

United Arab Emirates



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/united-arab-emirates-225/.



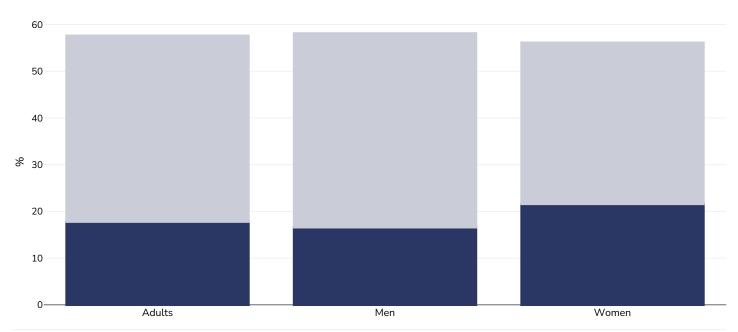
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Obesity prevalence

Adults, 2019





Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	2142
Area covered:	Dubai

References:

Mamdouh H, Hussain HY, Ibrahim GM, Alawadi F, Hassanein M, Zarooni AA, Suwaidi HA, Hassan A, Alsheikh-Ali A, Alnakhi WK. Prevalence and associated risk factors of overweight and obesity among adult population in Dubai: a population-based cross-sectional survey in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. BMJ Open. 2023 Jan 24;13(1):e062053. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-062053. PMID: 36693685; PMCID: PMC9884894.

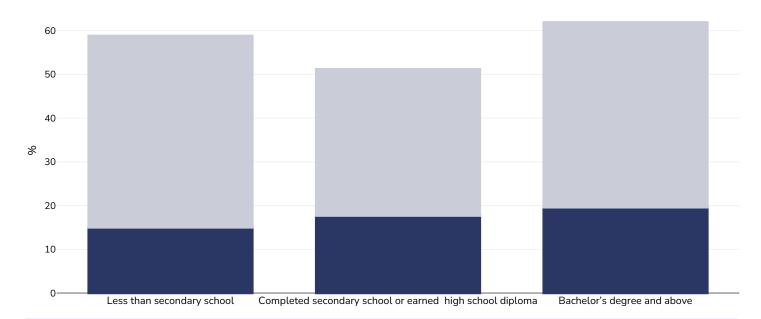
 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$



Overweight/obesity by education

Adults, 2019





Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	2142
Area covered:	Dubai

References:

Mamdouh H, Hussain HY, Ibrahim GM, Alawadi F, Hassanein M, Zarooni AA, Suwaidi HA, Hassan A, Alsheikh-Ali A, Alnakhi WK. Prevalence and associated risk factors of overweight and obesity among adult population in Dubai: a population-based cross-sectional survey in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. BMJ Open. 2023 Jan 24;13(1):e062053. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-062053. PMID: 36693685; PMCID: PMC9884894.

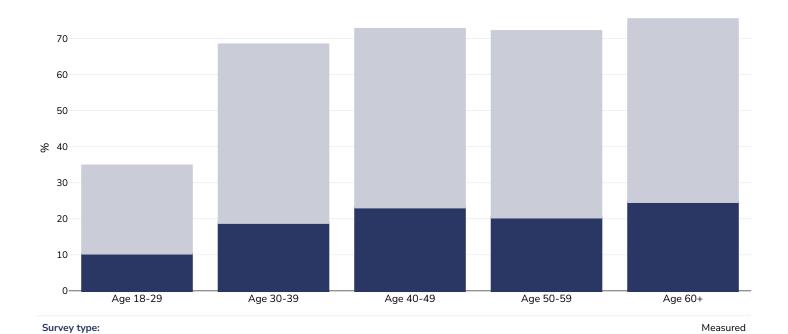
 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$



Overweight/obesity by age

Adults, 2019





Sample size: 2142

Area covered: Dubai

References:

Mamdouh H, Hussain HY, Ibrahim GM, Alawadi F, Hassanein M, Zarooni AA, Suwaidi HA, Hassan A, Alsheikh-Ali A, Alnakhi WK. Prevalence and associated risk factors of overweight and obesity among adult population in Dubai: a population-based cross-sectional survey in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. BMJ Open. 2023 Jan 24;13(1):e062053. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-062053. PMID: 36693685; PMCID: PMC9884894.

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

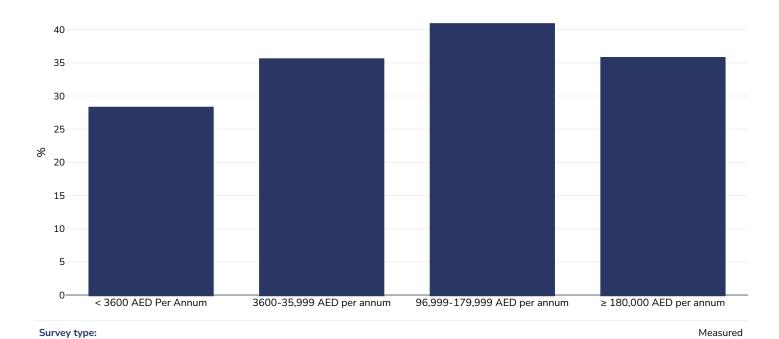


Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

Adults, 2012-2014

Obesity

Notes:



Age:	18+
Sample size:	2724
Area covered:	Expatriates (who make up approx 80% of UAE adult population)
References:	Sulaiman, Elbadawi, Hussein, Abusnana, Madani, Mairghani, Alawadi, Sulaiman, Zimmet, Huse, Shaw and Peeters. 2017. Prevalence of overweight and obesity in United Arab Emirates Expatriates: the UAE National Diabetes and Lifestyle Study. Diabetol Metab Syndr. 9(88). DOI 10.1186/s13098-017-0287-0.

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

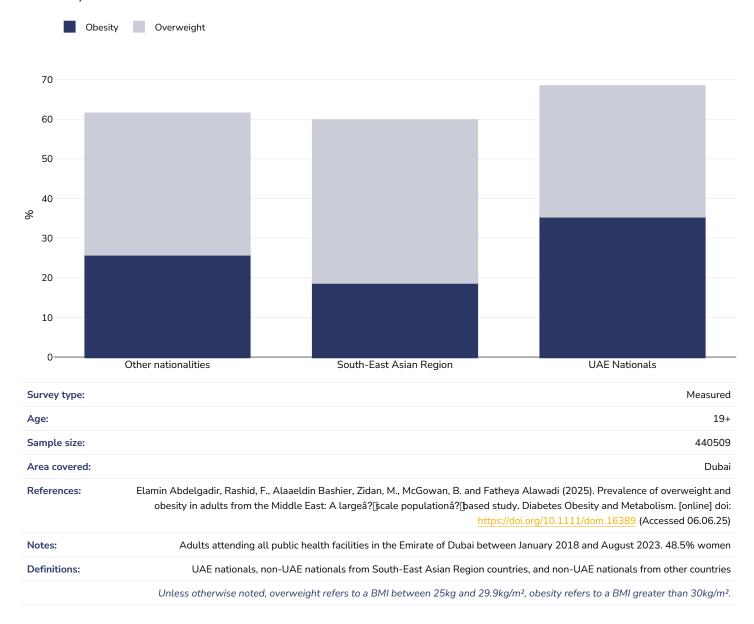
Expatriates only (though expatriates make up approx 80% of UAE adult population)



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.

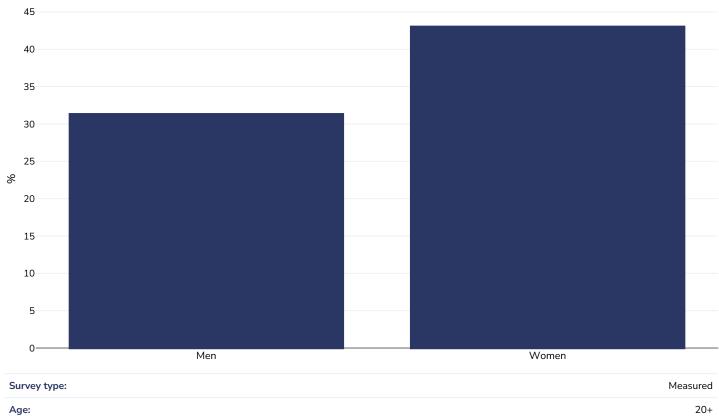
Adults, 2018-2023





Double burden of underweight & overweight

Adults, 2022



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.

