

# Impact of ASF on availability of critical nutrients in breast milk

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# ASF intake and human function

Nutrition CRSP (e.g. Allen, Nutr. Rev. 1993)

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Even at usual low intakes, higher ASF intake predicted better human function in Mexico, Kenya, Egypt (controlling for SES etc.)

***In pregnancy:*** birthweight, infant growth, Bayley mental & motor scores.

***In preschoolers:*** growth and size, behavior, affect (less apathy, crying, time doing nothing).

***In schoolers:*** growth and size, school performance, Ravens matrices, verbal, block design, arithmetic, affect.

***In RCTS,*** ASF improved growth, cognitive function, school performance, playground activity.

## Animal source foods, compared to plants, provide more:

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- Energy, fat, protein
- **Vitamin B-12** (the *only* dietary source – NOT ALGAE!)
- Thiamin, riboflavin, B-6
- **Vitamin A** (the *only* preformed source)
- Vitamin E
- **Iron** (the *only* dietary source of heme)
- **Zinc** (especially bioavailable)
- **Calcium**
- Vitamin D (the *only* dietary source)
- **Choline**

## % increase in maternal nutrient needs, pregnancy and lactation

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	<u>P</u>	<u>L</u>		<u>P</u>	<u>L</u>
• Energy	13	25	• Calcium	0	0
• Protein	54	54	• Copper	11	44
• Vitamin A	10	86	• Iodine	47	93
• Vitamin C	13	60	• Iron	50	-50
• Vitamin E	0	27	• Magnesium	13	0
• Thiamin	27	27	• Phosphorus	0	0
• Riboflavin	27	45	• Selenium	9	27
• Niacin	29	21	• Zinc	38	50
• Vitamin B6	56	54			
• Folate	50	25			
• Vitamin B12	8	17			

What are consequences for  
mother, milk and infant  
when these requirements  
not met?

# Breast milk quality

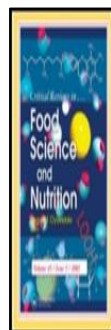
- ❑ Exclusive breast feeding (EBF) recommended for 6 mo.
- ❑ Breast milk:
  - ❑ sole source of MN for EBF infants 0 to 6 mo.
  - ❑ important source from 6 to  $\approx$ 24 mo.
- ❑ The limited data show maternal MN status/intake affects milk MN, and prevalence of infant MN deficiencies is high at 6 mo.
- ❑ But little research or policy on MN status of lactating women, poor information on breast milk MN (milk quality).
- ❑ Reasons include:
  - ❑ change from prenatal to postnatal health providers;
  - ❑ concern that evidence of poor milk quality could affect EBF rates;
  - ❑ belief that poor growth and MN status in first 6 mo. of EBF due to other factors.
  - ❑ sample collection and analytical challenges.

# MN groups in lactation (Allen, 1994 revised)

<u>Group I</u>	<u>Group II</u>
Milk MN $\propto$ to maternal status, infant depleted. Supplements can $\uparrow$ MN in milk.	Milk MN independent of maternal status, mother depleted. Supplements no effect on milk.
<b>B-1, B-2, B-6, B-12</b> <b>Vitamins A, D, K. E?</b> <b>Choline</b> <b>Iodine</b> <b>Selenium</b>	<b>Folate</b> <b>Iron, copper, zinc</b> <b>Calcium</b>



# Development of analytical methods

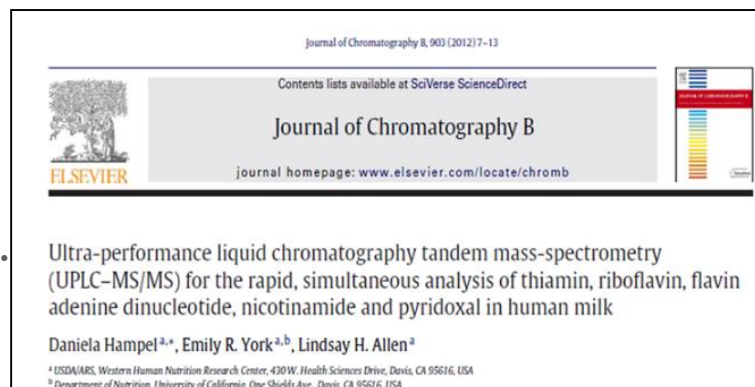


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DOI: 10.1080/10443924.2015.10559

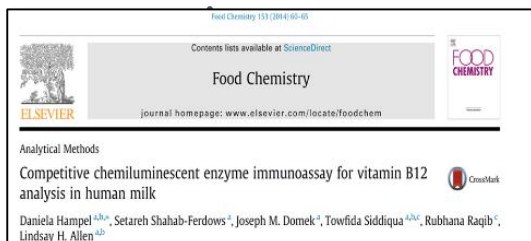
## Analyzing B-vitamins in Human Milk: Methodological Approaches

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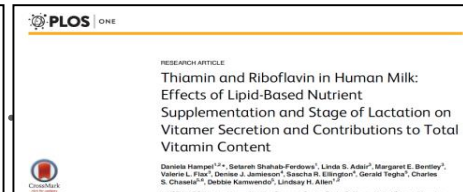
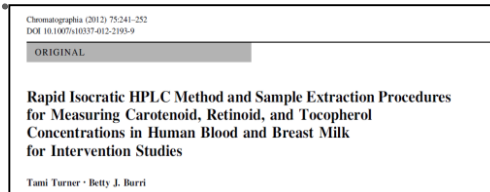


**4 platforms**  
**5 methodological approaches**  
**1 mL of milk**



**ICP-AES for the rapid, simultaneous analysis  
of iron, copper, and zinc in human milk**

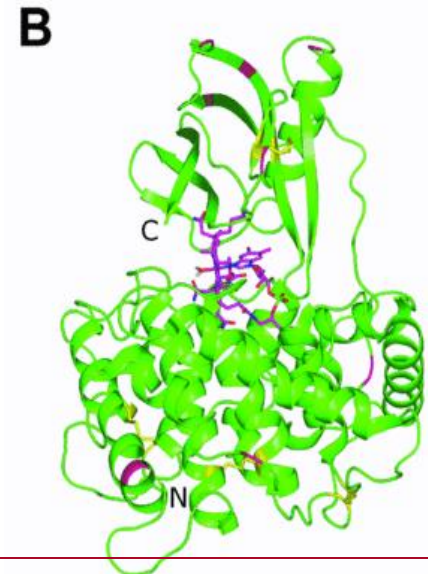
**Hampel et al. 2017, submitted**



# Vitamin B-12

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- Deficiency and depletion are highly prevalent, often 30-50%, even >80%.
- Due to low intake of the only food source - animal source foods.
- If mothers pregnancy status poor, infant has low stores at birth, and low breast milk B-12.



