Panama



Country report card - children

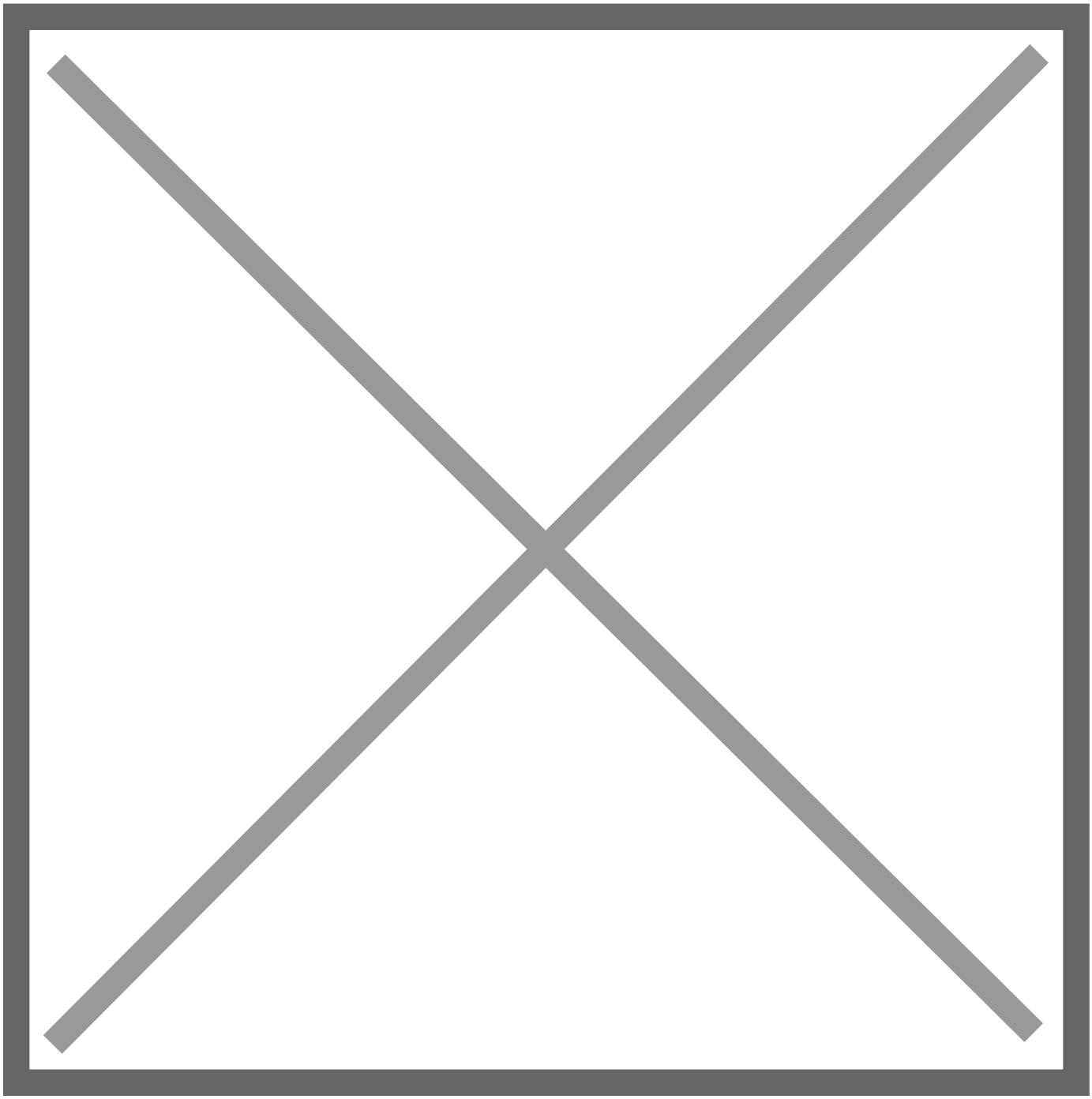
This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity for children, including adolescents (aged 5 to 18 years). Where available, data on common and relevant obesity drivers and comorbidities are also presented.