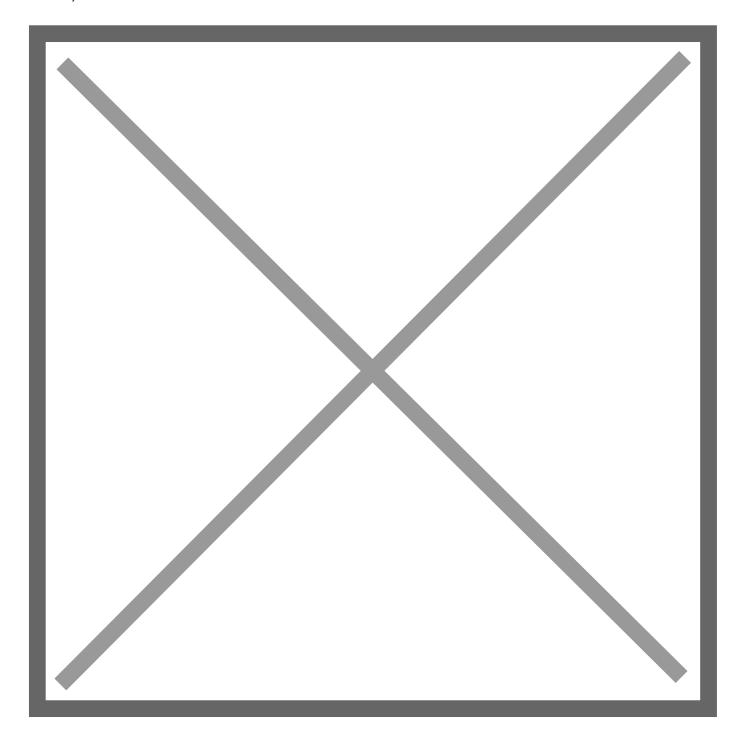
Notes: Age Standardised estimates

Definitions: Combined prevalence of BMI<18.5 kg/m 2 and BMI>=30 kg/m 2 (double burden of underweight and obesity)



Insufficient physical activity





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



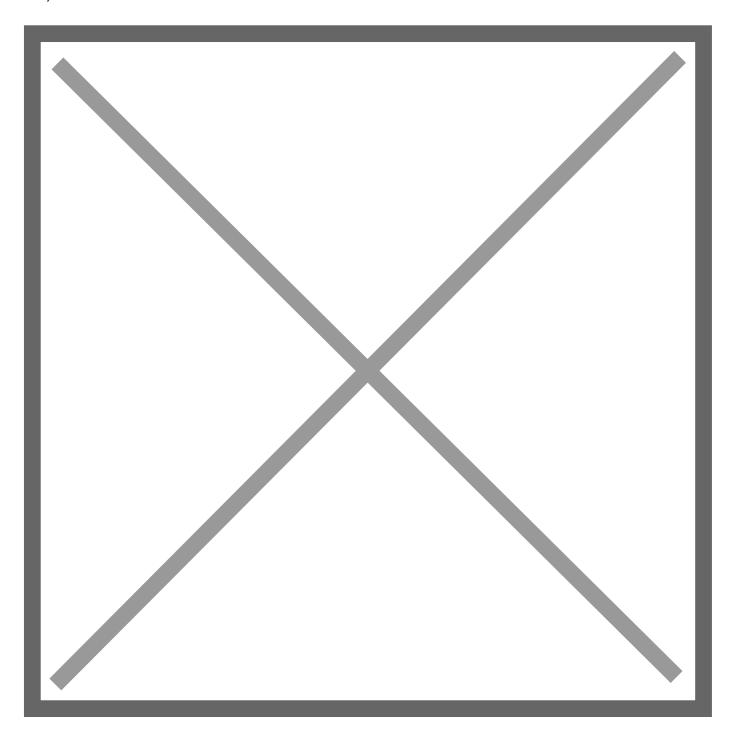


Definitions:

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



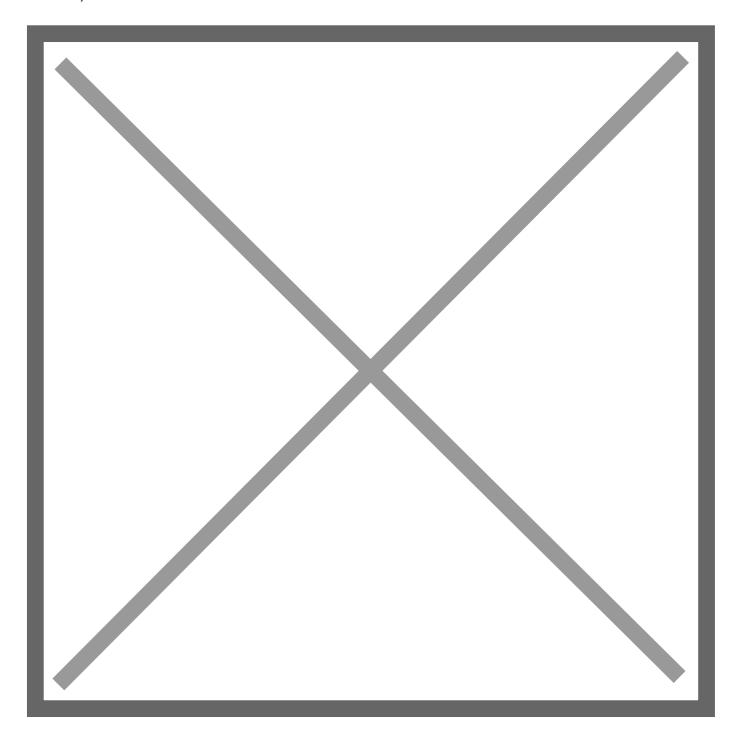


Definitions:

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)-(-)



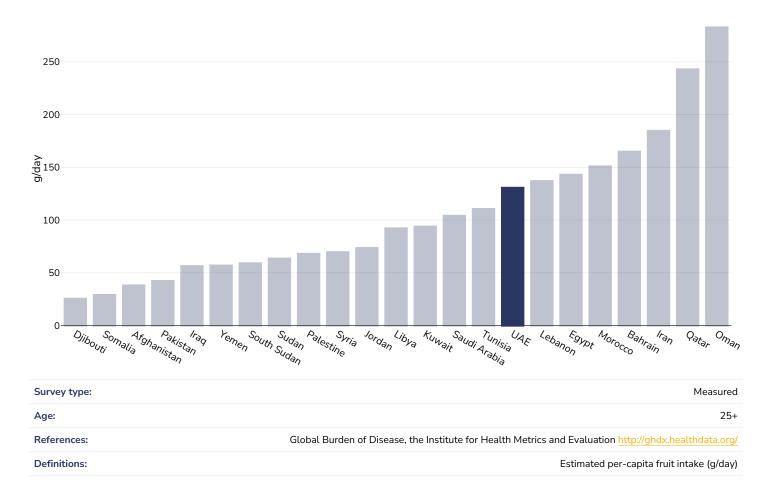


Definitions:

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.

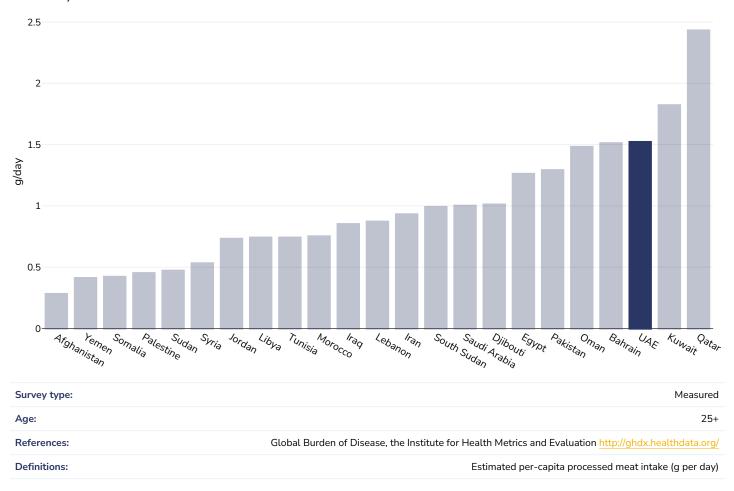


Estimated per capita fruit intake



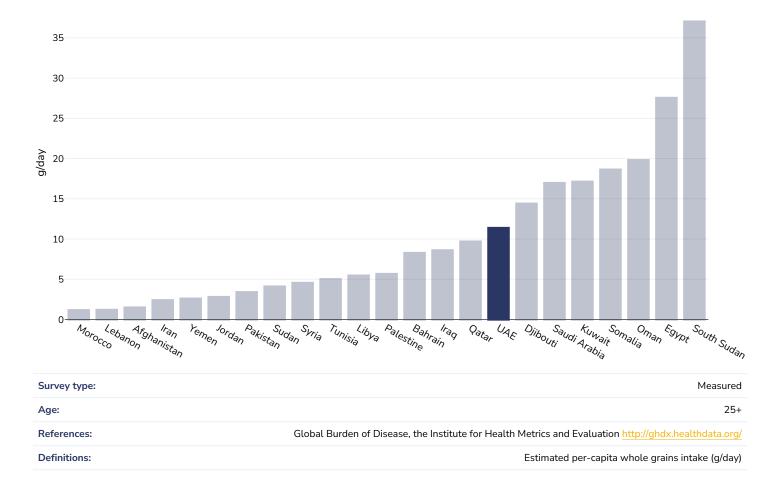


Estimated per-capita processed meat intake





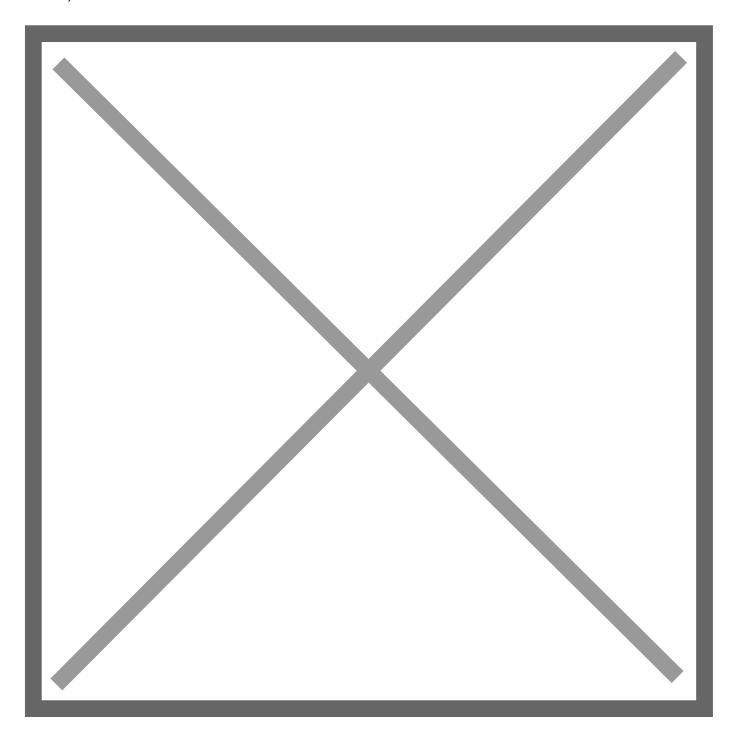
Estimated per capita whole grains intake





