Panama



Country report card - adults

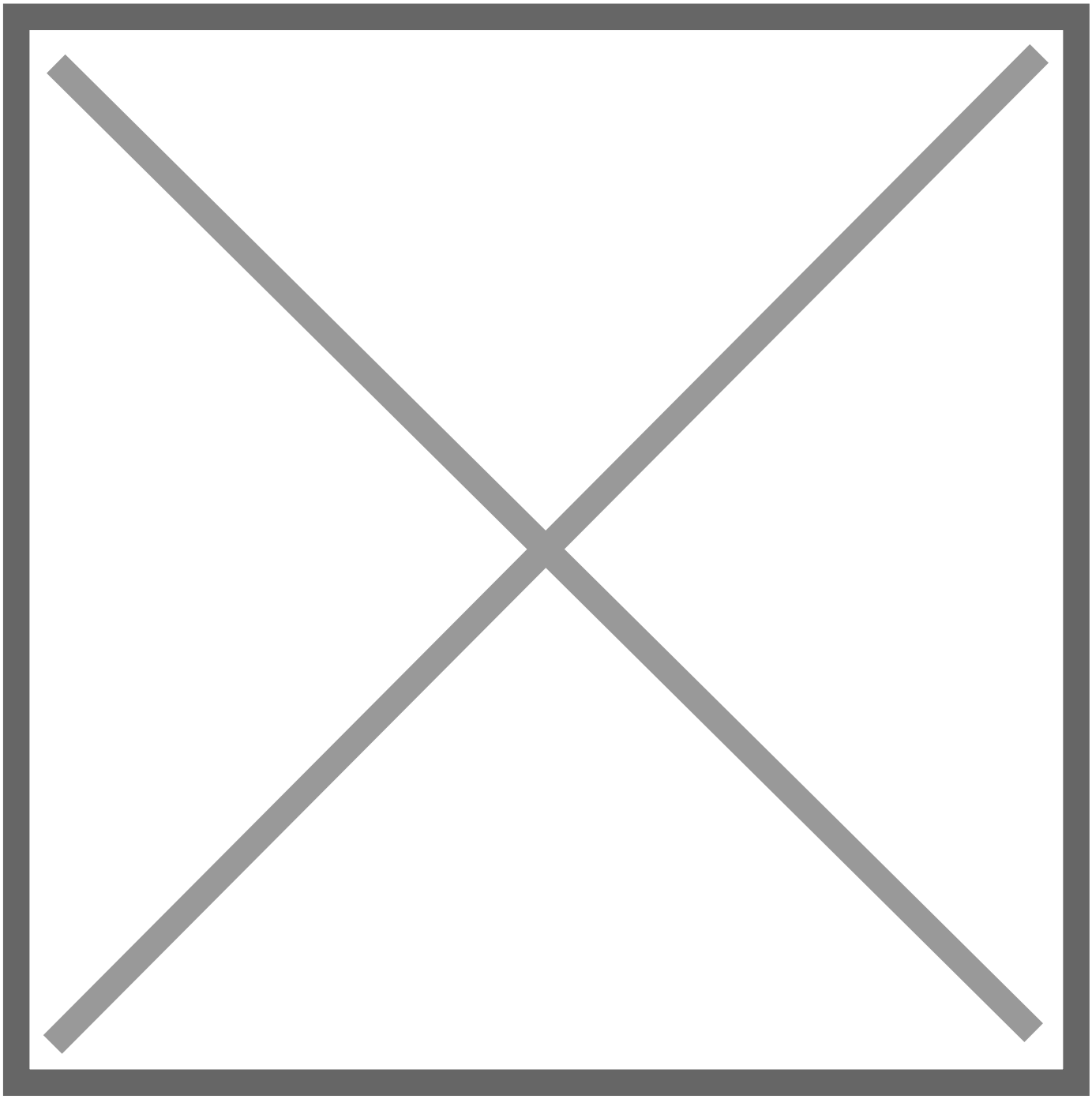
This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity for adults. Where available, data on common and relevant obesity drivers and comorbidities are also presented.

View the latest version of this report on the Global Obesity Observatory at https://data.worldobesity.org/country/panama-168/.

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Obesity prevalence

Adults, 2019

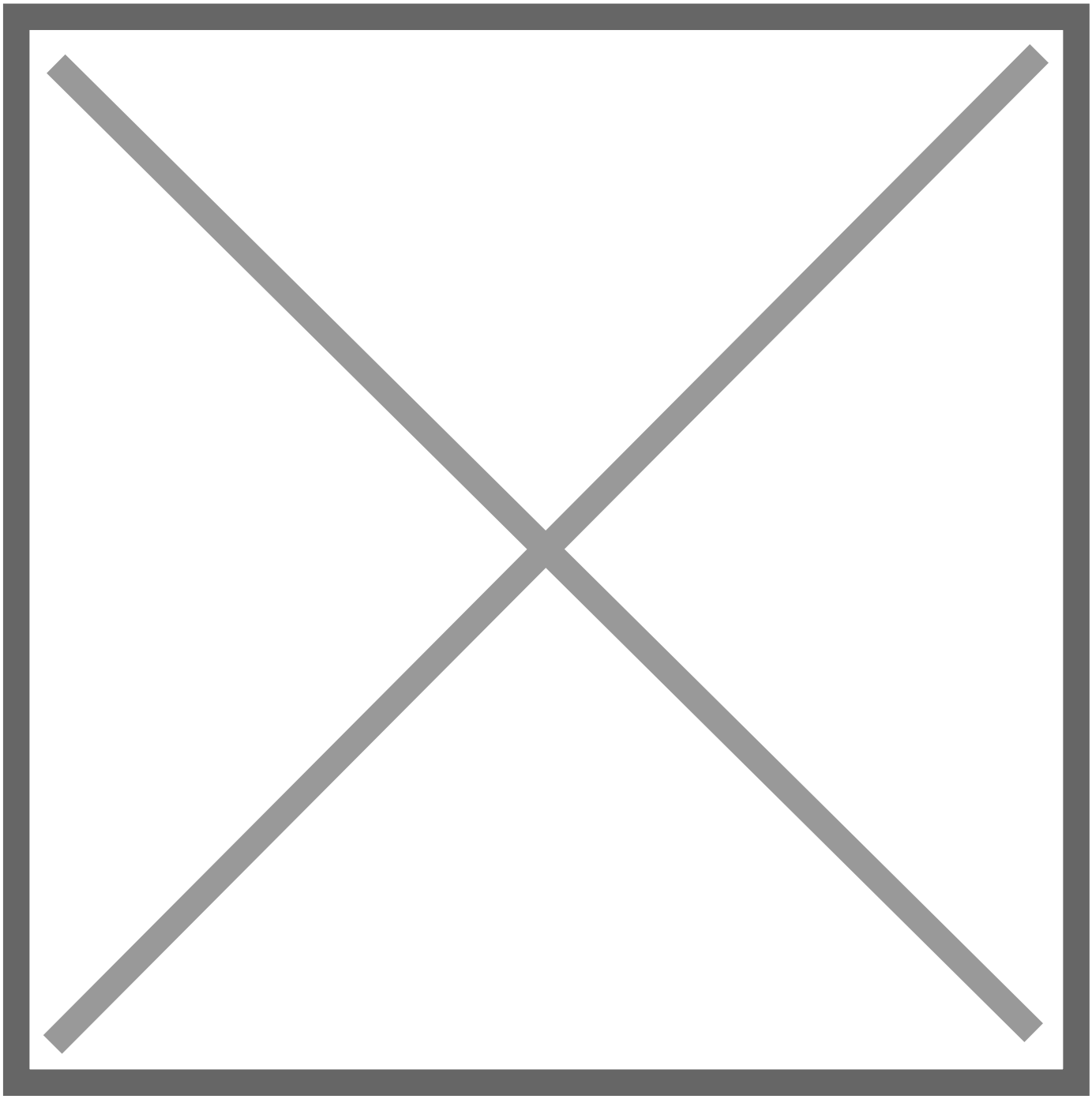


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	20118
Area covered:	National
References:	National Health Survey of Panama (ENSPA). 2019. http://www.gorgas.gob.pa/SIGENSPA/Informe_general.htm (Accessed 23.01.23)
Notes:	Sample size is all over 15 years

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

% adult living with obesity by region

Men and women

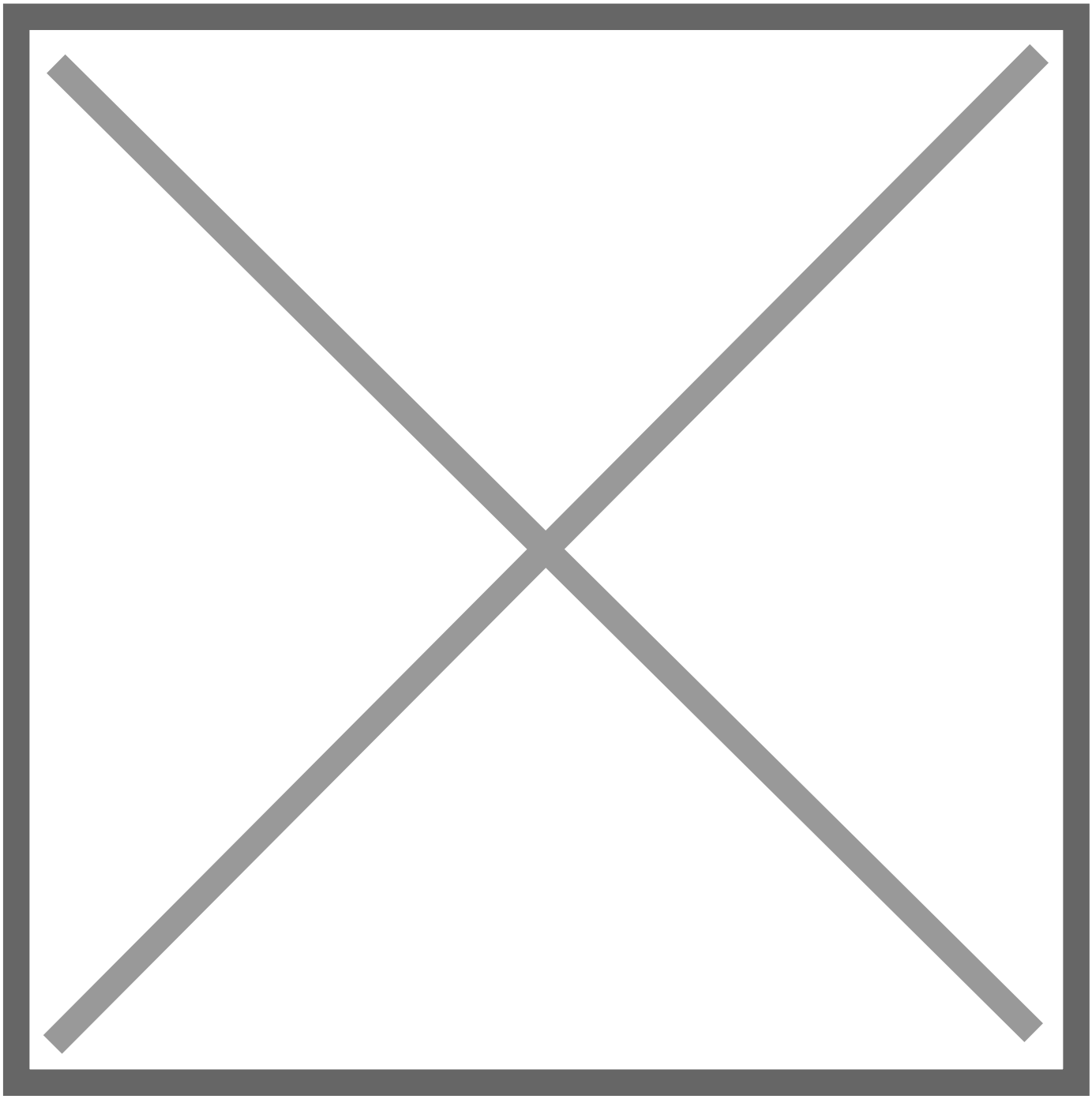


Survey type:	Measured
References:	2003, 2008: Sasson, M., Lee, M., Jan, C., Fontes, F. and Motta, J., 2014. Prevalence and associated factors of obesity among Panamanian adults. 1982–2010. PLoS One, 9(3), p.e91689. 2019: National Health Survey of Panama (ENSPA). 2019. http://www.gorgas.gob.pa/SIGENSPA/Informe_general.htm (Accessed 23.01.23)

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.

% adult living with overweight or obesity by region

Men and women

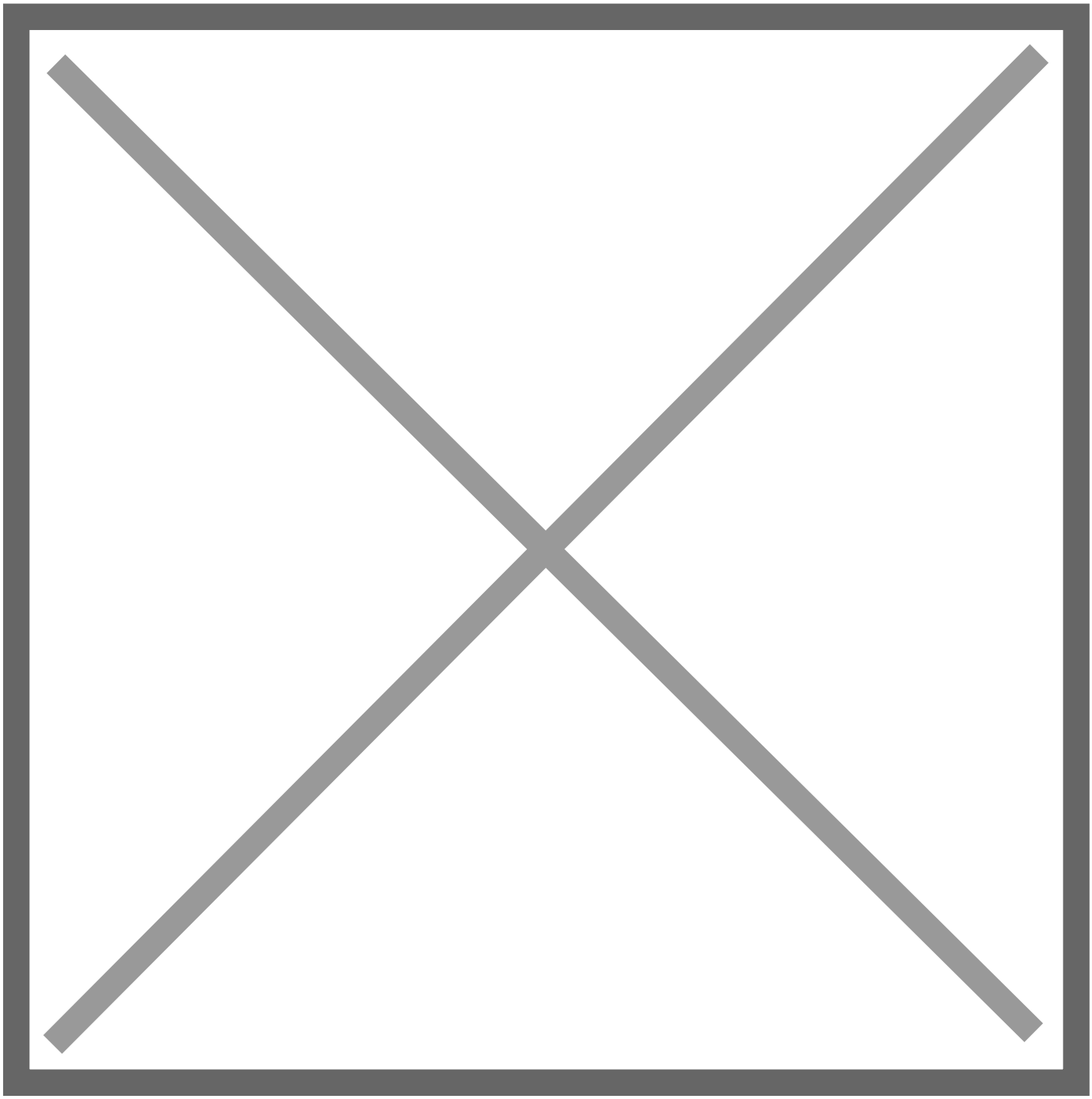


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% of adults living with overweight or obesity

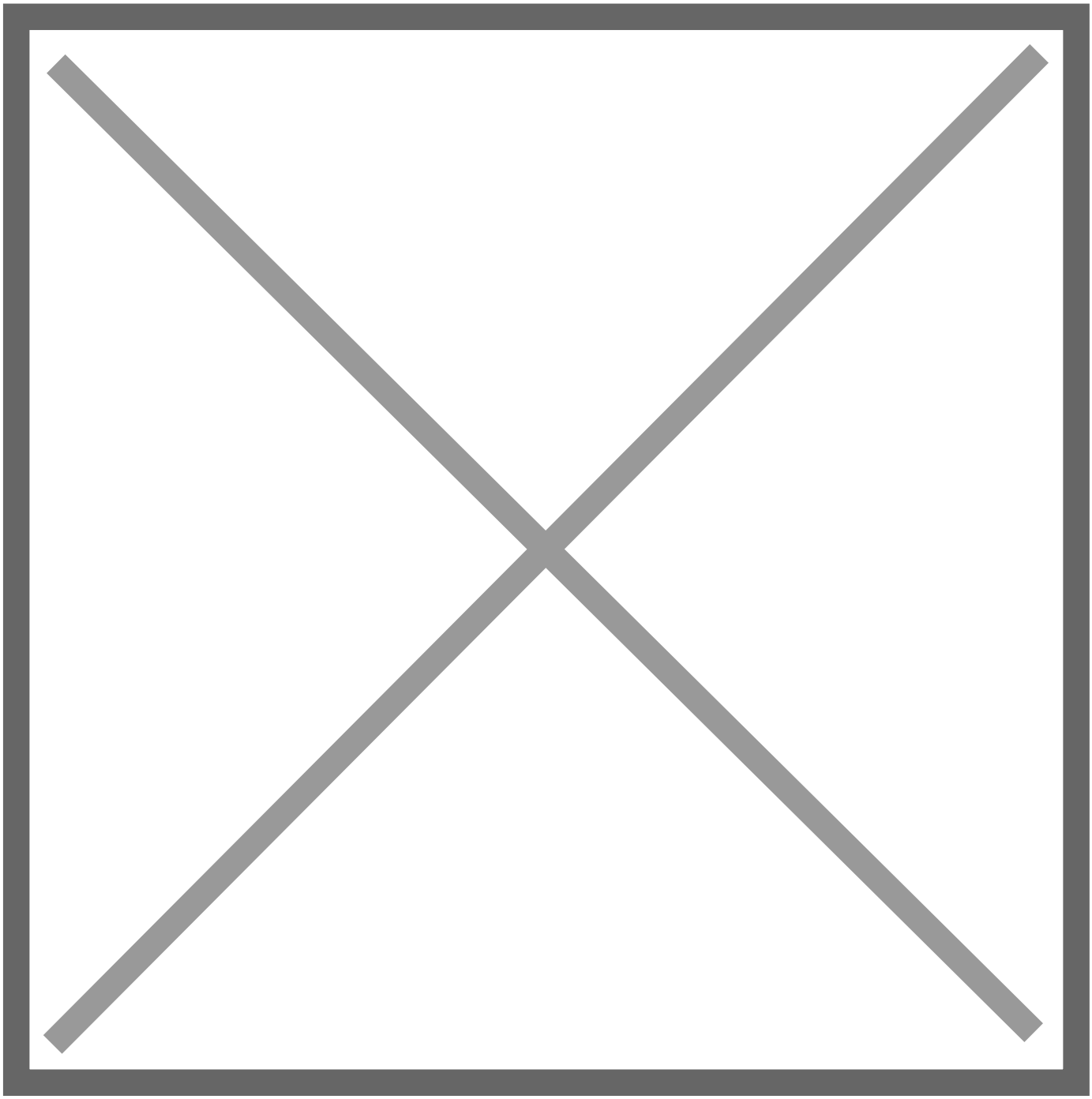
Men



Survey type:	Measured
References:	2003, 2008: Sasson, M., Lee, M., Jan, C., Fontes, F. and Motta, J., 2014. Prevalence and associated factors of obesity among Panamanian adults. 1982–2010. PLoS One, 9(3), p.e91689. 2019: National Health Survey of Panama (ENSPA). 2019. http://www.gorgas.gob.pa/SIGENSPA/Informe_general.htm (Accessed 23.01.23)

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.

Women

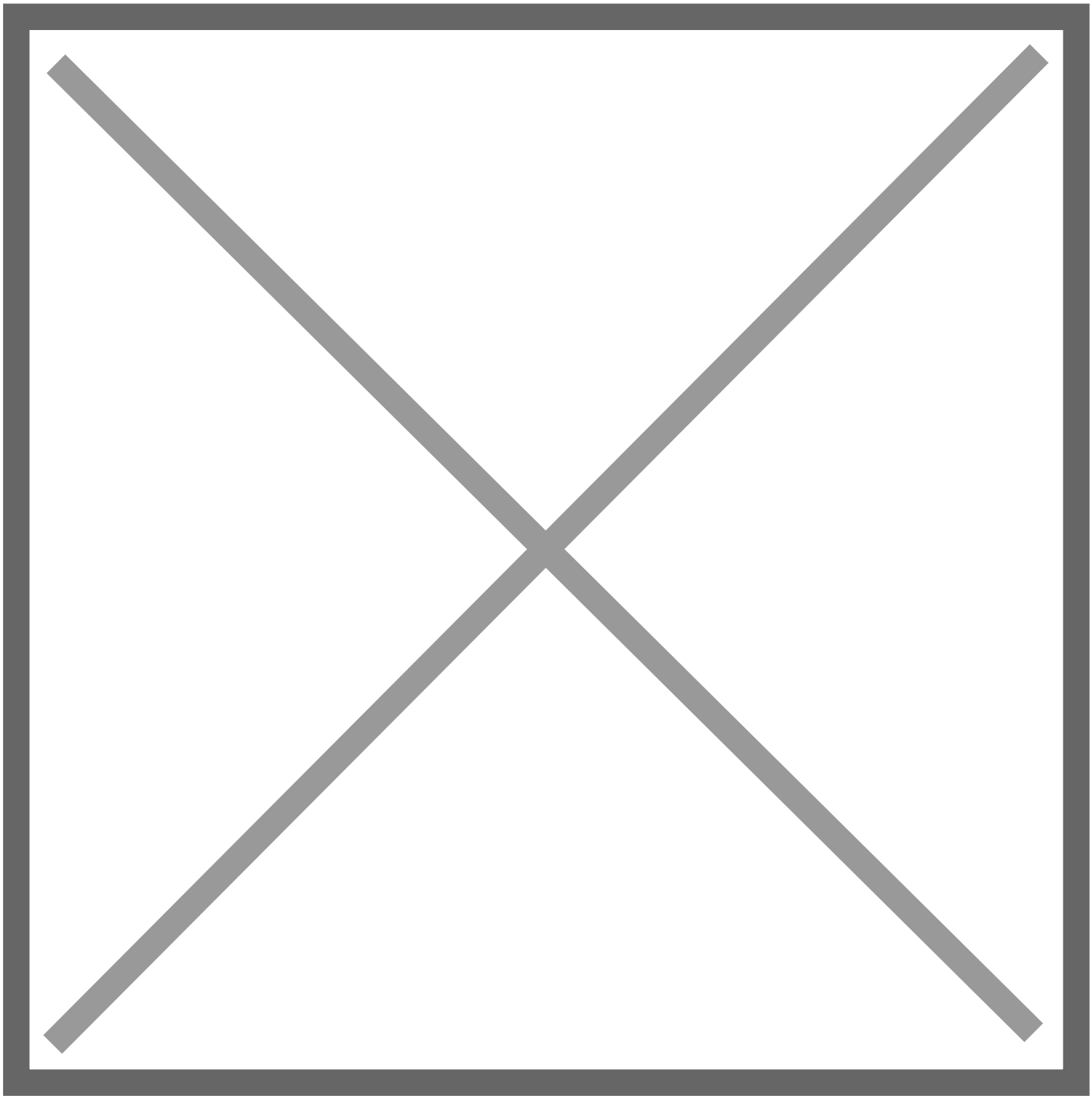


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Different methodologies may have been used to collect this data and so data from different surveys may not be strictly comparable. Please check with original data sources for methodologies used.

