

Report card

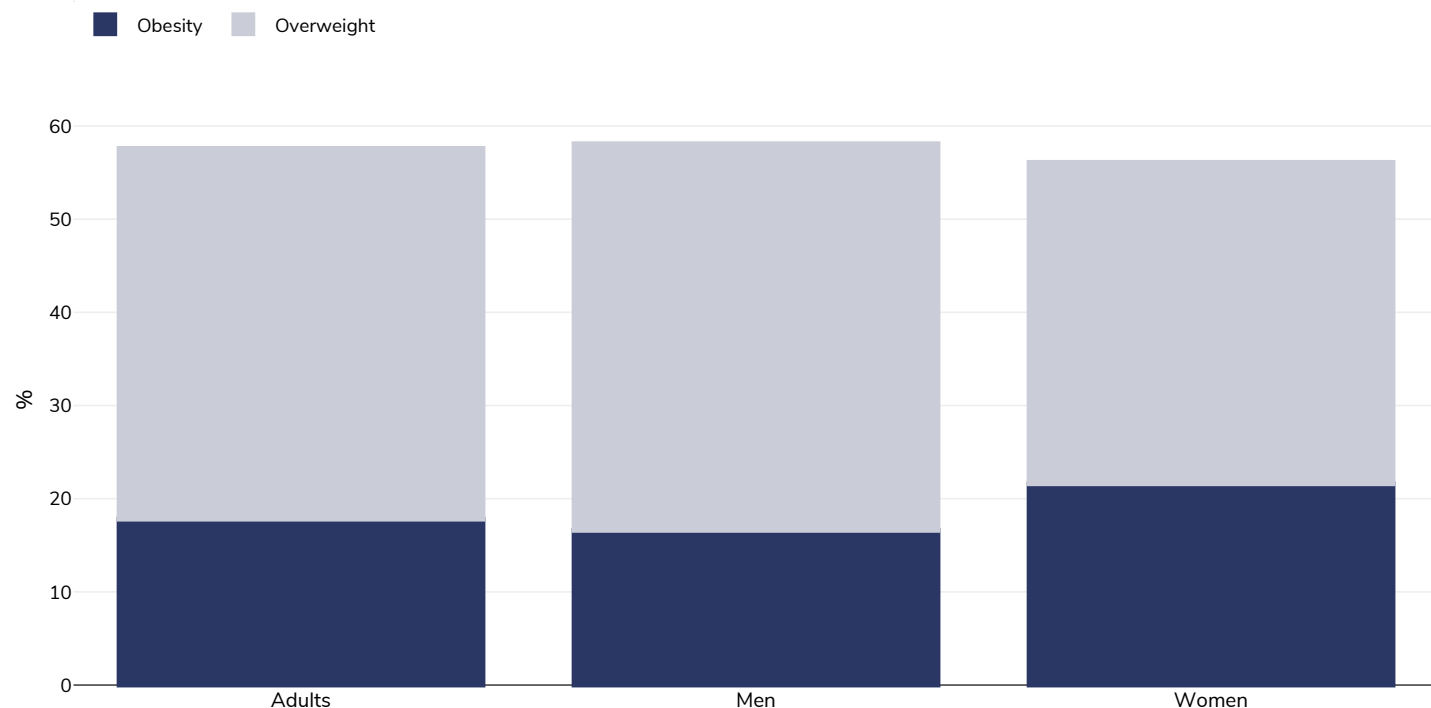
United Arab Emirates



Contents	Page
Obesity prevalence	2
Overweight/obesity by education	4
Overweight/obesity by age	5
Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group	7
Overweight/obesity by ethnicity	8
Insufficient physical activity	11
Average daily frequency of carbonated soft drink consumption	17
Estimated per capita fruit intake	18
Prevalence of less than daily fruit consumption	19
Prevalence of less than daily vegetable consumption	20
Average weekly frequency of fast food consumption	21
Estimated per-capita processed meat intake	22
Estimated per capita whole grains intake	23
Mental health - depression disorders	24
Mental health - anxiety disorders	25
Oesophageal cancer	26
Breast cancer	28
Colorectal cancer	29
Pancreatic cancer	31
Gallbladder cancer	33
Kidney cancer	35
Cancer of the uterus	37
Raised blood pressure	38
Raised cholesterol	41
Raised fasting blood glucose	44
Diabetes prevalence	46
Contextual factors	47

Obesity prevalence

Adults, 2019



Survey type: Measured

Age: 18+

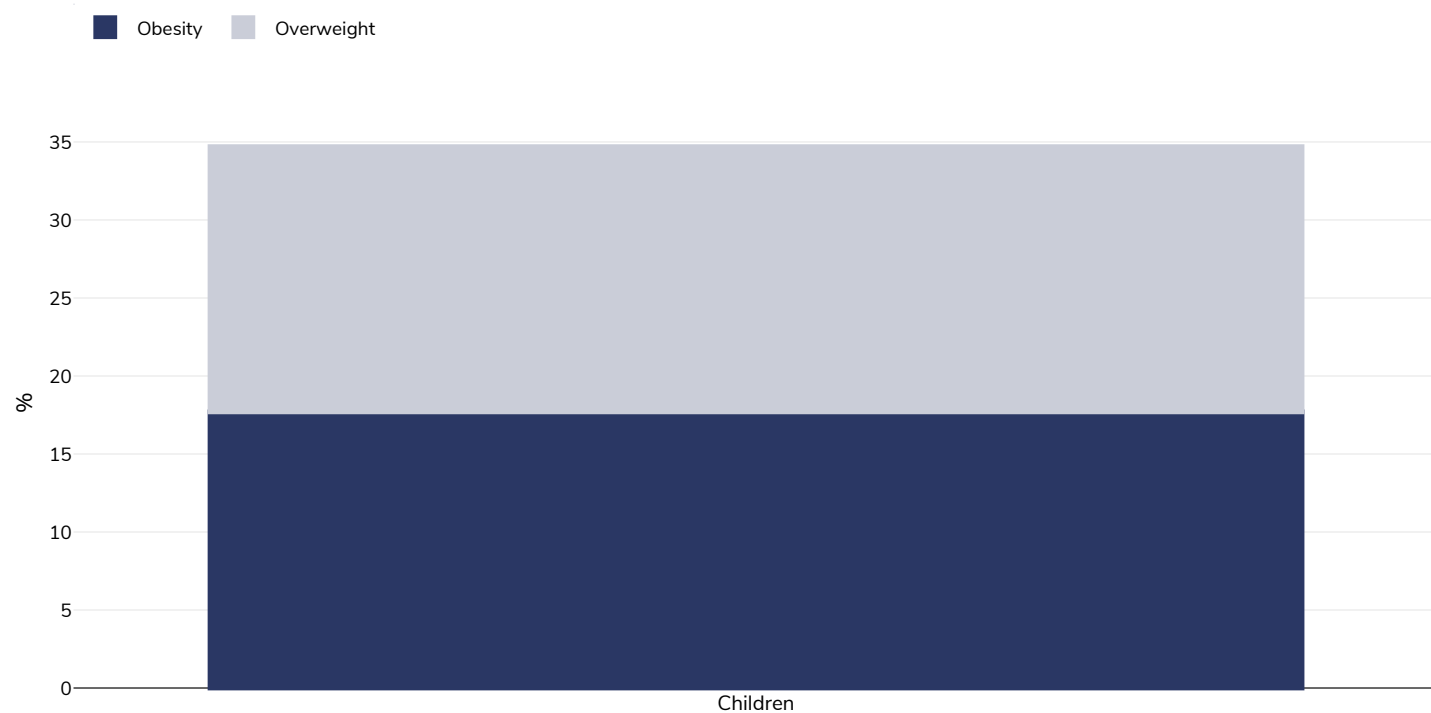
Sample size: 2142

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/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².

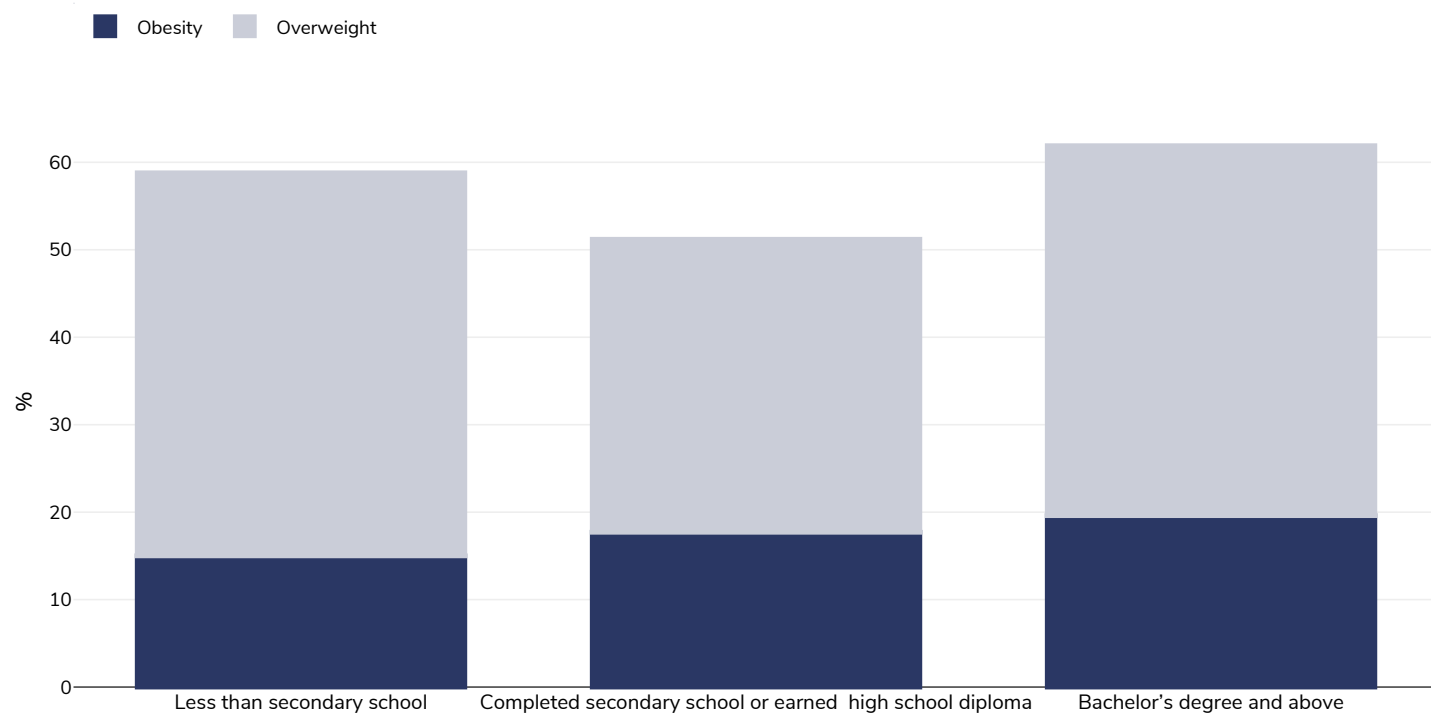
Children, 2018-2019



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	13-19
Sample size:	932
Area covered:	National
References:	Baniissa W, Radwan H, Rossiter R, et al. Prevalence and determinants of overweight/ obesity among school-aged adolescents in the United Arab Emirates: a crosssectional study of private and public schools. <i>BMJ Open</i> 2020;10:e038667. doi:10.1136/ bmjopen-2020-038667
Notes:	Small sample size. Convenience sampling was used to select classes. Students with chronic diseases (eg, type 2 diabetes, cancer and mental health conditions) based on information from students' school records where excluded.
Definitions:	A BMI at or above the 85th percentile for adolescents was adopted to classify participants as either overweight/obese
Cutoffs:	CDC

Overweight/obesity by education

Adults, 2019

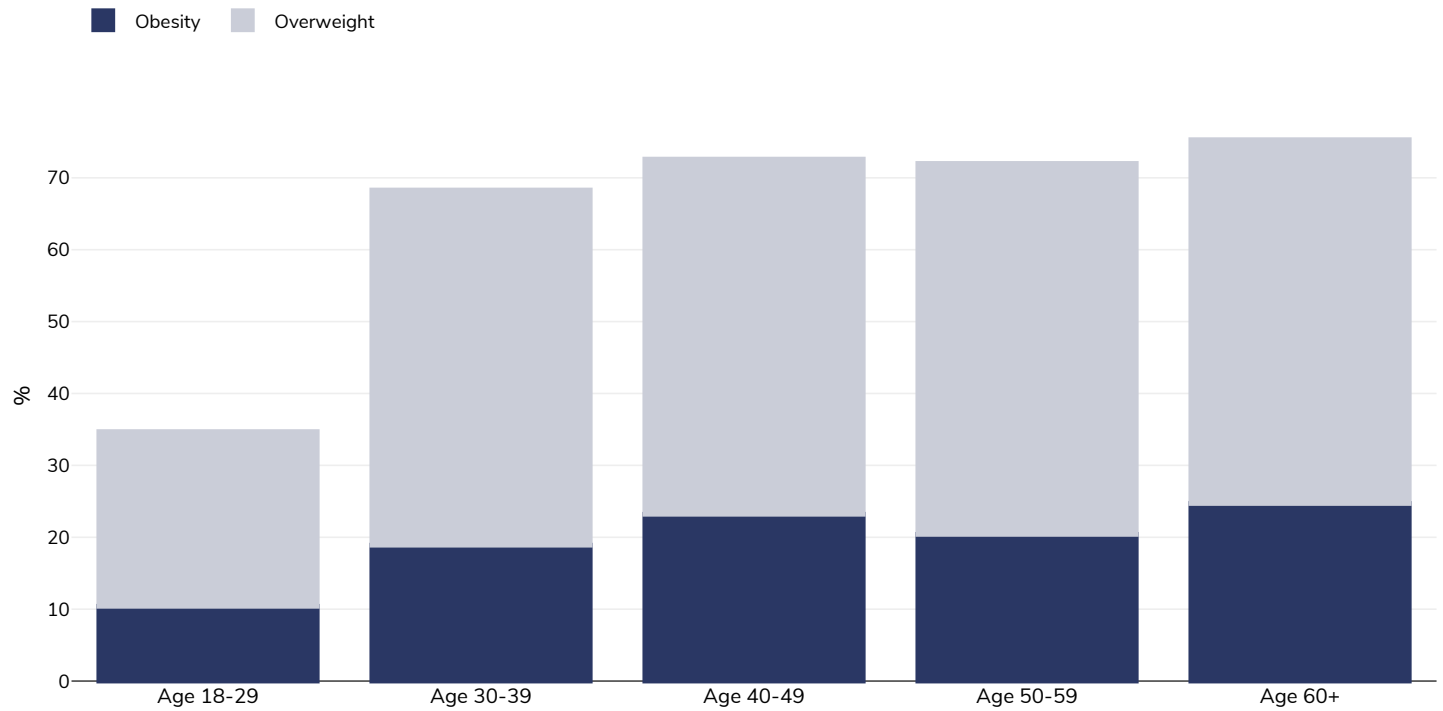


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	2142
Area covered:	Dubai
References:	Mamdouh H, Hussain HY, Ibrahim GM, Alawadi F, Hassanein M, Zarooni AA, Suwaidi HA, Hassan A, Alsheikh-Ali A, Alnakhi WK. Prevalence and associated risk factors of overweight and obesity among adult population in Dubai: a population-based cross-sectional survey in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. <i>BMJ Open</i> . 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 age

Adults, 2019



Survey type: Measured

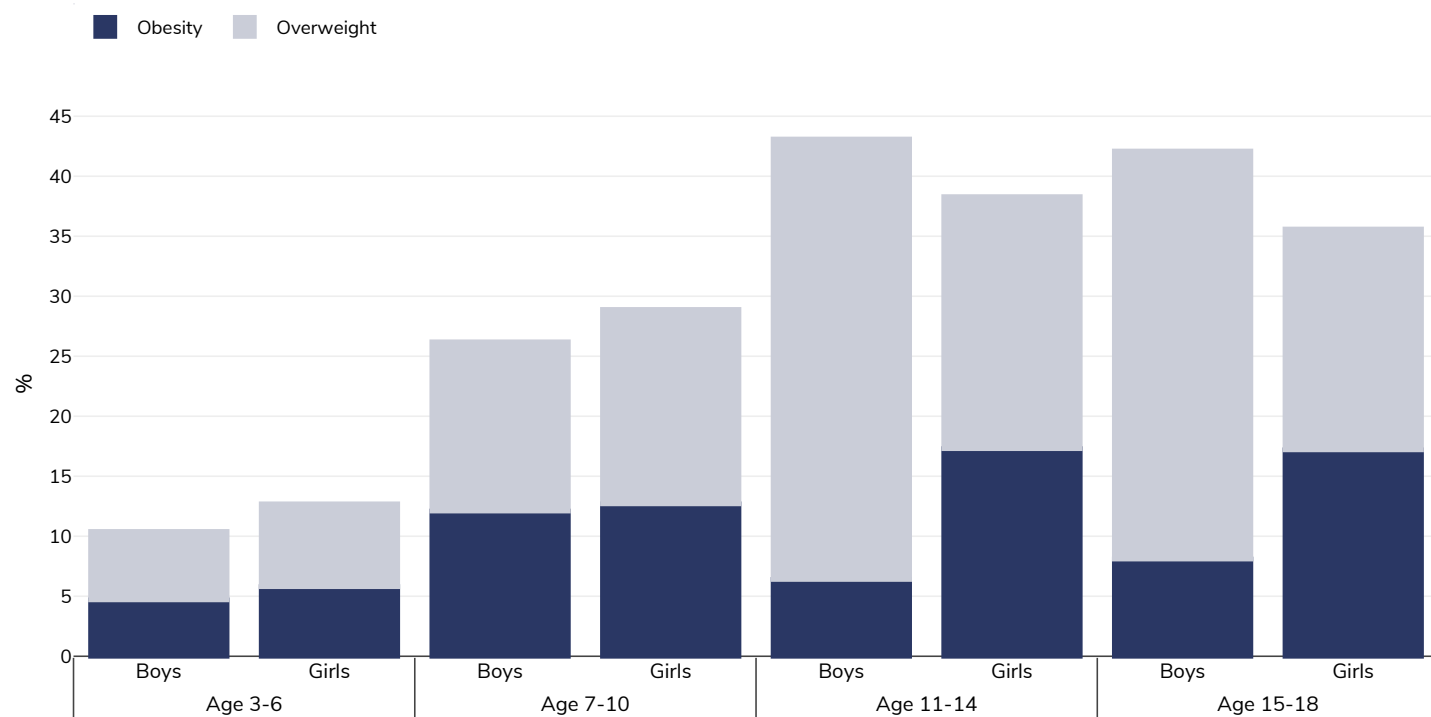
Sample size: 2142

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.

