Sierra Leone



Country report card - children

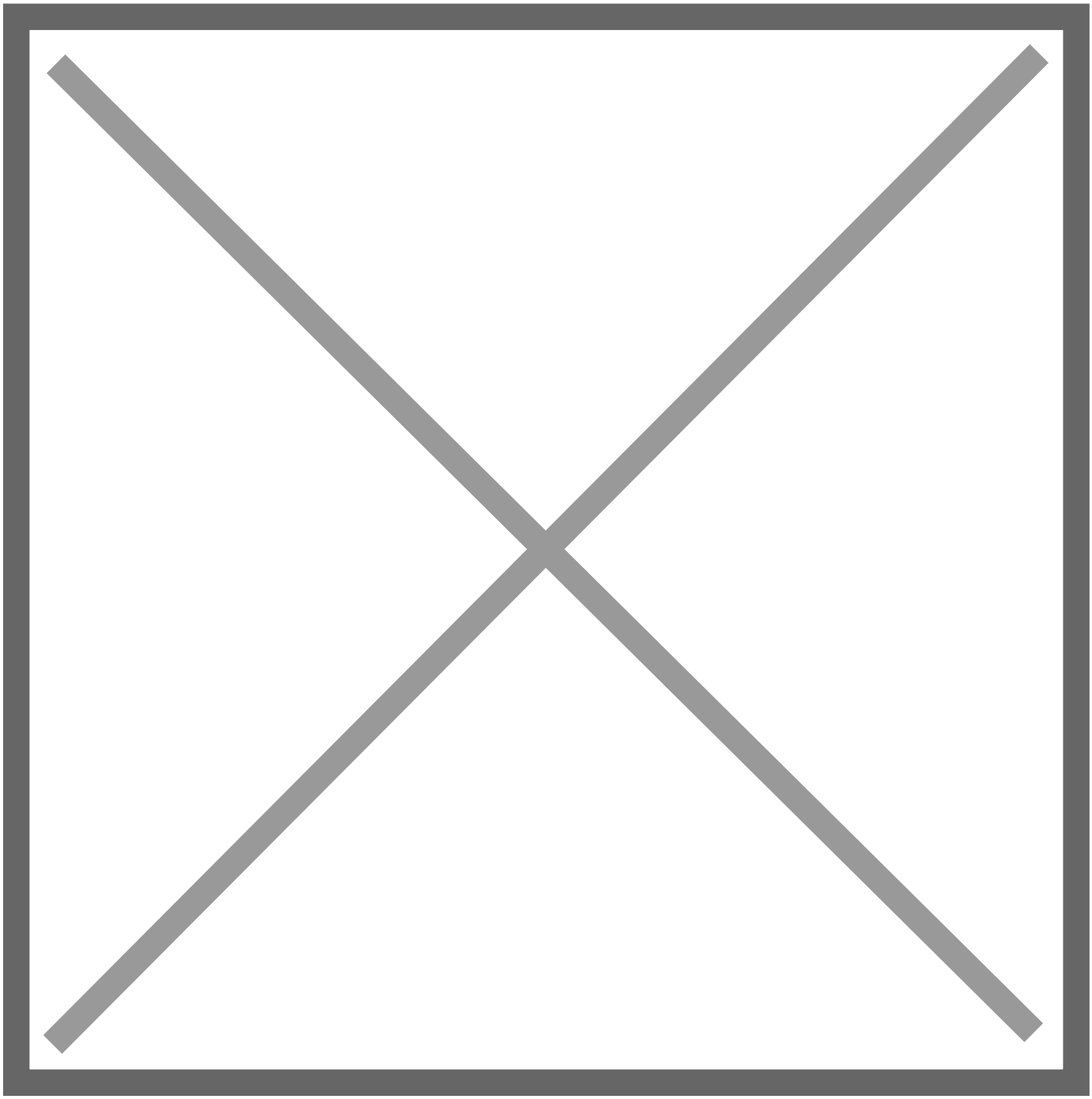
This report card contains the latest data available on the Global Obesity Observatory on overweight and obesity for children, including adolescents (aged 5 to 18 years). Where available, data on common and relevant obesity drivers and comorbidities are also presented.

View the latest version of this report on the Global Obesity Observatory at https://data.worldobesity.org/country/sierra-leone-191/.

Contents	Page
Obesity prevalence	3
Overweight/obesity by education	6
Overweight/obesity by region	11
Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group	14
Double burden of underweight & obesity	17
Mental health - depression disorders	20
Mental health - anxiety disorders	24