Overweight/obesity by age

Adults, 2019

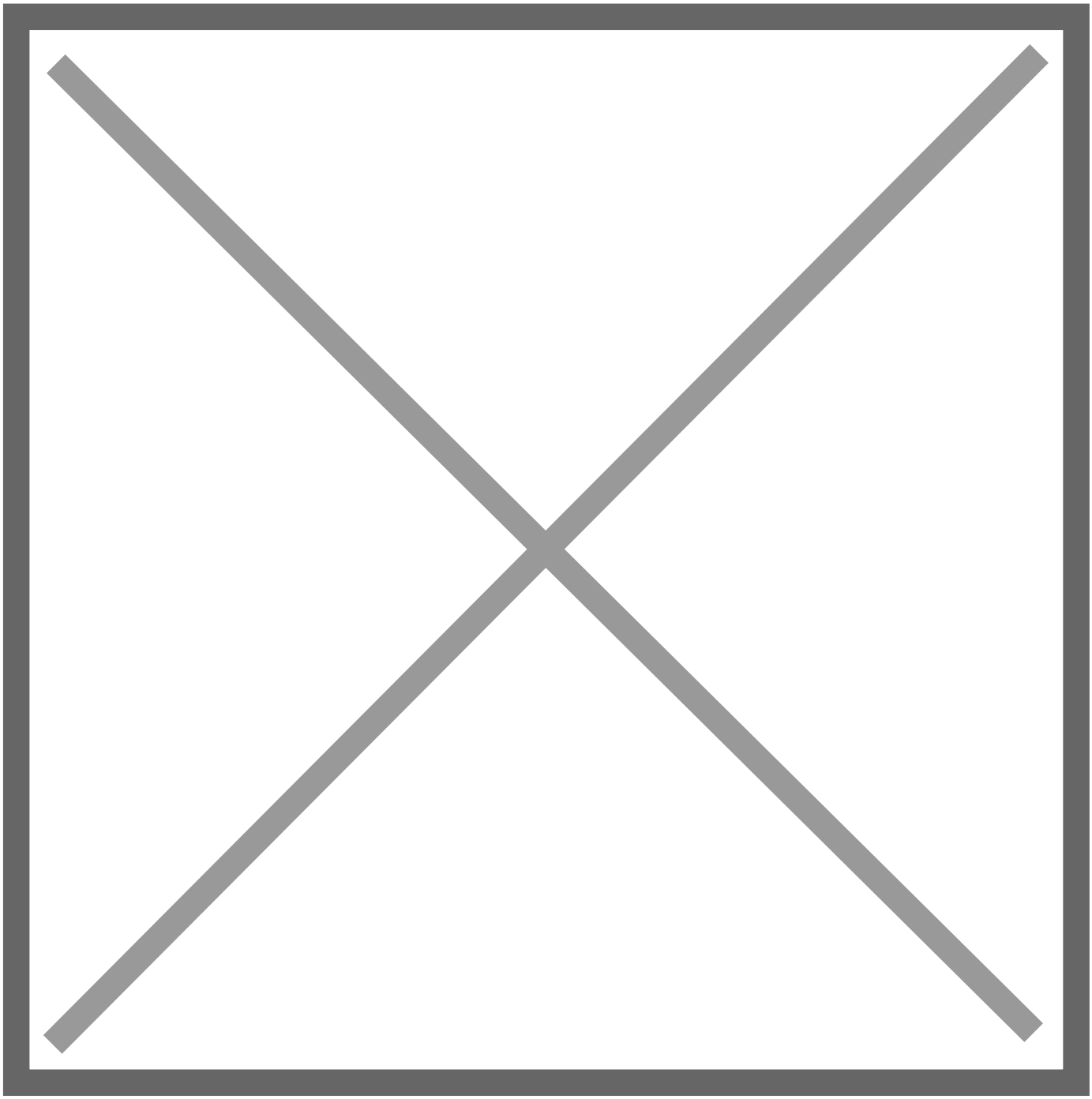


Survey type:	Measured
Sample size:	20118
Area covered:	National
References:	National Health Survey of Panama (ENSPA). 2019. http://www.gorgas.gob.pa/SIGENSPA/Informe_general.htm (Accessed 23.01.23)
Notes:	Sample size is all over 15 years

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

Overweight/obesity by region

Adults, 2019



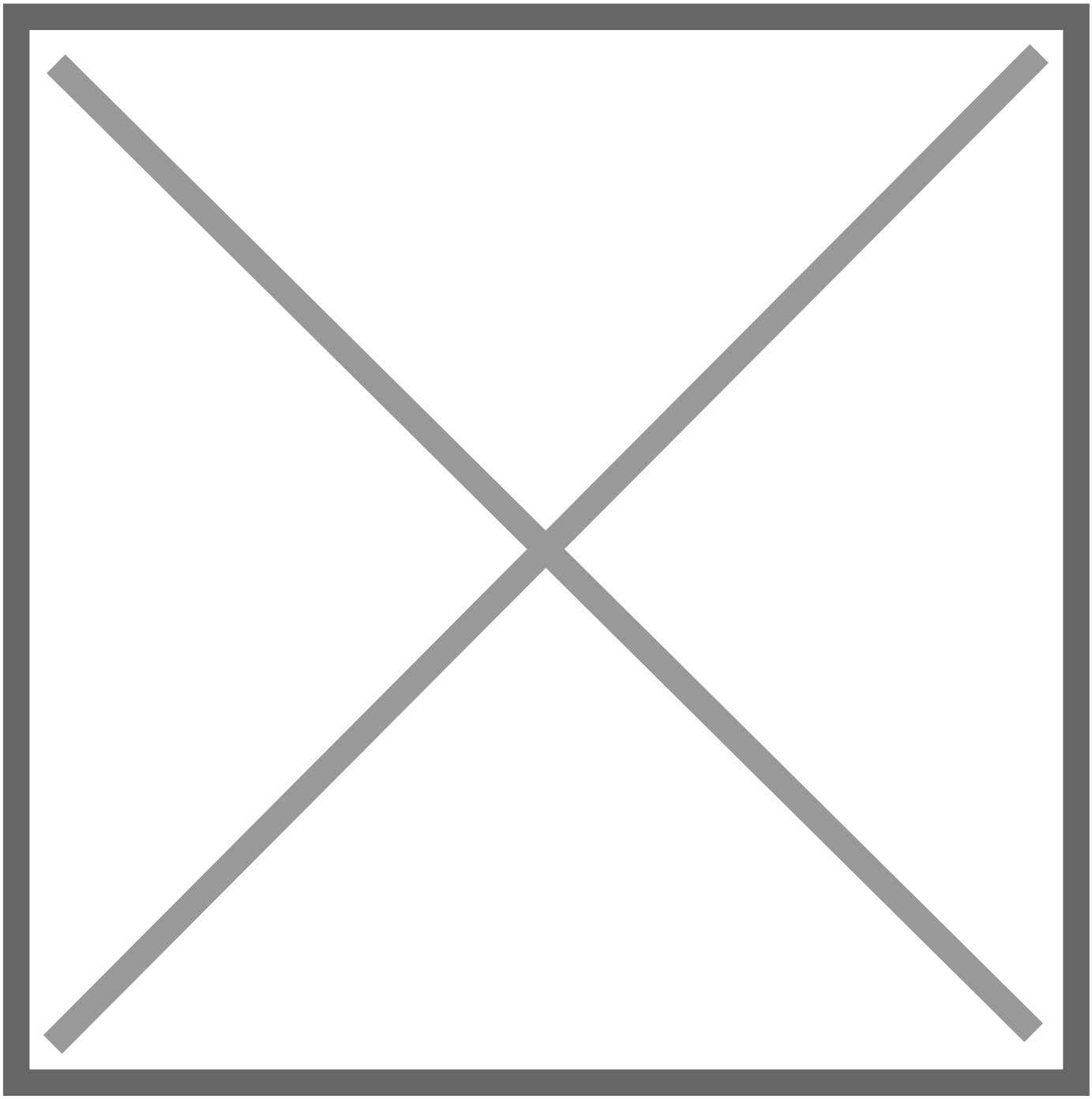
Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	20118
Area covered:	National
References:	National Health Survey of Panama (ENSPA). 2019. http://www.gorgas.gob.pa/SIGENSPA/Informe_general.htm (Accessed 23.01.23)

Notes:	Sample size is all over 15 years
	Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².

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, 2010

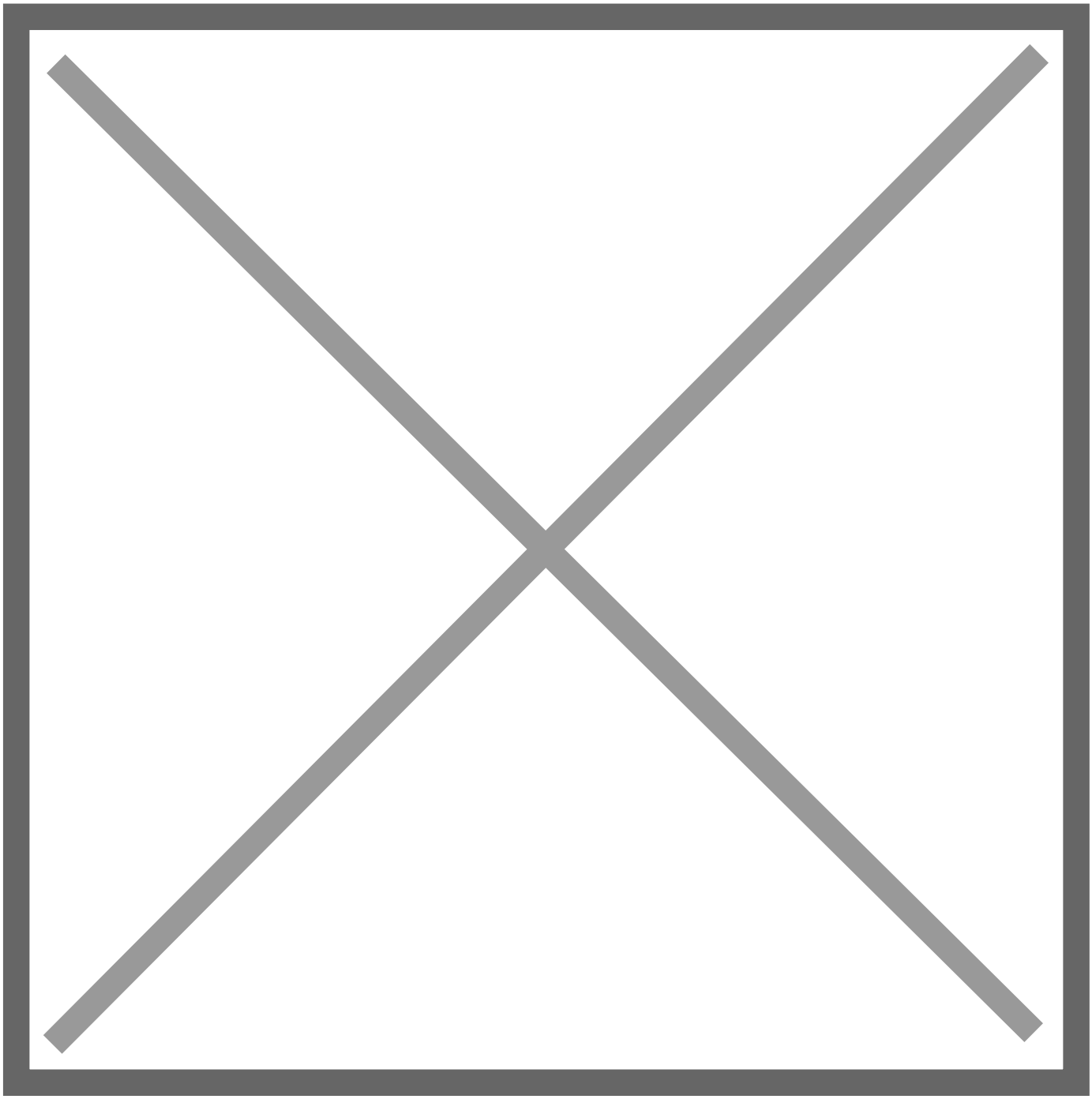


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	3590
Area covered:	Regional
References:	Sasson, M., Lee, M., Jan, C., Fontes, F. and Motta, J., 2014. Prevalence and associated factors of obesity among Panamanian adults. 1982–2010. PLoS One, 9(3), p.e91689.

Notes:	Panama and Colon provinces (57.4% of total population)
	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 & obesity

Adults, 2022

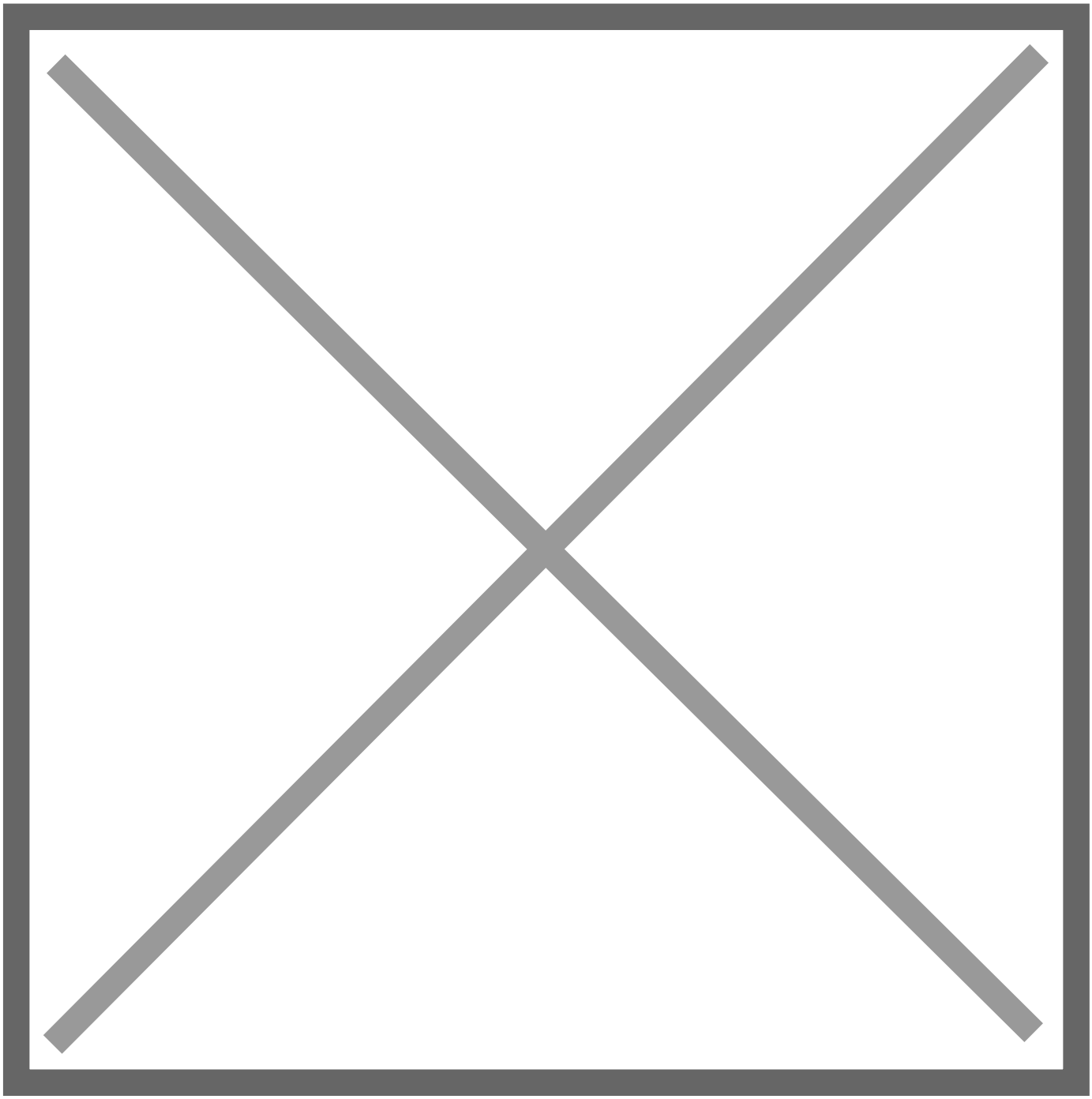


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	20+
References:	NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC). Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults. Lancet 2024; published online Feb 29. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2.
Notes:	Age Standardised estimates

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

Insufficient physical activity

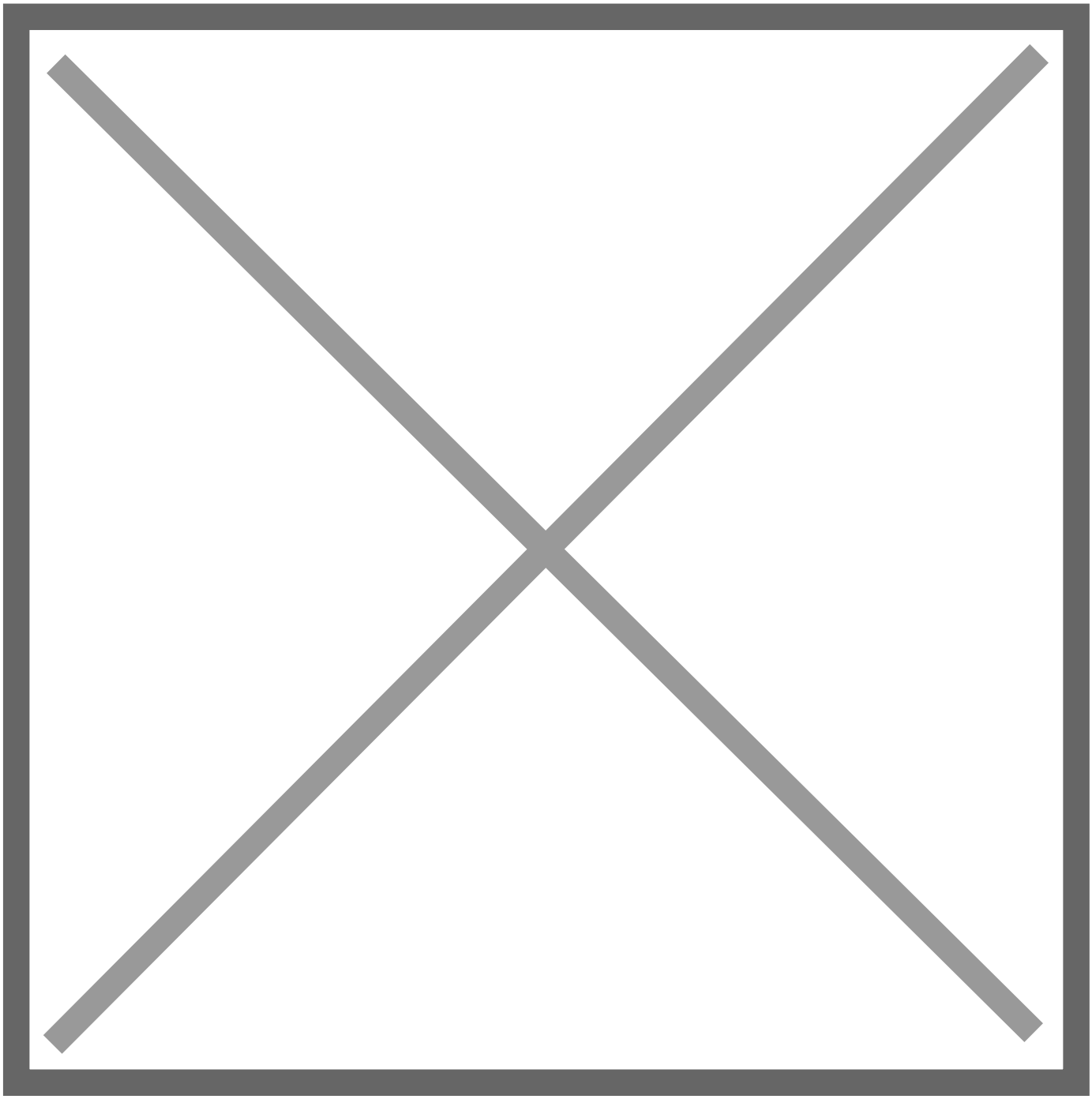
Adults, 2022



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	18+
Area covered:	National
References:	WHO (2024). Prevalence of insufficient physical activity among adults aged 18-years age-standardized estimate in 2022. Available at https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-insufficient-physical-activity-among-adults-aged-18-years-(age-standardized-estimate)-(-)

Definitions:	Percent of population attaining less than 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week, or less than 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week, or equivalent.

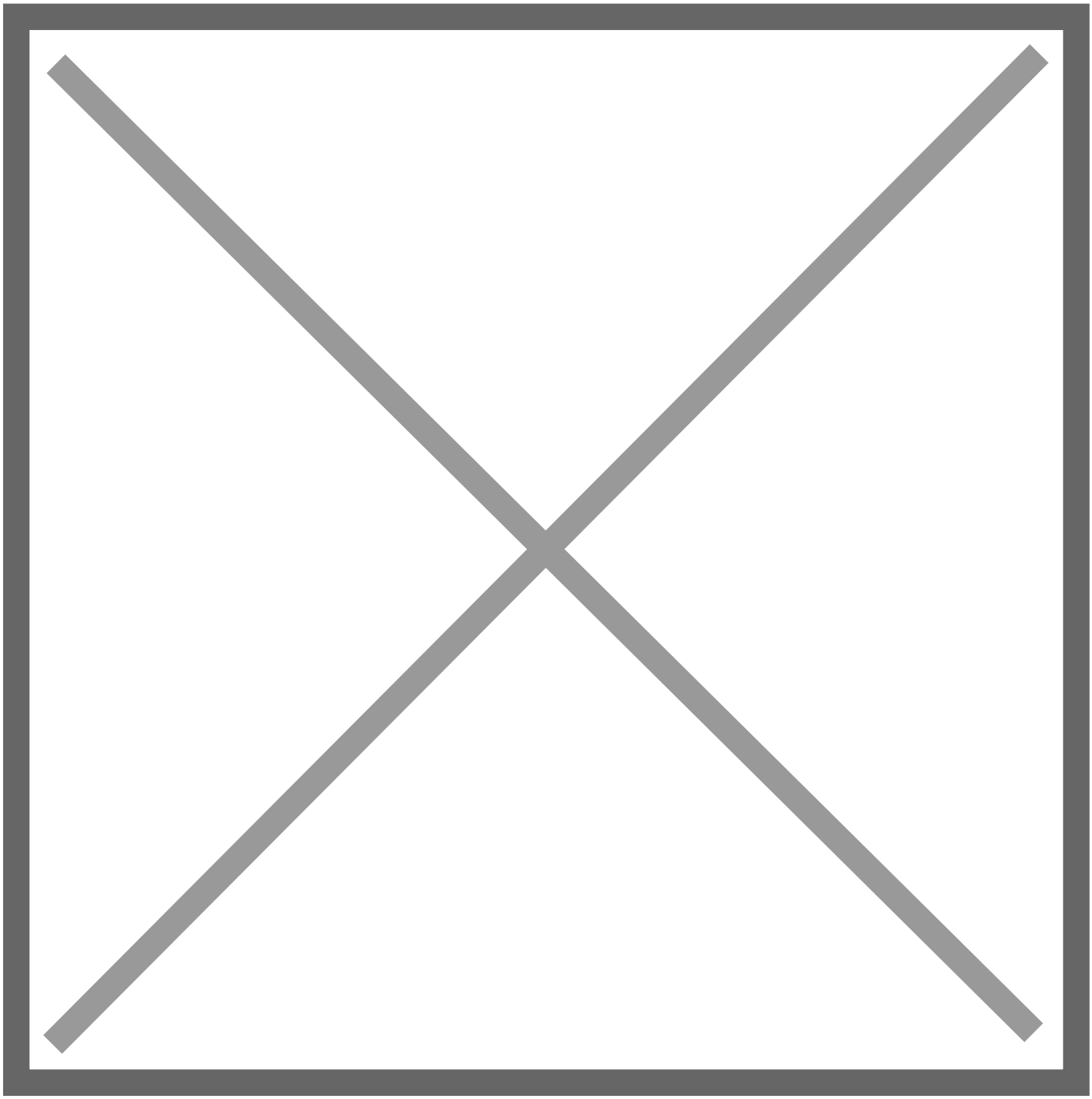
Men, 2022



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	18+
Area covered:	National
References:	WHO (2024). Prevalence of insufficient physical activity among adults aged 18-years age-standardized estimate in 2022. Available at https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-insufficient-physical-activity-among-adults-aged-18-years-(age-standardized-estimate)-(-)

Definitions:	Percent of population attaining less than 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week, or less than 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week, or equivalent.