B12 bound to  
haptocorrin in breast  
milk



## Canada and U.S.A.

Canada 2011 (6-79y)  
Canada 2015 (adult women)  
NHANES III (<4y)  
NHANES III (12-19y)  
NHANES III (20-29y)  
NHANES III (30-39y)  
NHANES III (40-49y)  
NHANES III (50-59y)  
NHANES III (60-89y)  
NHANES III (>70y)  
SALSA 2003 (elderly Latino)

## Latin America

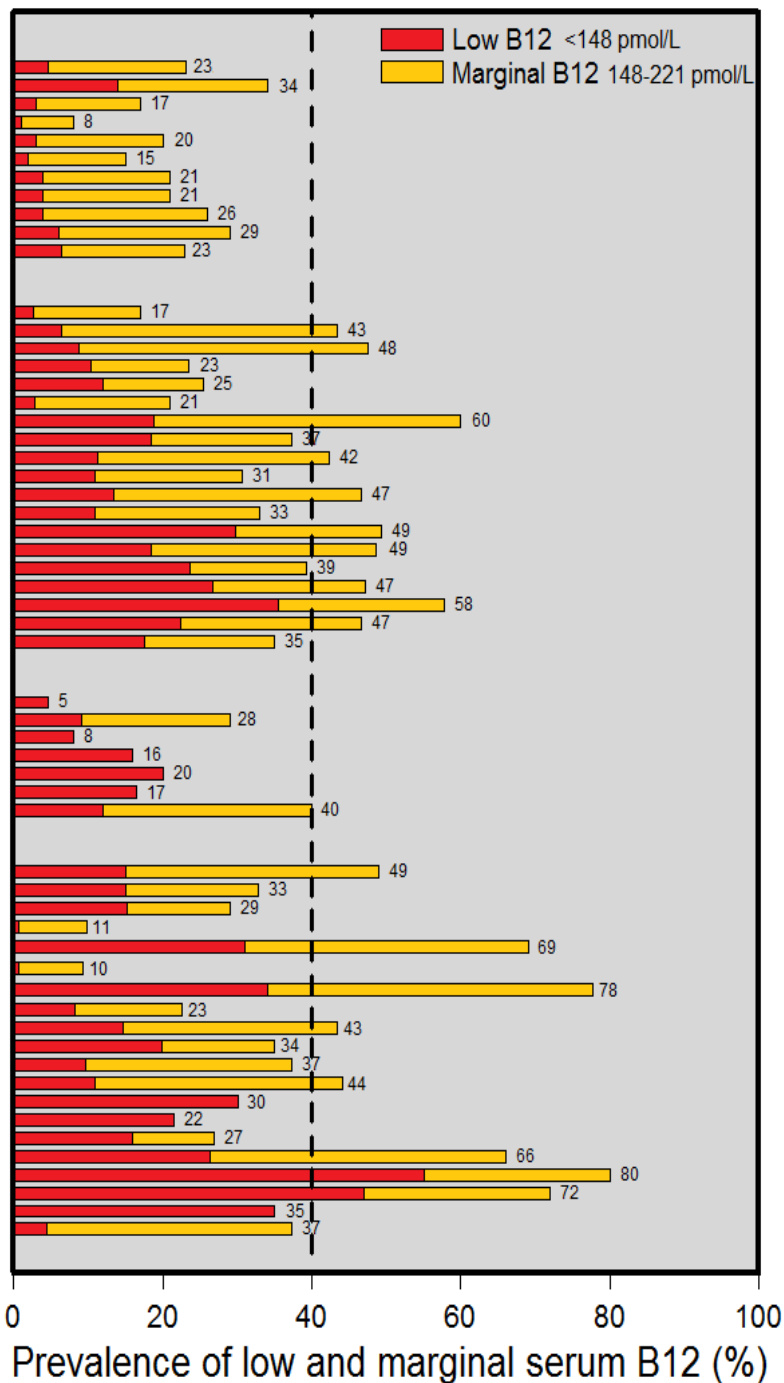
Brazil (1<sup>st</sup> trimester pregnancy)  
Brazil (2<sup>nd</sup> trimester pregnancy)  
Brazil (3<sup>rd</sup> trimester pregnancy)  
Chile 2003 (adult women)  
Chile 2010 (elderly)  
Colombia 2010 (<18y)  
Colombia 2010 (pregnant women)  
Colombia 2010 (adult women)  
Costa Rica 2007 (adults)  
Ecuador 2009 (elderly)  
Guatemala 1997 (lactating women)  
Guatemala 2003 (school children)  
Guatemala 2007 (infants)  
Guatemala 2009-2010 (adult women)  
Mexico 1999 (preschoolers)  
Mexico 1999 (school children)  
Mexico 1999 (adolescent girls)  
Mexico 1999 (adult women)  
Venezuela 2007 (elderly)

## Europe and Oceania

Denmark 2009 (adults)  
Italy 2012 (elderly)  
United Kingdom OHAP (elderly)  
United Kingdom MRC (elderly)  
United Kingdom NDNC (elderly)  
Australia 2013 (refugees)  
New Zealand 1996-1997 (elderly)

