

Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Israel



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This is one of the 53 country profiles covering developments in nutrition, physical activity and obesity in the WHO European Region. The full set of individual profiles and an overview report including methodology and summary can be downloaded from the WHO Regional Office for Europe web site: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/nutrition-country-profiles>.

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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

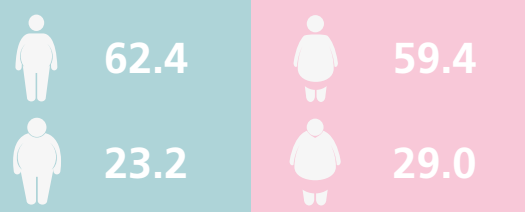
Total population	7 418 000
Median age (years)	29.5
Life expectancy at birth (years) female male	84.2 79.6
GDP per capita (US\$)	29 311.6
GDP spent on health (%)	7.6

Monitoring and surveillance Overweight and obesity in three age groups

Adults (20 years and over)

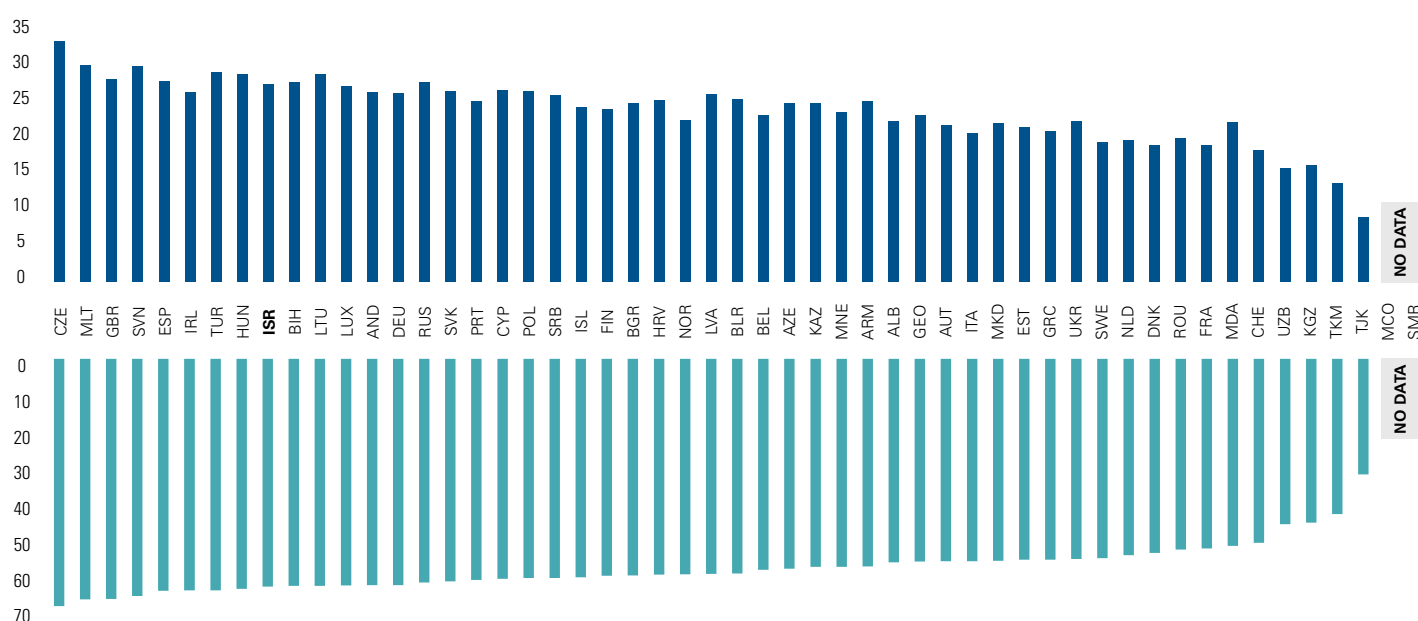
Intercountry comparable overweight and obesity estimates from 2008 (1) show that 60.9% of the adult population (≥ 20 years old) in Israel were overweight and 26.2% were obese. The prevalence of overweight was higher among men (62.4%) than women (59.4%). The proportion of men and women that were obese was 23.2% and 29.0%, respectively. Adulthood obesity prevalence forecasts (2010–2030) predict that in 2020, 16% of men and 11% of women will be obese. By 2030, the model predicts that 18% of men and 9% of women will be obese.¹

PREVALENCE OF OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY (%) AMONG ISRAELI ADULTS BASED ON WHO 2008 ESTIMATES



Source: WHO Global Health Observatory Data Repository (1).