Women, 2022

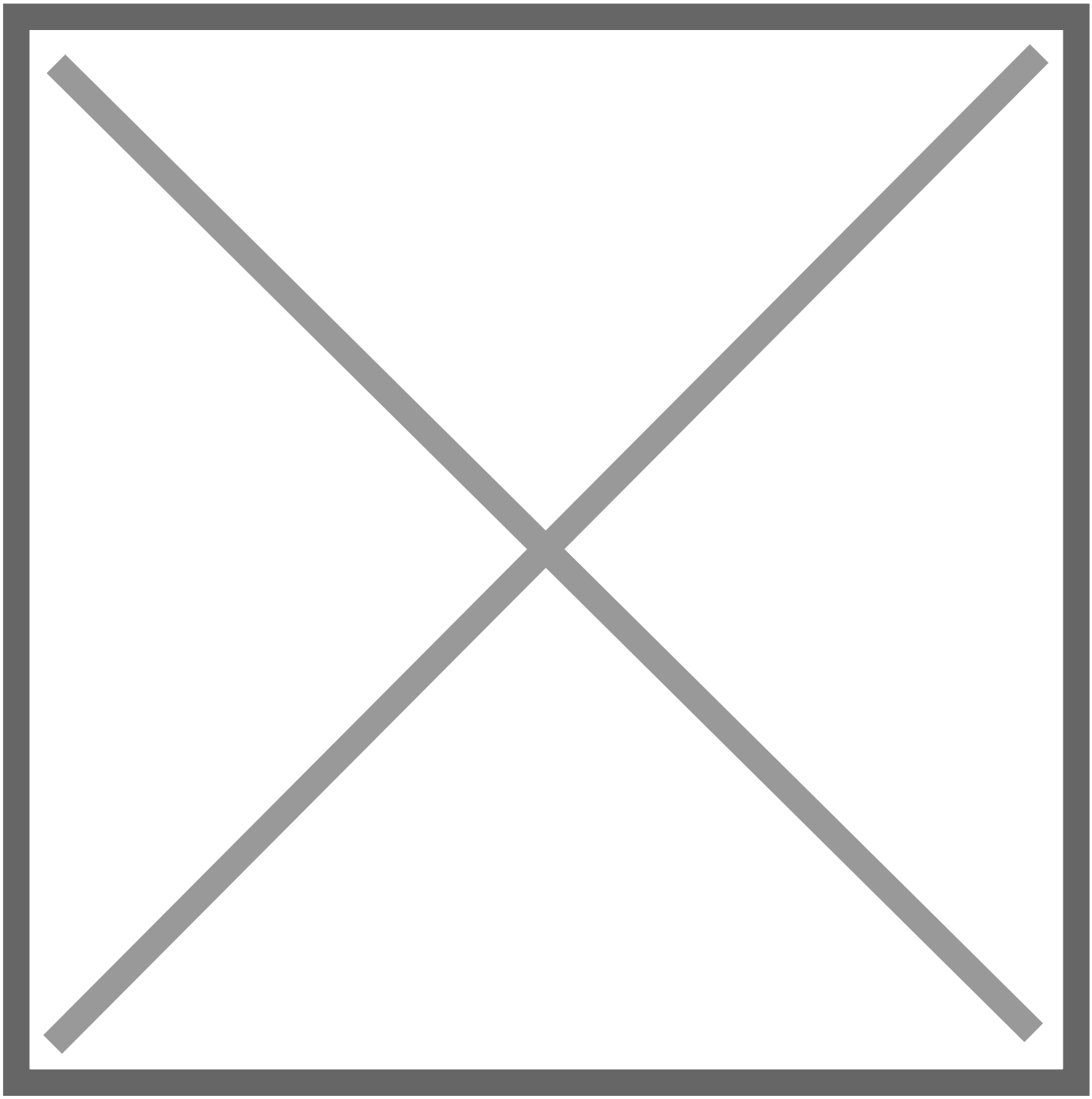


Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	18+
Area covered:	National
References:	WHO (2024). Prevalence of insufficient physical activity among adults aged 18-years age-standardized estimate in 2022. Available at https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-insufficient-physical-activity-among-adults-aged-18-years-(age-standardized-estimate)-(-)

Definitions:	Percent of population attaining less than 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week, or less than 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week, or equivalent.

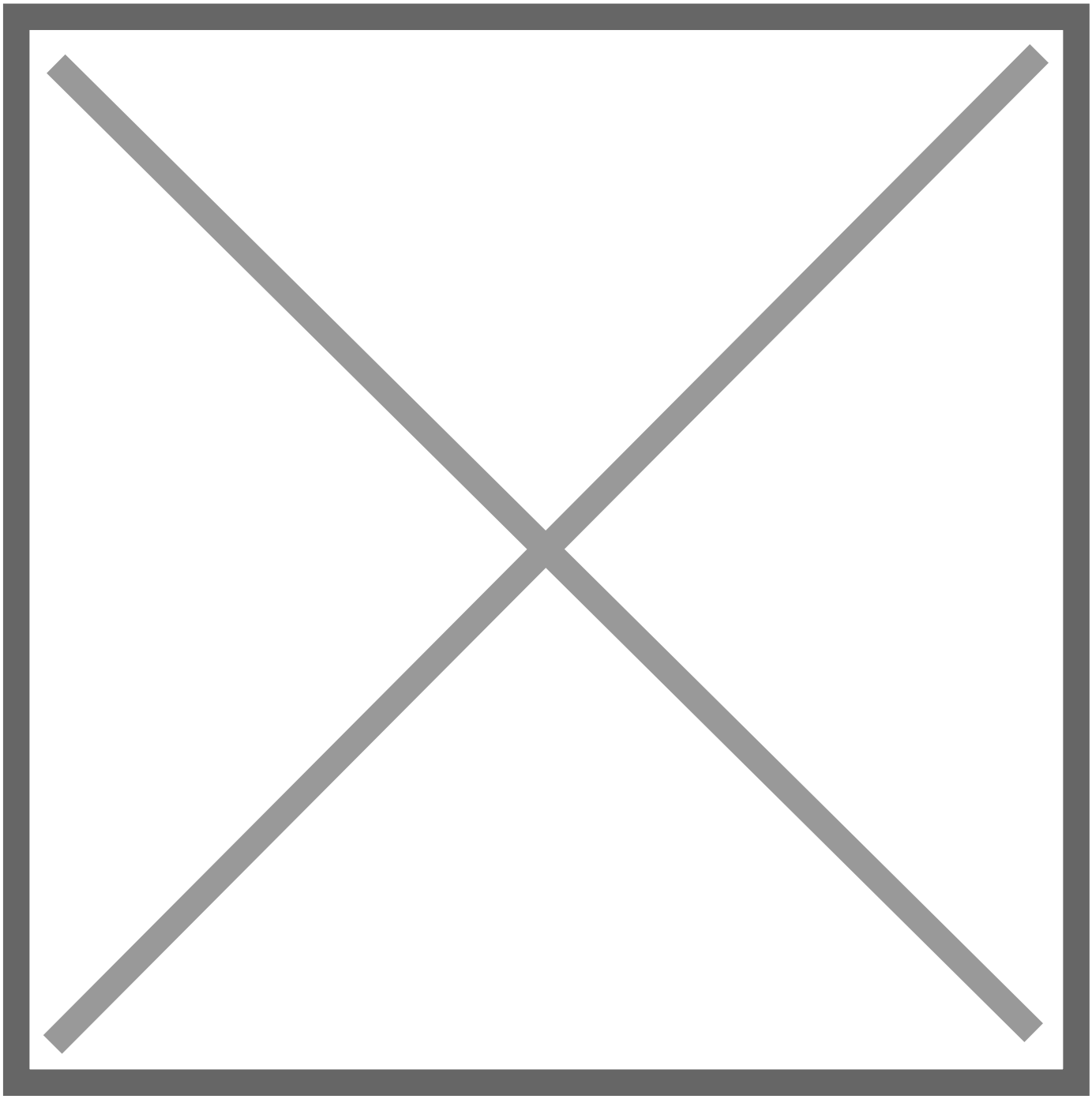
Mental health - depression disorders

Adults, 2023



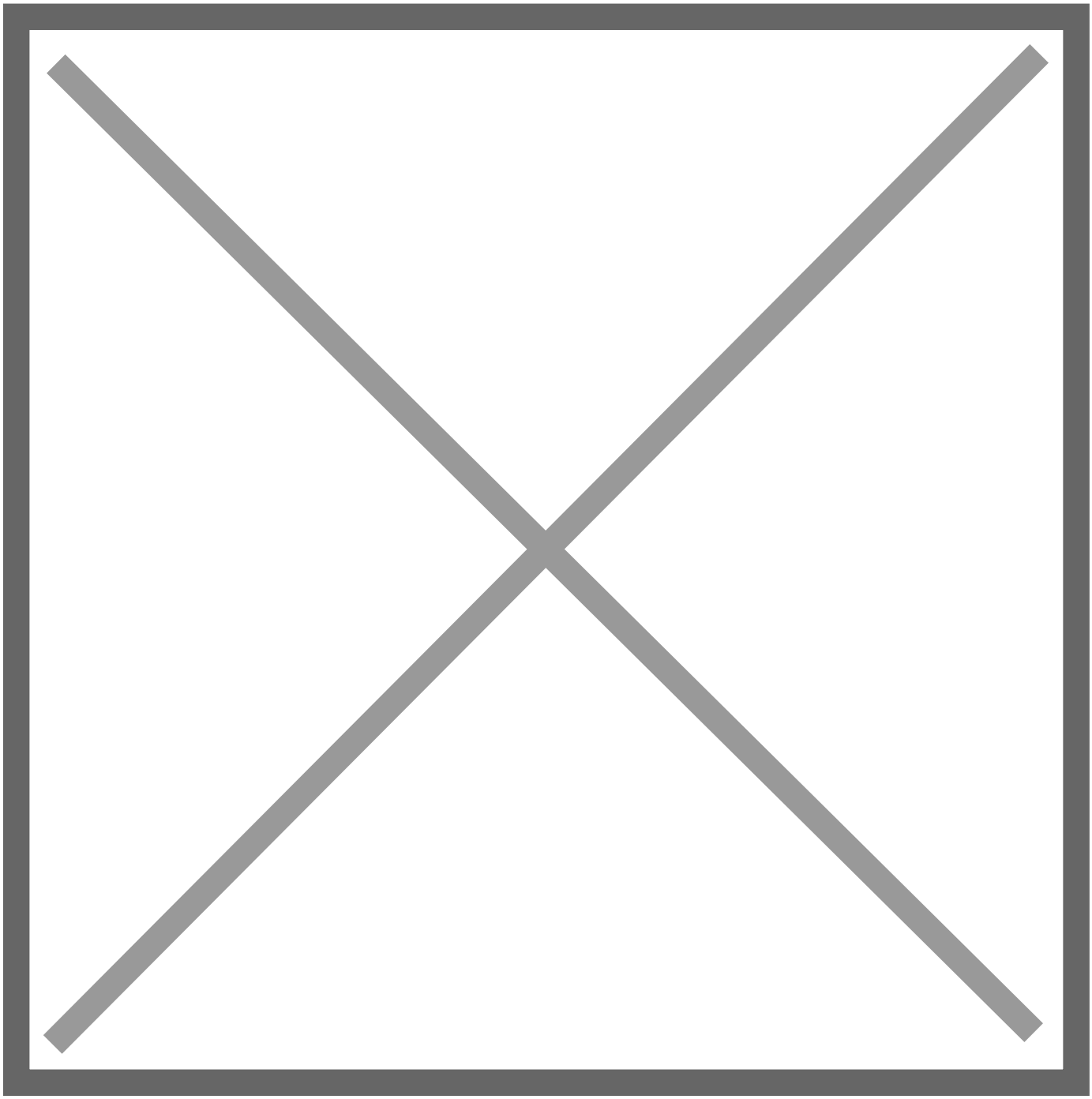
Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
Definitions: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

Men, 2023



Age:	20+
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 (20+ years of age)

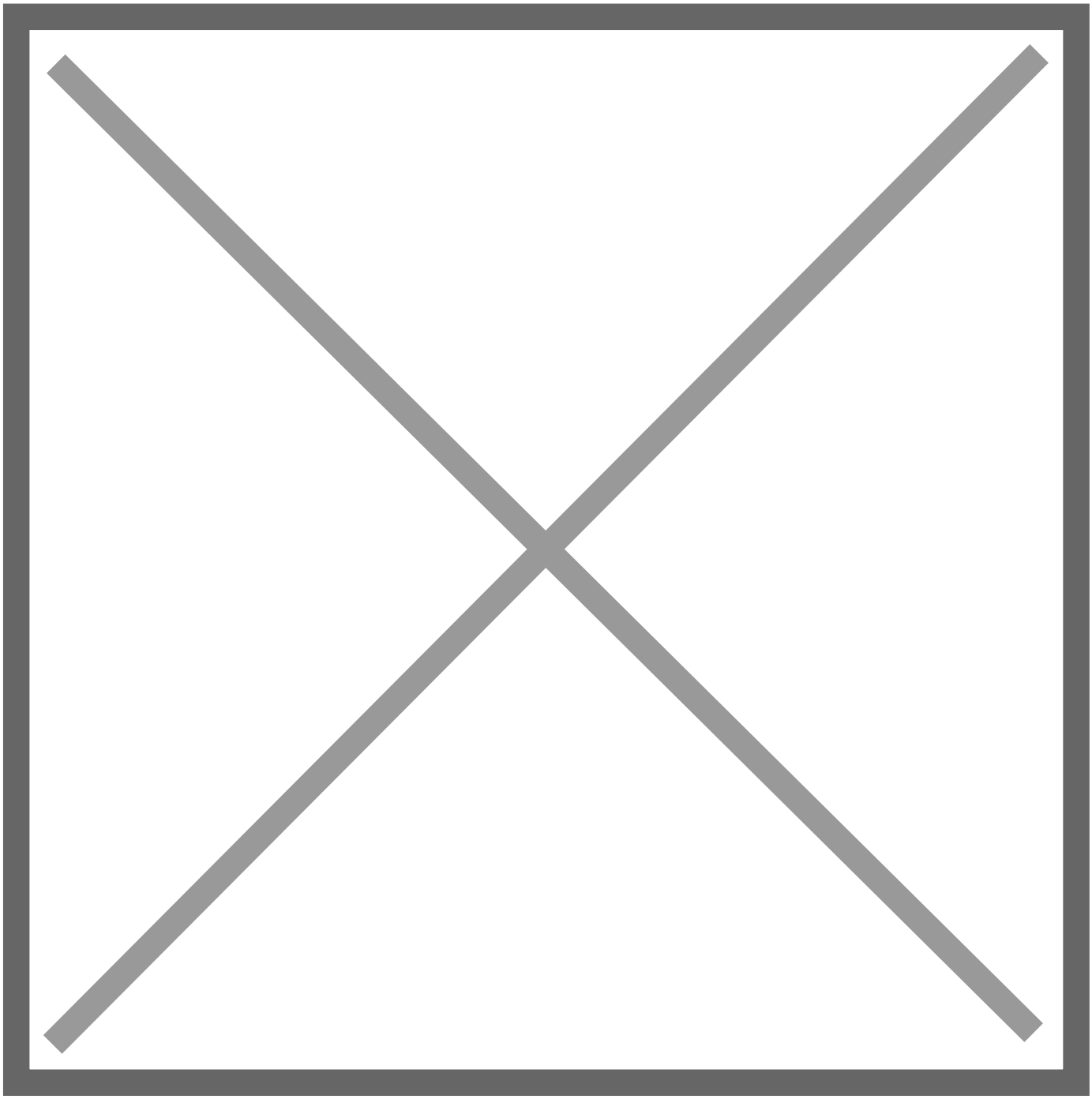
Women, 2023



Age:	20+
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 (20+ years of age)

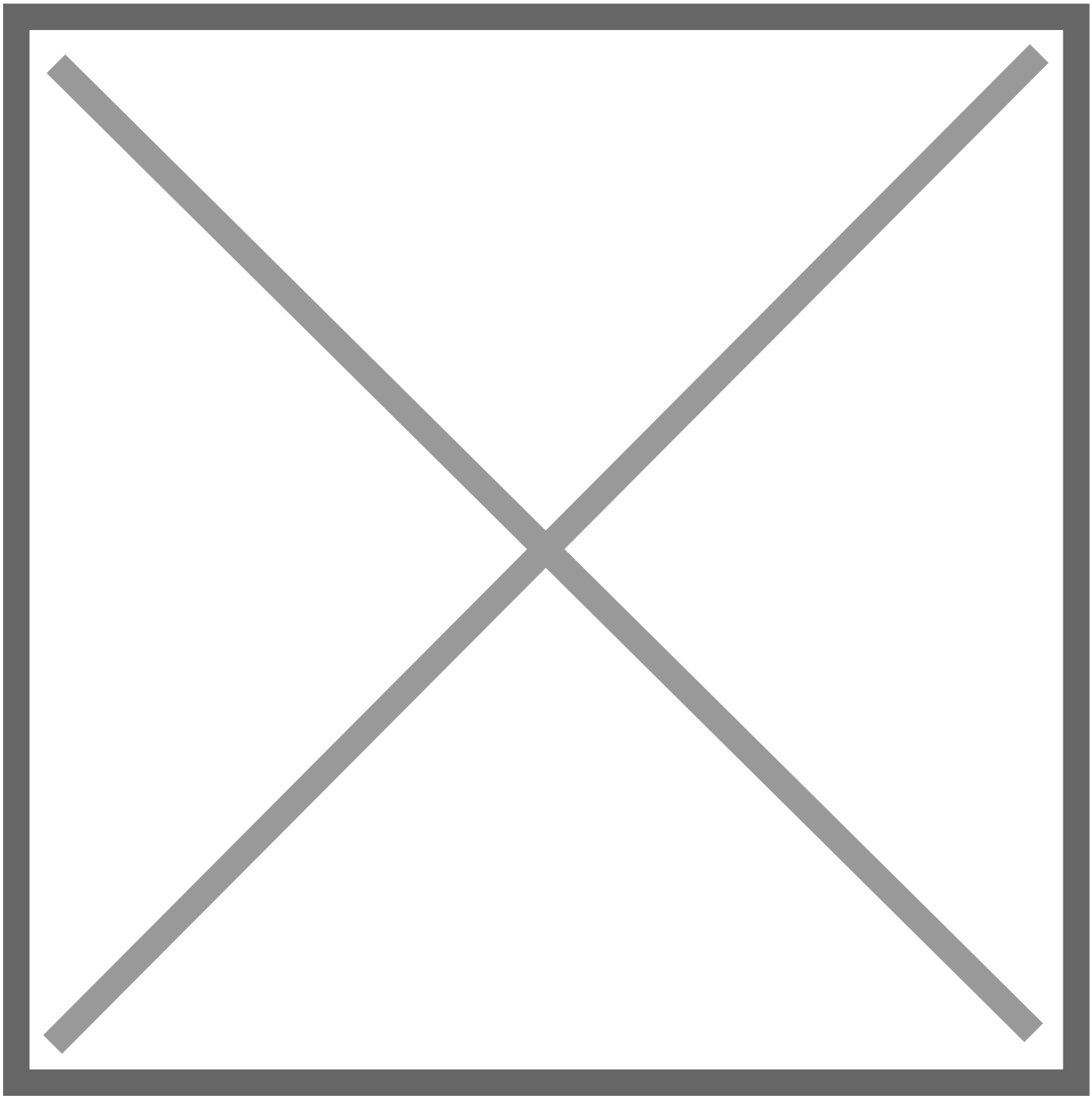
Mental health - anxiety disorders

Adults, 2023



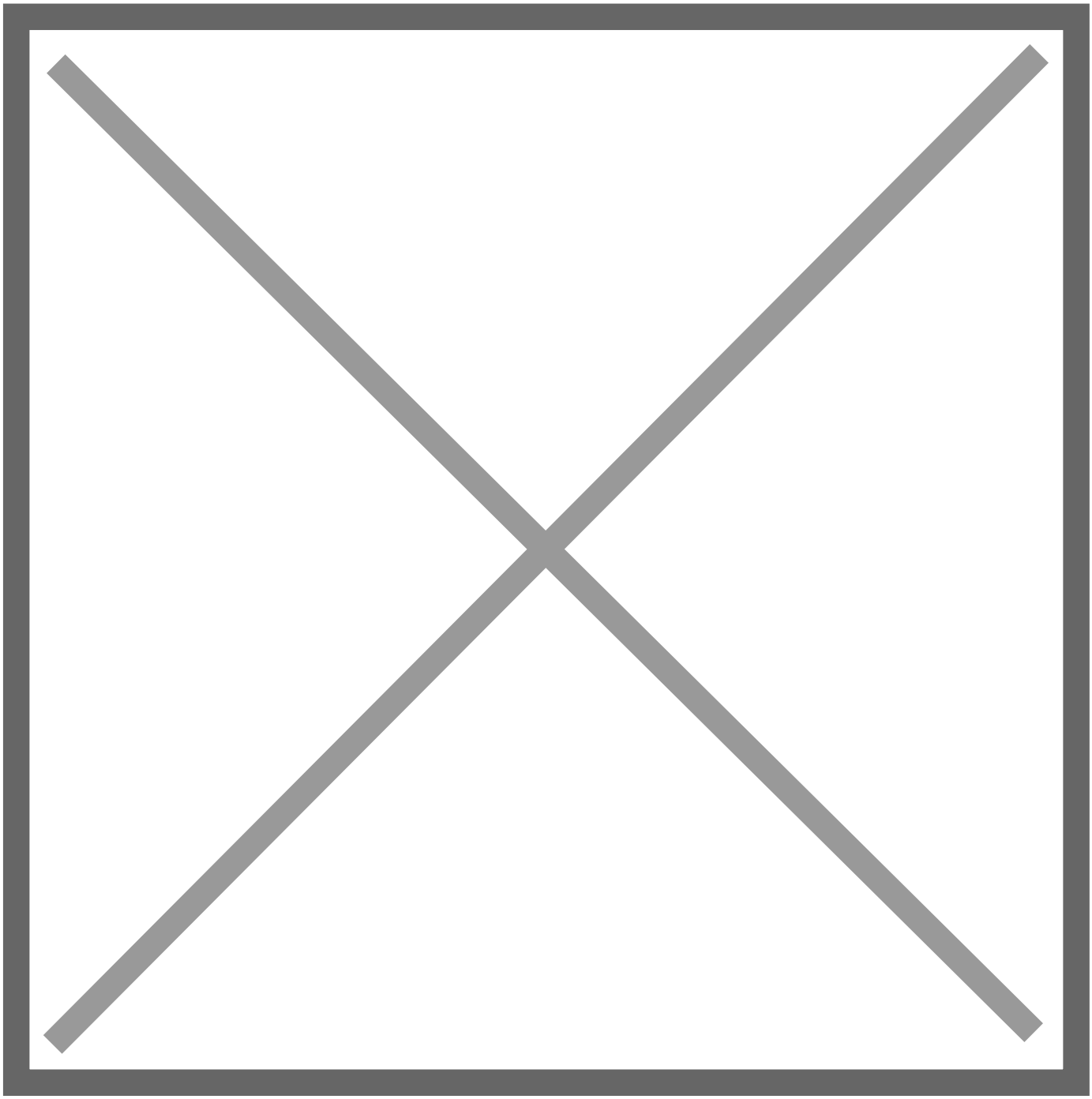
Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
Definitions: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

Men, 2023



Age:	20+
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 (20+ years of age)

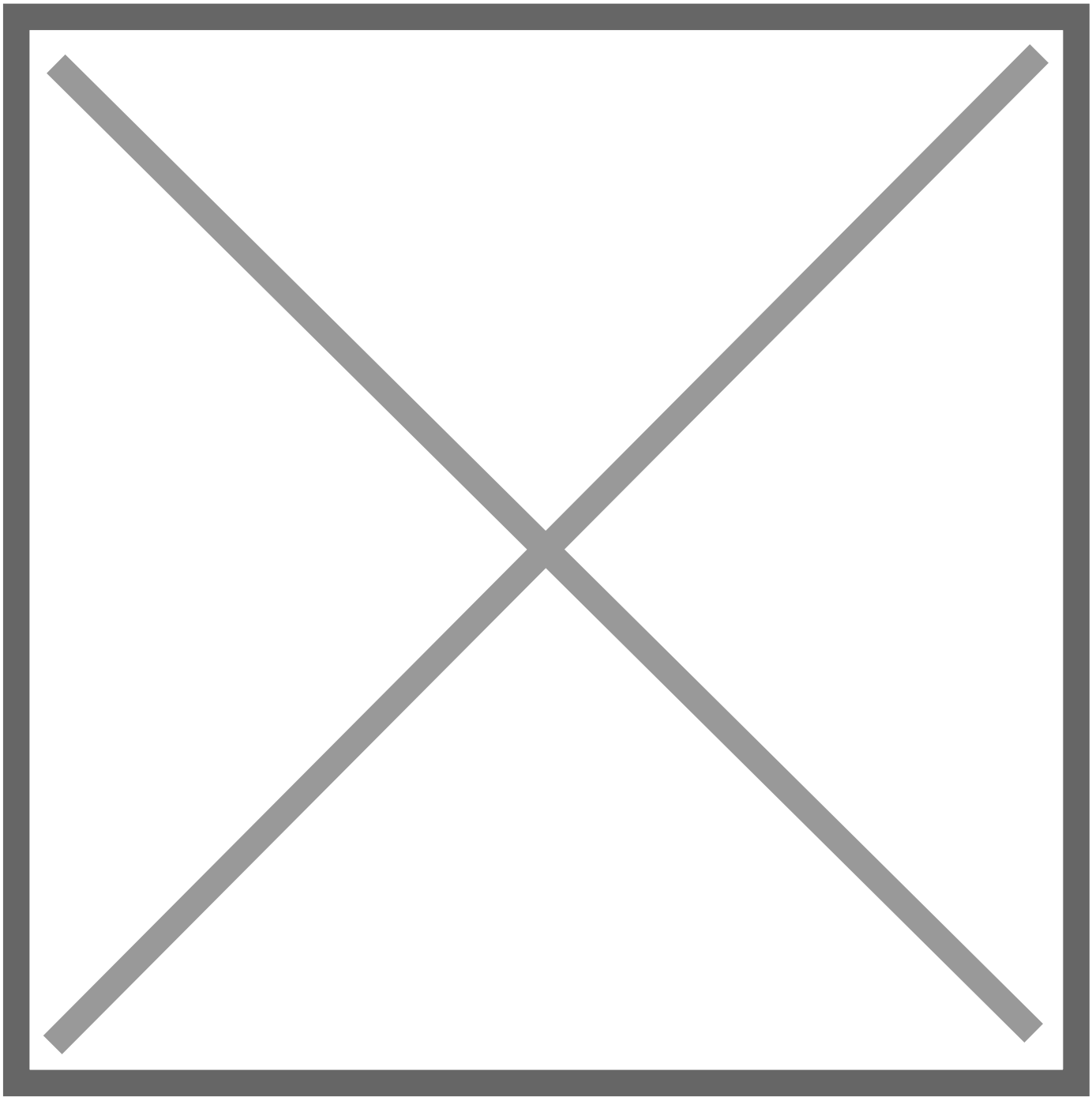
Women, 2023



Age:	20+
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 (20+ years of age)

