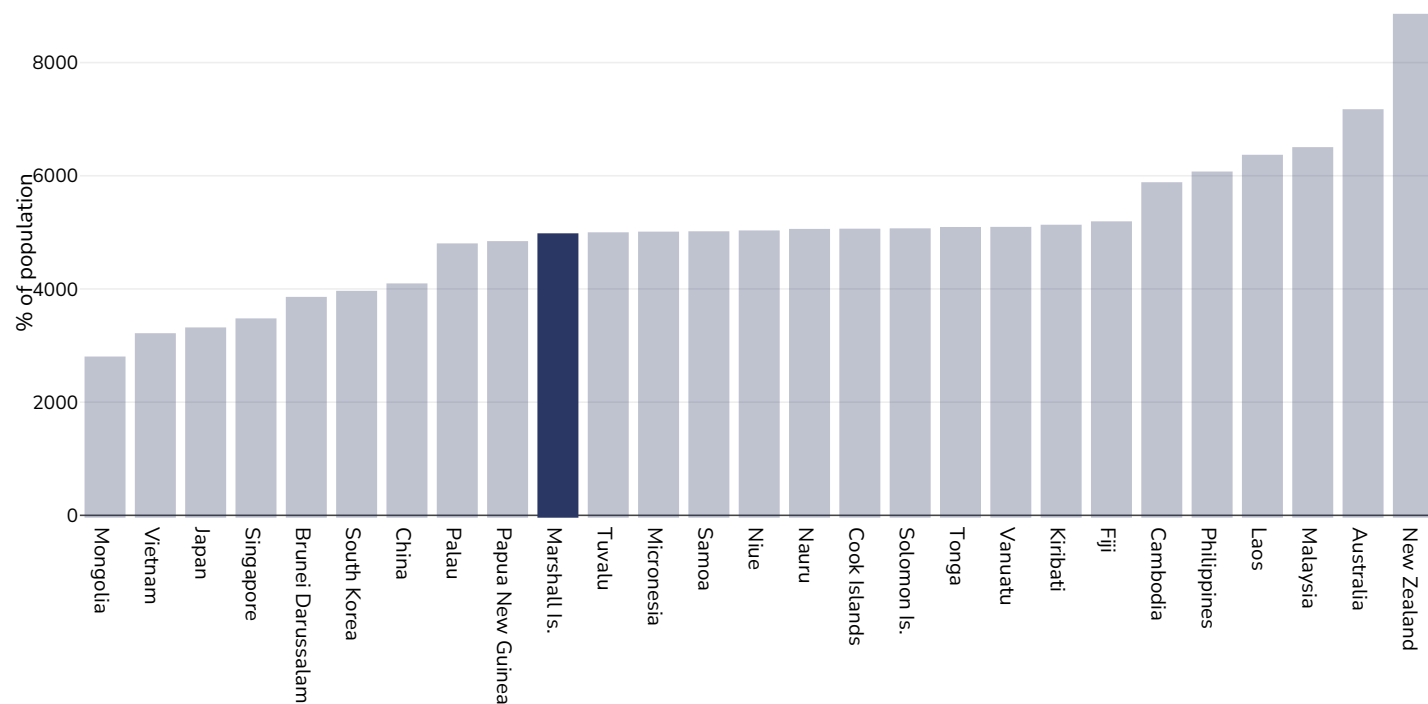
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from <http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare>. (Last accessed 23.04.25)

Definitions:

