Report card
Syrian Arab Republic

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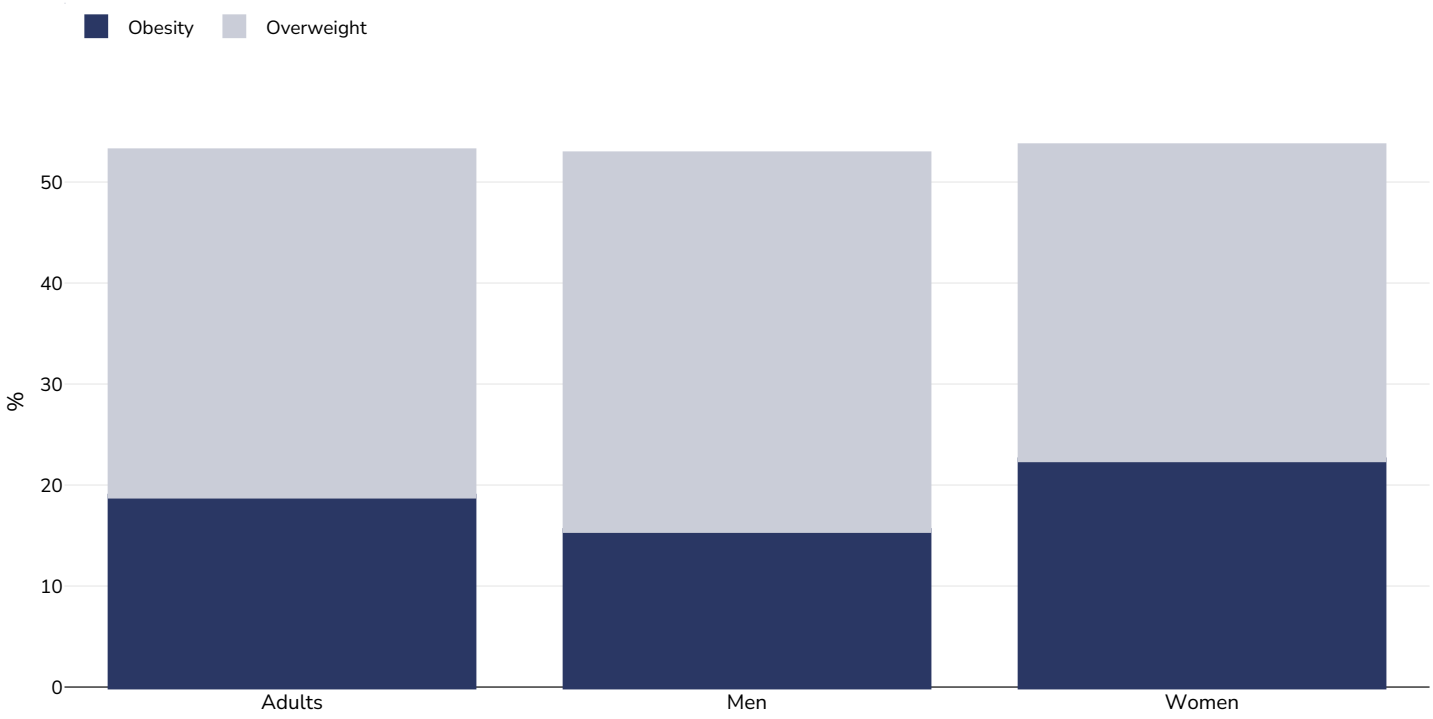
Obesity prevalence

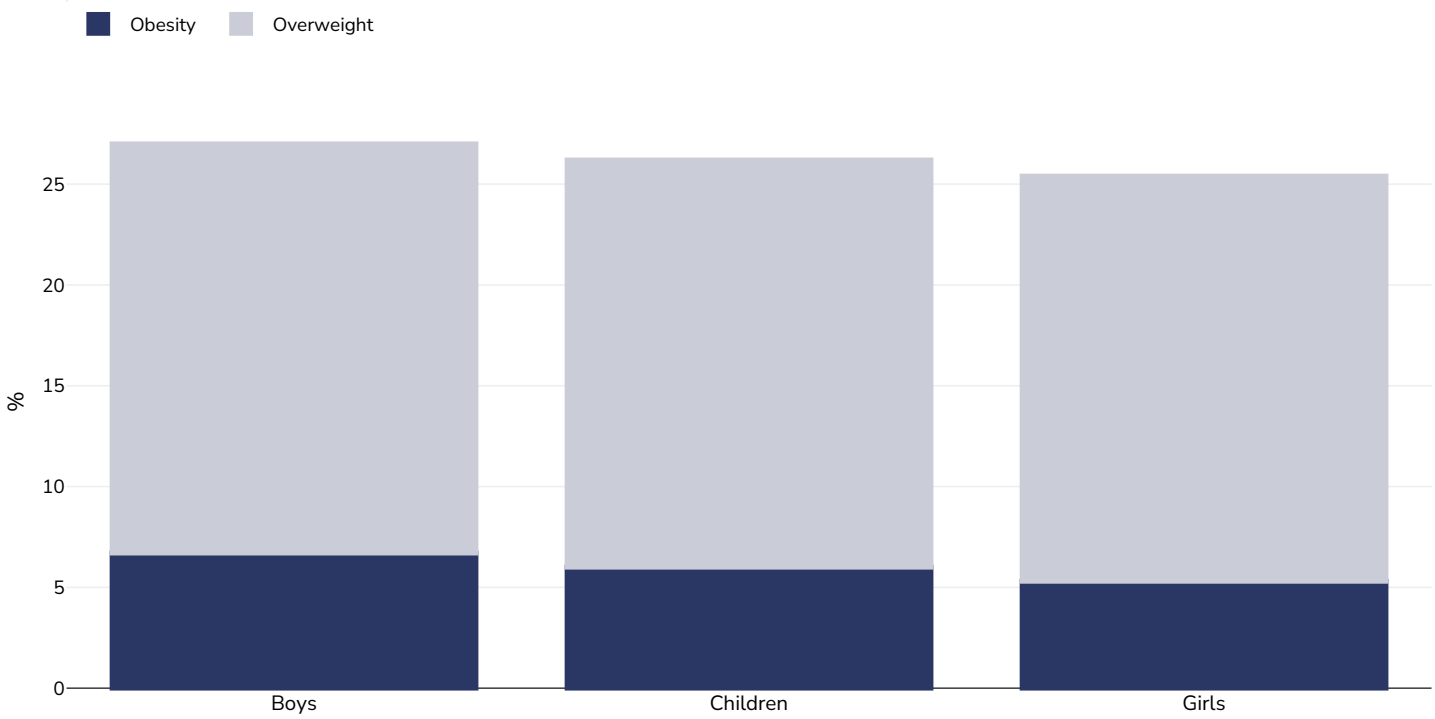
Adults, 2003



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	20-65
Sample size:	8509
Area covered:	National
References:	Reference from Syrian Arab Steps Report available at https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/ncd-surveillance/data-reporting/syrian-arab-republic/steps/syrianarabrepublicstepsreport.pdf?sfvrsn=e3f3109b_2&download=true

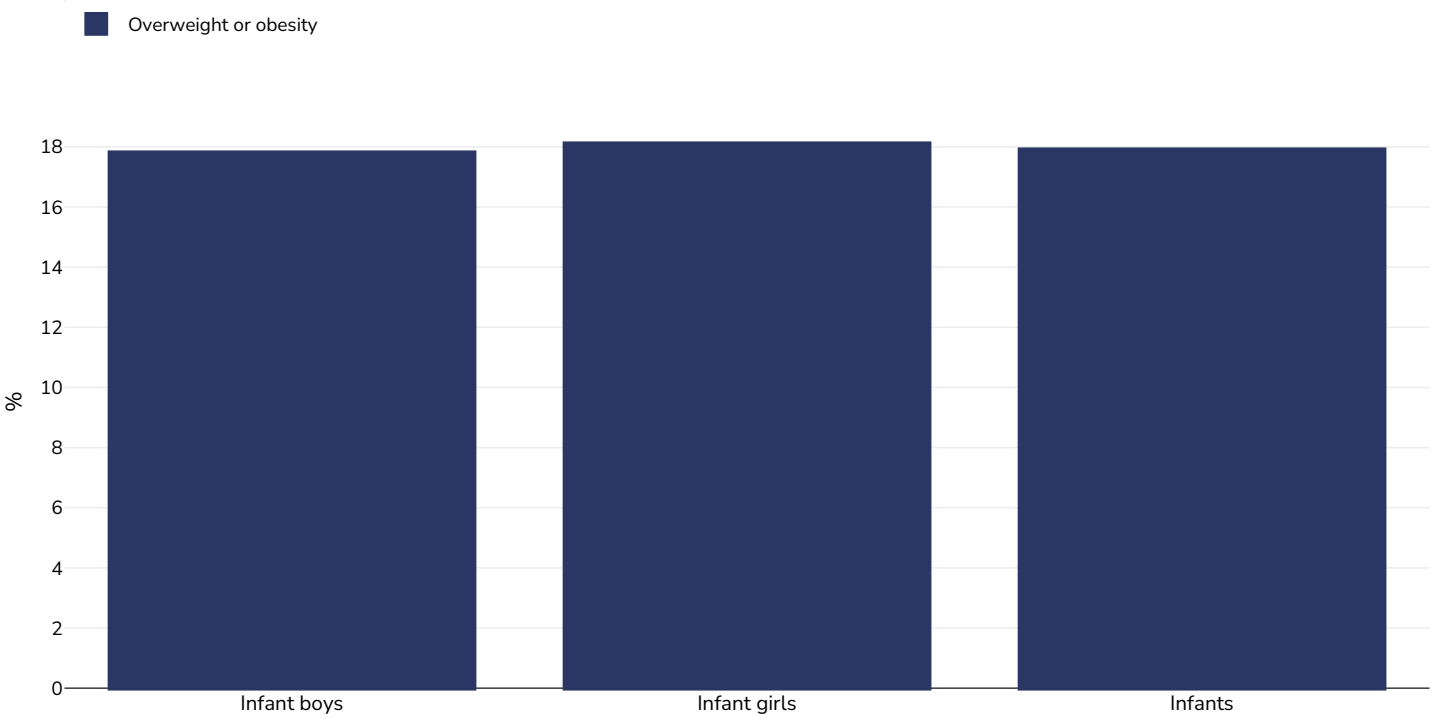
Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².

Children, 2010-2011



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	15-18
Sample size:	1062
Area covered:	Regional
References:	Musaiger AO, Al-Manni M, Tayyem R et al. Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity among Adolescents in Seven Arab Countries: A Cross-Cultural Study. Hindawi Publishing Corporation Journal of Obesity, Volume 2012, Article ID 981390, 5 pages doi:10.1155/2012/981390
Notes:	Region: Damascus
Cutoffs:	IOTF

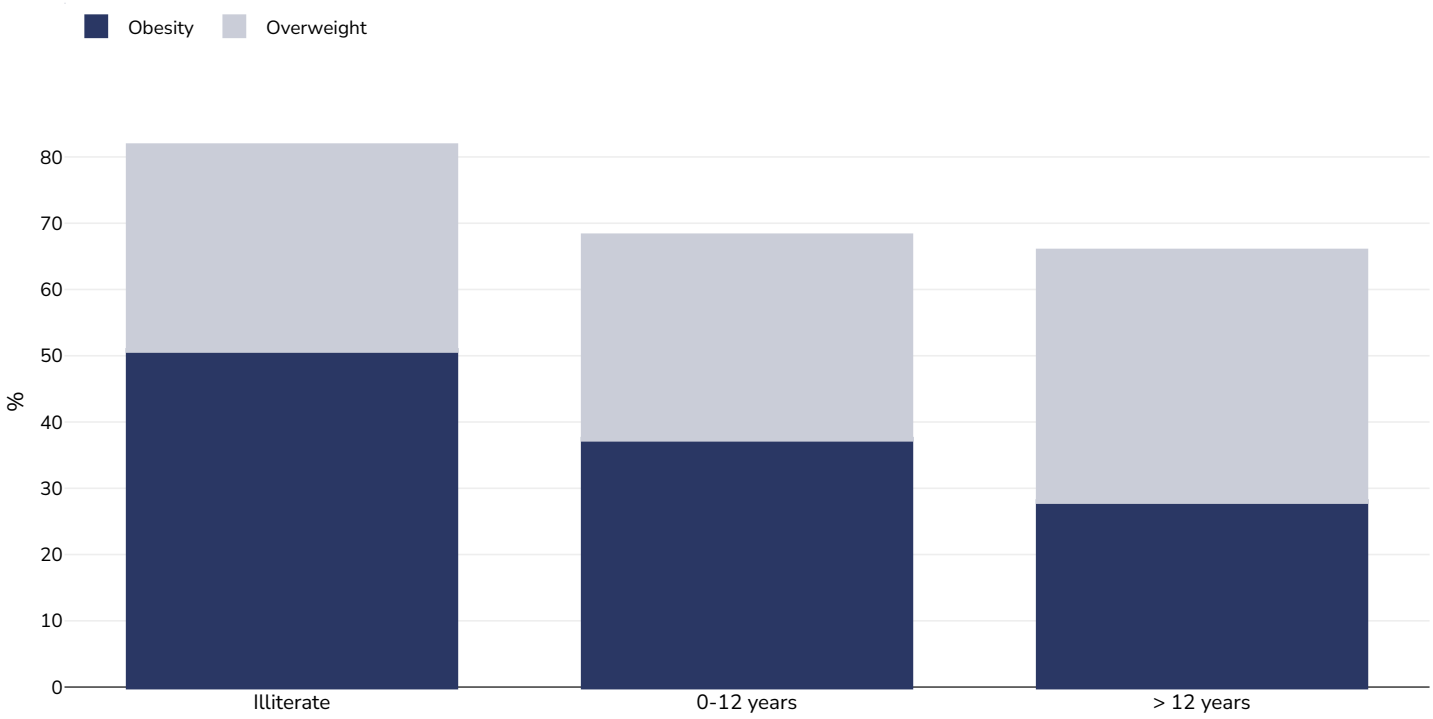
Infants, 2009-2010



Age:	0-5
Sample size:	13602
References:	PAPFAM: Family health survey of the Arab Republic of Syria 2009: Principal report (PAPFAM). Cairo: The League of Arab States, 2011
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

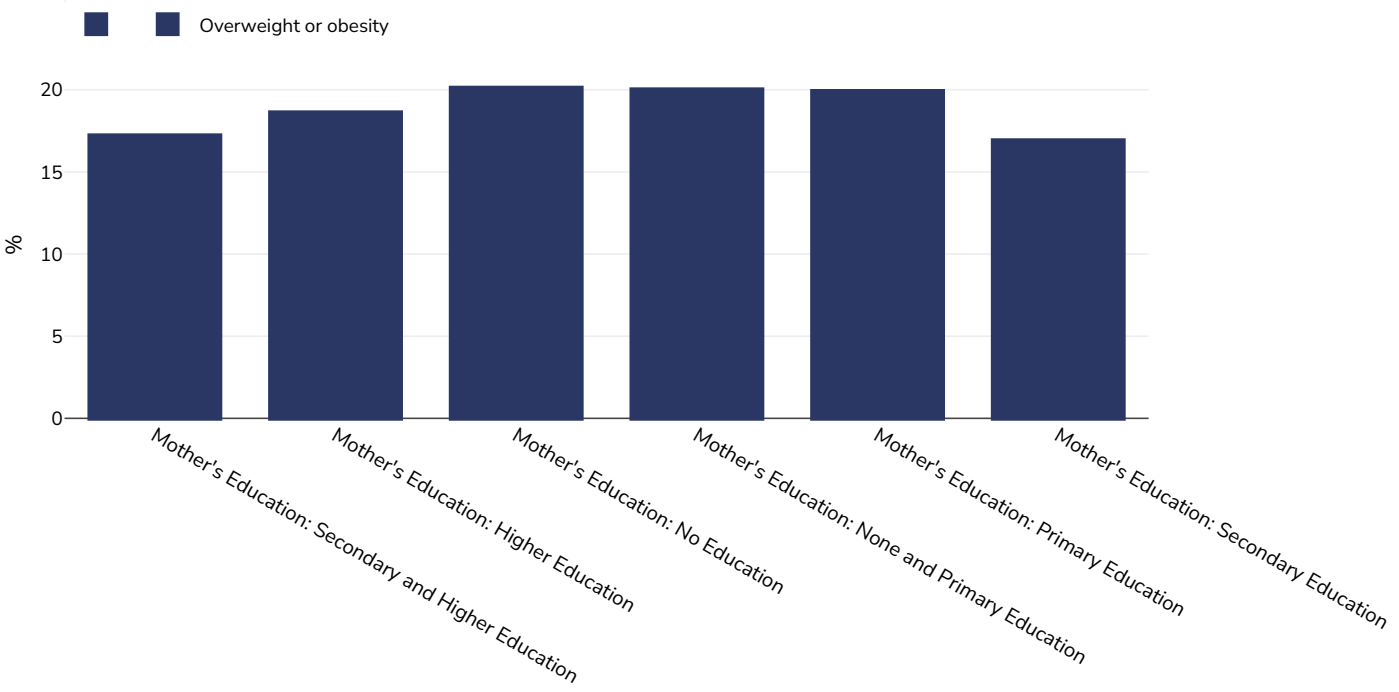
Adults, 2004



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18-65
Sample size:	2038
Area covered:	Aleppo
References:	Prevalence of obesity and its associated factors in Aleppo, Syria. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2094121/ (last accessed 07.06.2022)

