HEALTH CO-BENEFITS OF A LOW-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DIET

AND THE ANTHROPOMETRIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD





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PHD SDC

30+ UNIVERSITIES

102 SCOLARSHIPS

6 CURRICULA



To direct research towards new sustainable development models, in order to **minimize the impact of humankind** on the planet and to **reduce inequalities**



PhD IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PHD SDC

The impact of climate change on the **structure**, function and health of biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems



PhD SDC **HEALTH AND ECOSYSTEMS**

Study the **human health** risks associated with climate change and their interconnections

PHD SDC

The impact of climate change on the **structure**, function and health of biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems

Accounting for not only climate but **global change** i.e. planetary-scale changes in the Earth system which encompass the variety of changes connected to the rapid increase in human activities which started around mid-20th century

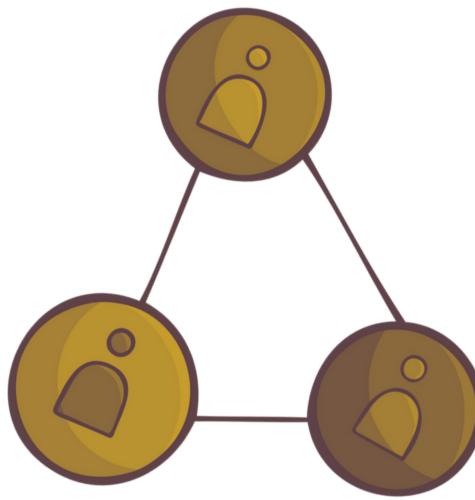
PhD SDC

Study the **human health** risks associated with climate change and their interconnections **HEALTH AND ECOSYSTEMS**





Individual actions' impact on environment and health

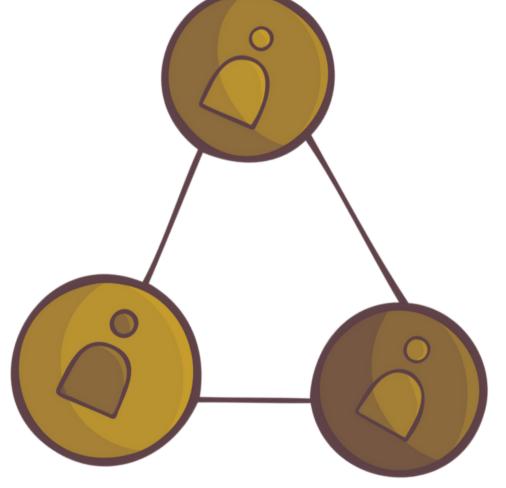






Individual actions' impact on environment and health





How socio-economic factors are able to **shape** individual's impact and health



Individual actions' impact on environment and health



How socio-economic factors are able to **shape** individual's impact and health



The health of **human** civilization and the **natural system** on which it depend

CO-BENEFITS

We live in ecosystems with a delicate balance

Human activities have strong consequences on them





But also our health depends on a delicate balance

And is deeply affected by the ecosystem's health and environmental parmeters

CO-BENEFITS

We live in ecosystems with a delicate balance

Human activities have strong consequences on them



Co-benefit definition (IPCC)

Health-related co- benefitsa are those positive effect on health arising from mitigation/adaptation actions and poilcies and vice versa



But also our health depends on a delicate balance

And is deeply affected by the ecosystem's health and environmental parmeters

DIET

Diet is one of the lifestyle-related factors that most affect **both climate change** and human health.





WHYDJET?

Diet is one of the lifestyle-related factors that most affect **both climate change** and human health.

In region with excess calories consumption a **dietary shift** towards foods with a **higher** share in plant based foods and with greater dietary diversity and reduced consumption of **animal-sourced** foods and **unhealthy** foods(as defined by scientific panels such as EAT-Lancet) has both **mitigation** and **adaptation** benefits along with reduced mortality from diet related non-communicable diseases, health, biodiversity and other environmental co-benefits (high confidence) (1)

Reducing food waste, especially of environment- and climate-costly foods would further extend these benefits



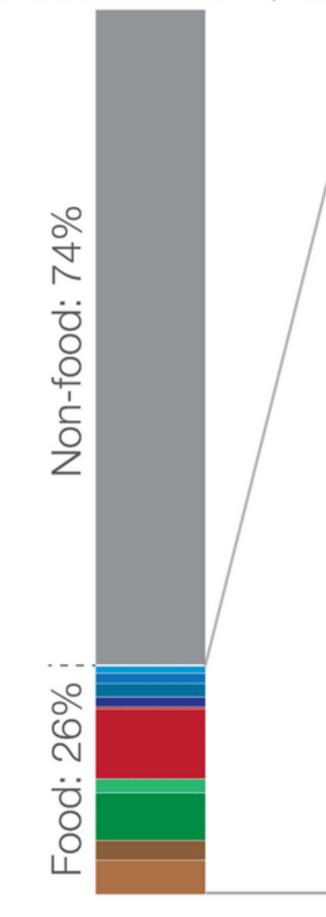


The **food sector** is responsible for the 20 to 30% of global GHG emissions

The emissions **intensity** varies according to the stage of the production chain

Global greenhouse gas emissions from food production Our World

Global Emissions 52.3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents



Data source: Joseph Poore & Thomas Nemecek (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. Published in Science. OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the author Hannah Ritchie.

in Data

Retail: 3% of food emissions

Packaging: 5% of food emissions

Transport: 6% of food emissions

Food processing: 4% of food emissions

Livestock & fish farms 30% of food emissions

Crops for animal feed 6% of food emissions

Crops for human food 21% of food emissions

Land use for human food 8% of food emissions

Land use for livestock 16% of food emissions

Supply chain 18%

Livestock and fisheries 31%

Methane from cattle's digestion ("enteric fermentation") Emissions from manure management Emissions from pasture management Fuel use from fisheries

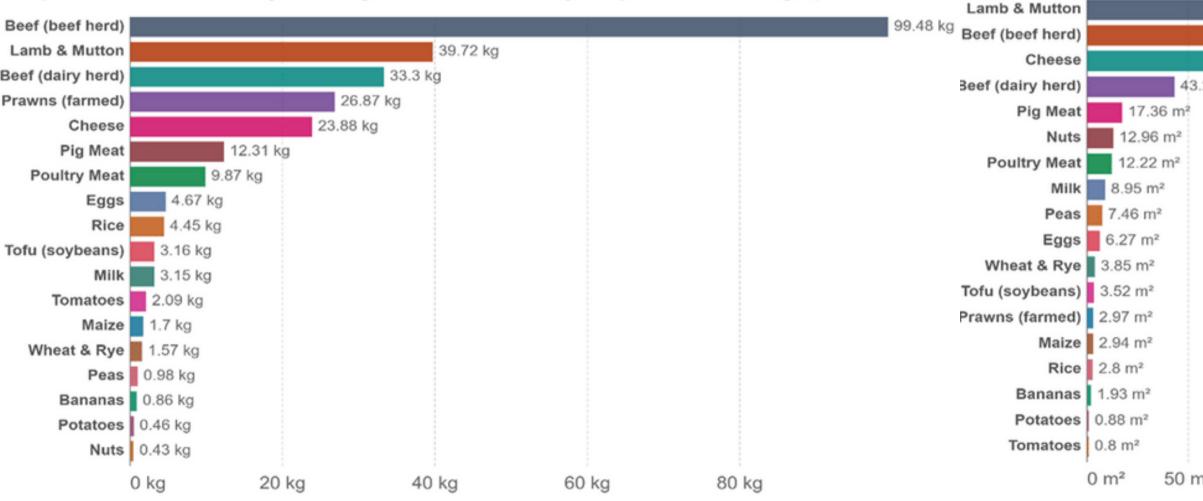
Crop production 27%

Land Use 24% Land use change: 18% Cultivated organic soils: 4% Savannah burning: 2%

Greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram of food product

Greenhouse gas emissions are measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalents (kgCO₂eq) per kilogram of food product. This means non-CO₂ greenhouse gases are included and weighted by their relative warming impact.

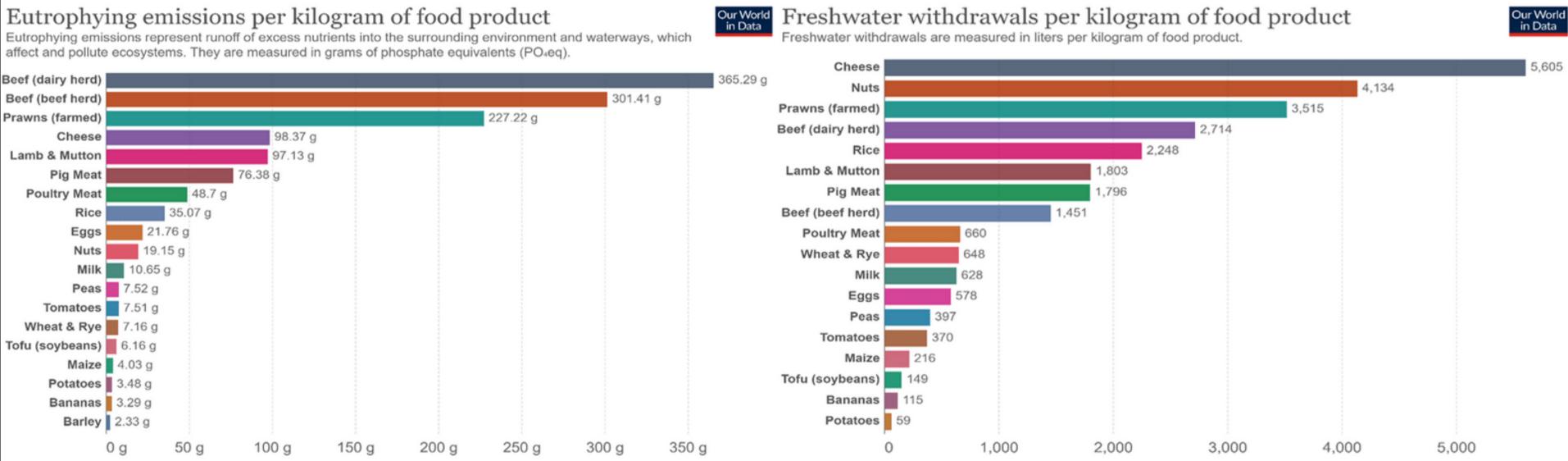




Source: Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. OurWorldInData.org/environmental-impacts-of-food • CC BY Source: Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. OurWorldInData.org/environmental-impacts-of-food • CC BY

s squared (m ²) per kilogram of a given food product.								
							369.81 m²	
						326.21 m ²		
	87.79 m ²							
3.24 m²								
m²	100 m ²	150 m²	200 m ²	250 m ²	300 m ²	350 m²		





Source: Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. OurWorldInData.org/environmental-impacts-of-food • CC BY

OurWorldInData.org/environmental-impacts-of-food • CC BY

Source: Poore, J., & Nemecek, T. (2018). Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers.