Mental health - depression disorders

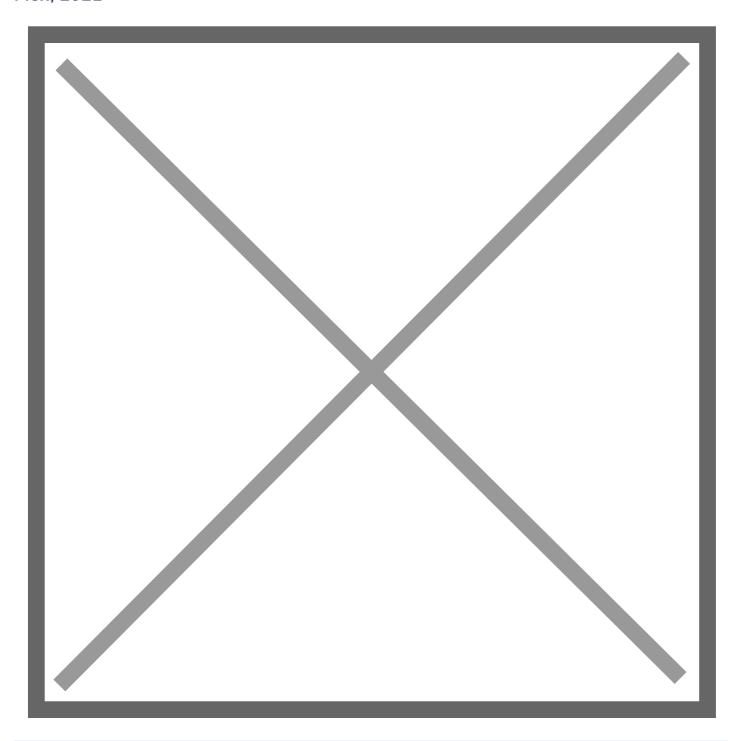




Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare . (Last accessed 23.04.25)
Definitions:	Number living with depression per 100,000 population (adults 20+ years)



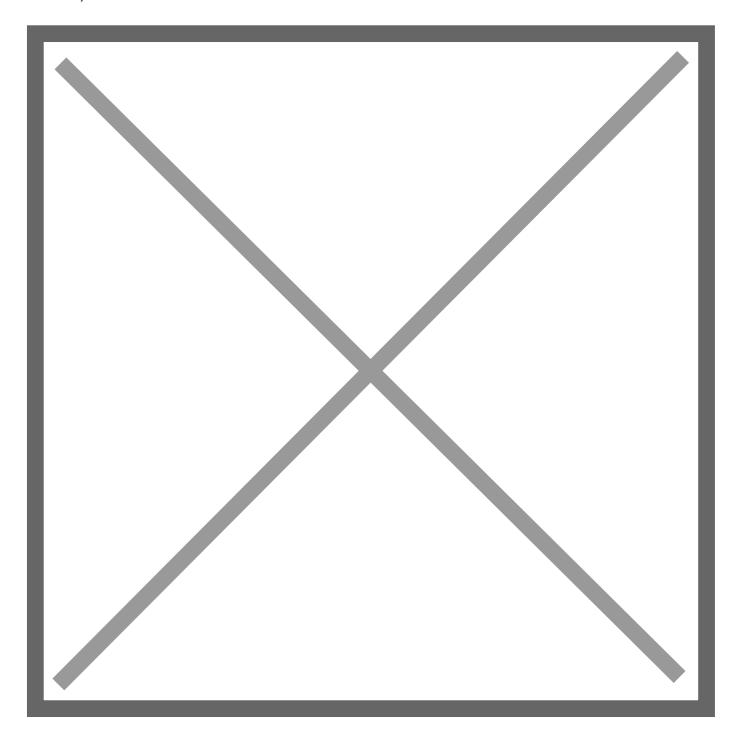
Men, 2021



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

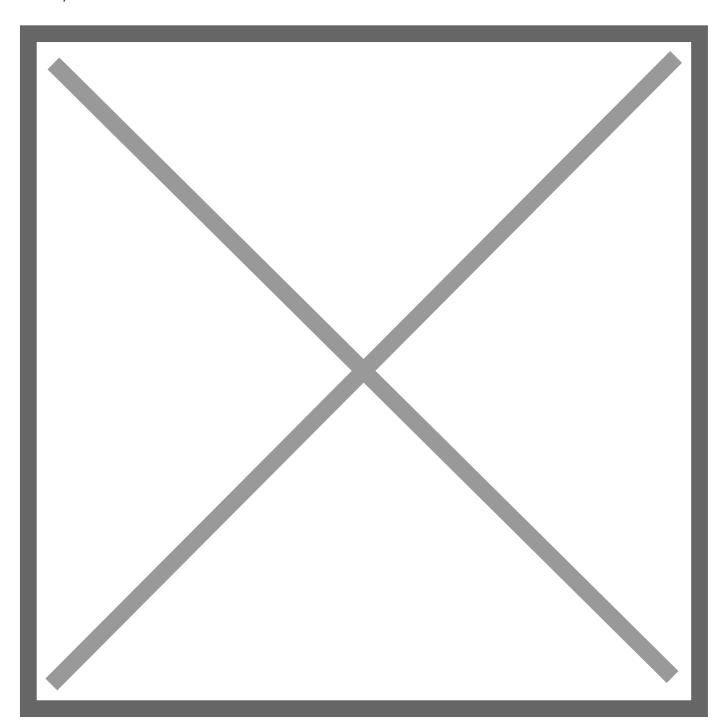


Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare . (Last accessed 23.04.25)
Definitions:	Number living with depression per 100,000 population (adults 20+ years)



Mental health - anxiety disorders

Adults, 2021



Age: 20+

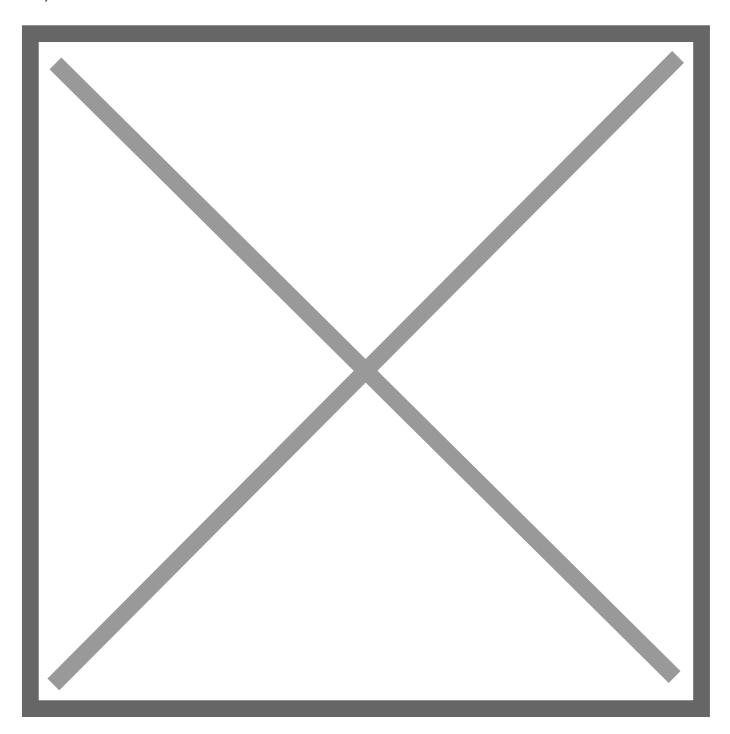
References: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021.

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



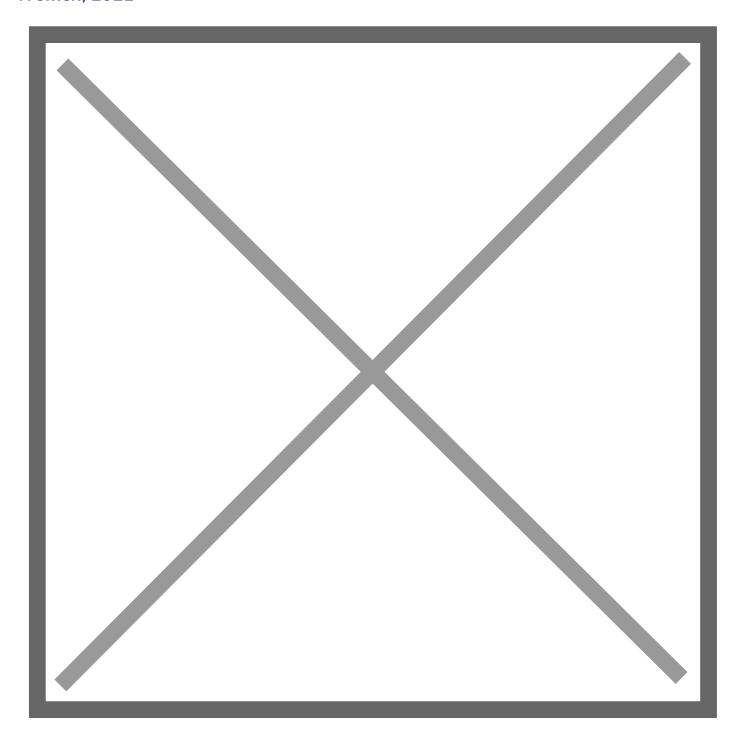
Men, 2021



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:

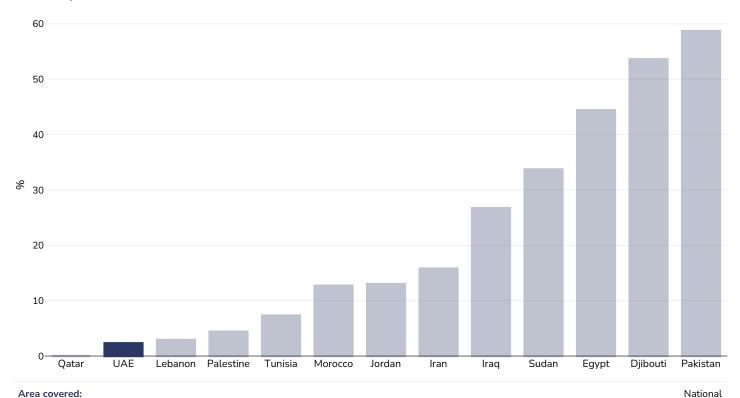
References: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). GBD Compare Data Visualization. Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021. Seattle, WA: IHME, University of Washington, 2023. Available from http://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare. (Last accessed 23.04.25).