Percent of population who cannot afford a healthy diet

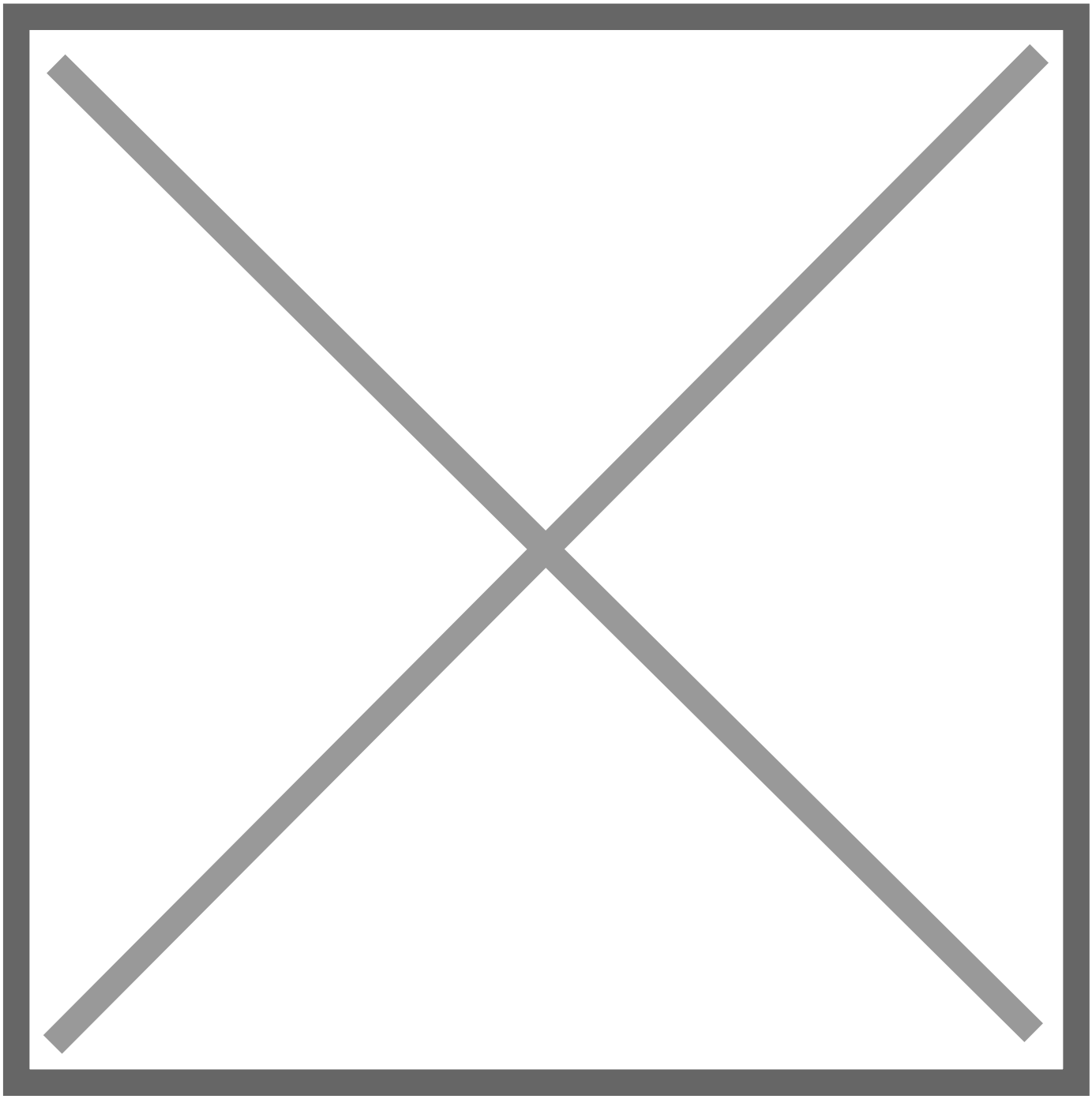
Adults, 2025



Area covered:	National
References:	FAO. 2026. FAOSTAT: Cost and Affordability of a Healthy Diet (CoAHD). https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/CAHD. Licence: CC-BY-4.0. [Last Accessed 12.10.26]
Notes:	The percent of the population whose food budget is below the cost of a healthy diet.