## Africa and Asia

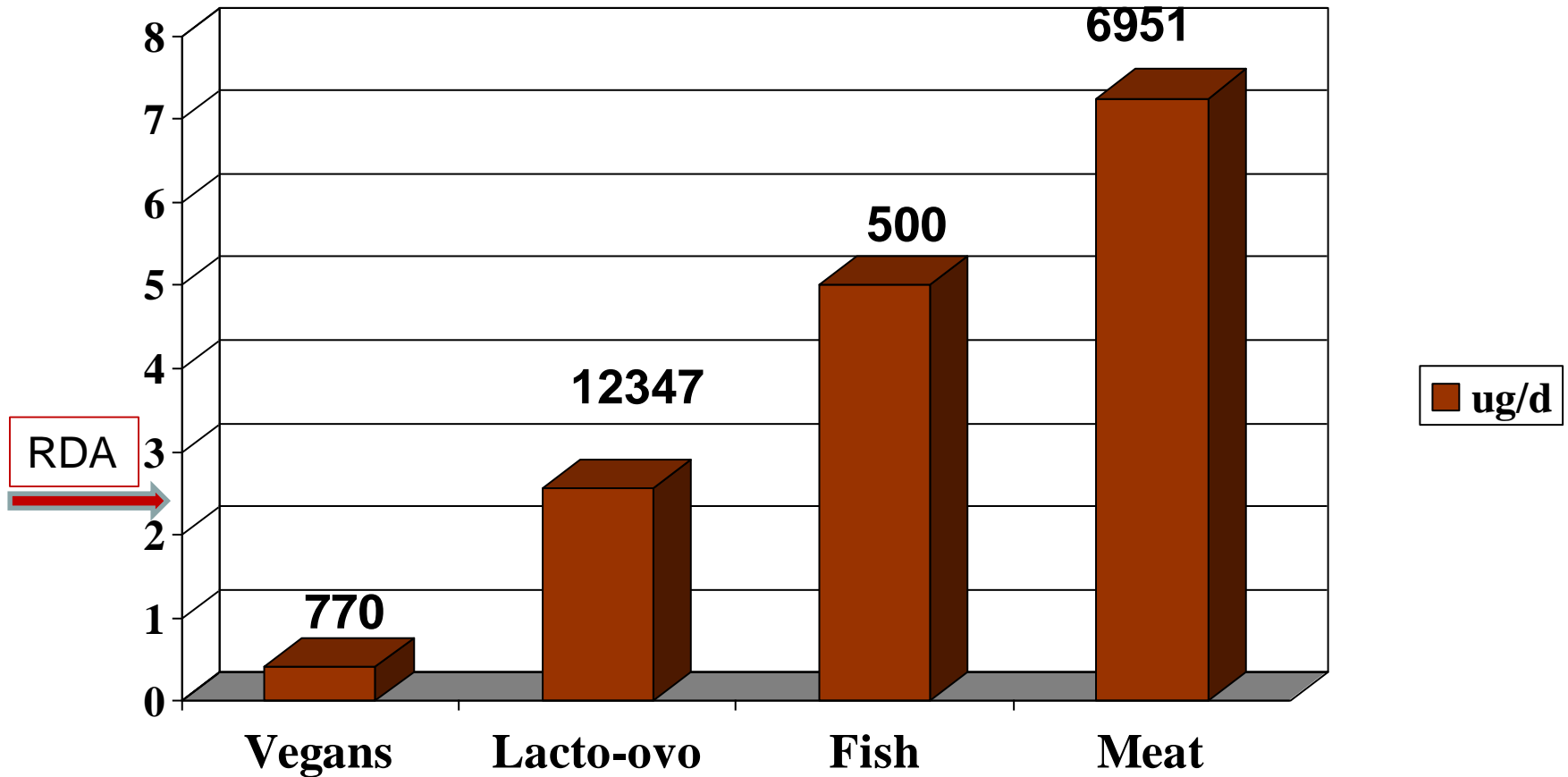
Botswana (school children)  
Cameroon 2015 (children)  
Cameroon 2015 (adult women)  
Ghana (pregnant women)  
Kenya 2003 (school children)  
Malawi (pregnant women)  
Niger (pregnant women)  
The Gambia (1<sup>st</sup> trimester pregnancy)  
The Gambia (3<sup>rd</sup> trimester pregnancy)  
The Gambia (12 weeks postpartum)  
The Gambia (infants 12 weeks)  
The Gambia (infants 24 weeks)  
Jordan 2014 (>19y)  
Turkey 2015 (adult women)  
Bangladesh 2011 (adult women)  
Bangladesh 2016 (pregnant women)  
India (preschoolers)  
India 2001 (adults)  
South India 2016 (adults)  
China 2003 (adult women)



Global prevalence of low and marginal serum B12

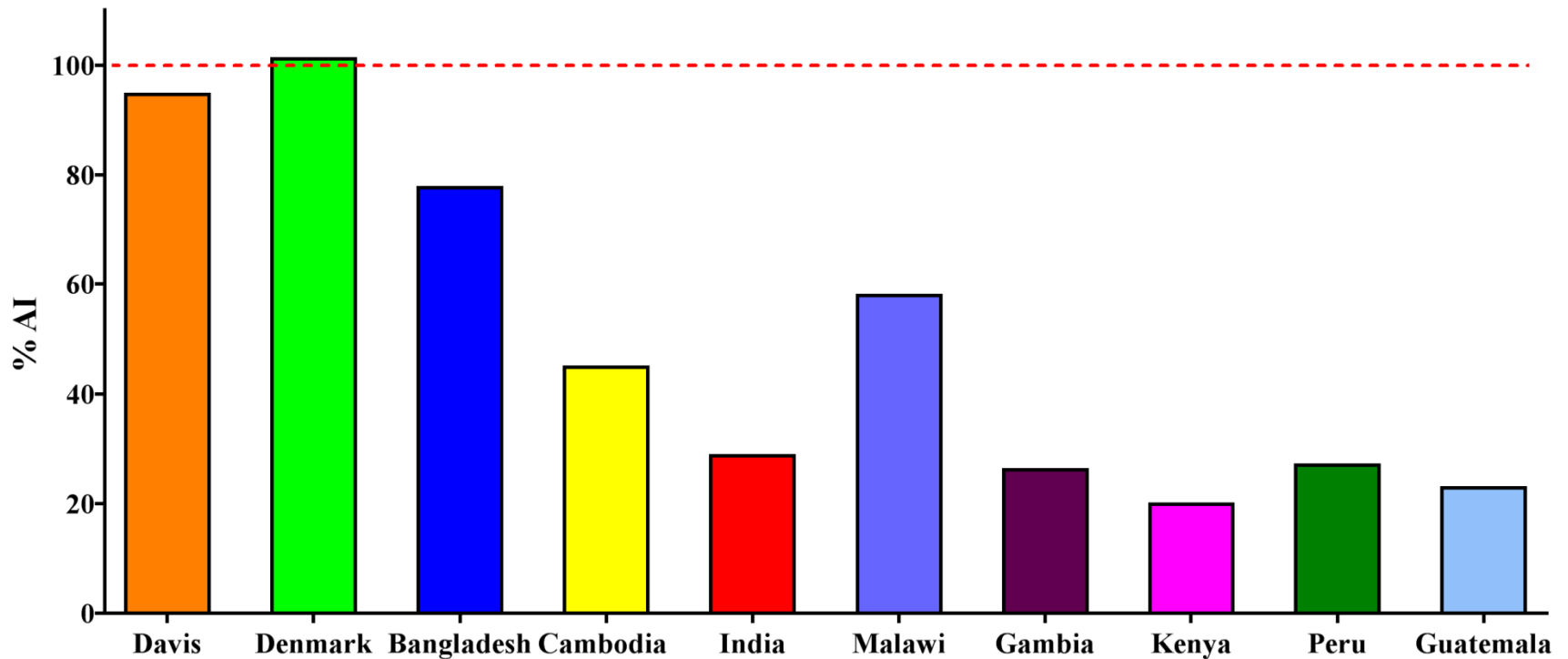
Serum B12 correlated with B12 intake in almost every study