Obesity prevalence

Children, 2017

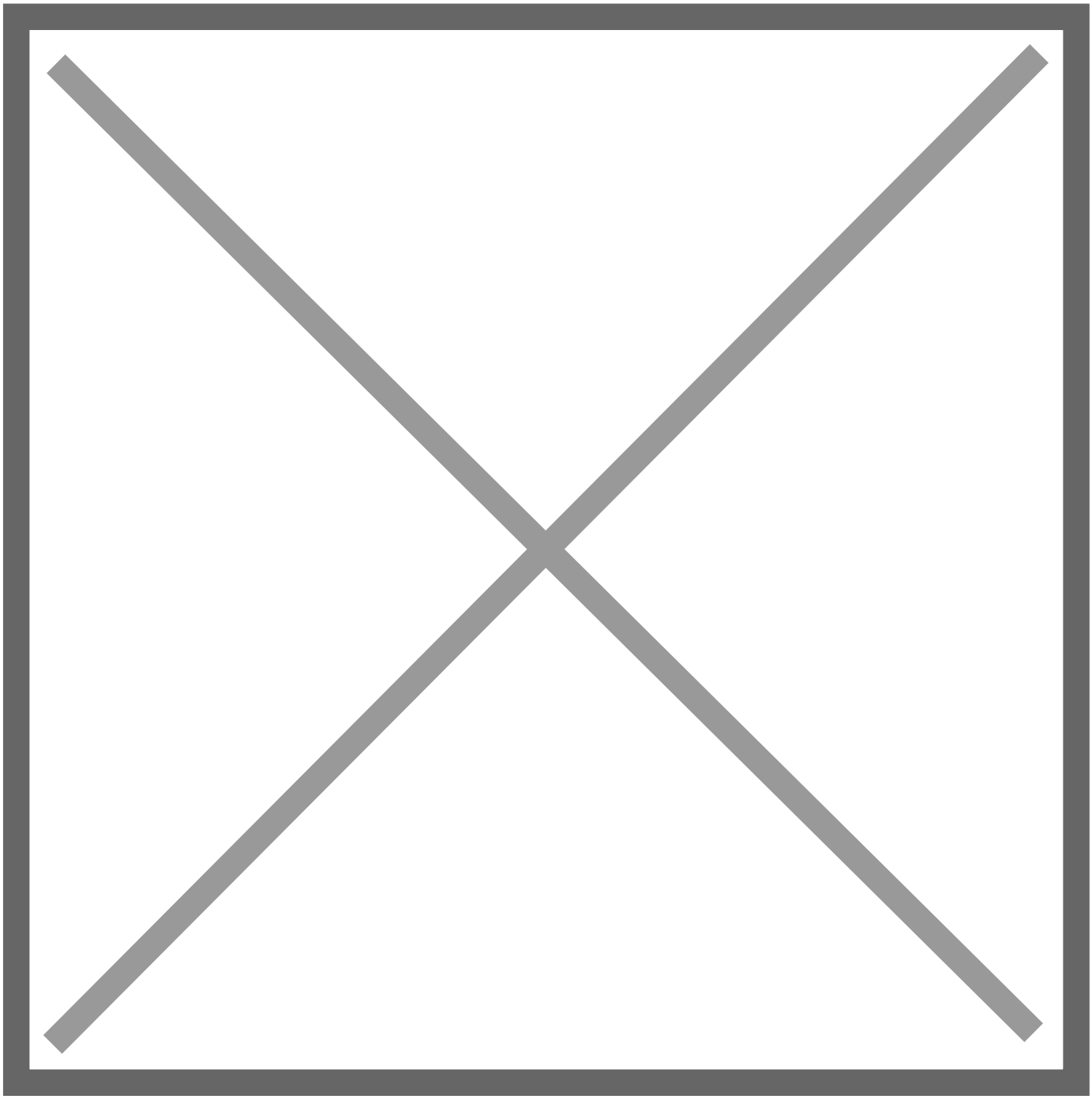


Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	13-17
Sample size:	2798
Area covered:	National
References:	Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS), available at https://extranet.who.int/ncdsmicrodata/index.php/catalog/772/download/5393 (last accessed 10.08.23)

Cutoffs:	WHO

Overweight/obesity by education

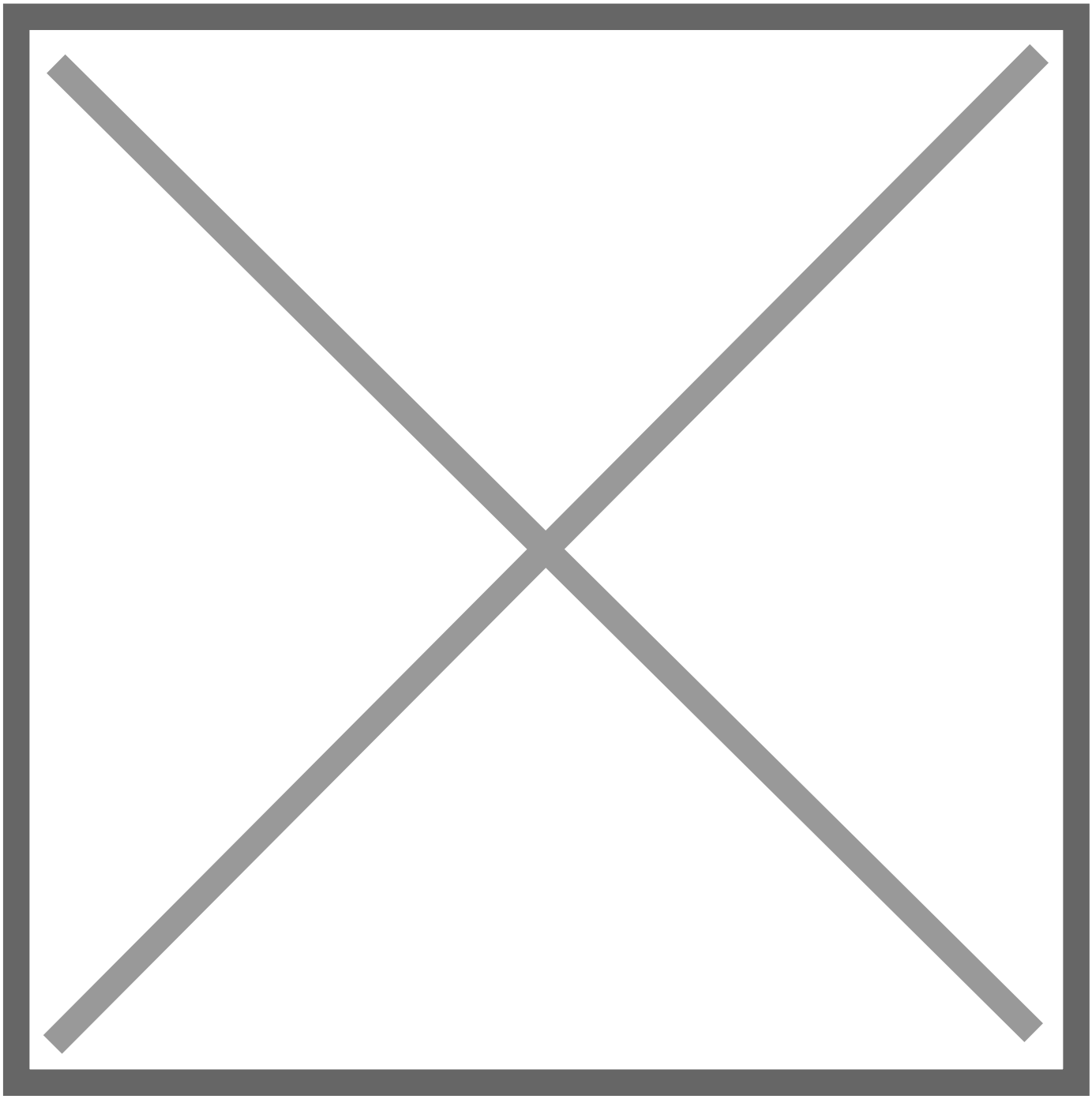
Boys, 2013



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-19
Sample size:	2546
Area covered:	National