Diet related factors are responsible for **188 million** (95% CI 156-225) **DALYs** and **7.94 million** (6.47-9.76) deaths in the over 25 population

The considered dietary risk were: ·Diet low in vegetables •Diet low in legumes •Diet low in whole grains •Diet low in nuts and seeds •Diet low in milk ·Diet high in red meat ·Diet high in processed meat •Diet high in sugar-sweetened beverages •Diet low in fibre •Diet low in fruits ·Diet low in calcium ·Diet low in seafood omega-3 fatty acids •Diet low in polyunsaturated fatty acids ·Diet high in trans fatty acids ·Diet high in sodium



Murray, Christopher JL, et al. "Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019." The Lancet 396.10258 (2020): 1223-1249

High systolic blood pressure Dietary risks High fasting plasma glucose Air pollution High body-mass index High LDL cholestero Kidney dysfunction Child and maternal malnutrition Non-optimal temperature Unsafe water, sanitation, and handwashing Unsafe sex Low physical activity Alcohol use Other environmental risks Occupational risks Low bone mineral density Intimate partner violence Childhood sexual abuse and bullying High systolic blood pressure

High fasting plasma glucose

High body-mass index

High LDL cholestero

Kidney dysfunction

Child and maternal malnutrition

Non-optimal temperature

Occupational risks

Unsafe water, sanitation, and handwashing

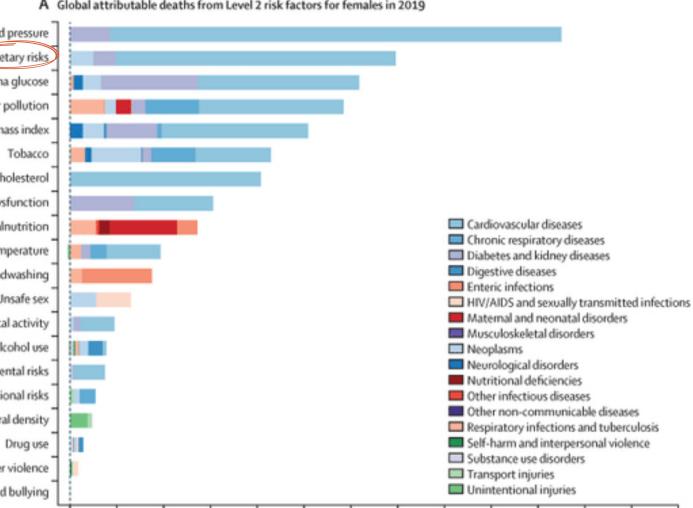
Other environmental risks

Low physical activity

Low bone mineral density

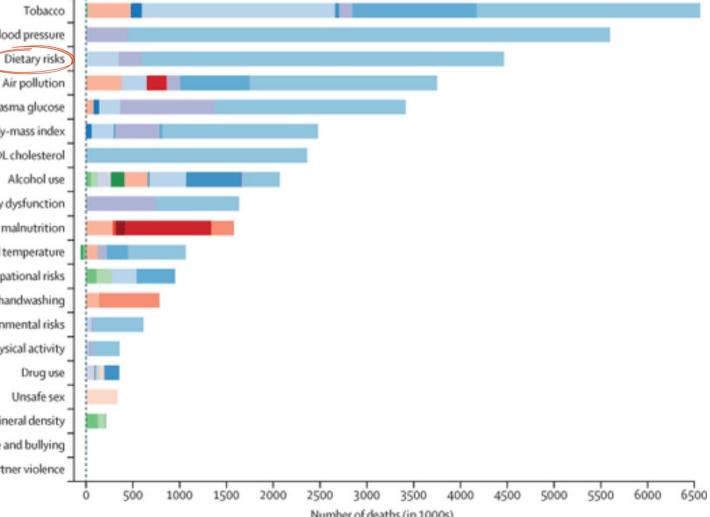
Childhood sexual abuse and bullying

Intimate partner violence

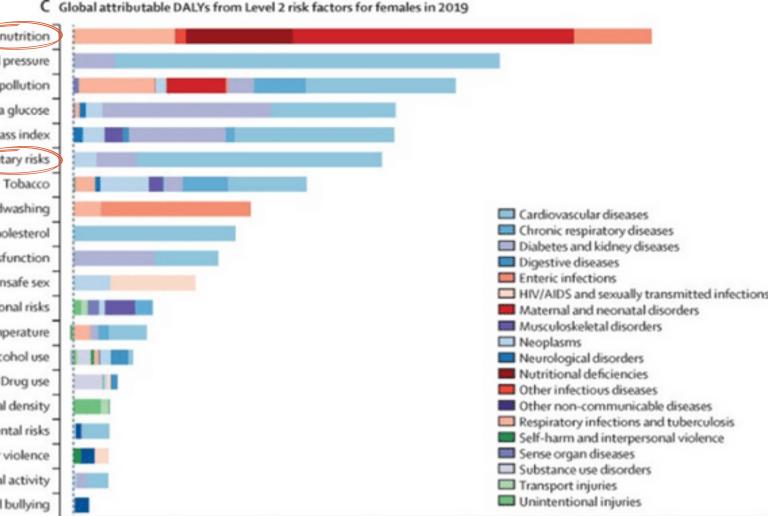


A Global attributable deaths from Level 2 risk factors for females in 2019

B Global attributable deaths from Level 2 risk factors for males in 2019



On the other hand child and maternal malnutrition causes 295 million (95% CI 253-350) **DALYs** and **2.94 million** (2.49–3.51) **deaths**



Child and maternal malnutrition

High systolic blood pressure

Air pollution

High fasting plasma glucose

High body-mass index

Dietary risks

Unsafe water, sanitation, and handwashing

High LDL cholesterol

Kidney dysfunction

Unsafe sex

Occupational risks

Non-optimal temperature

Alcohol use

Drug use

Low bone mineral density

Other environmental risks

Intimate partner violence

Low physical activity

Childhood sexual abuse and bullying

Tobacco Child and maternal malnutrition High systolic blood pressure

Air pollution

Dietary risks

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Occupational risks

Unsafe water, sanitation, and handwashing

Kidney dysfunction

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Drug use

Unsafe sex

Other environmental risks

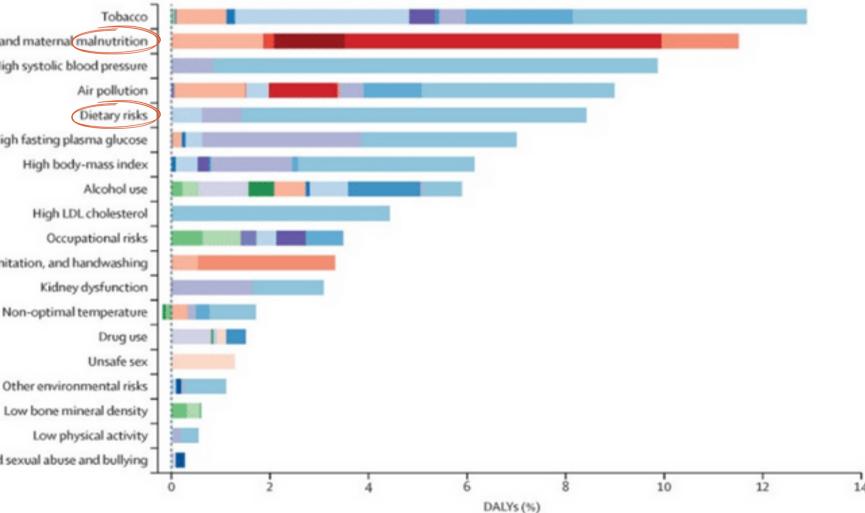
Low physical activity

Childhood sexual abuse and bullying



Murray, Christopher JL, et al. "Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019." The Lancet 396.10258 (2020): 1223-1249

D Global attributable DALYs from Level 2 risk factors for males in 2019



BACKGROUND - EAT LANCET

The Lancet, together with the Stockholm Resilience Centre created the EAT Lancet Commission with the aim of promoting guidelines for a Planetary Health diet, both sustainable and good for human health

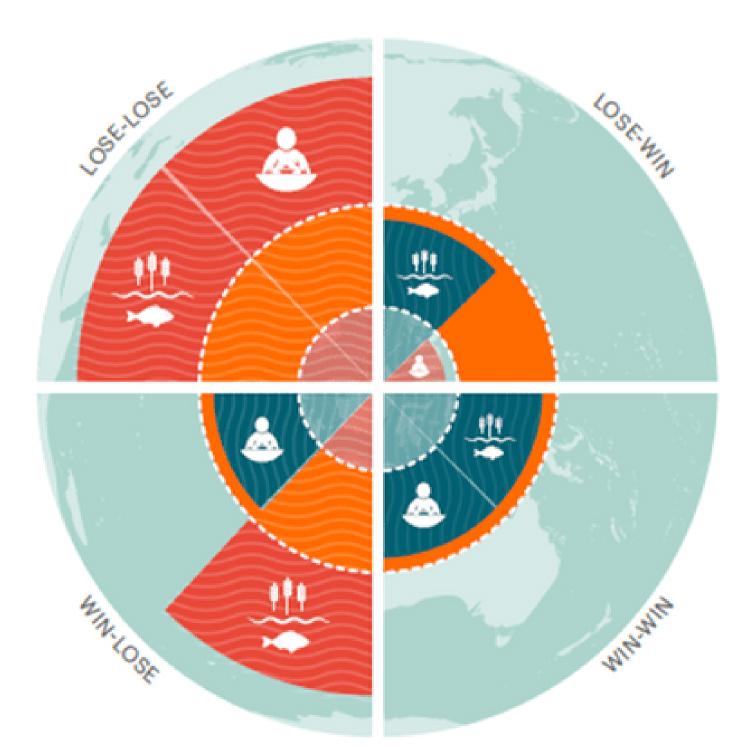


Figure 2

Scientific targets define the safe operating space for food systems and are represented here by the orange ring. The wedges represent either dietary patterns or food production, and together they reflect various dietary patterns that may or may not meet scientific targets for human health and environmental sustainability, i.e. outside of the safe operating space. These dietary patterns can be "healthy and unsustainable" (win-lose), "unhealthy and sustainable" (losewin), "unhealthy and unsustainable" (lose-lose) and "healthy and sustainable" (win-win).

EAT LANCET

		Macronutrient intake grams per day (possible range)	Caloric intake kcal per day
	Whole grains Rice, wheat, corn and other	232	811
	Tubers or starchy vegetables Potatoes and cassava	50 (0–100)	39
1	Vegetables All vegetables	300 (200–600)	78
6	Fruits All fruits	200 (100–300)	126
•	Dairy foods Whole milk or equivalents	250 (0–500)	153
V	Protein sources Beef, lamb and pork Chicken and other poultry Eggs Fish Legumes Nuts	14 (0-28) 29 (0-58) 13 (0-25) 28 (0-100) 75 (0-100) 50 (0-75)	30 62 19 40 284 291
•	Added fats Unsaturated oils Saturated oils	40 (20–80) 11.8 (0-11.8)	354 96
	Added sugars All sugars	<mark>31</mark> (0–31)	120

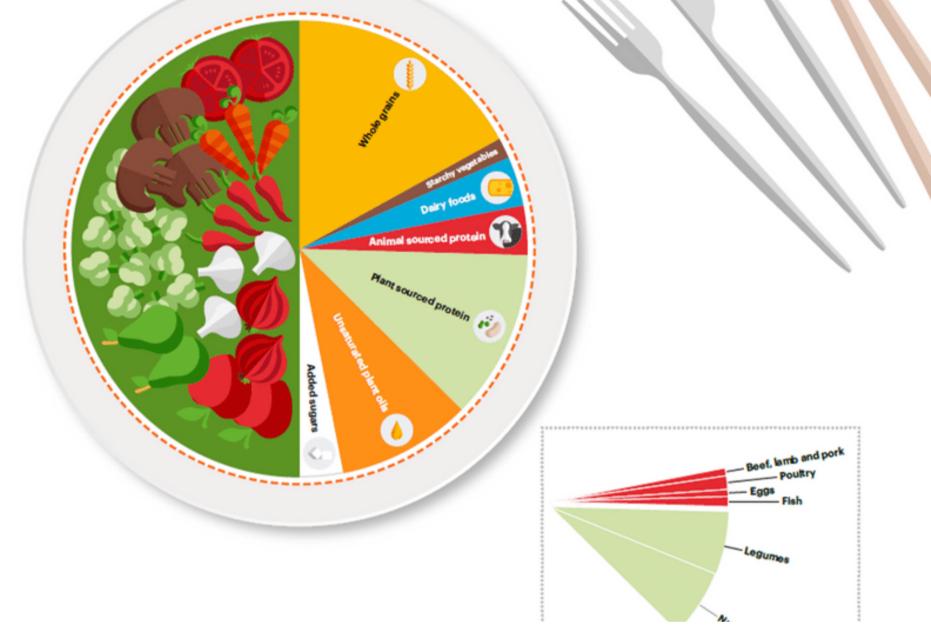


Figure 3 A planetary health plate should consist by volume of approximately half a plate of vegetables and fruits; the other half, displayed by contribution to calories, should consist of primarily whole grains, plant protein sources, unsaturated plant oils, and (optionally) modest amounts of animal sources of protein. For further details, please refer to section 1 of the Commission.