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

Mental health - anxiety disorders

Adults, 2021

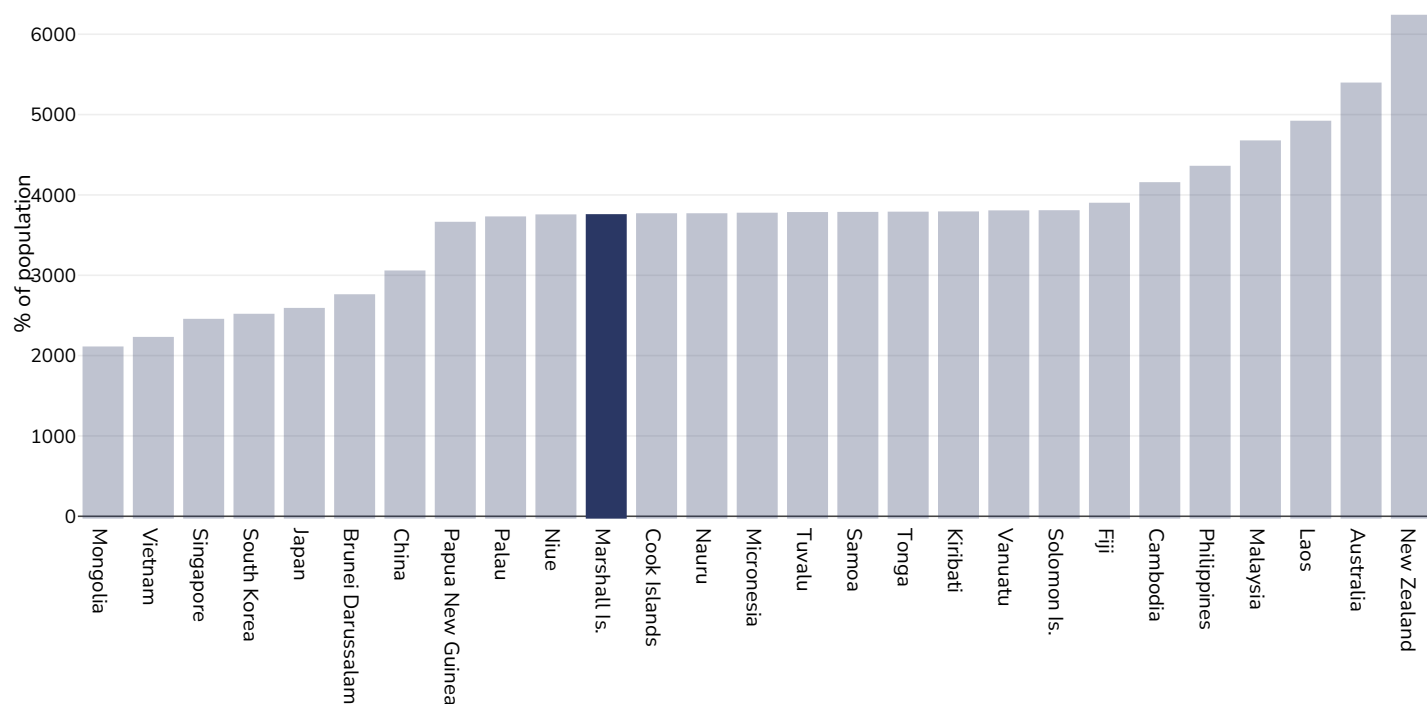


Age: 20+

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

Men, 2021

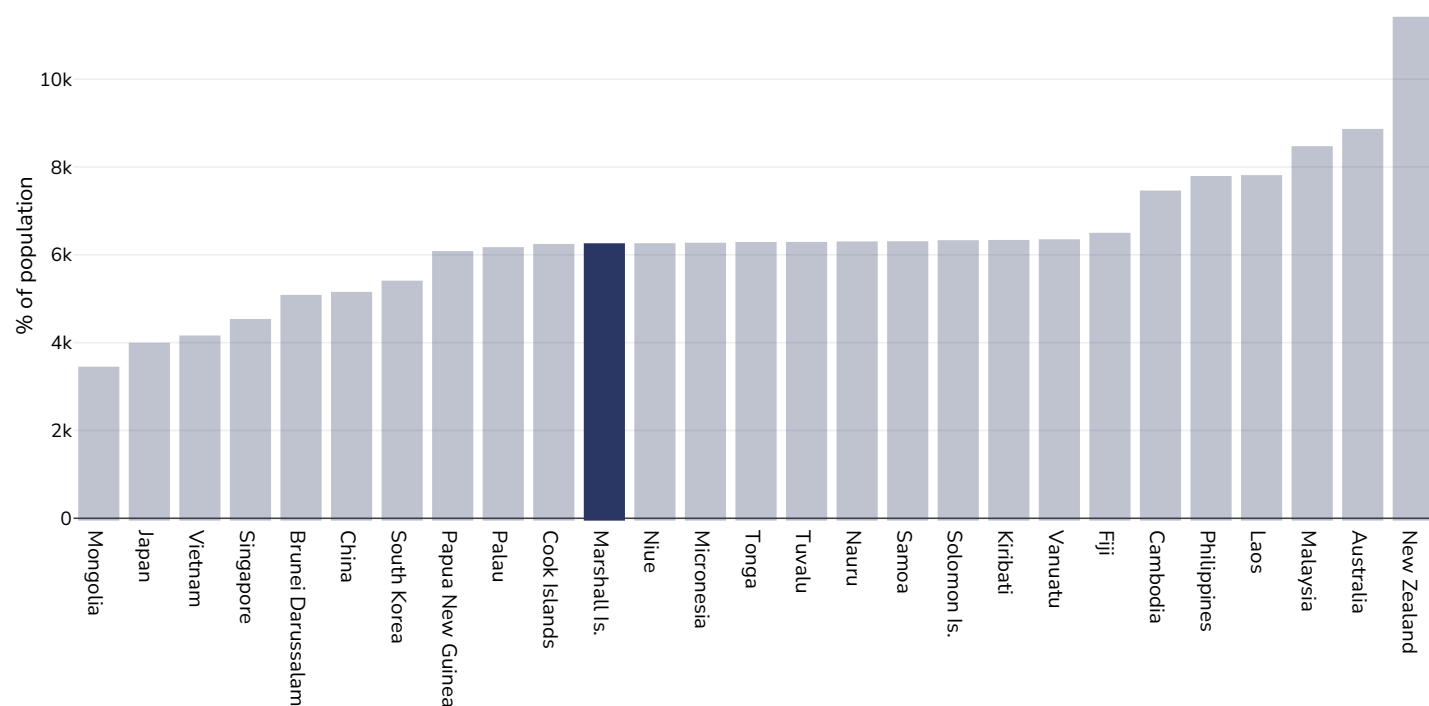


Age: 20+