References:	Benedict, Rukundo K., Allison Schmale, and Sorrel Namaste. 2018. Adolescent Nutrition 2000-2017: DHS Data on Adolescents Age 15-19. DHS Comparative Report No. 47. Rockville, Maryland, USA: ICF. Statistics Sierra Leone - SSL and ICF International. 2014. Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey 2013. Freetown, Sierra Leone: SSL and ICF International.
Notes:	1346 girls and 1200 boys
Definitions:	BMI for age: between +1 SD and +2 SD is overweight and greater than +2 SD is obesity
Cutoffs:	WHO 2007

Girls, 2013

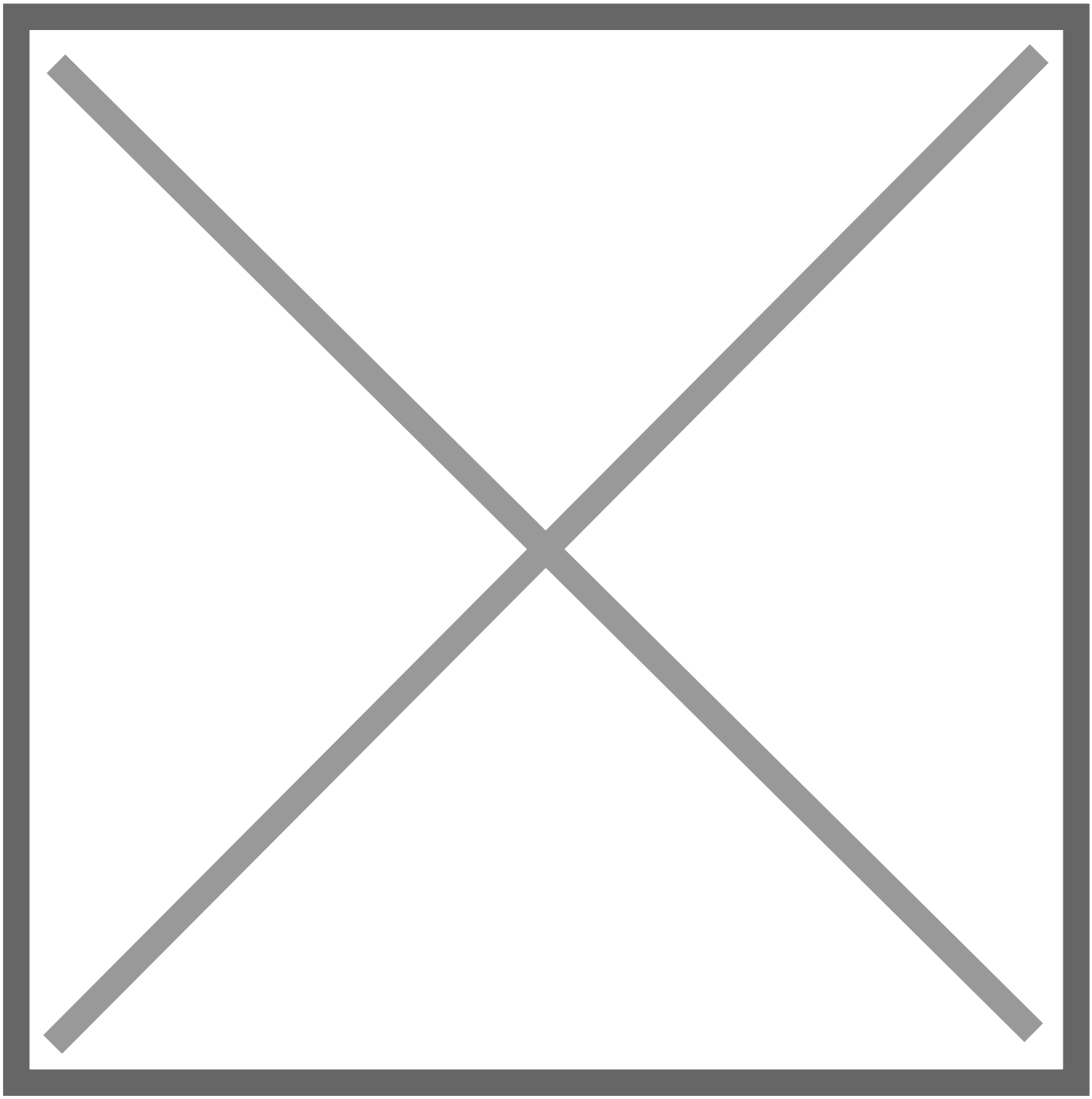


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-19
Sample size:	2546
Area covered:	National

References:	Benedict, Rukundo K., Allison Schmale, and Sorrel Namaste. 2018. Adolescent Nutrition 2000-2017: DHS Data on Adolescents Age 15-19. DHS Comparative Report No. 47. Rockville, Maryland, USA: ICF. Statistics Sierra Leone - SSL and ICF International. 2014. Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey 2013. Freetown, Sierra Leone: SSL and ICF International.
Notes:	1346 girls and 1200 boys
Definitions:	BMI for age: between +1 SD and +2 SD is overweight and greater than +2 SD is obesity
Cutoffs:	WHO 2007