# Mean B12 intakes of men by diet groups, EPIC (Davey, 2002)

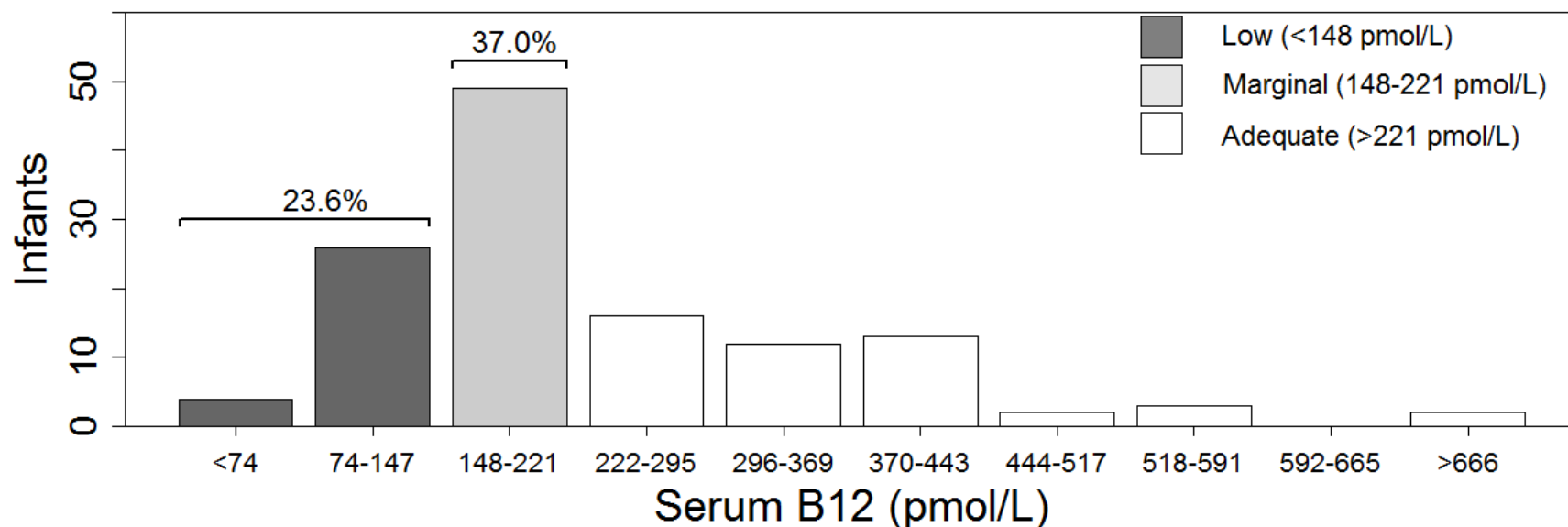


# Global values for milk B12: analyses from the Allen lab

## Median values as % of Adequate Intake value



# Serum B12 in Guatemalan infants



61% infants age 7 months had deficient or low serum B12

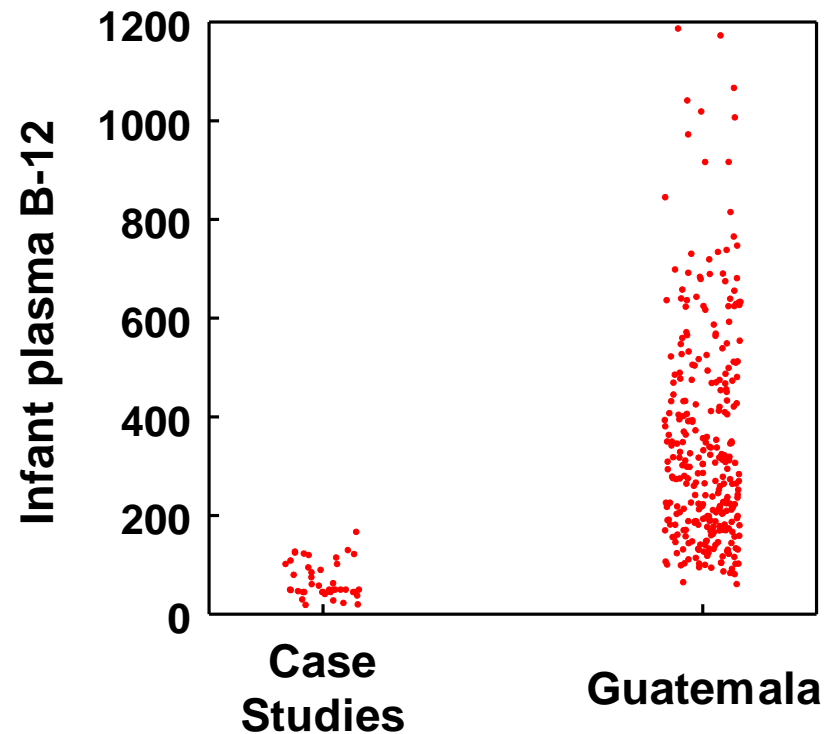
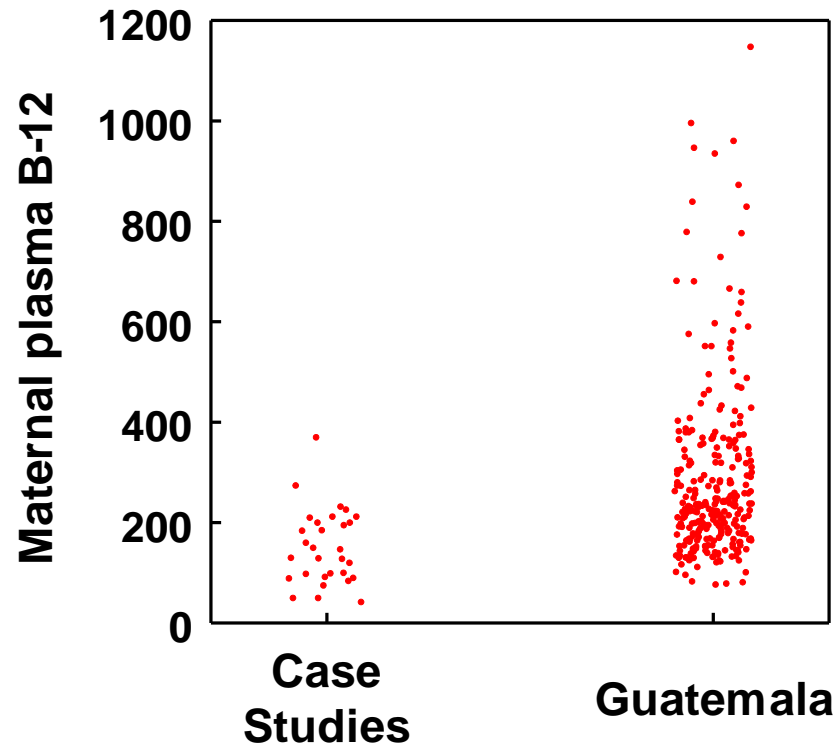
## % Infants with symptoms in case studies of B-12 deficiency