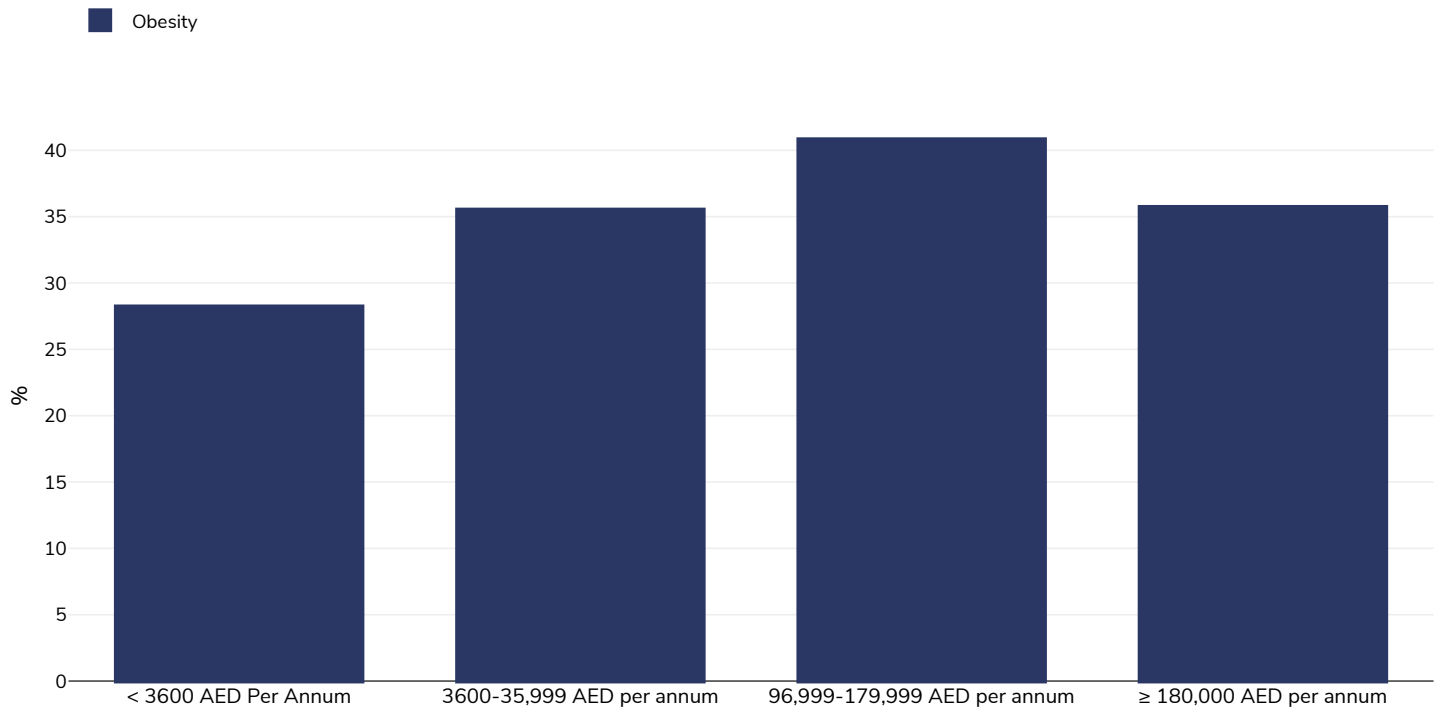
Children, 2014-2015



Survey type:	Measured
Sample size:	27113
Area covered:	Regional
References:	AlBlooshi, A., Shaban, S., AlTunaiji, M., Fares, N., AlShehhi, L., AlShehhi, H., AlMazrouei, A., and Souid, A.-K. (2016) Increasing obesity rates in school children in United Arab Emirates. <i>Obesity Science & Practice</i> , 2: 196–202. doi: 10.1002/osp4.37.
Notes:	International IOTF Cut Off
Cutoffs:	IOTF

Overweight/obesity by socio-economic group

Adults, 2012-2014

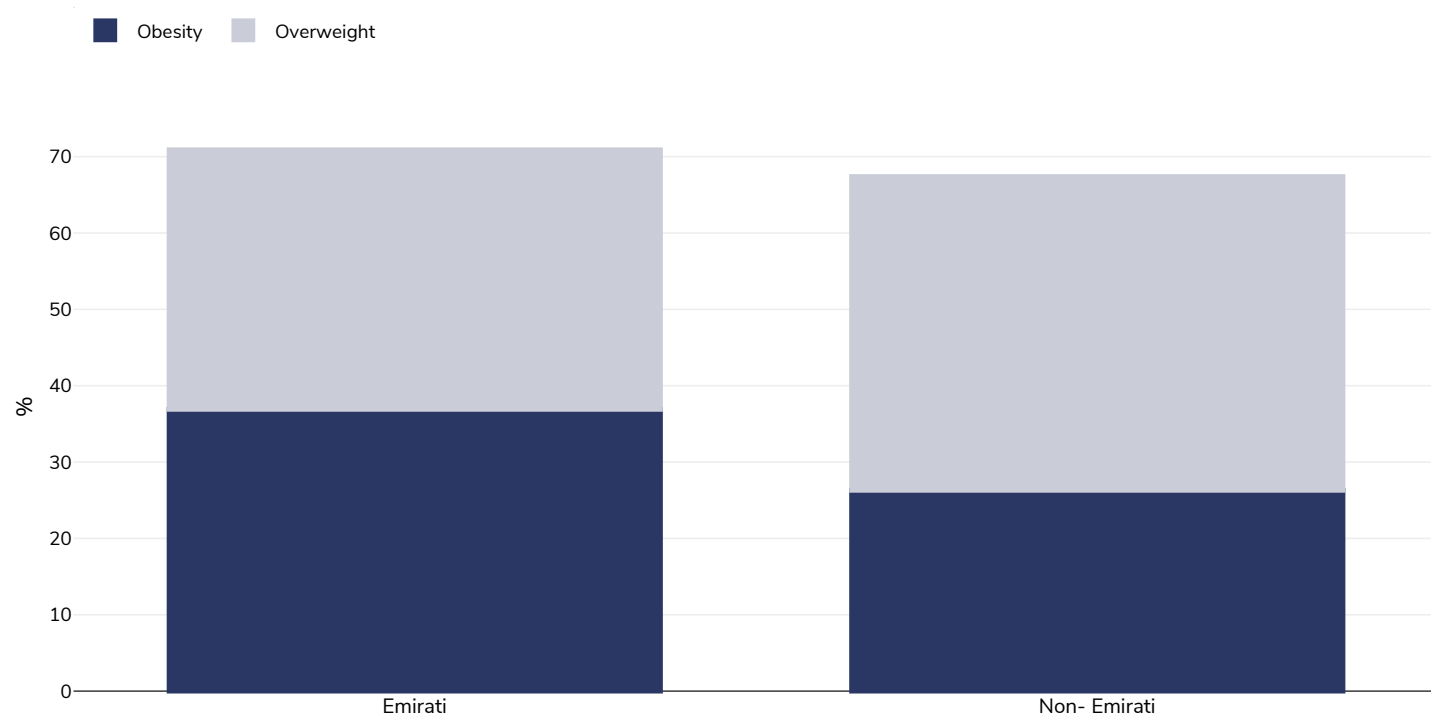


Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18+
Sample size:	2724
Area covered:	Expatriates (who make up approx 80% of UAE adult population)
References:	Sulaiman, Elbadawi, Hussein, Abusnana, Madani, Mairghani, Alawadi, Sulaiman, Zimmet, Huse, Shaw and Peeters. 2017. Prevalence of overweight and obesity in United Arab Emirates Expatriates: the UAE National Diabetes and Lifestyle Study. Diabetol Metab Syndr. 9(88). DOI 10.1186/s13098-017-0287-0.
Notes:	Expatriates only (though expatriates make up approx 80% of UAE adult population)
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 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, 2017-2018



Survey type: Measured

Age: 18-69

Sample size: 4815

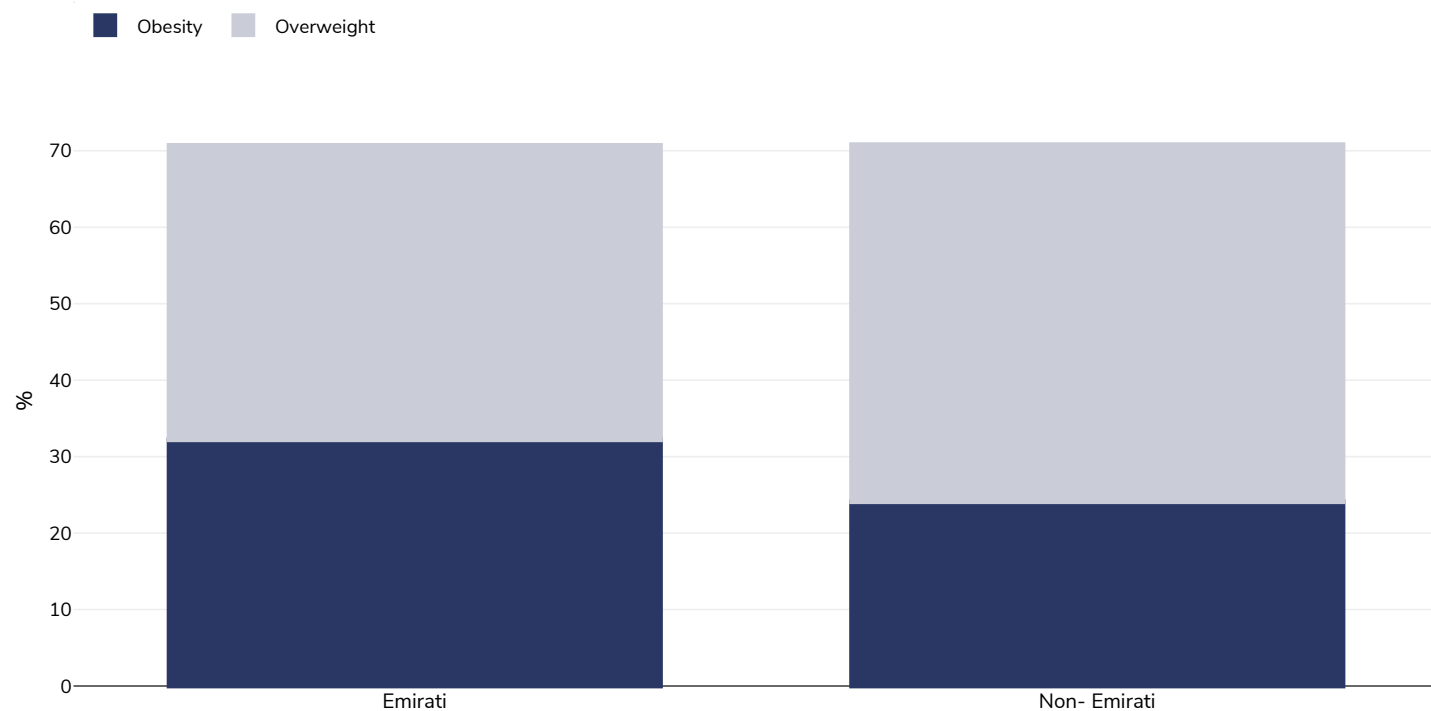
Area covered: National

References: UAE National Health Survey Report 2017-18. . https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/ncd-surveillance/data-reporting/united-arab-emirates/uae-national-health-survey-report-2017-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=86b8b1d9_1&download=true (last accessed 07.06.2022)

Notes: Small sample size of Emiratis.

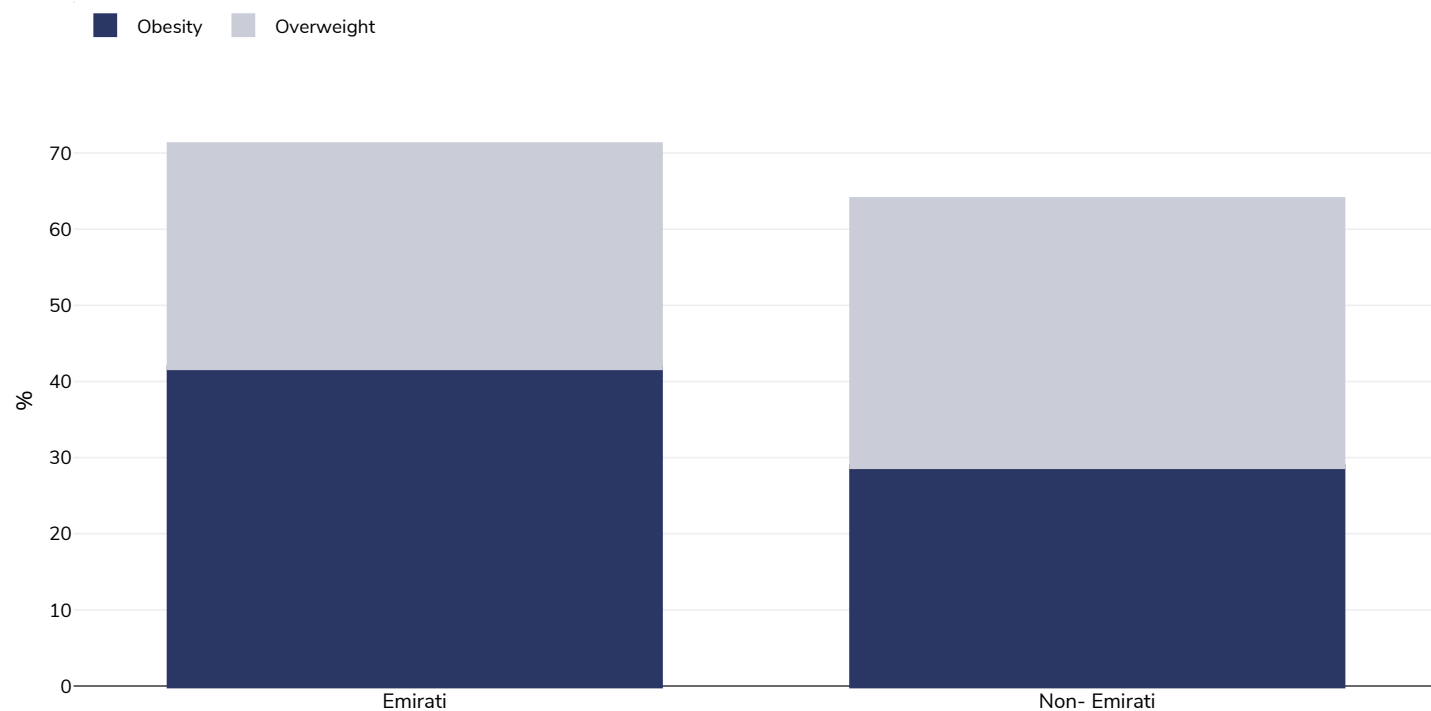
Unless otherwise noted, overweight refers to a BMI between 25kg and 29.9kg/m², obesity refers to a BMI greater than 30kg/m².

Men, 2017-2018



Survey type:	Measured
Age:	18-69
Sample size:	4815
Area covered:	National
References:	UAE National Health Survey Report 2017-18. . https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/ncd-surveillance/data-reporting/united-arab-emirates/uae-national-health-survey-report-2017-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=86b8b1d9_1&download=true (last accessed 07.06.2022)
Notes:	Small sample size of Emiratis.
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 .	

Women, 2017-2018



Survey type: Measured

Age: 18-69

Sample size: 4815

Area covered: National

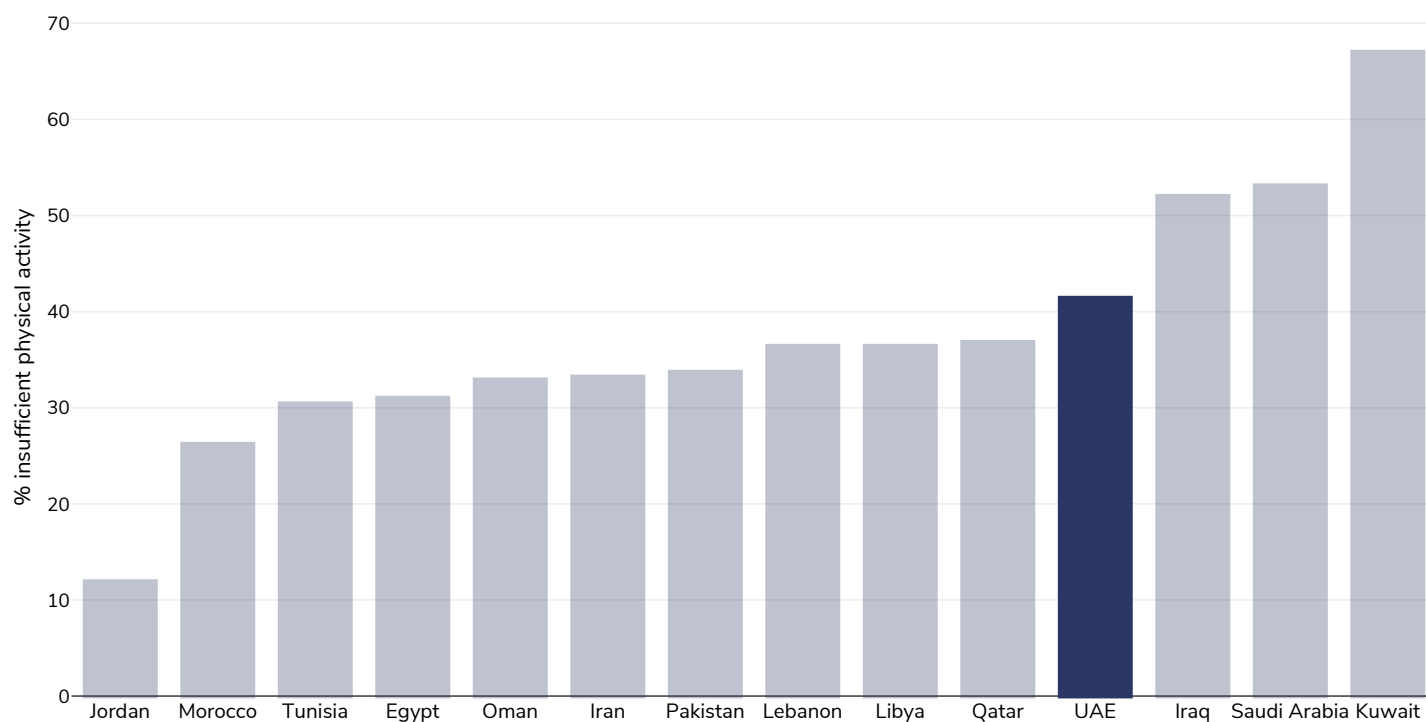
References: UAE National Health Survey Report 2017-18. . https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/ncds/ncd-surveillance/data-reporting/united-arab-emirates/uae-national-health-survey-report-2017-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=86b8b1d9_1&download=true (last accessed 07.06.2022)

Notes: Small sample size of Emiratis.