Definitions: Number living with anxiety per 100,000 population



Percent of population who cannot afford a healthy diet

Adults, 2022



Area covered:

References:

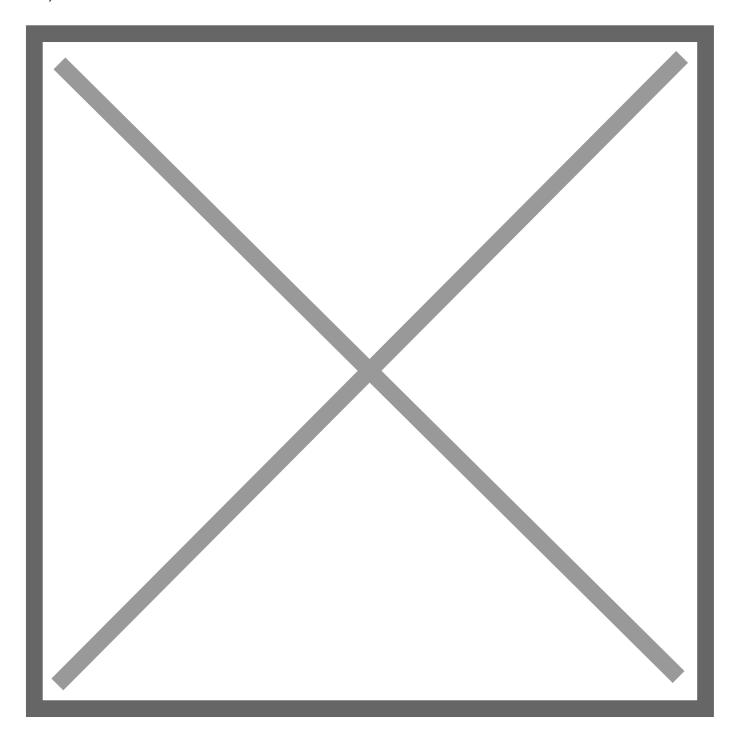
The Food Systems Dashboard. The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), The Columbia Climate School, and Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. 2024. Geneva, Switzerland. https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org. DOI: https://doi.org/10.36072/db.



Oesophageal cancer



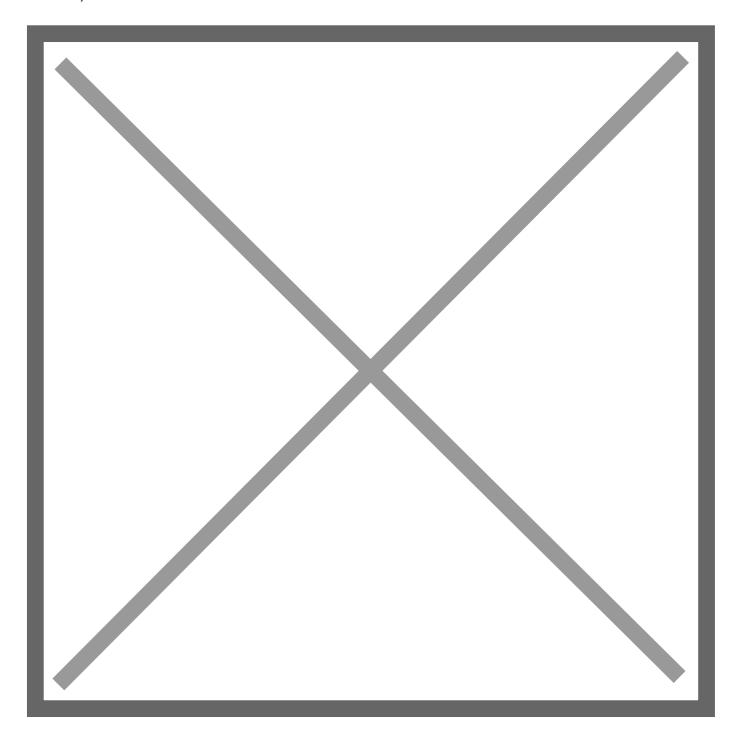
Men, 2022



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



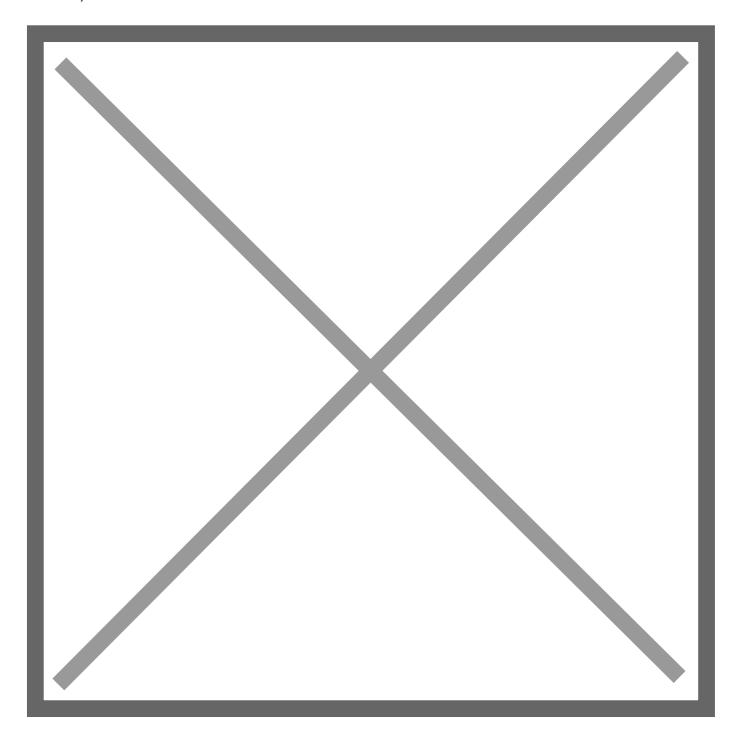
Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Indicence per 100,000



Breast cancer



Women, 2022



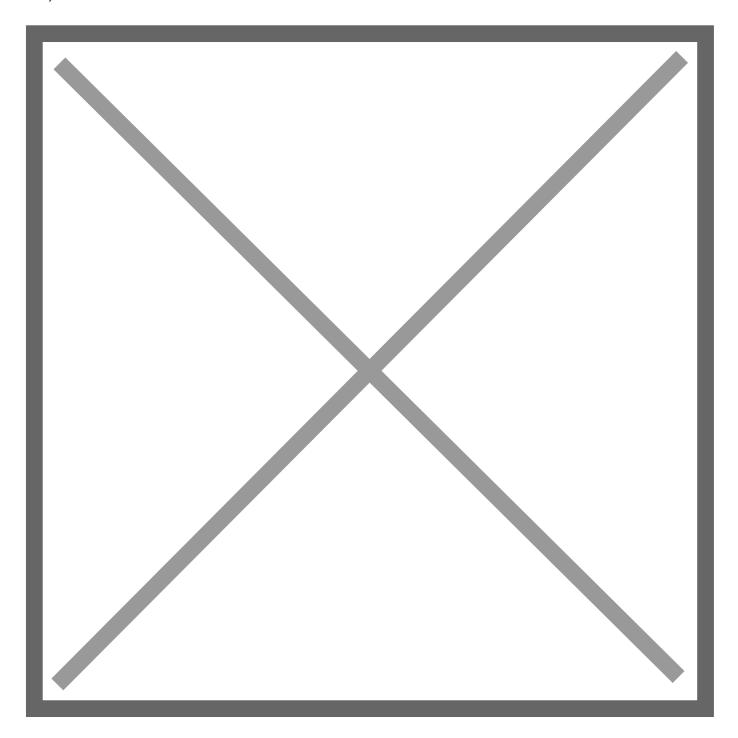
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000