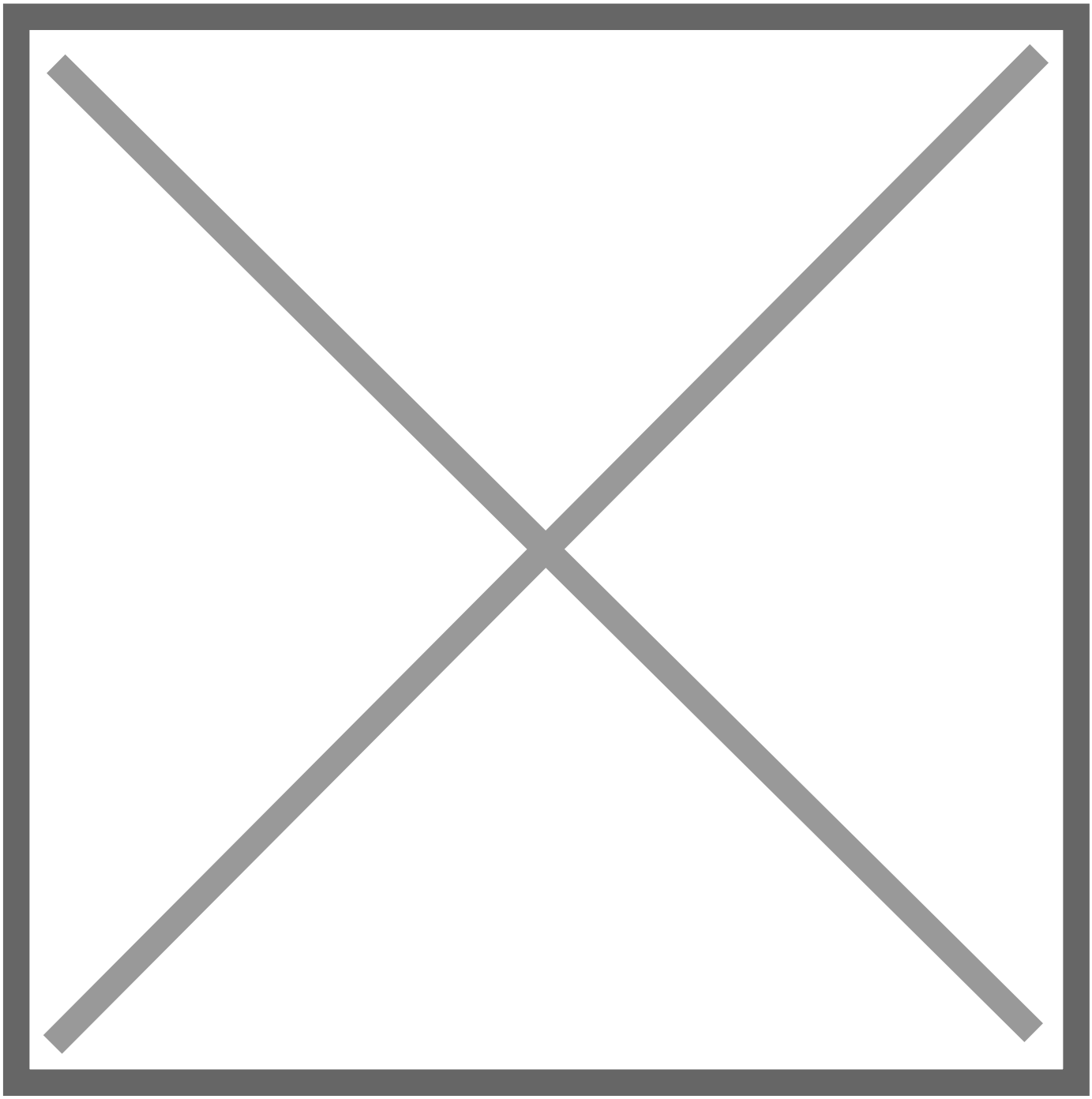
Oesophageal cancer

Men, 2022



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:	Indicence per 100,000

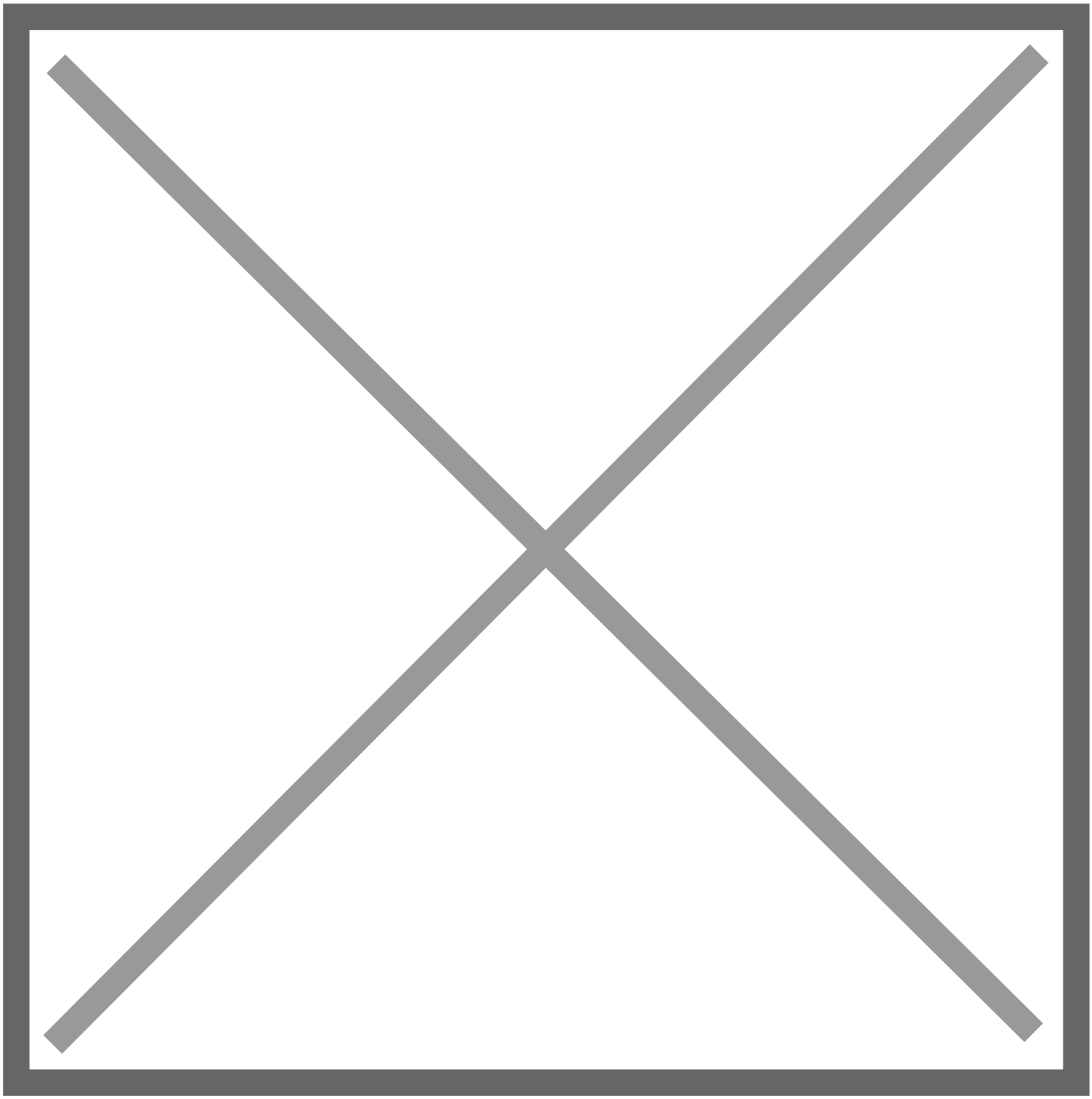
Women, 2022



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:	Indicence per 100,000

Breast cancer

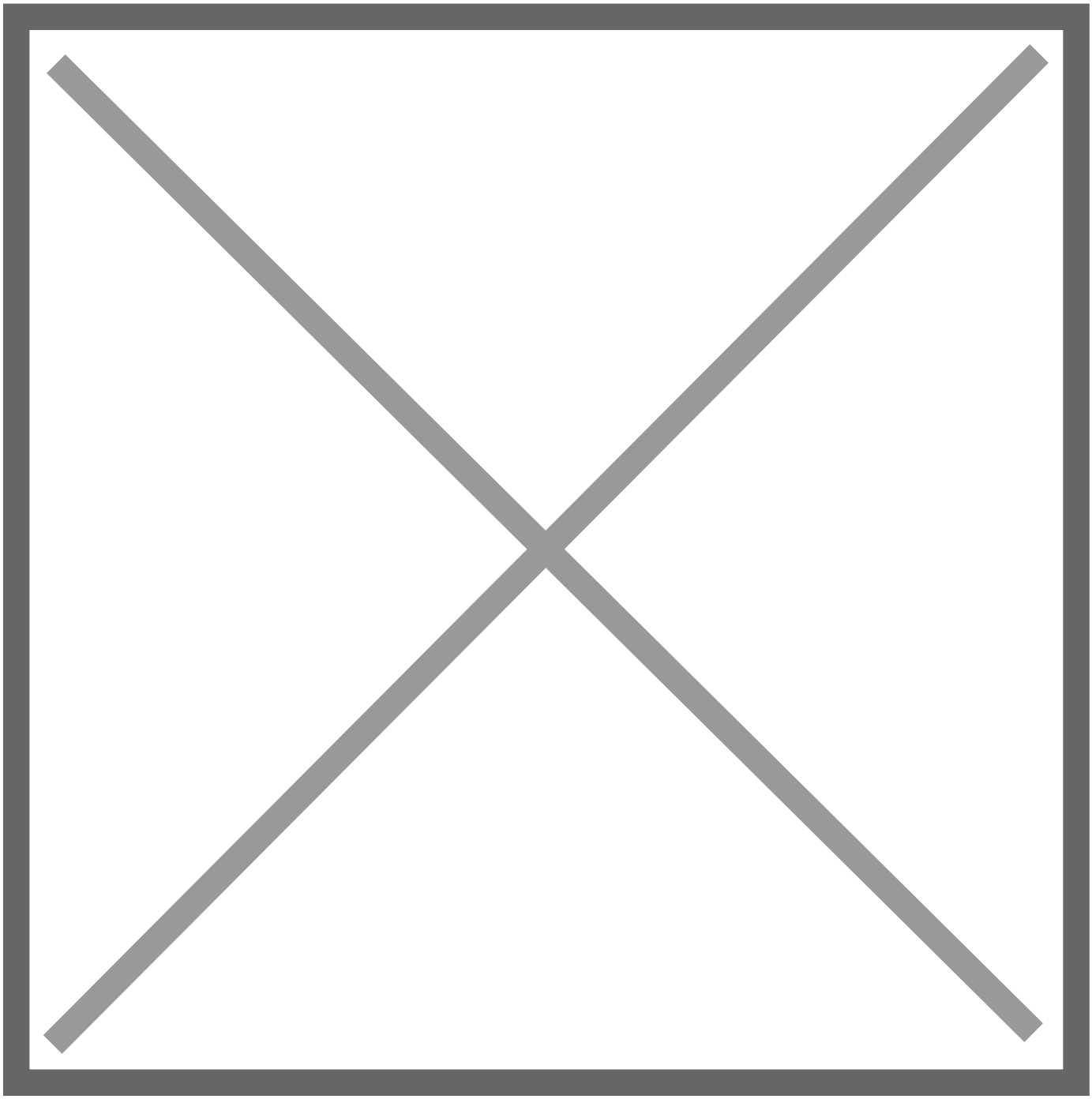
Women, 2022



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

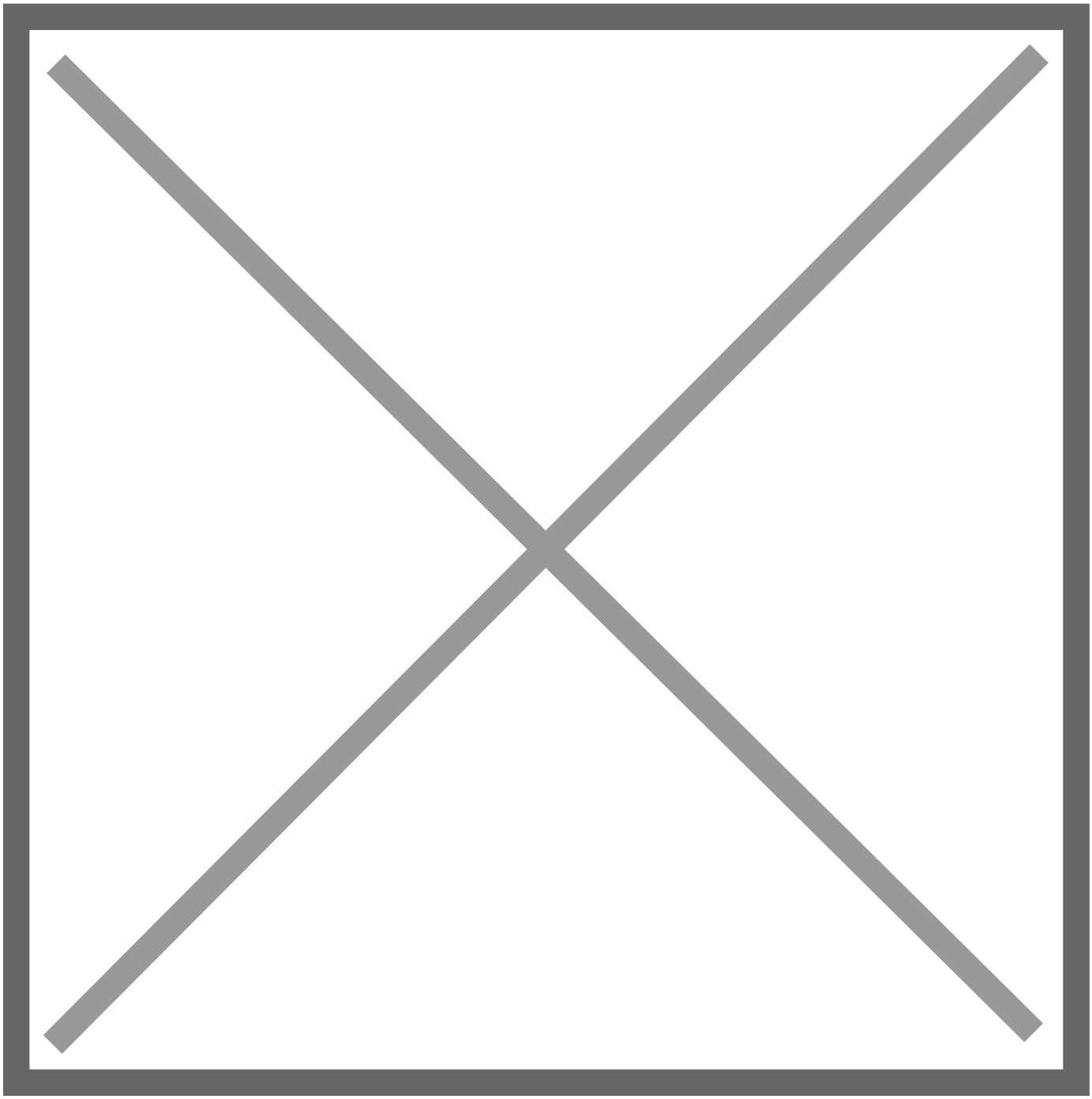
Colorectal cancer

Men, 2022



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 per 100,000

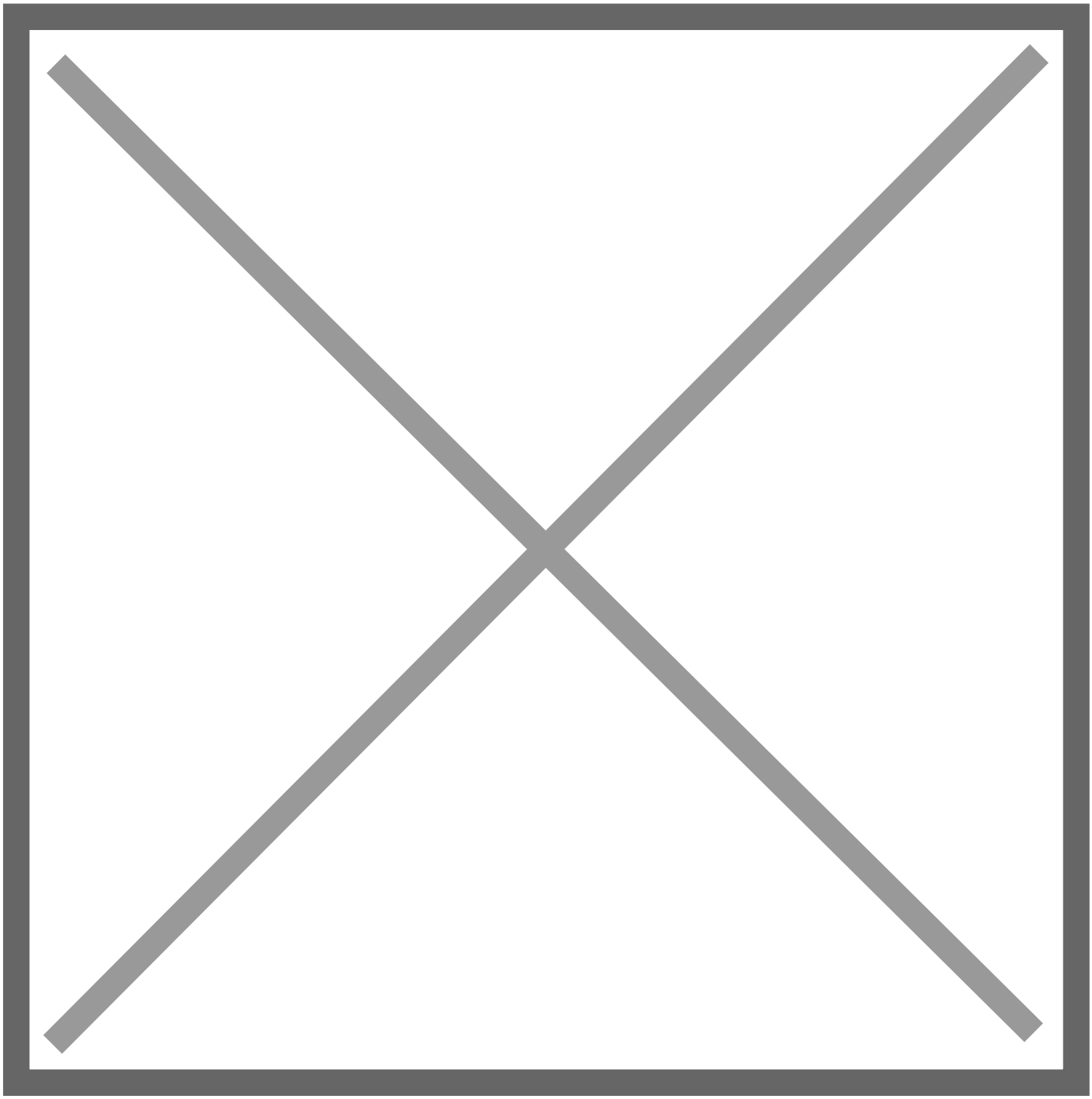
Women, 2022



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 per 100,000

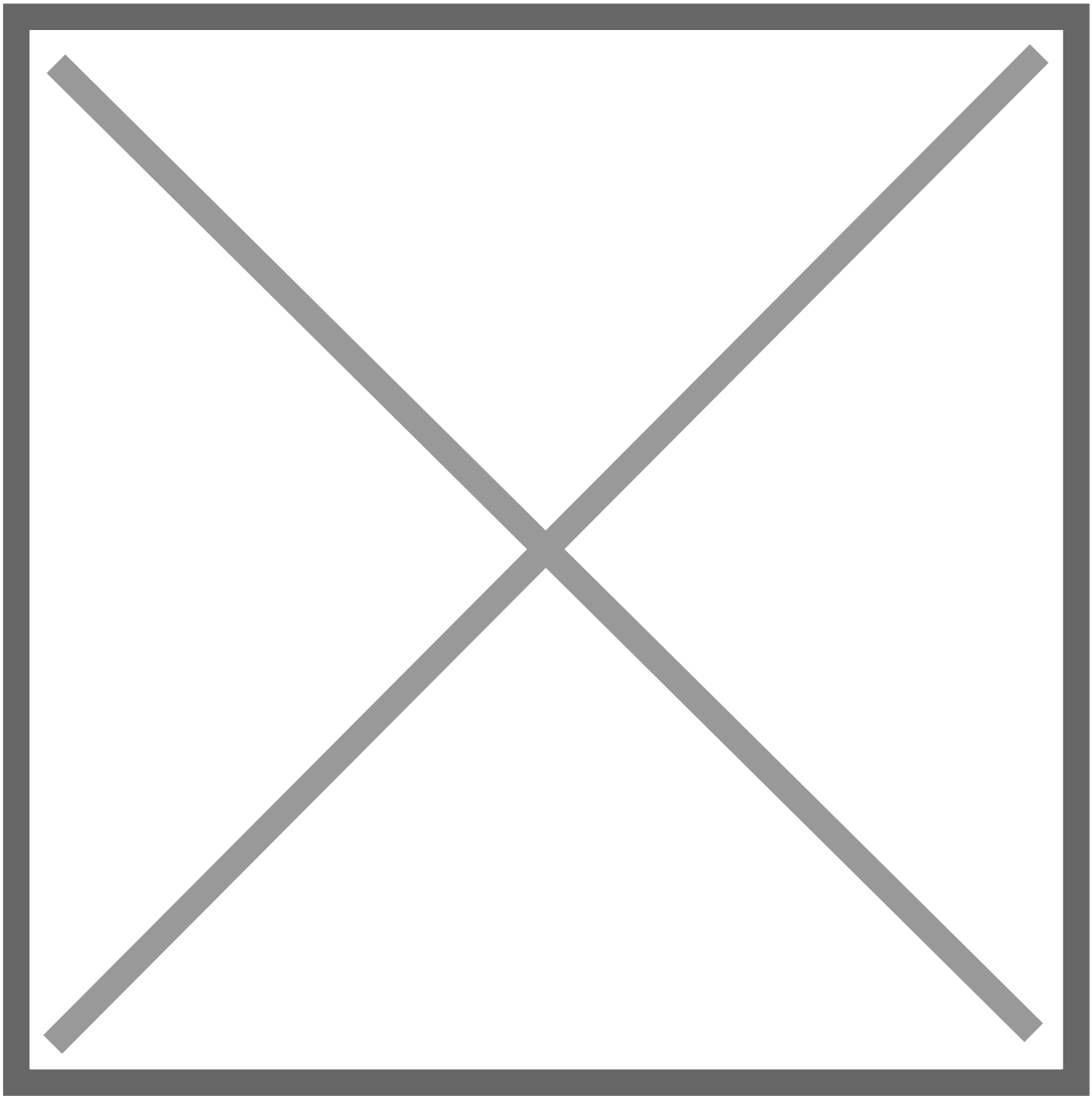
Pancreatic cancer

Men, 2022



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 per 100,000

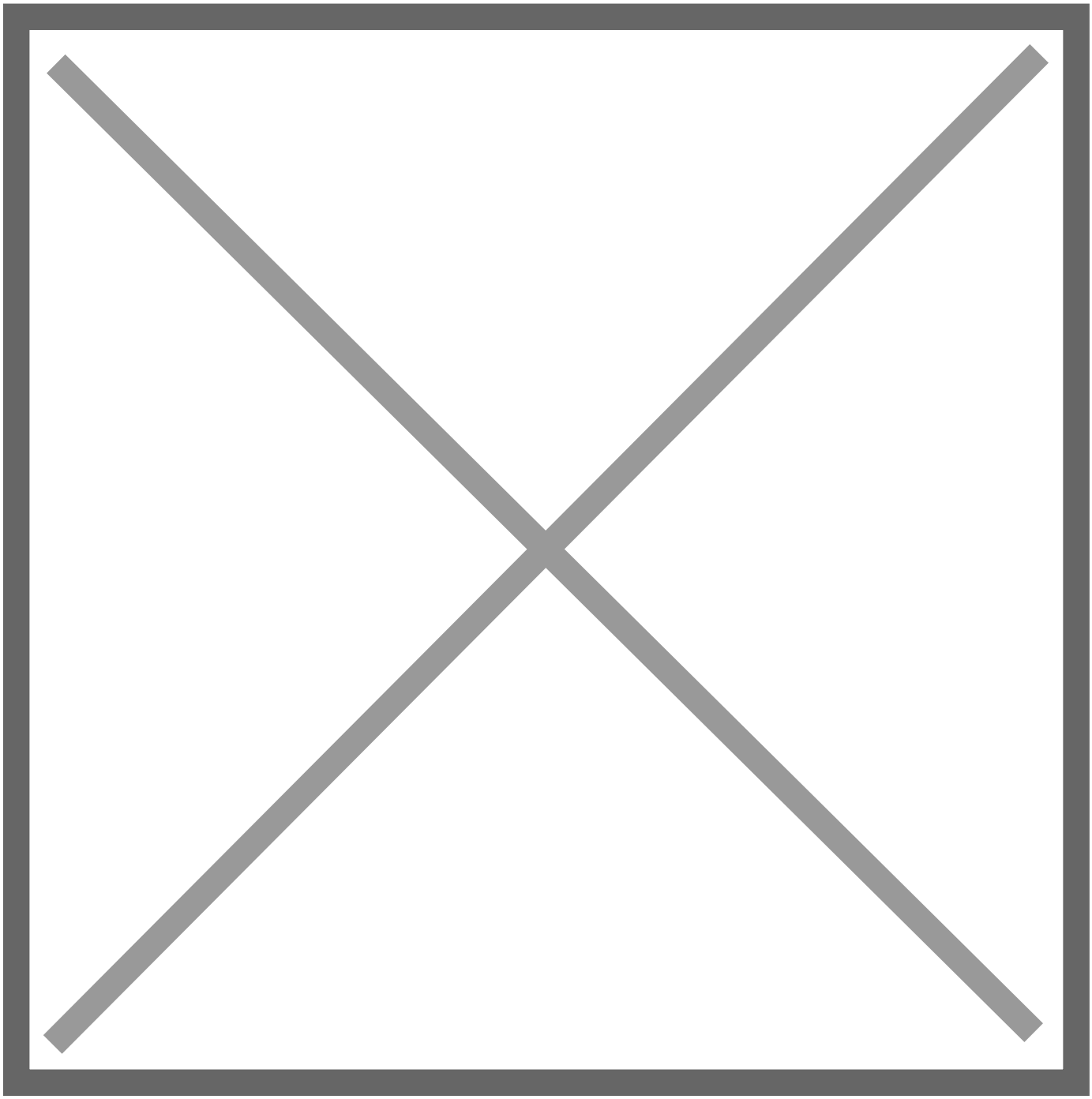
Women, 2022



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 per 100,000

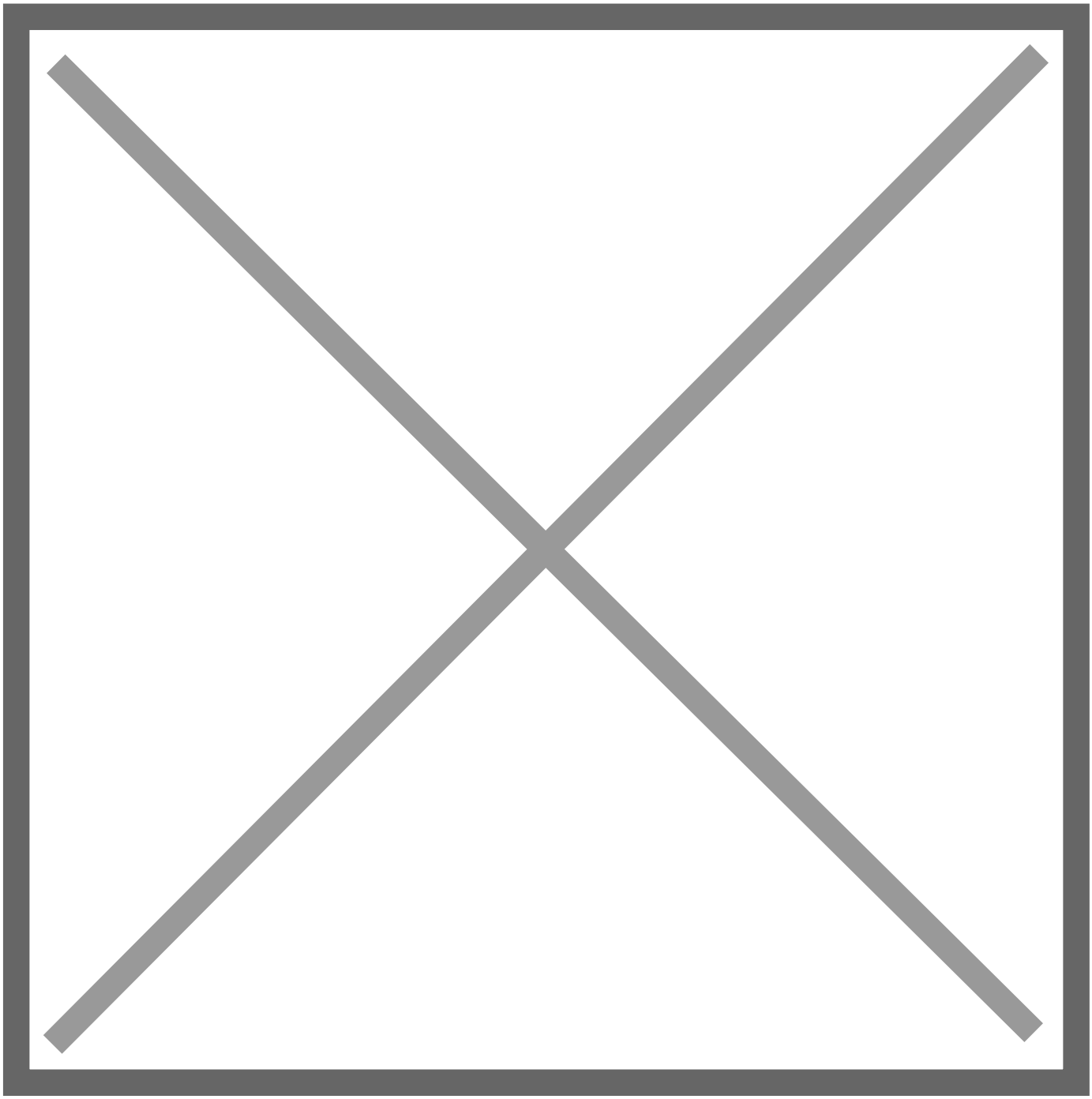
Gallbladder cancer

Men, 2022



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:	Indicence per 100,000

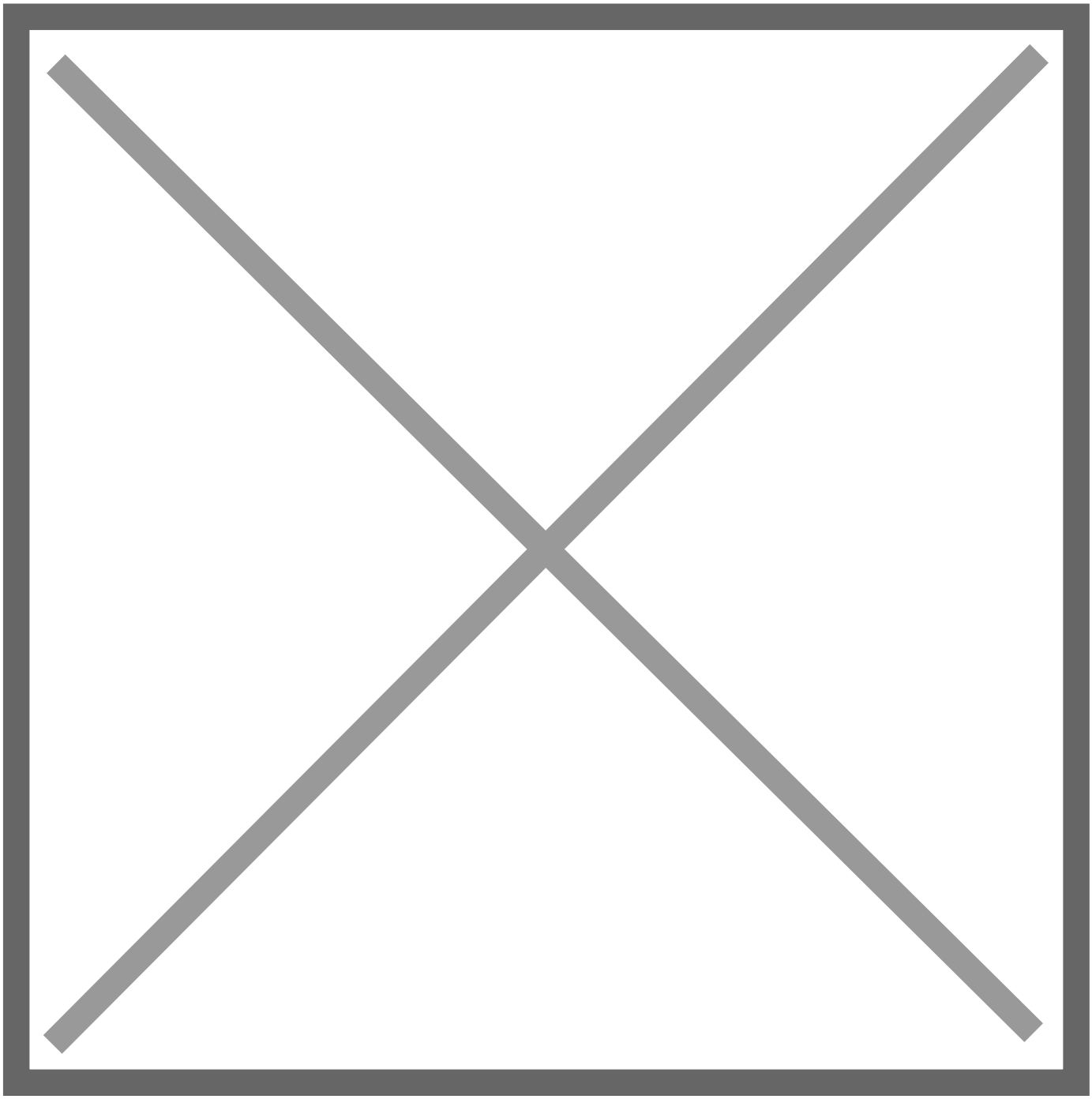
Women, 2022



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:	Indicence per 100,000

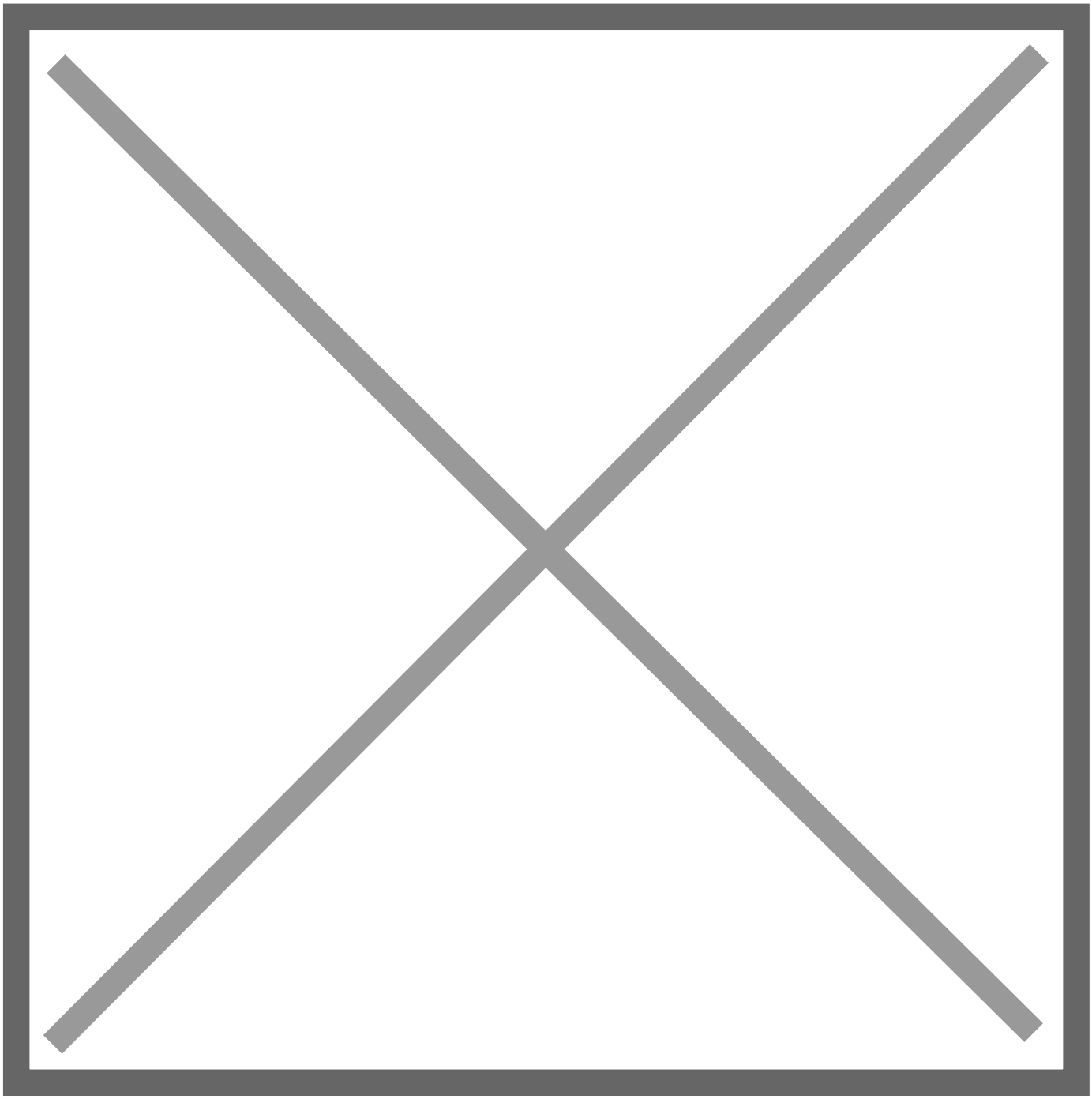
Kidney cancer

Men, 2022



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 per 100,000

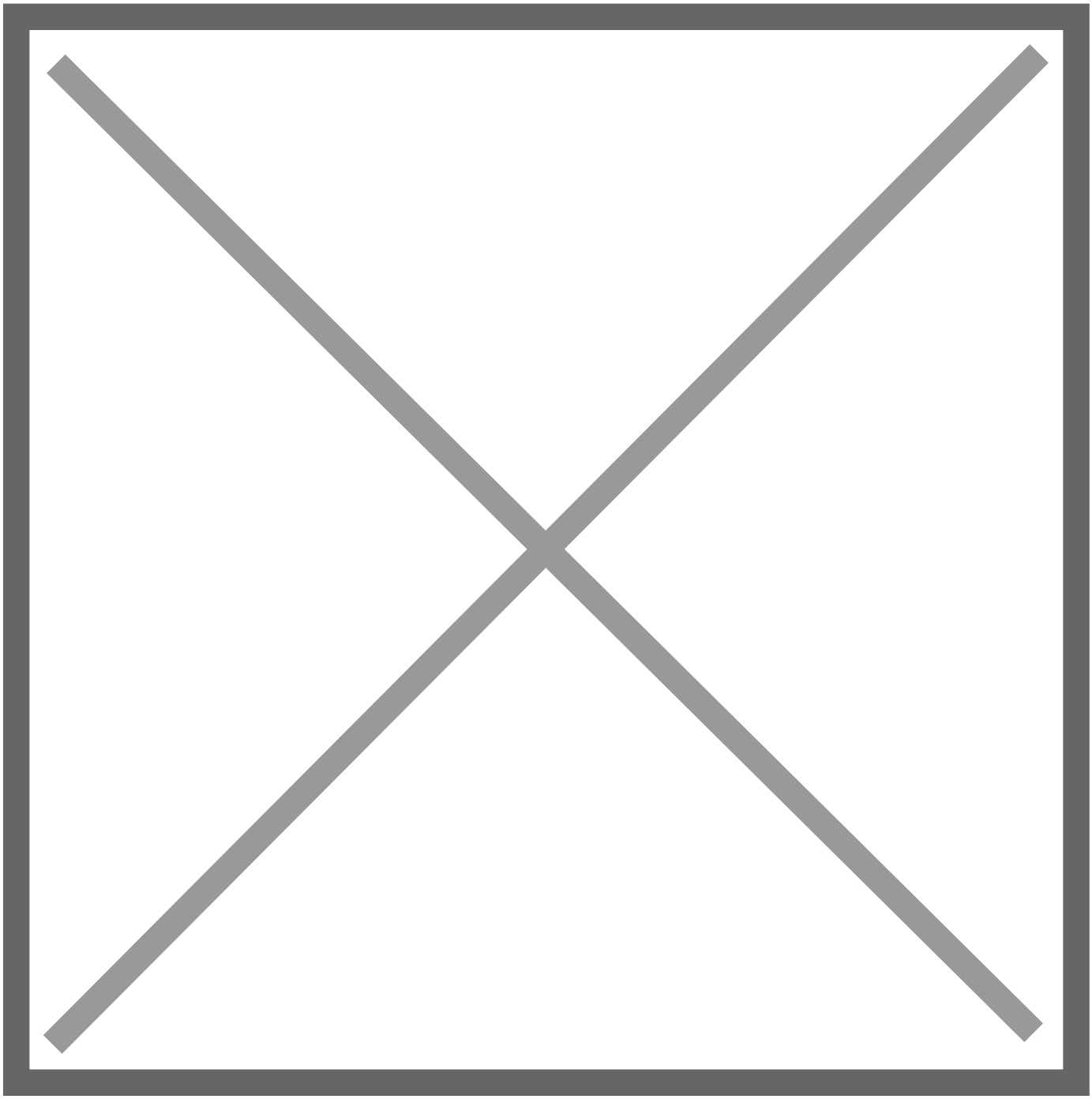
Women, 2022



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 per 100,000

Cancer of the uterus

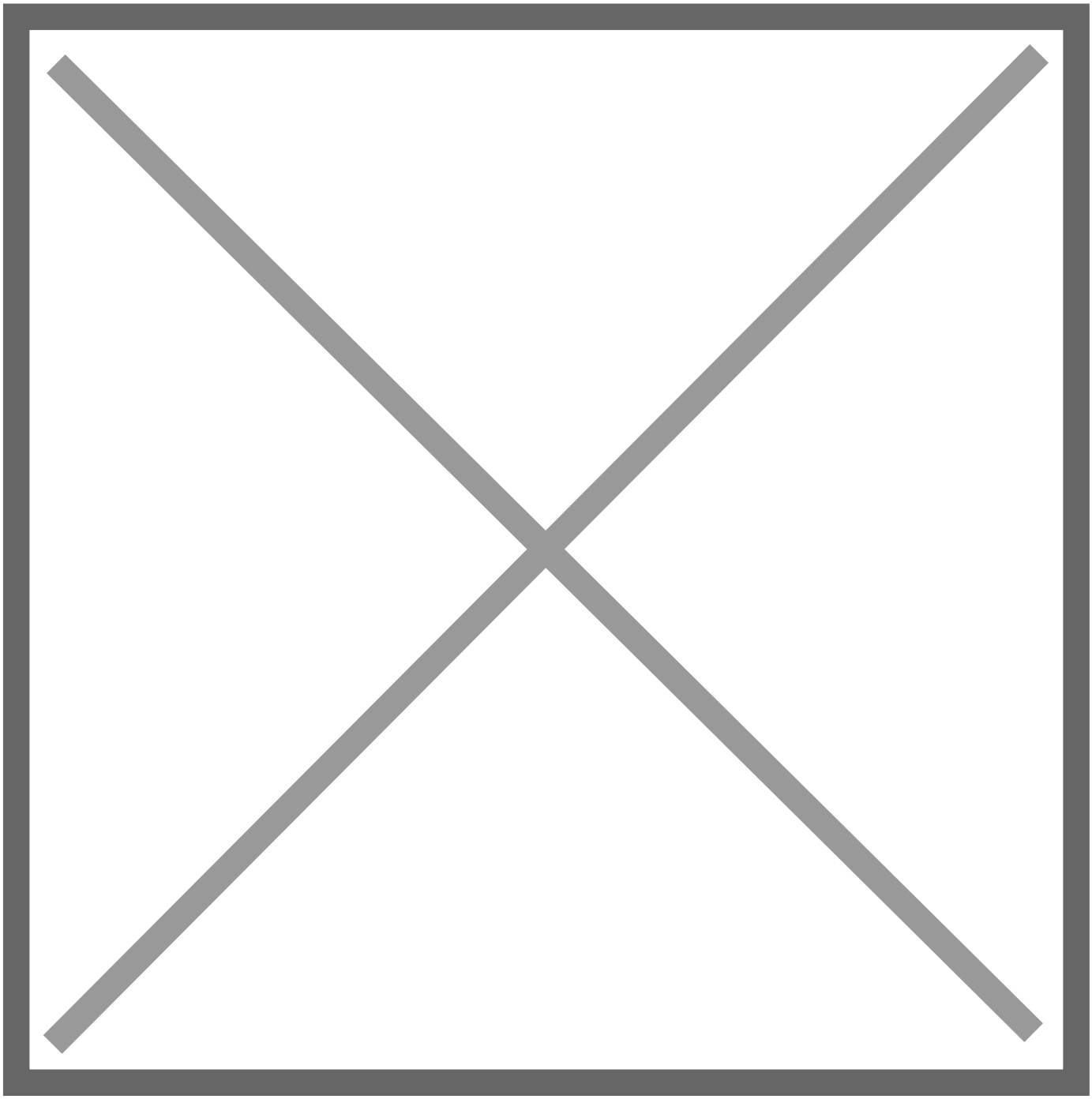
Women, 2022



Age:	20+
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

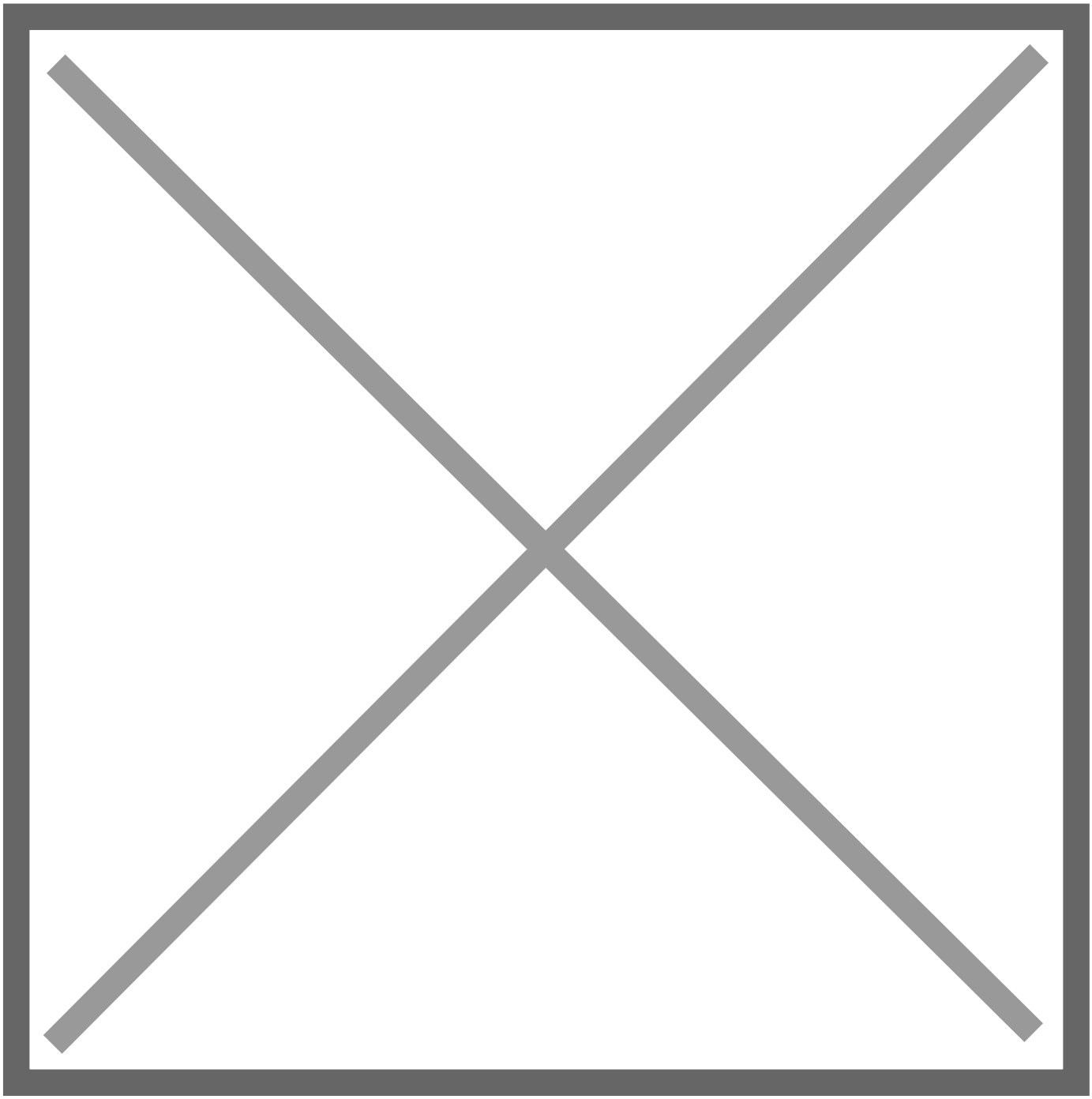
Raised blood pressure

Adults, 2019



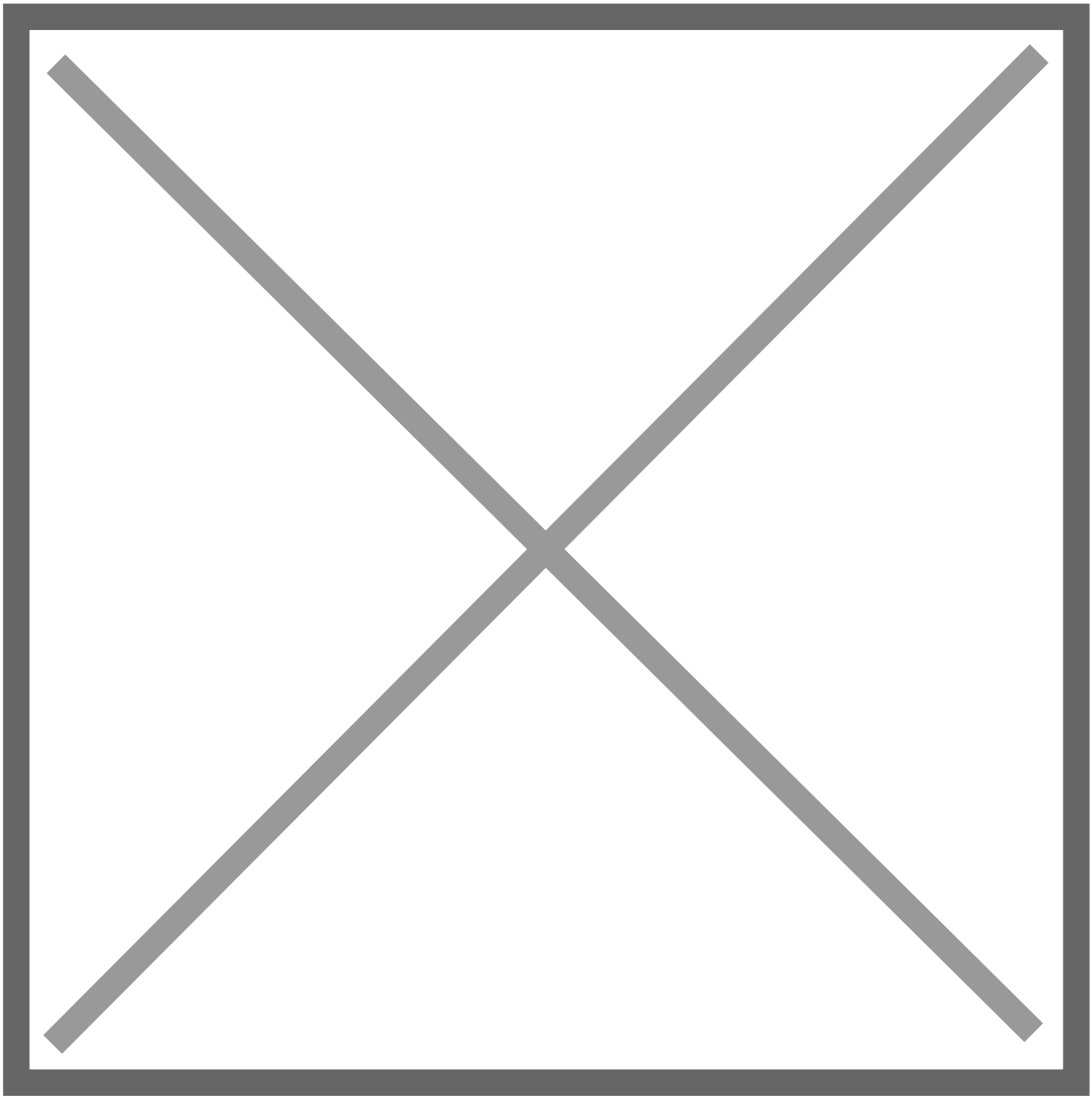
Age:	30-79