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

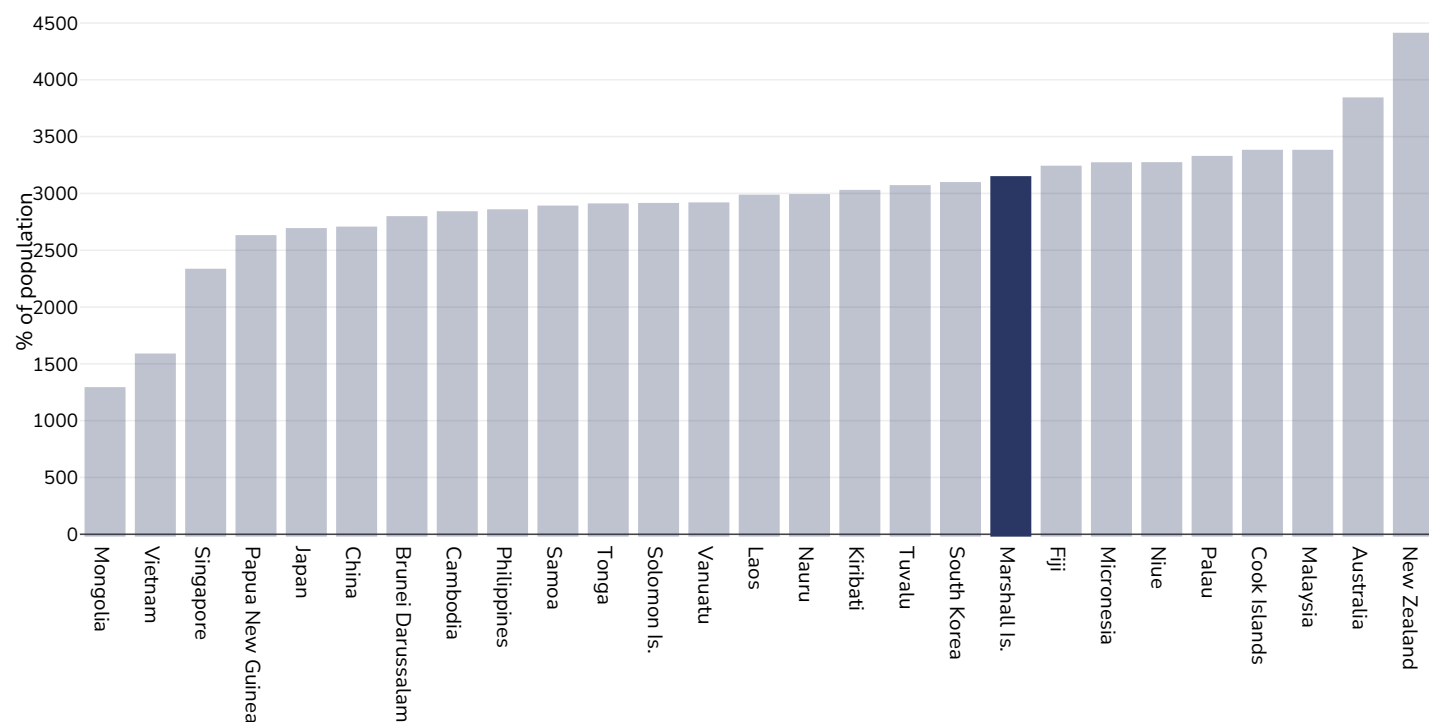


Age: 20+

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

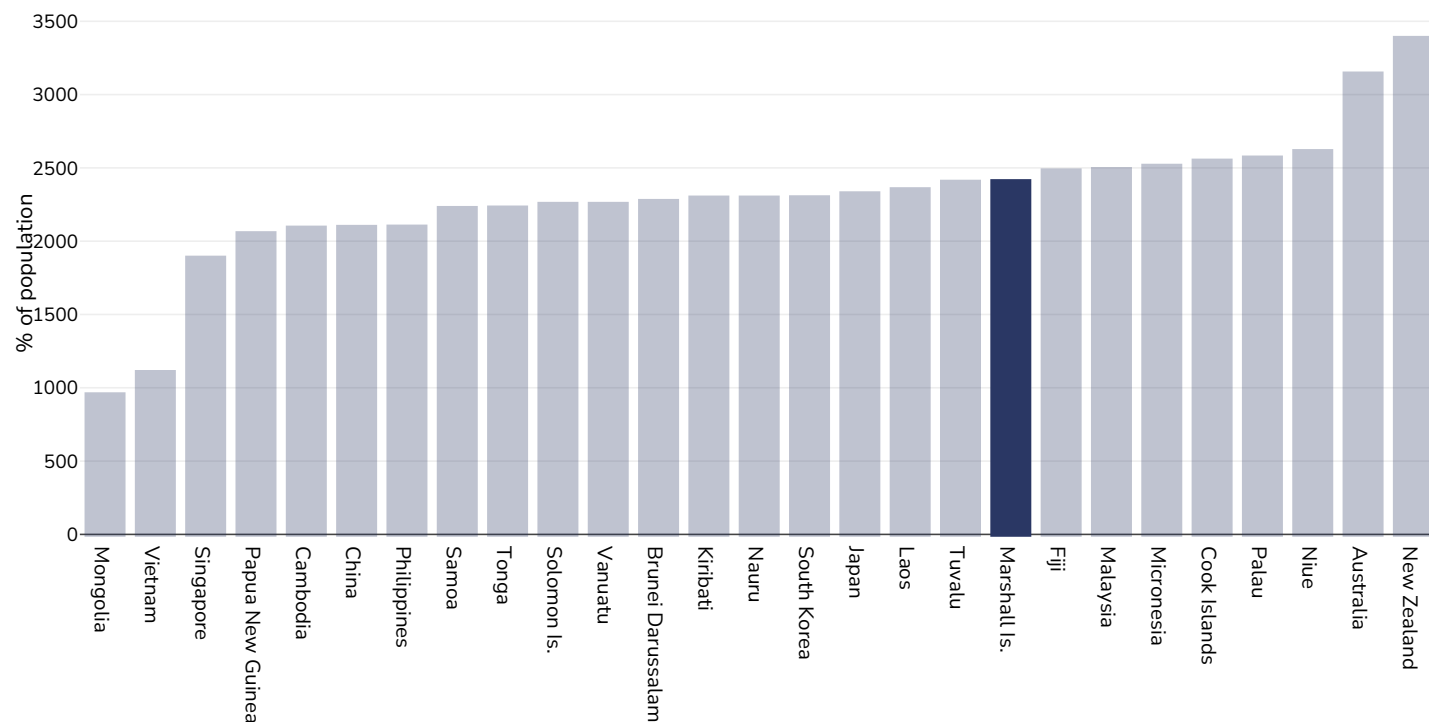
Children, 2021



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)