PREVALENCE OF OBESITY (%) (BMI ≥ 30.0 KG/M²) AMONG ADULTS IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION BASED ON WHO 2008 ESTIMATES



PREVALENCE OF OVERWEIGHT (%) (BMI ≥ 25.0 KG/M²) AMONG ADULTS IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION BASED ON WHO 2008 ESTIMATES

Notes. The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Data ranking for obesity is intentionally the same as for the overweight data. BMI: body mass index.
Source: WHO Global Health Observatory Data Repository (1).

¹ Report on modelling adulthood obesity across the WHO European Region, prepared by consultants (led by T. Marsh and colleagues) for the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2013.

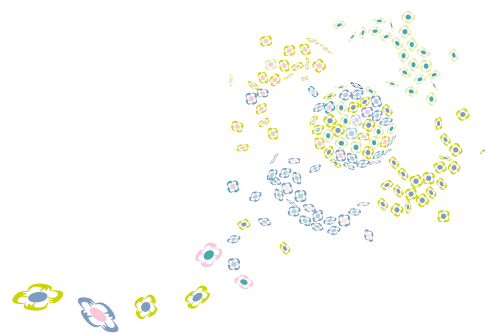
The Regional Office is grateful to the European Commission (EC) for its financial support for the development of the nutrition, obesity and physical activity database that provided data for this country profile.

Adolescents (10–19 years)

No data are available from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey (2009/2010).

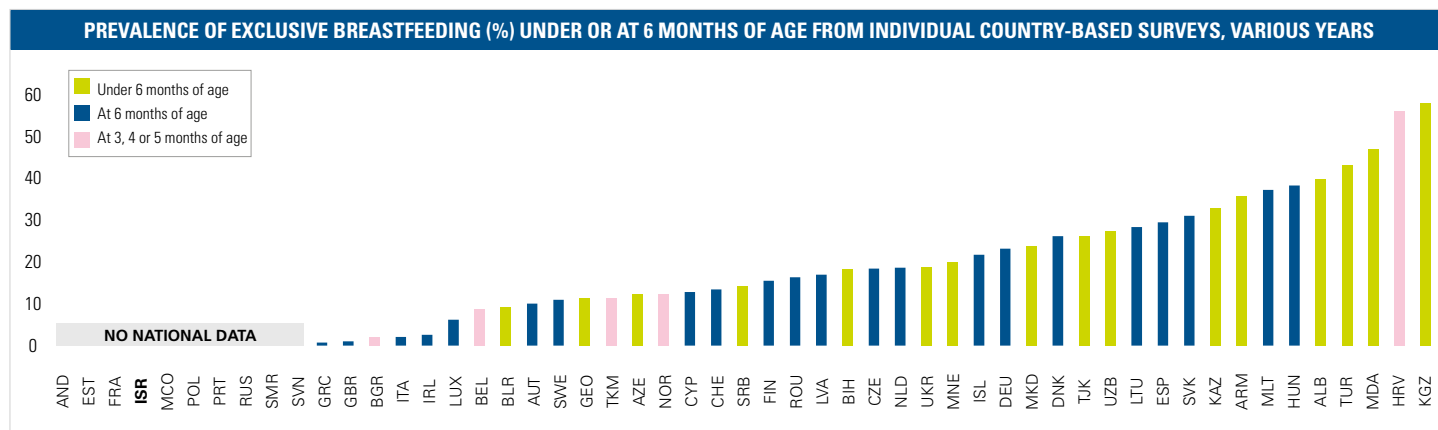
Children (0–9 years)

No prevalence figures are available for overweight and obesity in schoolchildren based on measured intercountry comparable data. Israel is not yet participating in the WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI).



Exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months of age

Subnationally representative data from 2005 show that the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding at 6 months of age was 11.2% in the Tel Aviv district in Israel.²

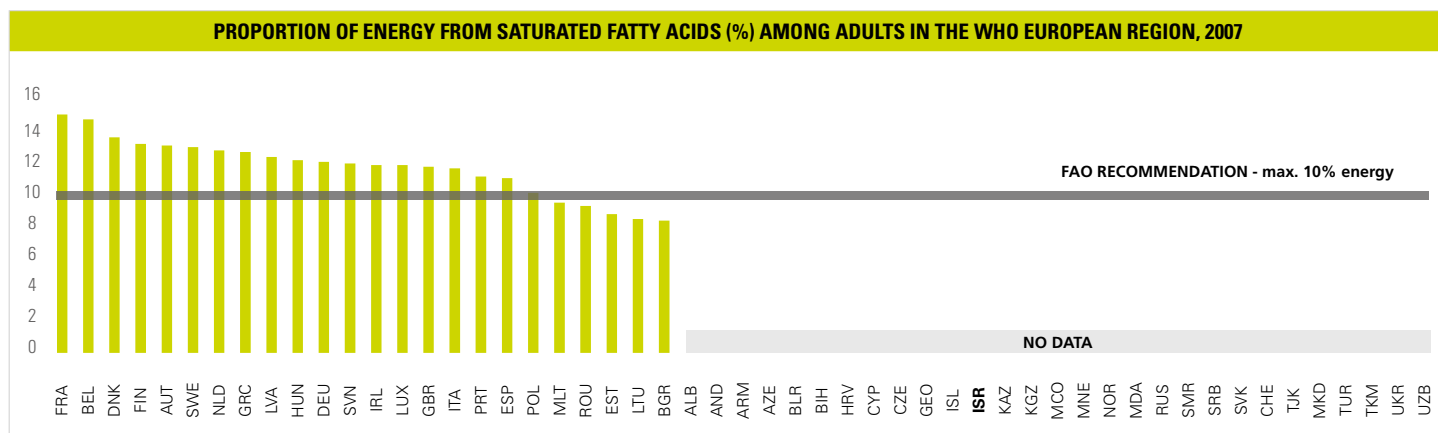


Notes: The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Data were derived from country-specific publications on surveys carried out in this field, not as part of a European-wide survey. Due to different data collection methods of the country-specific surveys, any comparisons between countries must be made with caution.

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe grey literature from 2012 on breastfeeding.

Saturated fat intake

No data are available.



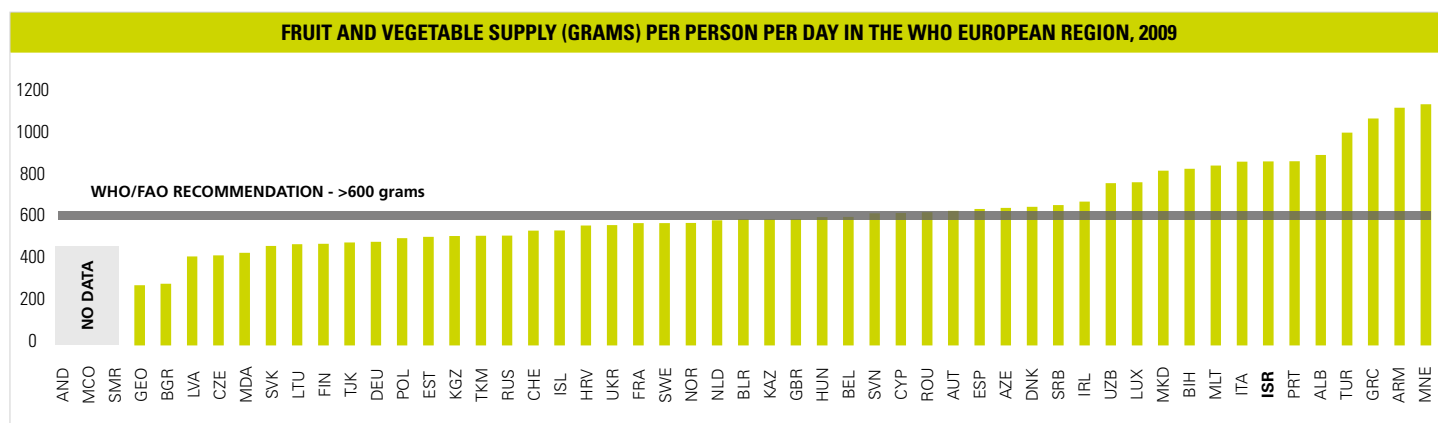
Notes: The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Ranking of data was carried out so that country data at the right-hand side of the graph – with values below the FAO recommendation – fall within the positive frame of the indicator. FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Source: FAOSTAT (2).