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

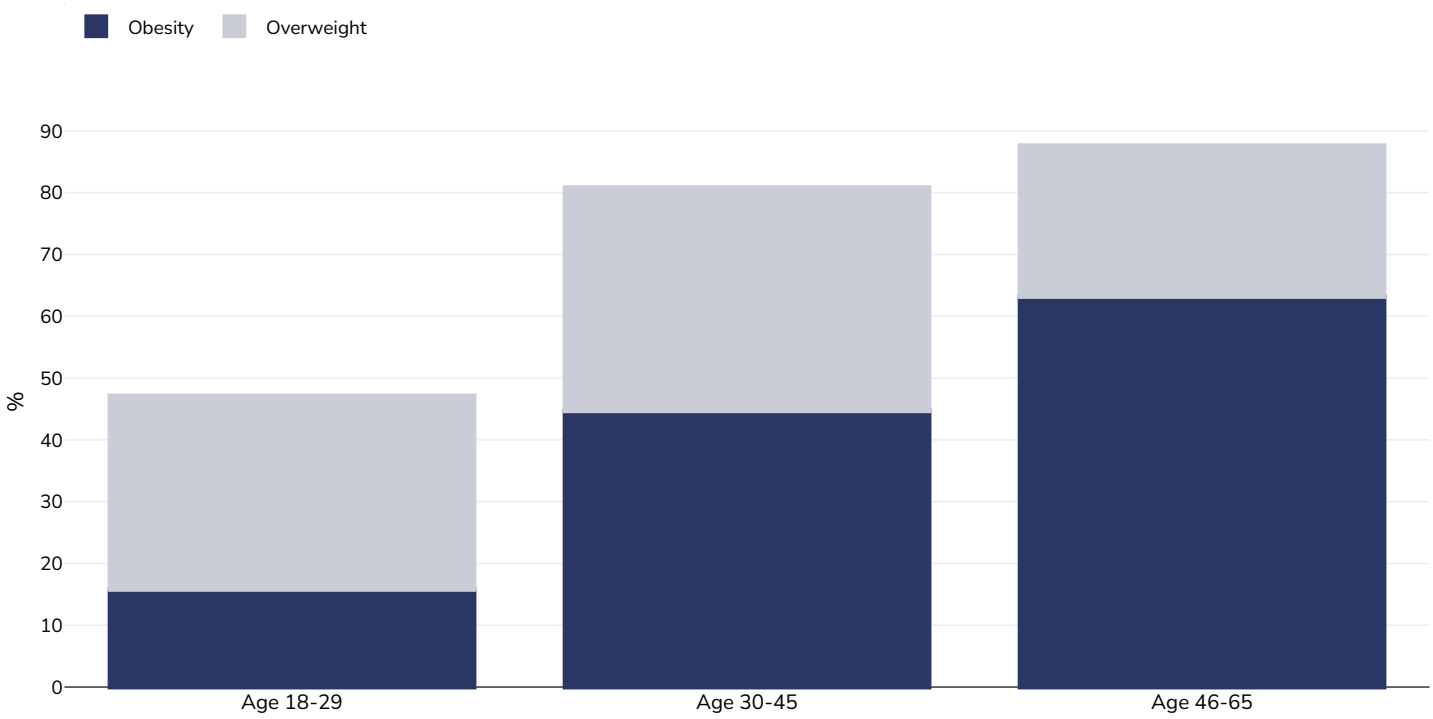
Infants, 2006



Sample size:	10066
References:	MICS: Syrian Arab Republic multiple indicator cluster survey 2006. February 2008.
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, 2004

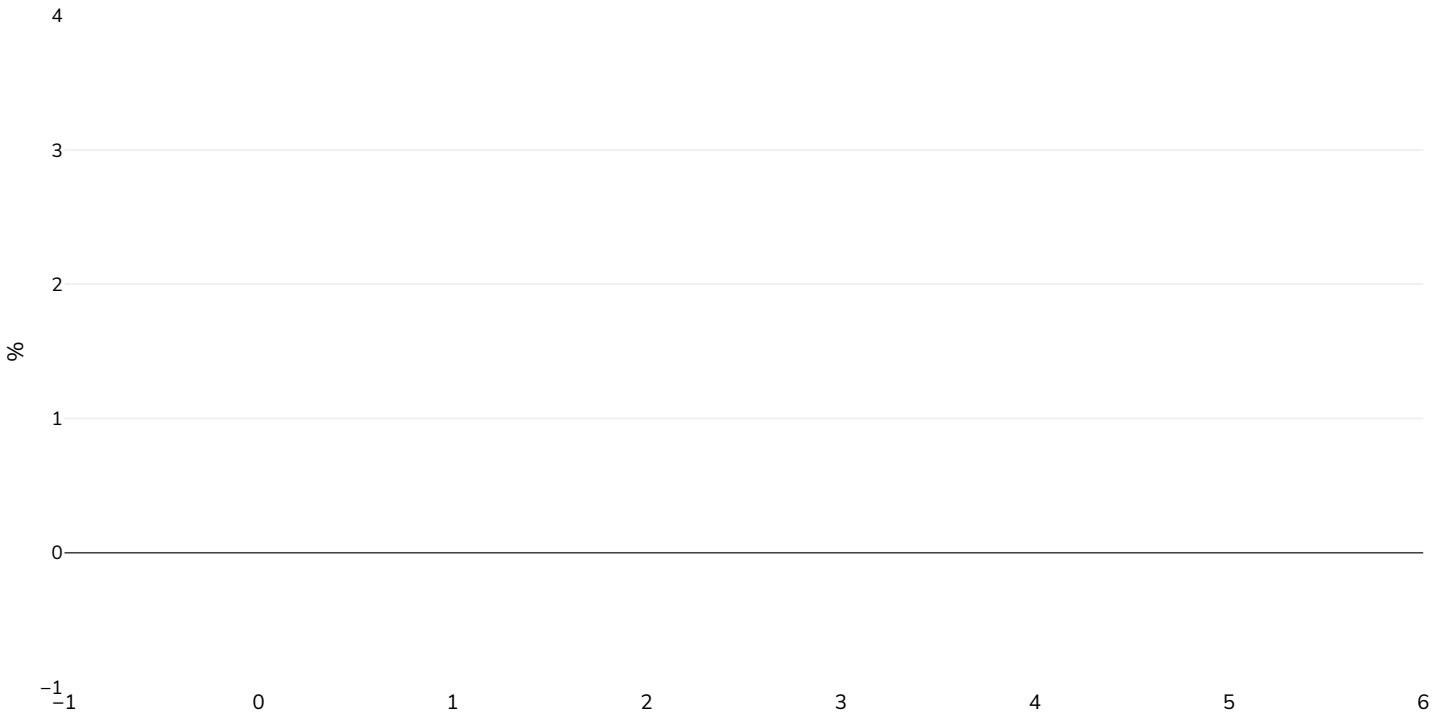


Survey type:	Measured
Sample size:	2038
Area covered:	Aleppo
References:	Prevalence of obesity and its associated factors in Aleppo, Syria. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2094121/ (last accessed 07.06.2022)

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

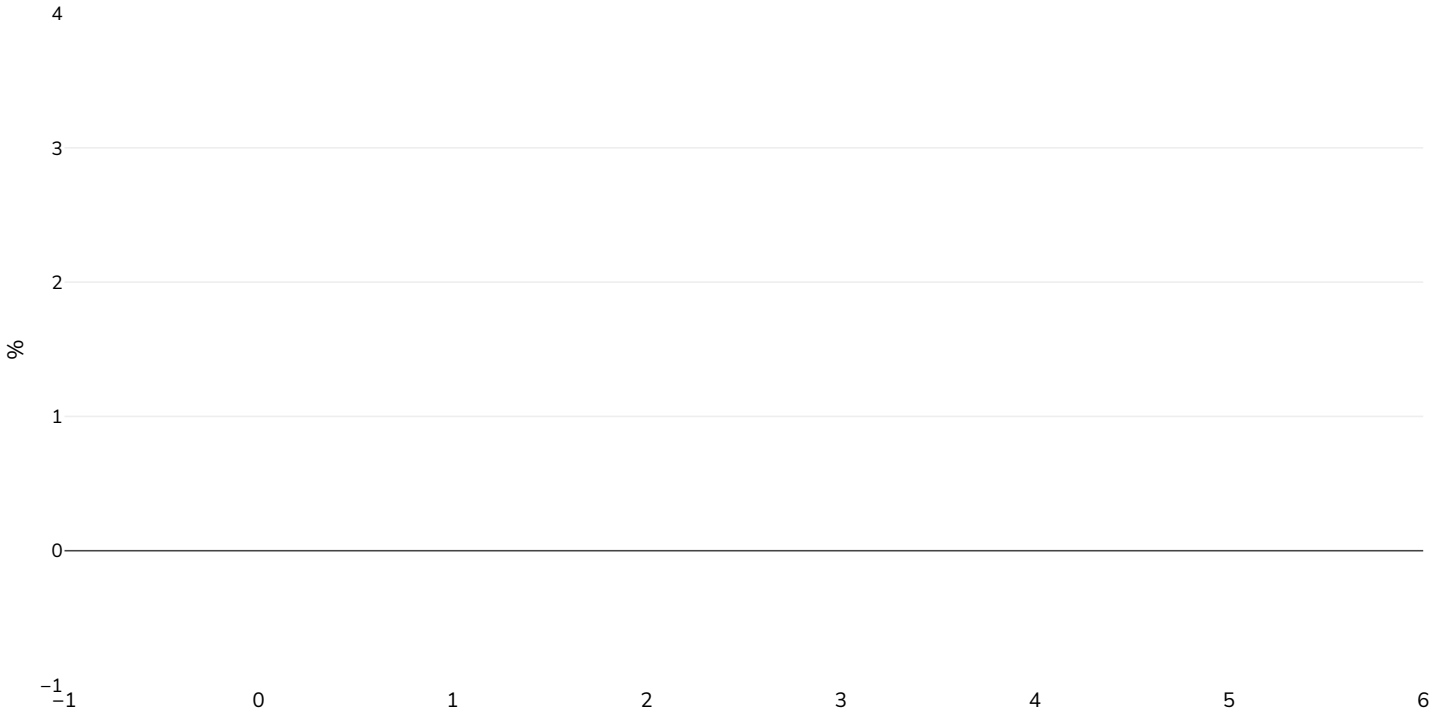
Men, 2004



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18-65
Sample size:	2038
Area covered:	Aleppo
References:	Prevalence of obesity and its associated factors in Aleppo, Syria. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2094121/ (last accessed 07.06.2022)

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

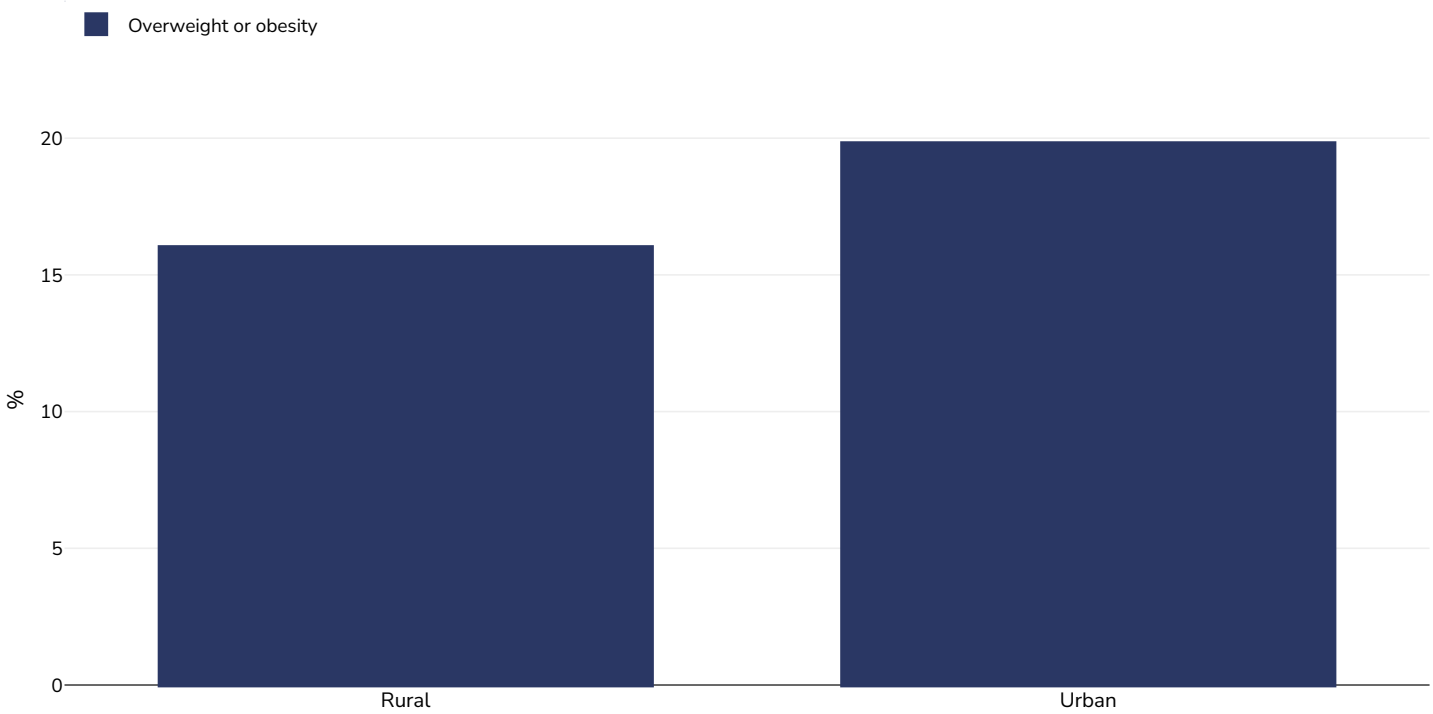
Women, 2004



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18-65
Sample size:	2038
Area covered:	Aleppo
References:	Prevalence of obesity and its associated factors in Aleppo, Syria. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2094121/ (last accessed 07.06.2022)

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

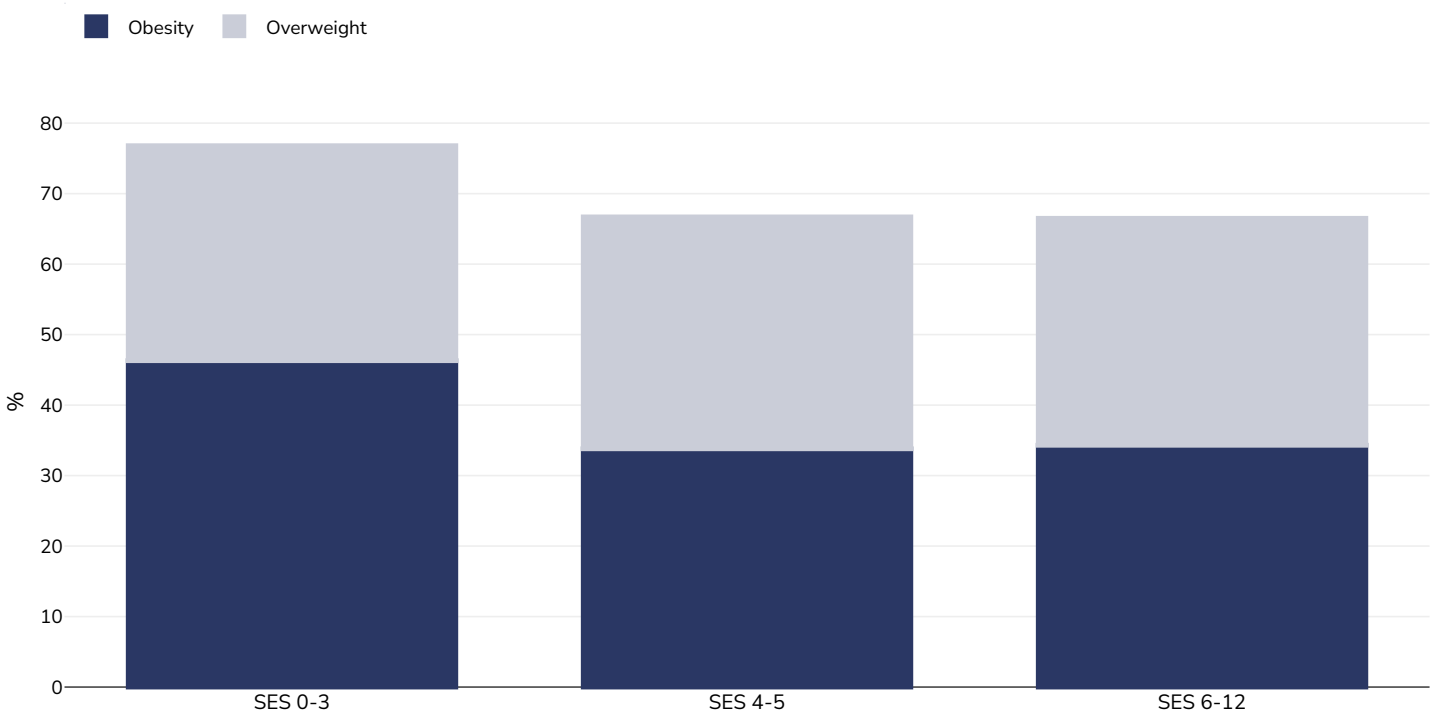
Infants, 2009-2010



Sample size:	13602
References:	PAPFAM: Family health survey of the Arab Republic of Syria 2009: Principal report (PAPFAM). Cairo: The League of Arab States, 2011
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

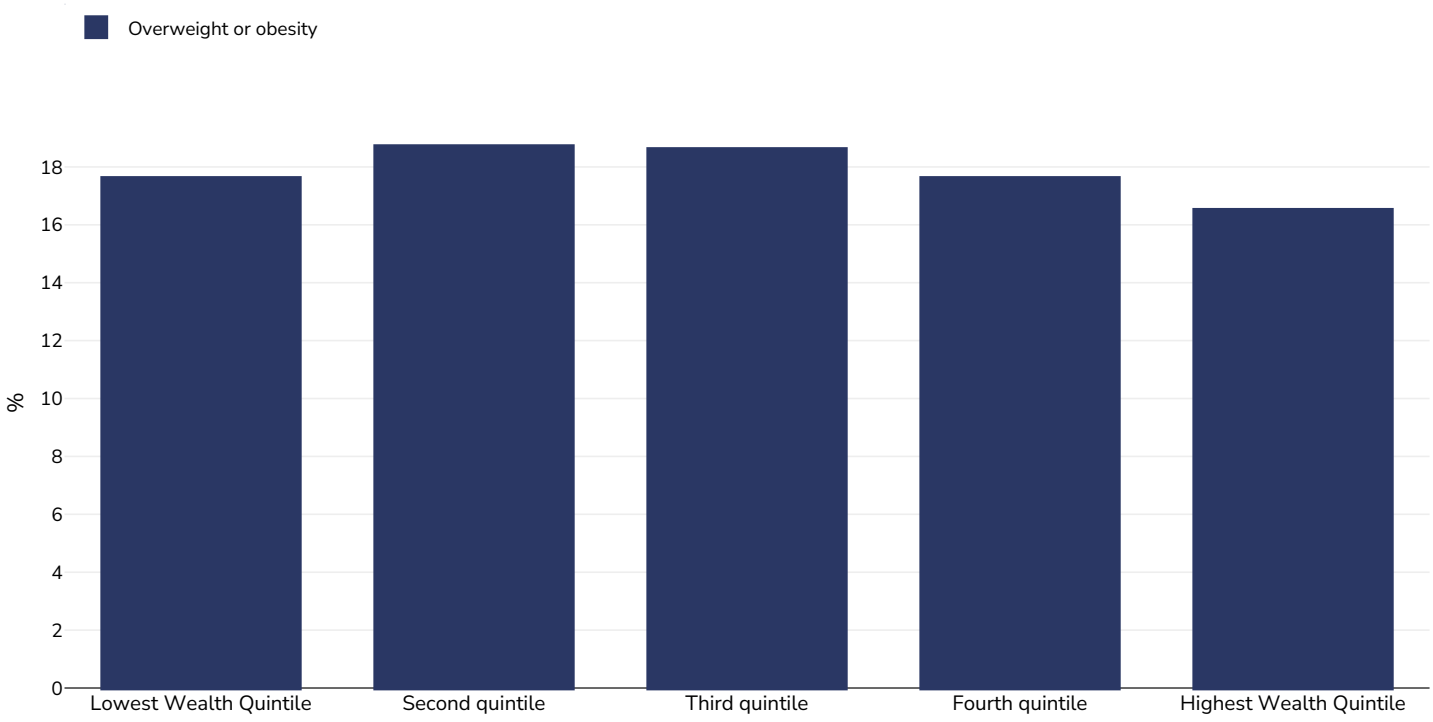
Adults, 2004



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18-65
Sample size:	2038
Area covered:	Aleppo
References:	Prevalence of obesity and its associated factors in Aleppo, Syria. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2094121/ (last accessed 07.06.2022)
Notes:	SES scores were from 0–12, with higher values indicating better SES.