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

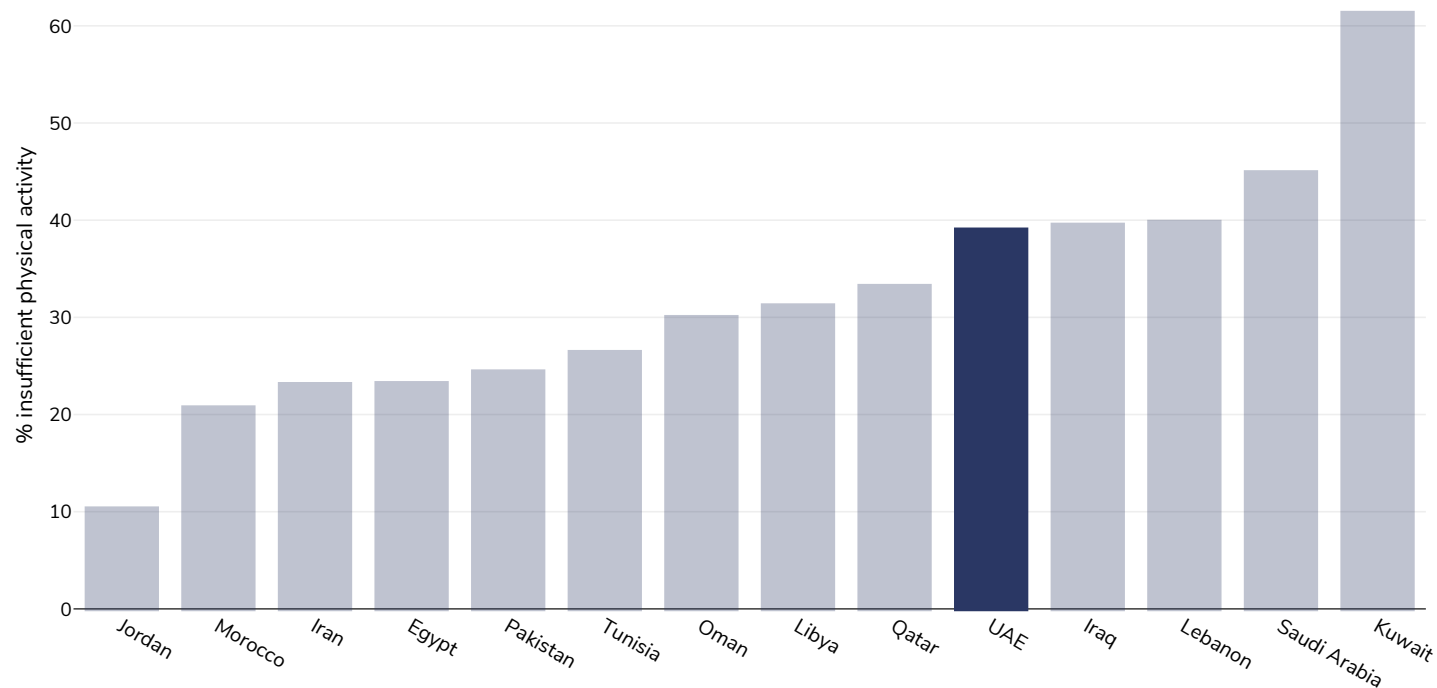
Insufficient physical activity

Adults, 2016



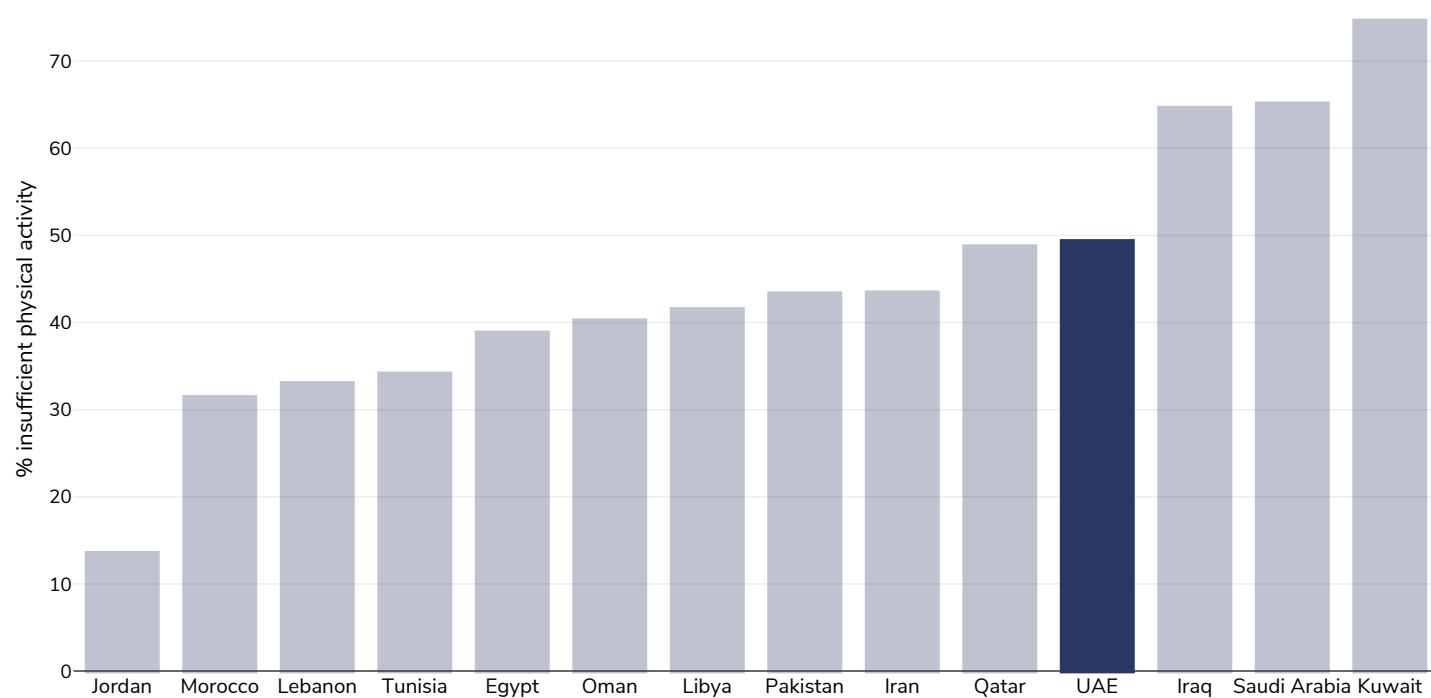
References: Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. Lancet 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

Men, 2016



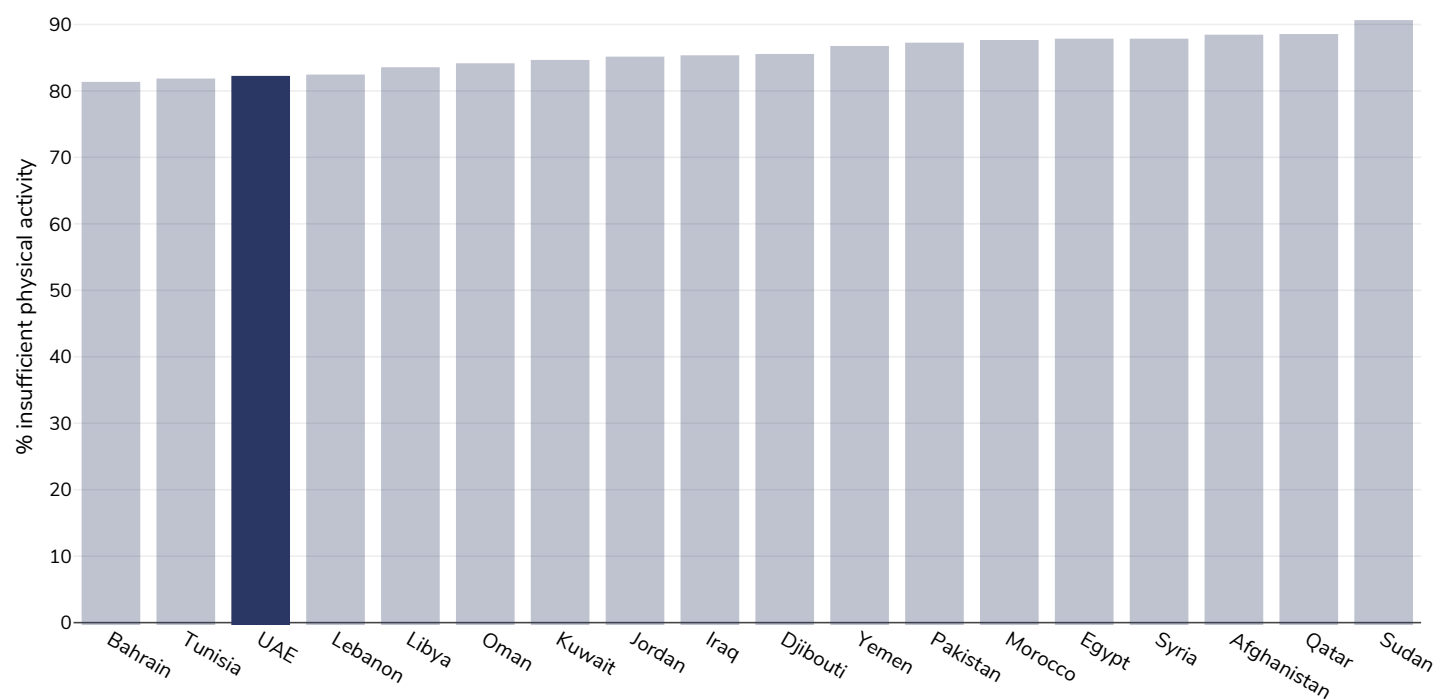
References: Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. Lancet 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

Women, 2016



References: Guthold R, Stevens GA, Riley LM, Bull FC. Worldwide trends in insufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. Lancet 2018 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(18\)30357-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7)

Children, 2016



Survey type: Self-reported

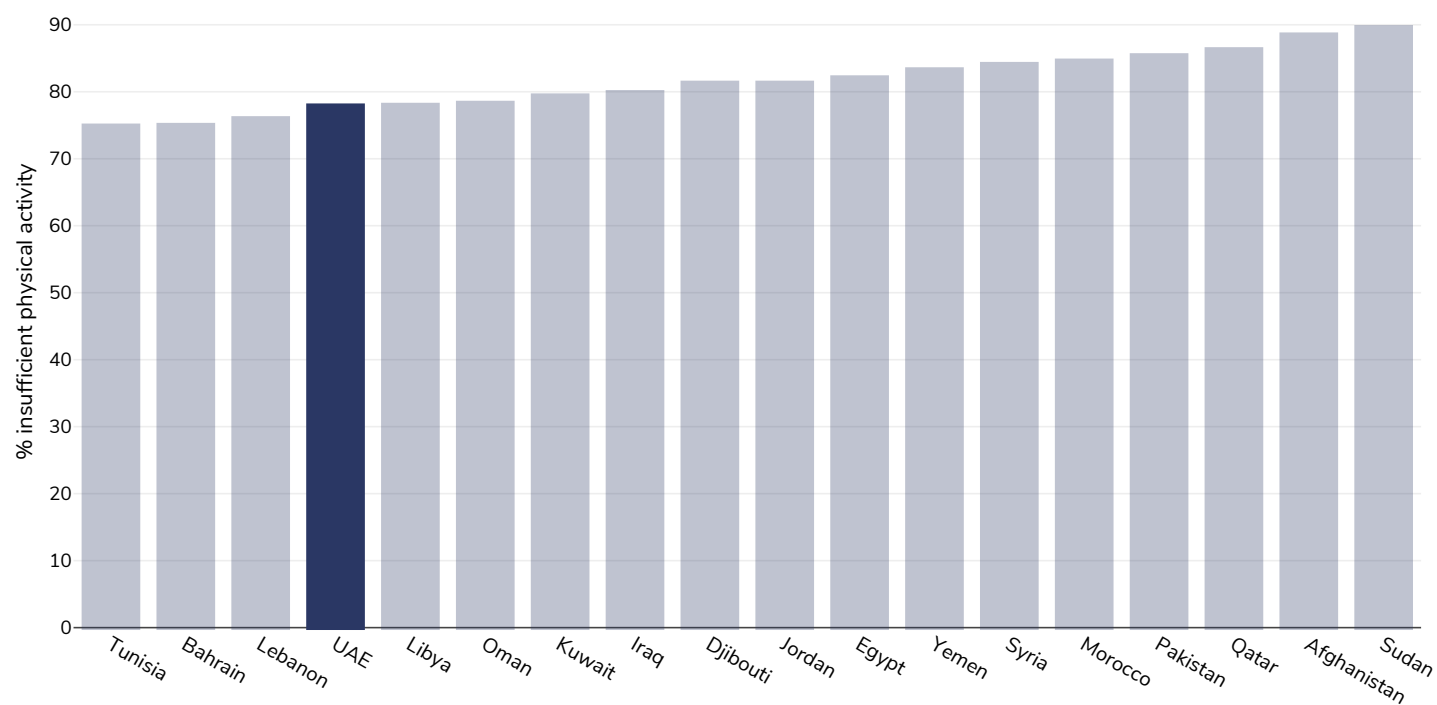
Age: 11-17

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)

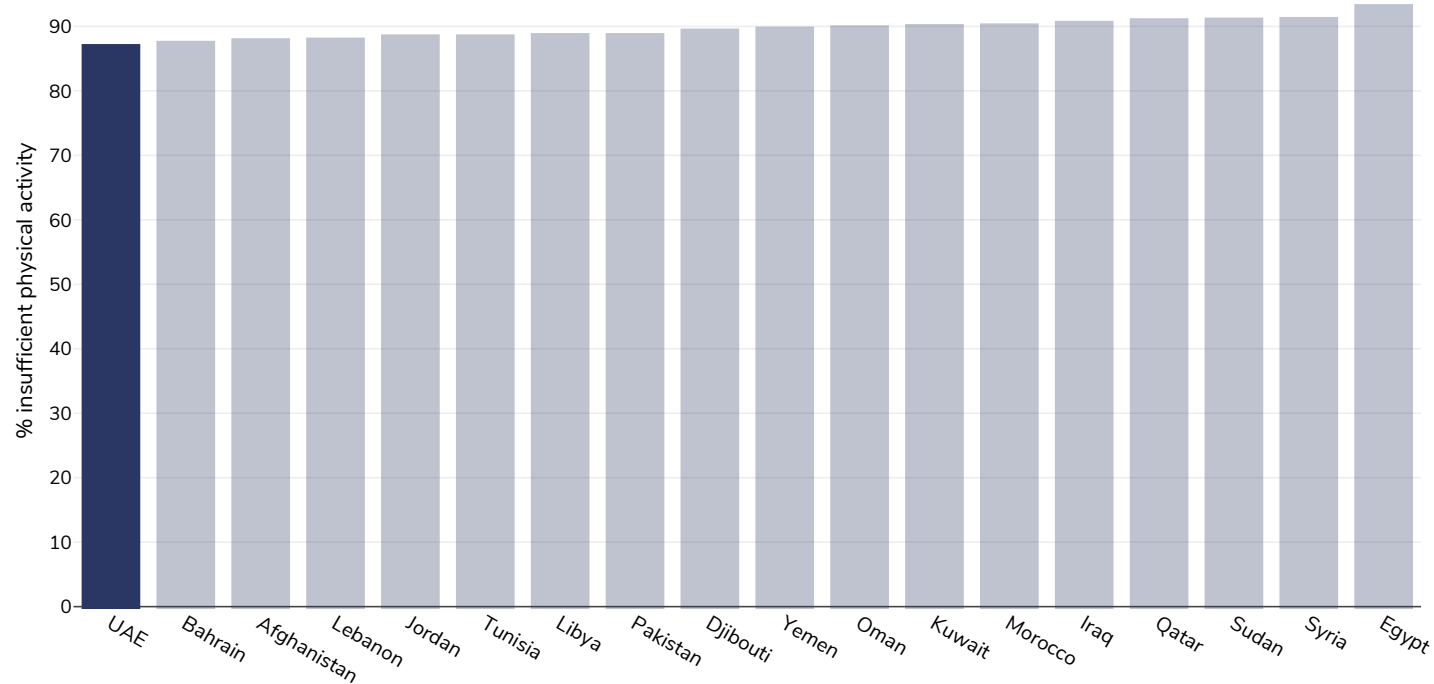
Notes:

% 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:

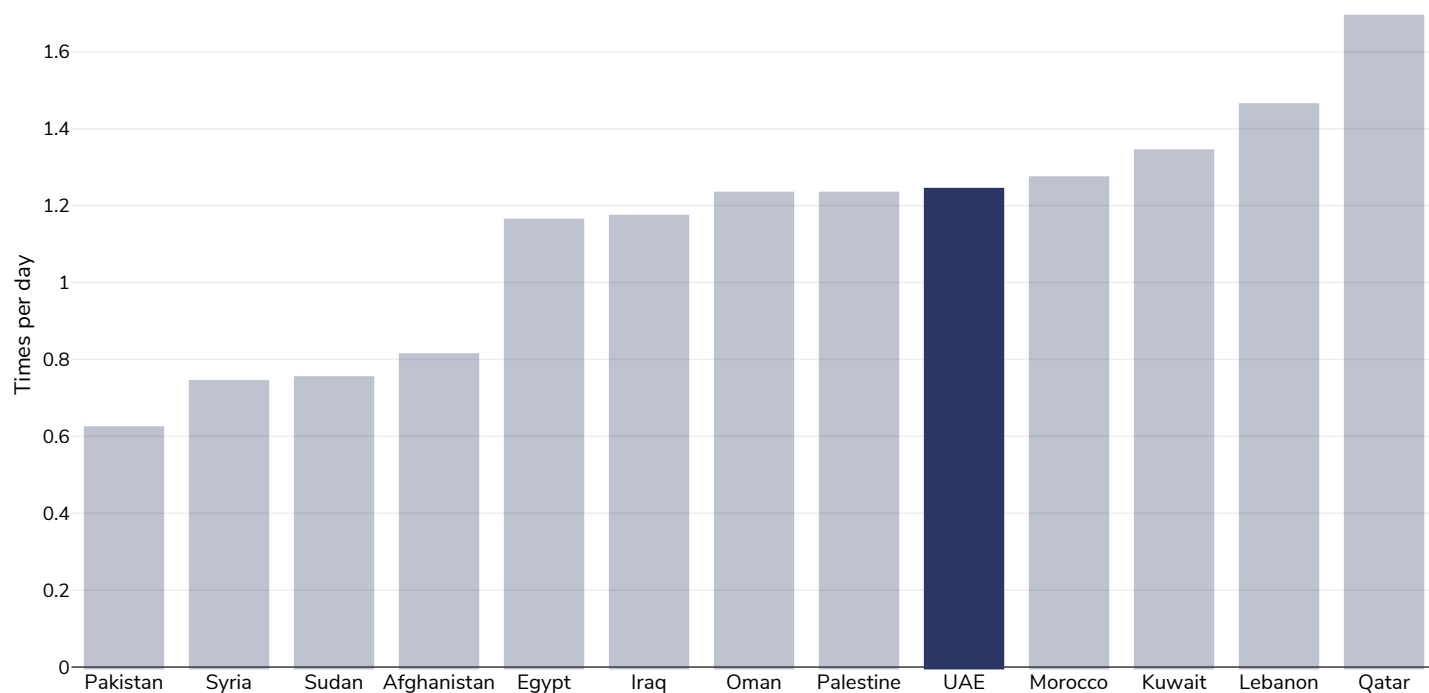
% of school going adolescents not meeting WHO recommendations on Physical Activity for Health, i.e. doing less than 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily.