² WHO Regional Office for Europe grey literature from 2012 on breastfeeding.

Fruit and vegetable supply

Israel had a fruit and vegetable supply of 856 grams per capita per day, according to 2009 estimates (2).

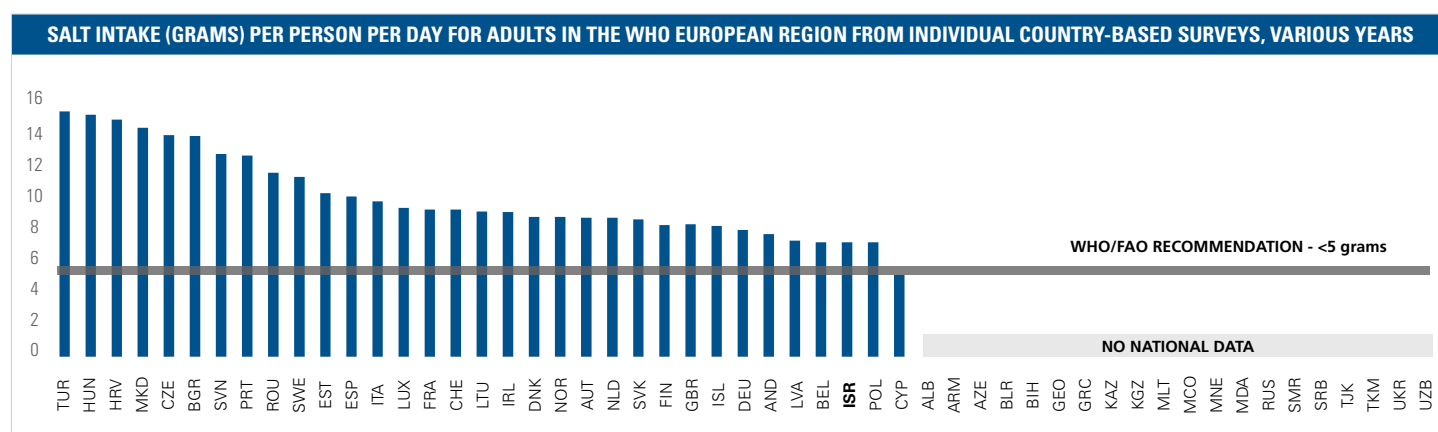


Notes. The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Ranking of data was carried out so that country data at the right-hand side of the graph – with values above the WHO/FAO recommendation – fall within the positive frame of the indicator.

Source: FAOSTAT (2).

Salt intake

Data from 1999–2001 show that salt intake in Israel was 8.3 grams per day for men and 5.8 grams per day for women (3).



Notes. The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Data were derived from country-specific publications on surveys carried out in this field, not as part of a European-wide survey. Due to different data collection methods of the country-specific surveys, any comparisons between countries must be made with caution. Ranking of data was carried out so that country data at the right-hand side of the graph – with values below the WHO/FAO recommendation – fall within the positive frame of the indicator.

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe (3).