Overweight/obesity by region

Girls, 2012

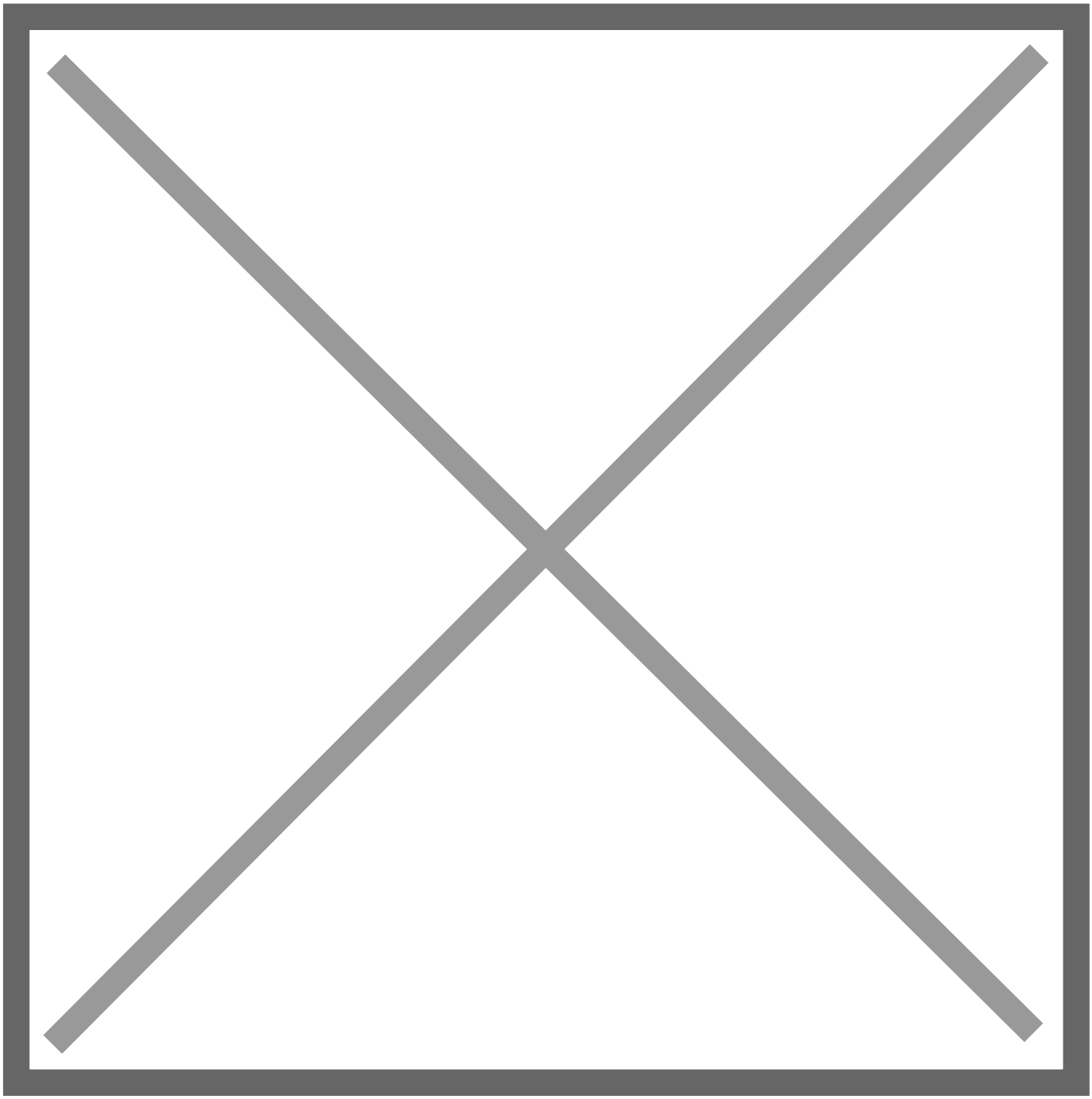


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-19
Sample size:	1346
Area covered:	National

References:	Benedict, Rukundo K., Allison Schmale, and Sorrel Namaste. 2018. Adolescent Nutrition 2000-2017: DHS Data on Adolescents Age 15-19. DHS Comparative Report No. 47. Rockville, Maryland, USA: ICF. Statistics Sierra Leone - SSL and ICF International. 2014. Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey 2013. Freetown, Sierra Leone: SSL and ICF International.
Definitions:	BMI for age: between +1 SD and +2 SD is overweight and greater than +2 SD is obesity
Cutoffs:	WHO 2007

Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

Boys, 2013

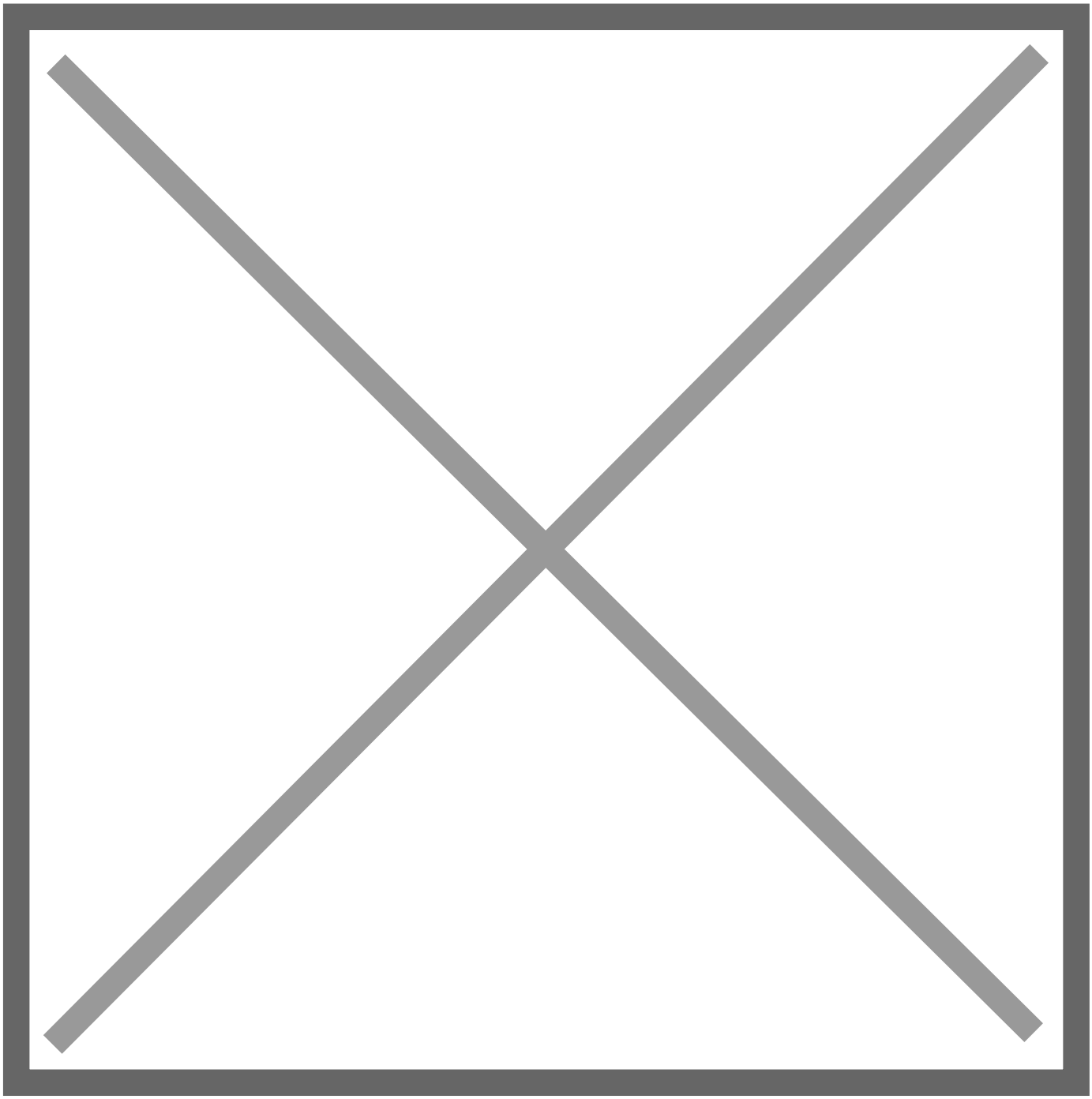


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-19
Sample size:	1200
Area covered:	National