References:	World Health Organization. 2024. Hypertension: raised blood pressure (uncontrolled hypertension) among adults aged 30-79 years (%). Global Health Observatory. https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-raised-blood-pressure-among-adults-30-79-years [Accessed 16.03.26]
Definitions:	Prevalence of raised blood pressure (defined as having systolic blood pressure ≥140 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure ≥90 mmHg) among adults aged 30-79.

Men, 2019



Age:	30-79
References:	World Health Organization. 2024. Hypertension: raised blood pressure (uncontrolled hypertension) among adults aged 30-79 years (%). Global Health Observatory. https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-raised-blood-pressure-among-adults-30-79-years [Accessed 16.03.26]
Definitions:	Prevalence of raised blood pressure (defined as having systolic blood pressure ≥140 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure ≥90 mmHg) among adults aged 30-79.

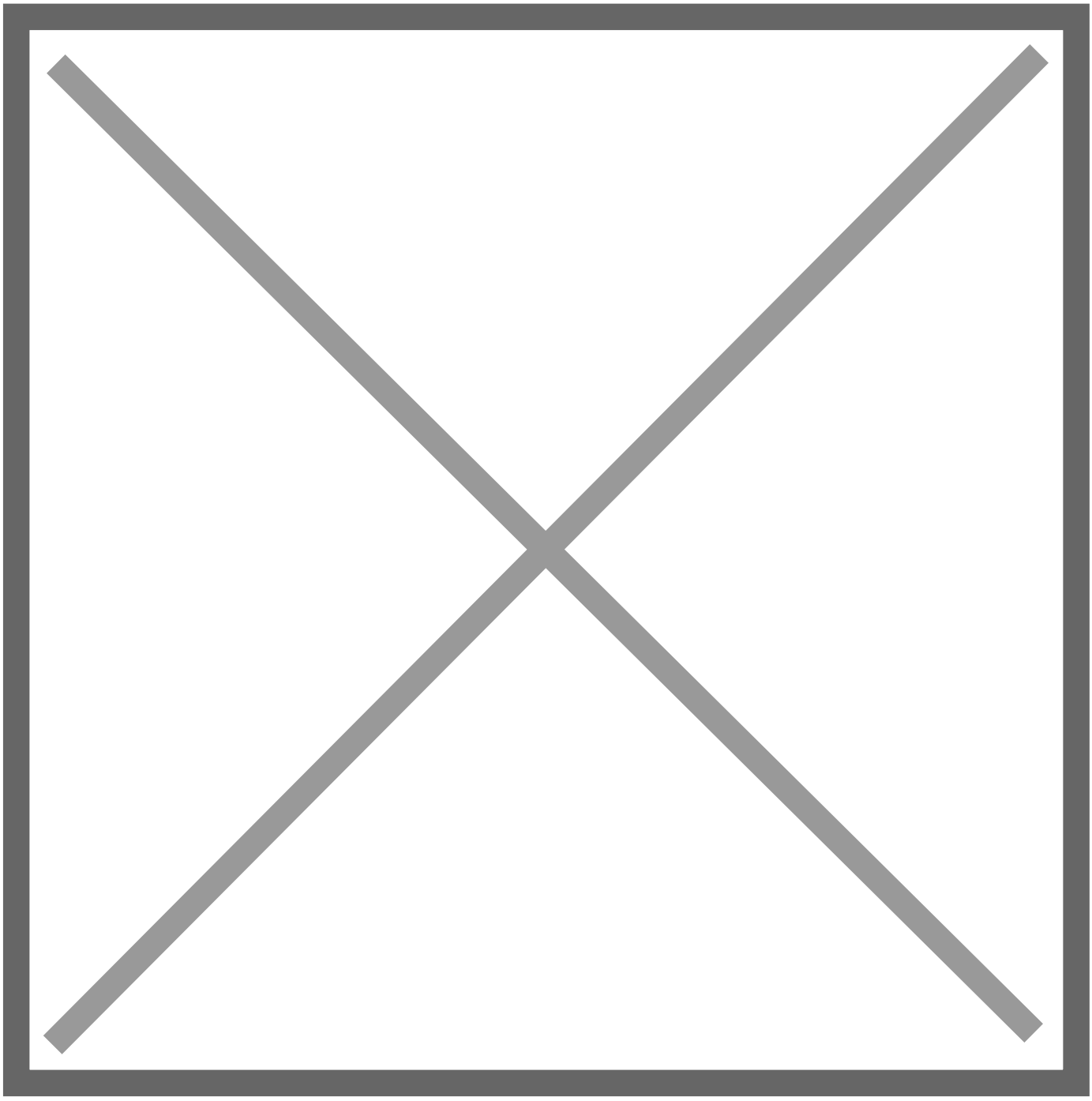
Women, 2019



Age:	30-79
References:	World Health Organization. 2024. Hypertension: raised blood pressure (uncontrolled hypertension) among adults aged 30-79 years (%). Global Health Observatory. https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-raised-blood-pressure-among-adults-30-79-years [Accessed 16.03.26]
Definitions:	Prevalence of raised blood pressure (defined as having systolic blood pressure ≥140 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure ≥90 mmHg) among adults aged 30-79.

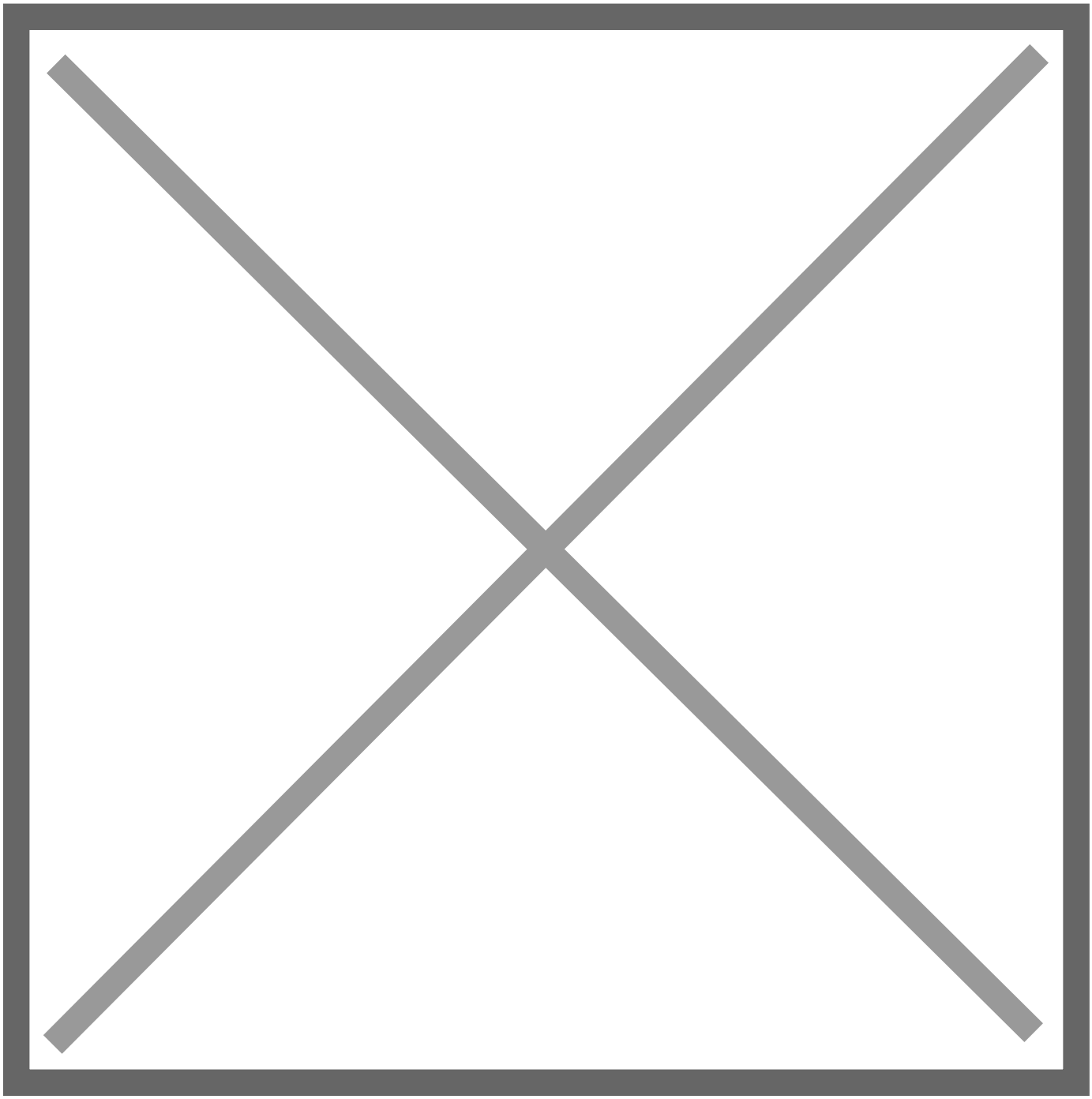
Raised cholesterol

Adults, 2008



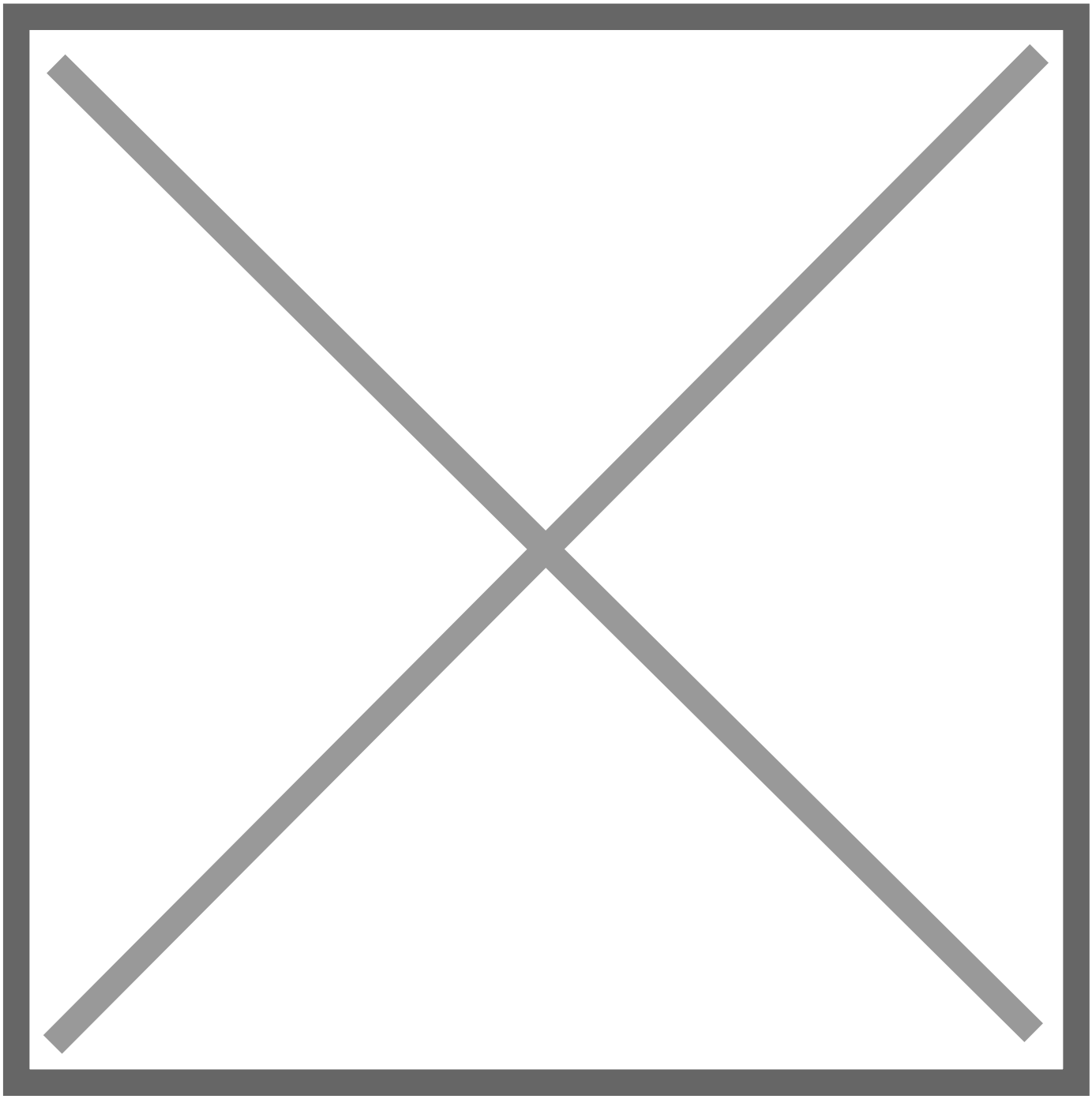
References:	Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885
Definitions:	% Raised total cholesterol (>= 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).

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).

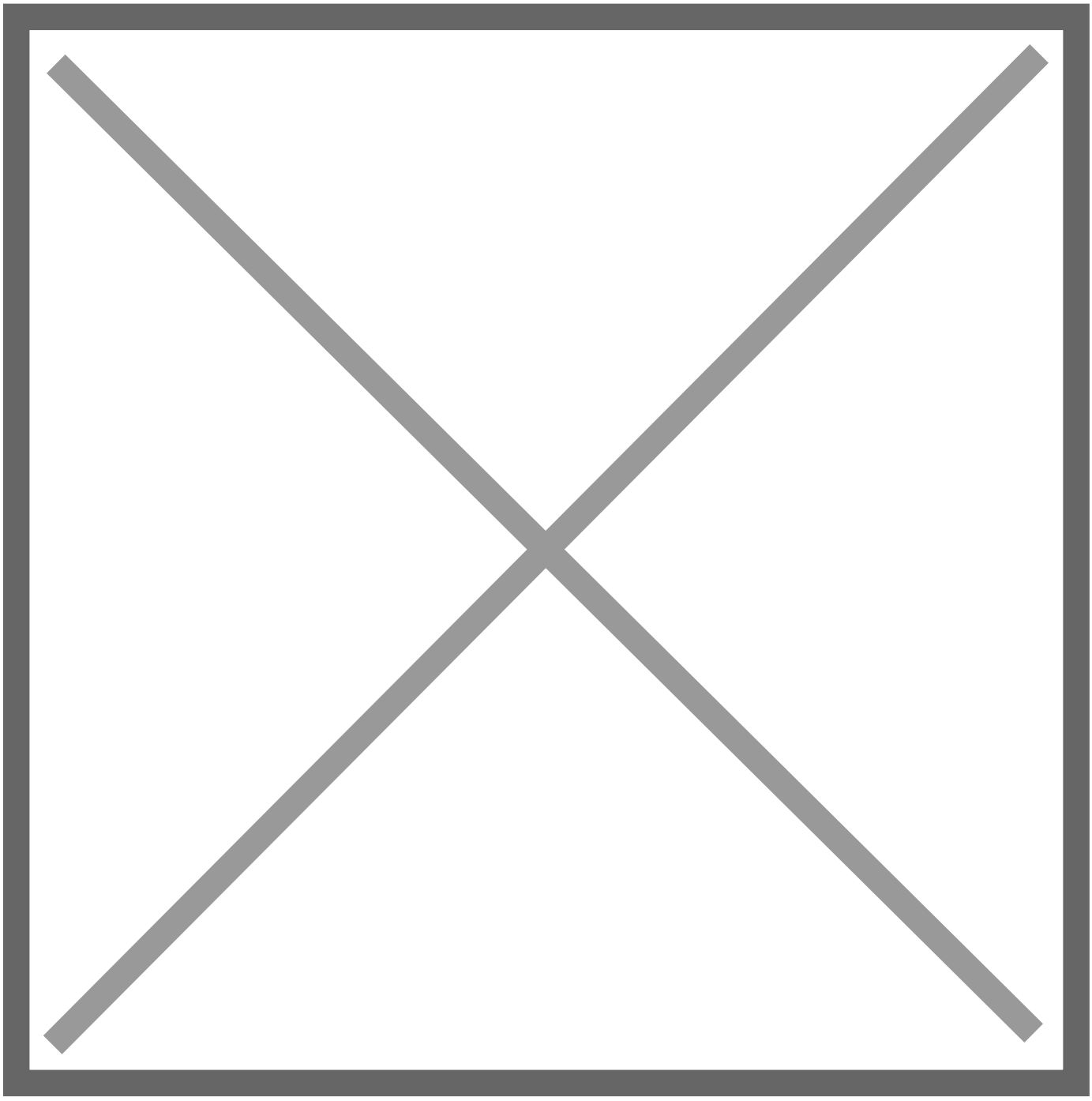
Women, 2008



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).