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

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Obesity prevalence

Children, 2019

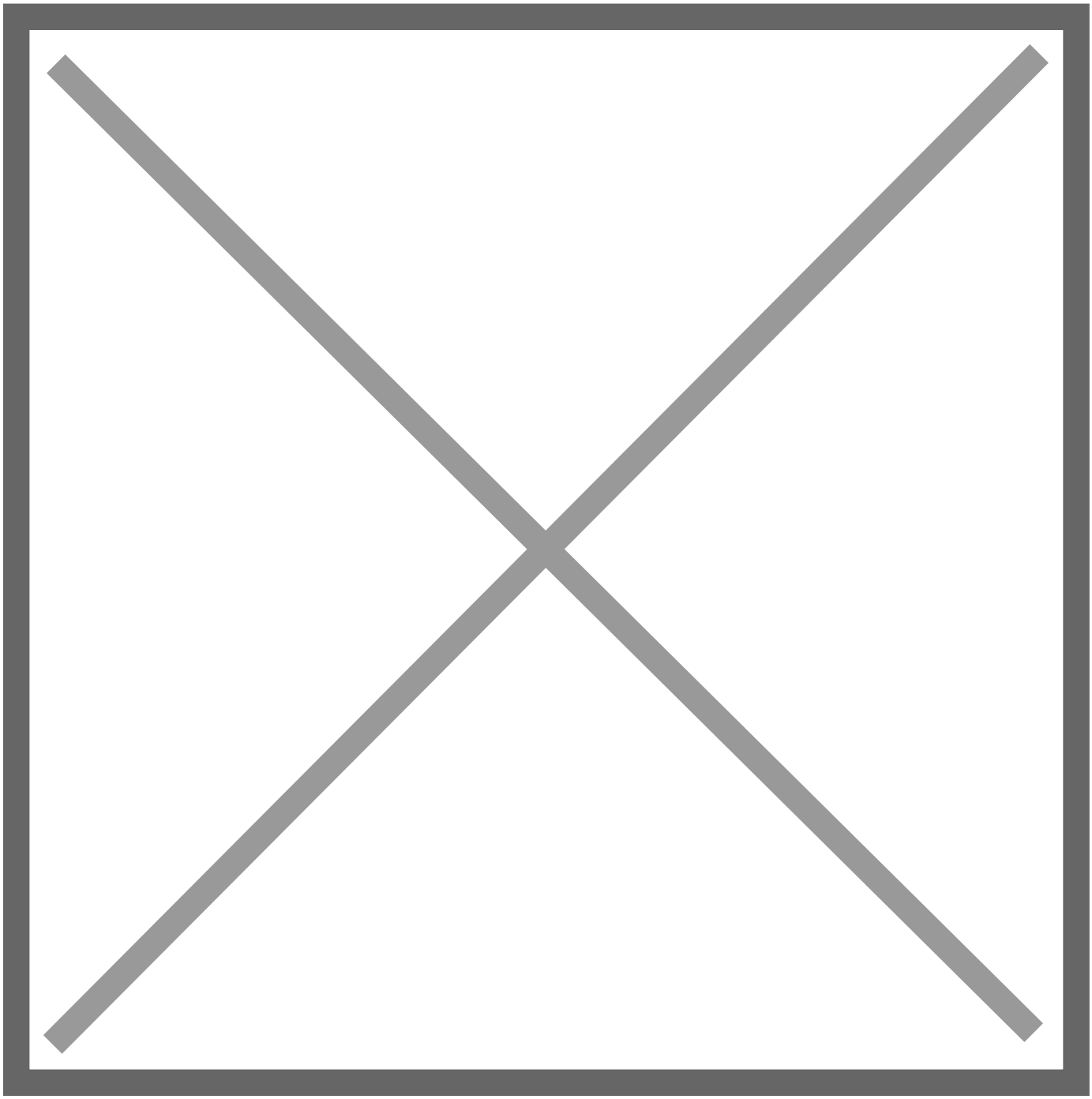


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-17
Sample size:	20118
Area covered:	National
References:	National Health Survey of Panama (ENSPA). 2019. http://www.gorgas.gob.pa/SIGENSPA/Informe_general.htm (Accessed 23.01.23)
Definitions:	Sample size is all over 15 years

Cutoffs:	WHO

Overweight/obesity by region

Children, 2019



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-17
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)

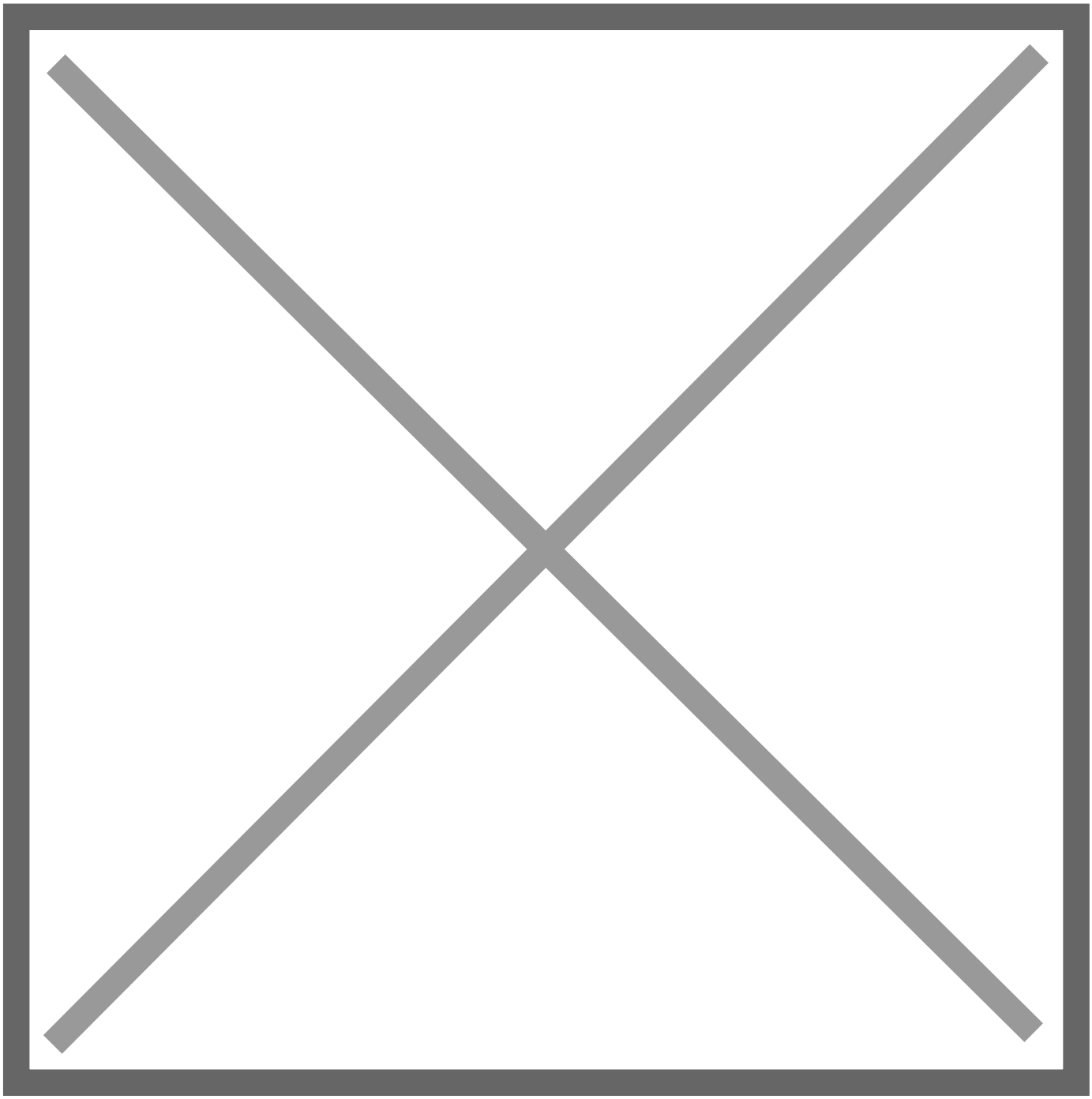
Definitions:	Sample size is all over 15 years
Cutoffs:	WHO

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.