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

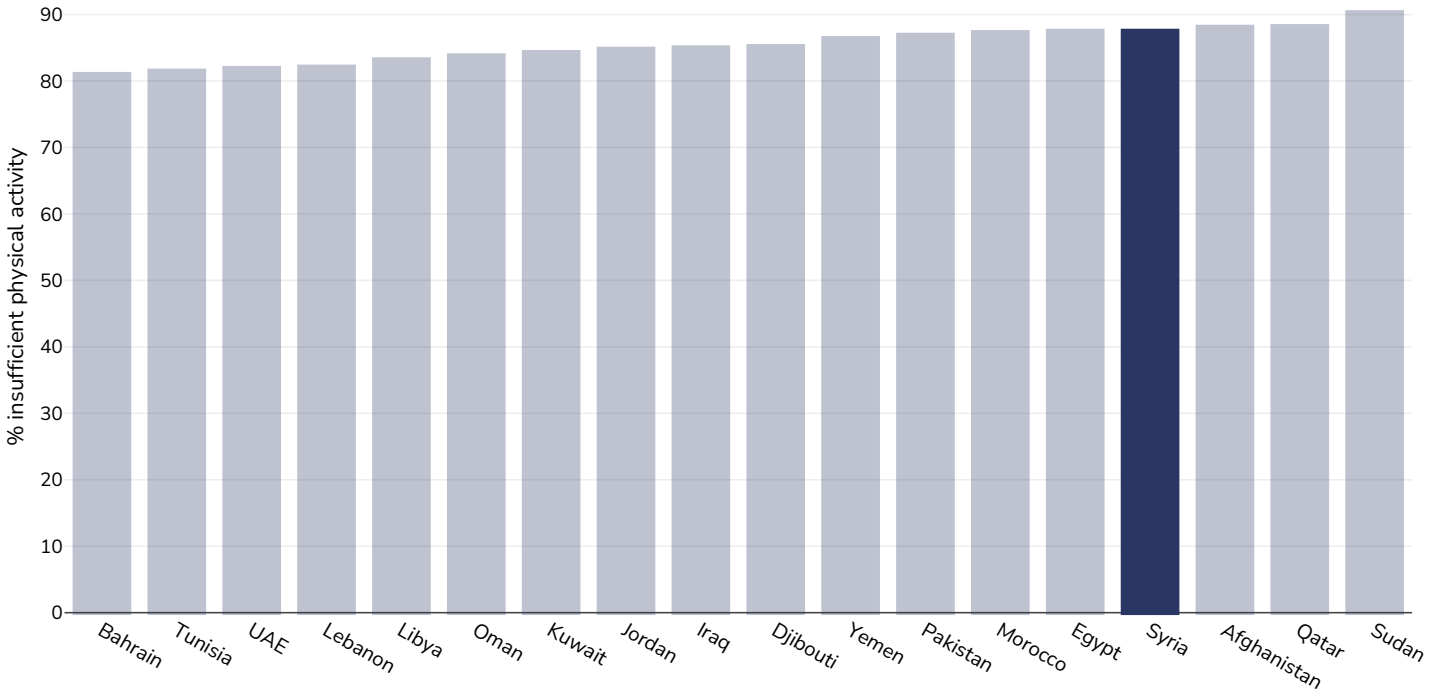
Infants, 2009-2010



Sample size:	13602
References:	PAPFAM: Family health survey of the Arab Republic of Syria 2009: Principal report (PAPFAM). Cairo: The League of Arab States, 2011
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

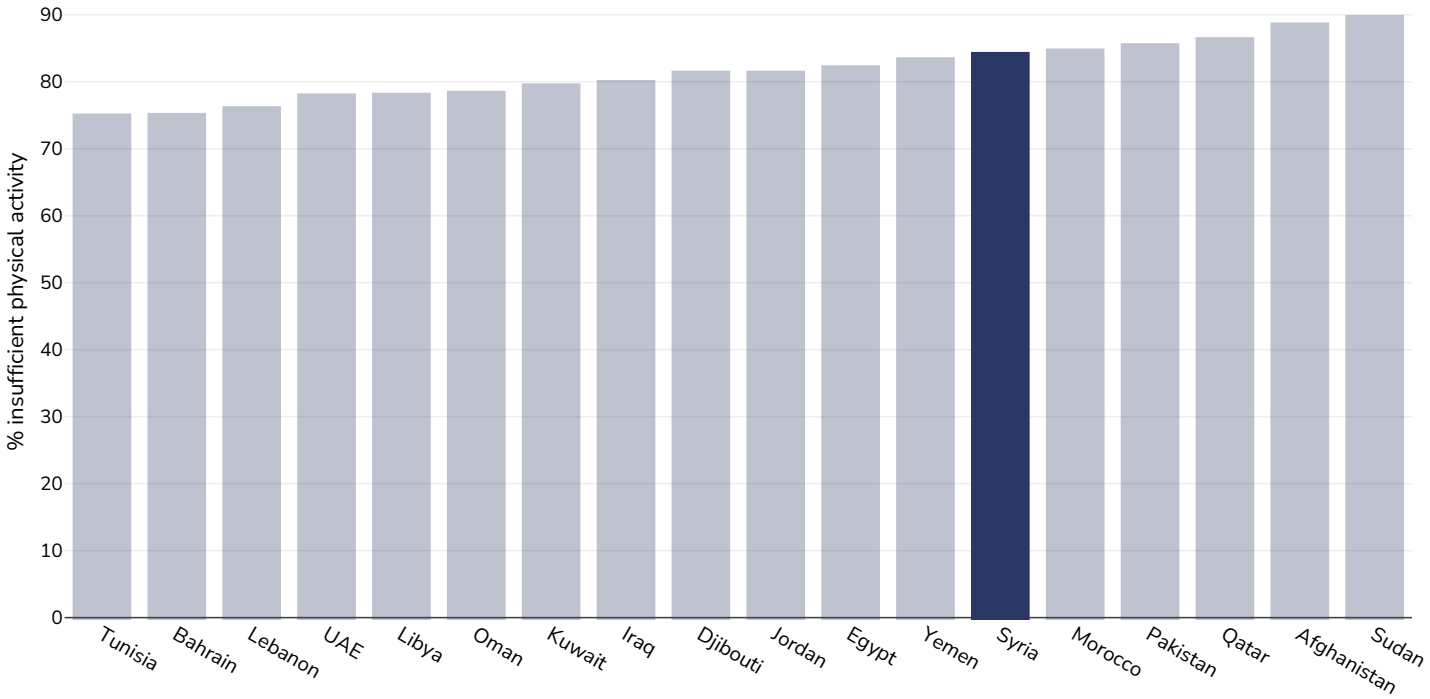
Insufficient physical activity

Children, 2016



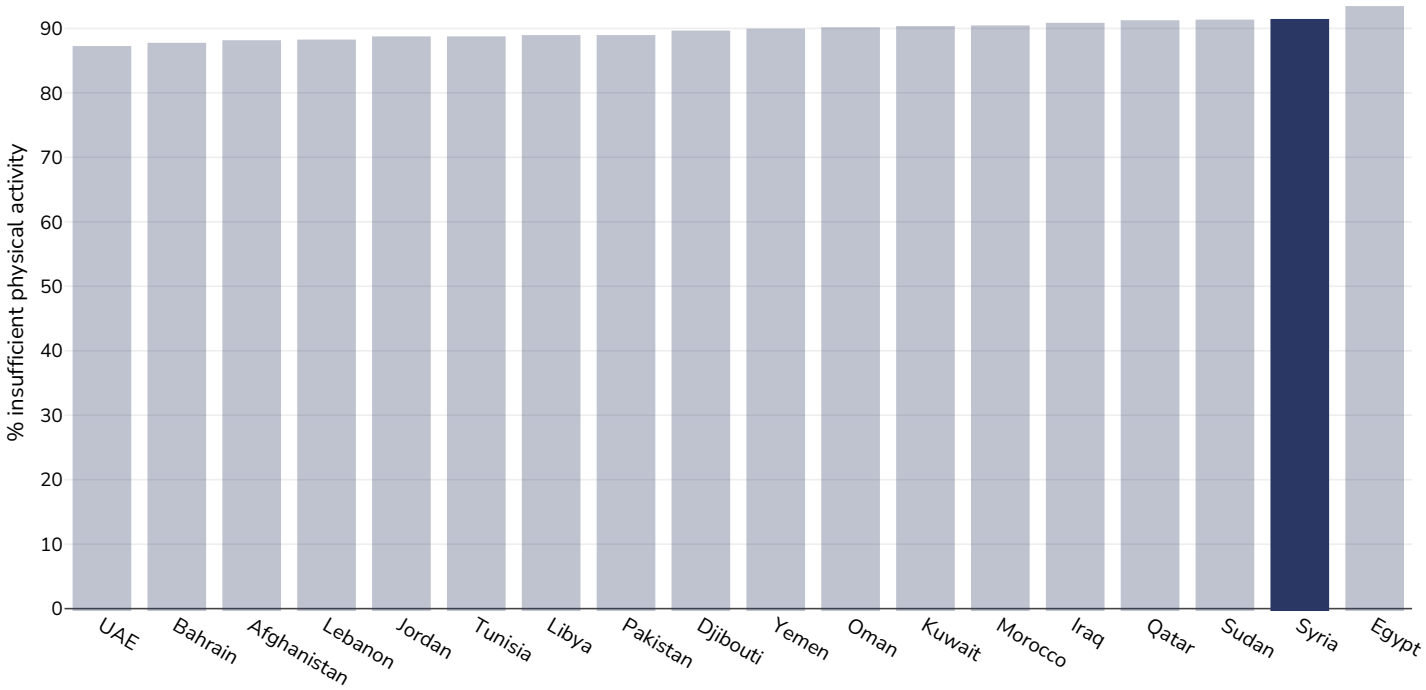
Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	11-17
References:	Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en (last accessed 16.03.21)
Notes:	% of school going adolescents not meeting WHO recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, i.e. doing less than 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.
Definitions:	% Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Boys, 2016



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	11-17
References:	Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en (last accessed 16.03.21)
Notes:	% of school going adolescents not meeting WHO recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, i.e. doing less than 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.
Definitions:	% Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

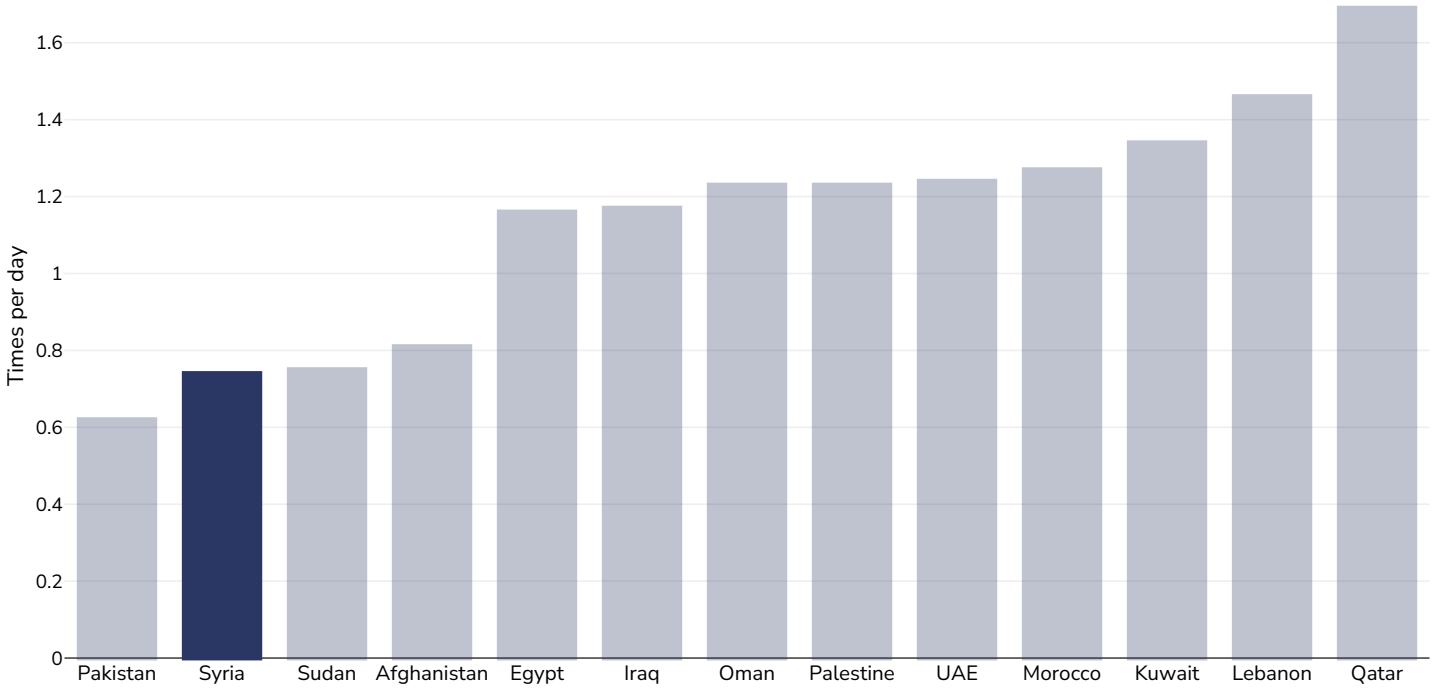
Girls, 2016



Survey type:	Self-reported
Age:	11-17
References:	Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A893ADO?lang=en (last accessed 16.03.21)
Notes:	% of school going adolescents not meeting WHO recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, i.e. doing less than 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.
Definitions:	% Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Average daily frequency of carbonated soft drink consumption

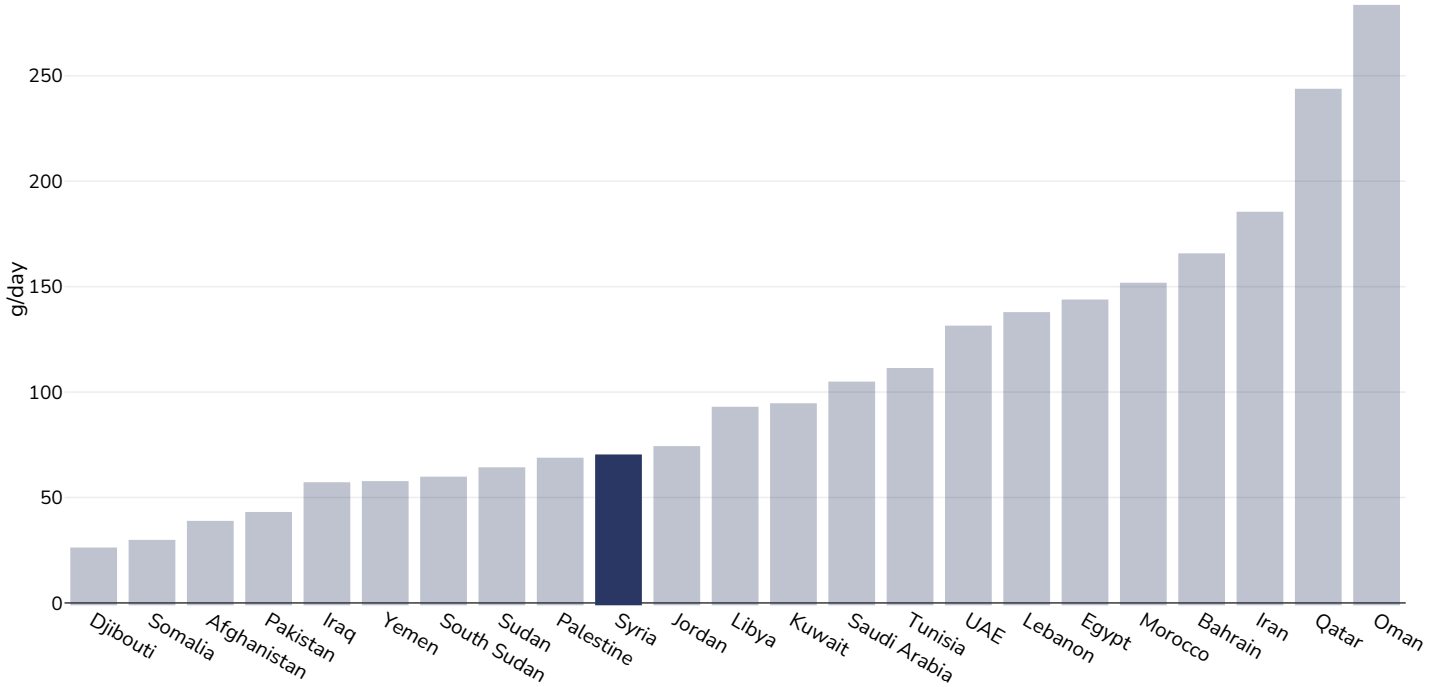
Children, 2009-2015



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	12-17
References:	Beal et al. (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287 sourced from Food Systems Dashboard http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system

Estimated per capita fruit intake

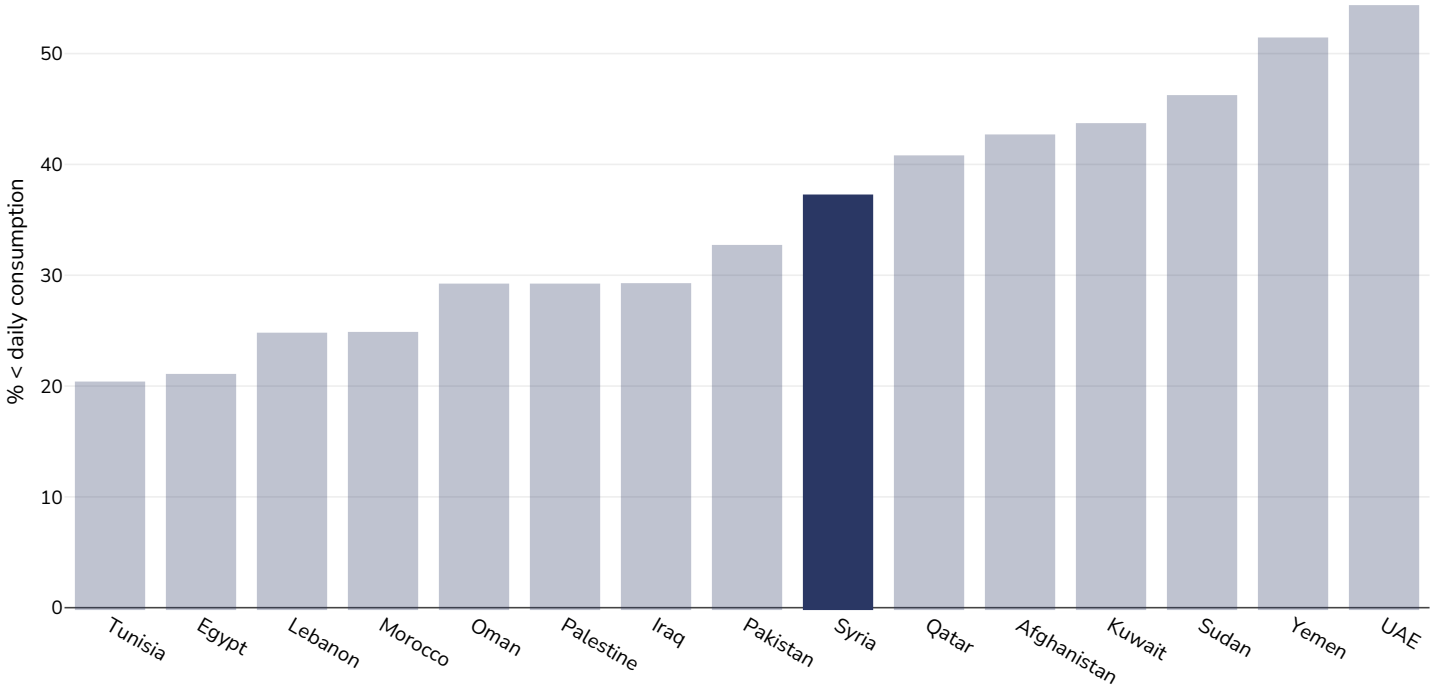
Adults, 2017



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)