References:	Benedict, Rukundo K., Allison Schmale, and Sorrel Namaste. 2018. Adolescent Nutrition 2000-2017: DHS Data on Adolescents Age 15-19. DHS Comparative Report No. 47. Rockville, Maryland, USA: ICF. Statistics Sierra Leone - SSL and ICF International. 2014. Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey 2013. Freetown, Sierra Leone: SSL and ICF International.
Definitions:	BMI for age: between +1 SD and +2 SD is overweight and greater than +2 SD is obesity
Cutoffs:	WHO 2007

Double burden of underweight & obesity

Children, 2022

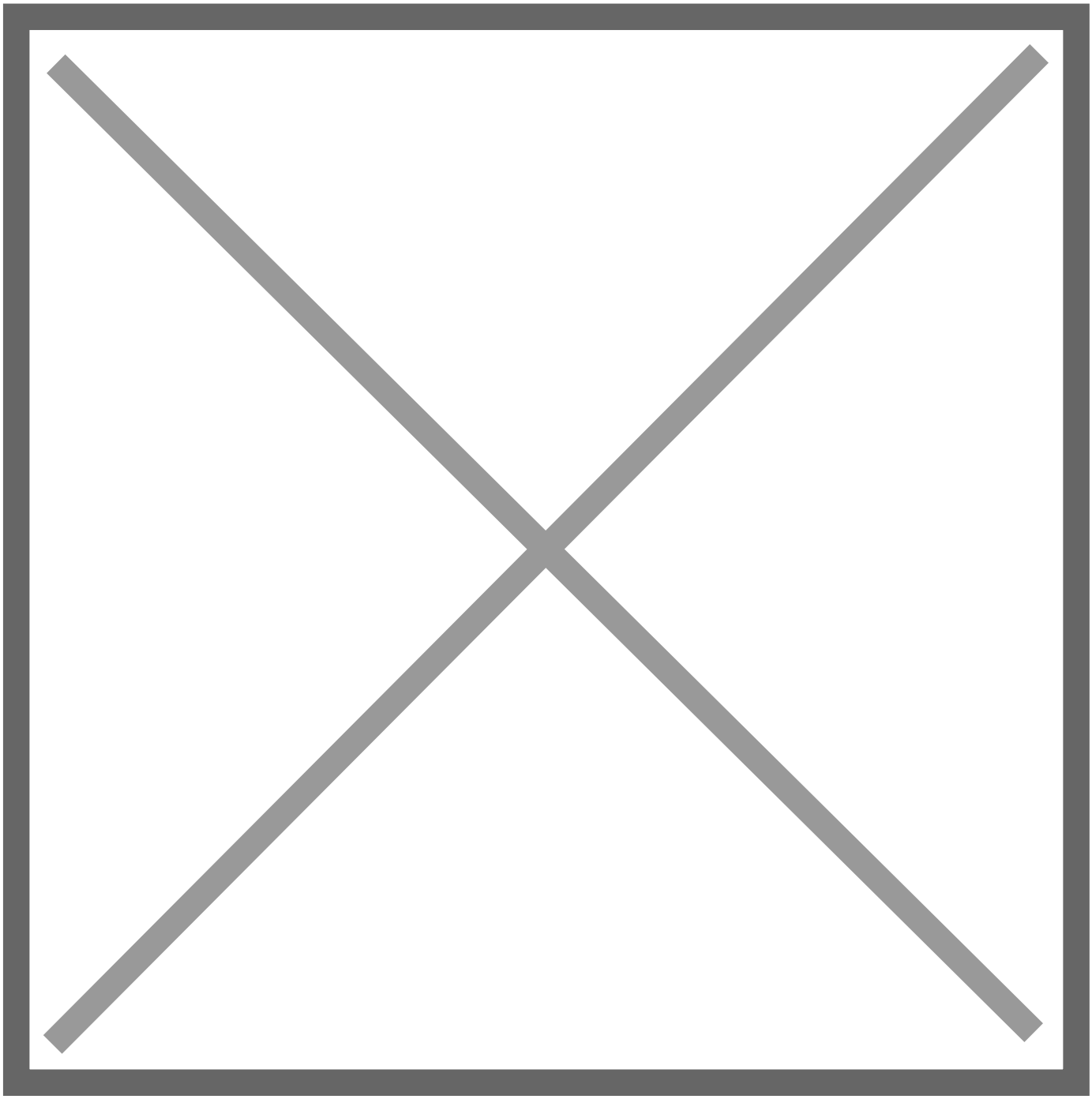


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	5-19
References:	NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC). Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults. Lancet 2024; published online Feb 29. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2.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

