

In this issue

Diversity: a key feature of public health nutrition research

Public health nutrition, as a field of research and practice, is rich in diversity and intimidating by the enormity of its challenges. Reflecting this view, it would be difficult to argue that research published in *Public Health Nutrition* is narrow in focus and limited in diversity of topic. The dozen research contributions in this issue provide contrary evidence to this position. Diversity is evident in terms of geographical origin of papers, topic under investigation and research methods applied.

Dietary adequacy is a central theme in public health nutrition worldwide and addressed in a number of papers in this issue. The nutrition transition in developing economies around the world demonstrates that dietary adequacy can swing from deficit to surplus within a relatively short time. Vio *et al.*⁽¹⁾ report on an analysis of the nutritional status component of the nutrition transition in Chile in relation to evolving obesity rates. They conclude that this transition towards obesity requires comprehensive and effective interventions. Rambeloson *et al.*⁽²⁾ have assessed the nutritional quality of food aid delivered by food banks in France, using linear programming analysis in order to identify practical modifications for improvement. This analysis identified that French food bank-delivered food aid did not achieve French recommendations for a range of nutrients, which is of obvious concern given the already at-risk status of the target populations for this food aid.

Abebe *et al.*⁽³⁾ report on the very high prevalence of Zn inadequacy in a cross-sectional study of subsistence farming households in southern Ethiopia. In contrast, Kuhnlein *et al.*⁽⁴⁾ report on the first comprehensive dietary adequacy assessment of adult Arctic indigenous people. This study indicates unique patterns of dietary adequacy amongst different Arctic indigenous peoples. Assis *et al.*⁽⁵⁾ investigate the scourge of malnutrition among preschoolers in north-eastern Brazil, and conclude that adverse social and economic factors interact with family environmental factors that lead to a high prevalence of mild–moderate malnutrition.

Evaluation is a central theme in public health nutrition practice and critical to the evolving and improving nature

of work in this field. Laroche *et al.*⁽⁶⁾ qualitatively evaluate the impact of an adult-focused diabetes intervention on participants' food provision for their children and the children's reaction to these associated changes. This evaluation guides interventions that assist parents in successfully including children in their dietary changes. Pietinen *et al.*⁽⁷⁾ estimate the impact of choosing food products labelled as either low or high in salt on salt intake in the Finnish adult population. This formative evaluation suggests that the potential impact of labelling and giving consumers the possibility to choose products with less salt are of public health importance.

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