Prevalence of less than daily fruit consumption

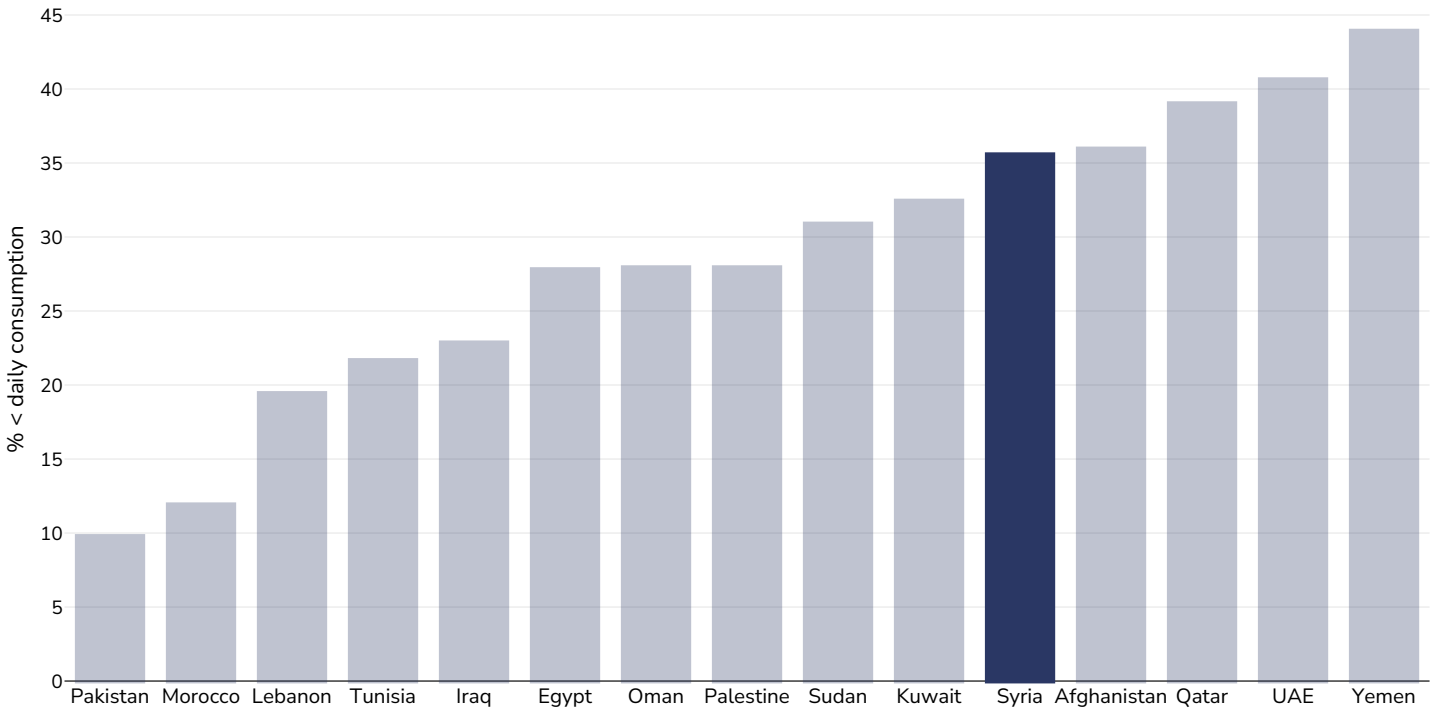
Children, 2008-2015



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	12-17
References:	Global School-based Student Health Surveys. Beal et al (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287. Sourced from Food Systems Dashboard http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system
Definitions:	Prevalence of less-than-daily fruit consumption (% less-than-daily fruit consumption)

Prevalence of less than daily vegetable consumption

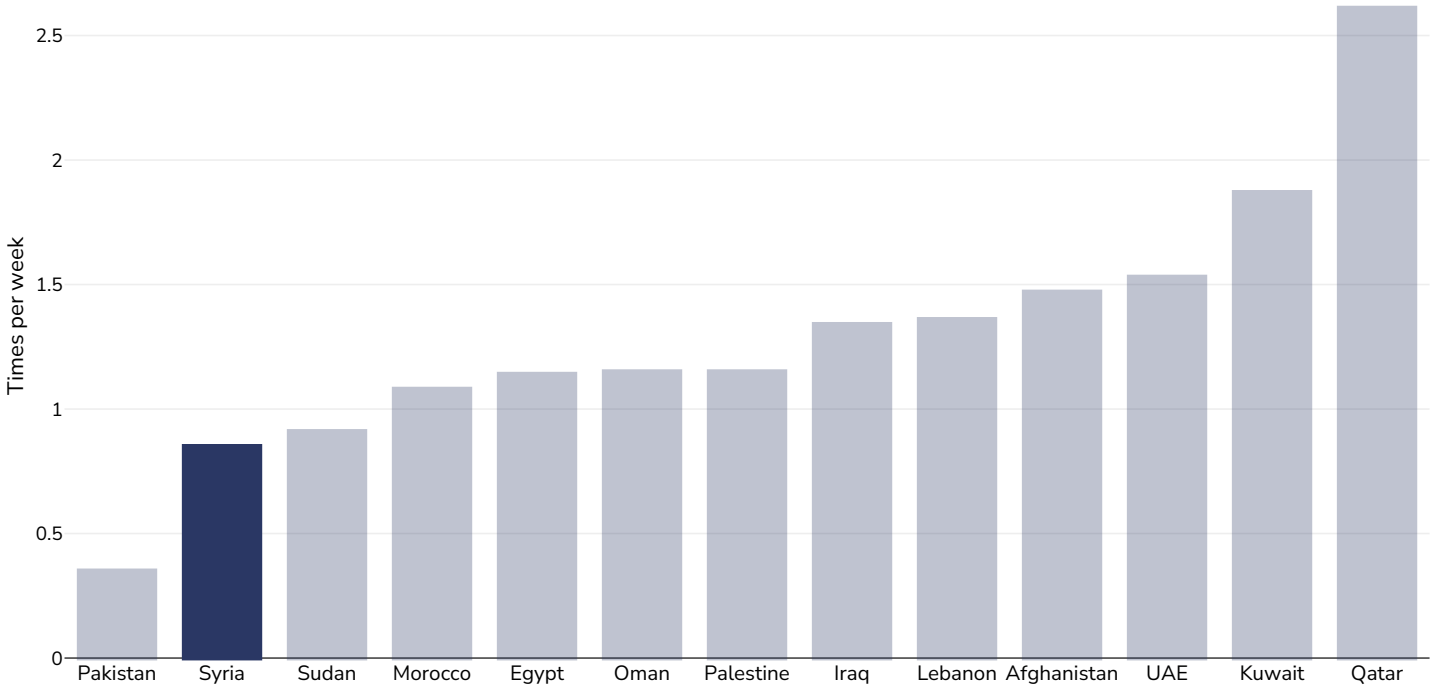
Children, 2008-2015



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	12-17
References:	Beal et al. (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287 sourced from Food Systems Dashboard http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system
Definitions:	Prevalence of less-than-daily vegetable consumption (% less-than-daily vegetable consumption)

Average weekly frequency of fast food consumption

Children, 2009-2015

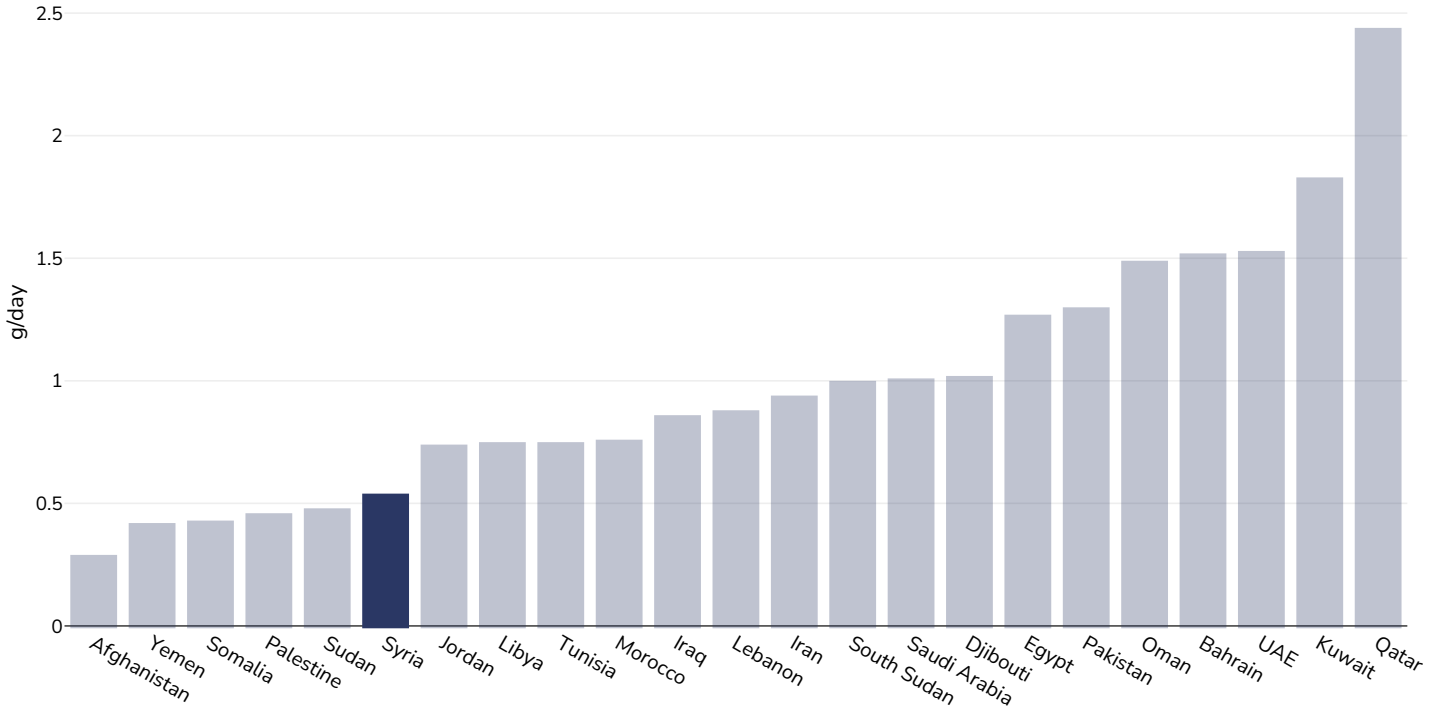


Age: 12-17

References: Beal et al. (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287 sourced from Food Systems Dashboard http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system

Estimated per-capita processed meat intake

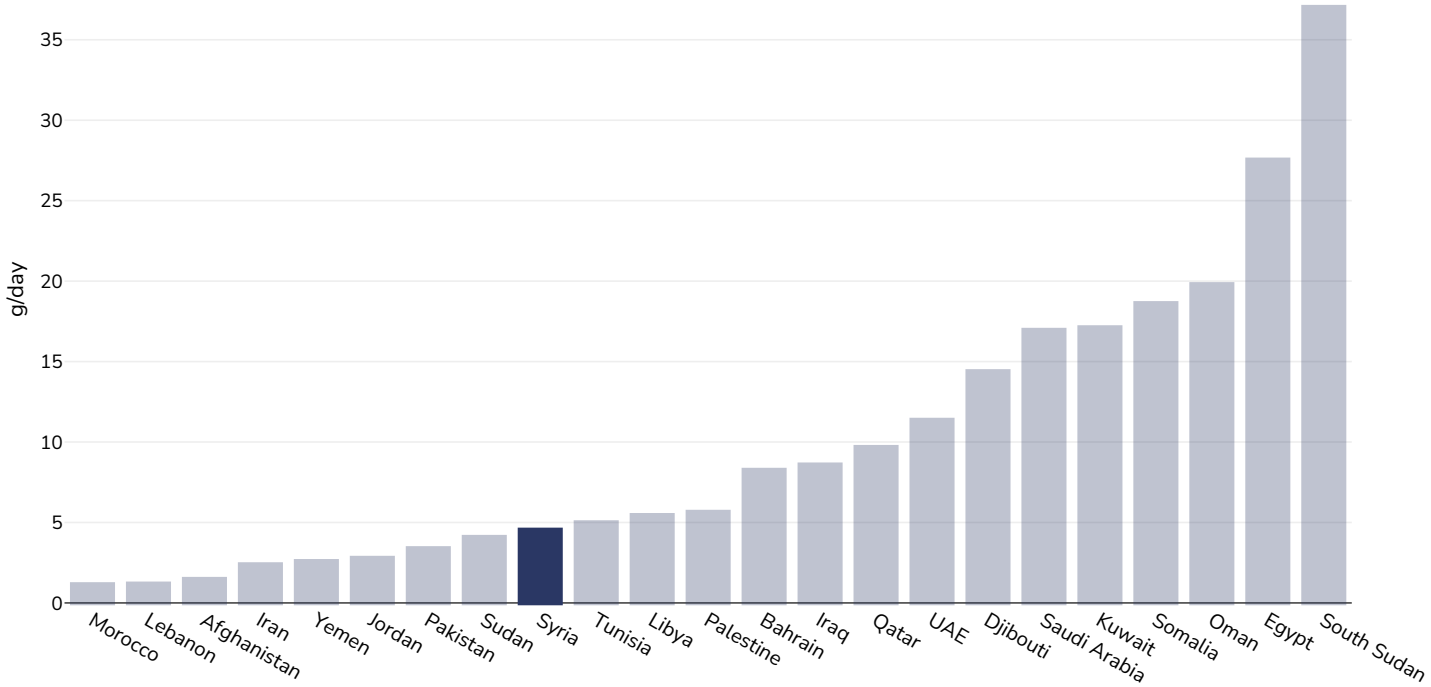
Adults, 2017



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

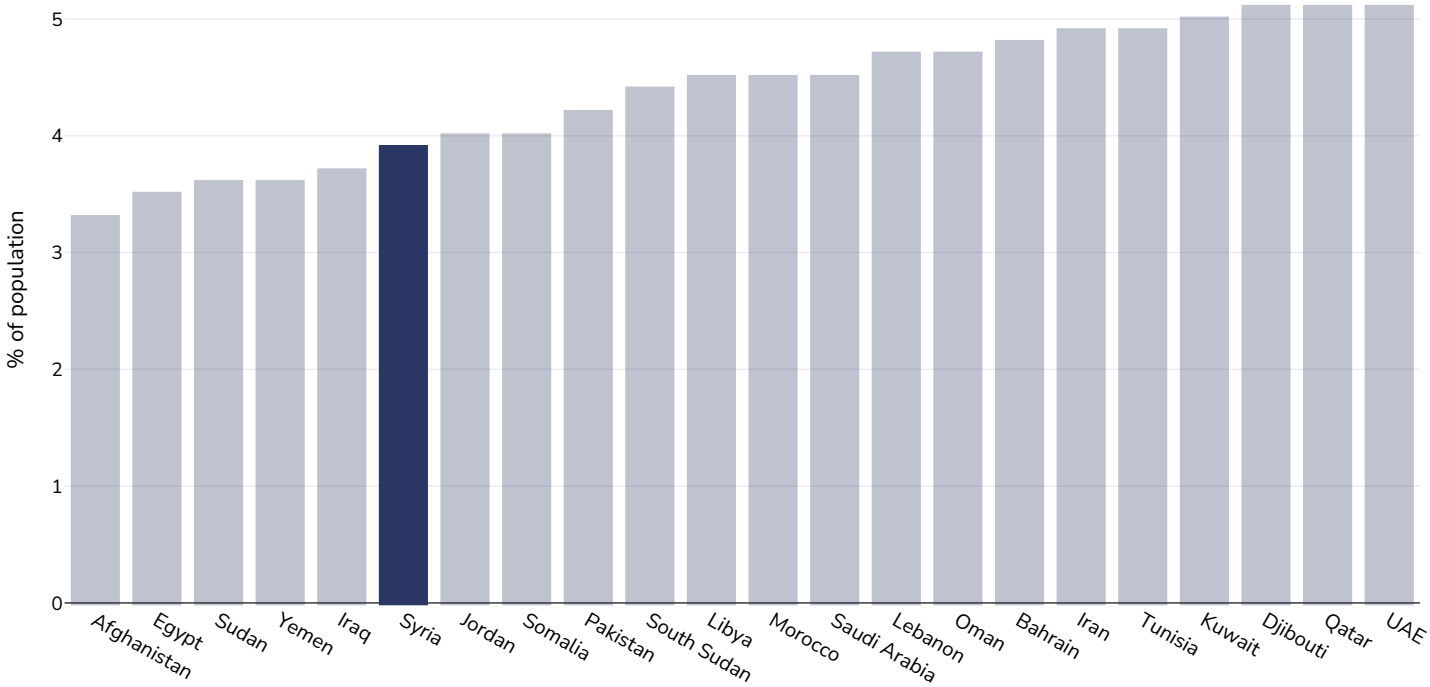
Adults, 2017



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, 2015

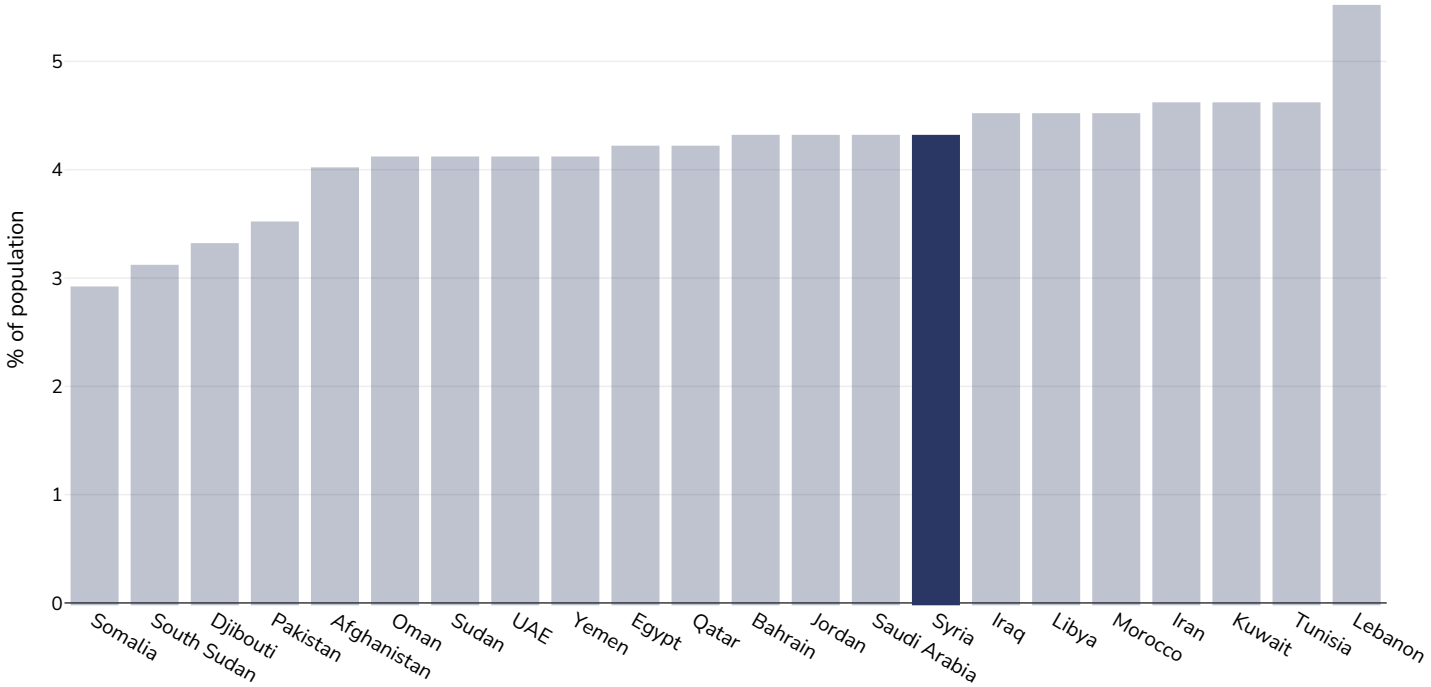


References: Prevalence data from Global Burden of Disease study 2015 (http://ghdx.healthdata.org) published in: Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates. Geneva:World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Definitions: % of population with depression disorders