Colorectal cancer



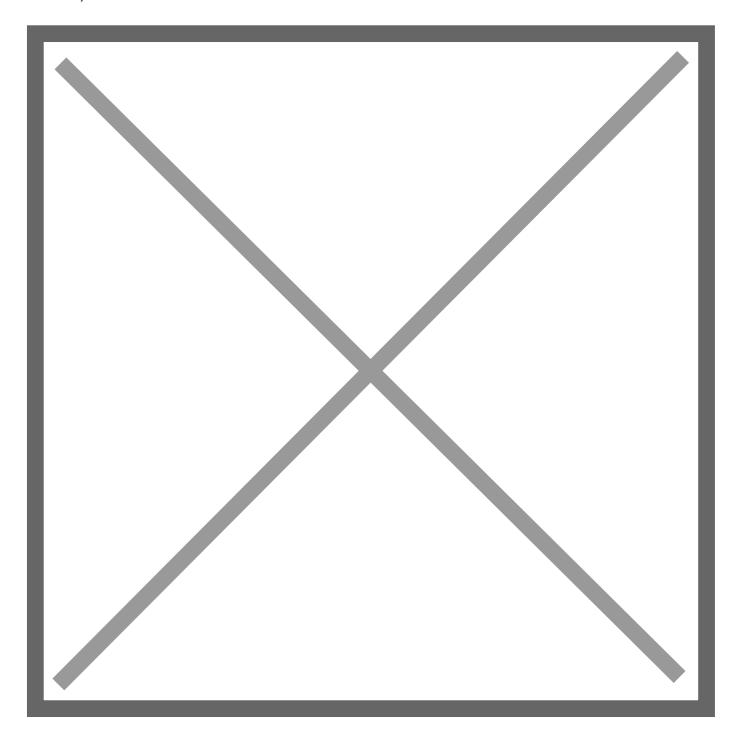
Men, 2022



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



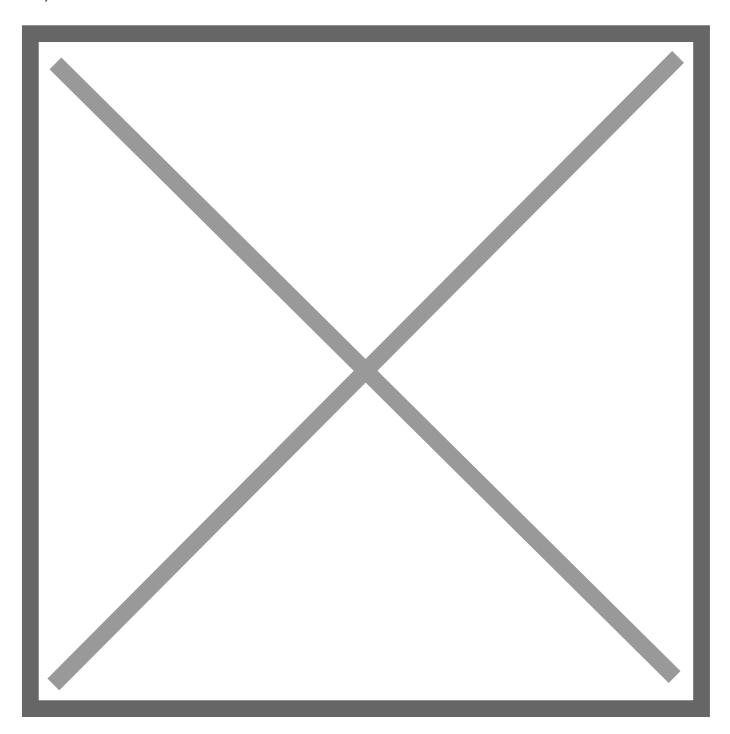
Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100.000



Pancreatic cancer

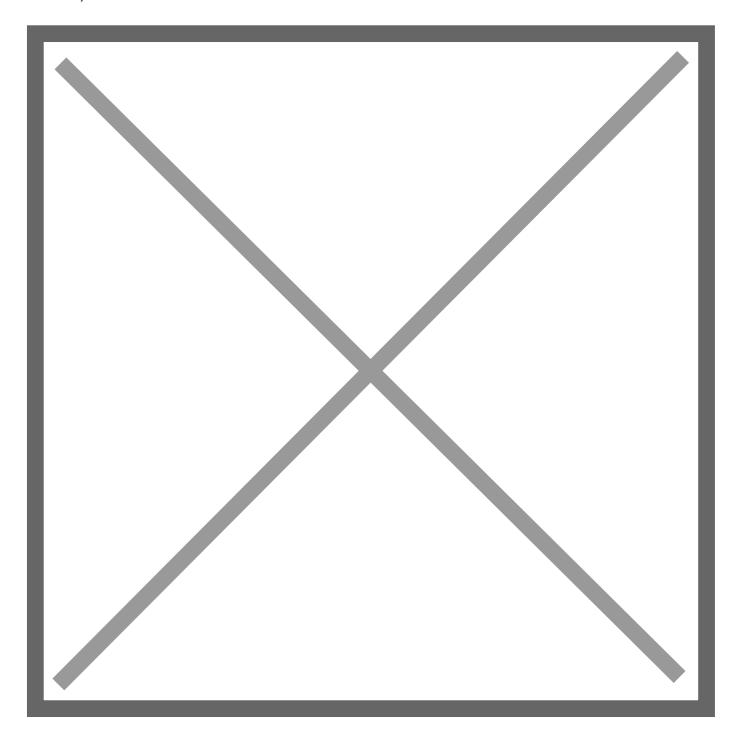


Men, 2022



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





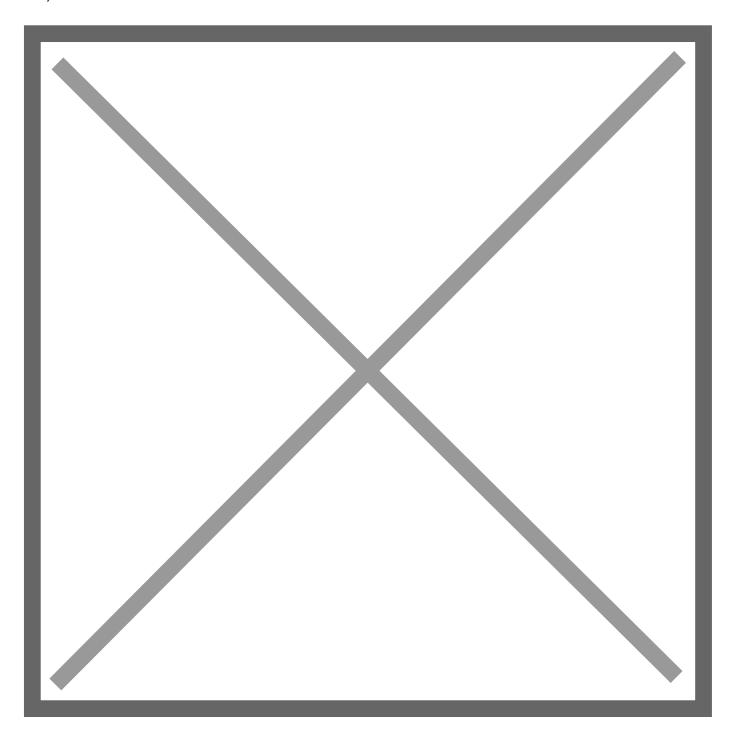
Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000



Gallbladder cancer

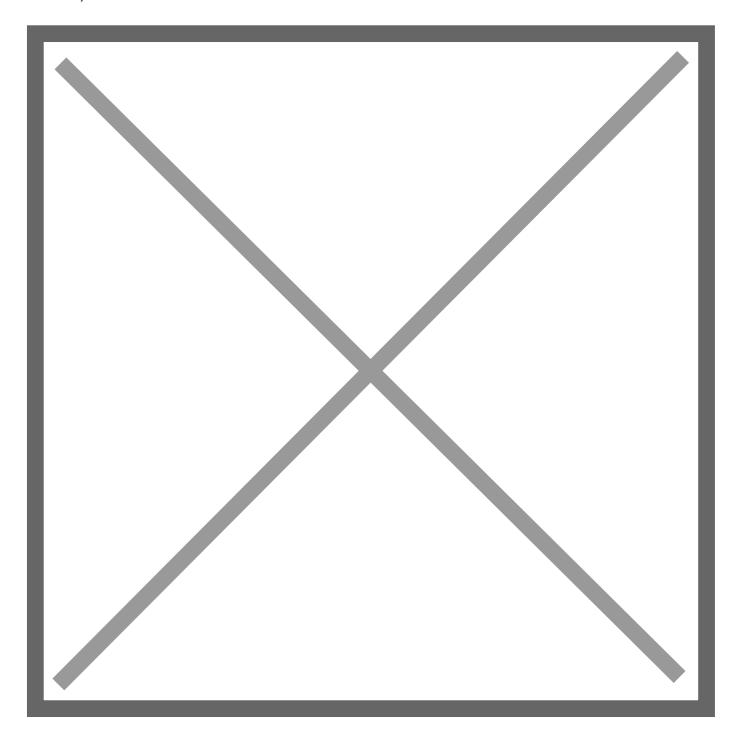


Men, 2022



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





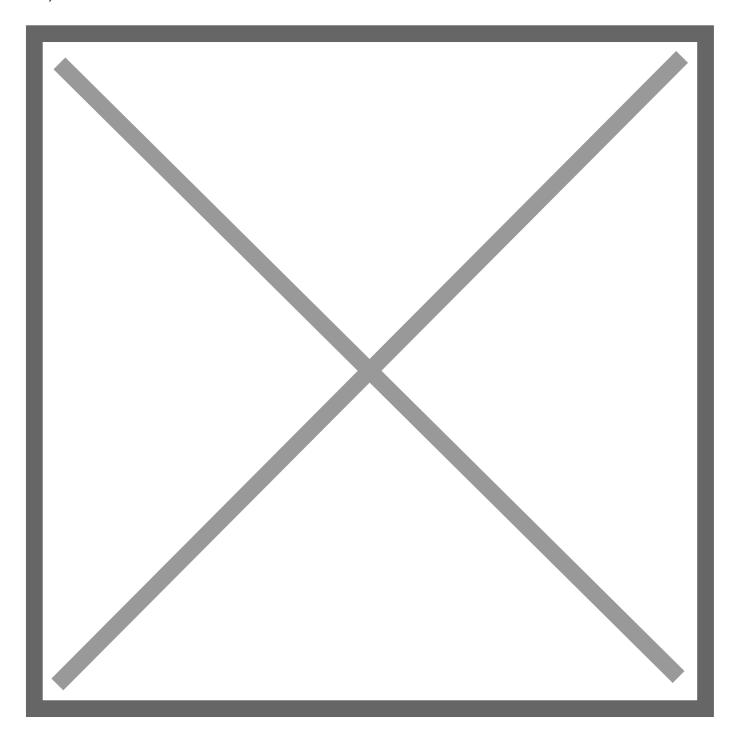
Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Indicence per 100,000