Table 1

Scientific targets for a planetary health diet, with possible ranges, for an intake of 2500 kcal/day.

Murray, Christopher JL, et al. "Global burden of 87 risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990–2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019." The Lancet 396.10258 (2020): 1223-1249

The global adoption of the planetary health diet has been estimated to avoid about 10.8-11.6 million deaths per year, (19.0-23.6%).



Co-benefits from sustainable dietary shifts for population and environmental health: an assessment from a large European cohort study Jessica E. Laine et al

Inside the EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition) multicentric cohort

Diet data has been collected with quantitative and semi quantitative Food Frequency Questionnaires

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For each food item GHG emissions and LU per consumed quantity of food has been calculateds

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A pooled analysis across the EPIC cohorts was conduted, comparing the fourth LU/GHGE quartile to the first and computing the HR for specific an all cause mortality

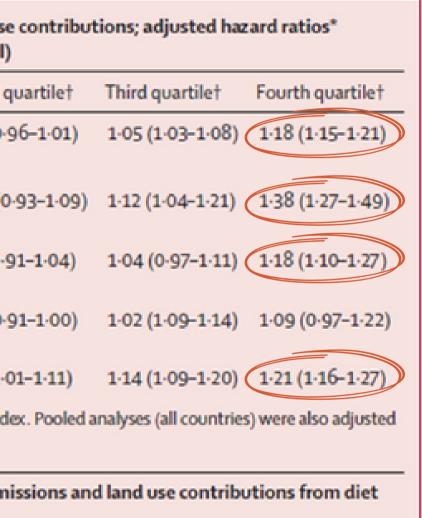
	Events (%)	Greenhouse gas emissions: adjusted hazard ratios* (95% CI)			Land use (95% CI)
		Second quartile†	Third quartile†	Fourth quartile†	Second q
All-cause mortality	46 636 (10.5%)	0.96 (0.94-0.99)	1.02 (0.99-1.04)	1.13 (1.10-1.16)	0.99 (0.9
Cause-specific mortal	lity				
Coronary heart disease mortality	4944 (1.1%)	0.88 (0.81-0.96)	1.06 (0.97-1.14)	1.19 (1.10-1.30)	1.003 (0
Cardiovascular disease mortality	6393 (1.4%)	0-99 (0-93-1-07)	1-03 (0-95-1-10)	1.19 (1.10-1.28)	0-97 (0-9
Respiratory disease mortality	2479 (0-6%)	0-89 (0-78-0-99)	0.95 (0.84-1.06)	1.02 (0.91-1.15)	0-89 (0-9
Cancer mortality	14095 (3-2%)	1.03 (0.98–1.08)	1-11 (1-05-1-16)	1.16 (1.10-1.22)	1.06 (1.0
		and the second sec	1		

* Models adjusted for age at recruitment, marital status, education, physical activity, smoking status, and body-mass index. Pooled analyses (all countries) were also adjusted for country. †The first quartile is the reference value.

Table 2: Adjusted hazard ratios for all-cause and cause-specific mortality estimated for greenhouse gas emissions and land use contributions from diet modelled as quartiles



Laine, Jessica E., et al. "Co-benefits from sustainable dietary shifts for population and environmental health: an assessment from a large European cohort study." The Lancet Planetary Health 5.11 (2021): e786-e796.





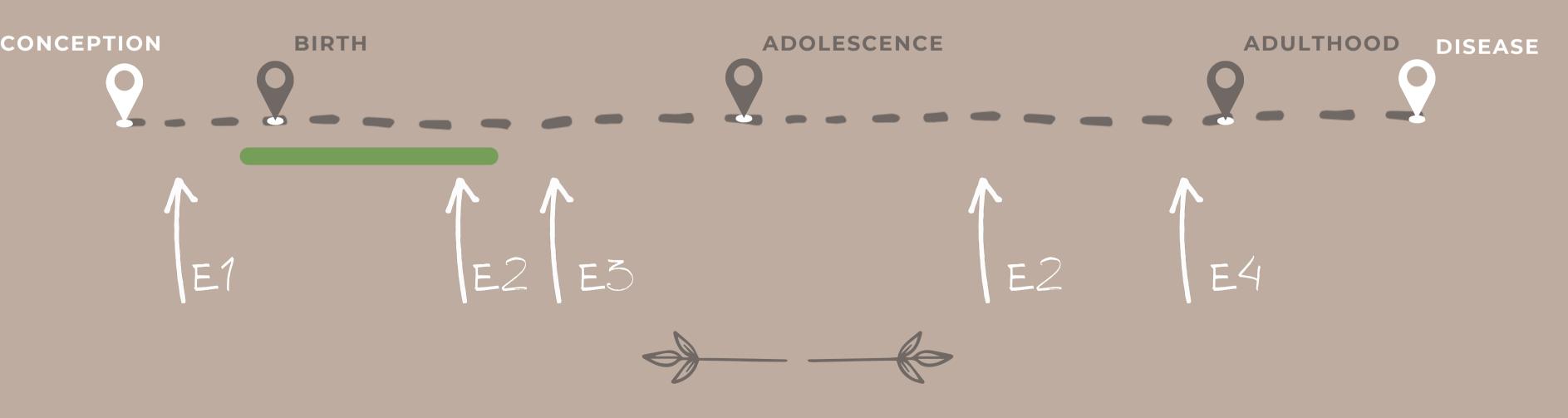
CAN A DIET WITH LOW-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT INFLUENCE CHILDREN ANTHROPOMETRIC DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR LIFE-COURSE RISK FACTORS? HOW?



WHY CHILDREN?

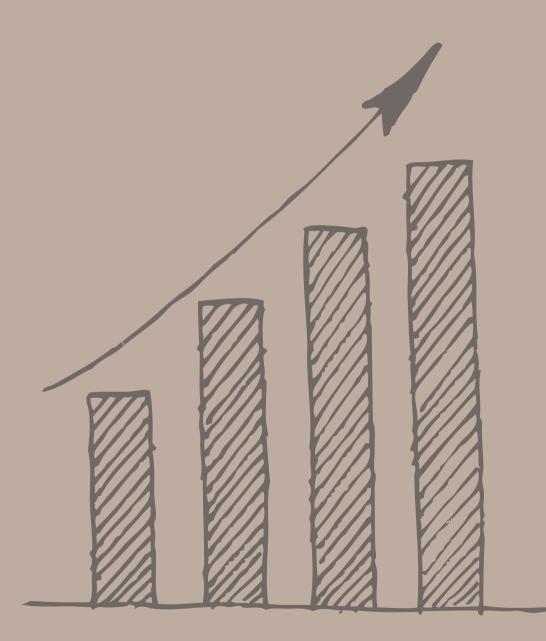
When does a chronic disease start?

Specific exposures and conditions act during the whole course of life. If they occur in critical period (i.e. time more easily manifest their consequences in a favourable or unfavourable direction.





Levels and Trends in Child Malnutrition: Key Findings of the 2021 Edition; UNICEF World Health Organization: New York, NY, USA, 2020 Withrow, D. and Alter, D.A. (2011), The economic burden of obesity worldwide: a systematic review of the direct costs of obesity. Obesity Reviews,



Overweight and obesity have alarming rates worldwide, affecting 38.9 million children <5 years.

Prevalence of excess weight in preschool age are over 25% in Southern Europe, USA and Australia



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Obesity and its comorbidities are preventable and:

• Obesity account for between 0.7% and 2.8% of countries' total healthcare expenditures.



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Obesity and its comorbidities are preventable and:

- Obesity account for between 0.7% and 2.8% of countries' total healthcare expenditures.
- Obese individuals have medical costs approximately **30% greater** than their normal weight peers



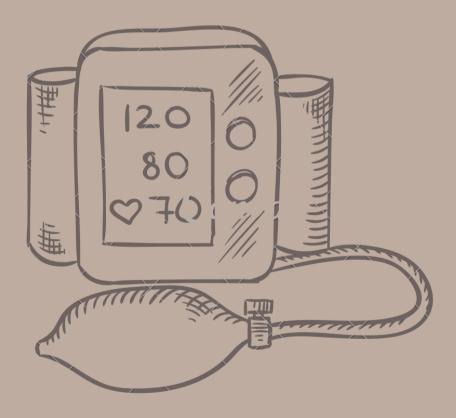
BLOOD PRESSURE

Hypertension in children and adolescents is a growing health problem.

In persons three to 18 years of age, the prevalence of prehypertension and hypertension are **3.4% and 3.6%** respectively, which rise to 20-30% in obese adolescents.



Riley, M., Hernandez, A. K., & Kuznia, A. L. (2018). High Blood Pressure in Children and Adolescents. American family physician, 98(8), 486–494.



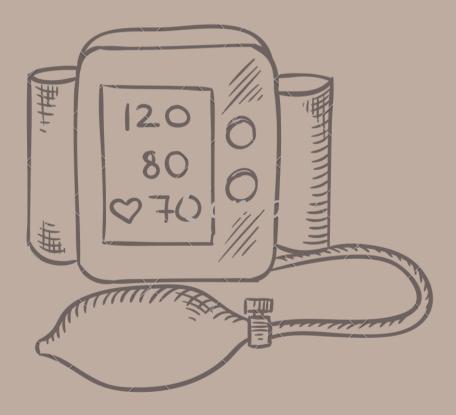
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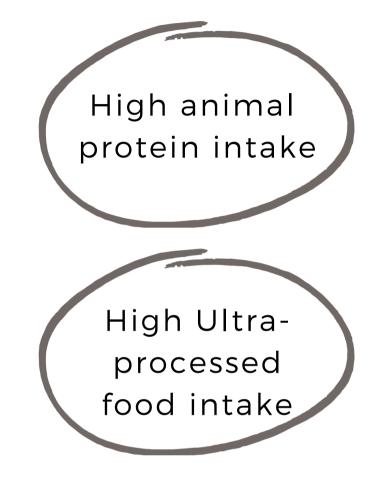
This is a known risk factor for **hypertension in adulthood** which is the leading cause of premature death around the world





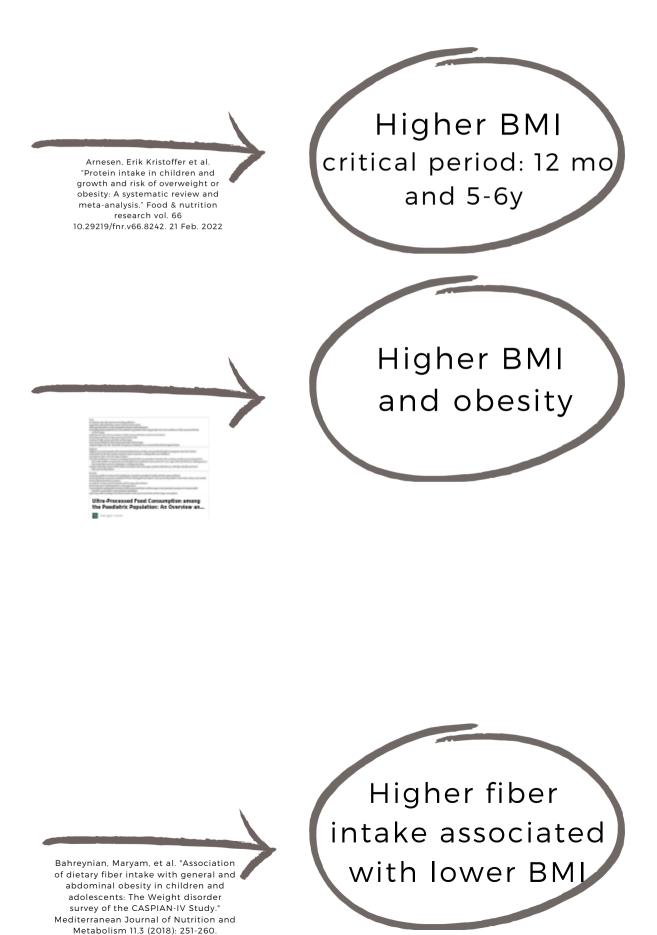
HOW











HOW

OVERALL DIET IMPACT

UNKNOWN FACTORS AND EFFECTS

CAN A DIET WITH LOW-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT INFLUENCE CHILDREN ANTHROPOMETRIC DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR LIFE-COURSE RISK FACTORS? HOW?