Definitions:

% Adolescents insufficiently active (age standardised estimate)

Average daily frequency of carbonated soft drink consumption

Children, 2009-2015



Survey type:

Measured

Age:

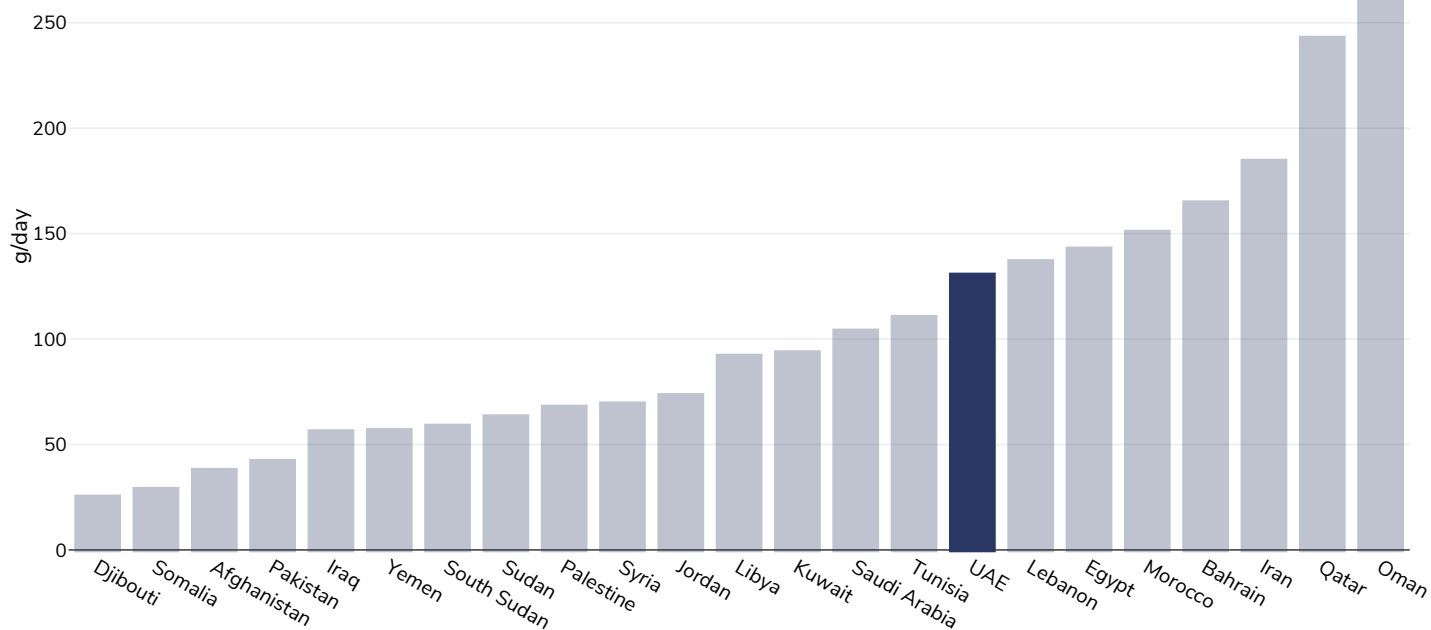
12-17

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

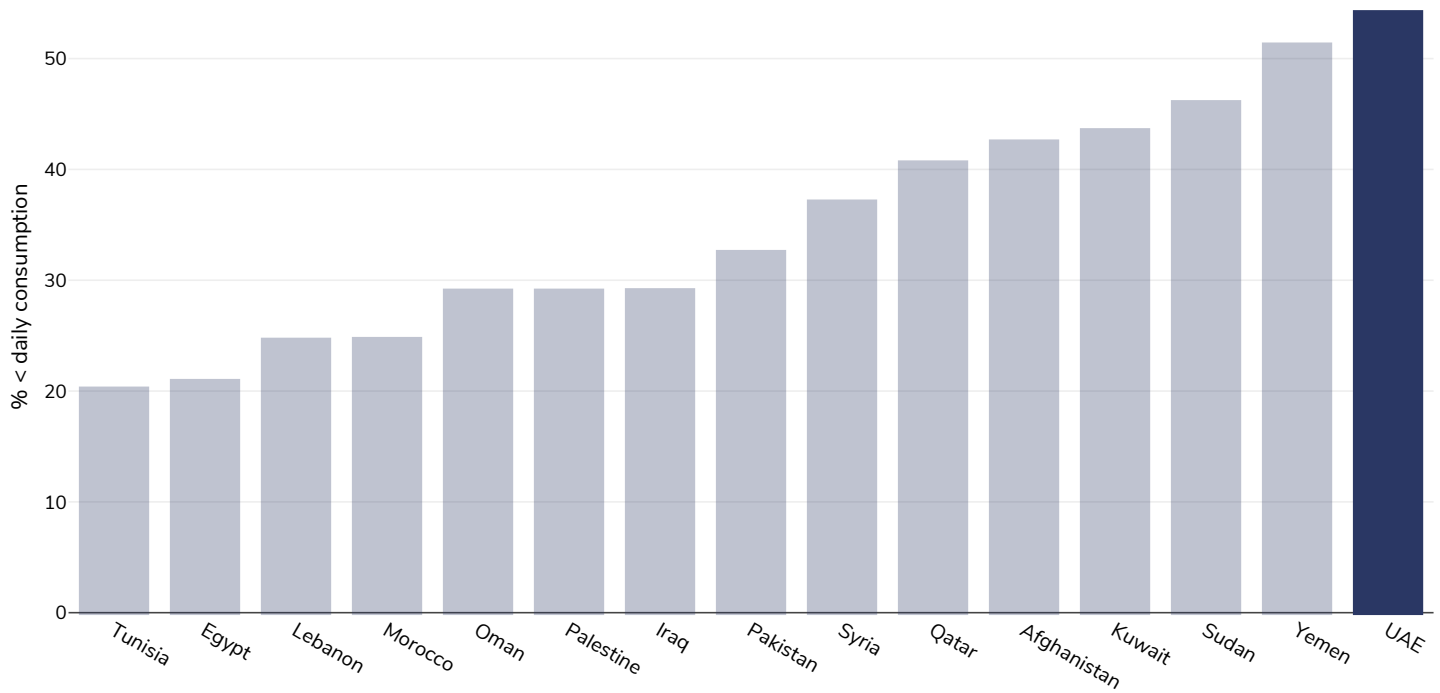
Age: 25+

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

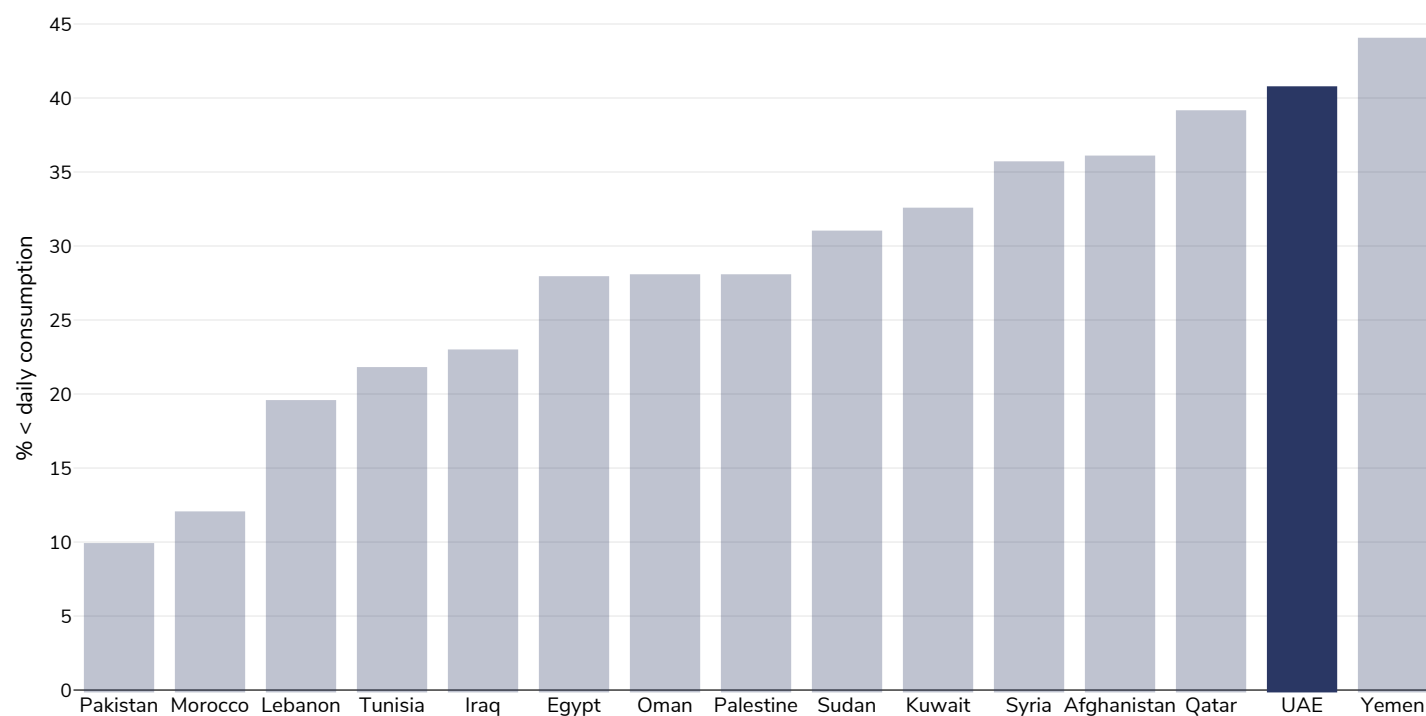
Age: 12-17

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:

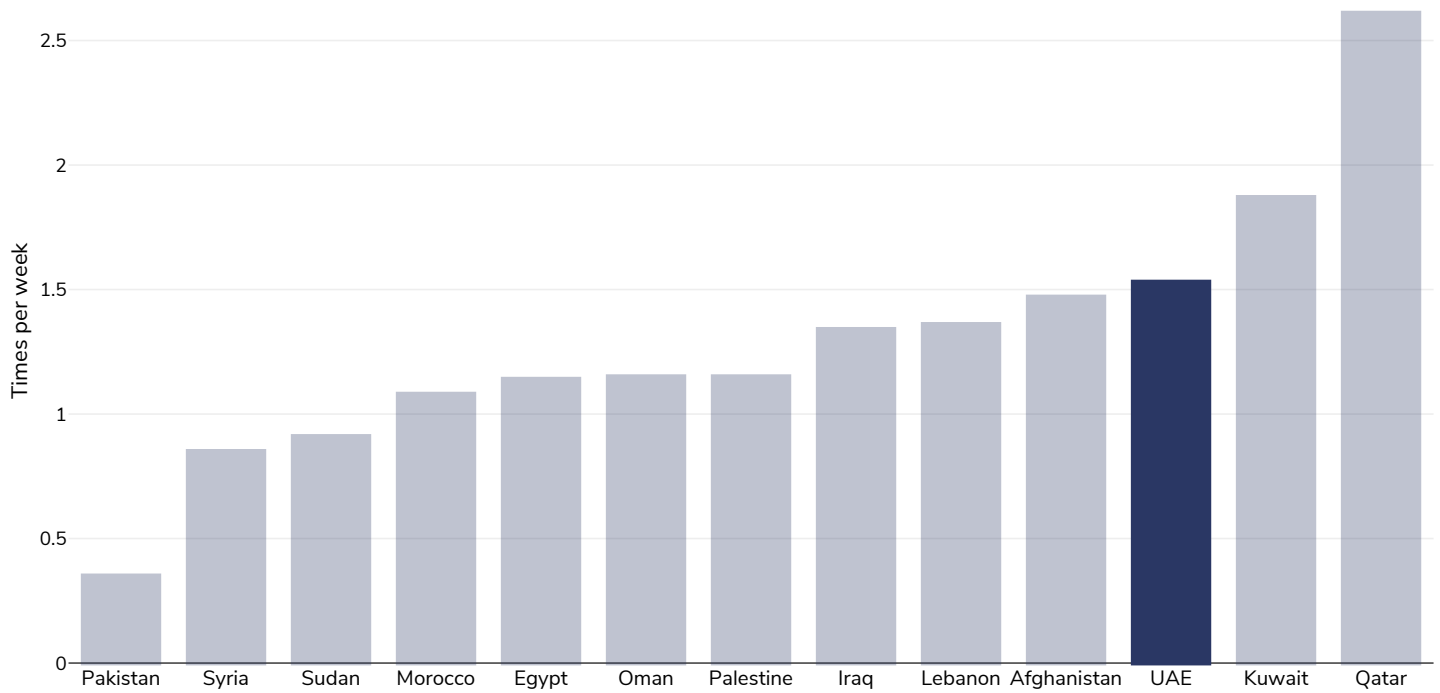
Beal et al. (2019). Global Patterns of Adolescent Fruit, Vegetable, Carbonated Soft Drink, and Fast-food consumption: A meta-analysis of global school-based student health surveys. Food and Nutrition Bulletin. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572119848287> sourced from Food Systems Dashboard <http://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/food-system>

Definitions:

Prevalence of less-than-daily vegetable consumption (% less-than-daily vegetable consumption)