Kidney cancer

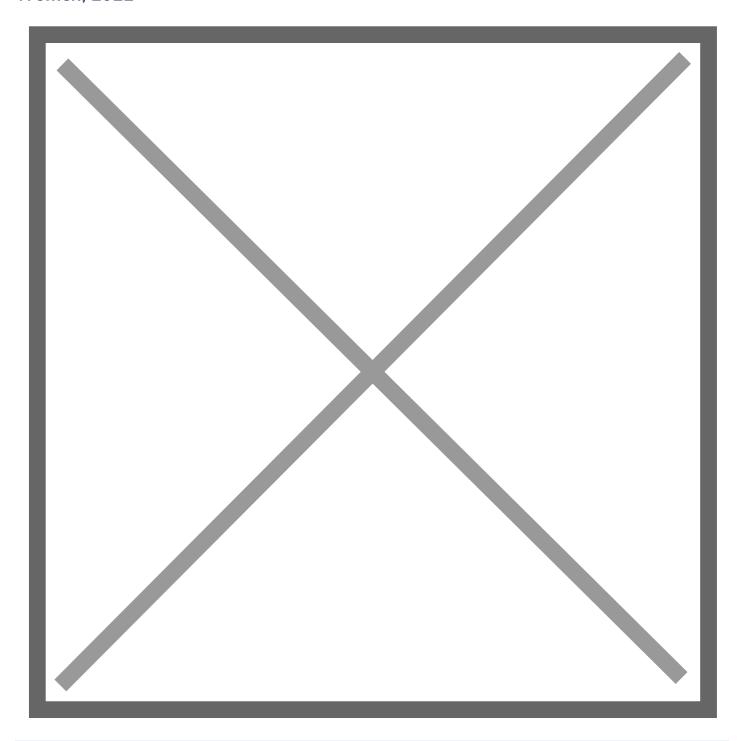


Men, 2022



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





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



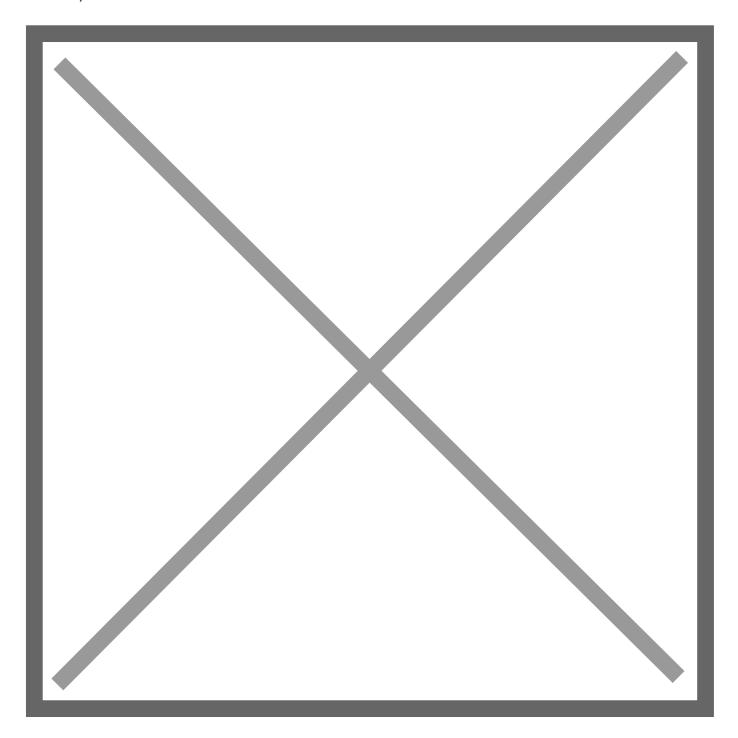
Cancer of the uterus

accessed [16.07.24]



Women, 2022

References:



Age: 20+

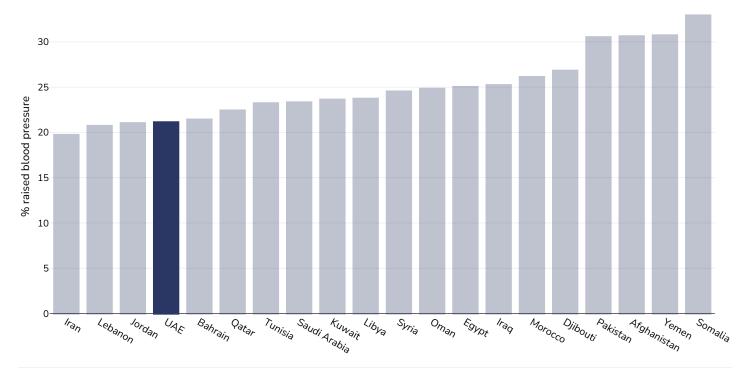
Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today,

Definitions: Incidence per 100,000



Raised blood pressure

Adults, 2015



References:

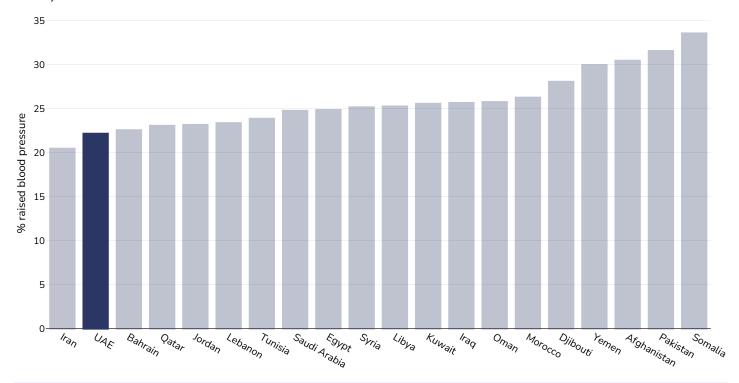
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en

Definitions:

Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP>=140 OR DBP>=90).



Men, 2015



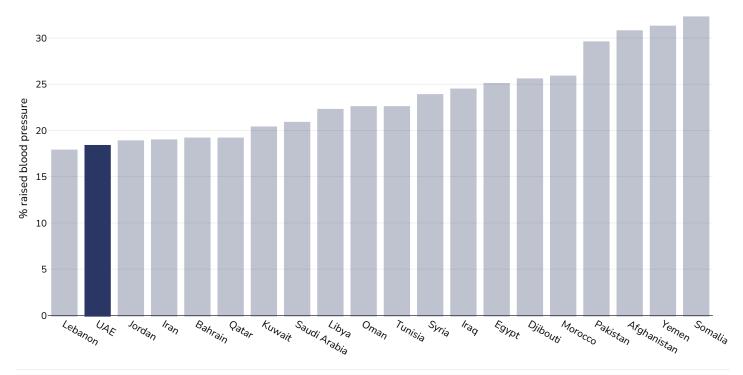
References:

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).





References:

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

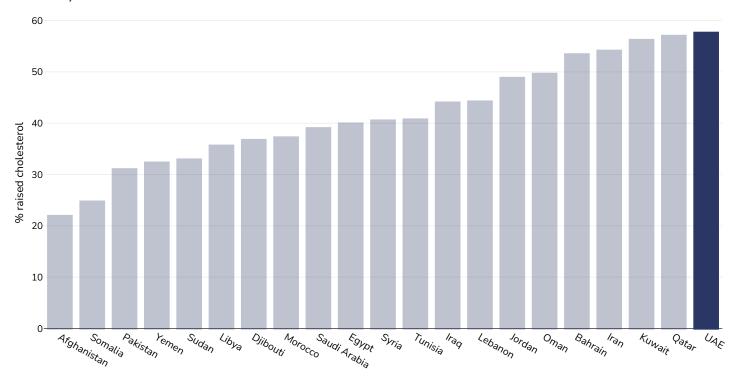
Definitions:

Age Standardised estimated % Raised blood pressure 2015 (SBP>=140 OR DBP>=90).



Raised cholesterol

Adults, 2008



References:

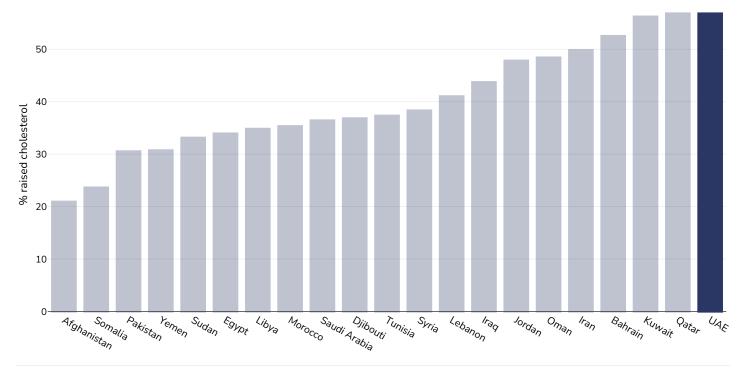
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation, http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885

Definitions:

% Raised total cholesterol (>= 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).



Men, 2008



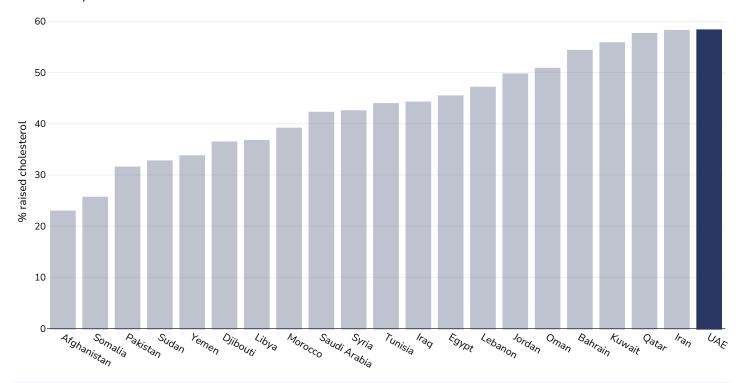
References:

 ${\sf Global\ Health\ Observatory\ data\ repository,\ World\ Health\ Organisation,\ } \underline{{\sf http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.} A885}$

Definitions:

% Raised total cholesterol (>= 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).