Negative vs positive association impact

THE COHORT

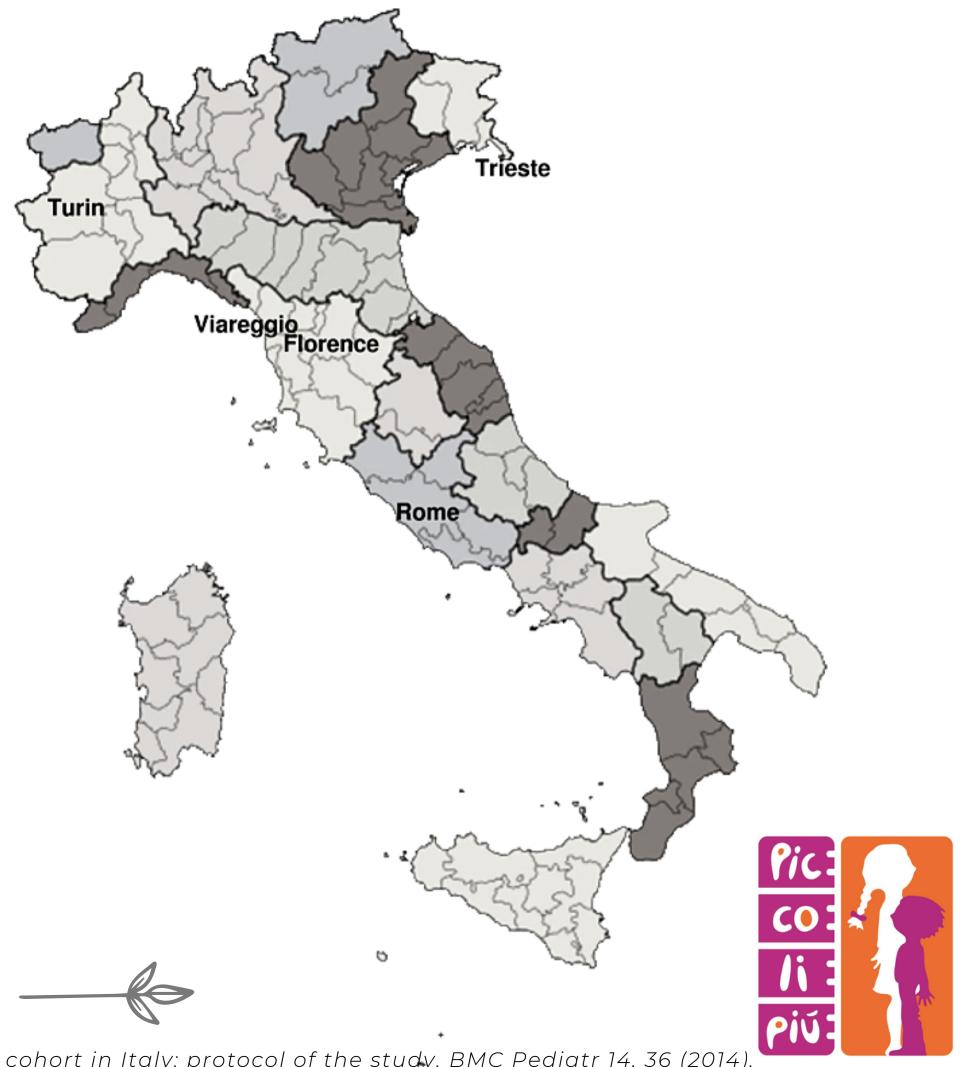
3000 children recruited at birth since 2011

Follow-up questionnaires and outpatient visits were carried out at 6, 12 and 24 months and every 2/3 years afterwards.

A semiquantitative Food Frequency Questionnaire

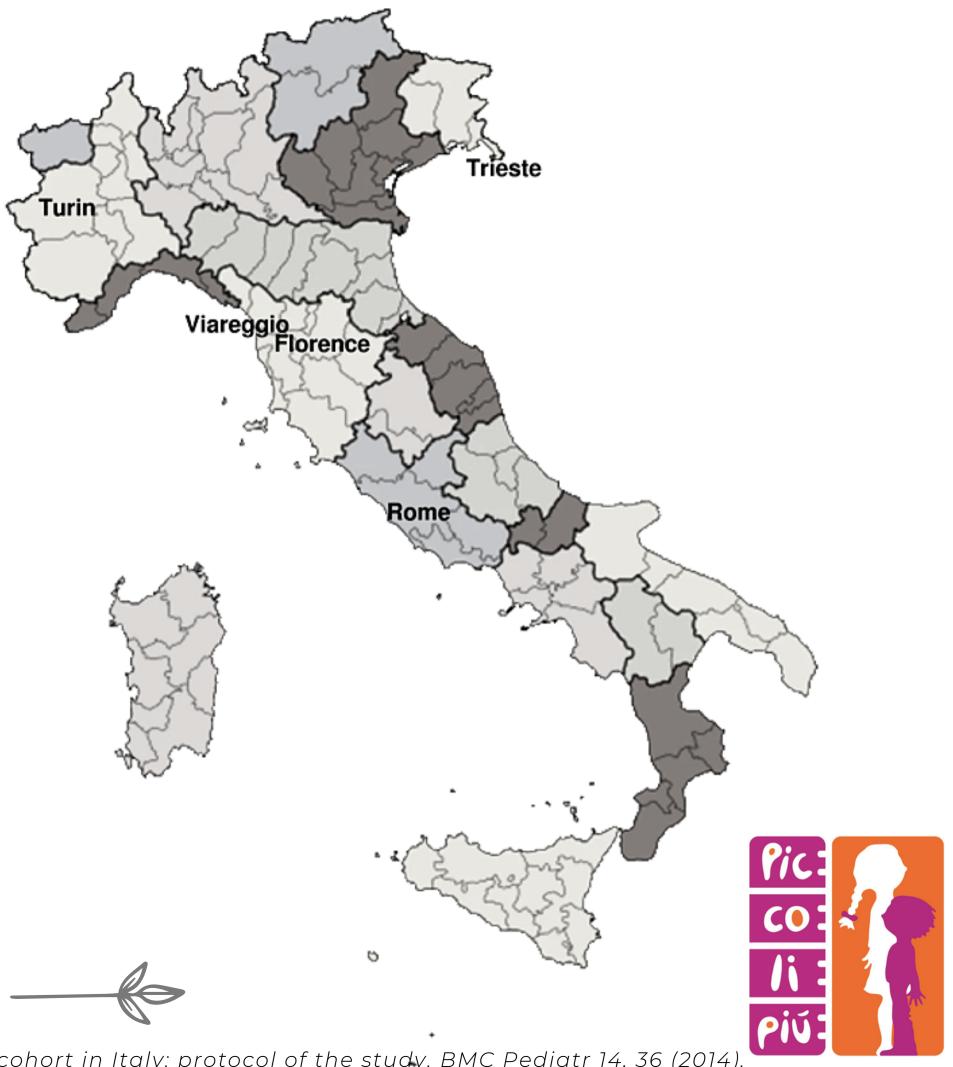
was compiled by the mother at child 4th year

Farchi, S., Forastiere, F., Vecchi Brumatti, L. et al. Piccolipiù, a multicenter birth cohort in Italy: protocol of the study. BMC Pediatr 14, 36 (2014)







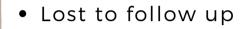


THE COHORT

Information from:

- Baseline
- 4th year FFQ and F-U questionnaire
- 6th year's anthropometrics





- Lost to follow up
- No outpatient visit at 6 years
- Younger than 6 years



THE FFQ



4 YEARS OLD CHILD

PREVIOUS 2 MONTHS

46 FOOD ITEMS

K

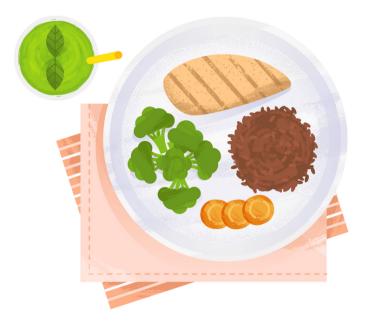
Frequency of consumption NO YES daily YES weekly -> Monthly



Portion size

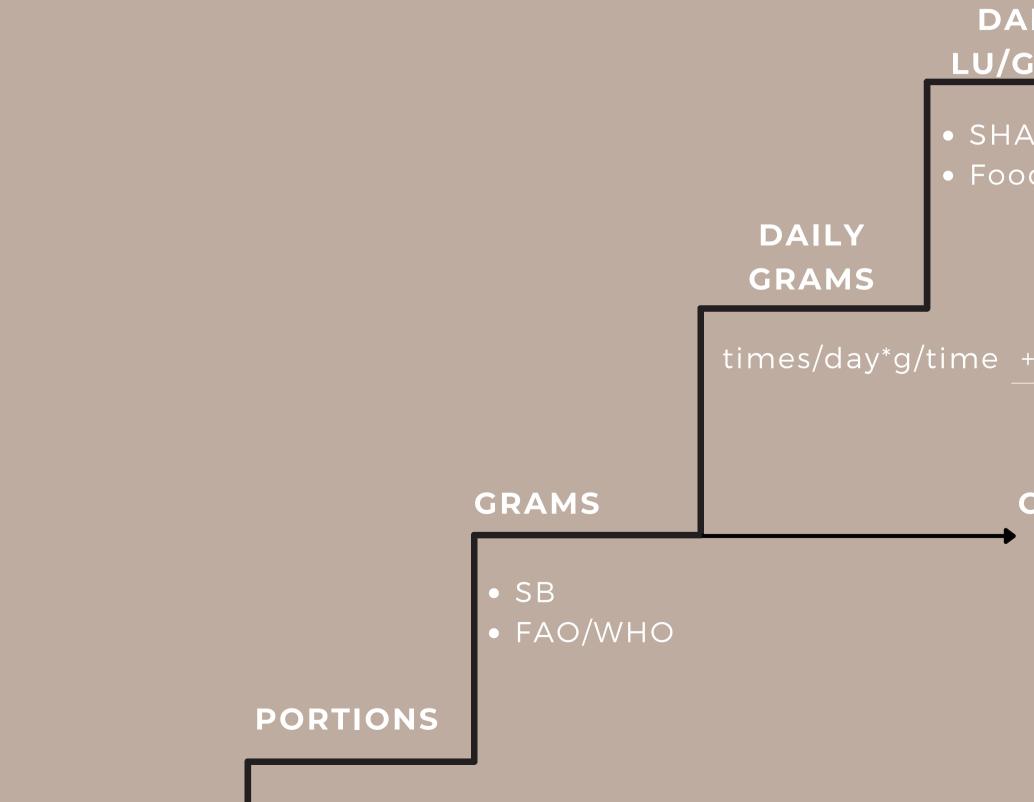
The questionnaire was built according to the Scotti Bassani pediatric food portions Atlas