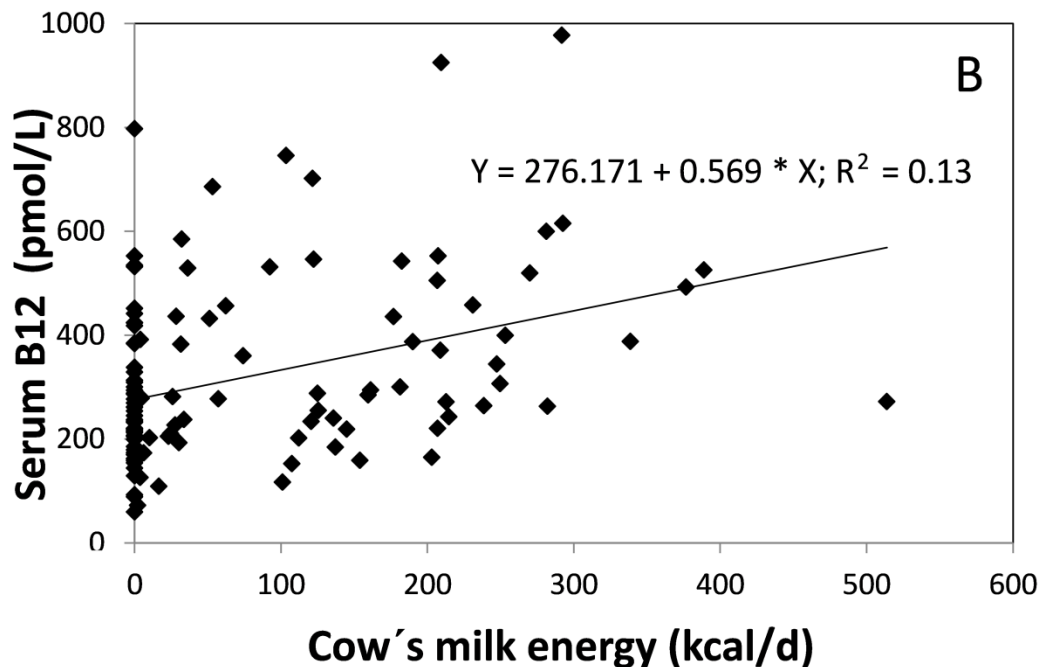
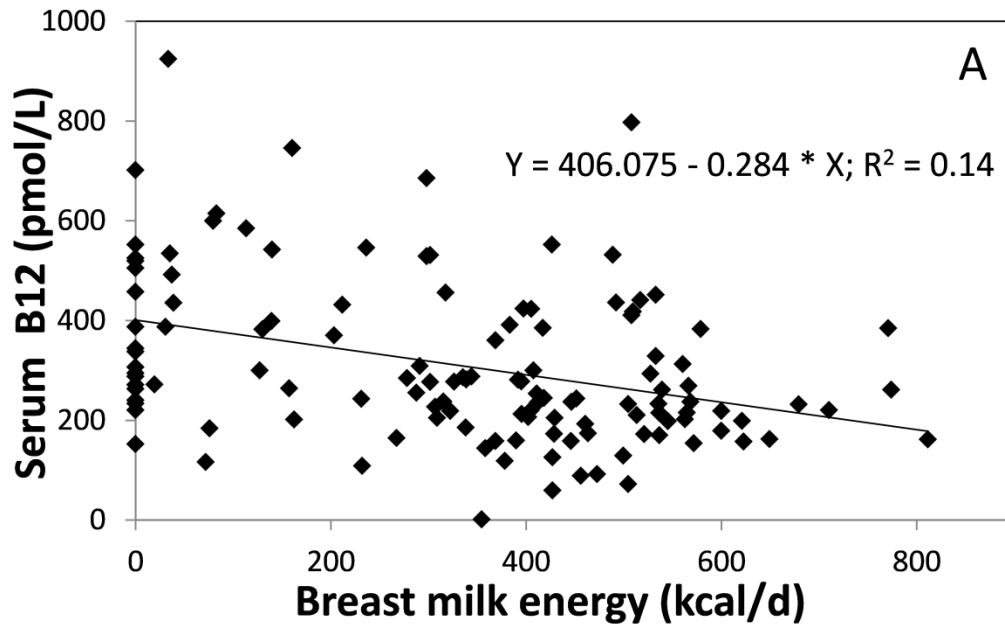
	Mother pern. anemia (n=18)	Mother vegan (n=30)
Wt <10 pcle	93	89
L <10 pcle	83	60
Head <10 pcle	91	77
Hypotonia	61	63
Developmental delay	56	60
Lethargy	50	63
Slow/abnl EEG	50	33
Not able to sit alone	33	43
Convulsions/tremors	33	23
Cerebral atrophy	28	37
Irritable	20	28
Not smiling	11	23

Dror & Allen, 1998

## Overlap between maternal and plasma B12 values in clinical cases of infant deficiency, and at 12 months in Guatemala

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In Guatemala, infant serum B12 at 7 mo. is *inversely* related to breast milk intake, and positively to cow's milk intake.

Cows milk has much more B12 than breast milk, especially in Guatemala, where breast milk can supply only 10% AI.

# Continuum of mother-child B12 depletion

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Maternal depletion in pregnancy



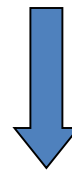
Low B12 stores in infant at birth  
& in colostrum, breast milk



Infant depletion

Breastfed (-)

Formula/milk (+)