References:

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

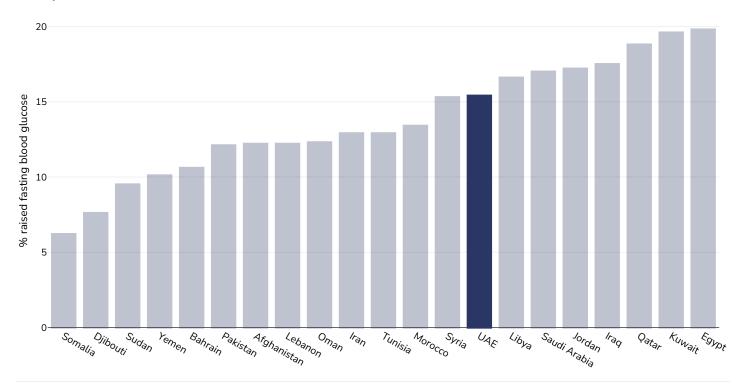
Definitions:

% Raised total cholesterol (>= 5.0 mmol/L) (age-standardized estimate).



Raised fasting blood glucose

Men, 2014



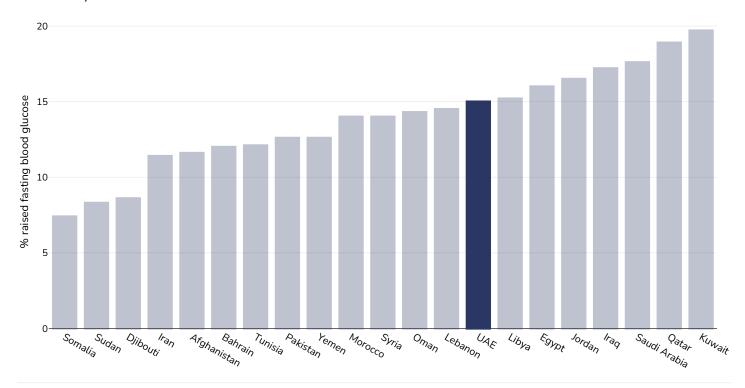
References:

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).





References:

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

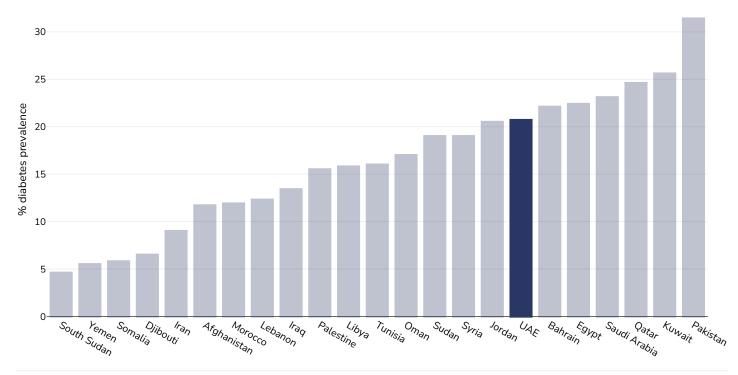
Definitions:

Age Standardised % raised fasting blood glucose (>= 7.0 mmol/L or on medication).



Diabetes prevalence

Adults, 2024



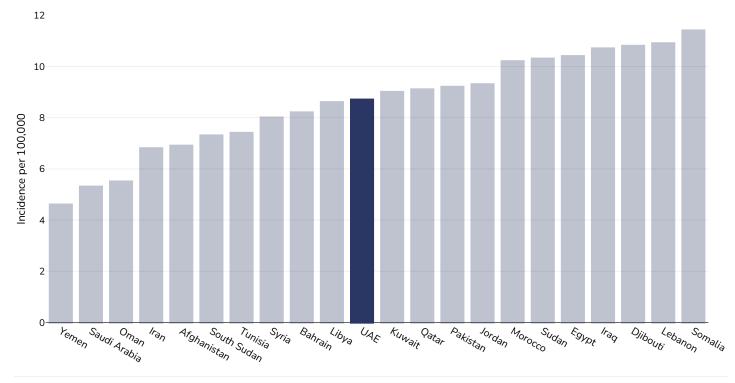
References:

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]