- Grams
- Energy intake
- Nutrient intake

EXPOSURE ASSESMENT



DAILY LU/GHGE

SHARP matrixFoodEx2 code

times/day*g/time + times/w * g/ time + times/m* g/ time 7 30

CALORIES

- SB
- BDA
- USDA

GHGE AND LU ESTIMATION

FoodEx2 EFSA (Erupenan Food Safety Authority) catalogue browser -> FoodEx2 hierarchical encoding

SHARP-ID provide attributional **Life Cycle Analyses** using environmental indicators (GHGE and LU)



Mertens, Elly et al. "SHARP-Indicators Database towards a public database for environmental sustainability." Data in brief vol. 27 104617. 7 Oct. 2019

GHGE AND LU ESTIMATION

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SHARP-ID provide attributional **Life Cycle Analyses** using environmental indicators (GHGE and LU)

GHGE: kg of CO2 equivalent per kg of food as eaten*



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GHGE AND LU ESTIMATION

FoodEx2 EFSA (Erupenan Food Safety Authority) catalogue browser -> FoodEx2 hierarchical encoding

SHARP-ID provide attributional Life Cycle Analyses using environmental indicators (GHGE and LU)

GHGE: kg of CO2 equivalent per kg of food as eaten*

It combined **inventory data** of **182** primary products. While, based on similarities in type, production system and ingredient composition, estimates of GHGE and LU were obtained per kg of food as eaten for **944 food items** coded with FoodEx2-and consumed in four European countries, (i.e. Denmark, Czech Republic, Italy and France)

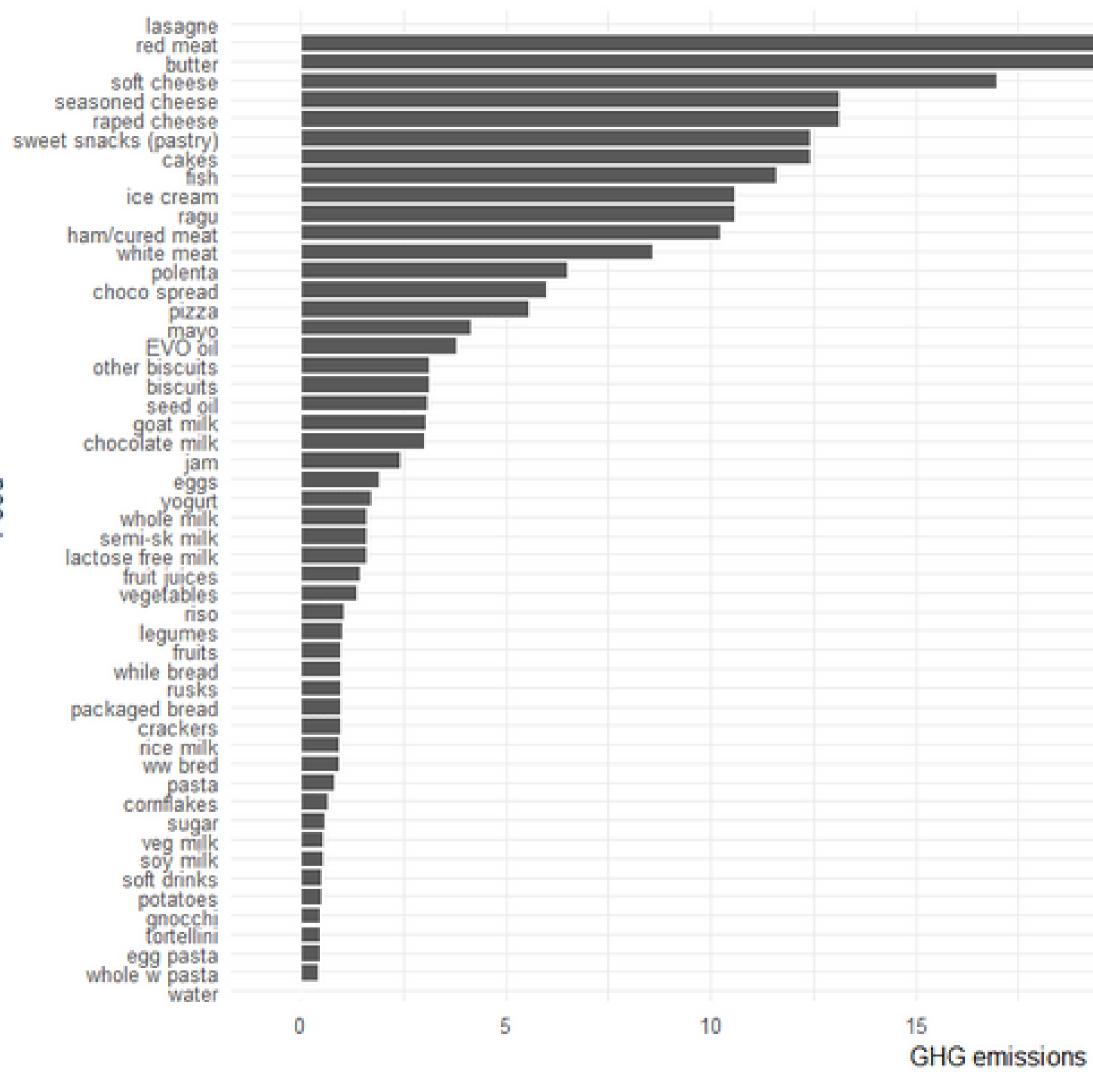
NB. They used primary data on production, trade and transport, and adjusted for consumption amount using conversions factors for production, edible portion, cooking losses and gains, and for food losses and waste to derive estimates of **GHGE and LU for the foods as eaten**.

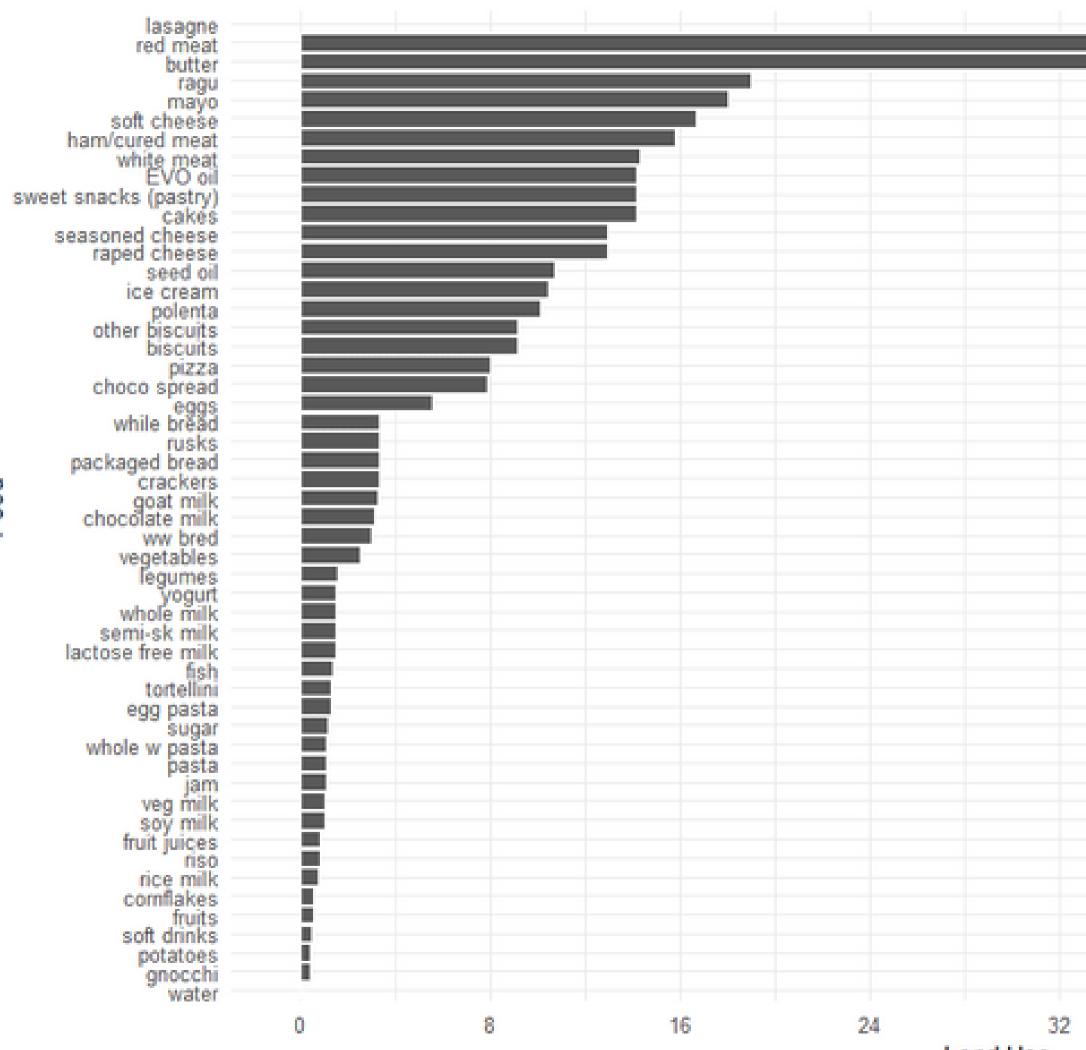
* 1kgCH4 equal to 25 kgCO2, and 1kgN2O equal to 298 kgCO2 (IPCC 2007)



Mertens, Elly et al. "SHARP-Indicators Database towards a public database for environmental sustainability." Data in brief vol. 27 104617. 7 Oct. 2019

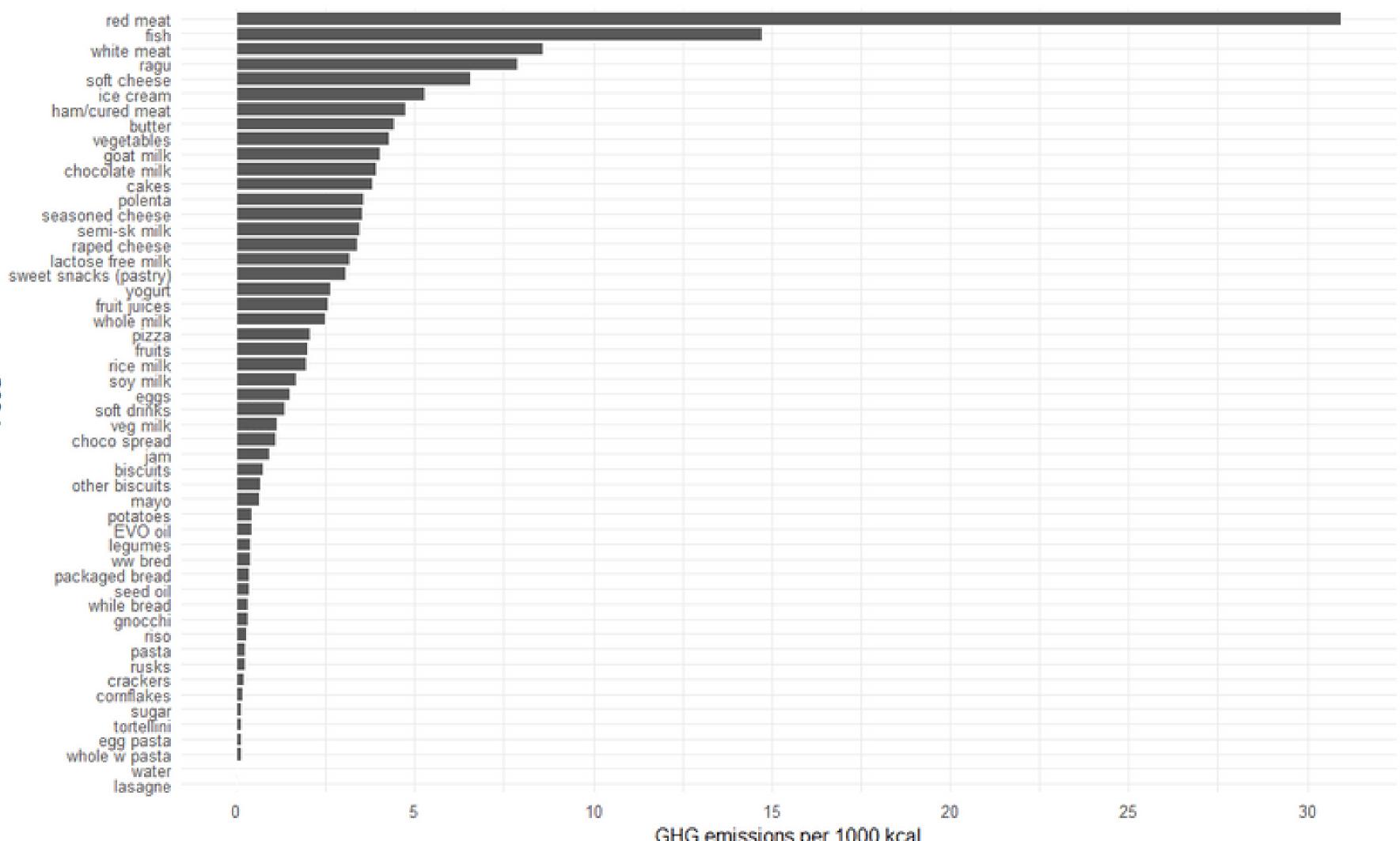
LU: m2 of land/ year per kg of food as eaten