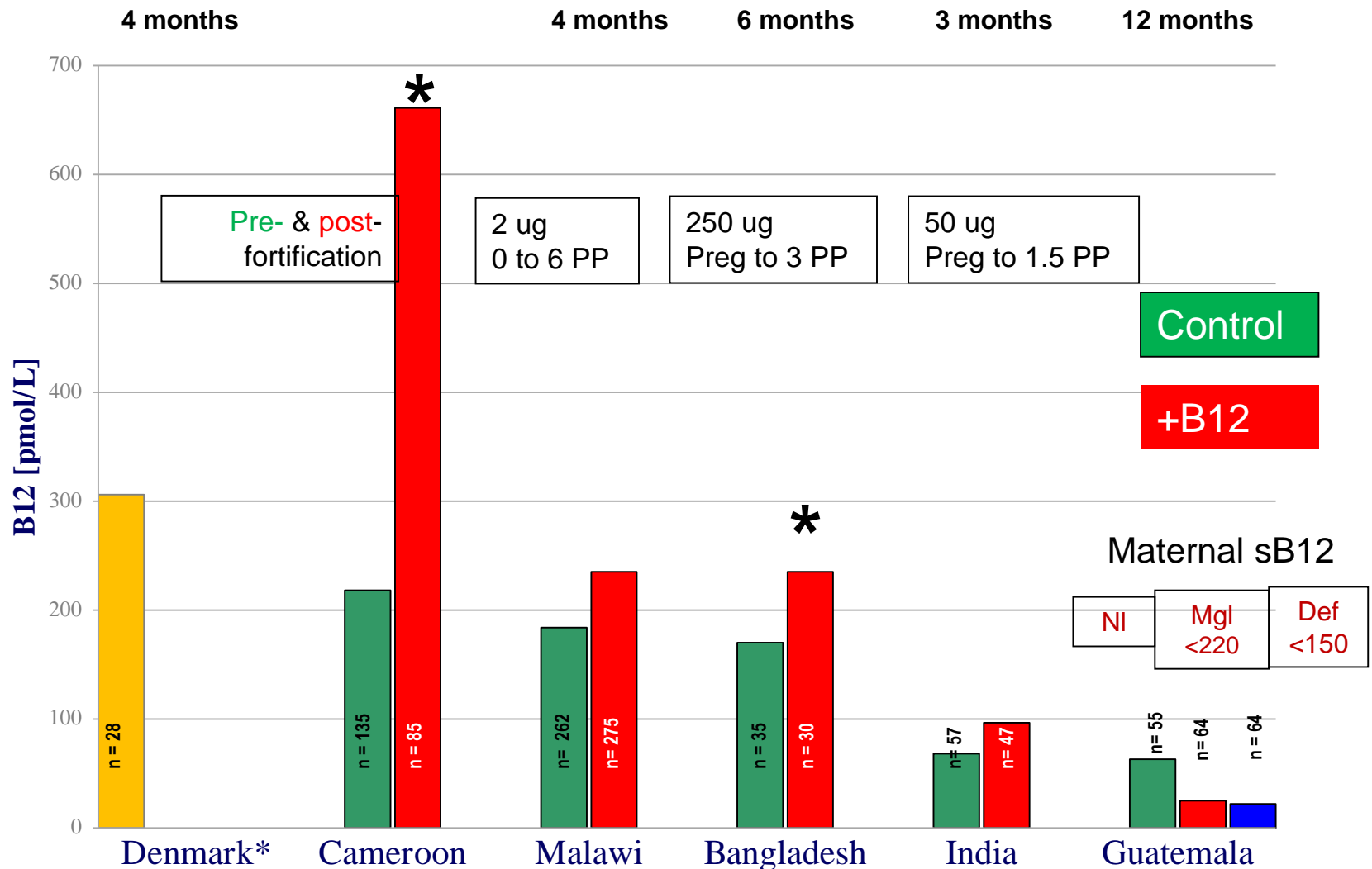


Depletion at 21 months (still correlated  
with early maternal B12 status)

↓ weight, length, motor development



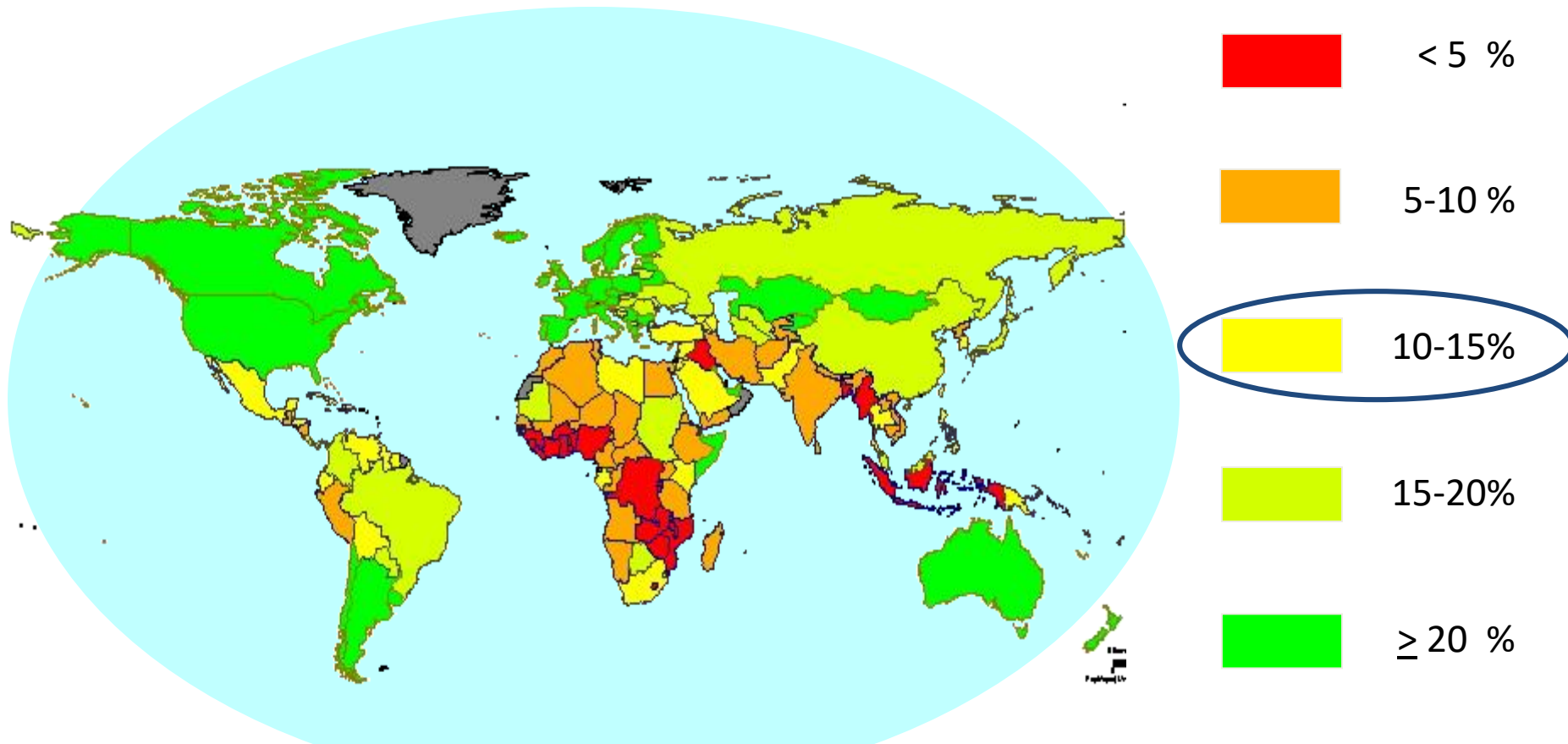
# Maternal supplement dose vs B12 in milk



**No dose normalizes milk B12**

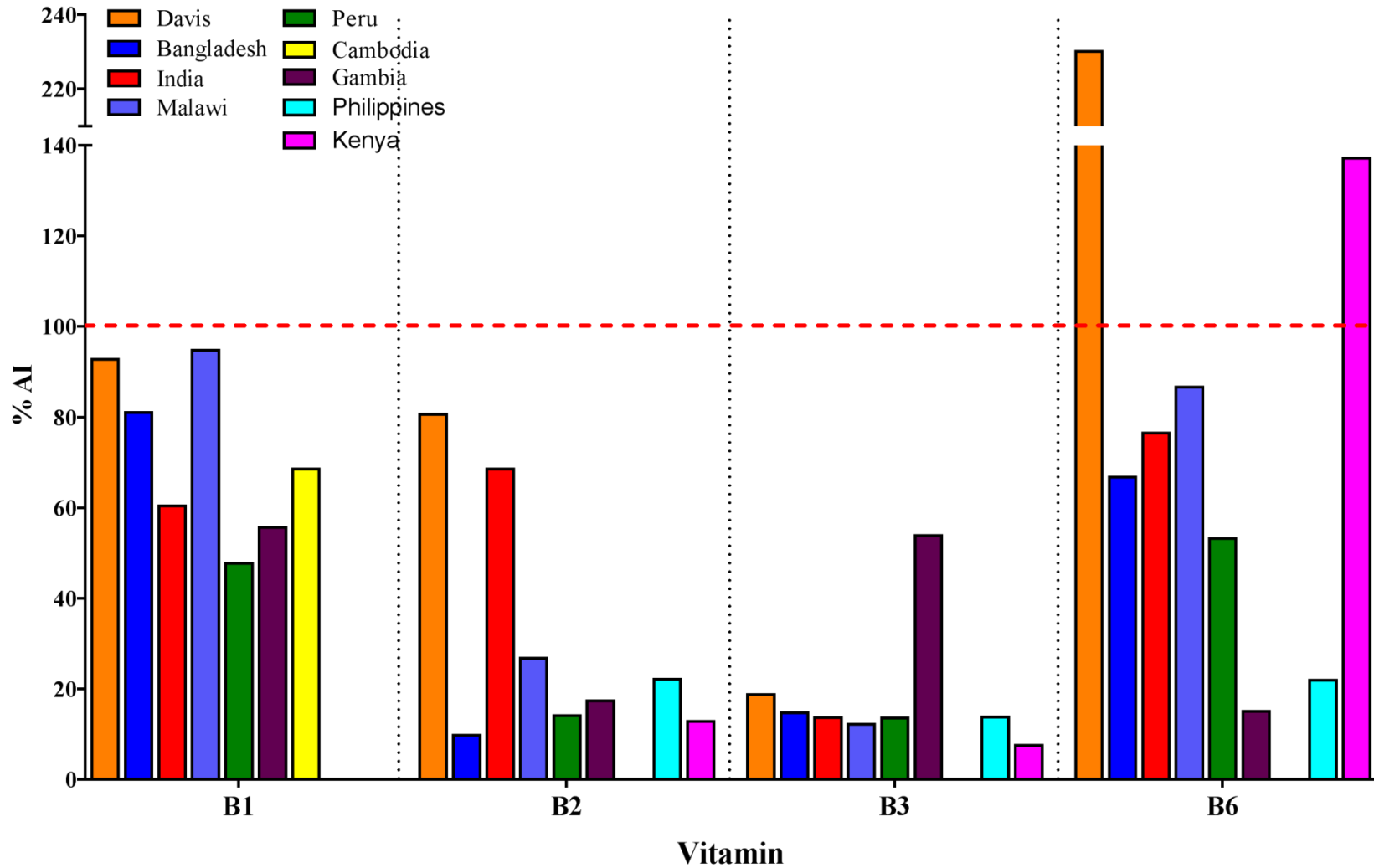
# How much ASF do we need?