Double burden of underweight & obesity

Children, 2022

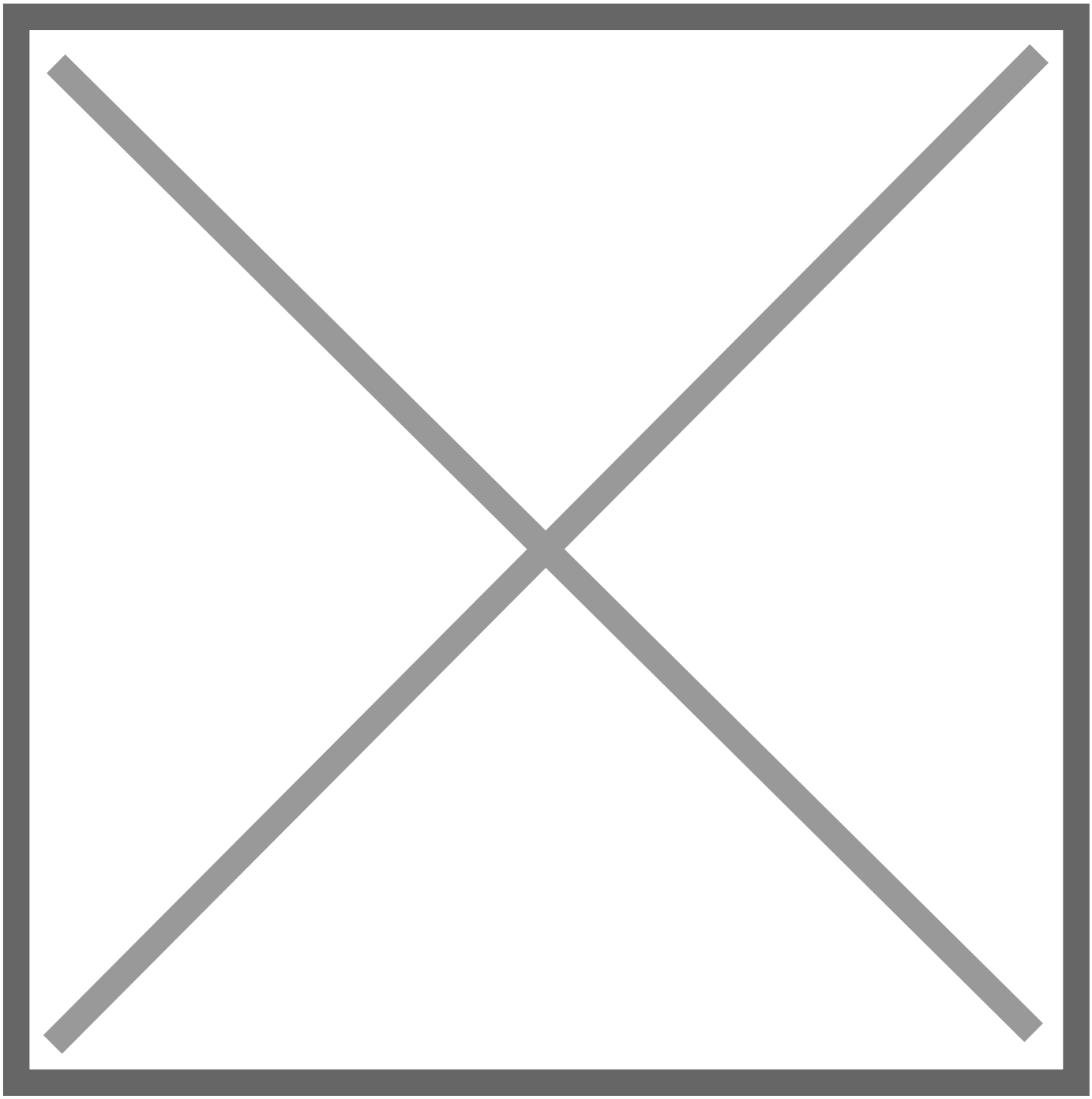


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	5-19
References:	NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC). Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults. Lancet 2024; published online Feb 29. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2.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

Definitions:	Combined prevalence of BMI < -2SD and BMI > 2SD (double burden of thinness and obesity)
Cutoffs:	BMI < -2SD and BMI > 2SD