Average weekly frequency of fast food consumption

Children, 2009-2015

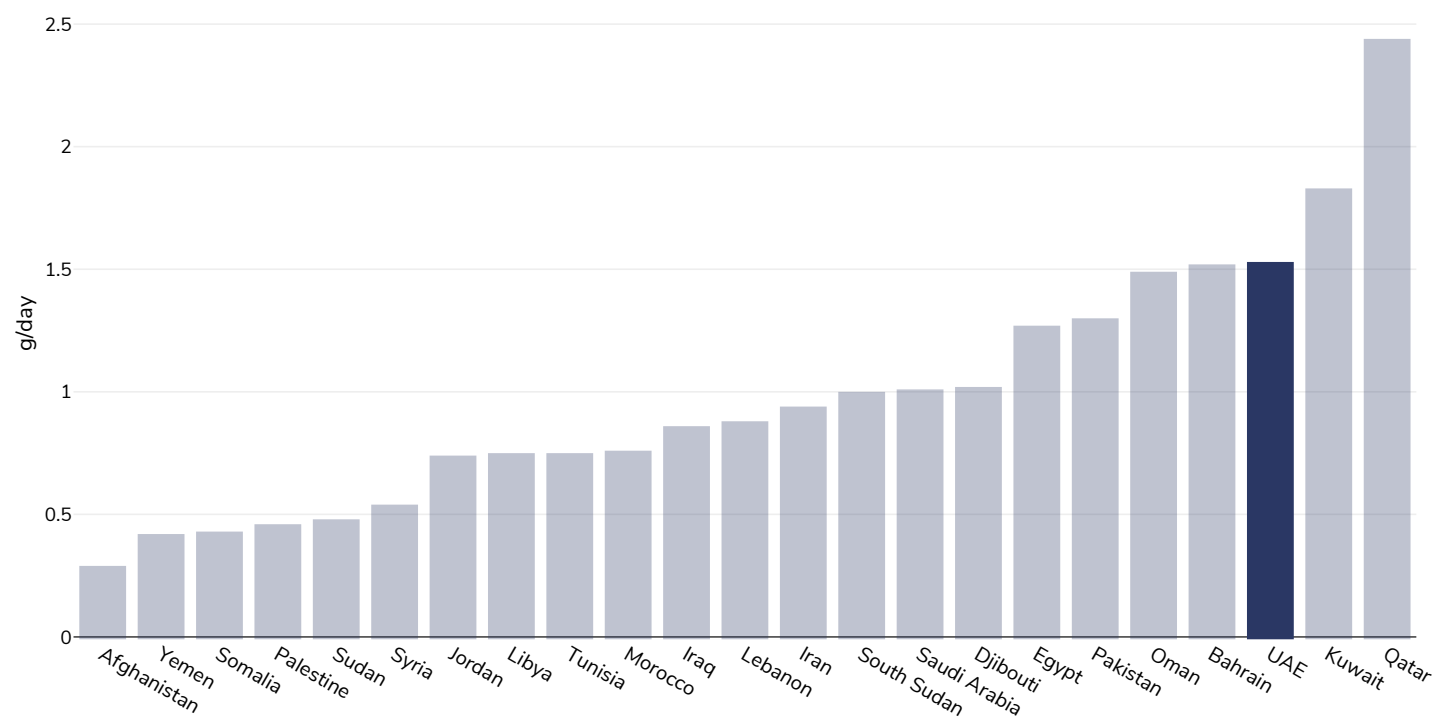


Age: 12-17

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

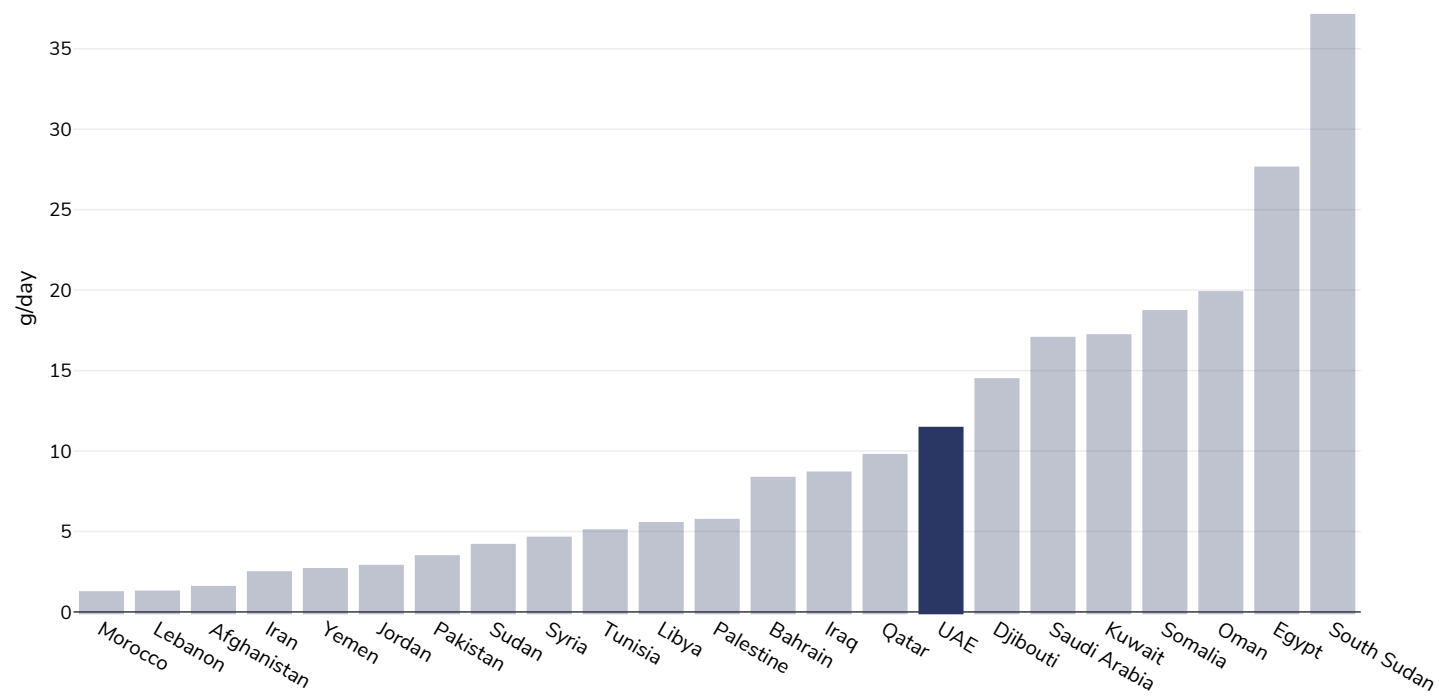
Age: 25+

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

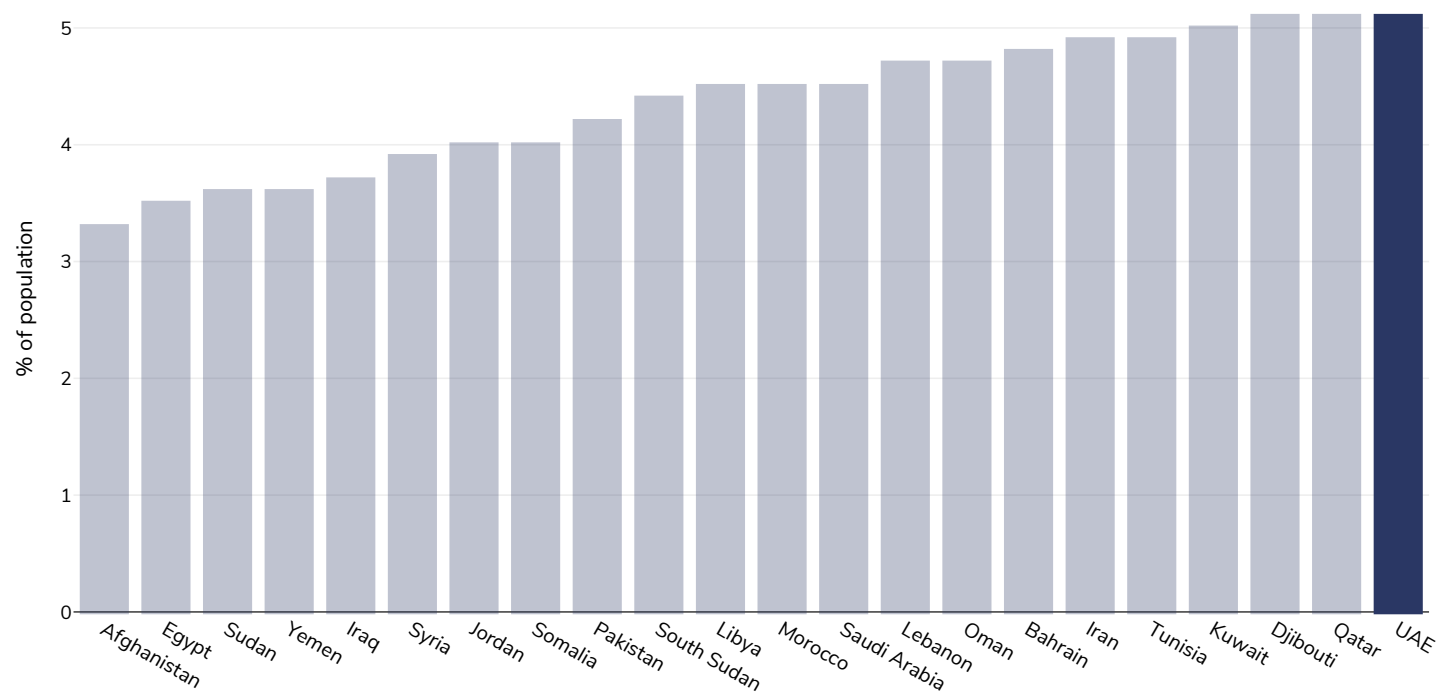
Age: 25+

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

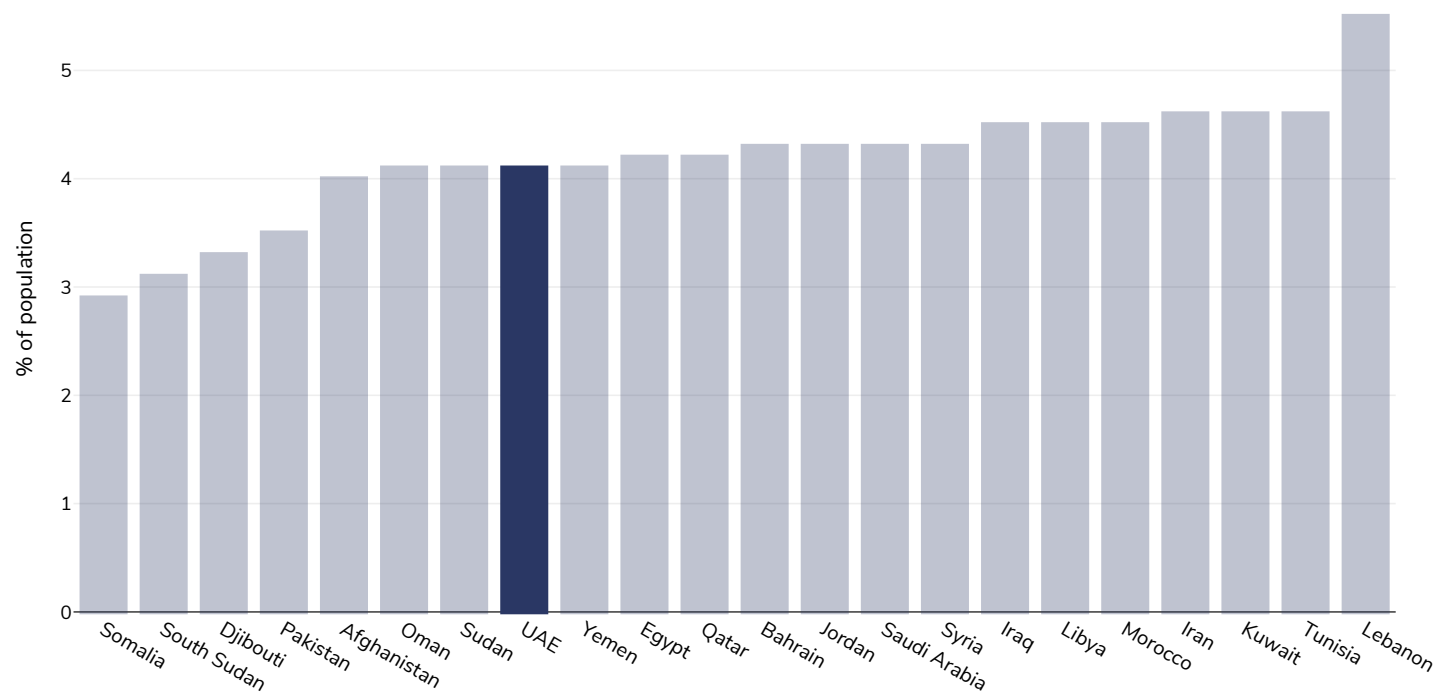


References: Prevalence data from Global Burden of Disease study 2015 (<http://ghdx.healthdata.org>) published in: Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates. Geneva:World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Definitions: % of population with depression disorders

Mental health - anxiety disorders

Adults, 2015

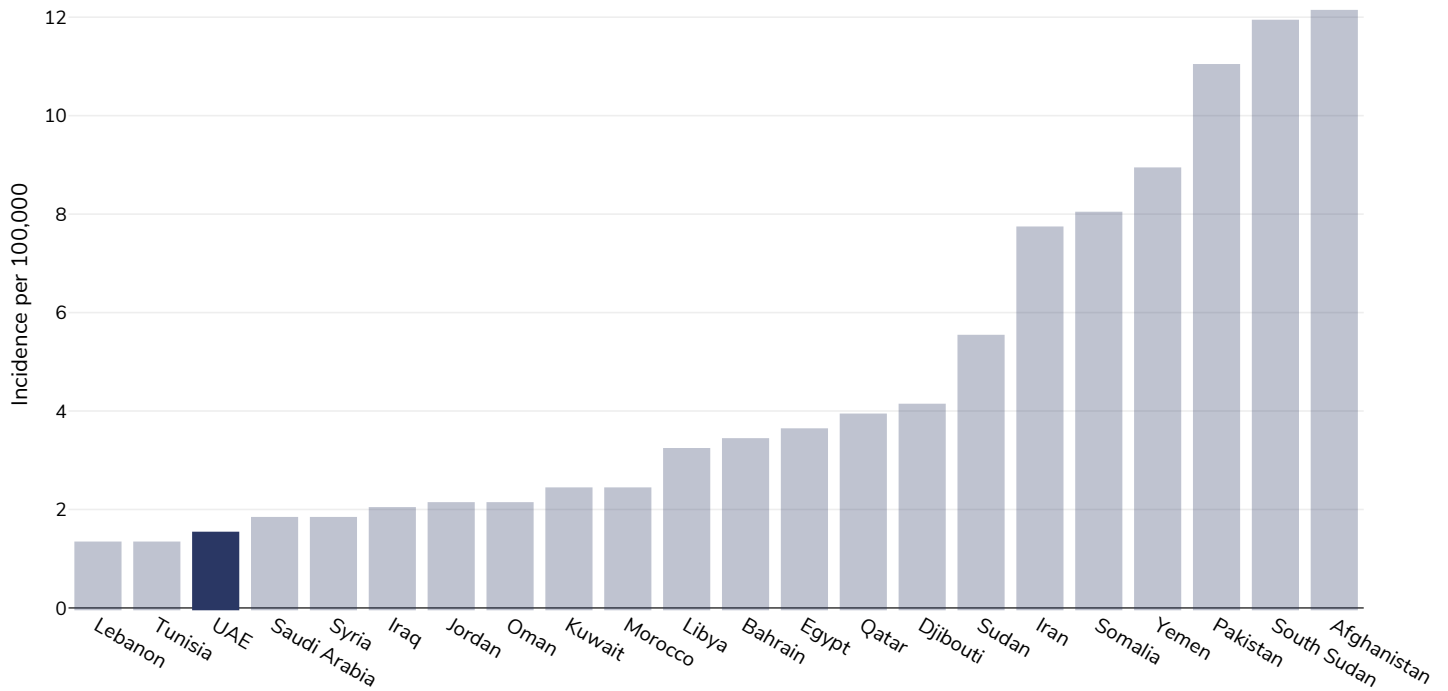


References: Prevalence data from Global Burden of Disease study 2015 (<http://ghdx.healthdata.org>) published in: Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates. Geneva:World Health Organization; 2017. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Definitions: % of population with anxiety disorders

Oesophageal cancer

Men, 2020



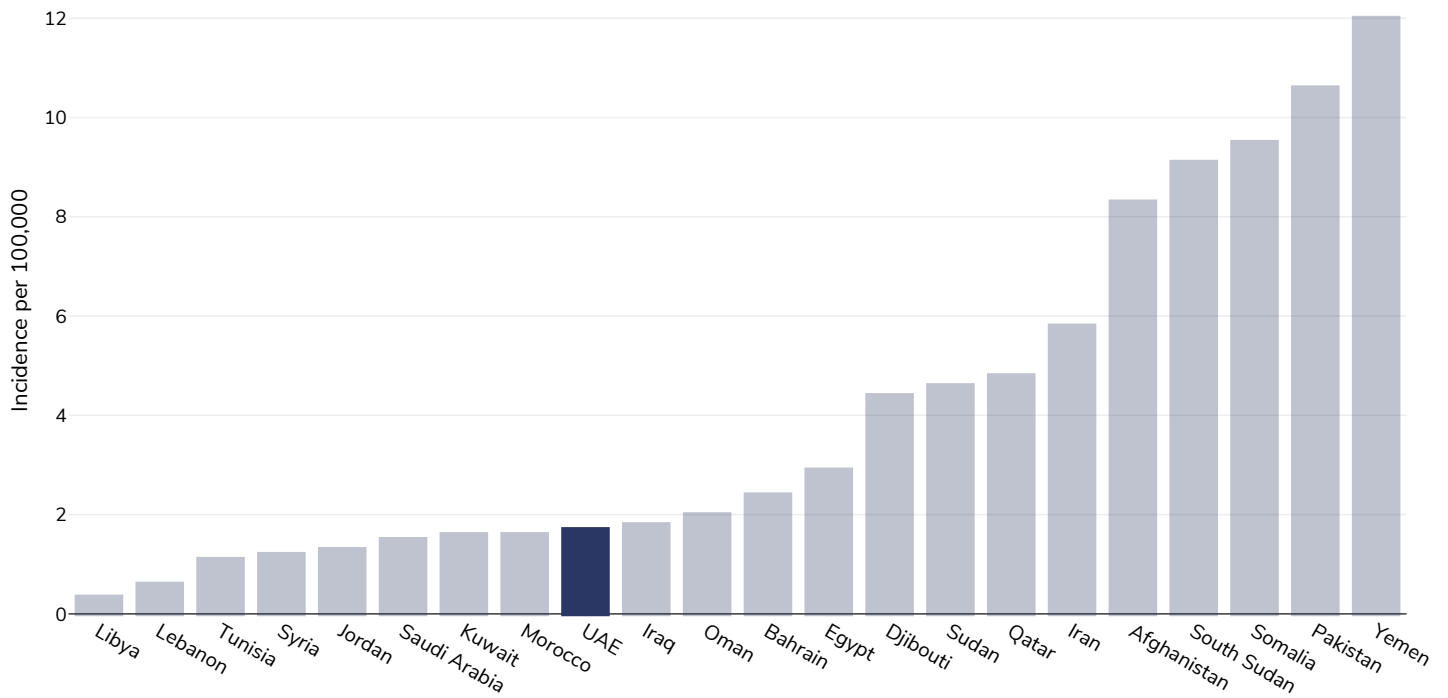
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

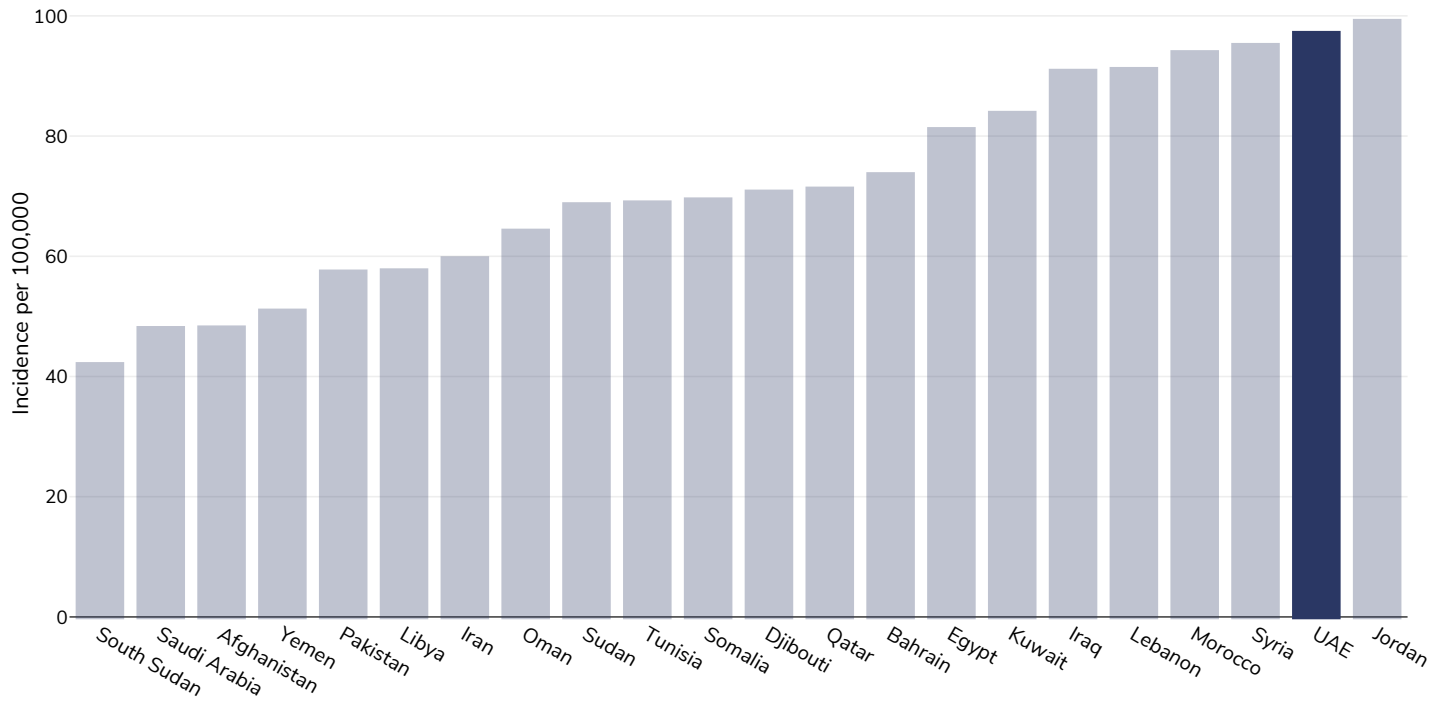
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Breast cancer

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

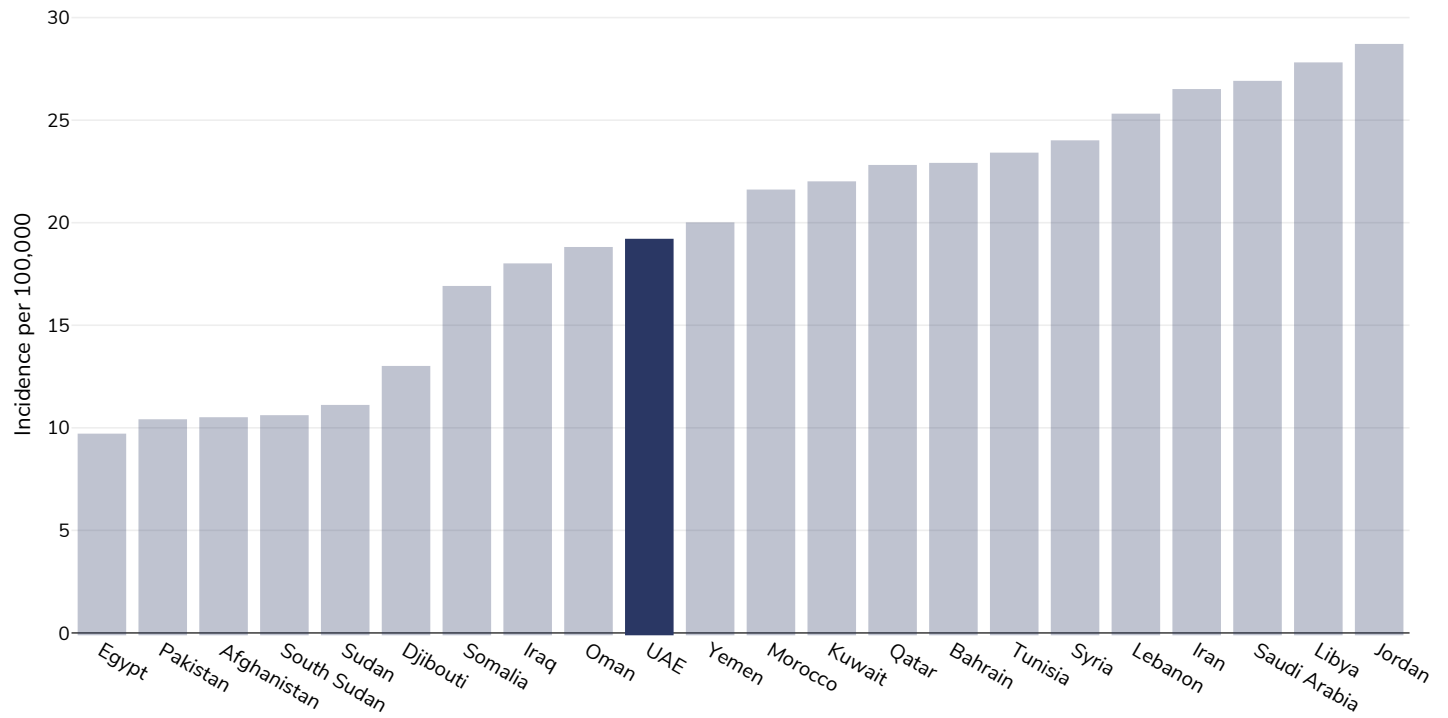
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Colorectal cancer