## %energy in food supply from ASF

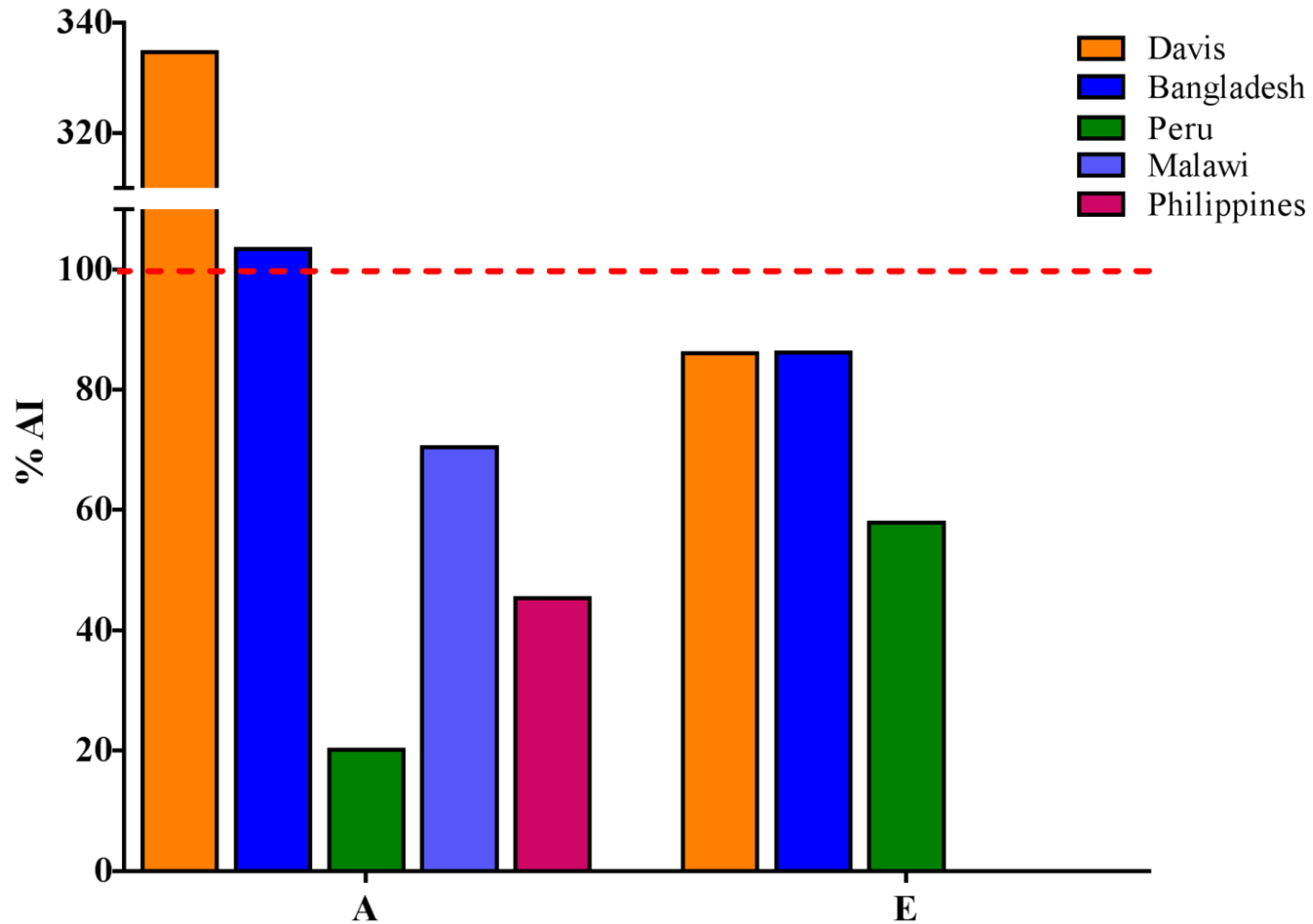


B12 deficiency prevalence high if % ASF kcal =10-15%

# Median relative concentrations of vitamins B1, B2, B3, and B6 in milk as % of value assumed to set Adequate Intake

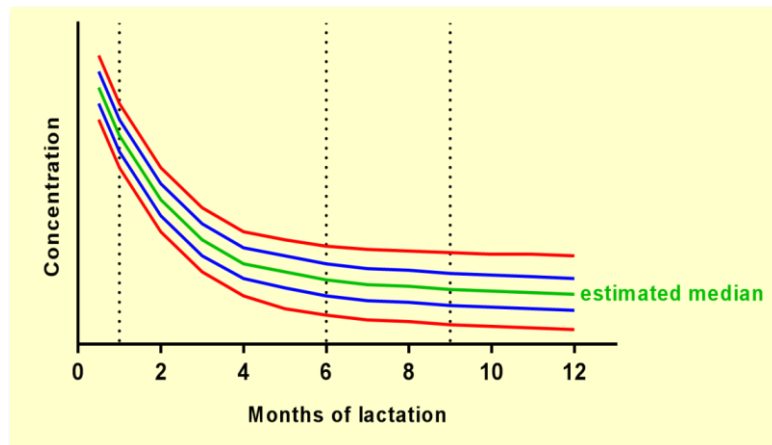


**Relative median concentrations of vitamins A and E in milk as % of value assumed to set Adequate Intake**



# MILQ study

- Funded by BMGF to establish Reference Values for each nutrient across first 9 months lactation.
- To interpret values (lack of specific MN and foods, need for supplements/fortification, impact of interventions).
- To improve DRIs for infants, young children, lactation.
- Well-nourished (but not supplemented) mothers.
- 4 countries, same methods.
- Supported by data on diets, status, milk volume, other factors.