Insufficient physical activity

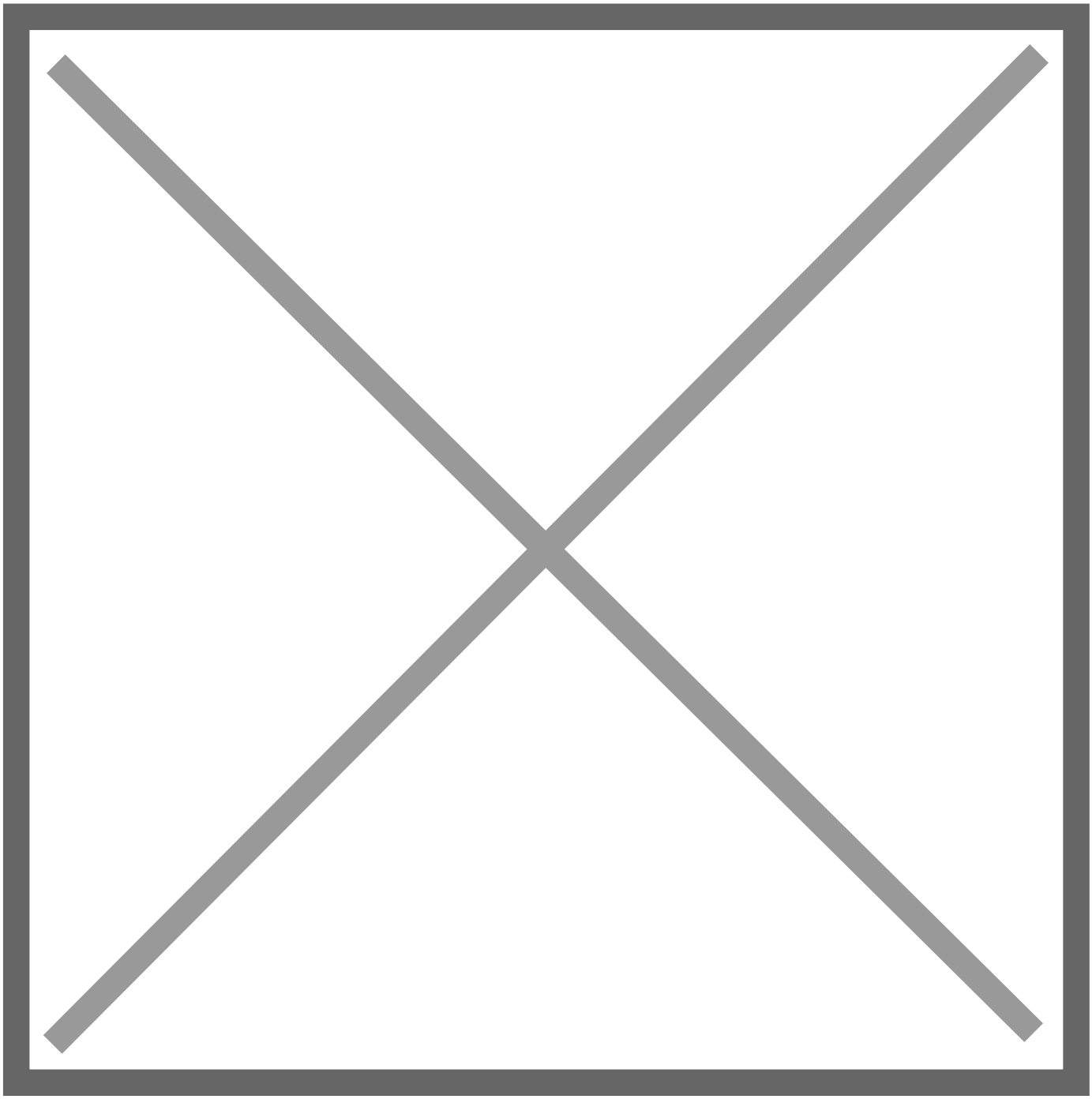
Children, 2025



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	11-17
Area covered:	National
References:	World Health Organization. (2026). Physical activity among adolescents, no active days in the past week, prevalence (%). Global Health Observatory. Available at: https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/gho-physical-activity-among-adolescents-no-active-days-in-the-past-week-prevalence [Accessed 06.11.26]

Notes:	An active day is a day on which an adolescent reports at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA).
Definitions:	Percentage of adolescents aged 11–17 years who reported no active day in the past 7 days (0 active days per week).

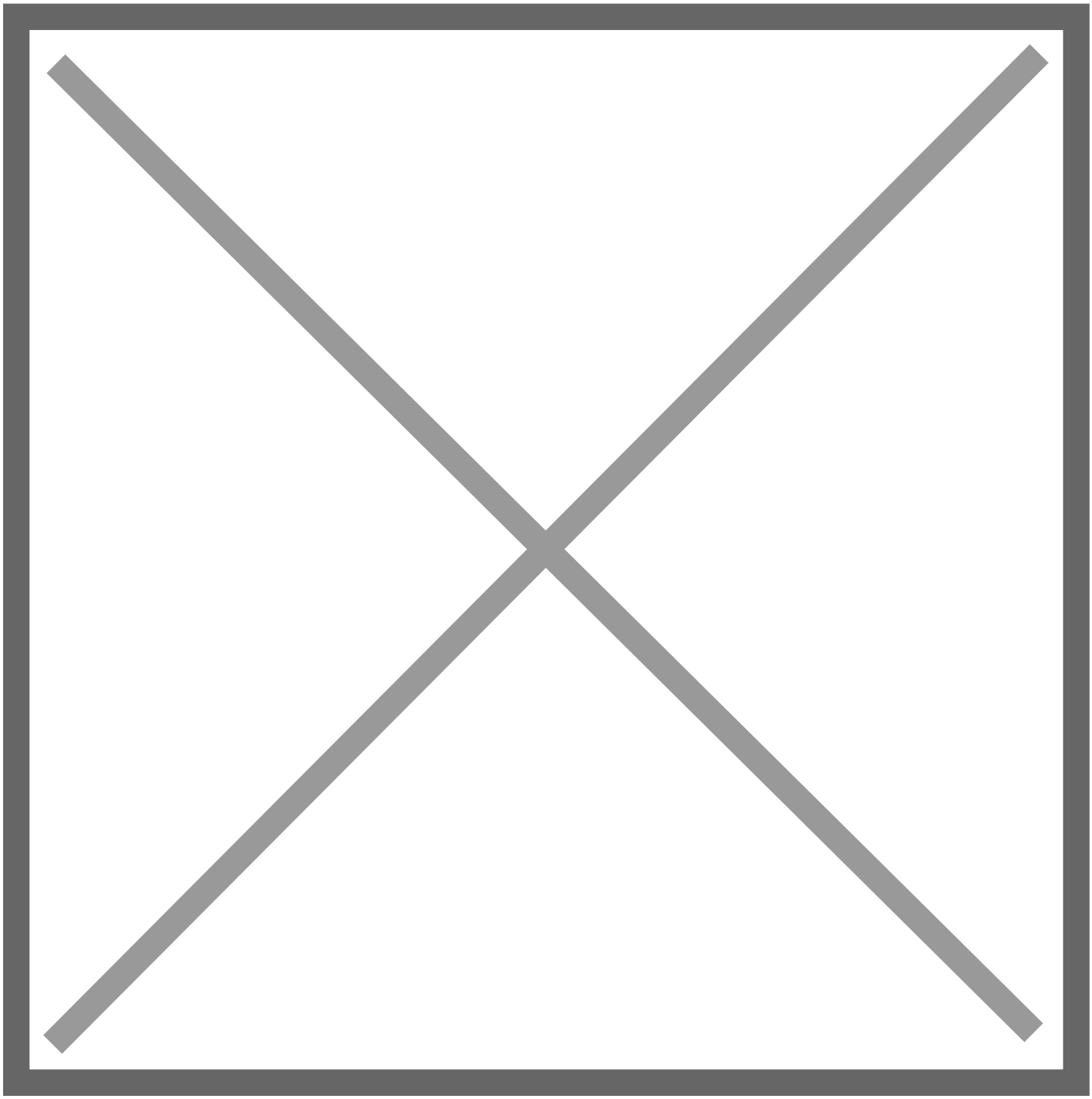
Boys, 2025



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	11-17
Area covered:	National
References:	World Health Organization. (2026). Physical activity among adolescents, no active days in the past week, prevalence (%). Global Health Observatory. Available at: https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/gho-physical-activity-among-adolescents-no-active-days-in-the-past-week-prevalence [Accessed 06.11.26]