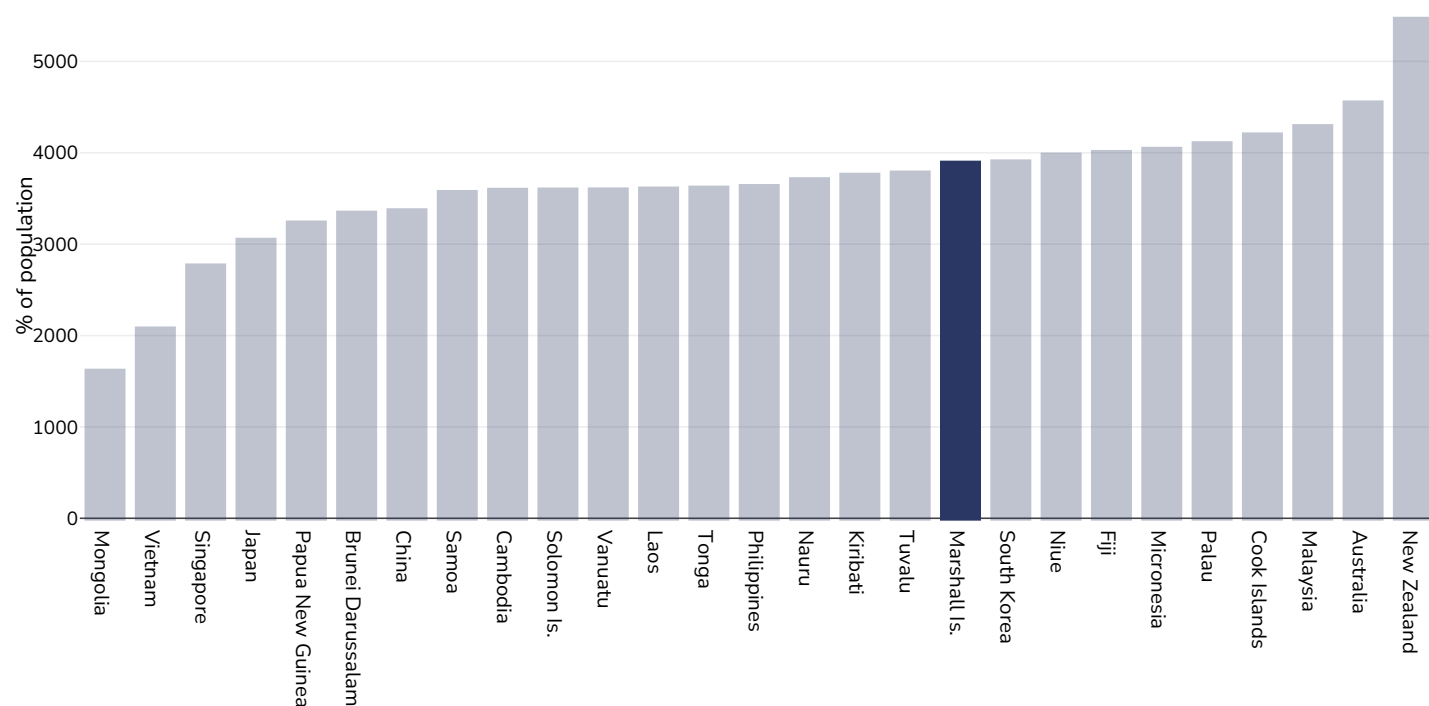
Boys, 2021



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

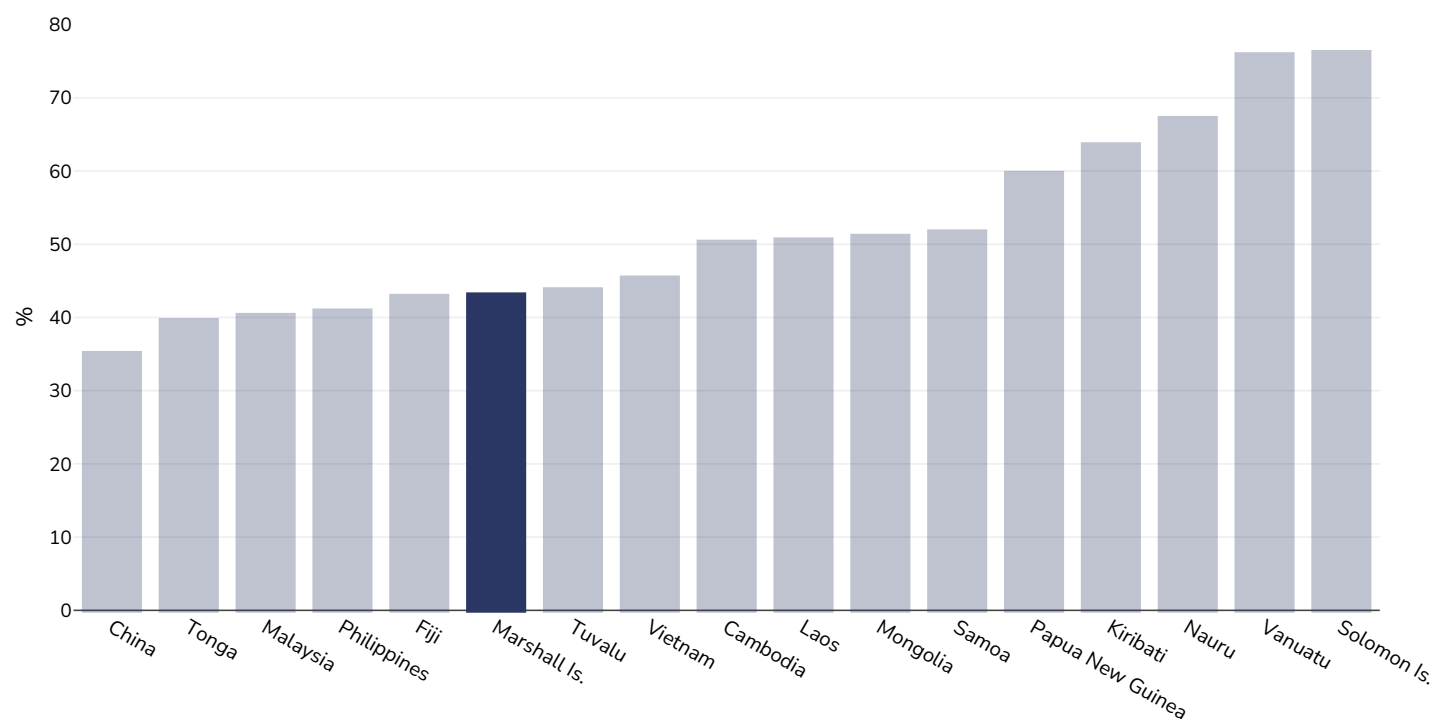


References:

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)

% Infants exclusively breastfed 0-5 months

0-5 years, 2007-2023

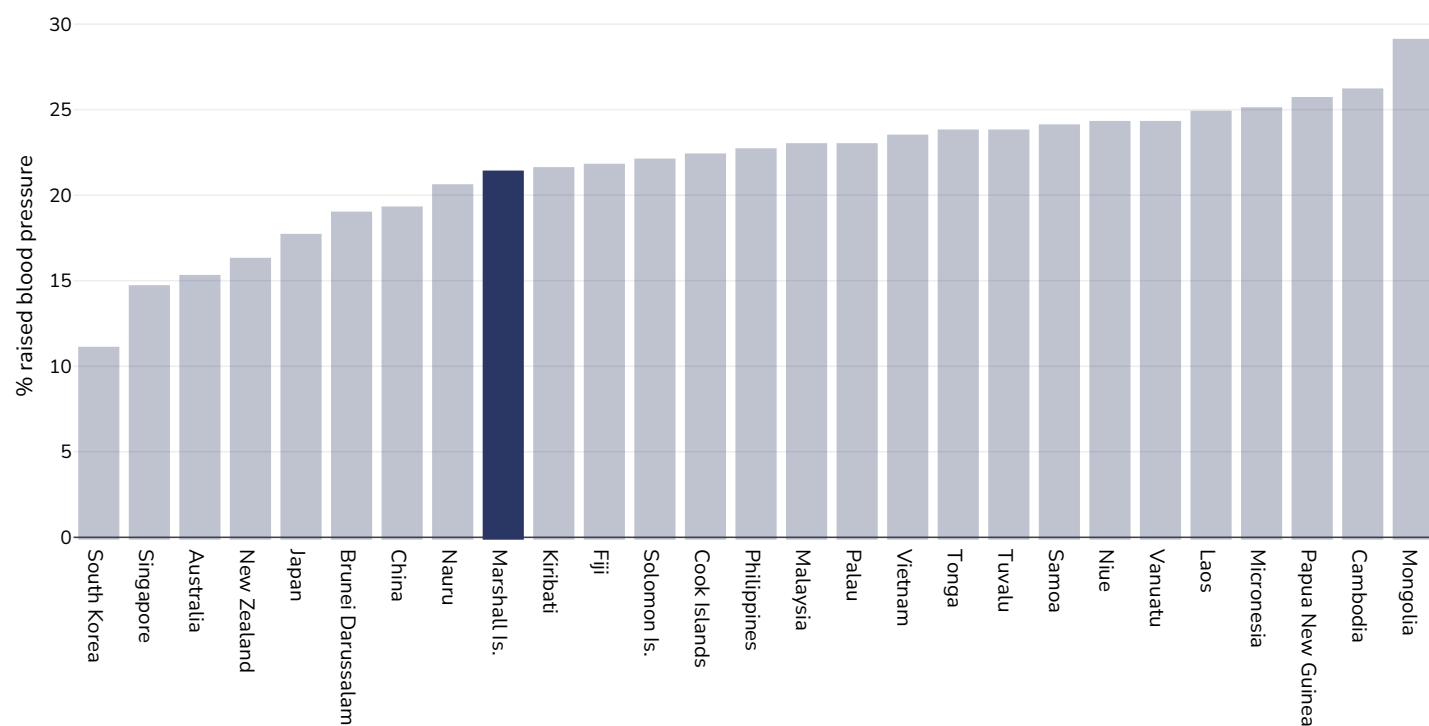


References: Republic of the Marshall Islands Integrated Child Health and Nutrition Survey 2017, Final Report. Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands: RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services, RMI Economic, Policy Planning and Statistic Office, 2017

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.