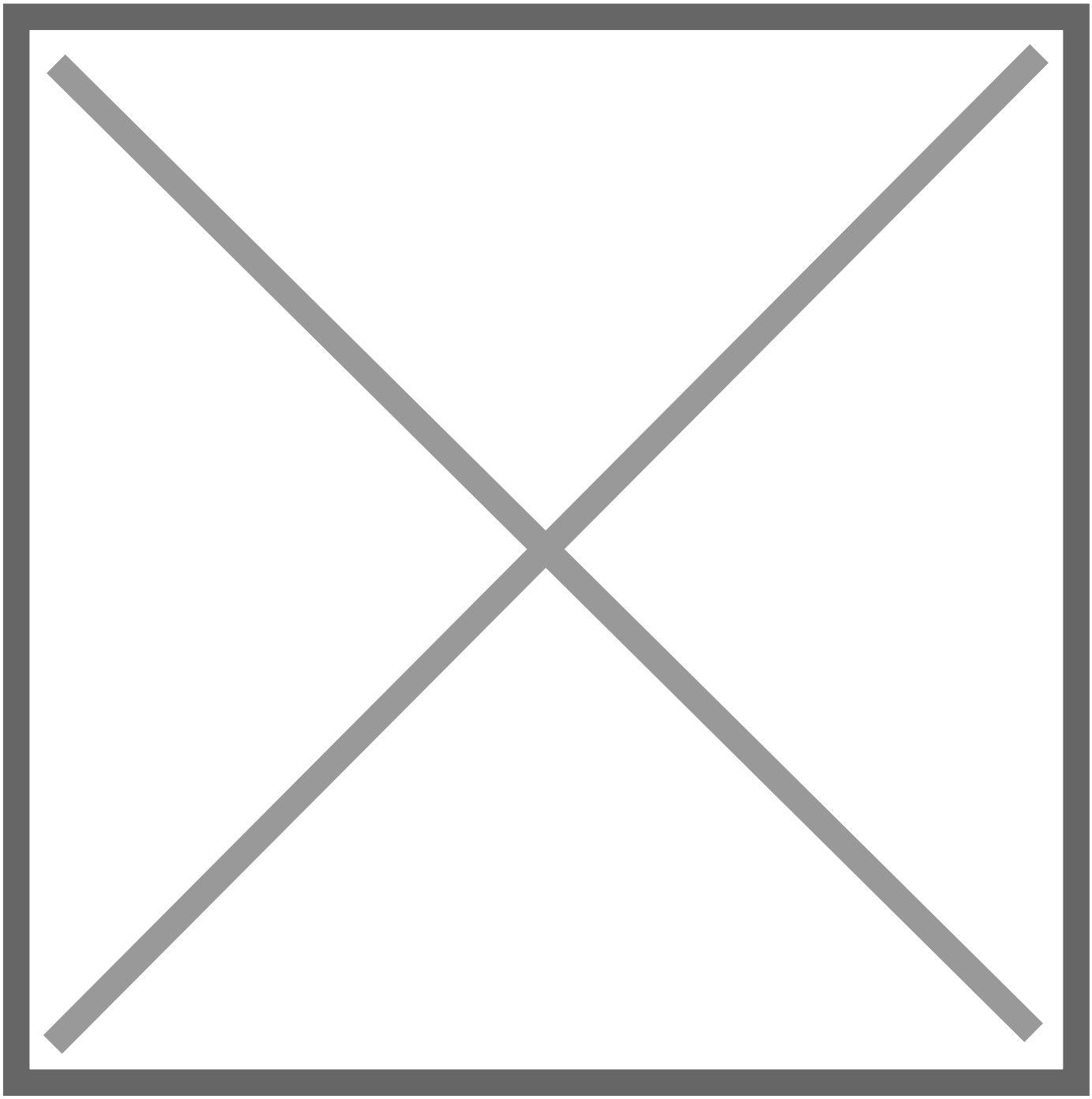
Raised fasting blood glucose

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).

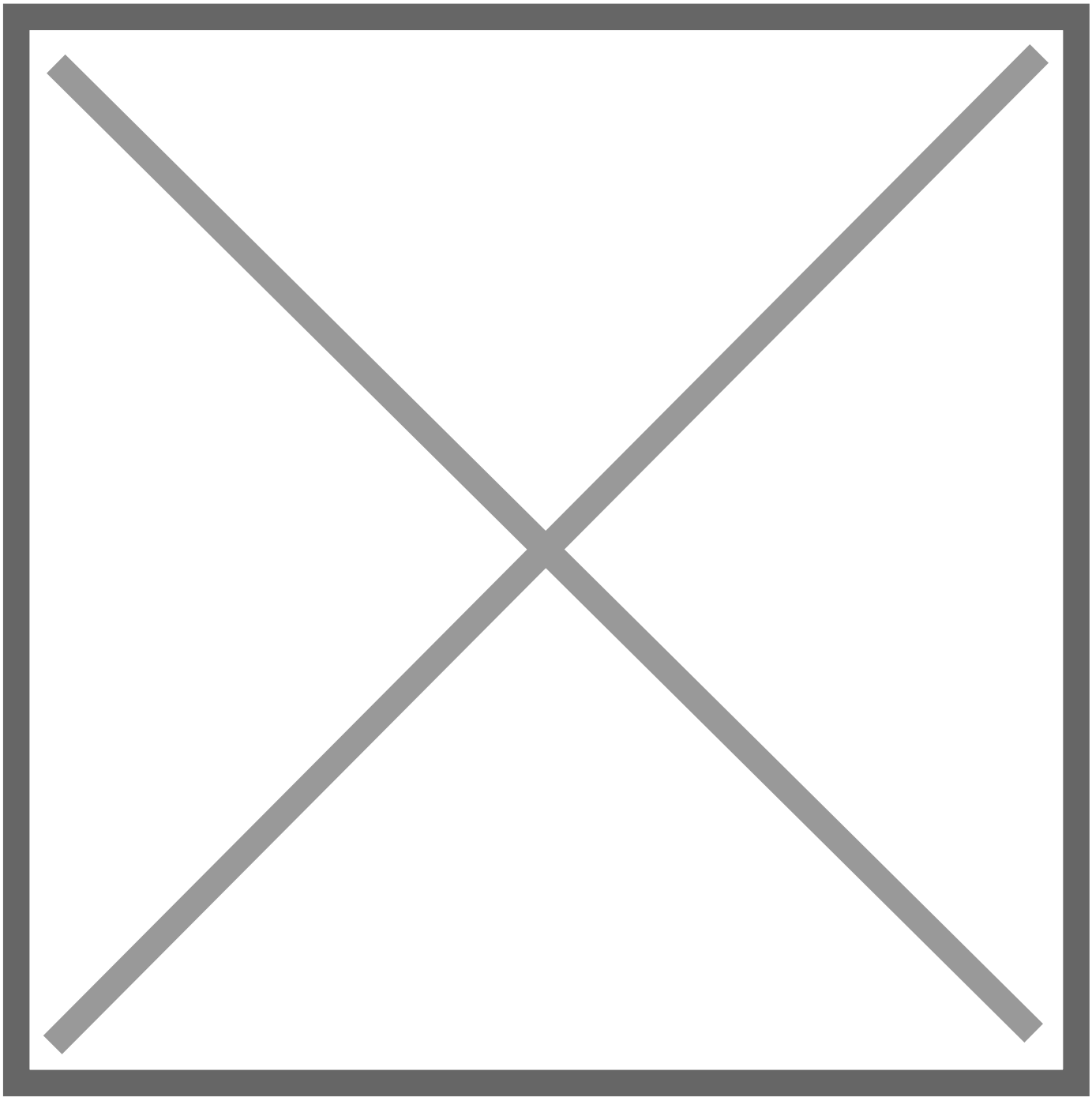
Women, 2014



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

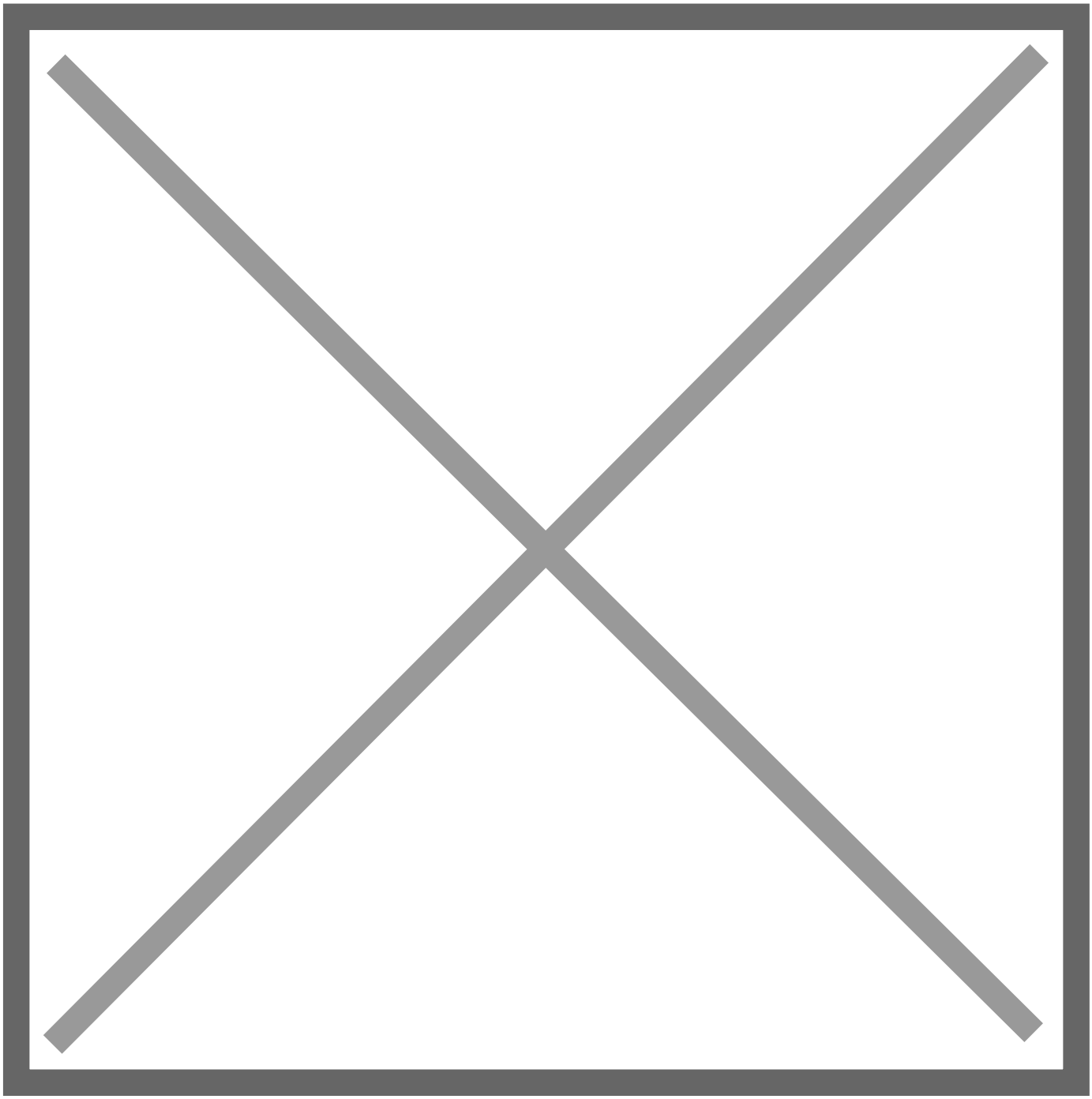
Adults, 2024



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

Ovarian Cancer

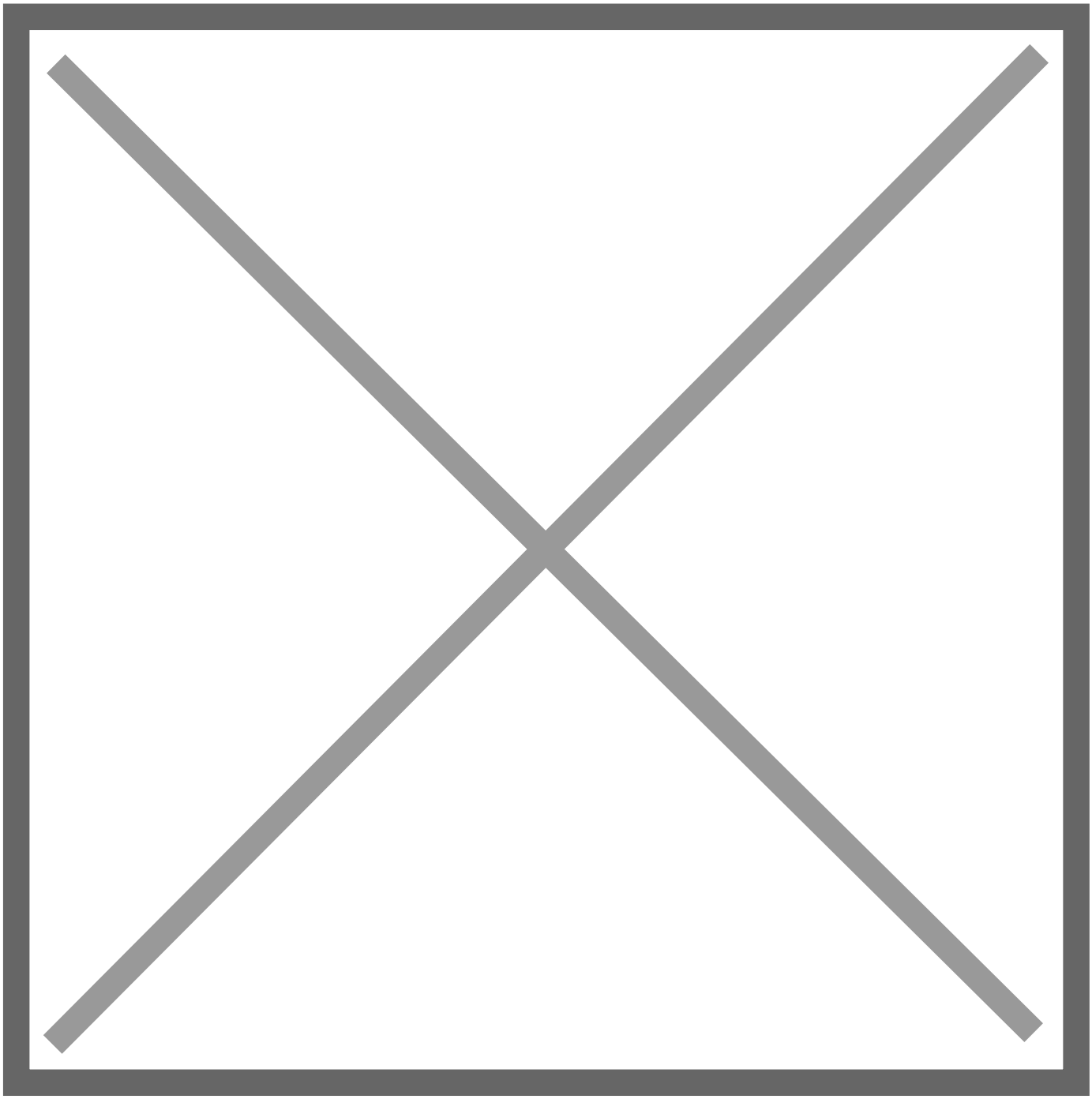
Women, 2022



Age:	20+
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

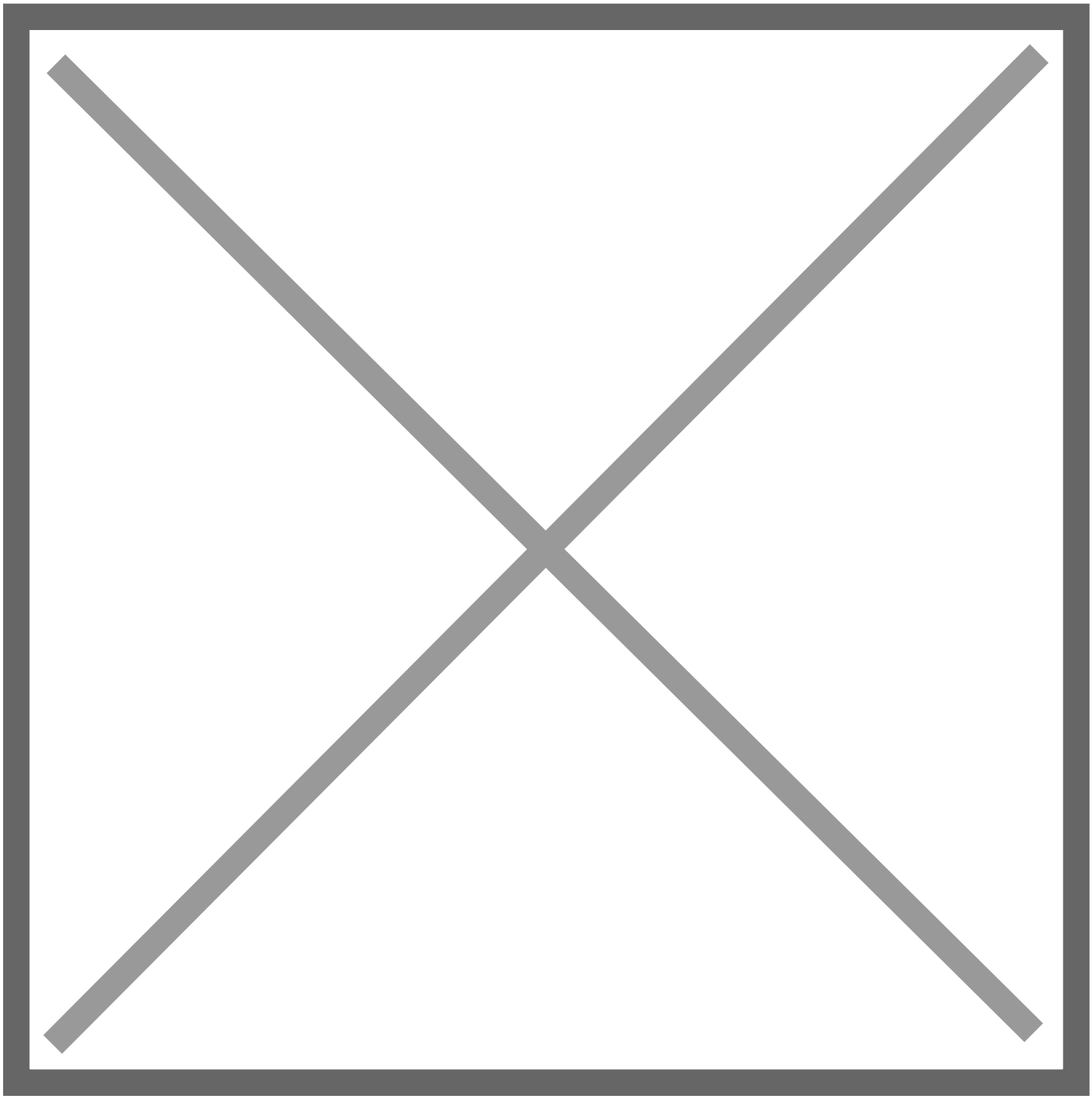
Men, 2022



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 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.

Women, 2022

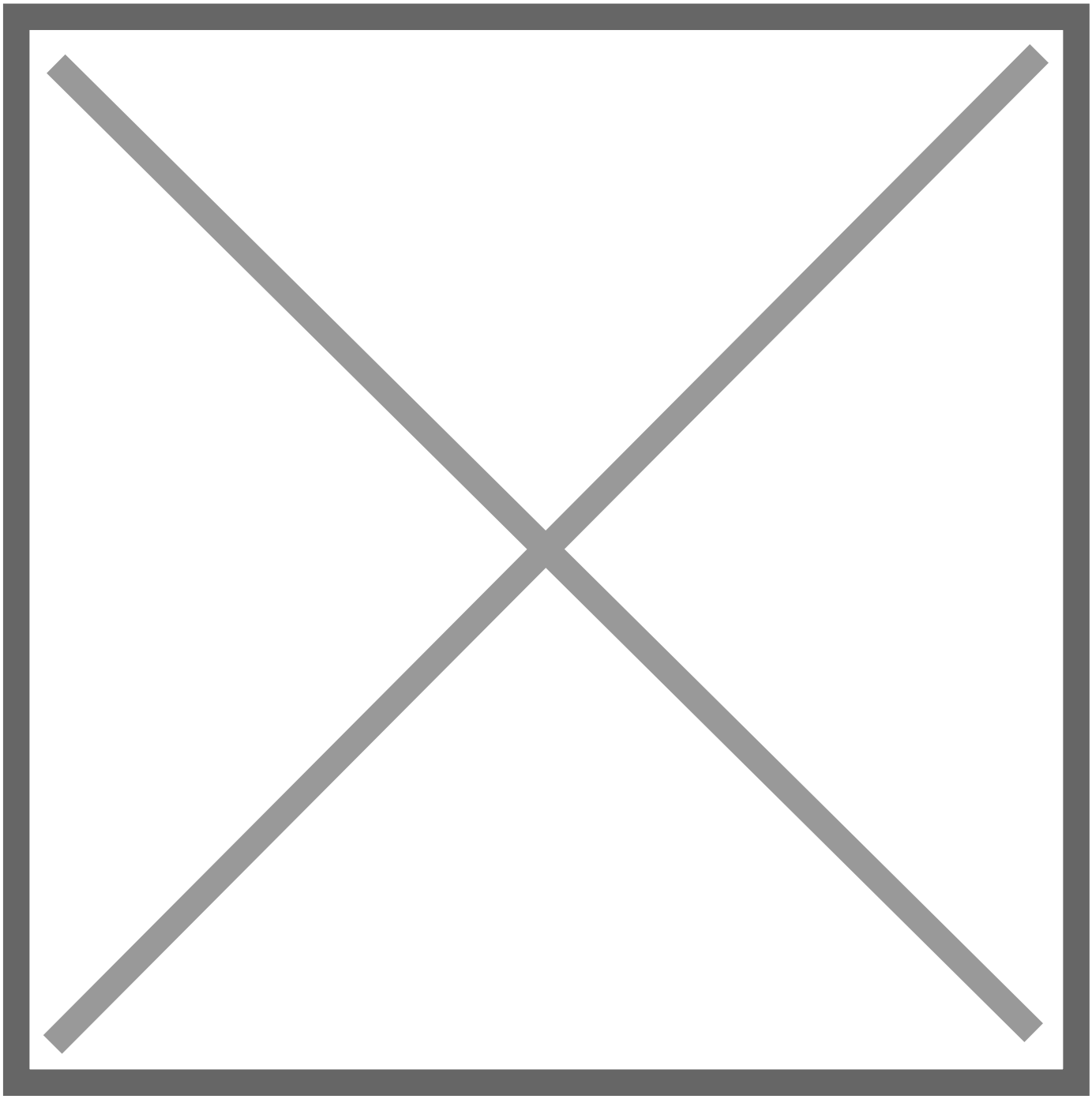


Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today, accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence 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.