Notes:	An active day is a day on which an adolescent reports at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA).
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Girls, 2025

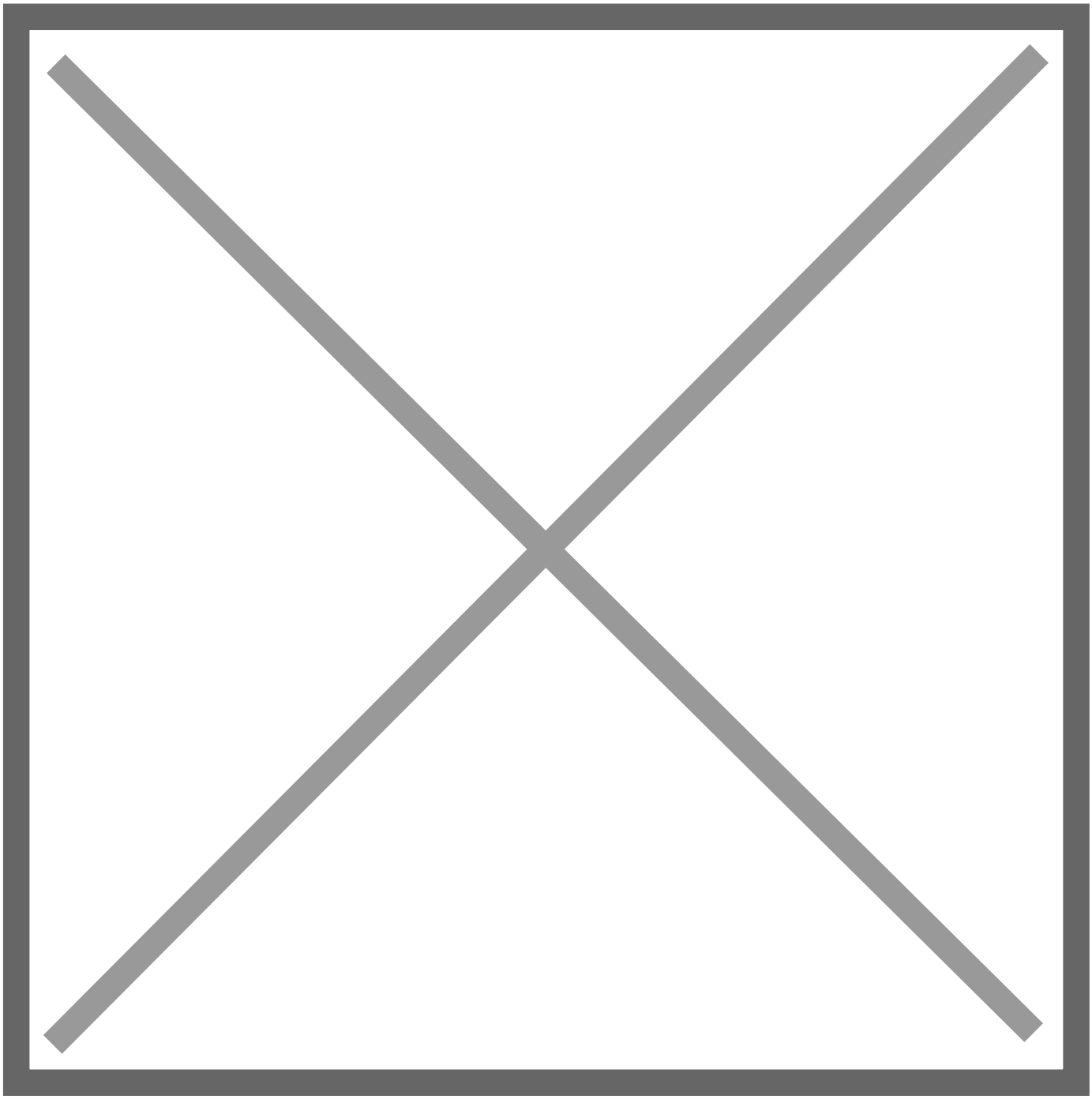


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Area covered:	National