Mental health - anxiety disorders

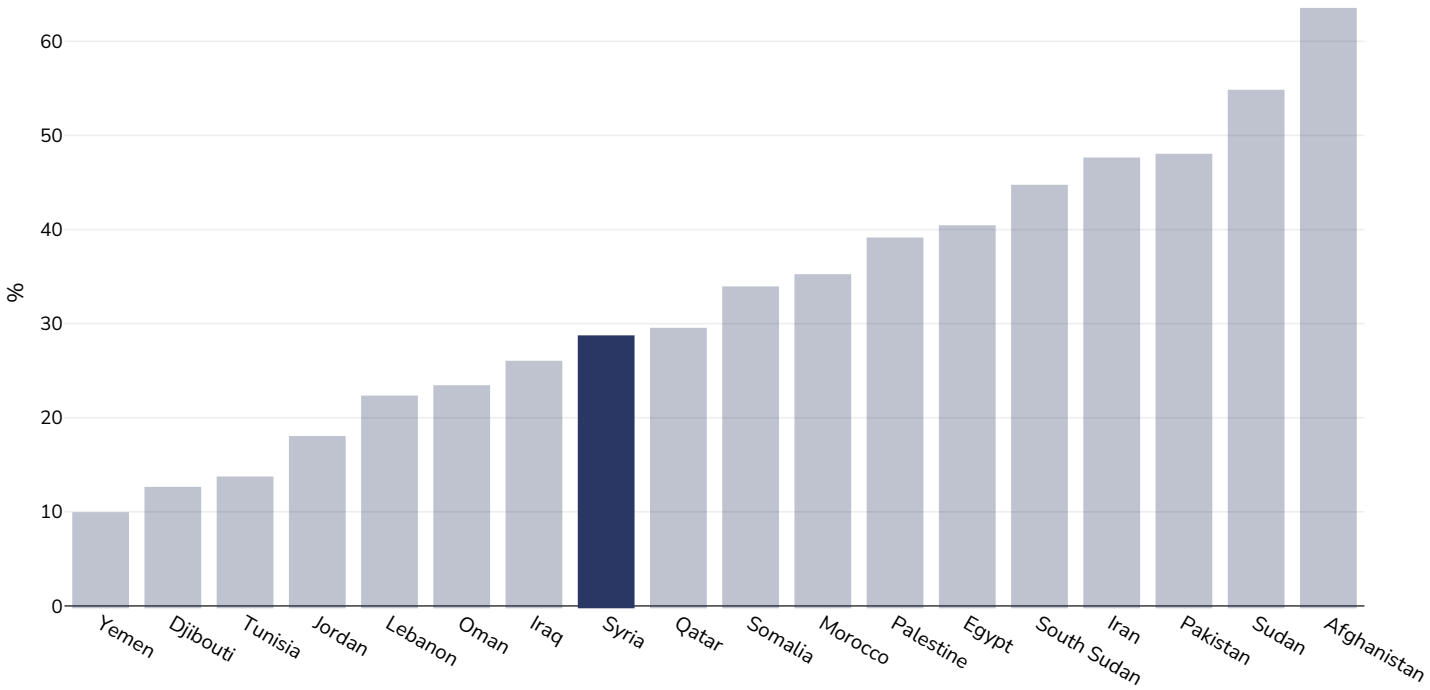
Adults, 2015



References:	Prevalence data from Global Burden of Disease study 2015 (http://ghdx.healthdata.org) published in: Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates. Geneva:World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
Definitions:	% of population with anxiety disorders

% Infants exclusively breastfed 0-5 months

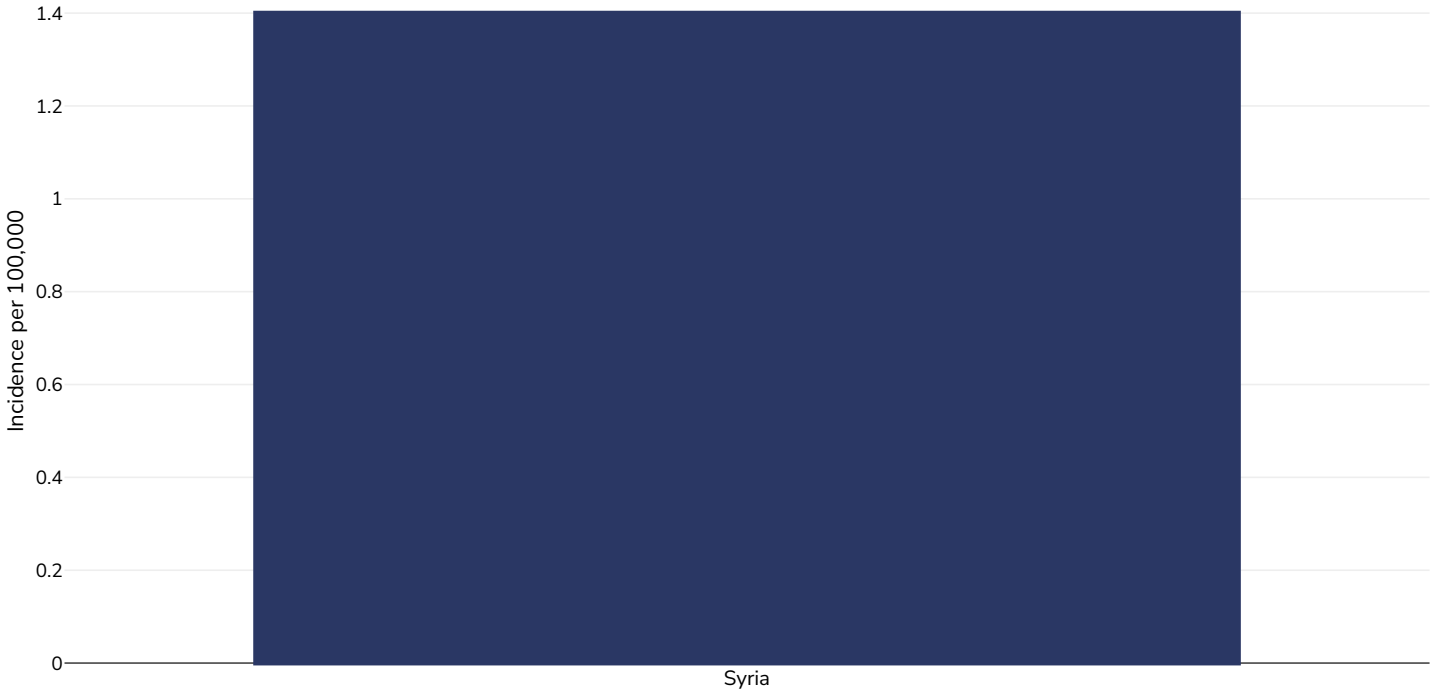
Infants, 2010-2023



References:	Nutritional status survey according to SMART methodology, Syria April 2019
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.