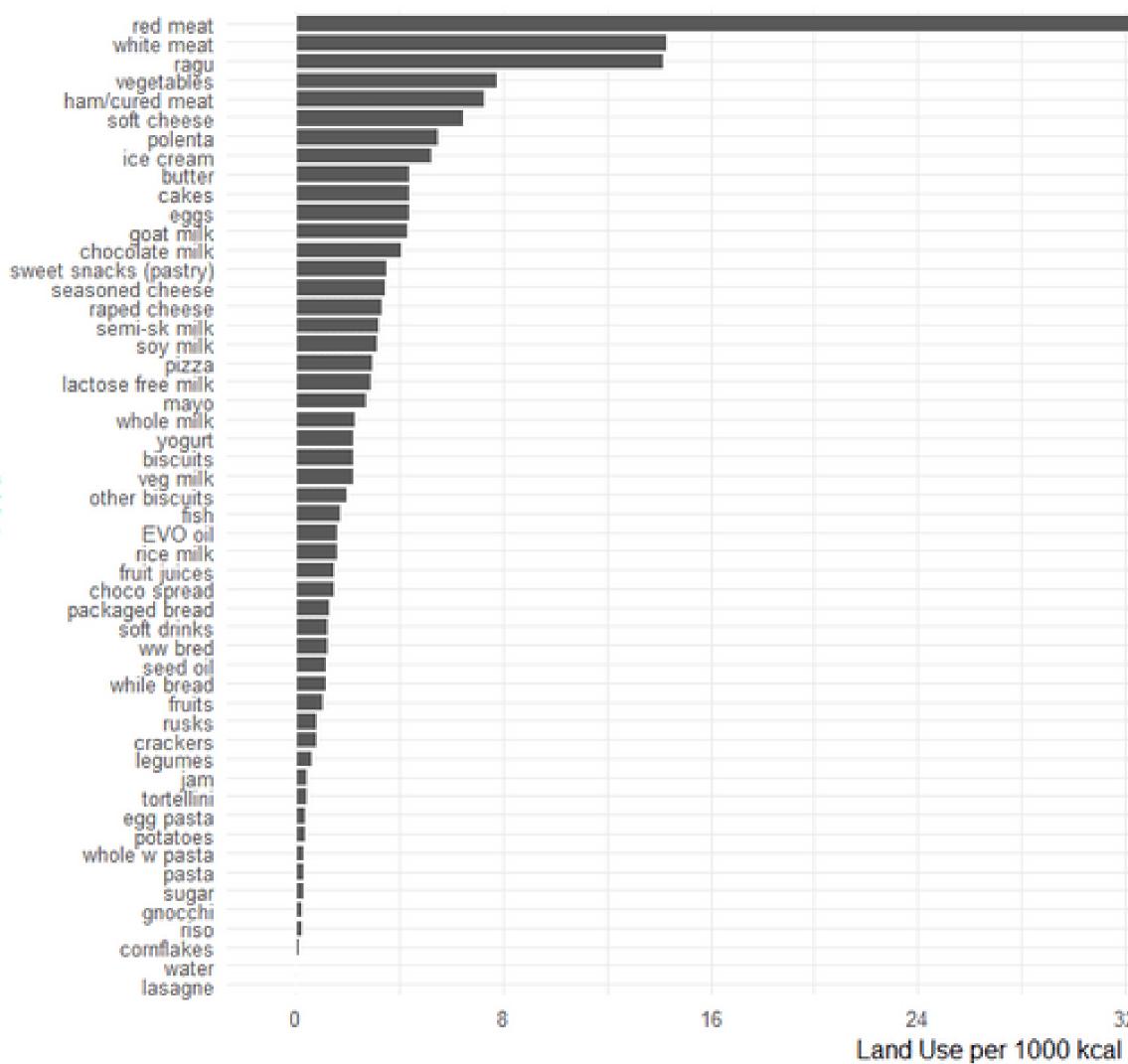


Land Use





GHG emissions per 1000 kcal



32	4	0	4	8	56

EXPOSURE ASSESMENT

QUALITY



Daily diet-related GHG EMISSIONS AND LAND USE GHGE/LU INTENSITY = per kcal

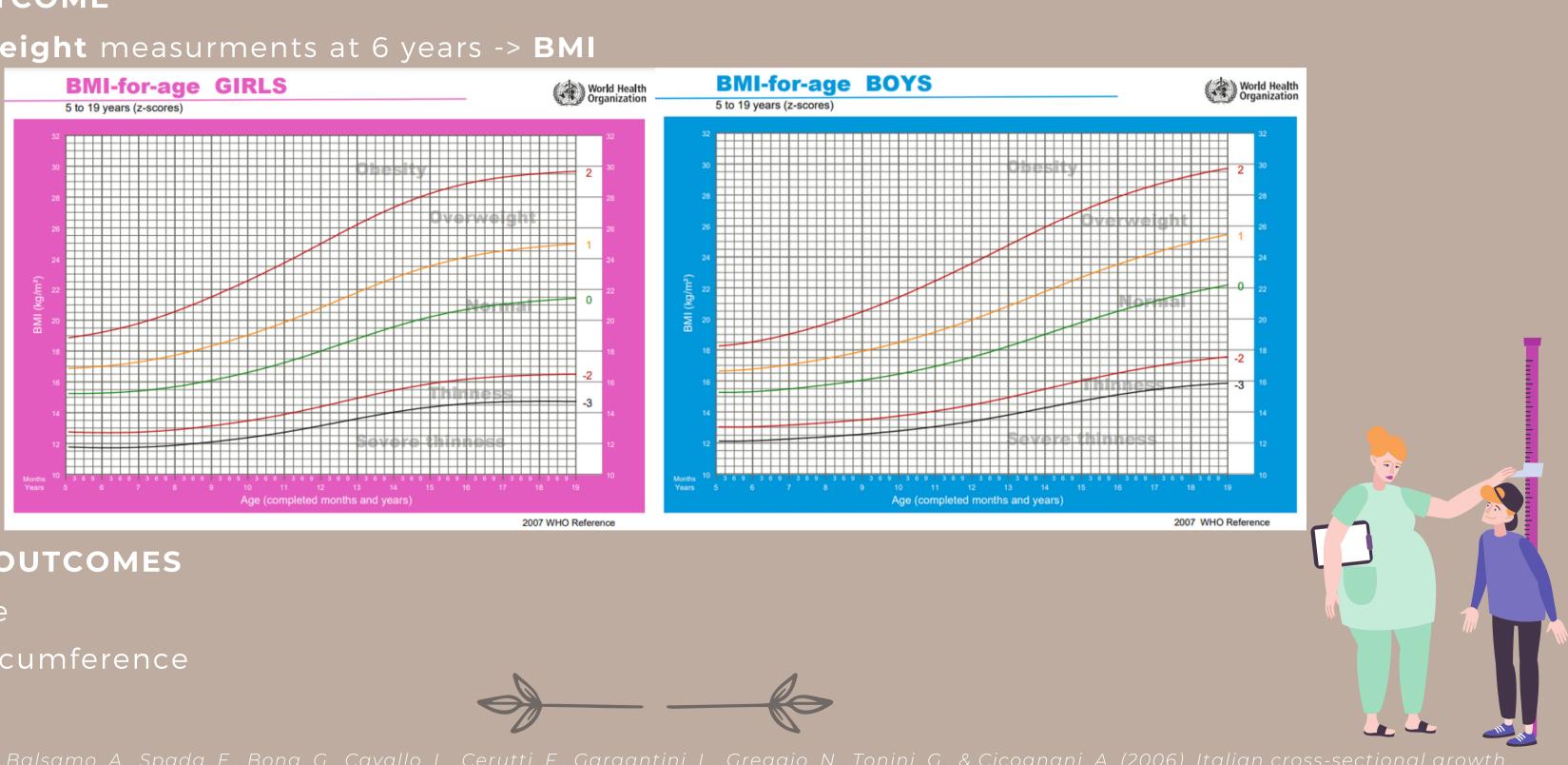
Tot GHGE (LU)/day

Tot kcal /day

OUTCOME(S)