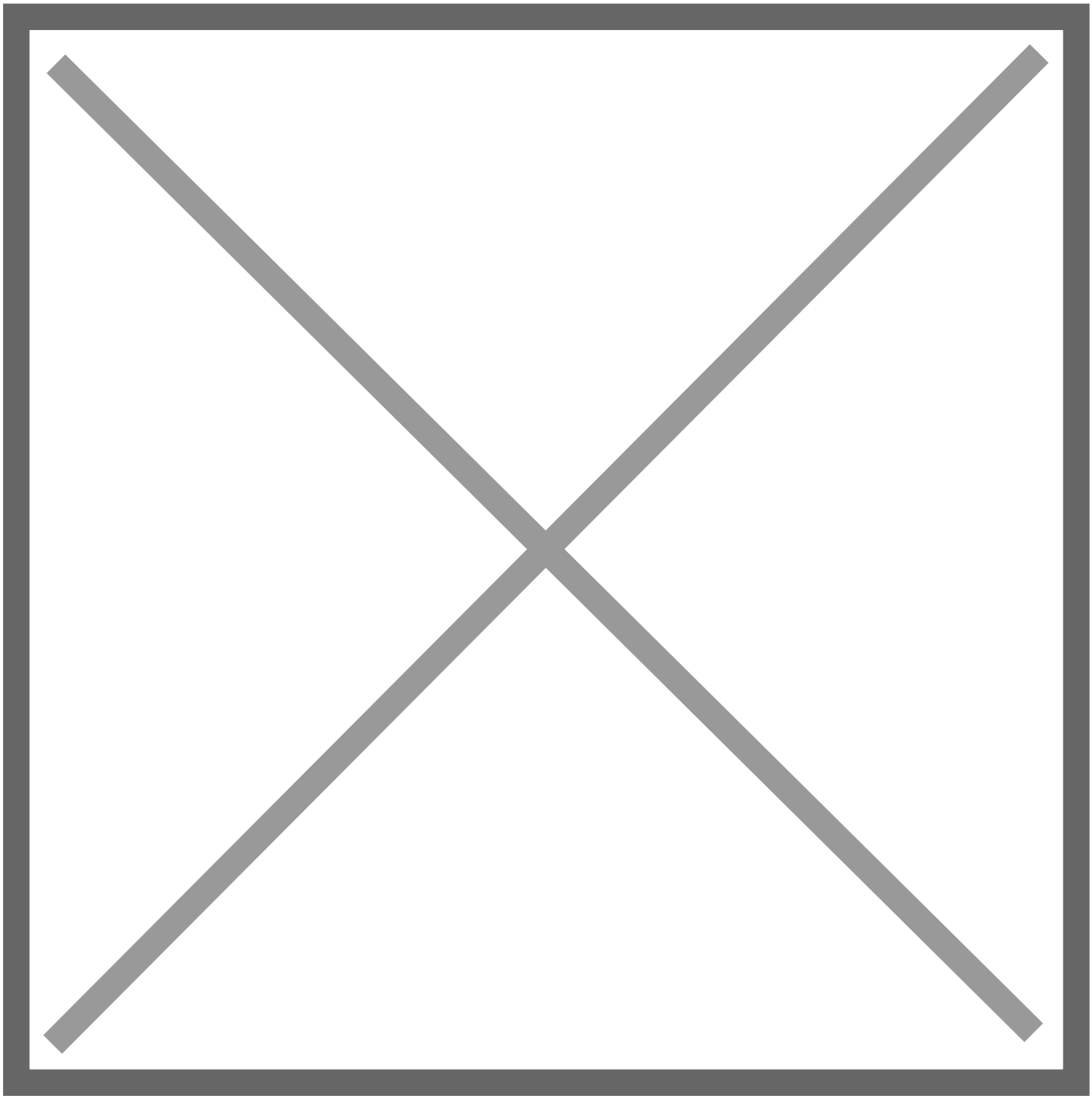
Mental health - depression disorders

Children, 2023



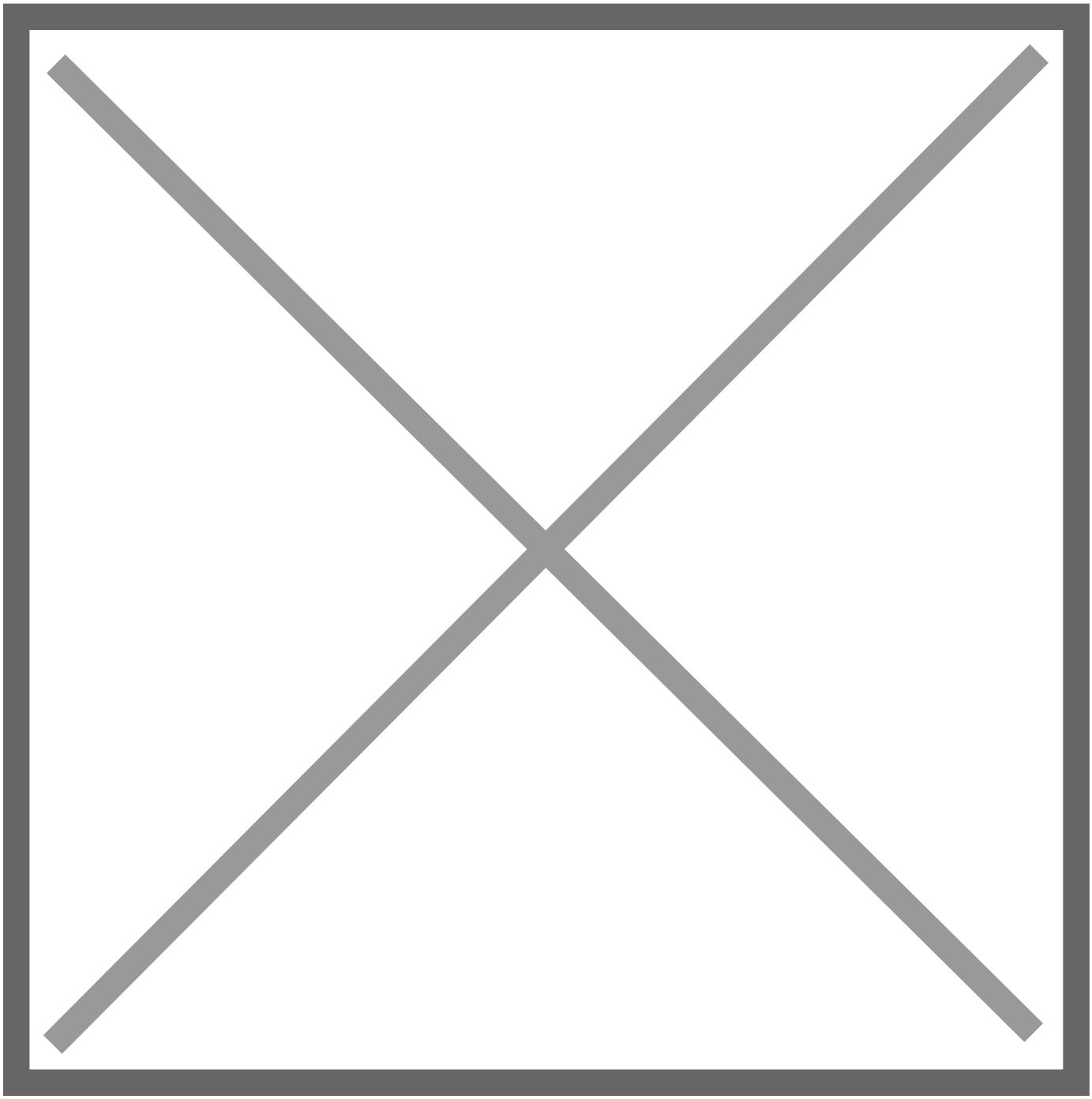
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
Definitions: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