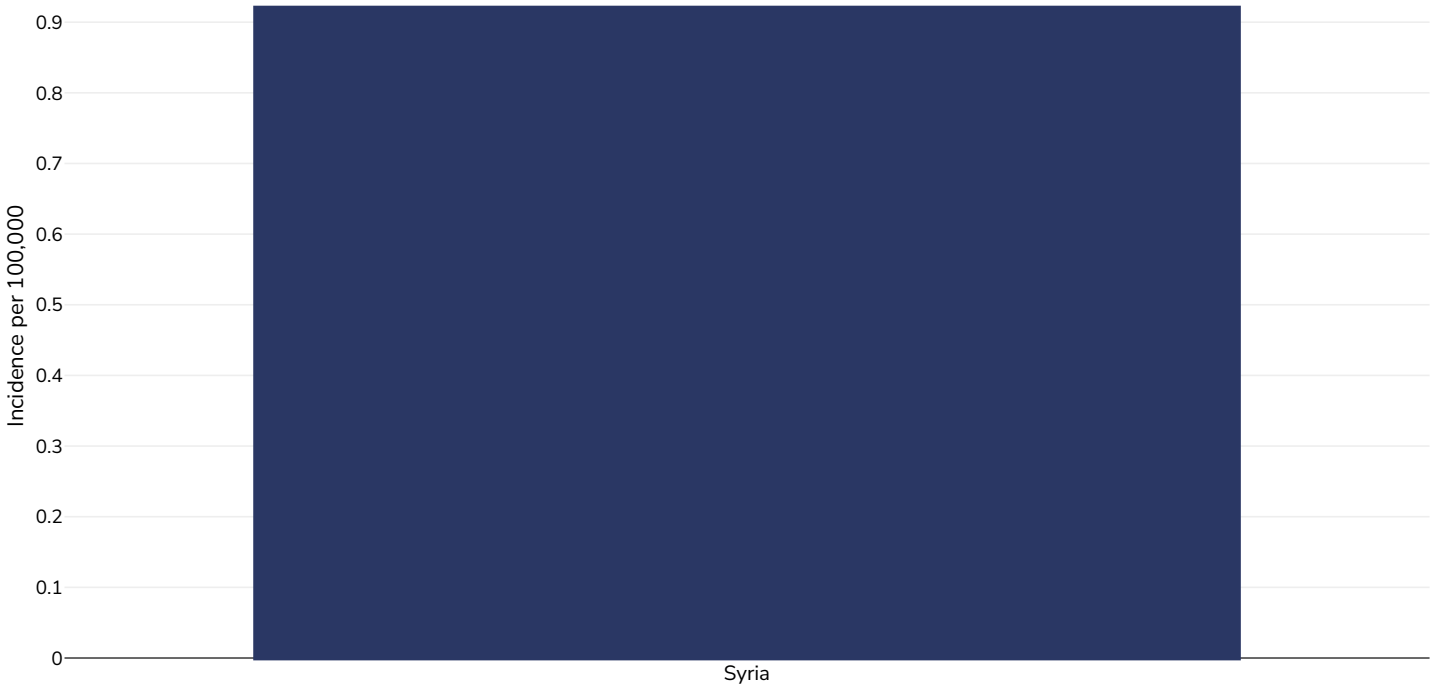
Oesophageal cancer

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

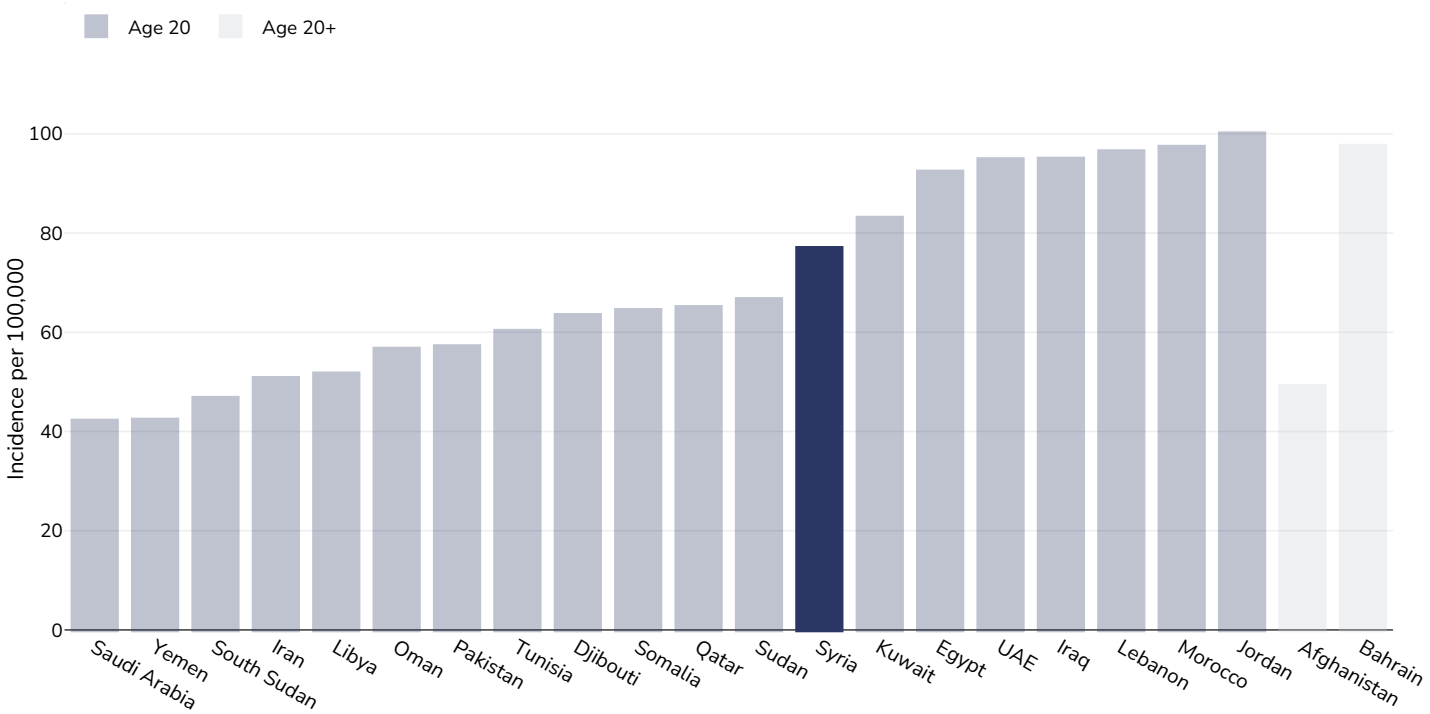
Women, 2022



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

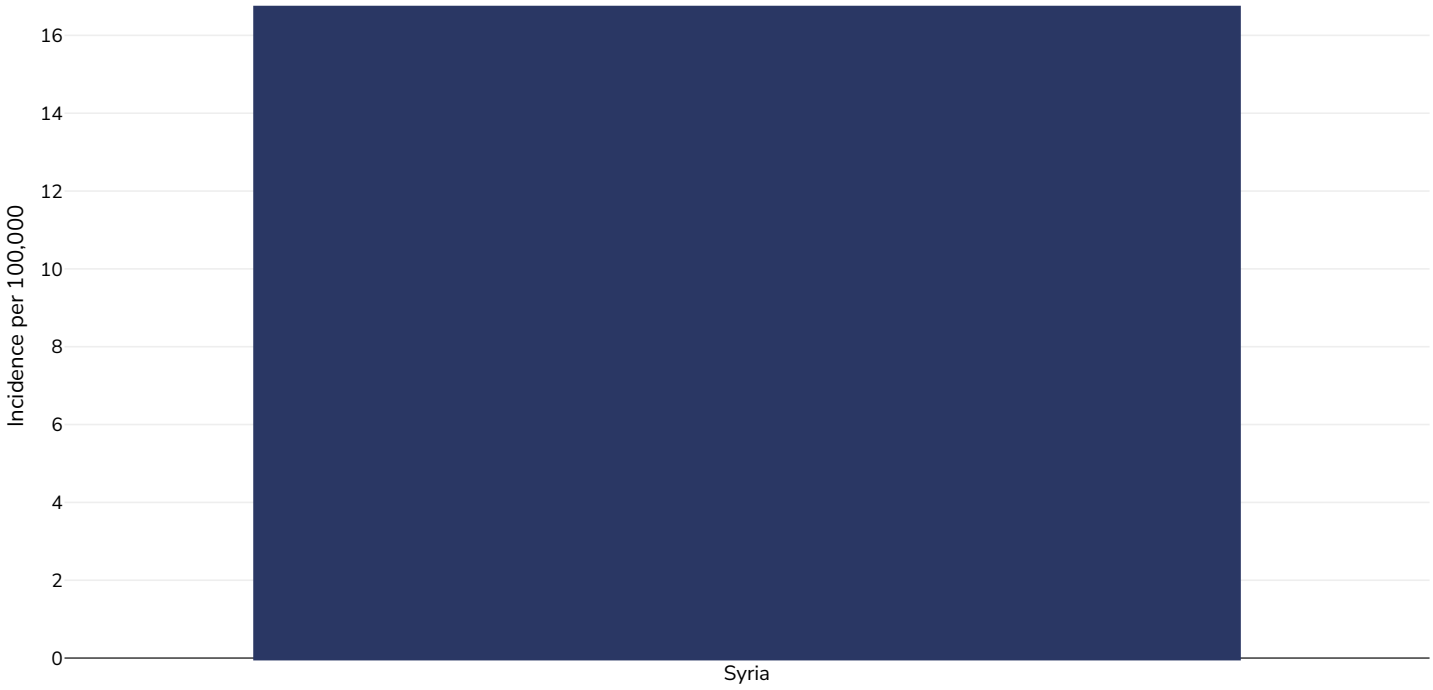
Women, 2022



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

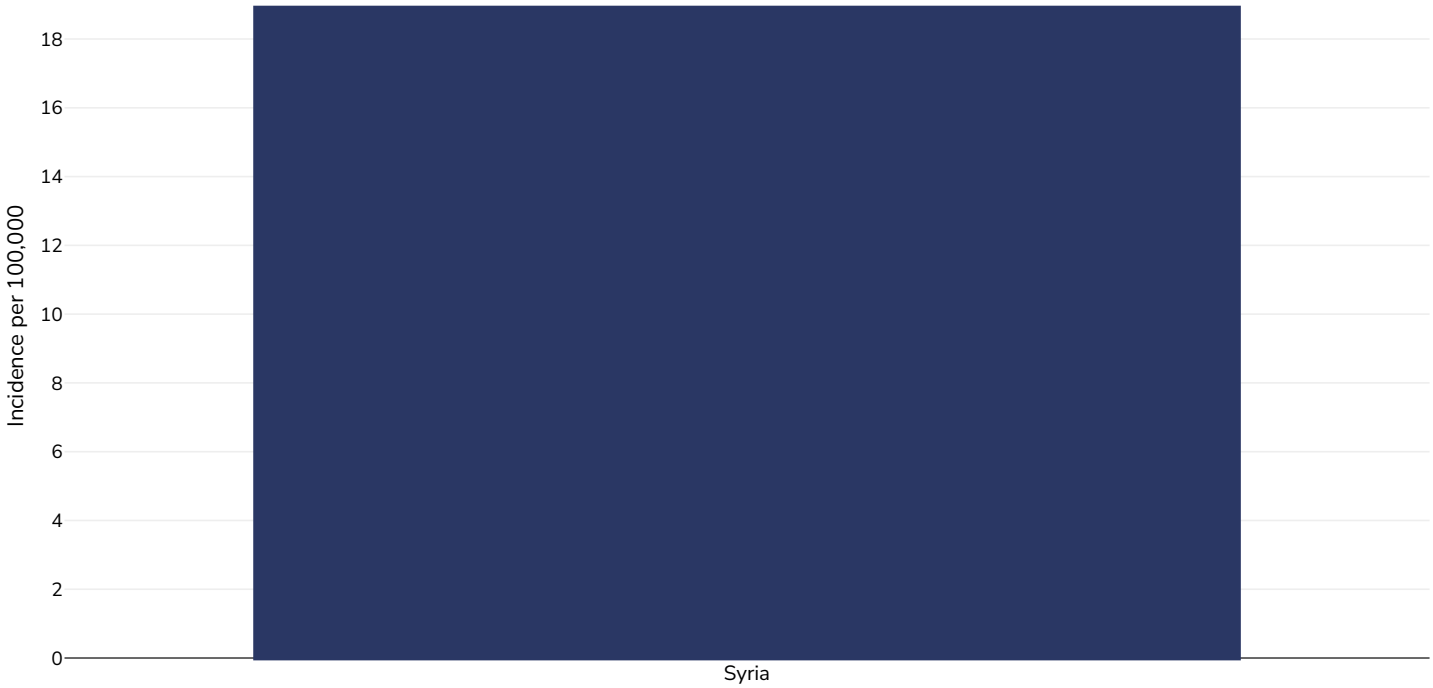
Colorectal cancer

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

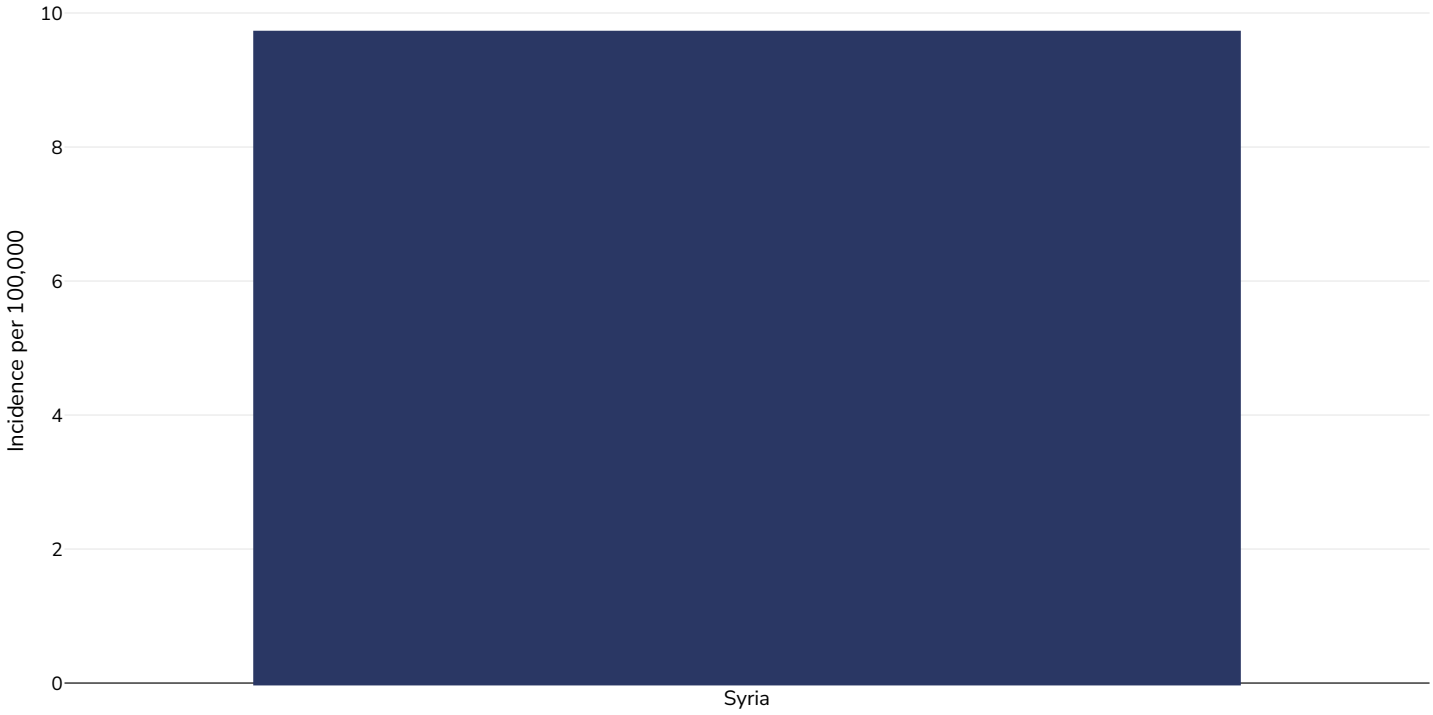
Women, 2022



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

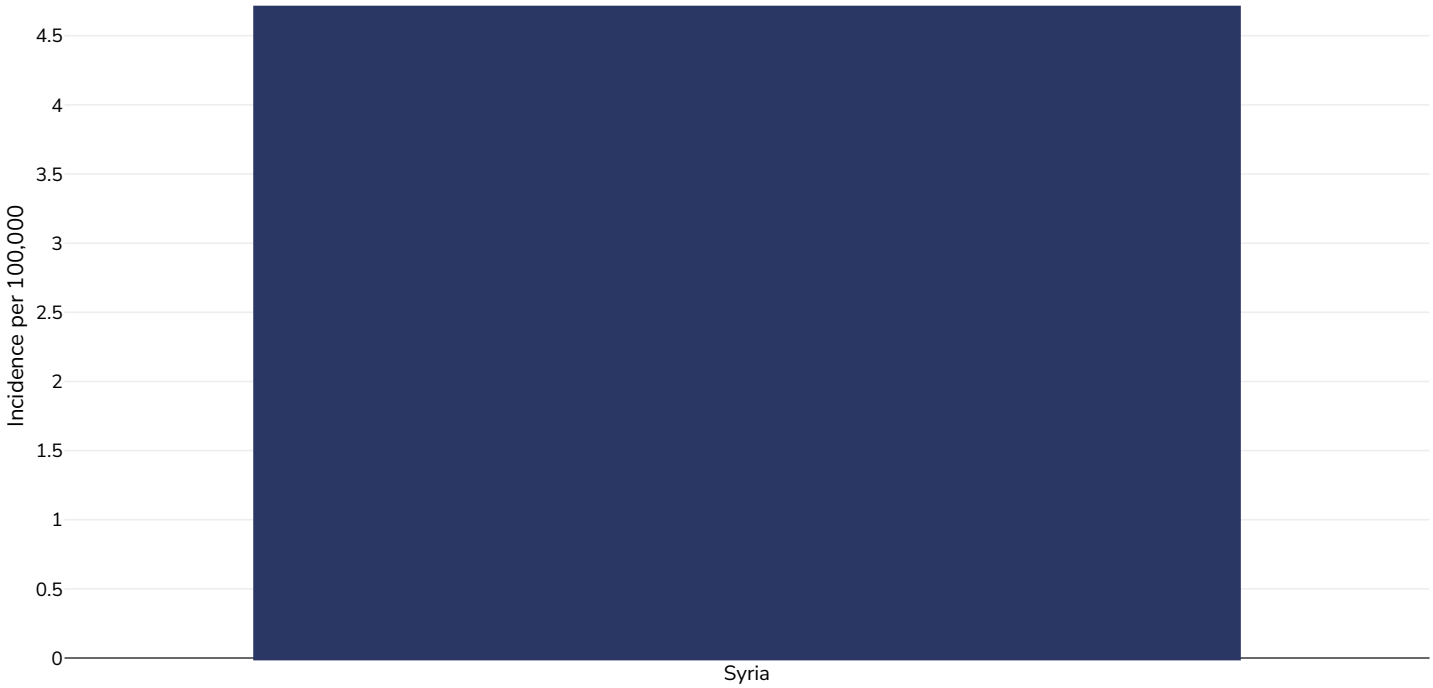
Pancreatic cancer

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

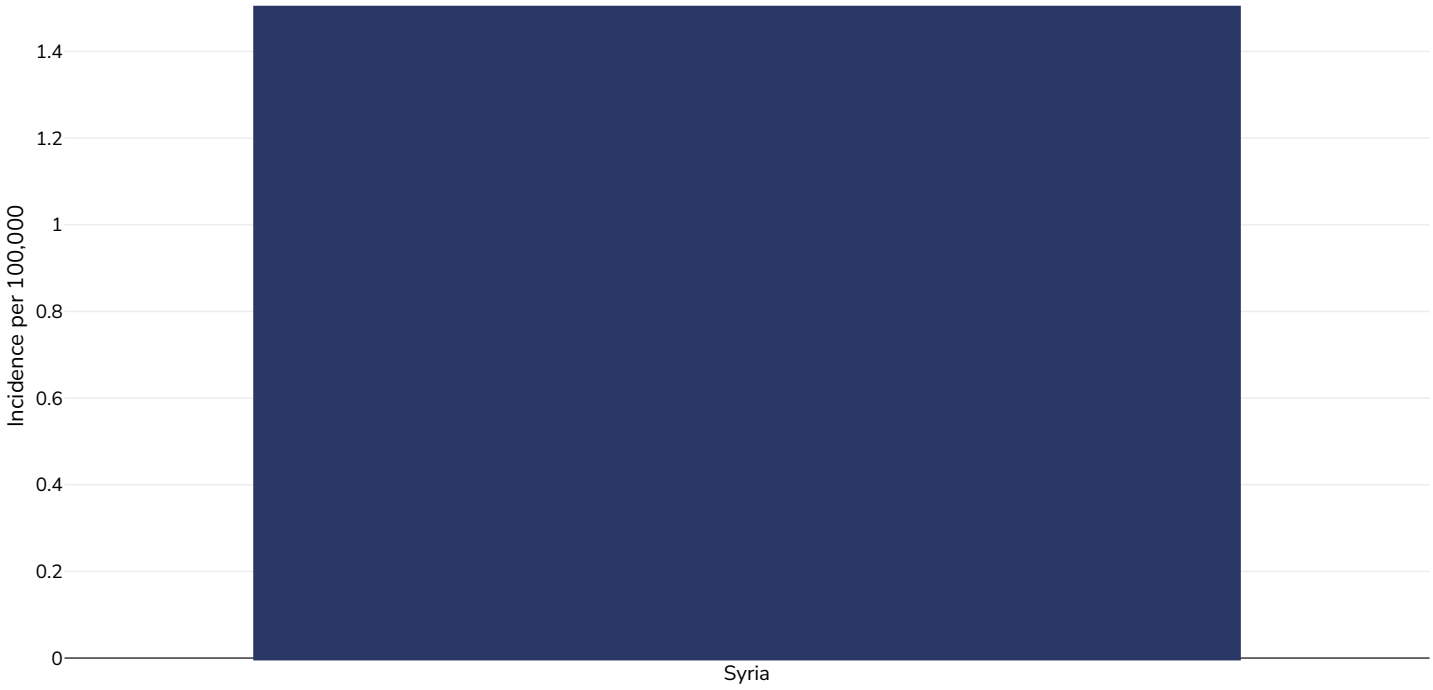
Women, 2022



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

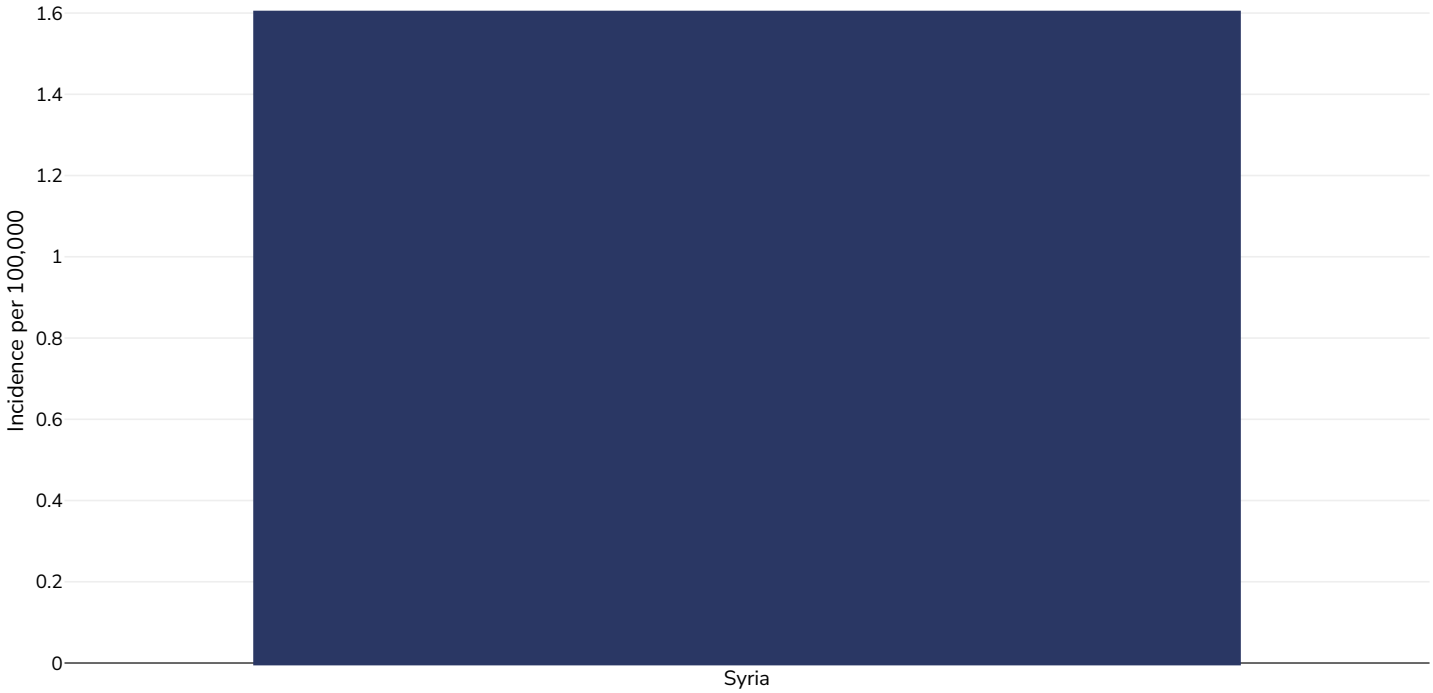
Gallbladder cancer