PRIMARY OUTCOME

Height and weight measurments at 6 years -> BMI



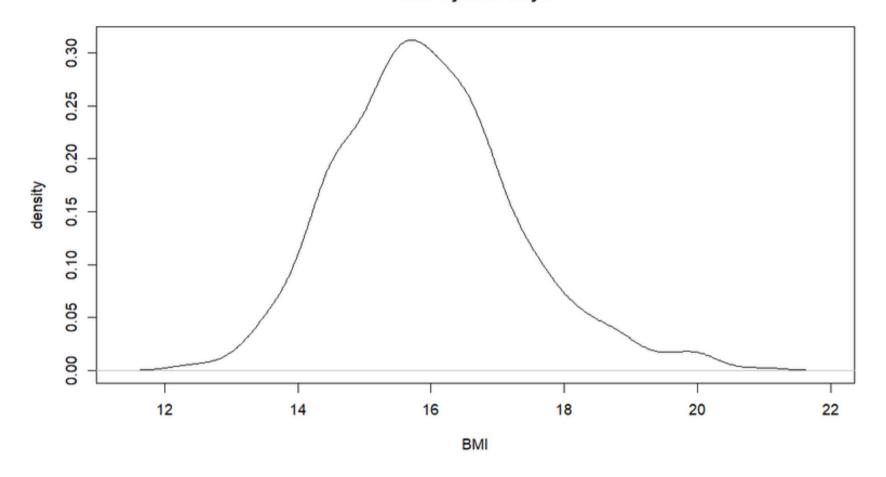
SECONDARY OUTCOMES

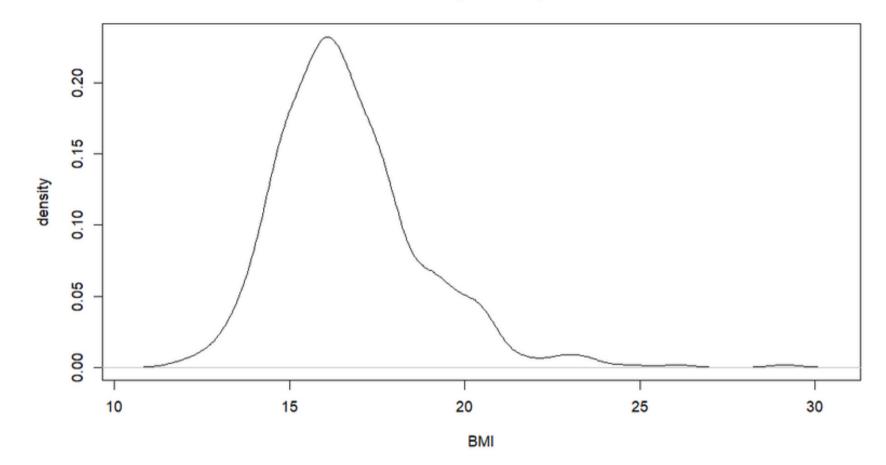
Blood Pressure

Abdominal circumference

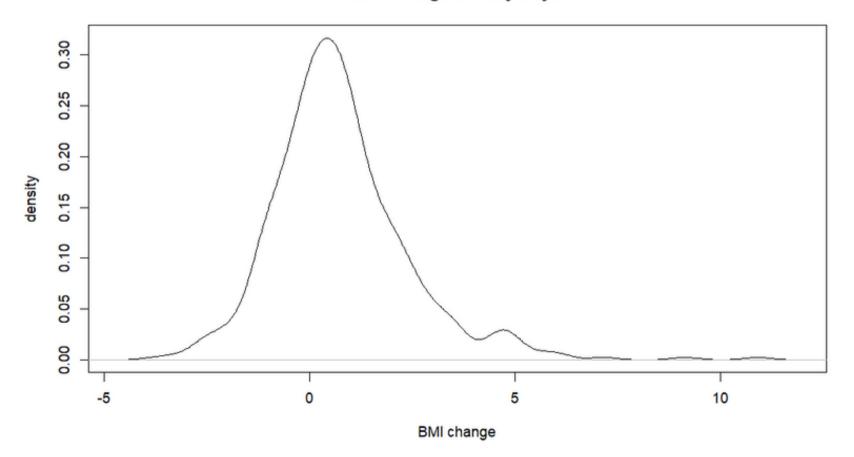


BMI 4 years- boys





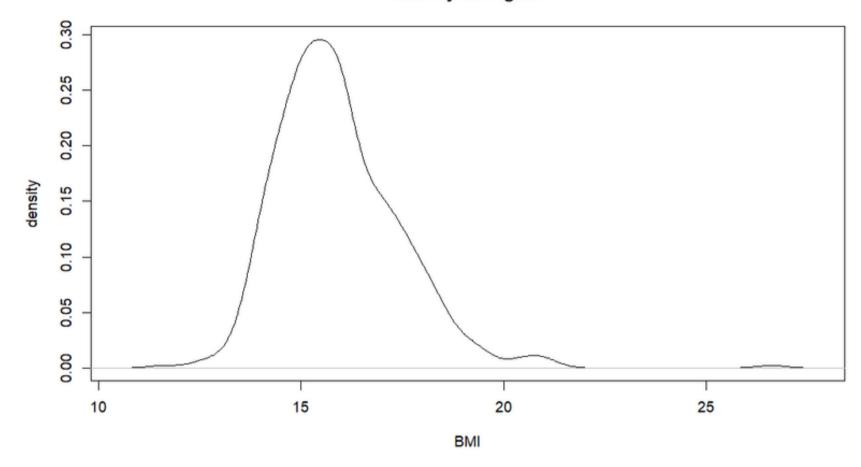
BMI change density-boys

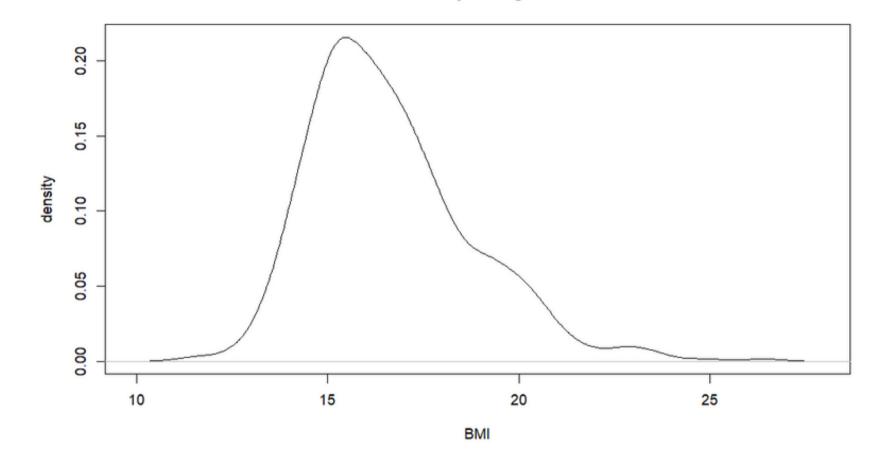


BMI PP 50%

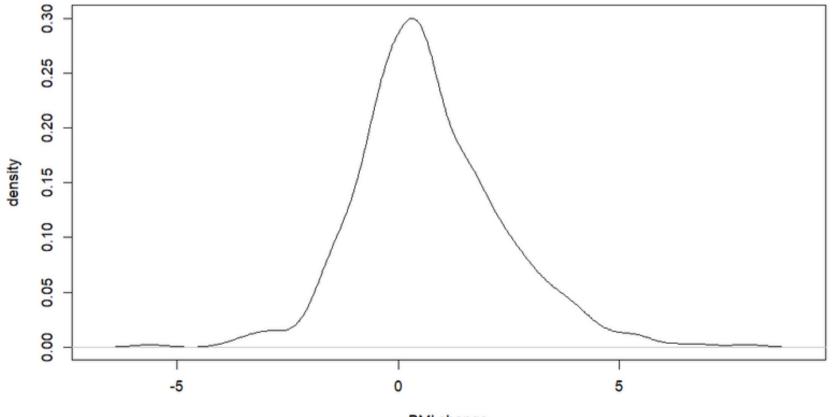
- 4aa 15.8
- 6aa 16.4
- Change median + 0.6

BMI 4 years- girls











BMI 6 years- girls

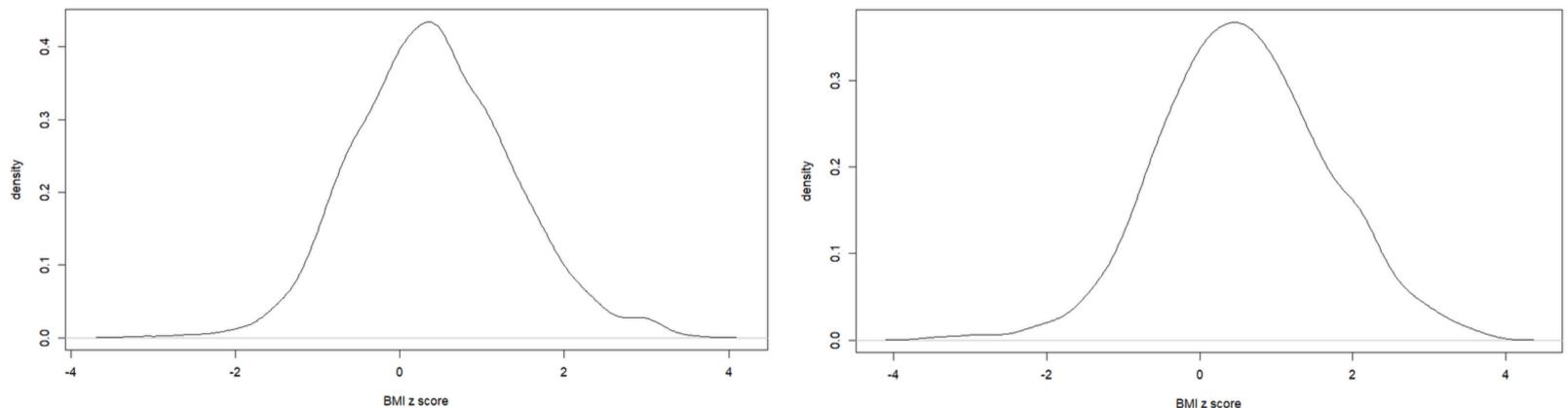
BMI PP 50%

4aa 15.7

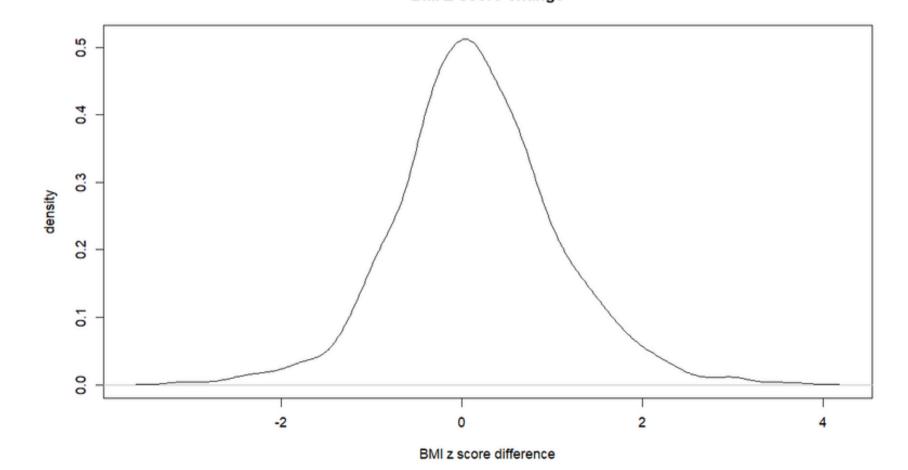
6aa 16.2

Change median + 0.5





BMI Z-score change



BMI Z-score 6 y



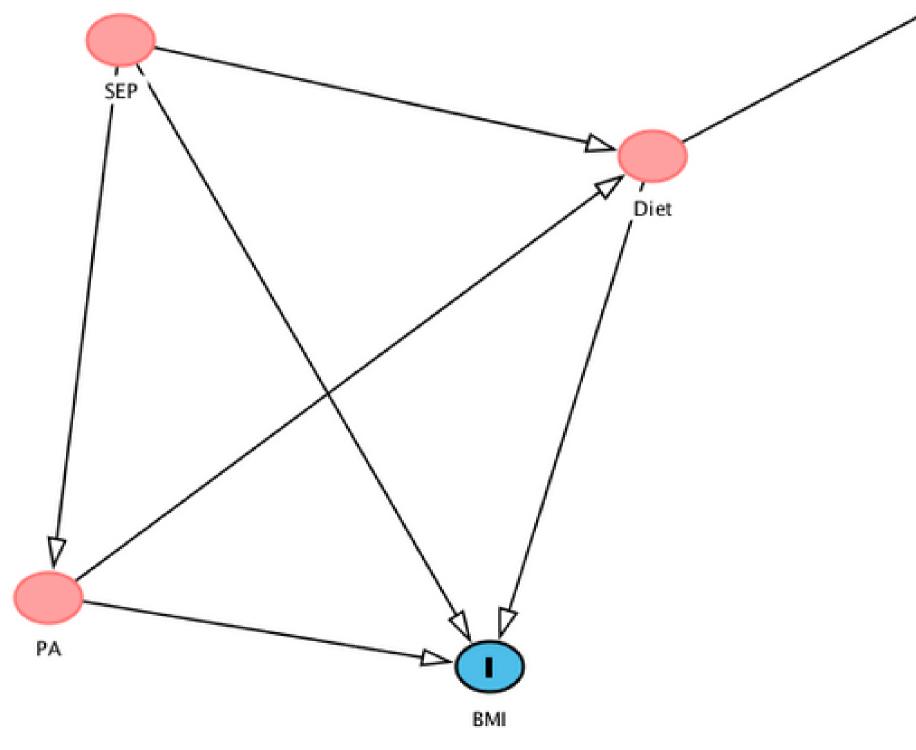
THE ROLE OF SEP

"Equivalized Household Income Indicator (EHII)", which measures the equivalized disposable household income, previously validated in the cohort and associated with BMI in 2 to 4 years children.