Raised blood pressure

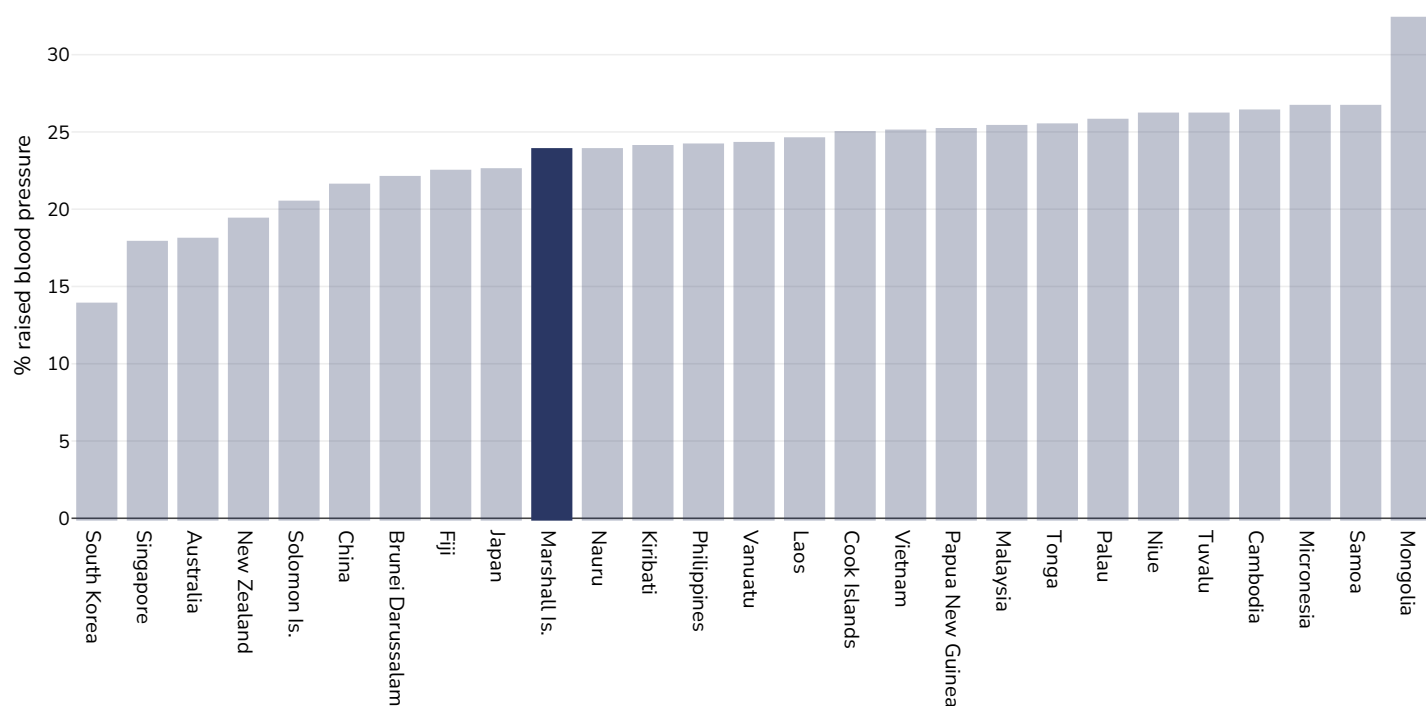
Adults, 2015



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 $\geq$ 140 OR DBP $\geq$ 90).

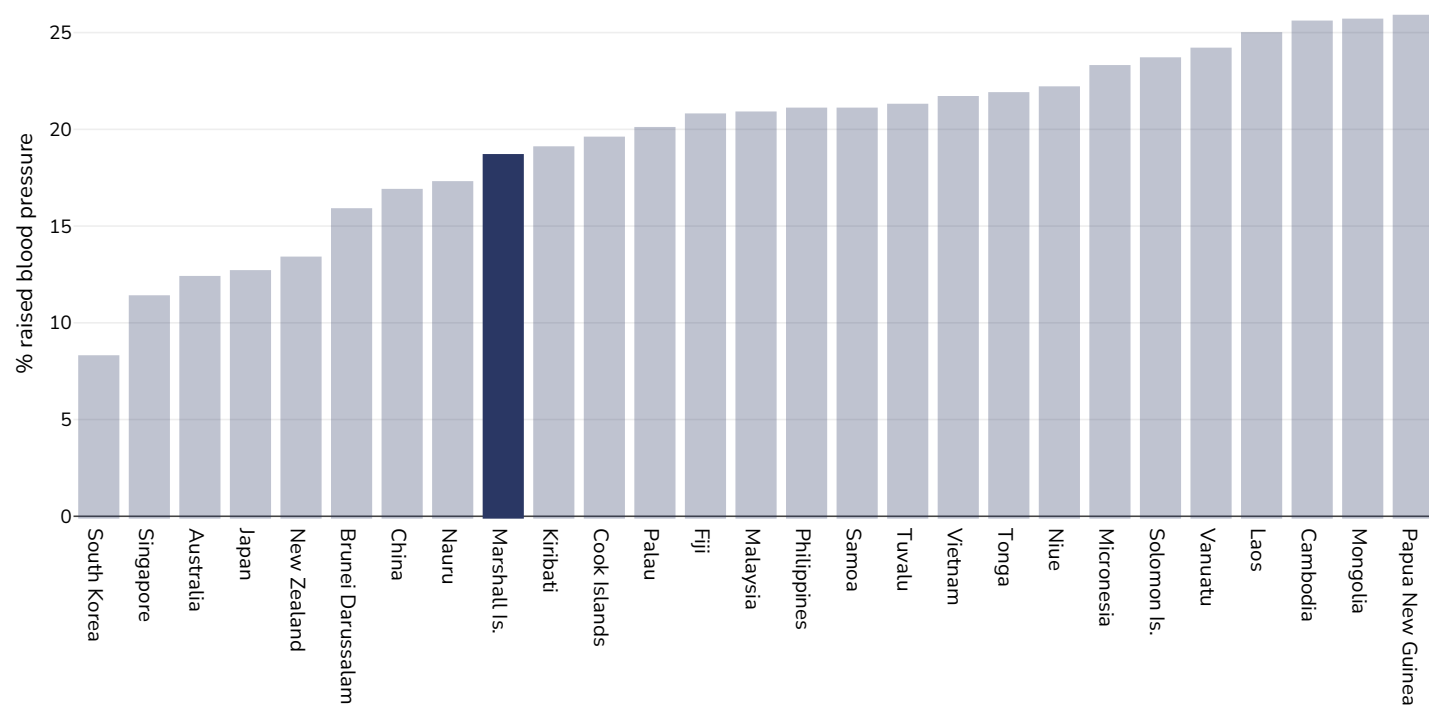
Men, 2015



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 $\geq$ 140 OR DBP $\geq$ 90).