Men, 2020



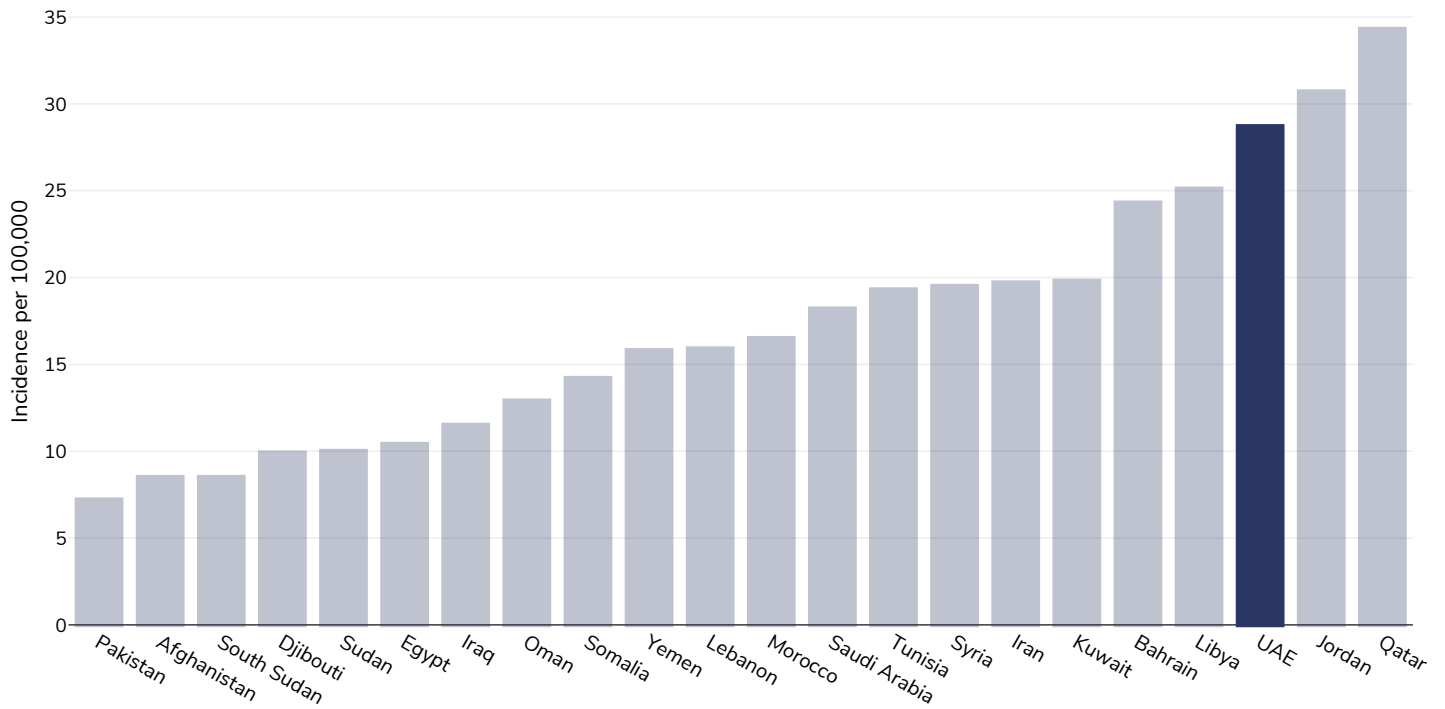
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

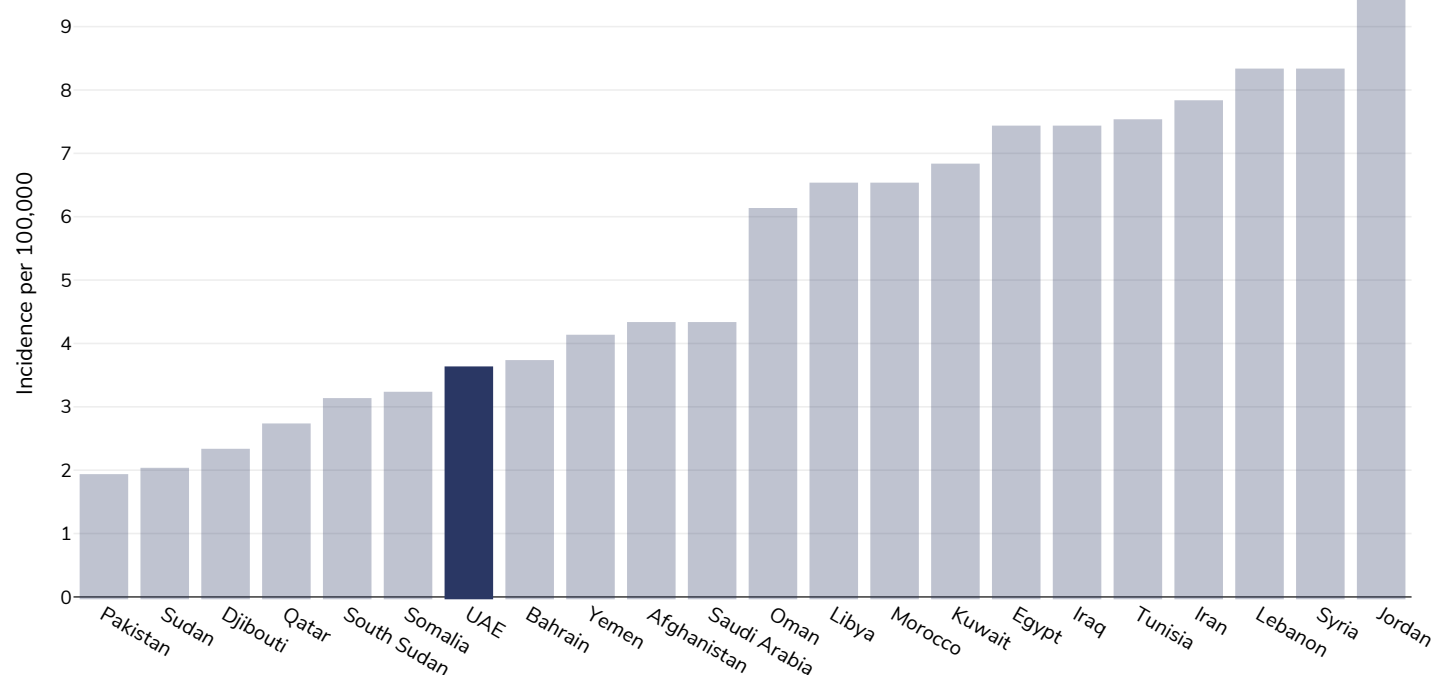
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Pancreatic cancer

Men, 2020



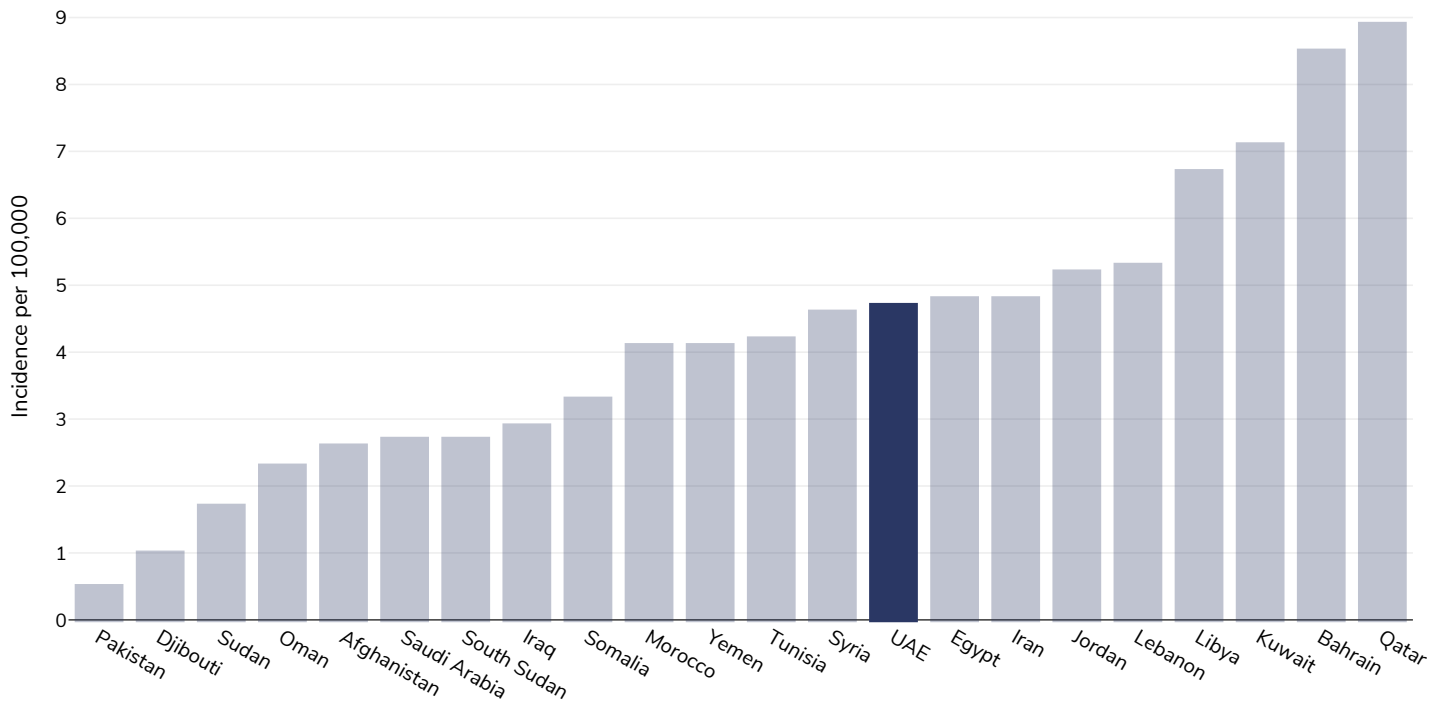
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

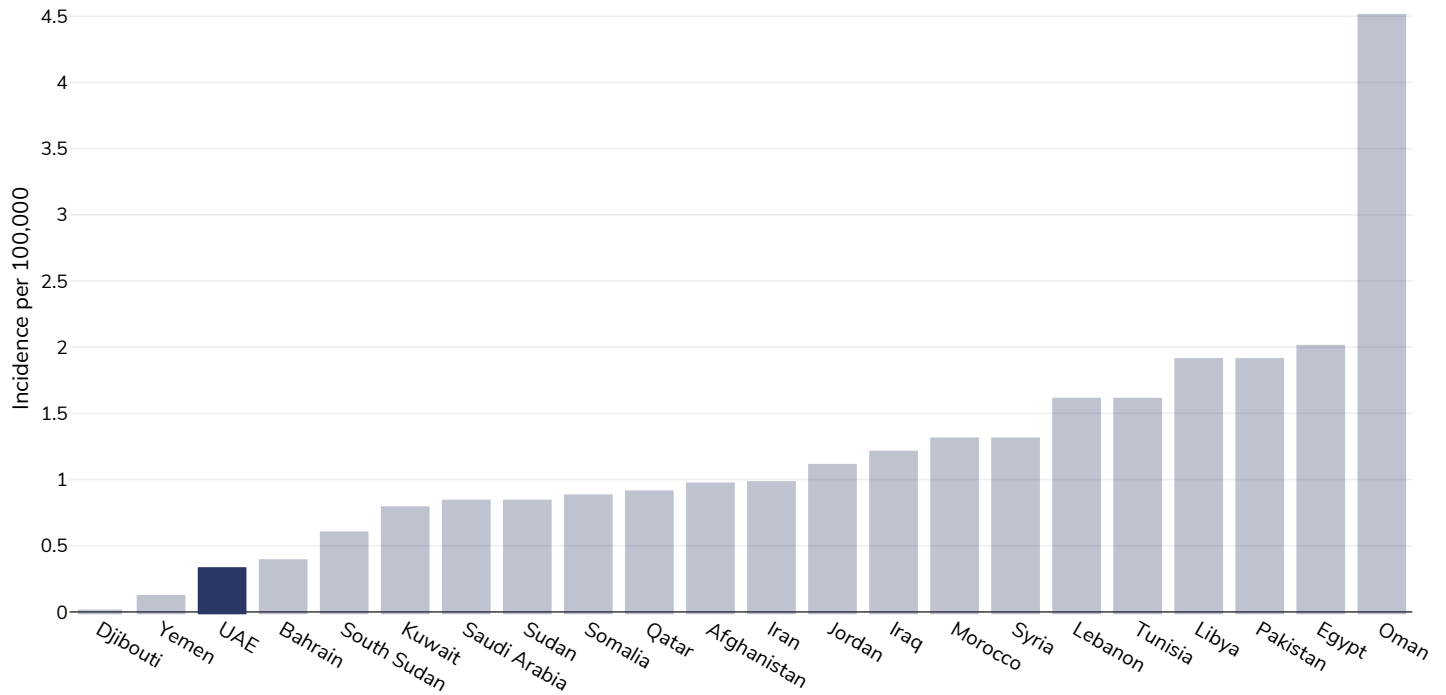
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Gallbladder cancer

Men, 2020



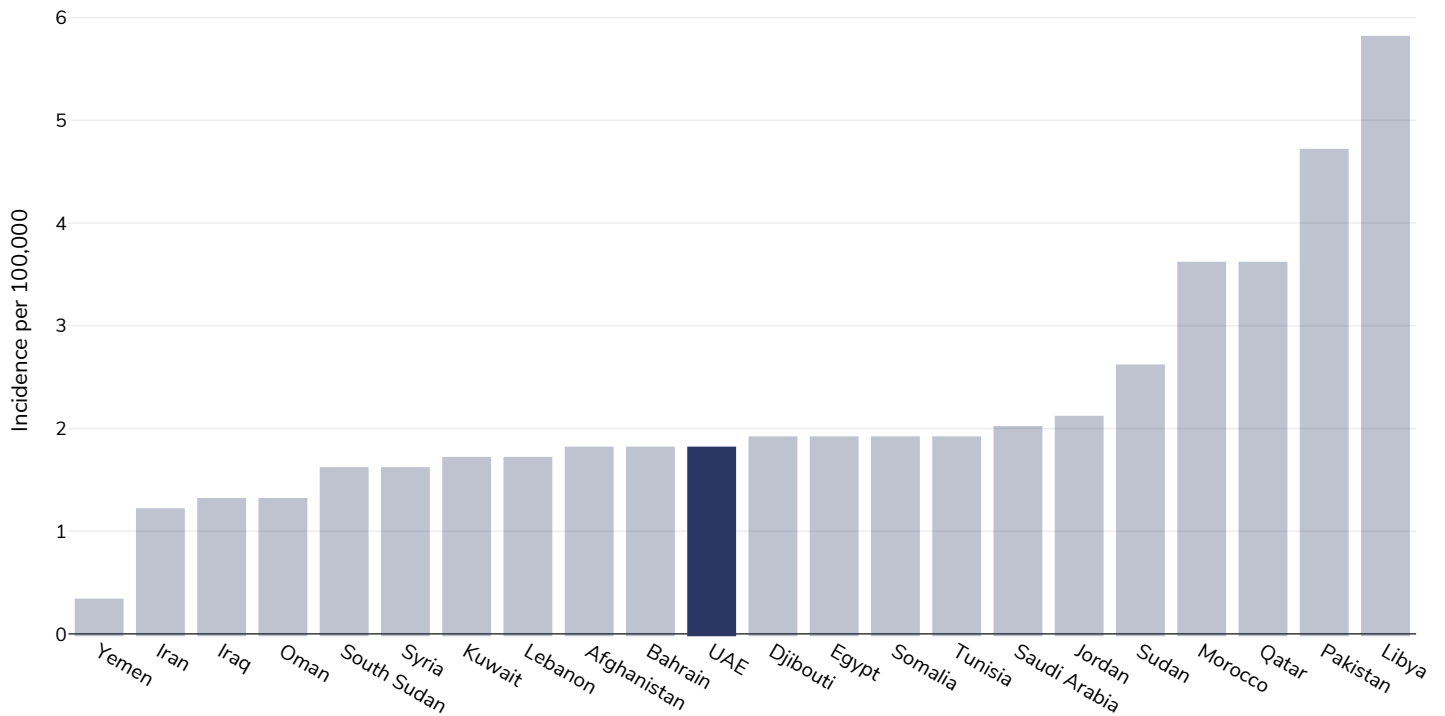
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

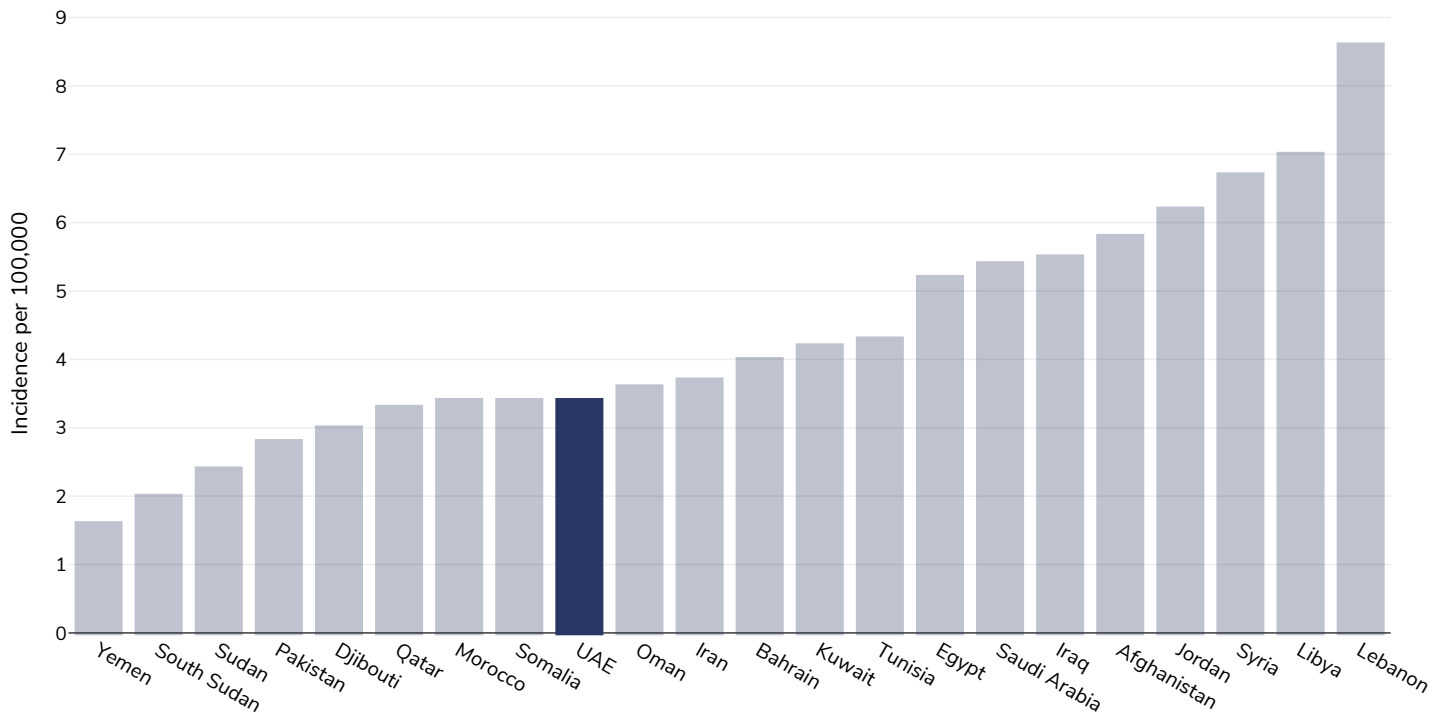
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Kidney cancer