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

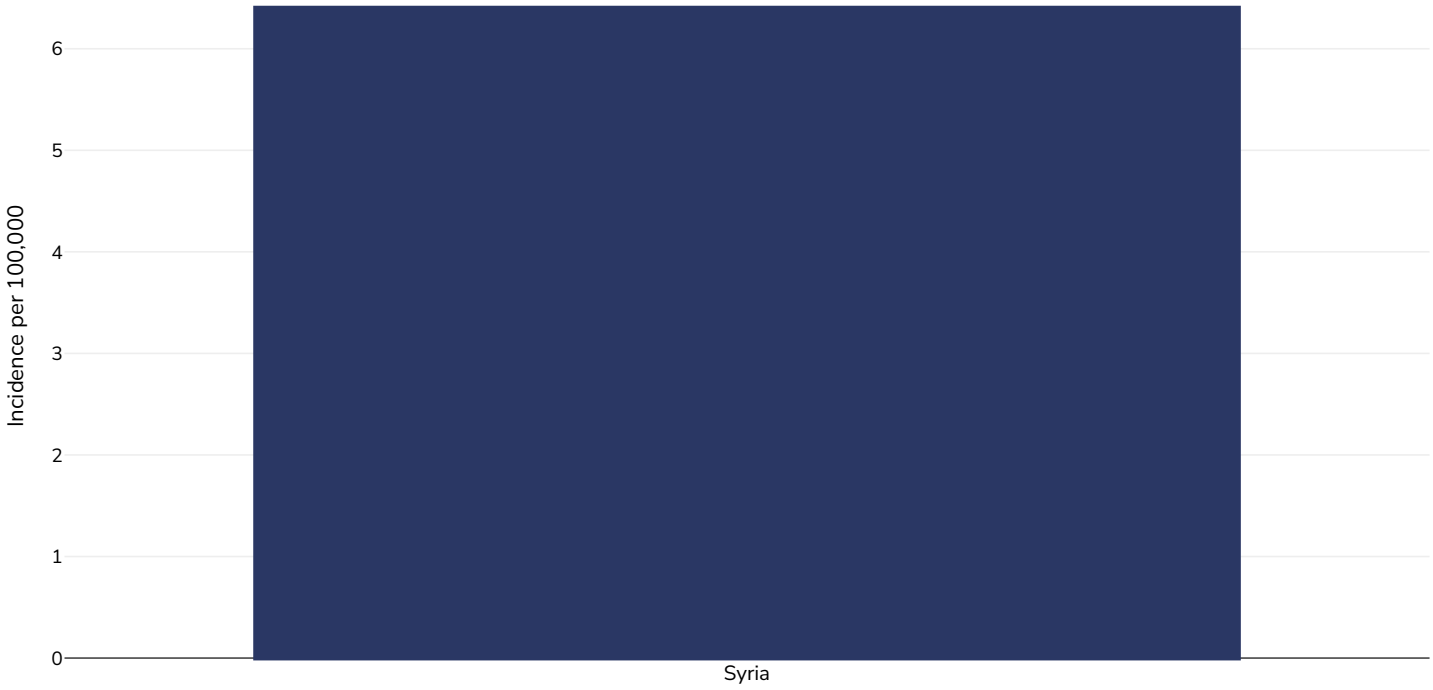
Women, 2022



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

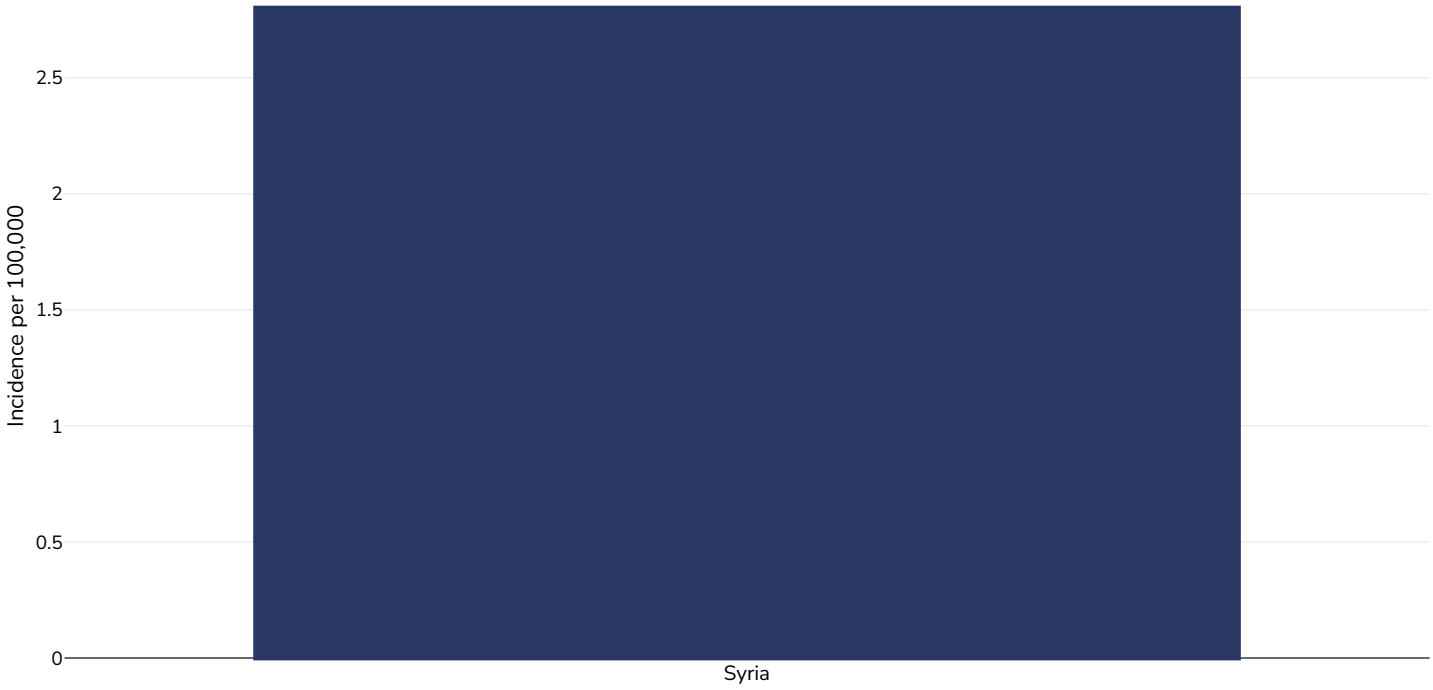
Kidney cancer

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

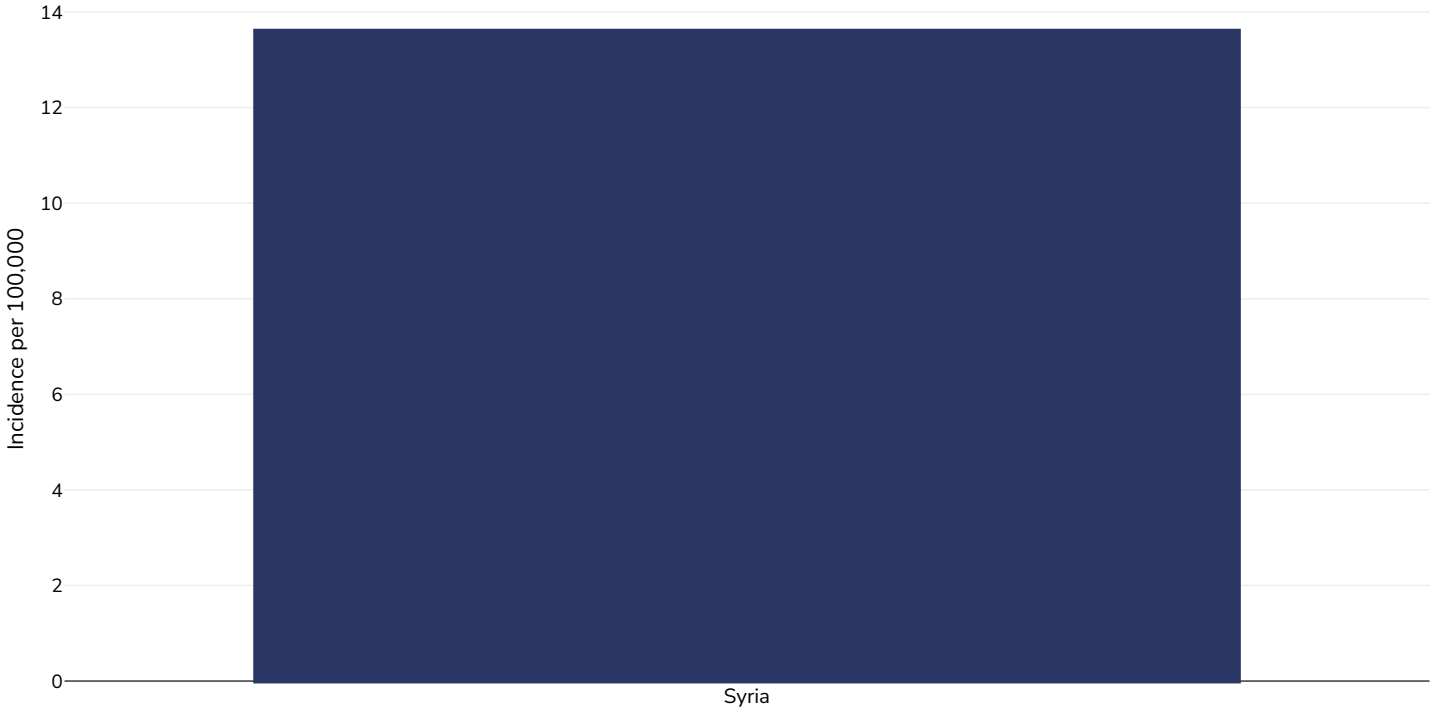
Women, 2022



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

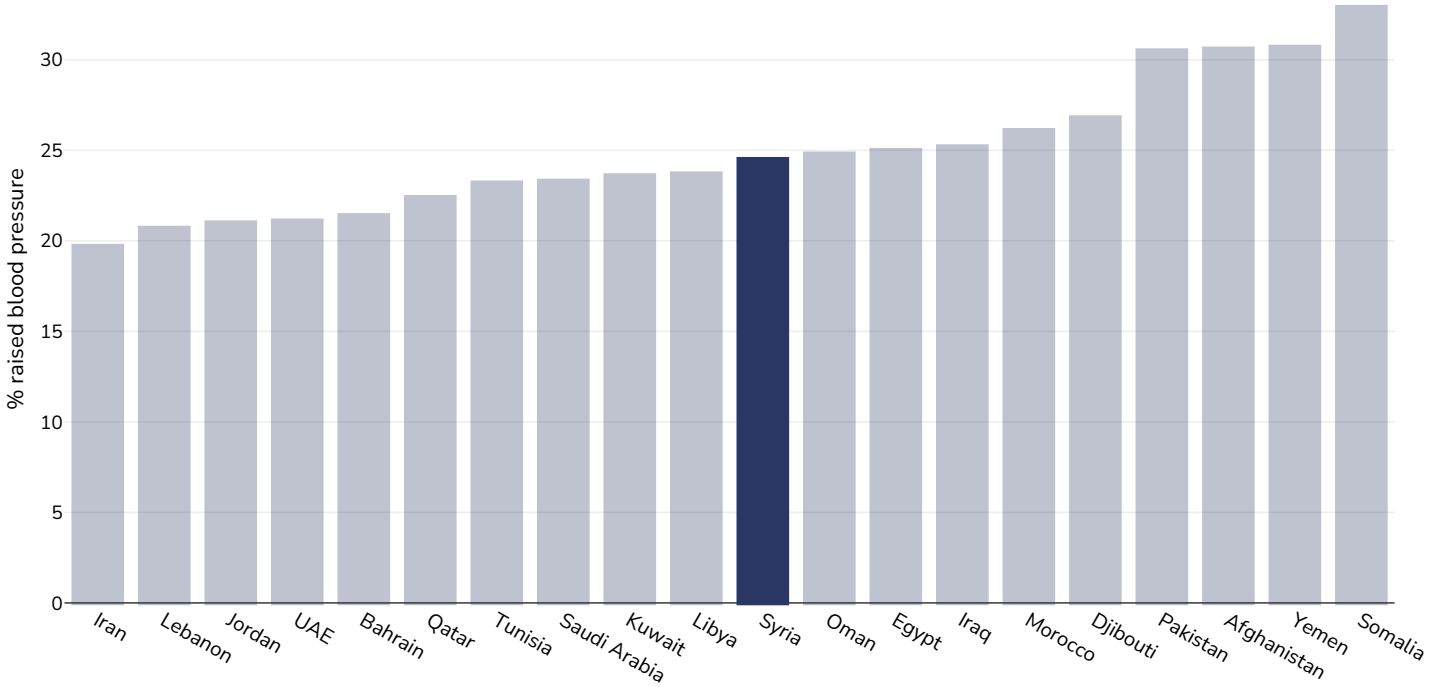
Women, 2022



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

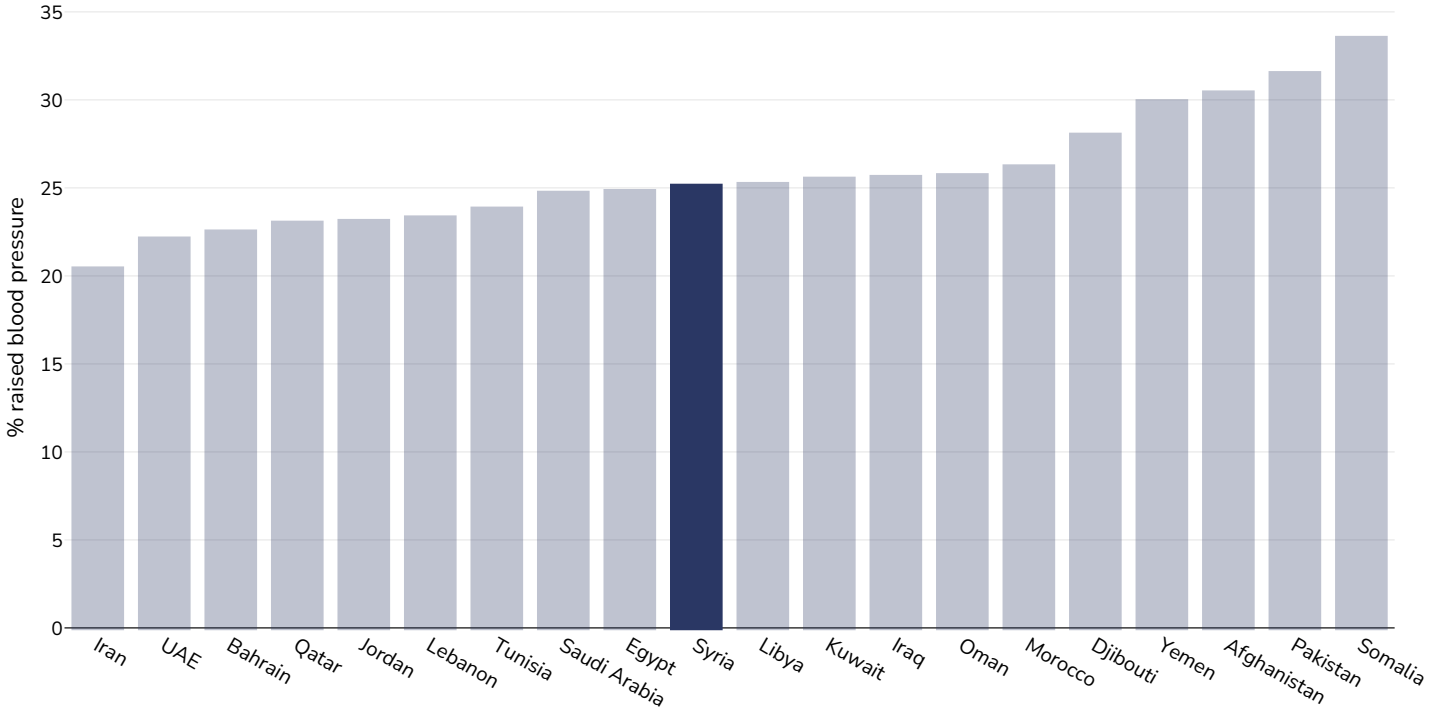
Adults, 2015



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).

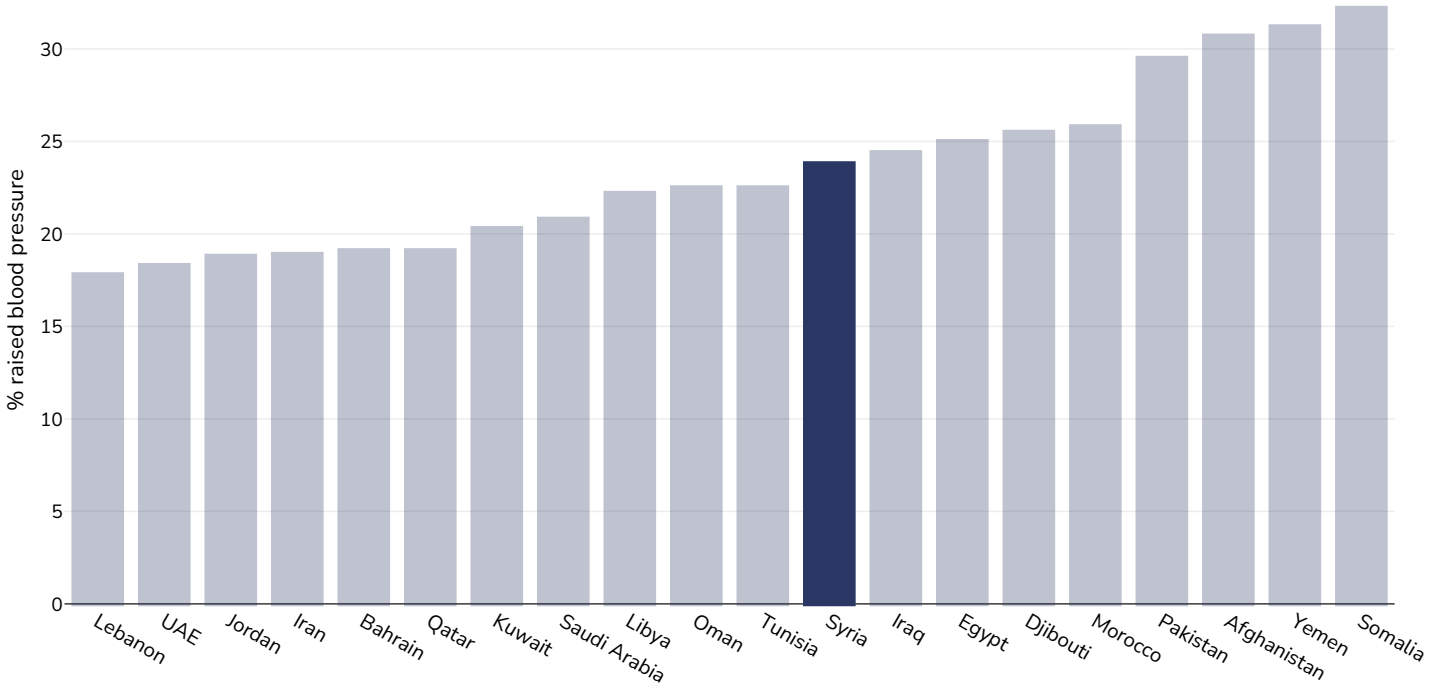
Men, 2015



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).

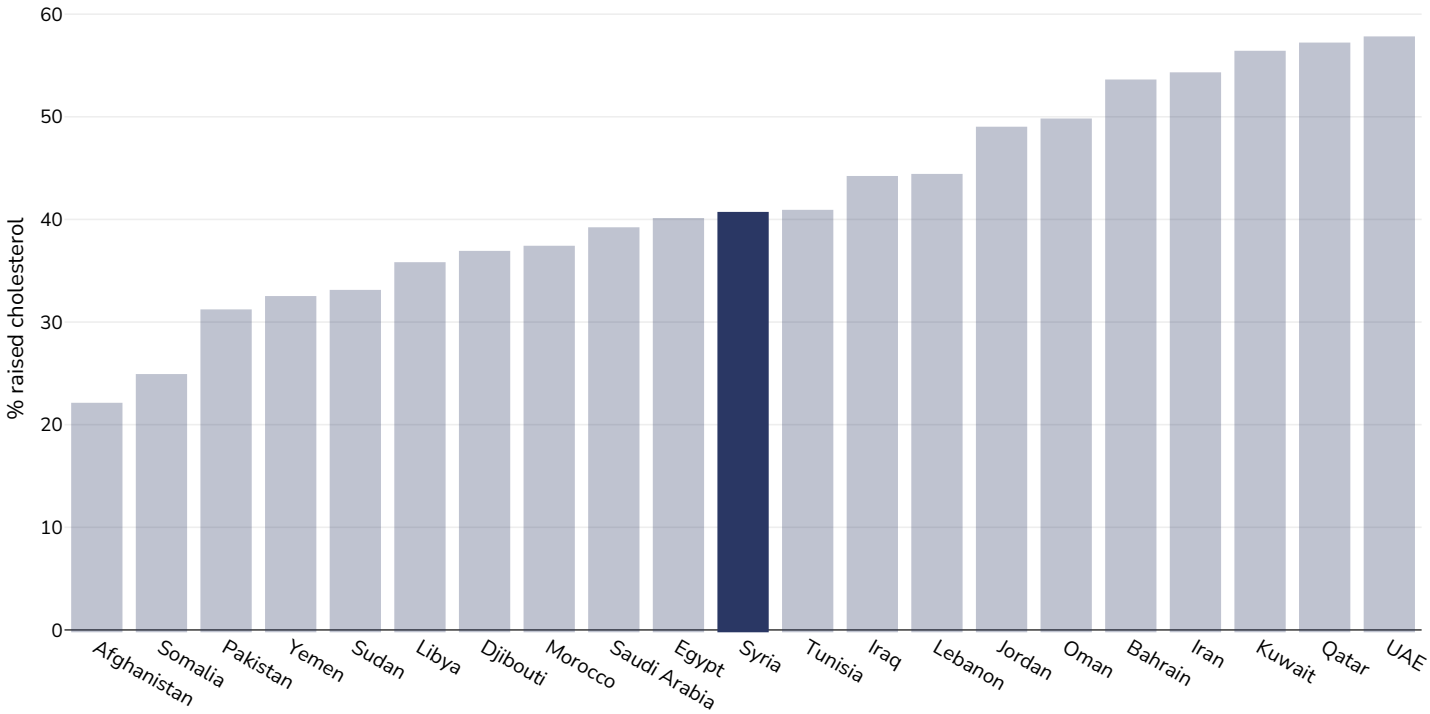
Women, 2015



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>=140 OR DBP>=90).