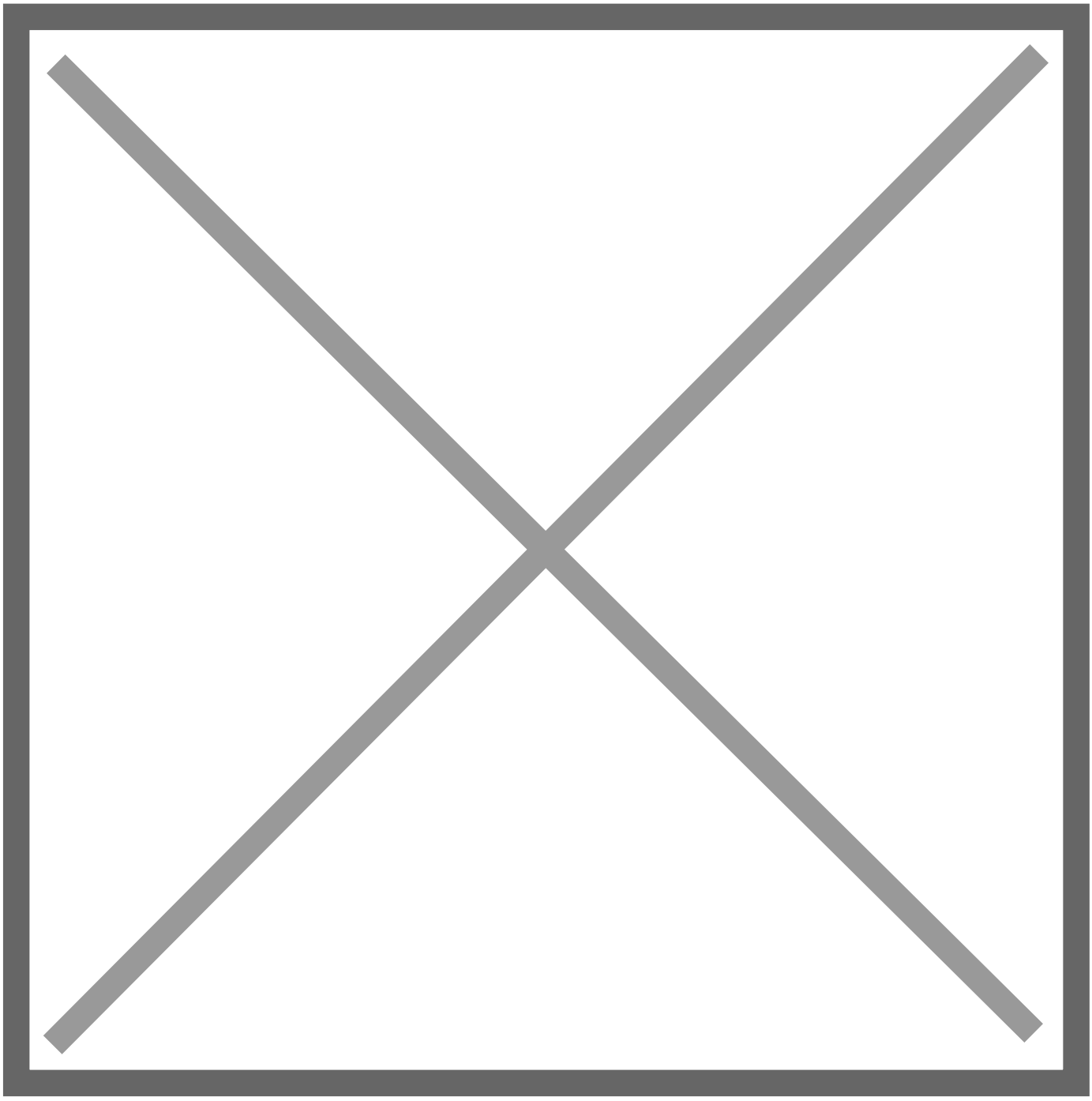
Girls, 2023



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]
Definitions:	Estimated number living with depressive disorders per 100,000 population (under 20 years of age)