Men, 2020



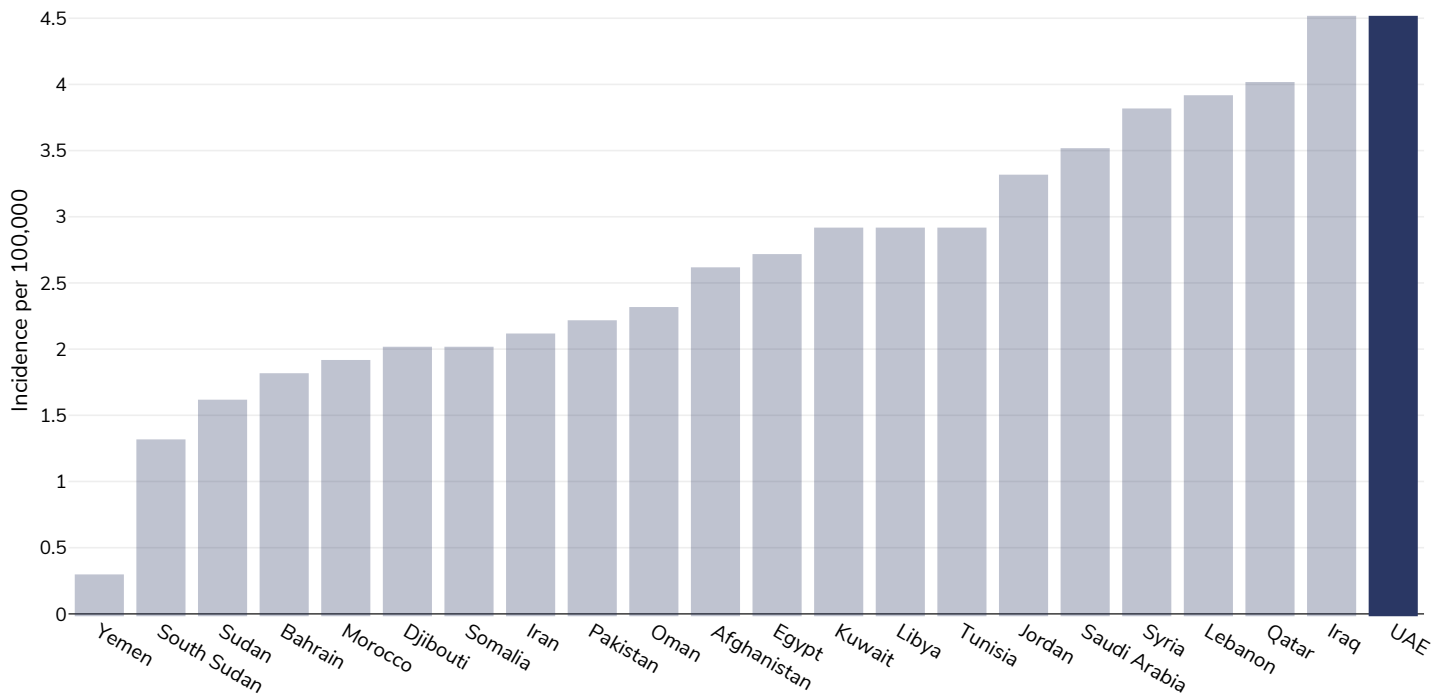
Age: 20+

Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

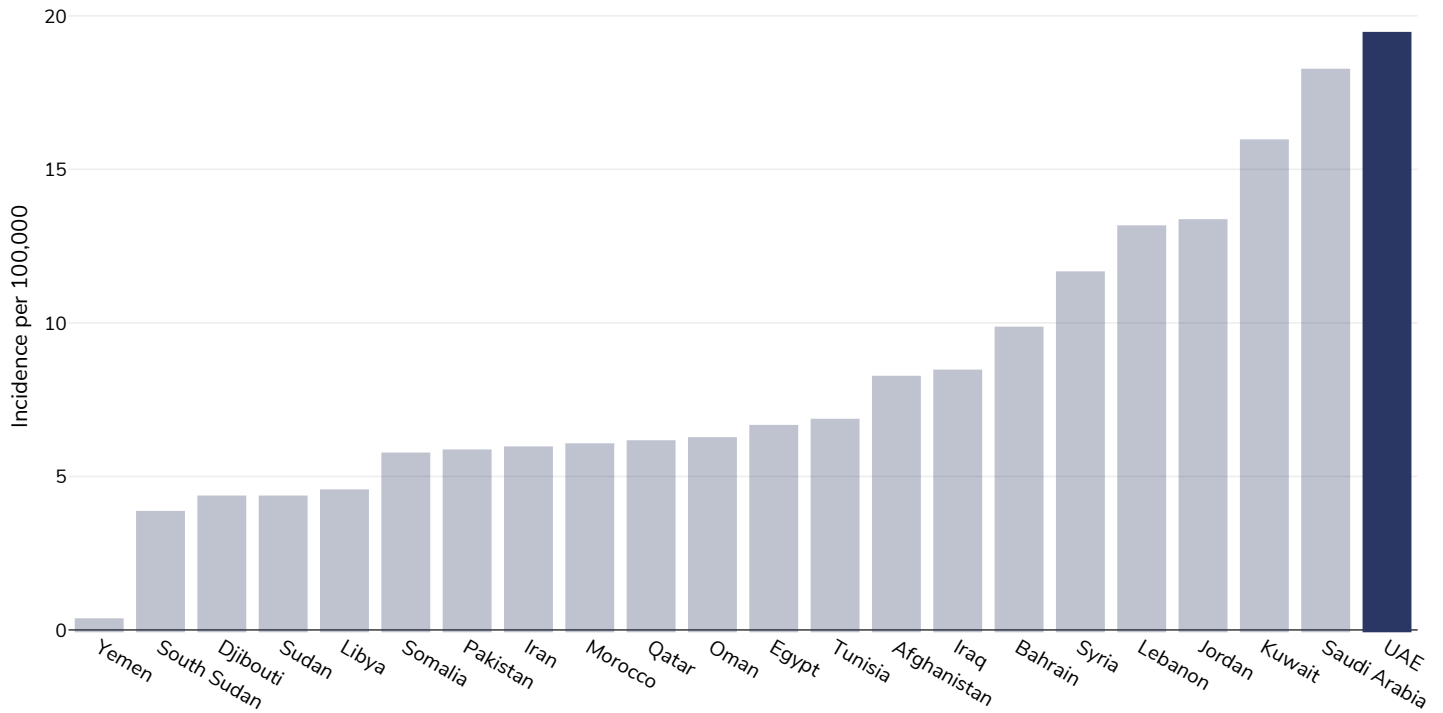
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Cancer of the uterus

Women, 2020



Age: 20+

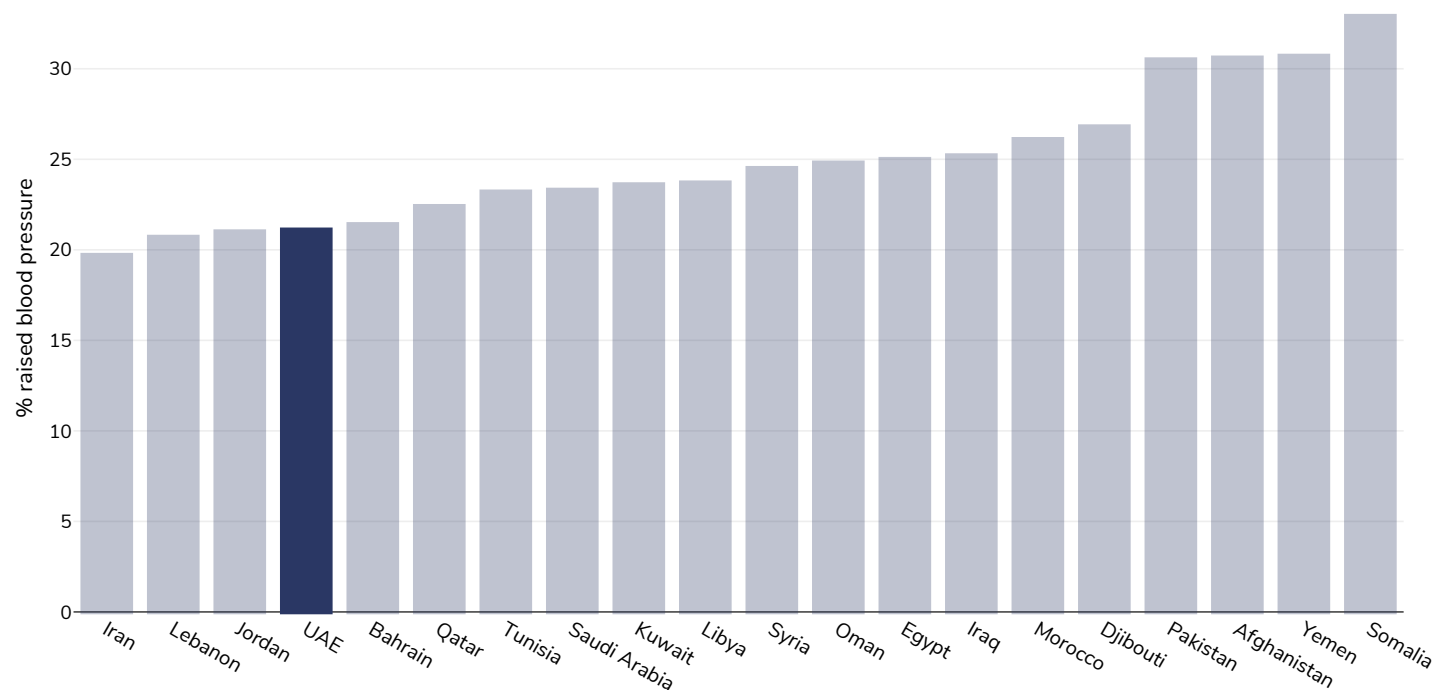
Area covered: National

References: Ferlay J, Ervik M, Lam F, Colombet M, Mery L, Piñeros M, Znaor A, Soerjomataram I, Bray F (2020). Global Cancer Observatory: Cancer Today. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from: <https://gco.iarc.fr/today>, accessed 10.01.2369

Definitions: Age-standardized incidence rates per 100 000

Raised blood pressure

Adults, 2015



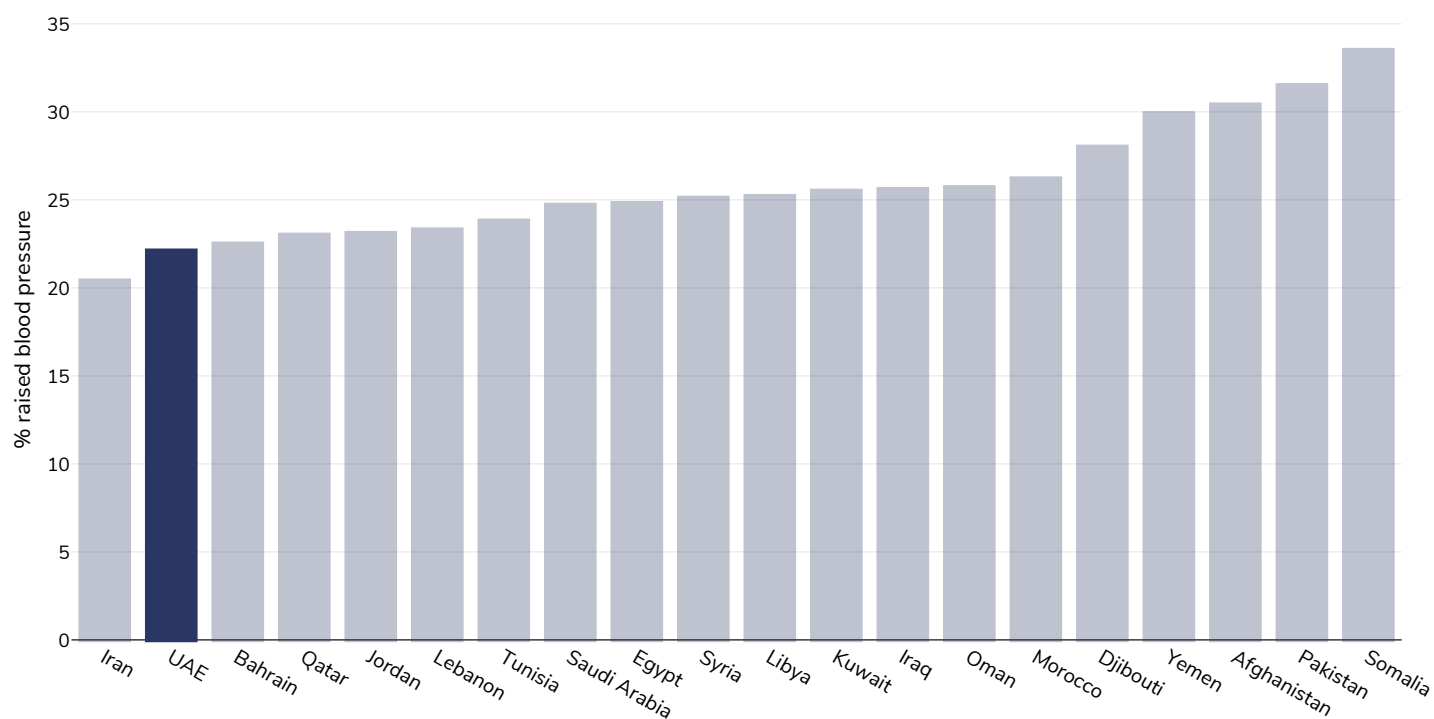
References:

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 \geq 140 OR DBP \geq 90).

Men, 2015



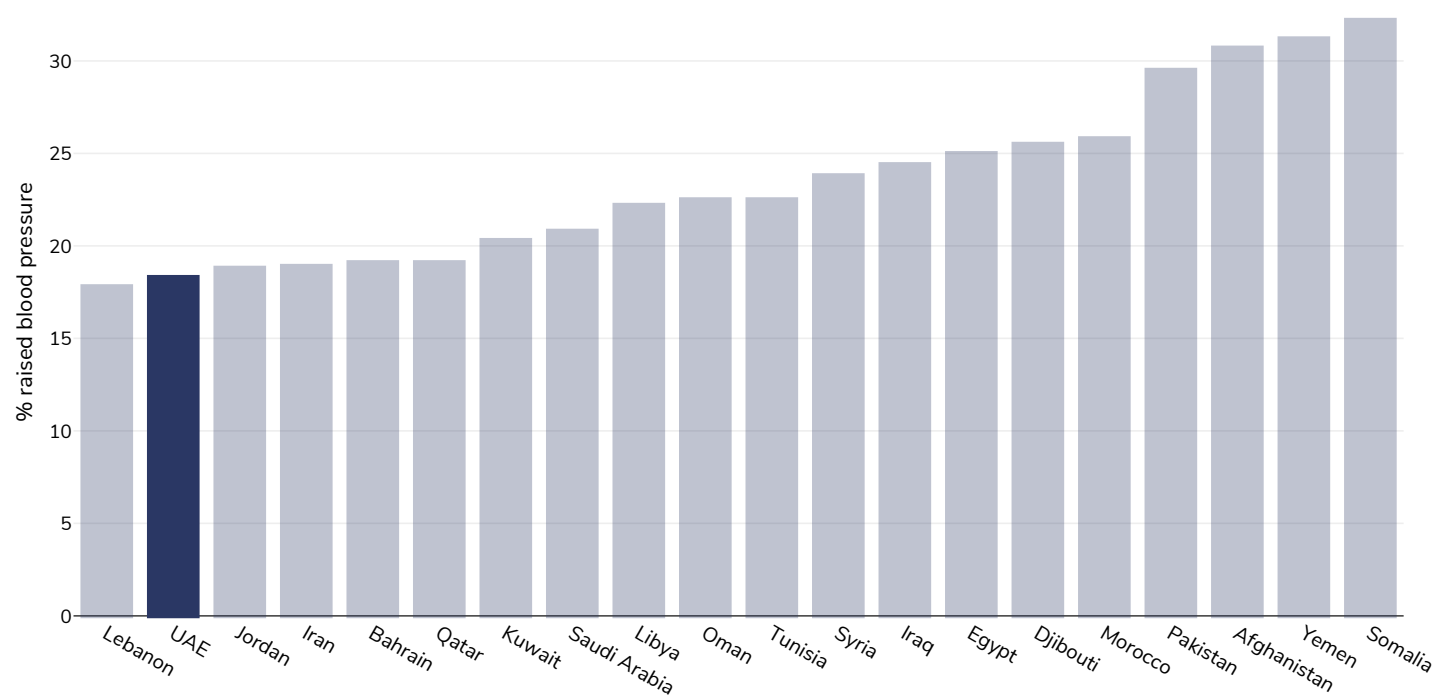
References:

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 \geq 140 OR DBP \geq 90).