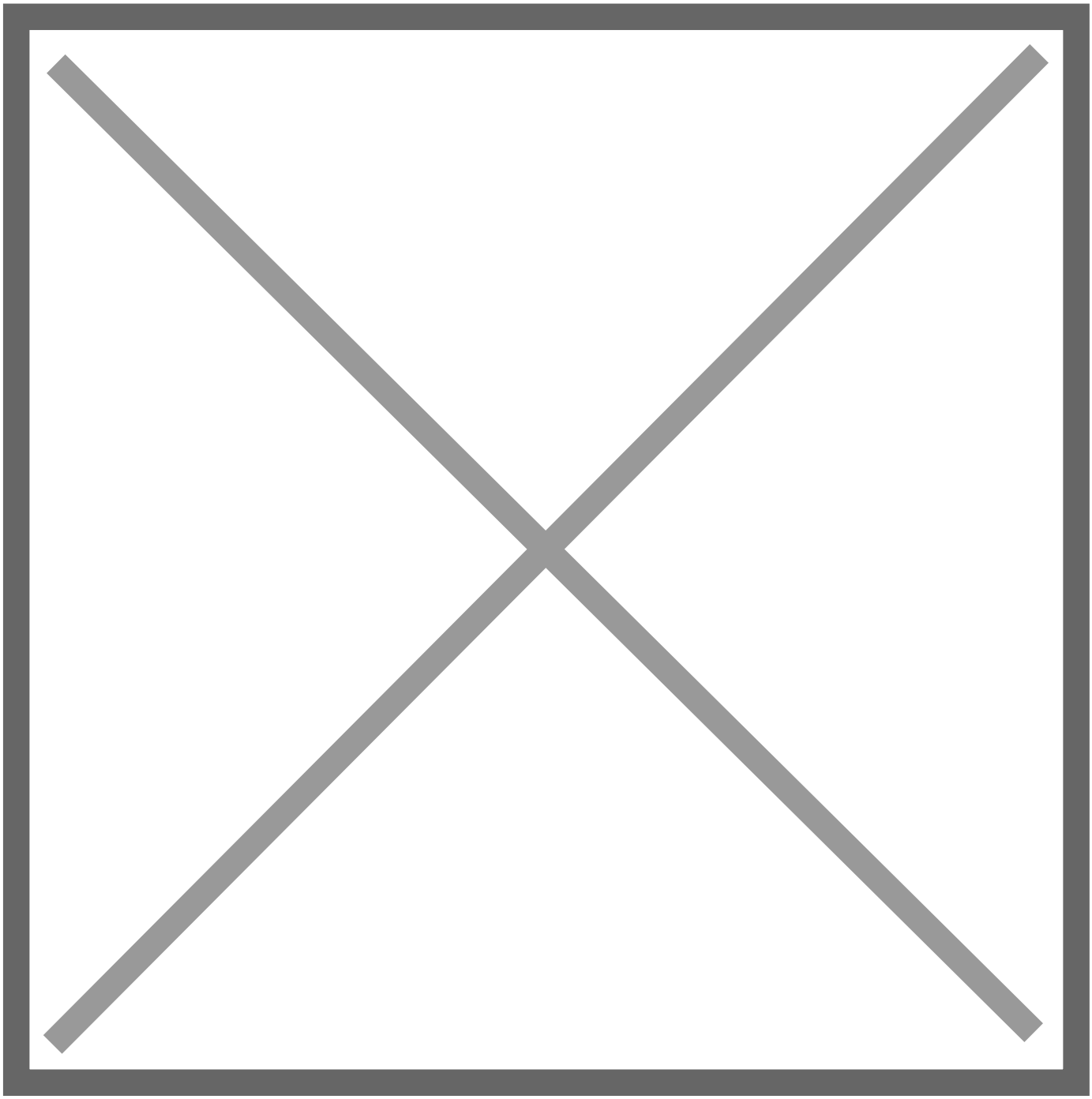
Liver and intrahepatic bile duct Cancer

Men, 2022



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 per 100,000

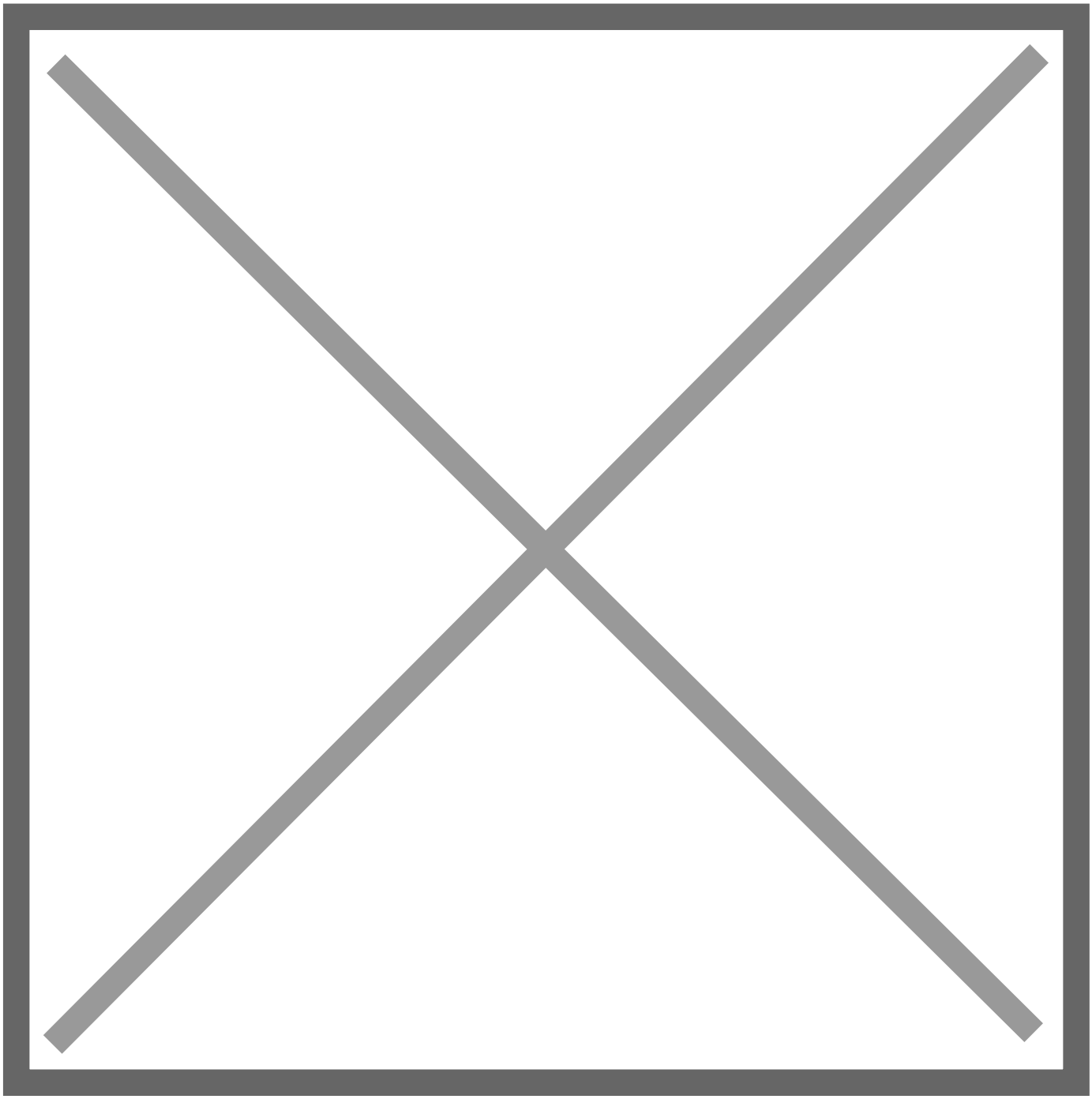
Women, 2022



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 per 100,000

Multiple Myeloma

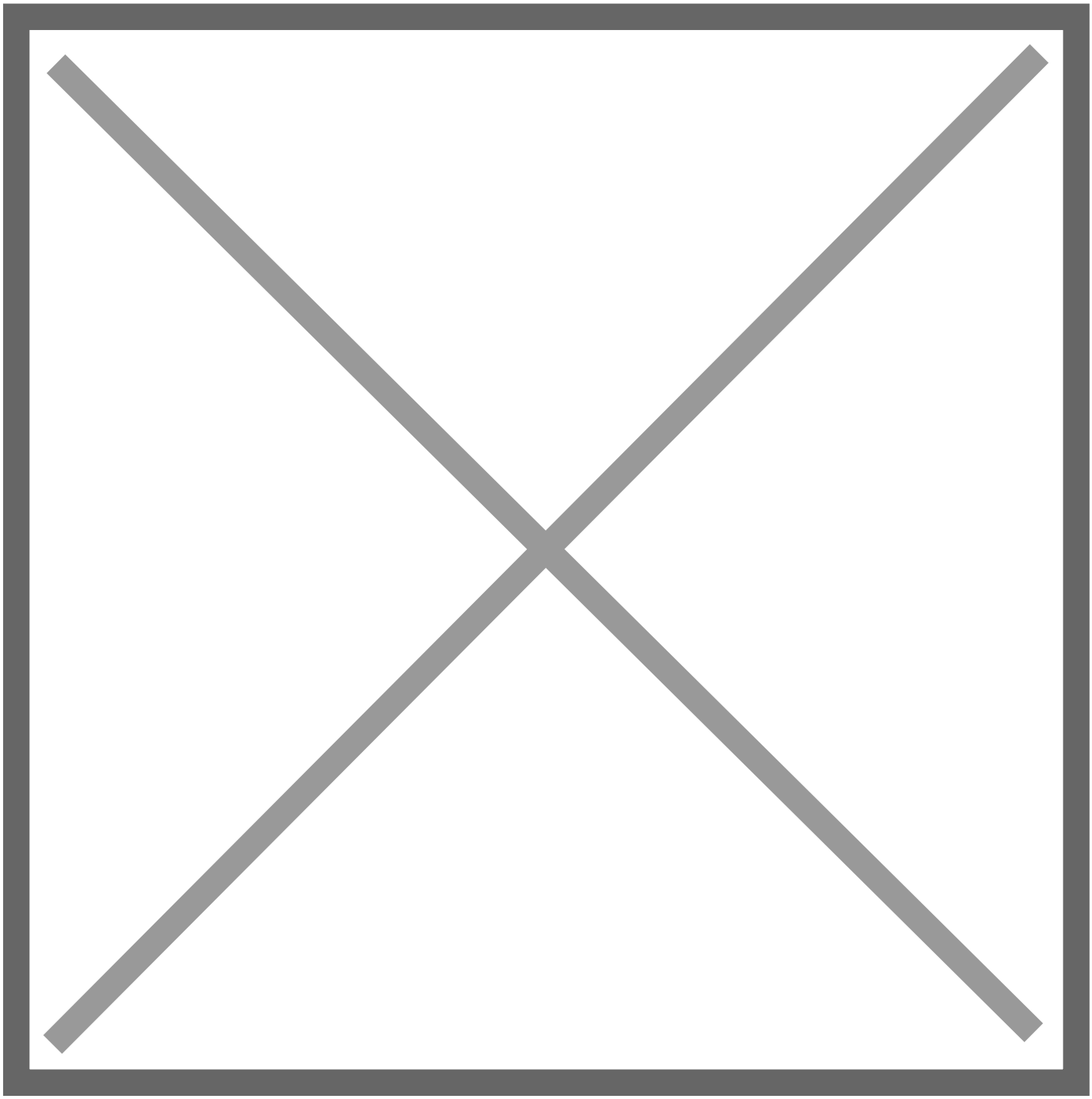
Men, 2022



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:	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.

Women, 2022

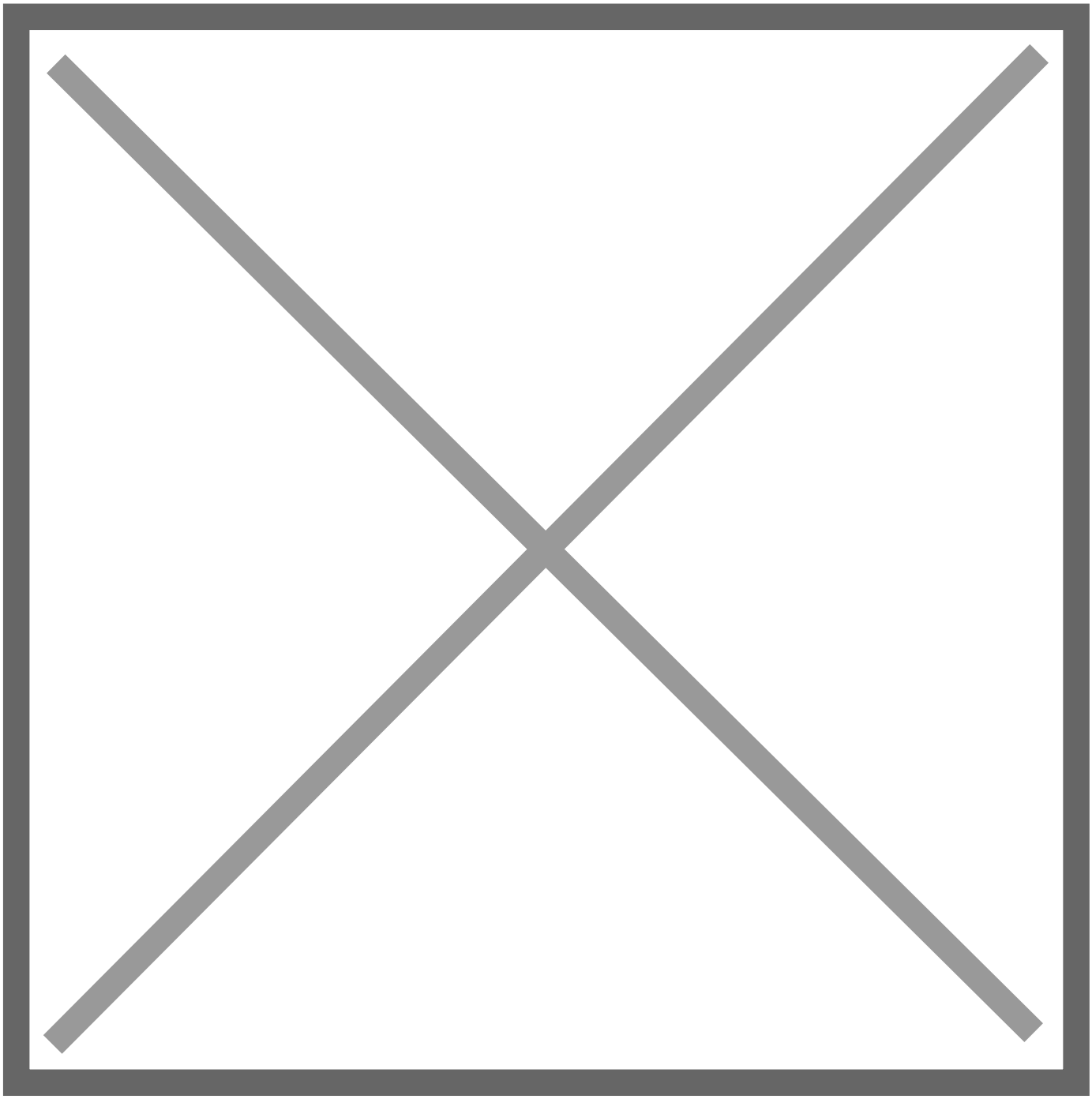


Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today, accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	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.

Non Hodgkin Lymphoma

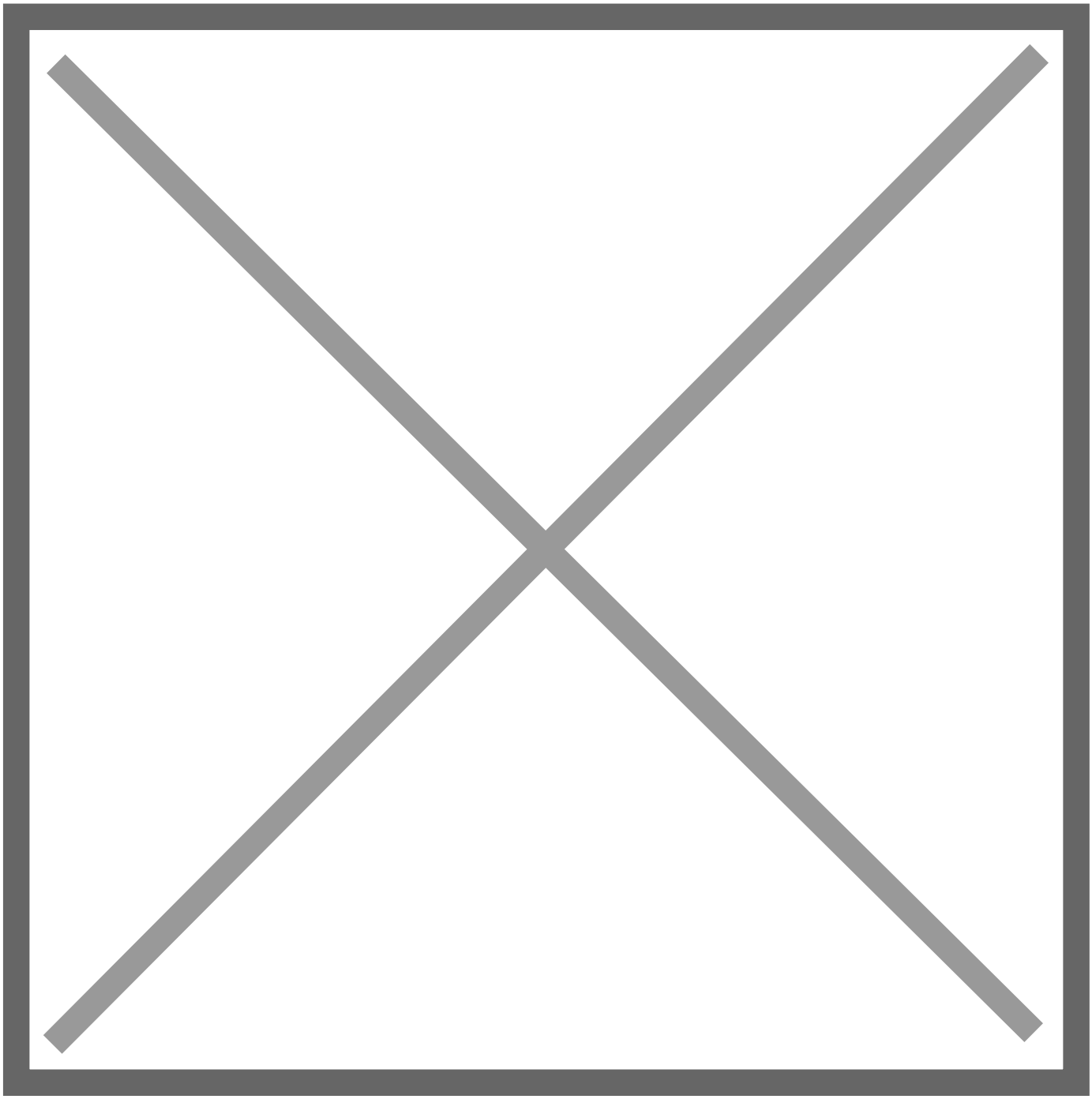
Men, 2022



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 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.

Women, 2022

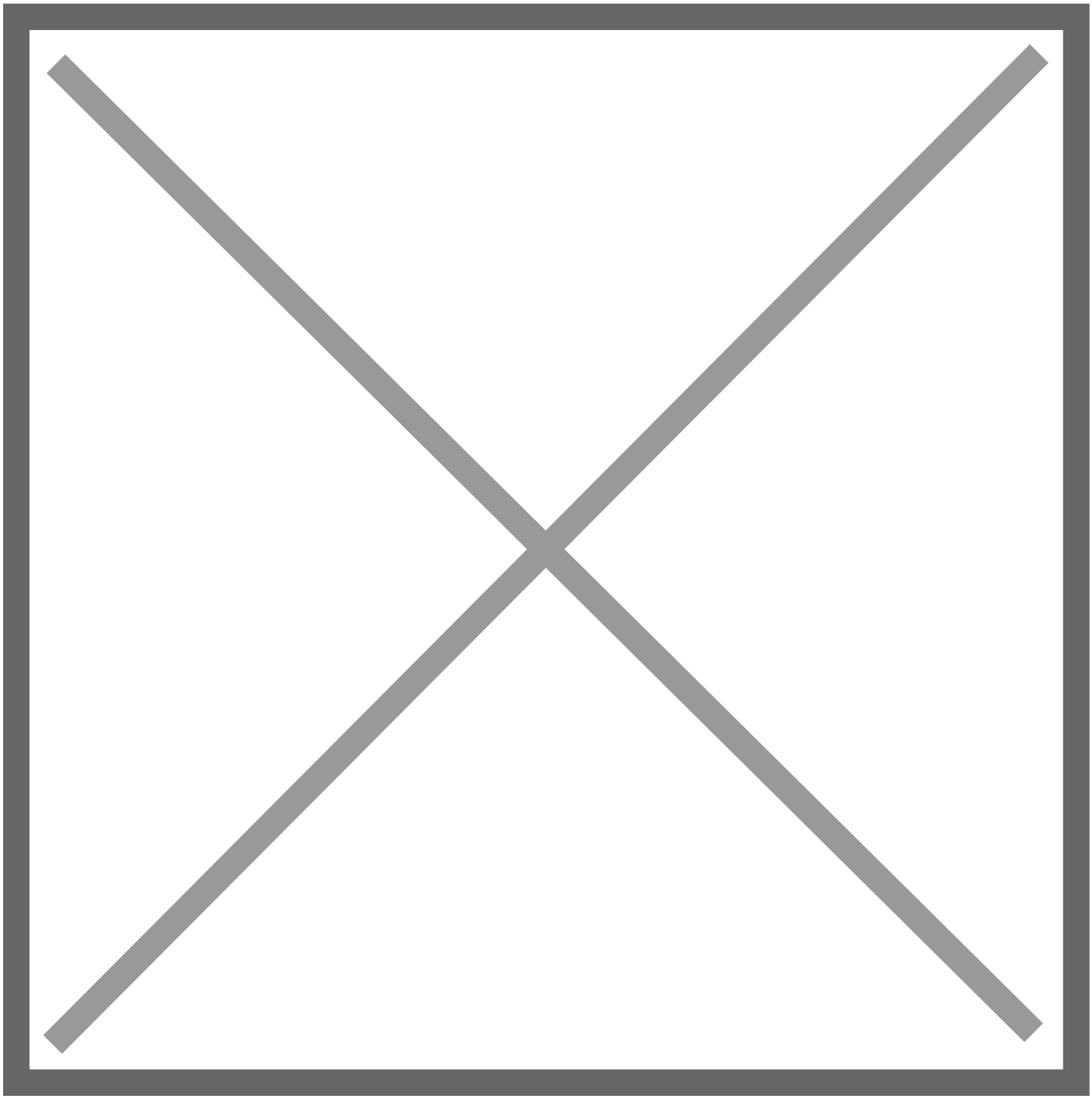


Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today, accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence 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.

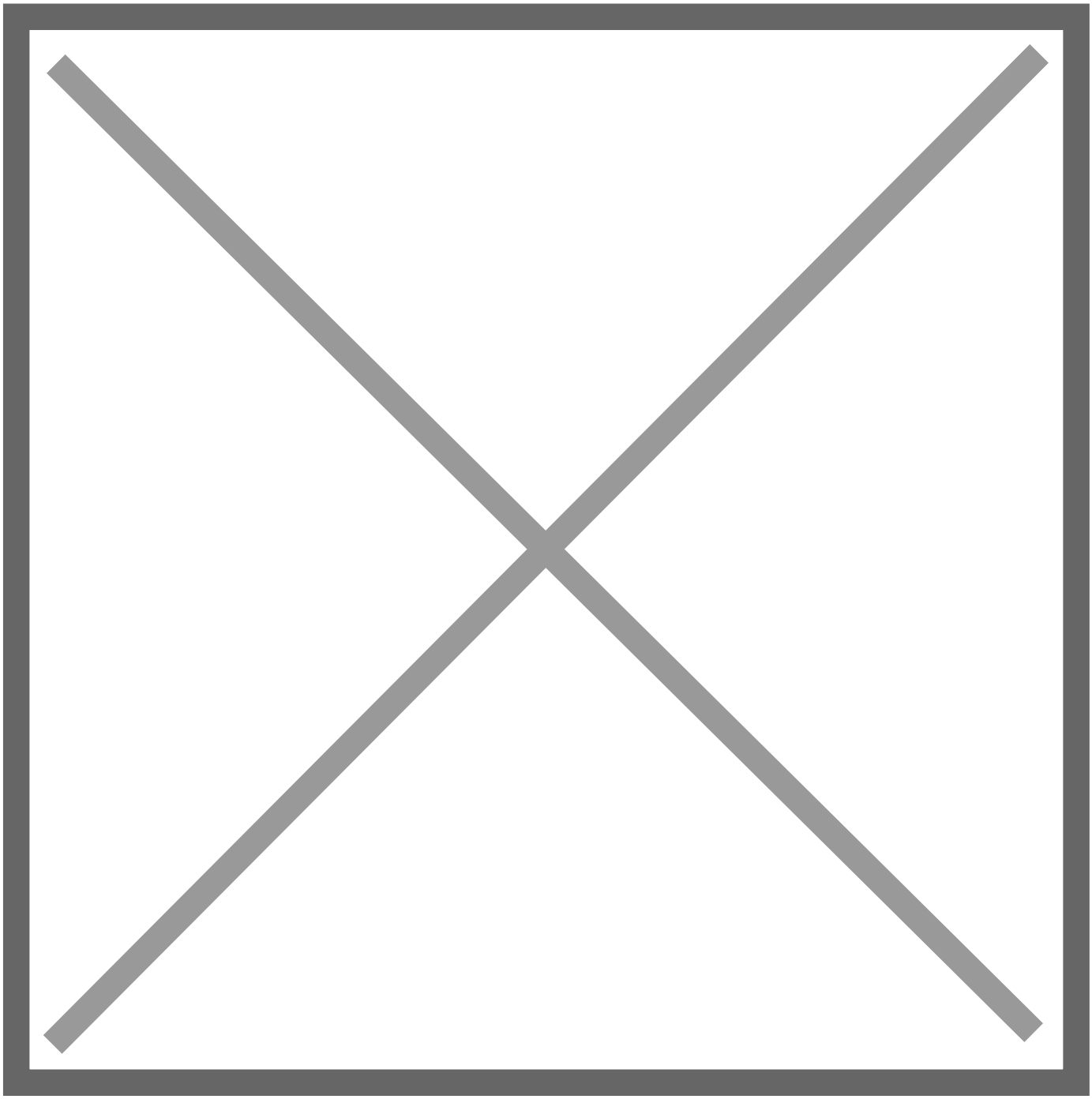
Thyroid Cancer

Men, 2022



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 per 100,000

Women, 2022



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 per 100,000

PDF created on November 7, 2026