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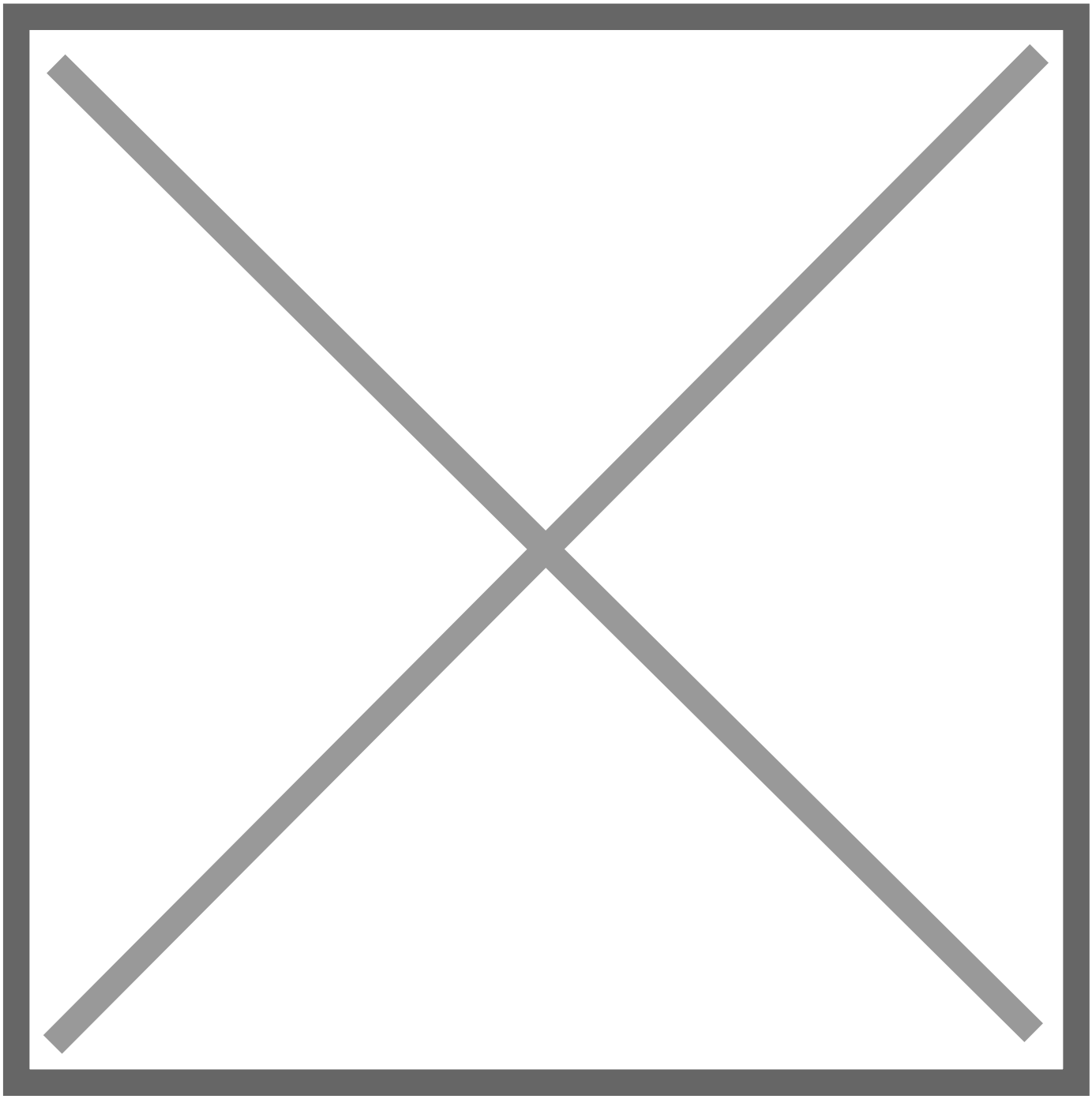
Mental health - depression disorders

Children, 2023



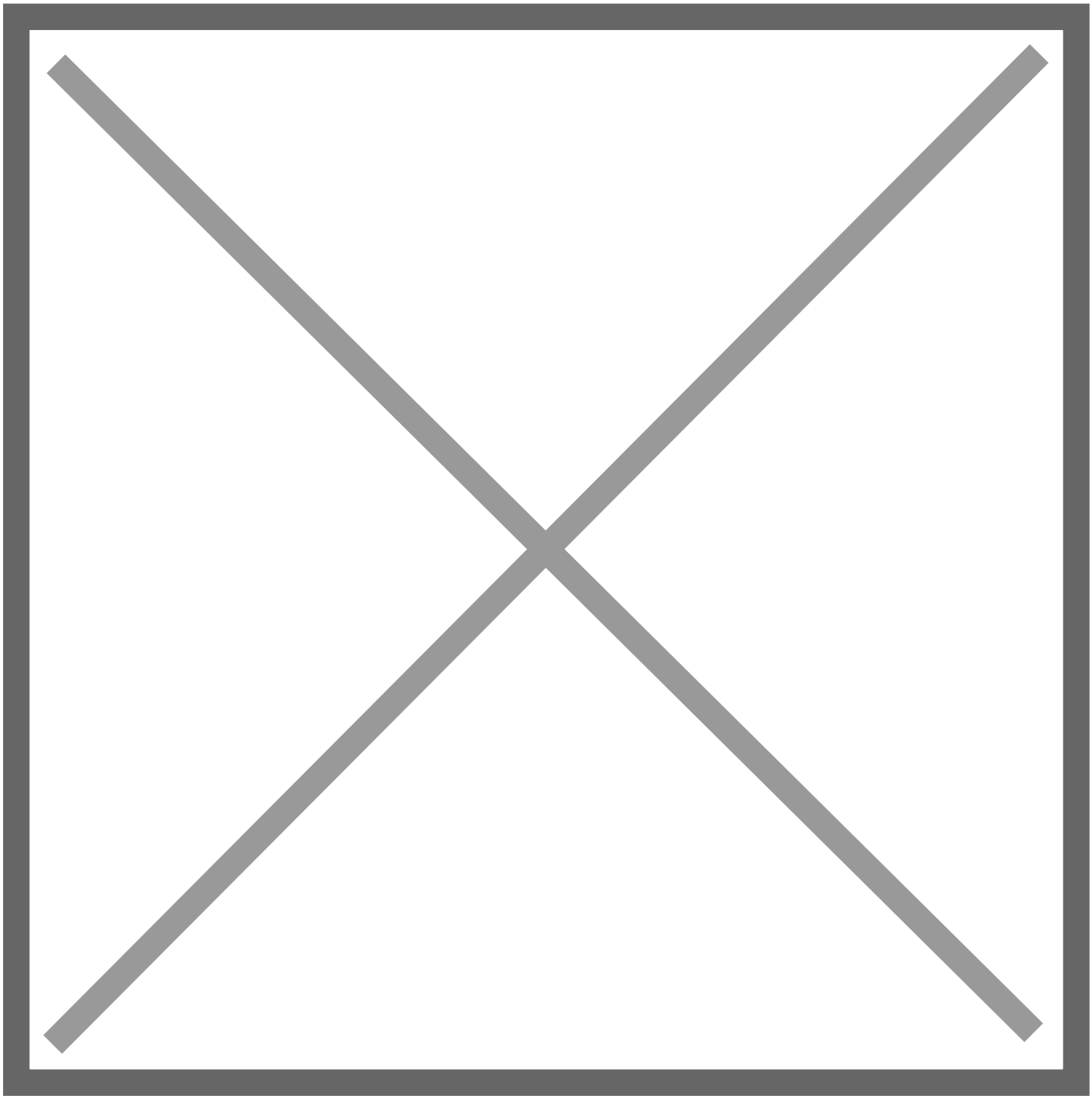
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
Definitions: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