Iodine status

No data are available.

Physical inactivity

No data are available for the adult population.

Policies and actions

The table below displays (a) monitoring and evaluation methods of salt intake in Israel; (b) the stakeholder approach toward salt reduction; and (c) the population approach in terms of labelling and consumer awareness initiatives (3).

Salt reduction initiatives

Monitoring & evaluation		Stakeholder approach			Population approach						
					Labelling	Consumer awareness initiatives					
						Brochure Print	TV Radio	Web site Software	Education Schools	Conference	Reporting
Industry self-reporting		Industry involvement	Food reformulation	Specific food category					Health care facilities		
Salt content in food	XX										
Salt intake	XX										
Consumer awareness		XX									
Behavioural change											
Urinary salt excretion (24 hrs)											
					XXX						

Notes. XX partially implemented; XXX fully implemented.

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe (3).

Trans fatty acids (TFA) policies

Legislation	Type of legislation	Measure

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe grey literature from 2012 on TFA and health, TFA policy and food industry approaches.

Price policies (food taxation and subsidies)

Taxes	School fruit schemes
✓ Tax on fruit and vegetables	✓ Not a separate scheme, included in school meals

Sources: WHO Regional Office for Europe grey literature from 2012 on diet and the use of fiscal policy in the control and prevention of noncommunicable diseases; country reporting template on Israel from 2009 developed in the context of a WHO/EC project on monitoring progress on improving nutrition and PA and preventing obesity in the European Union (EU).

Marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children (4)

The Ministry of Education has published guidelines on nutrition in educational institutions to prevent the marketing of energy-dense and nutrient-poor food and beverages in schools and other educational locations (5).

Physical activity (PA), national policy documents and action plans

Sport	Target groups	Health	Education		Transportation	
Existence of national "sport for all" policy and/or national "sport for all" implementation programme	Existence of specific scheme or programme for community interventions to promote PA in the elderly	Counselling on PA as part of primary health care activities	Mandatory physical education in primary and secondary schools	Inclusion of PA in general teaching training	National or subnational schemes promoting active travel to school	Existence of an incentive scheme for companies or employees to promote active travel to work
✓		✓ ^a	✓ ^b		✓ ^a	

^a Clearly stated in a policy document, partially implemented or enforced. ^b Clearly stated in a policy document, fully implemented and enforced.

Source: country reporting template on Israel from 2009 developed in the context of a WHO/EC project on monitoring progress on improving nutrition and PA and preventing obesity in the EU.

Leadership, partnerships and professional networks on health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA)

Existence of national coordination mechanism on HEPA promotion	Leading institution	Participating bodies

Source: country reporting template on Israel from 2009 developed in the context of a WHO/EC project on monitoring progress on improving nutrition and PA and preventing obesity in the EU.

PA recommendations, goals and surveillance

Existence of national recommendation on HEPA	Target groups addressed by national HEPA policy	PA included in the national health monitoring system

Source: country reporting template on Israel from 2009 developed in the context of a WHO/EC project on monitoring progress on improving nutrition and PA and preventing obesity in the EU.

References

1. WHO Global Health Observatory Data Repository [online database]. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2013 (<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main>, accessed 21 May 2013).
2. FAOSTAT [online database]. Rome, Statistics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2013 (<http://faostat.fao.org/>, accessed 21 May 2013).
3. *Mapping salt reduction initiatives in the WHO European Region*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2013 (http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/186462/Mapping-salt-reduction-initiatives-in-the-WHO-European-Region-final.pdf, accessed 29 May 2013).
4. *Marketing of foods high in fat, salt and sugar to children: update 2012–2013*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2013 (http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/191125/e96859.pdf, accessed 10 October 2013).
5. Nutrients and nutrition education in educational institutions [in Hebrew] [web site]. Jerusalem, Ministry of Education, 2013 (<http://cms.education.gov.il/EducationCMS/Applications/Mankal/EtsMedorim/2/2-2/HoraotKeva/K-2013-7a-2-2-82.htm>, accessed 6 August 2013).