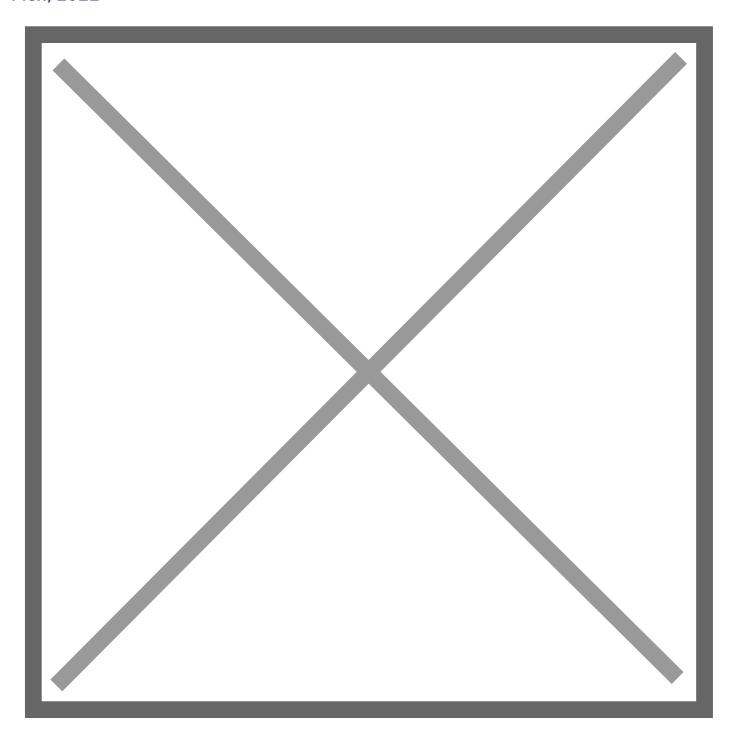
Definitions: Incidence per 100,000



Leukemia



Men, 2022

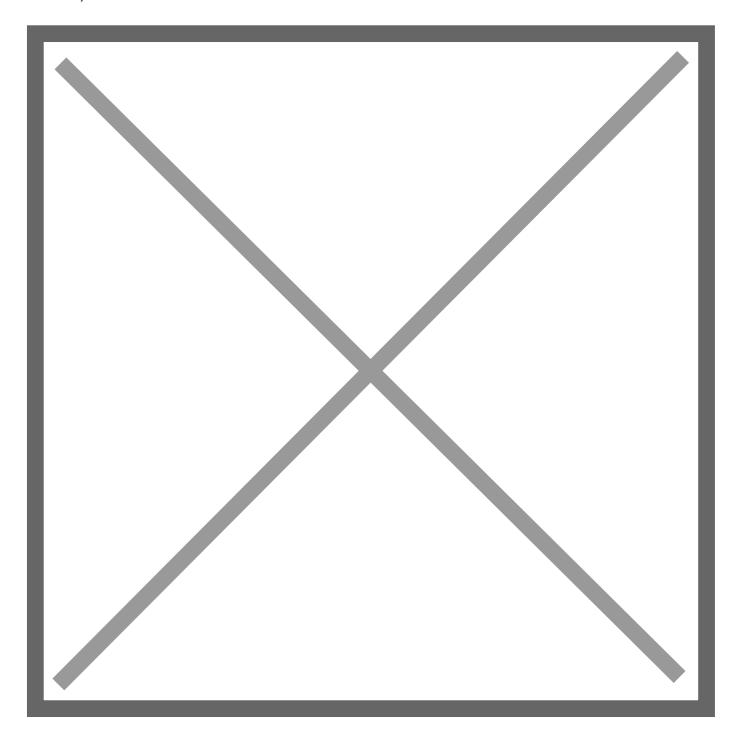


Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100 000



 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$





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

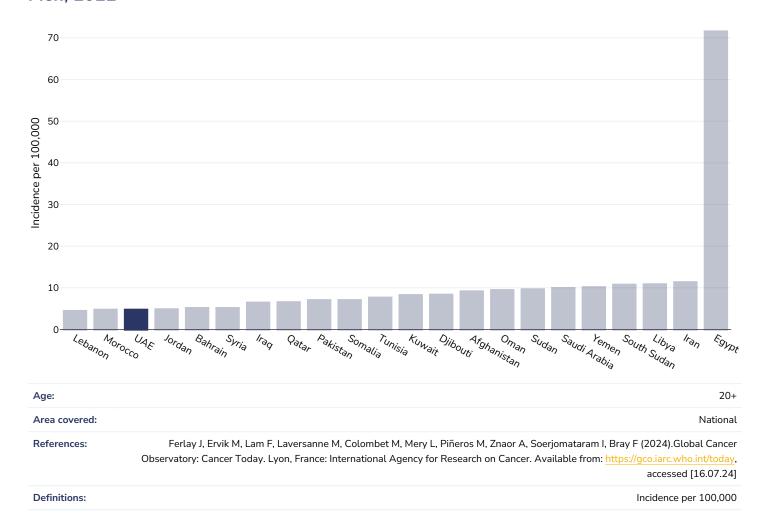


 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$

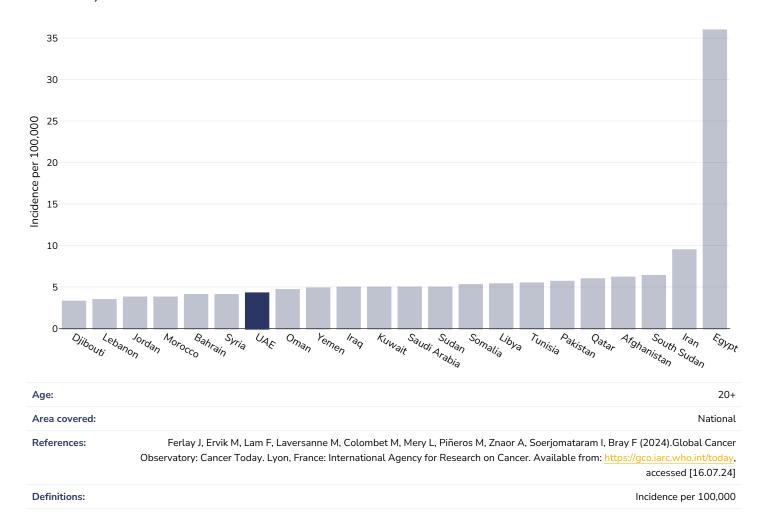


Liver and intrahepatic bile duct Cancer

Men, 2022



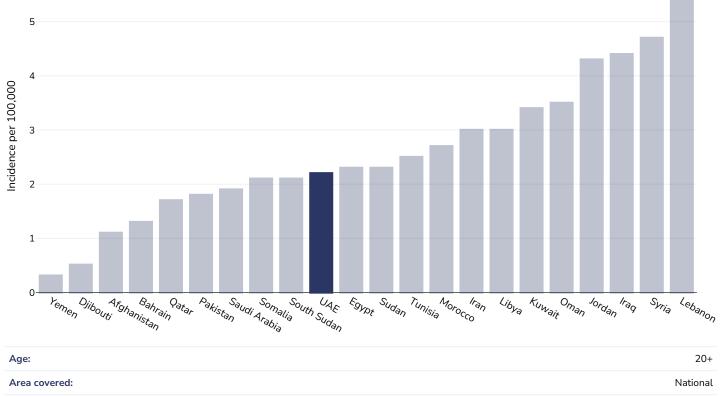






Multiple Myeloma

Men, 2022



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,

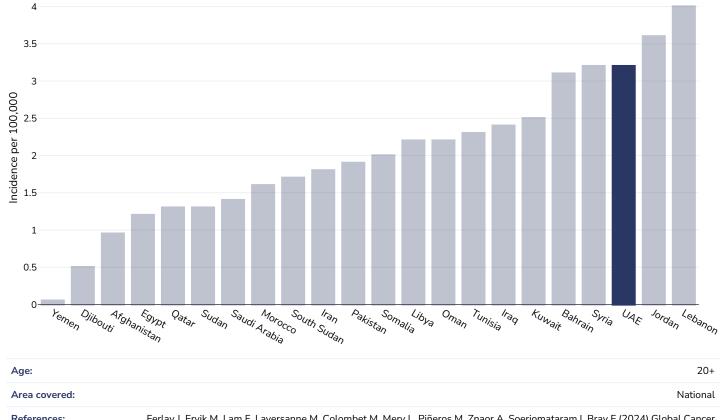
accessed [16.07.24]

Definitions:

Indicence per 100,000

 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$





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

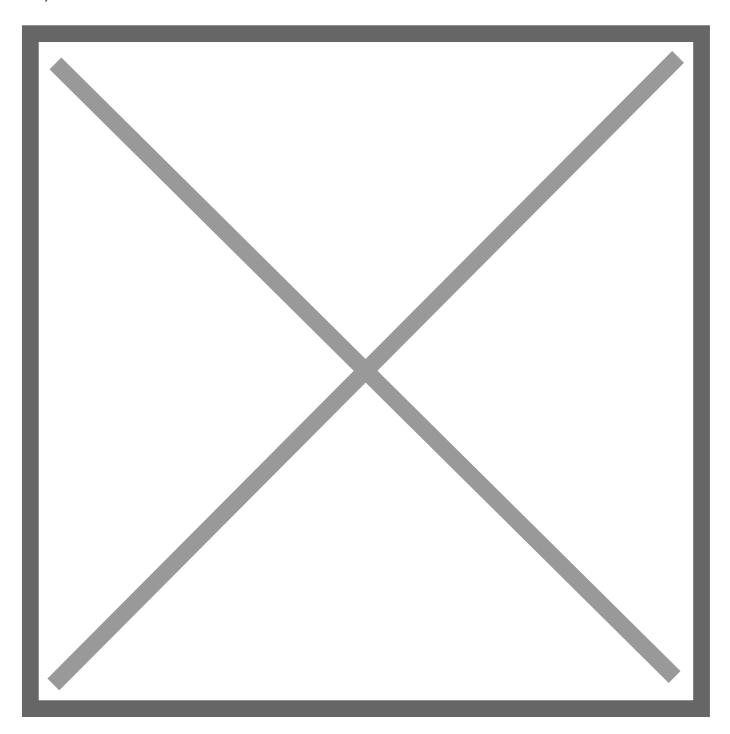
Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².



Non Hodgkin Lymphoma



Men, 2022

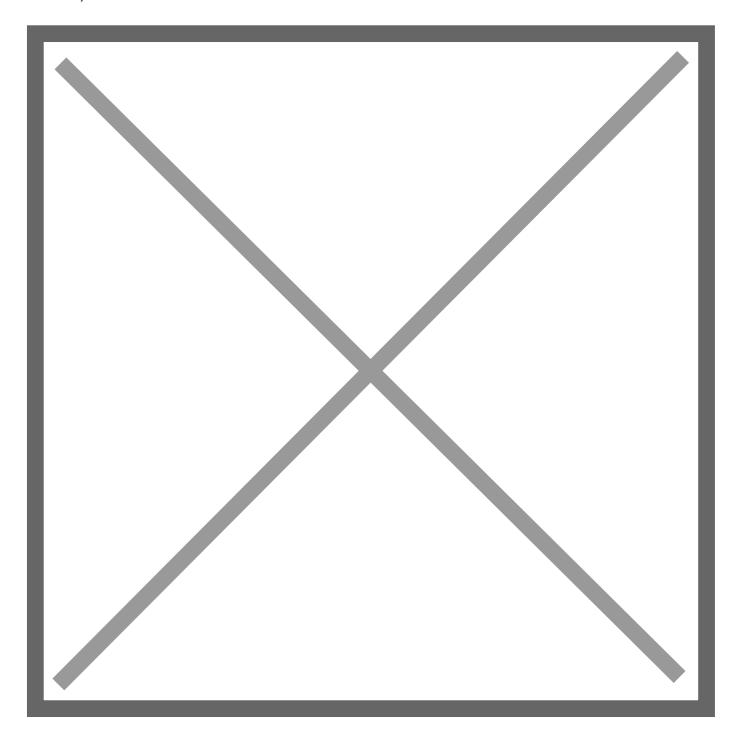


Age:	20+
Area covered:	National
References:	Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Laversanne M, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2024).Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: https://gco.iarc.who.int/today , accessed [16.07.24]
Definitions:	Incidence per 100,000



 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$





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



 $Unless \ otherwise \ noted, overweight \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ between \ 25kg \ and \ 29.9kg/m^2, obesity \ refers \ to \ a \ BMI \ greater \ than \ 30kg/m^2.$

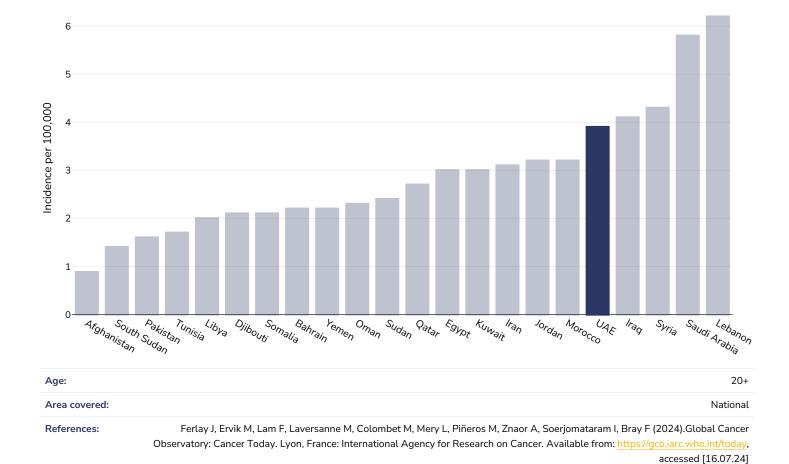
Incidence per 100,000



Thyroid Cancer

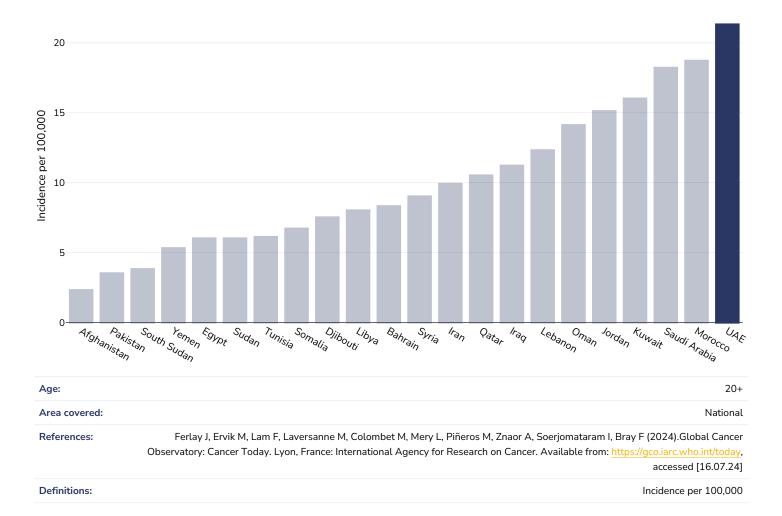
Men, 2022

Definitions:



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PDF created on September 17, 2025