Boys, 2023



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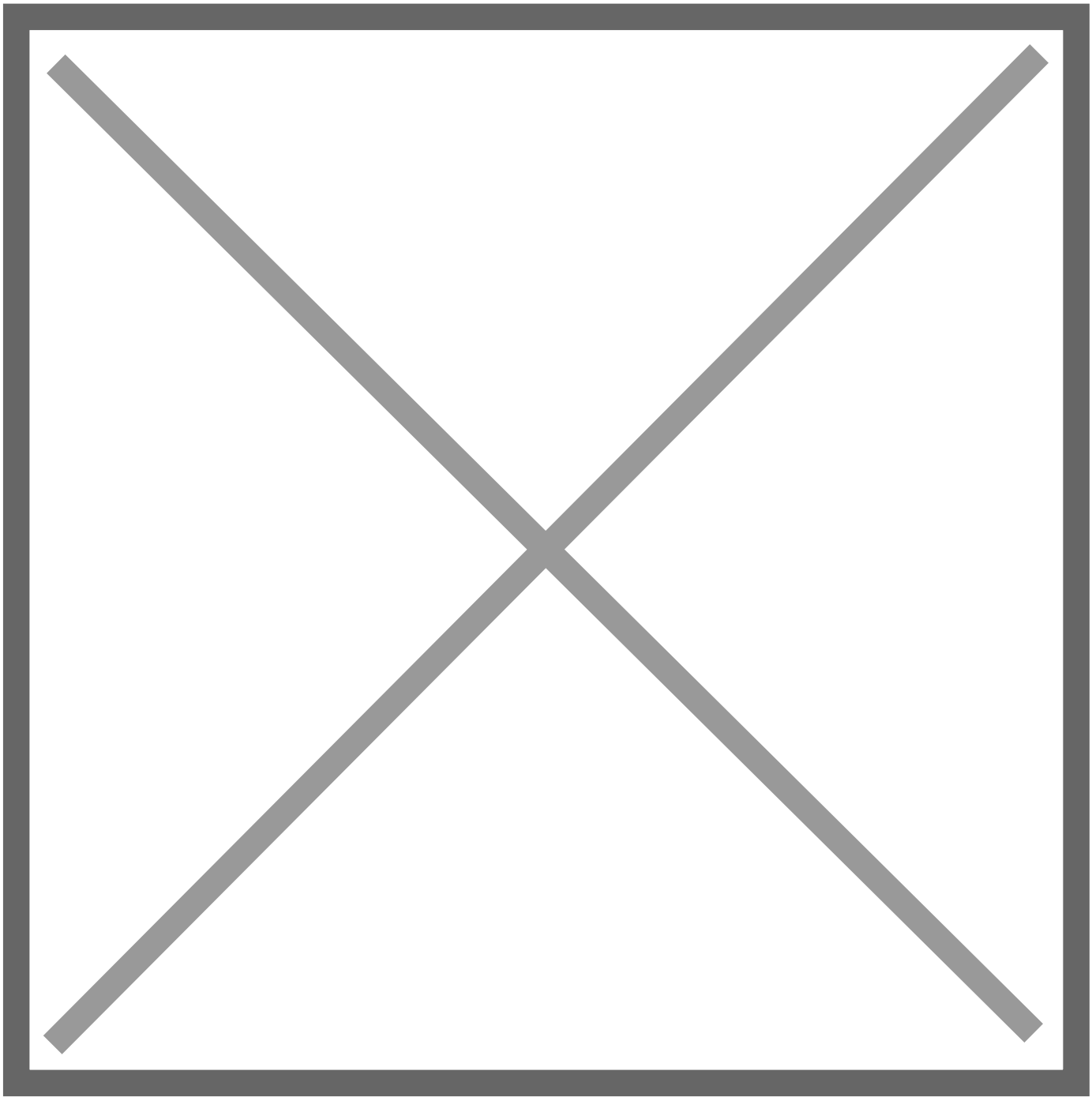
Girls, 2023