# Summary

- ❑ Maternal MN status in lactation is neglected.
- ❑ Poor knowledge of milk composition around world – better data needed to improve estimates of requirements and gaps.
- ❑ Most MN in milk are affected by maternal status and/or intake, especially B vitamins and vitamin A; sole or major source of MN for **180-800 days**.
- ❑ Milk MN *reflect* dietary quality and importance of ASF.
- ❑ Few data on effect of maternal interventions on milk and young infant – but likely *multiple* MN required (as in ASF).
- ❑ Food-based strategies – especially ASF, fortification – improve maternal intake before and throughout perinatal period; may be more effective than current supplement policy.

# Collaborators in milk research

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Setti Shahab-Ferdows

Daniela Hampel

Alex Brito

Juliana Haber

John Newman

Janet Peerson



**Bangladesh:** M. Islam, R. Raqib, T. Siddiqua

**Brazil:** G. Kac

**Cameroon:** K. Brown, R. Engle-Stone

**Denmark:** E. Nexø, D. Lildeballe

**Gambia:** S. Moore, K. Erikssen

**Ghana:** K. Dewey, iLiNS team

**Guatemala:** M. Ramirez

**India:** C. Duggan, A. Kurpad

**Kenya:** A. Williams, C. Stewart

**Madagascar:** C. Golden

**Malawi:** P. Bentley, L. Adair, K. Dewey, P. Ashorn

**Peru:** Theresa Gyorkos





# Importance of measuring milk MN

- ❑ What is prevalence of low/inadequate milk MN concentrations?
- ❑ Useful as a biomarker for population MN status; can show need for/importance of ASF and MN interventions.
- ❑ Evaluate effects of dietary change, fortification and supplementation.
- ❑ Concentrations used to:
  1. set AI for infants/young children
$$AI = MN \text{ concentration} \times 780 \text{ mL milk/d}$$
  2. set MN recommendations for lactation
  3. estimate MN gaps in complementary feeding.
- ❑ What are consequences for infant status and development?

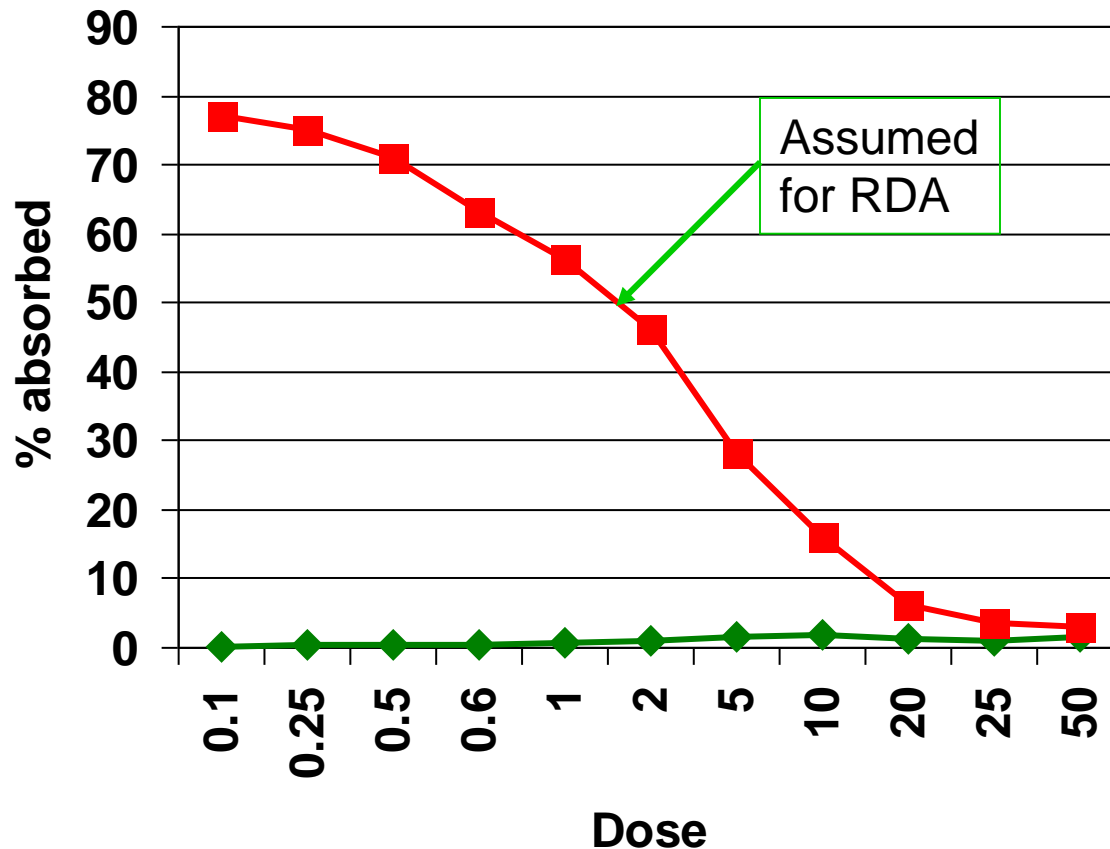
## Measurement schedule (n=250 dyads x 4 sites)

	Delivery	1 – 3.4 m	3.5 – 5.9 m	7 – 8.9 m
Screen/enroll	X			
Colostrum/breast milk	X	X	X	X
(Milk volume, Hartmann) Milk volume, deuterium		X	X X (n=30)	X X (n=30)
Blood mother		X	X	X
Blood infant		X	X (n=125)	X (n=125)
Dried blood spot infant			X	X
Urine mother and infant		X	X	X
Anthrop. mother	X	X	X	X
Anthrop. infant	X	X	X	X
Development milestones		X	X	X
Diet mother (2 d)	X	X	X	X
Diet infant (2 d)	X	X	X	X
Feces mother and infant		X	X	X

## Foods in “Top 10” for vitamins

Nutrient	Food
Thiamin	Fish, pork
Riboflavin	Cheese/milk, beef, lamb, eggs, pork, seafood
Niacin	Fish, poultry, pork, liver, beef
B6	Fish, poultry, pork, beef
B12	Shellfish, liver, fish, crab, beef, milk, cheese, eggs
A	Liver, butter, eggs

# % B12 absorbed is inversely proportional to dose (Chanarin)



**“% Absorbed  
similar from meat  
vs. aqueous”  
(but 20% lower  
from liver)**

◆ Amount absorbed  
■ % absorbed

**Average MAXIMUM  
uptake = 1.5 ug from  
5 to 50 ug dose**

**≈50% of 1 ug absorbed**