Women, 2015



References:

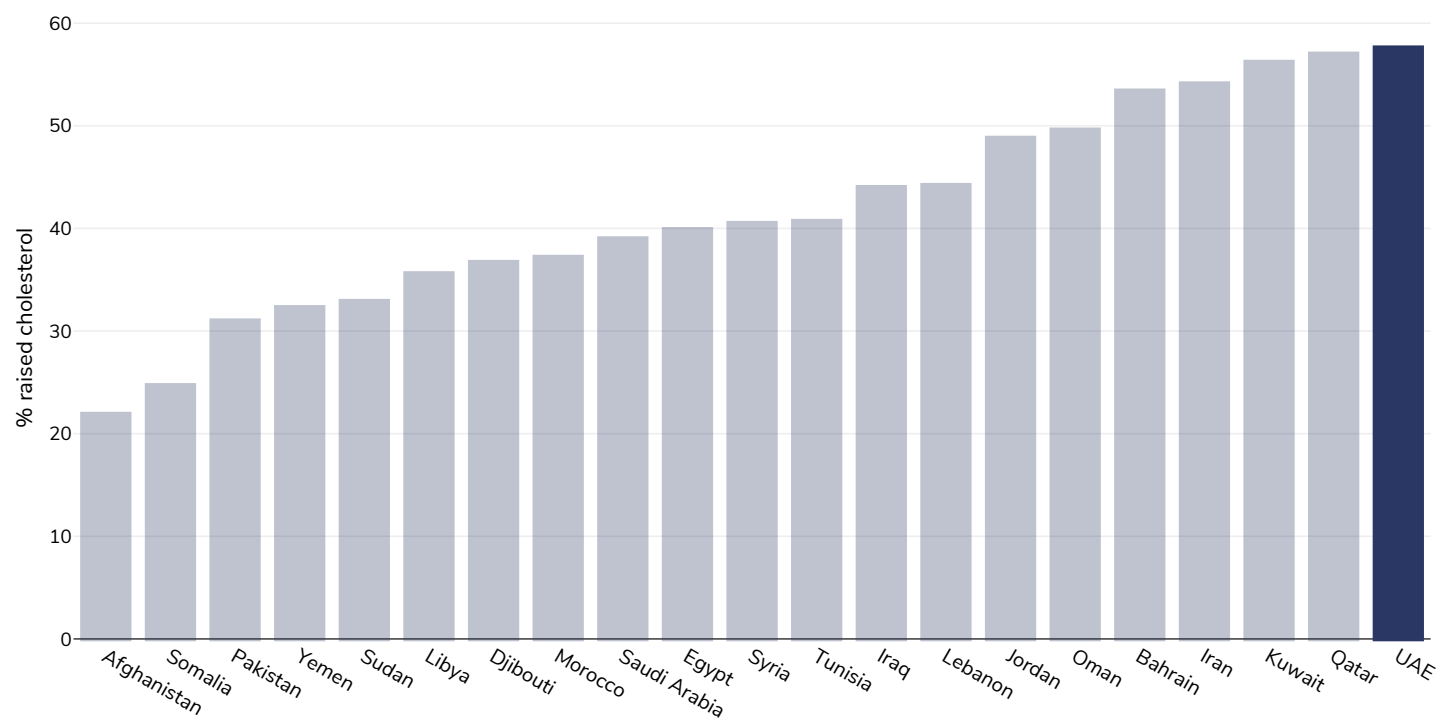
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation,
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A875?lang=en>

Definitions:

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

Raised cholesterol

Adults, 2008



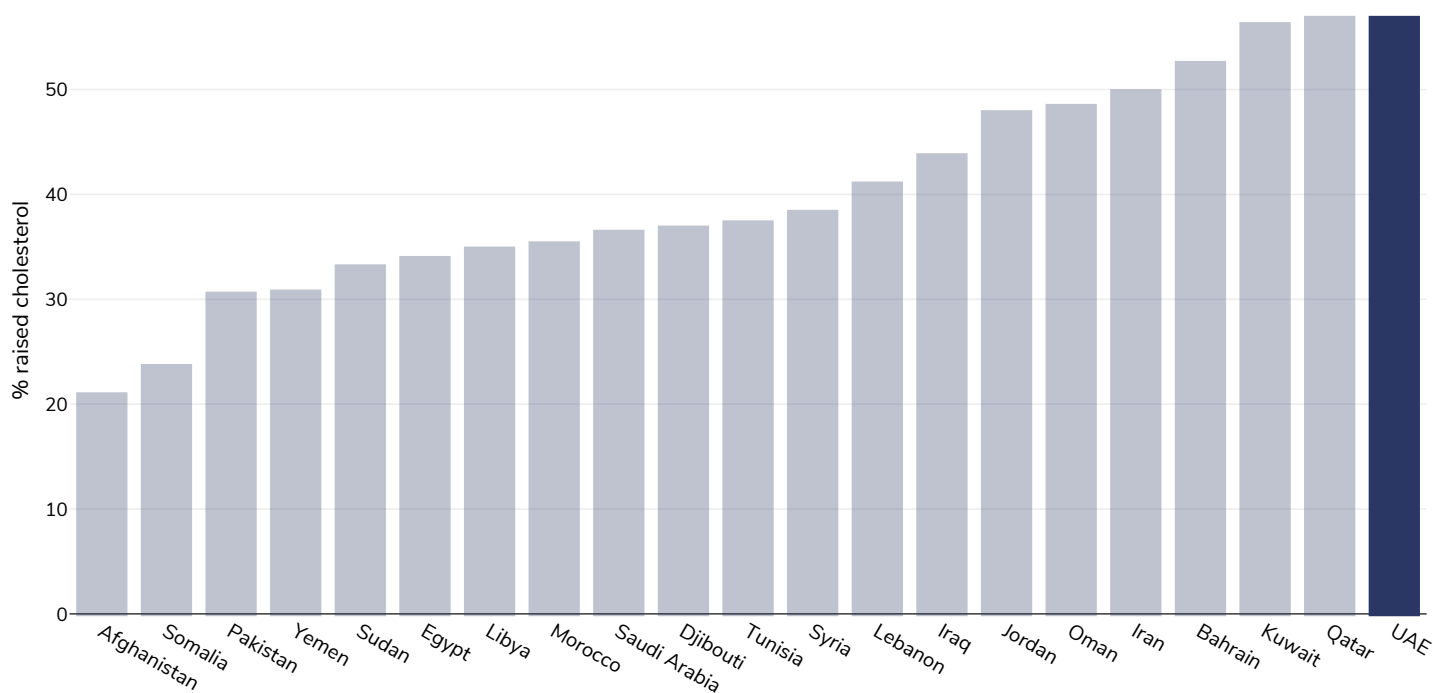
References:

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



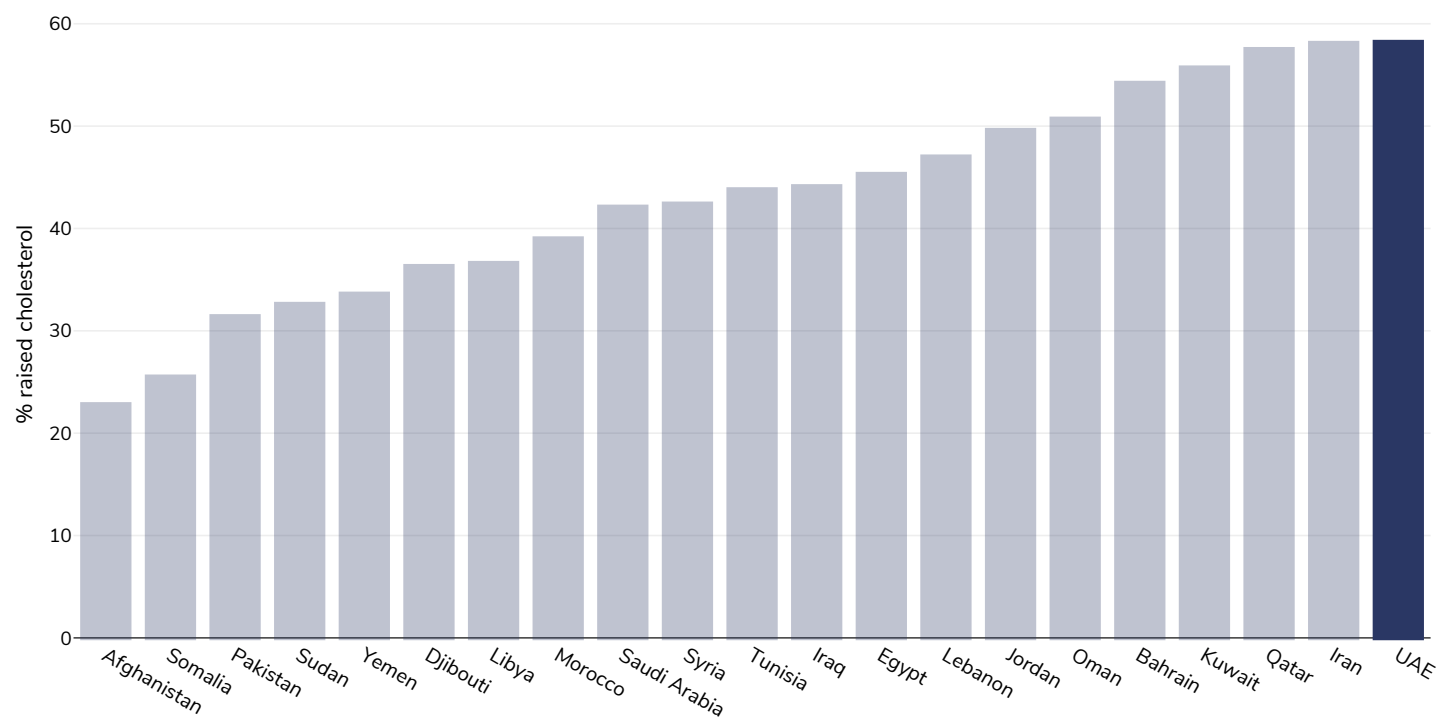
References:

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:

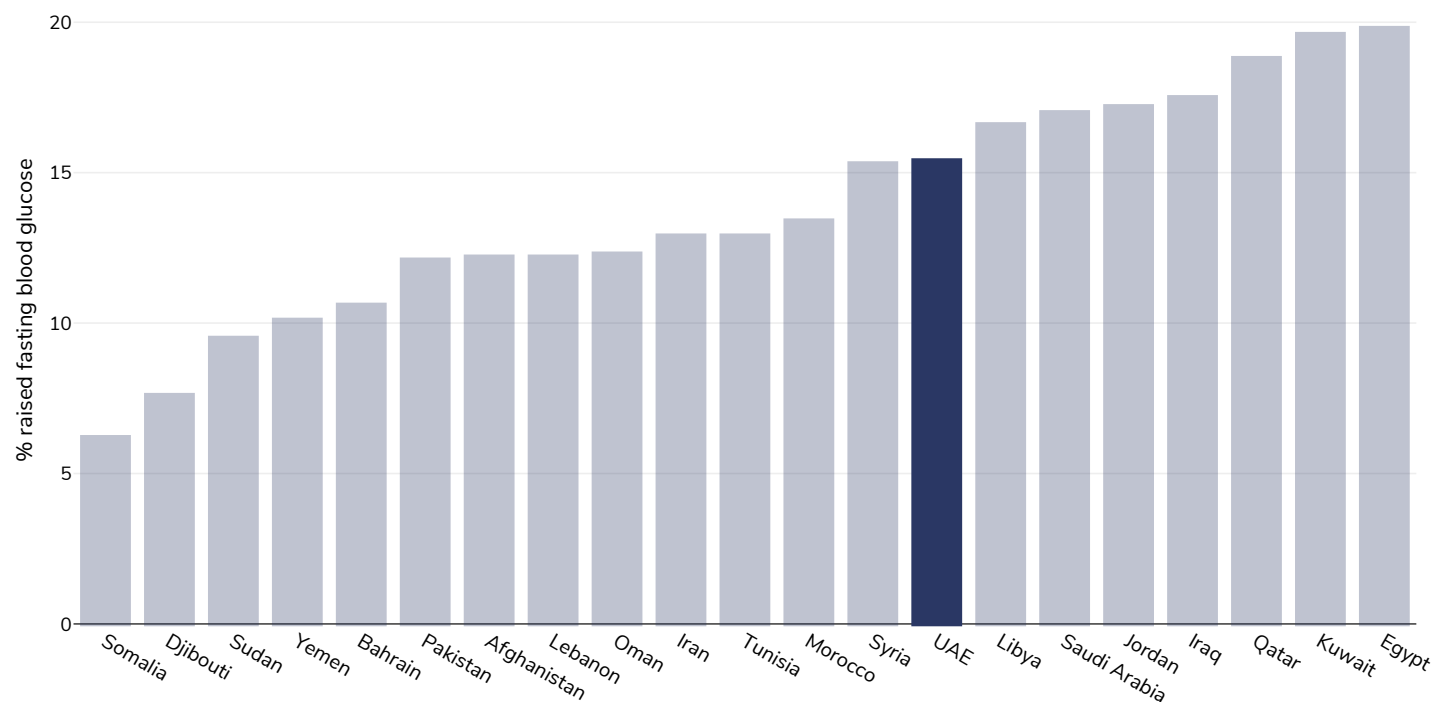
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation,
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A885>

Definitions:

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

Raised fasting blood glucose

Men, 2014



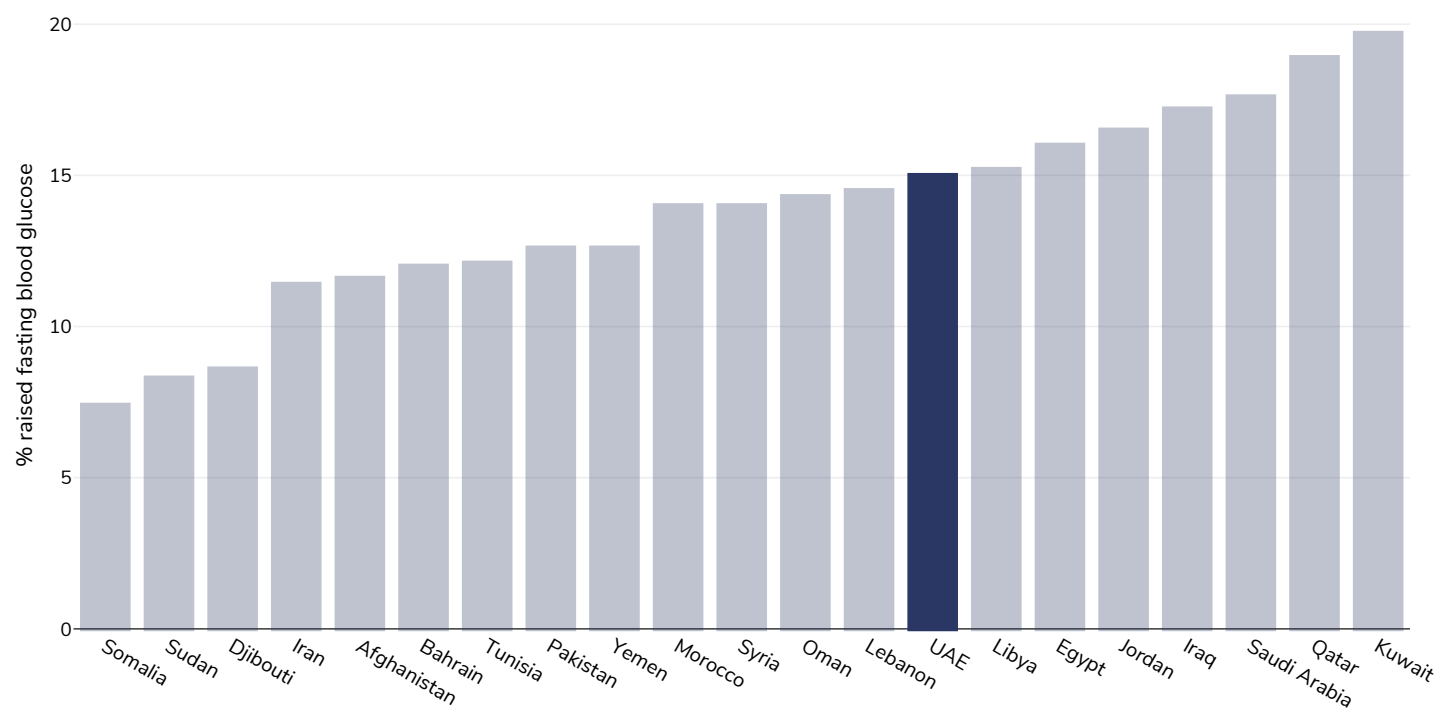
References:

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:

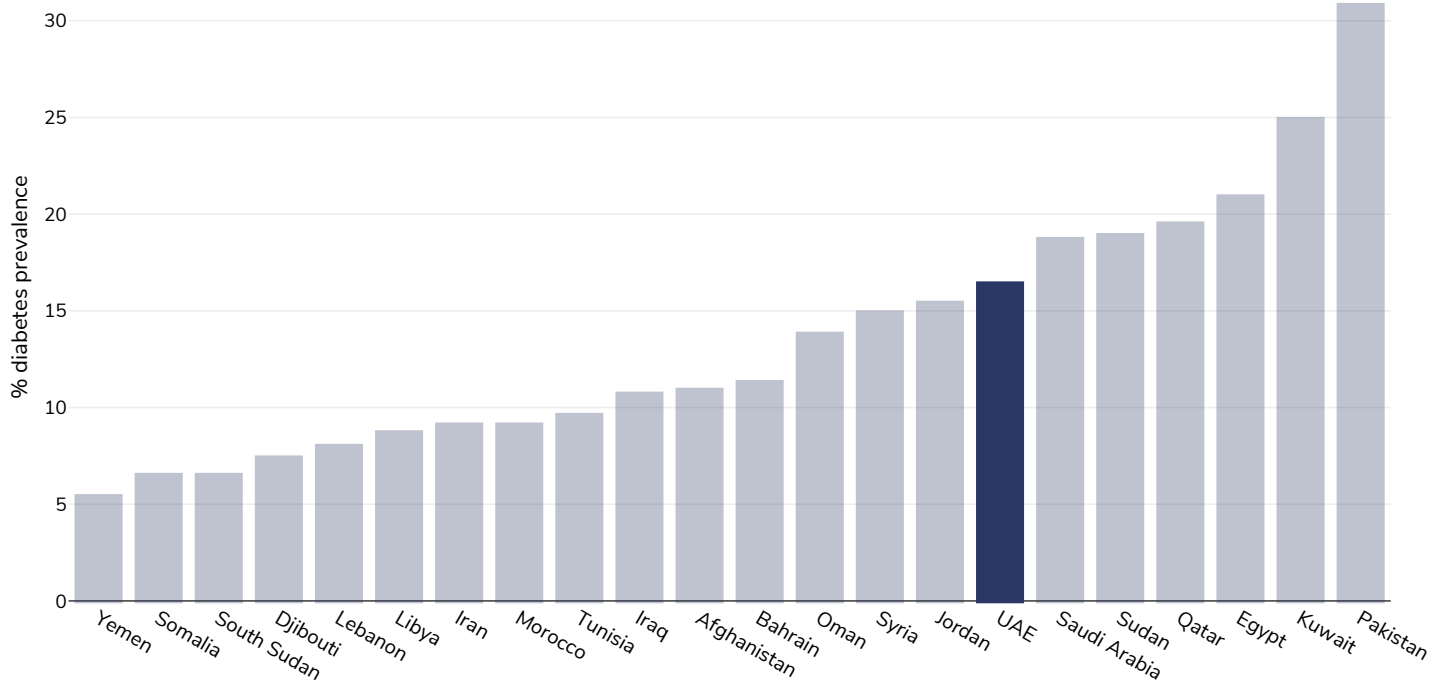
Global Health Observatory data repository, World Health Organisation,
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A869?lang=en>

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
 Present (voluntary)
 Incoming
 Absent
 Unknown

Last updated February 22, 2024

PDF created on March 21, 2024