Women, 2015

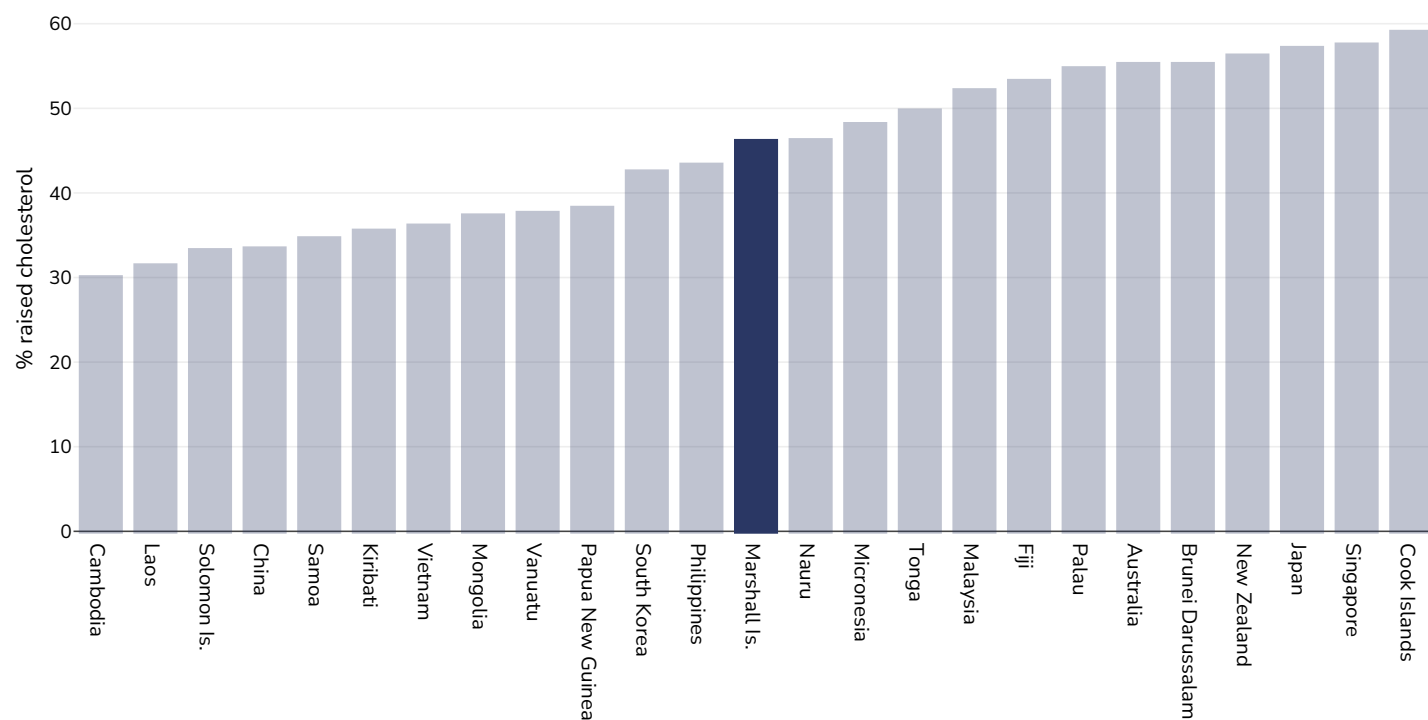


References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en>

Definitions: Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP $\geq$ 140 OR DBP $\geq$ 90).

Raised cholesterol

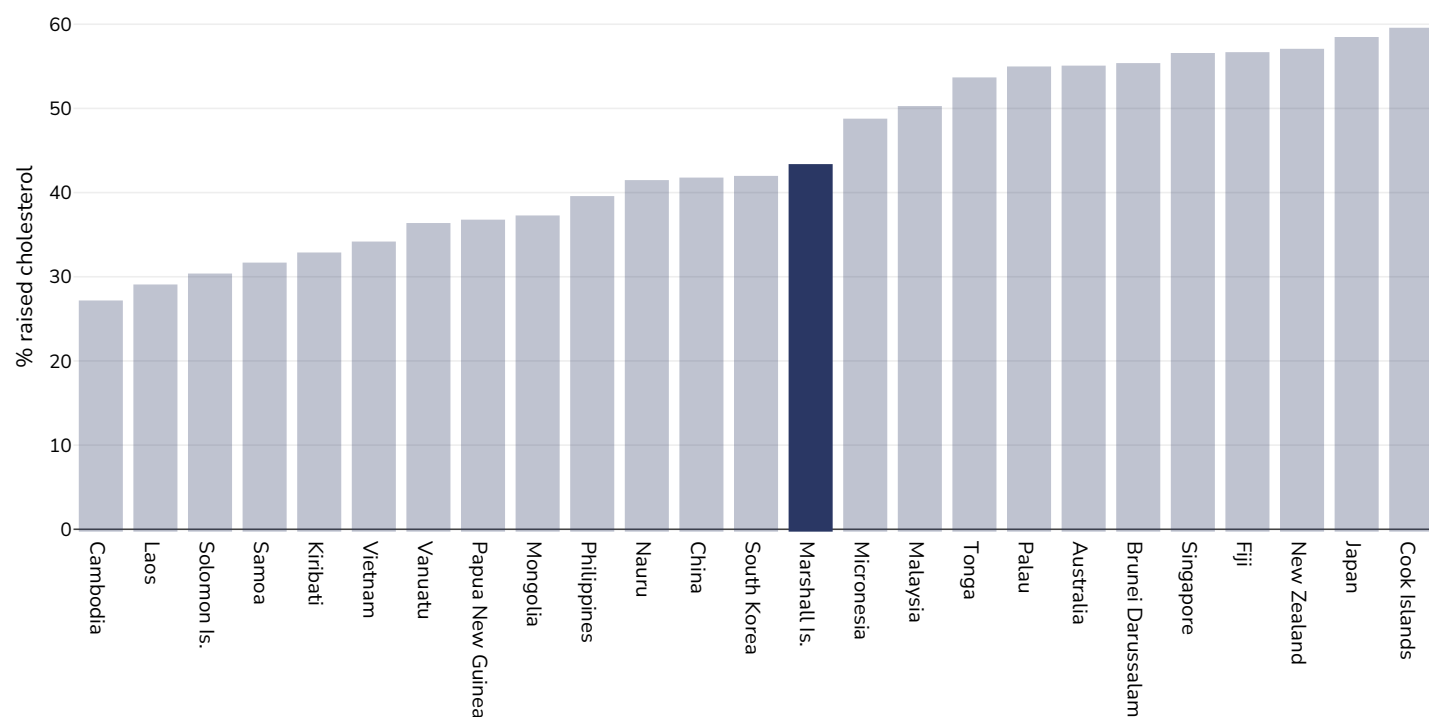
Adults, 2008



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).