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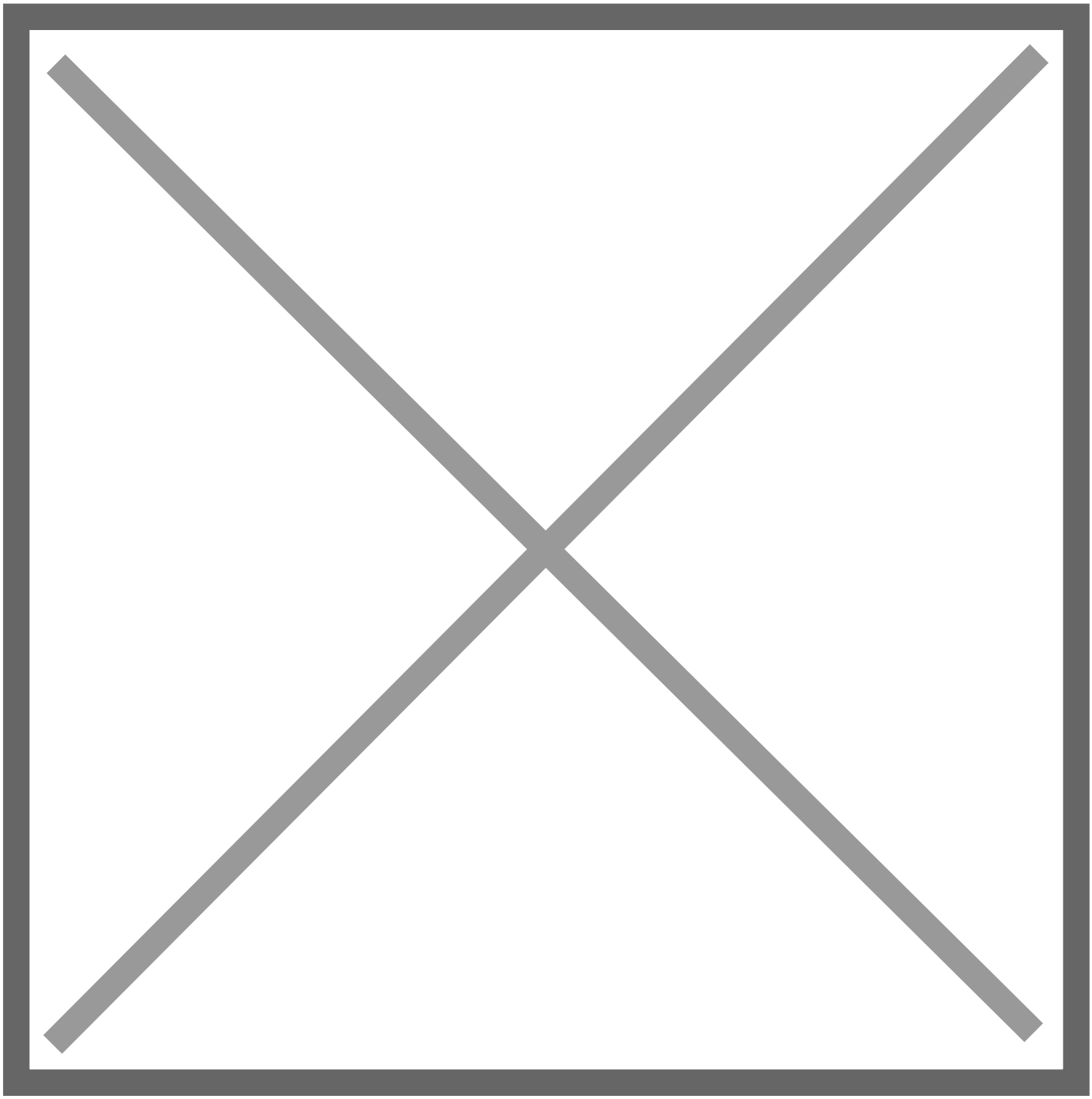
Mental health - anxiety disorders

Children, 2023



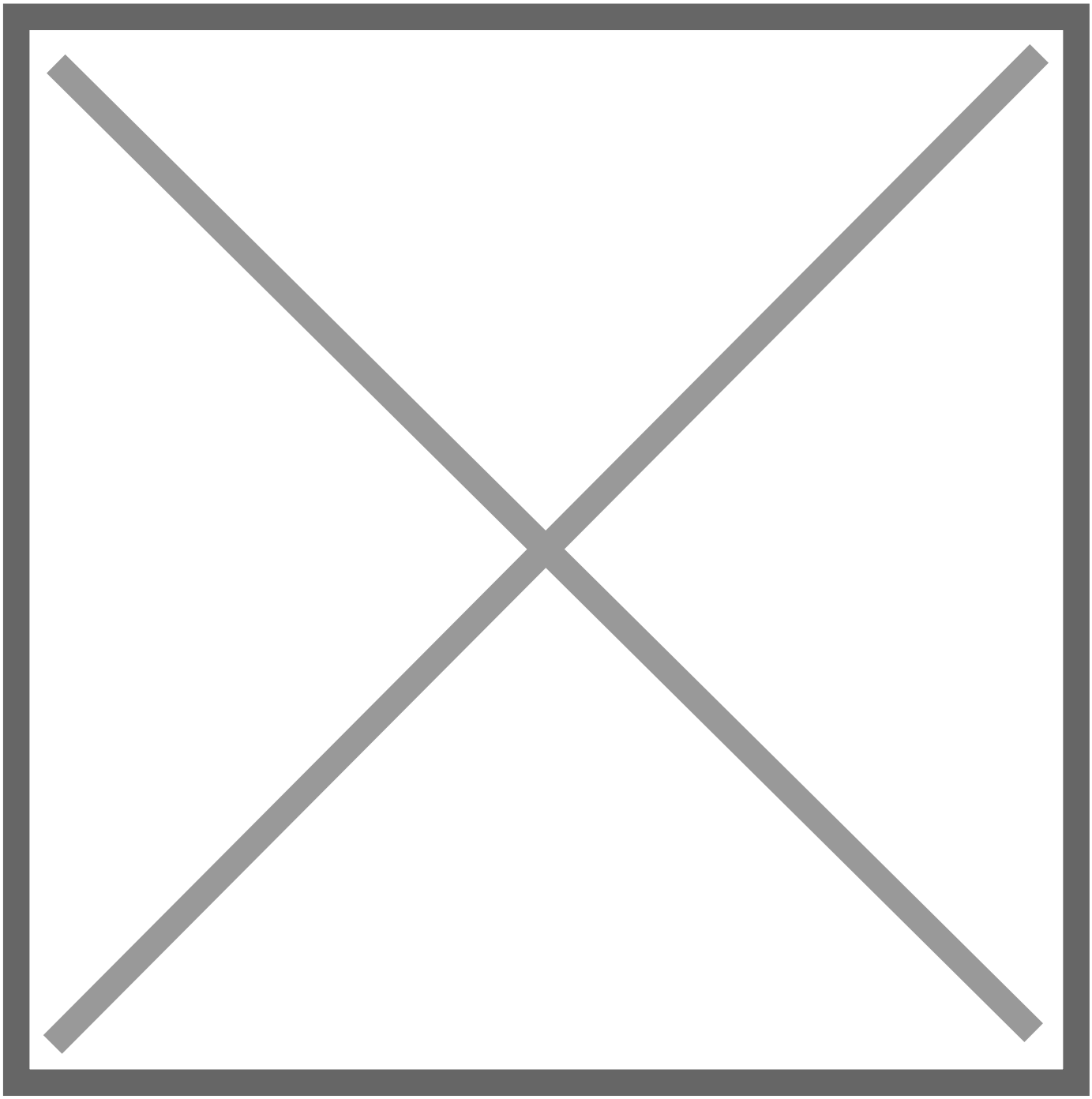
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Boys, 2023



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



Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
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PDF created on November 7, 2026