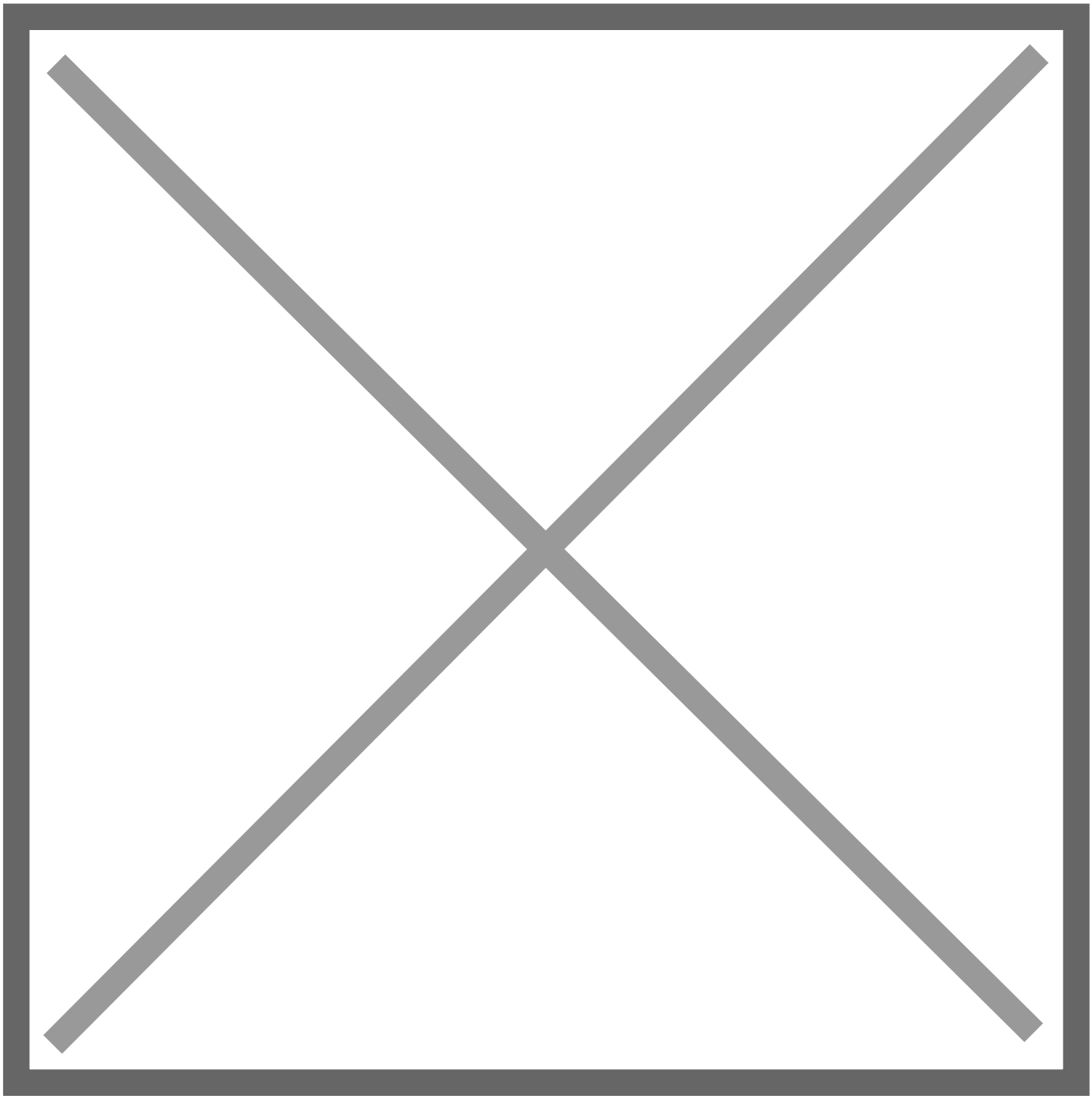
Mental health - anxiety disorders

Children, 2023



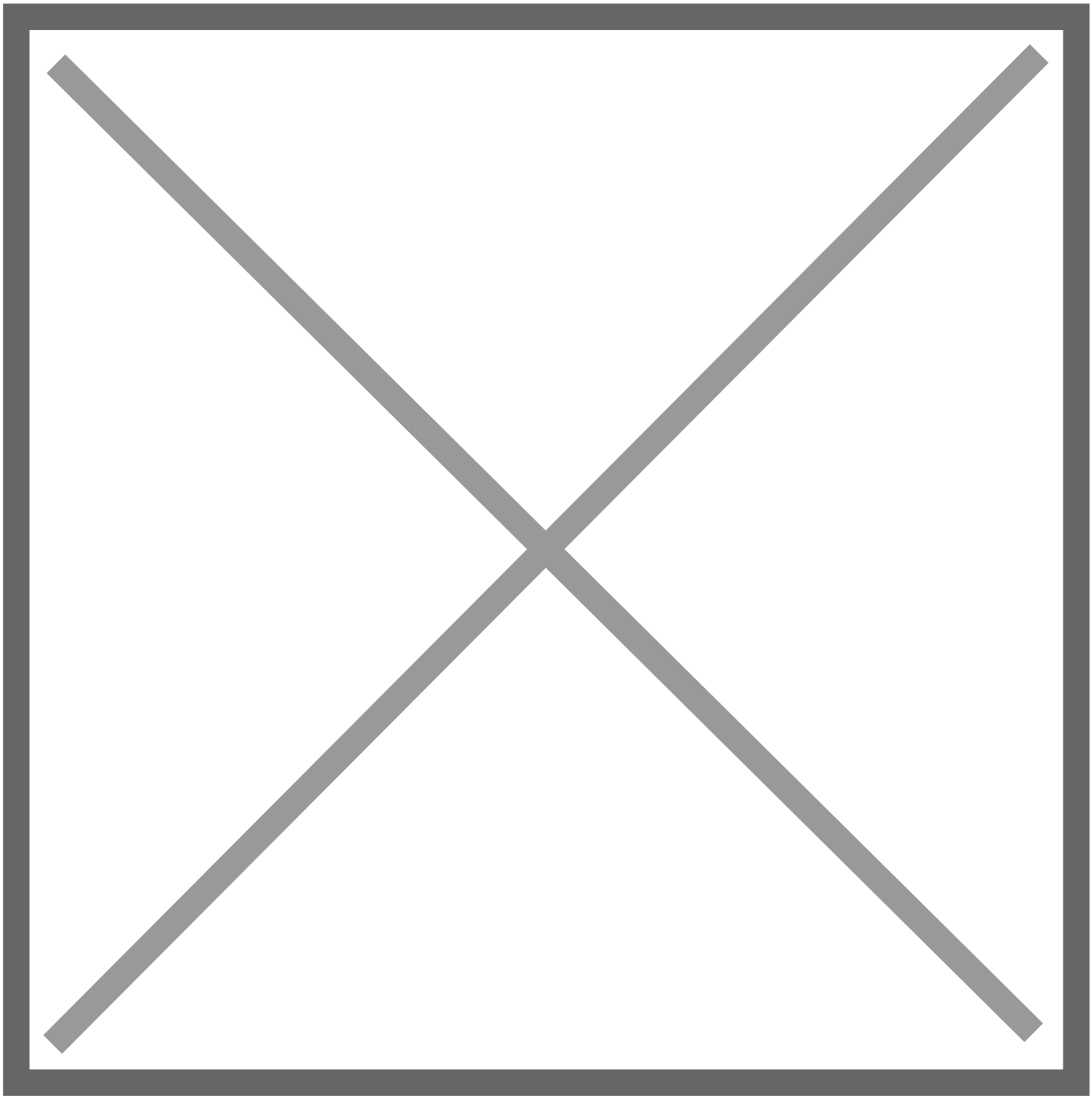
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2023. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2025. Available from https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/ [Accessed 17.03.26]
Definitions: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

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]
Definitions:	Estimated number living with anxiety disorders per 100,000 population (under 20 years of age)

PDF created on November 4, 2026