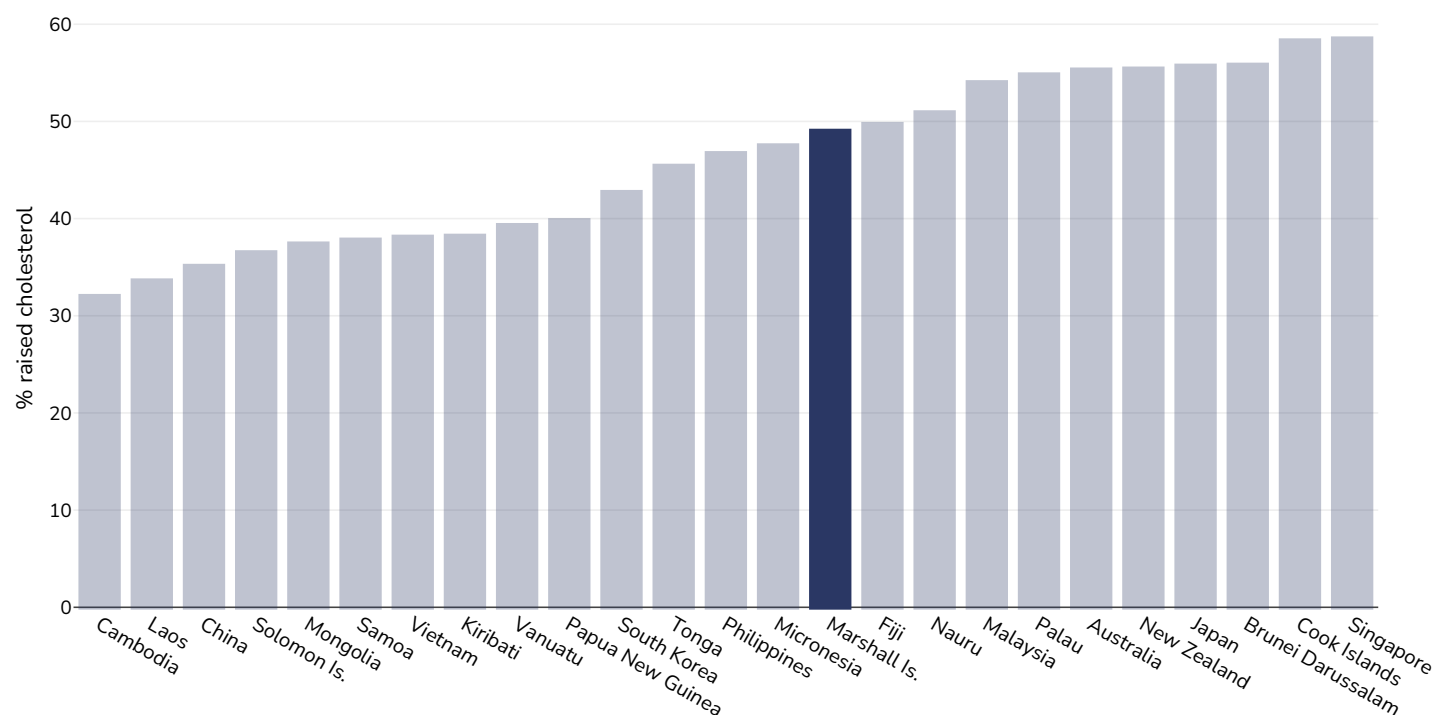
Men, 2008



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).

Women, 2008

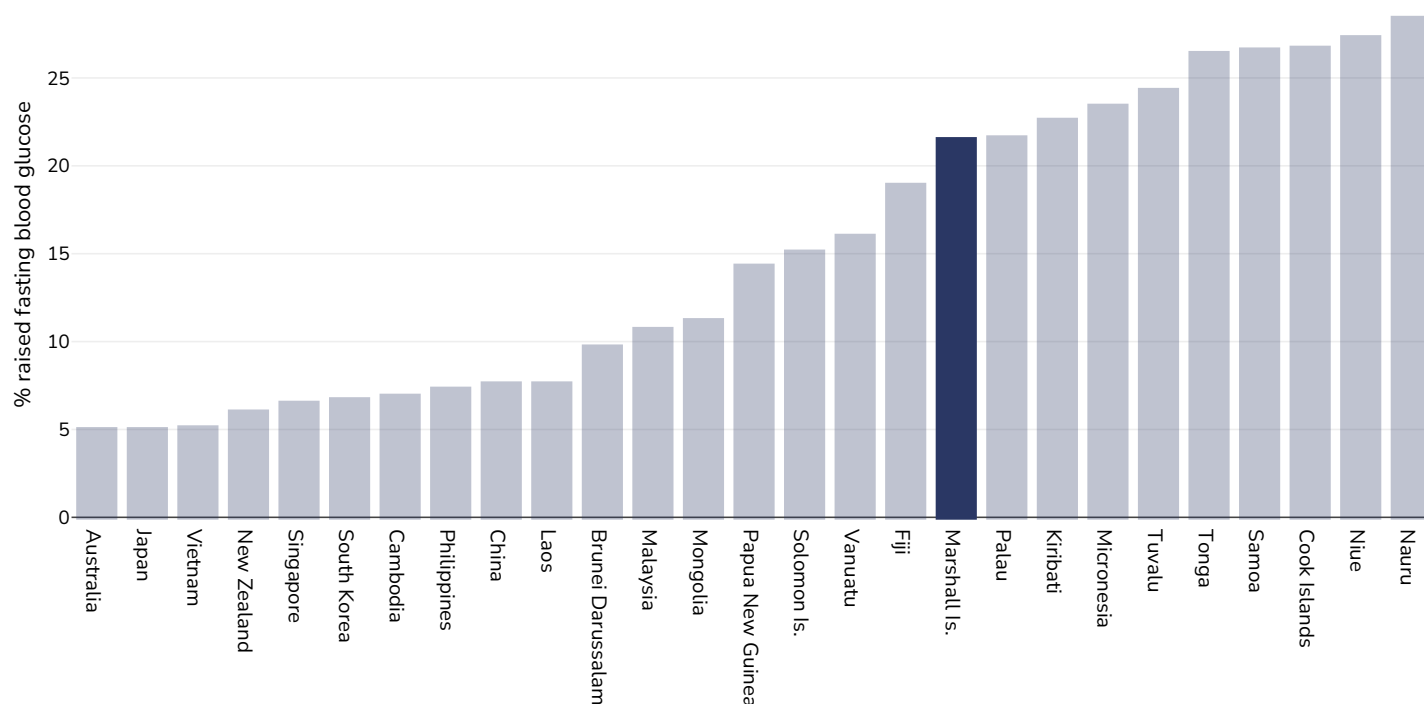


References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885>

Definitions: % Raised total cholesterol (≥ 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).