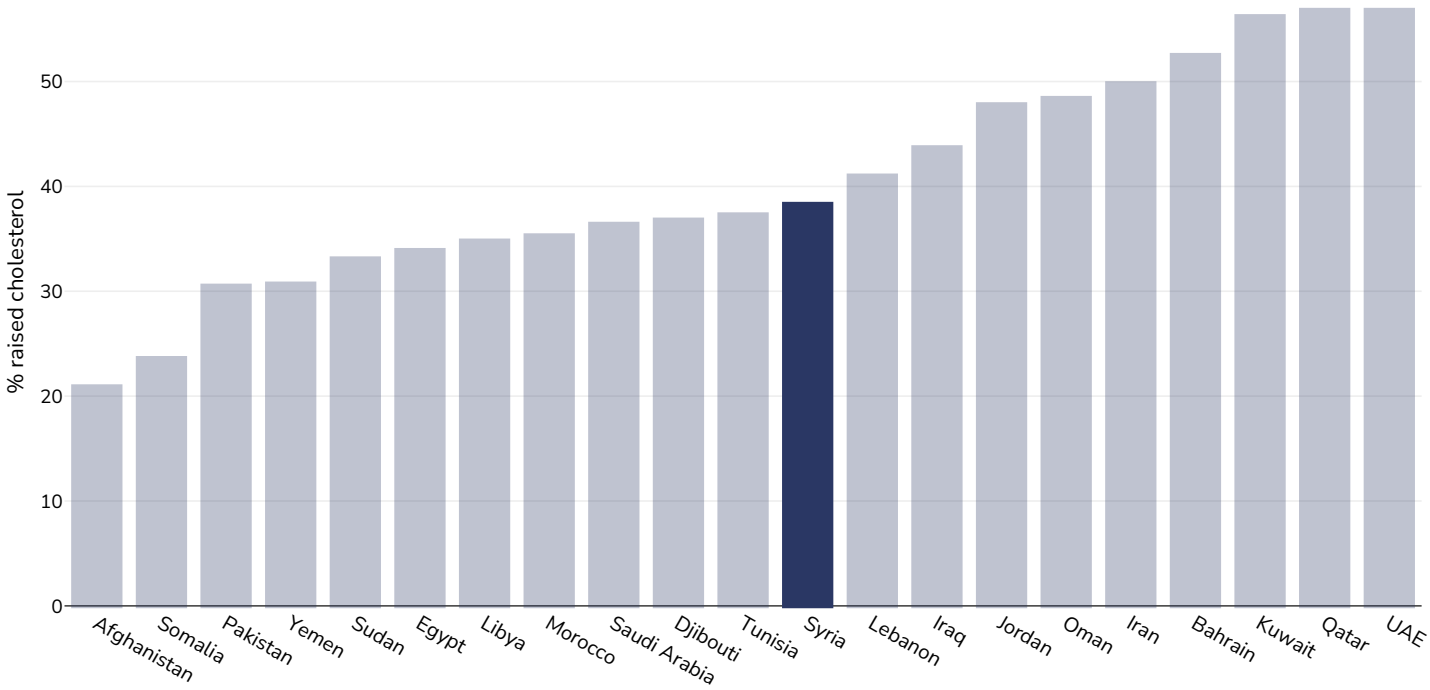
Raised cholesterol

Adults, 2008



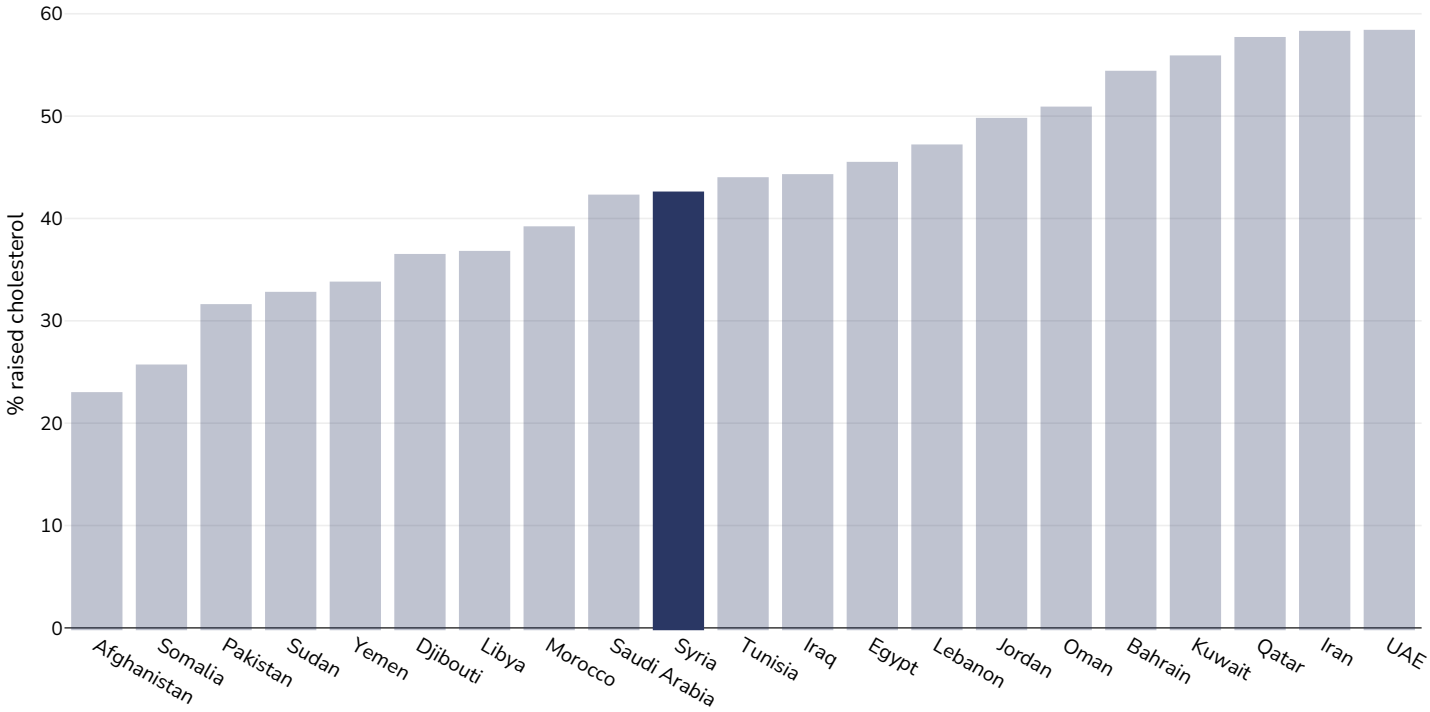
References:	Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885
Definitions:	% Raised total cholesterol (>= 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).

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).

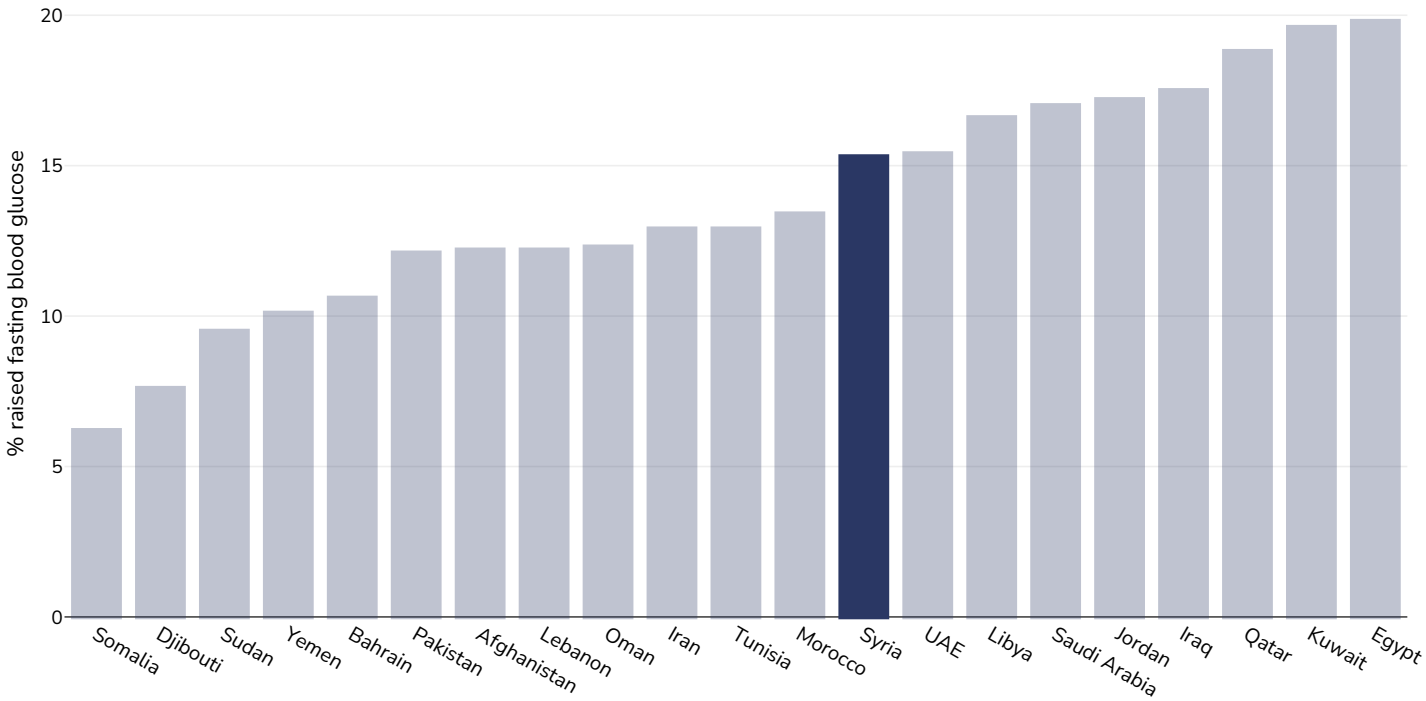
Women, 2008



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

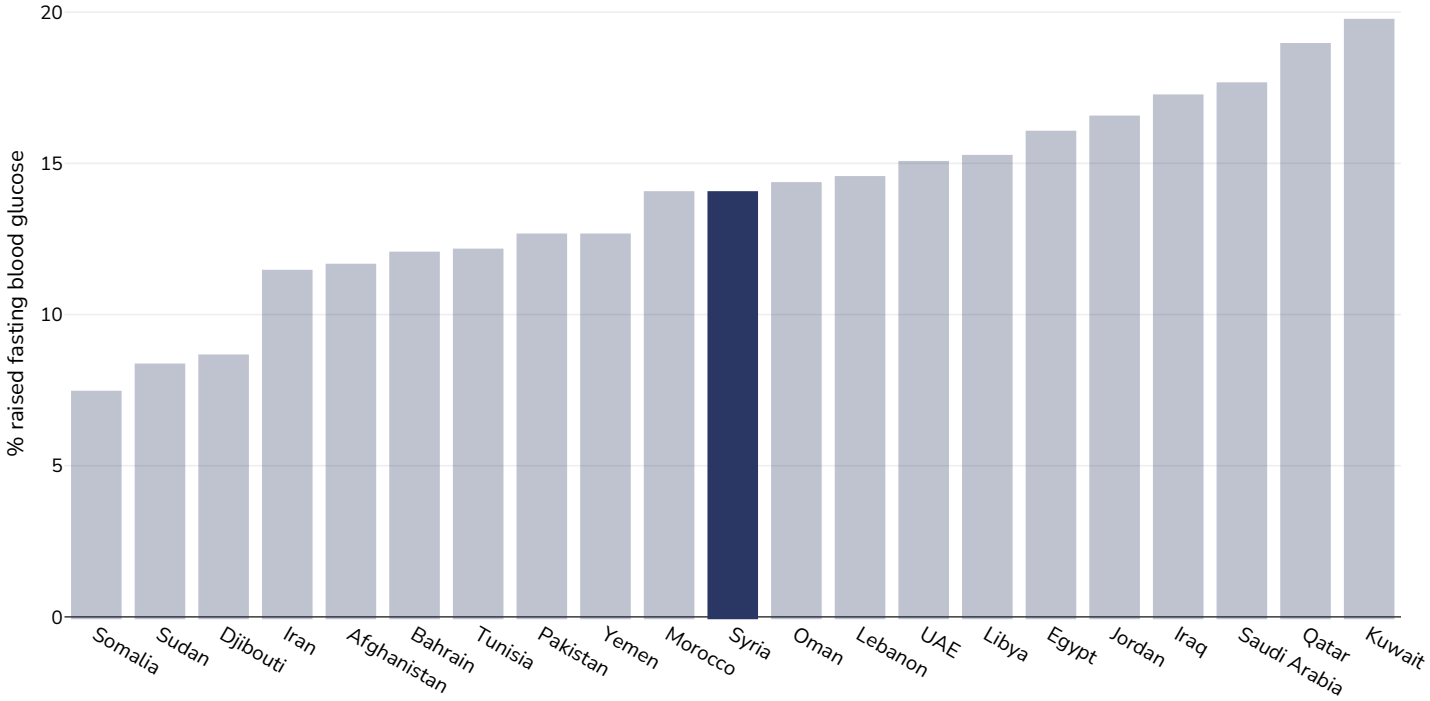
Men, 2014



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).

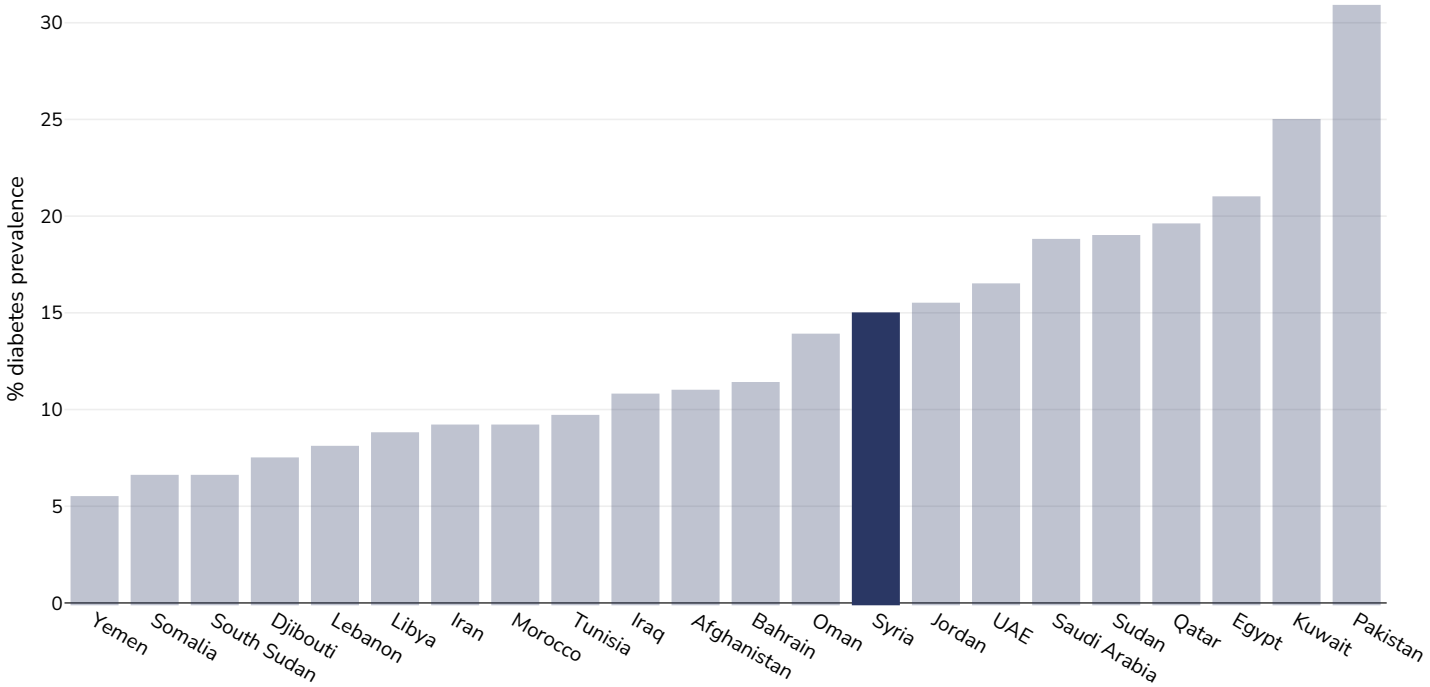
Women, 2014



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, 2021



Age:	20-79
Area covered:	National
References:	Reproduced with kind permission International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas, 10th edn. Brussels, Belgium:International Diabetes Federation, 2021. http://www.diabetesatlas.org
Definitions:	Age-adjusted comparative prevalence of diabetes, %

Contextual factors

Disclaimer: These contextual factors should be interpreted with care. Results are updated as regularly as possible and use very specific criteria. The criteria used and full definitions are available for download at the bottom of this page.

Labelling

Is there mandatory nutrition labelling?	✗
Front-of-package labelling?	✗
Back-of-pack nutrition declaration?	?
Color coding?	✗
Warning label?	✗

Regulation and marketing

Are there fiscal policies on unhealthy products?	✗
Tax on unhealthy foods?	✗
Tax on unhealthy drinks?	✗
Are there fiscal policies on healthy products?	✗
Subsidy on fruits?	✗
Subsidy on vegetables?	✗
Subsidy on other healthy products?	✗
Mandatory limit or ban of trans fat (all settings)?	✗
Mandatory limit of trans fats in place (all settings)?	✗
Ban on trans-fats or phos in place (all settings)?	✗
Are there any mandatory policies/marketing restrictions on the promotion of unhealthy food/drinks to children?	✗
Mandatory restriction on broadcast media?	✗
Mandatory restriction on non-broadcast media?	✗
Voluntary policies/marketing restrictions on the promotion of unhealthy food/drinks to children?	✗
Are there mandatory standards for food in schools?	✗
Are there any mandatory nutrient limits in any manufactured food products?	✗
Nutrition standards for public sector procurement?	✗

Political will and support

National obesity strategy or nutrition and physical activity national strategy?	✗
National obesity strategy?	✗
National childhood obesity strategy?	✗
Comprehensive nutrition strategy?	✗
Comprehensive physical activity strategy?	✗
Evidence-based dietary guidelines and/or RDAs?	✗
National target(s) on reducing obesity?	✗
Guidelines/policy on obesity treatment?	✗
Promotion of breastfeeding?	✓

Monitoring and surveillance

Monitoring of the prevalence and incidence for the main obesity-related NCDs and risk factors?	✓
Within 5 years?	✗

Governance and resource

Multi-sectoral national co-ordination mechanism for obesity or nutrition (including obesity)?	?

Key

✓ Present

✓v Present (voluntary)

✓ Incoming

✗ Absent

? Unknown

Last updated September 13, 2022

PDF created on August 15, 2024