Raised fasting blood glucose

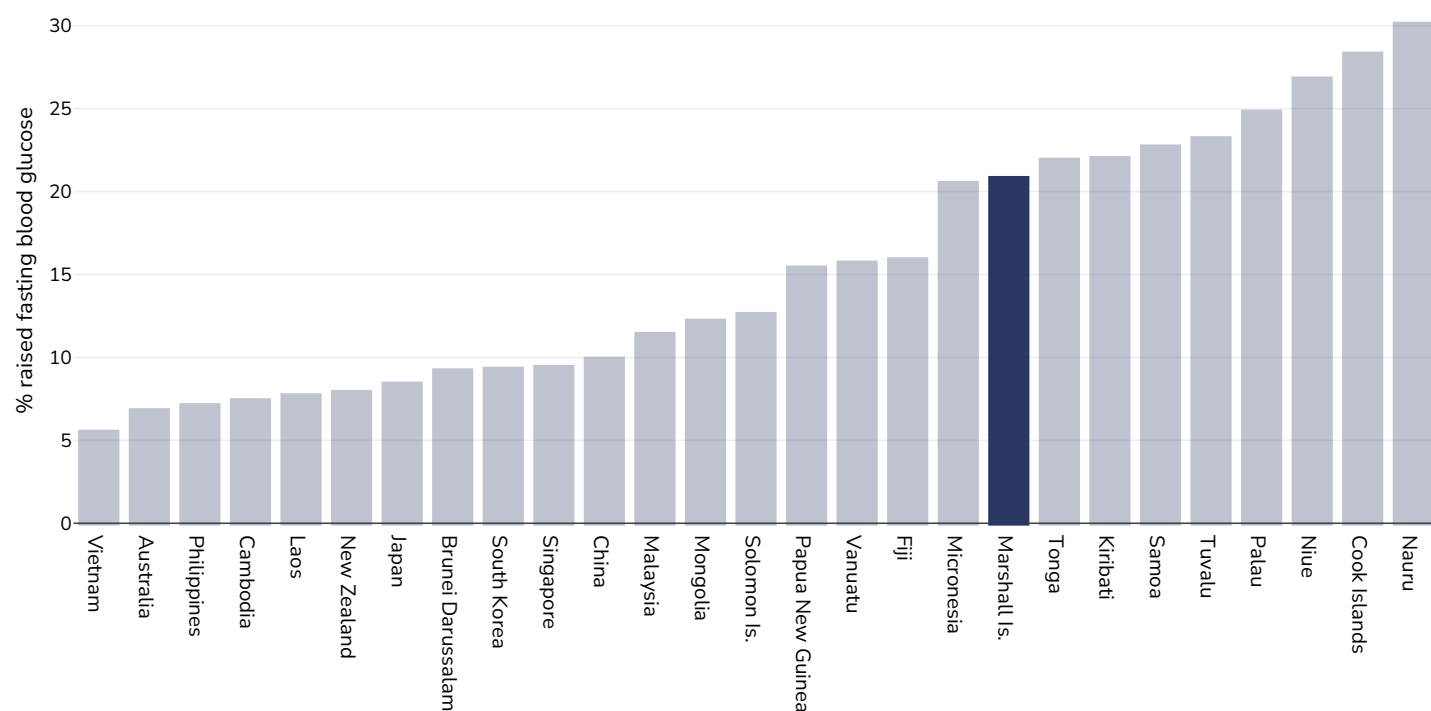
Men, 2014



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 mmol/L or on medication).

Women, 2014

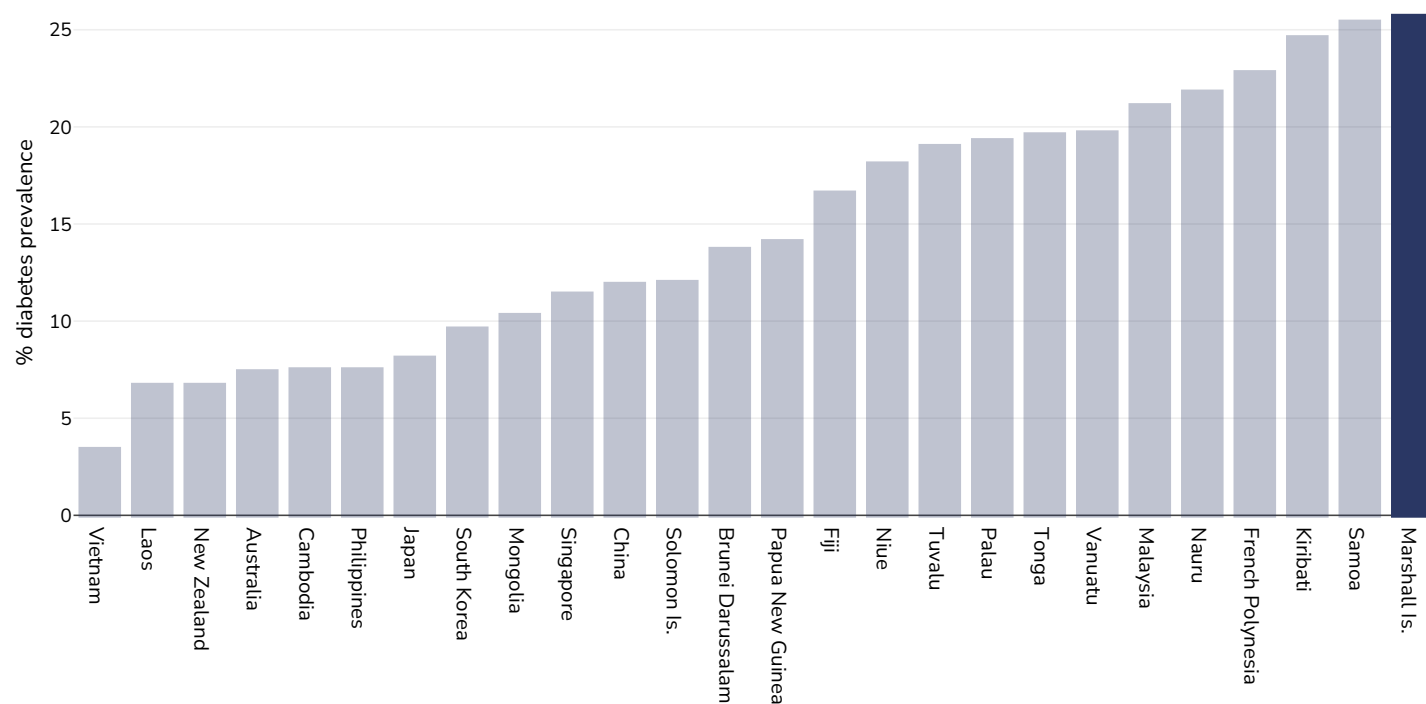


References: Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A869?lang=en>

Definitions: Age Standardised % raised fasting blood glucose (≥ 7.0 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>

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