It includes the following:

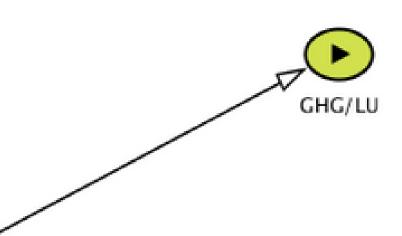
- Maternal variables: age, educational level, occupational status, ISCO code, country of birth, marital status and cohabitation status (living with/without a partner).
- Household variables: dwelling type, tenure status, number of rooms, and family size

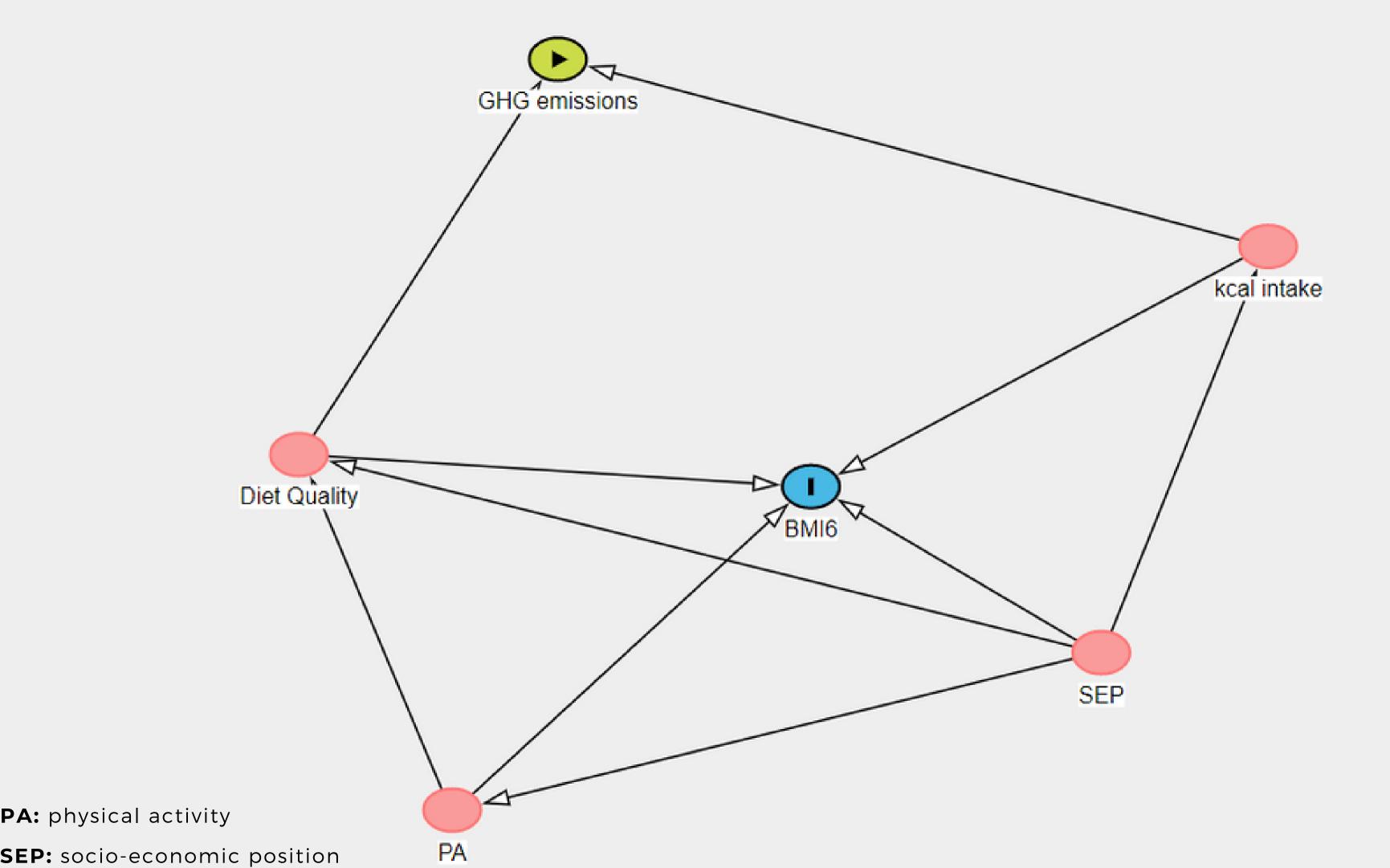


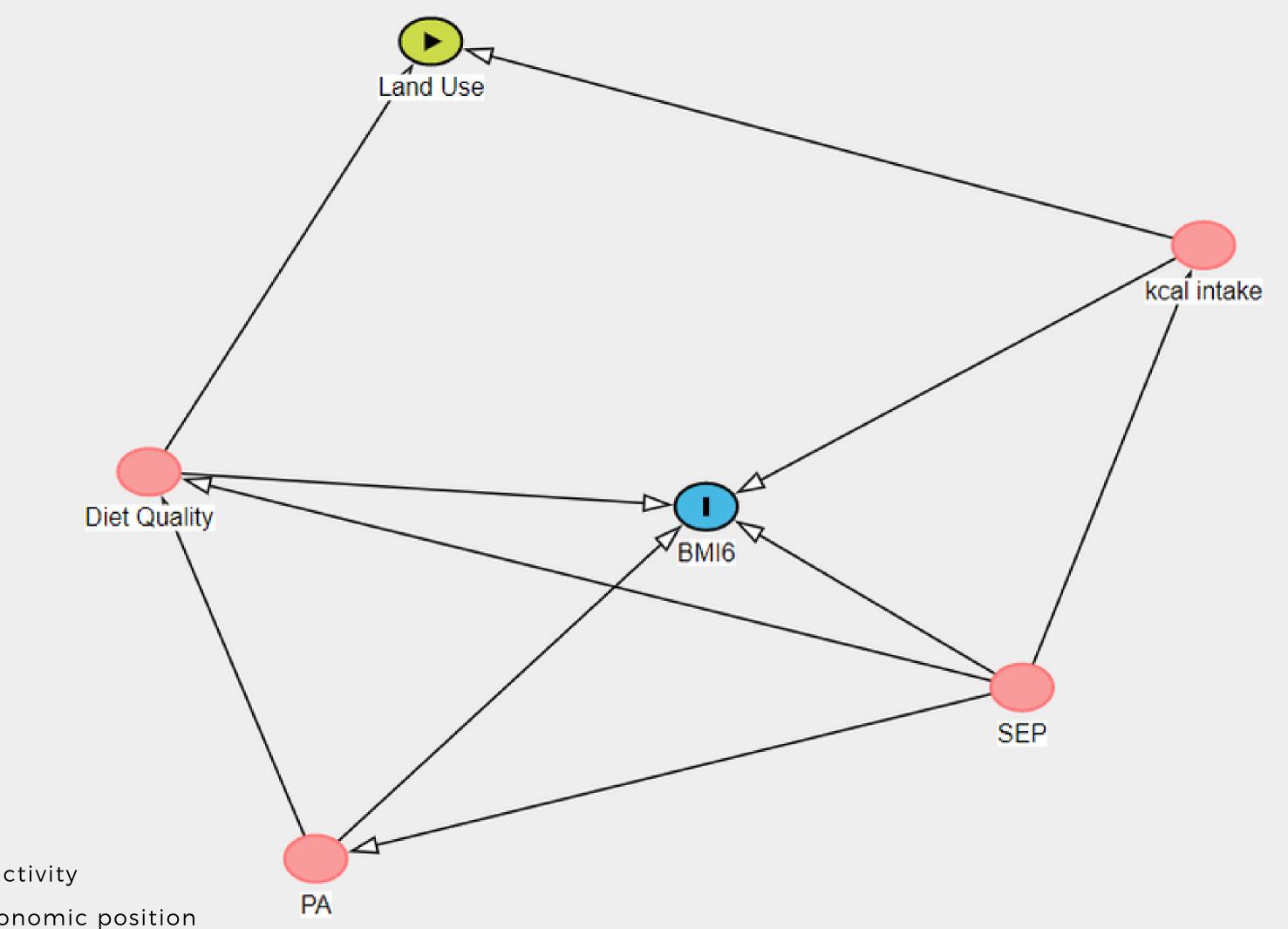


PA: physical activity

SEP: socio-economic position







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ANALYSES

Test for linearity of data -> GLM or non-linear models Continuous outcomes (BMI z scores) Binary outcomes (OW/OB)

Accounting for potential confounders:

- Physical activity
- SEP

Additional analyses

- Kcal intake
- PCA (see later)

DISCUSSION

DEVELOPING AGE

Crucial age and different requirements

FINDING'S IMPLICATIONS

Emission and land use assessed quantitavely. Qualitative indication needed to have more indication to the children's diet pattern: run the PCA of diet patterns in the PP cohort and analyze the component's relation with BMI, OW, OB

Dietary behaviour is complex as most food-related decisions are made at a subconscious level (Marteau et al., 2012). Food choices are shaped by serveral factors as the food system, foodand socio-cultural environments.





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Several **parameters** need to be considered as food availability, accessibility and affordability, as well as fod desirability, convenience and marketing.

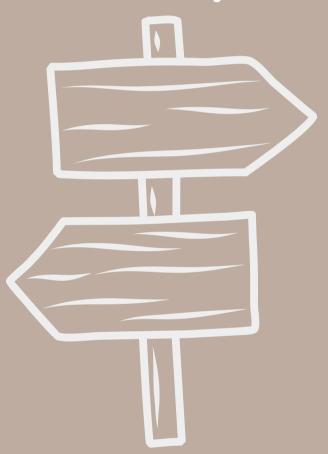


Policy and macro-level decisions are needed to shape those factors in a science-based direction



Science-based guidelines on a enviromental-friendly and healthy diet are needed, and needs to be extended to **all ages** to shape and guide positive lifestyle changes

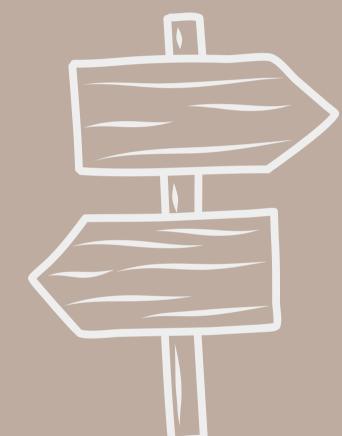






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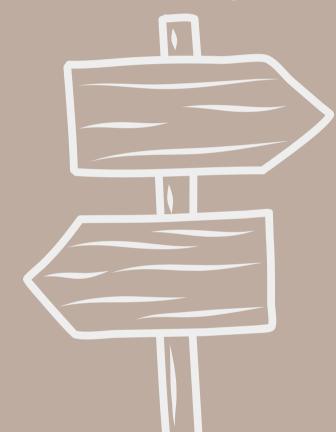


Health implications of a climate-friendly diet needs to be further delucitated, and especially for particularely vulnerable categories e.g. children



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Health implications of a climate-friendly diet needs to be further delucitated, and especially for particularely vulnerable categories e.g. children

Although lifestyle impact is big, achieving dietary change for personal health reasons has proven difficult. Thus, a dietary change for climate needs to be accompanied by careful **attention** to the factors that **shape dietary choices** and behaviours.



Parallel to individual choices, other actions needs to be implemented

• Changes in market regulamentations which may change desirability of climate-unfriendly and/or unhealthy food

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- Changes in market regulamentations which may change desirability of climate-unfriendly and/or unhealthy food
- Subsides for disadvantaged families to make healthy food choices accessible to everyone
- Cultural shift: sensitization of the population and educational effort



• Human and planet's health are related and we urgently need to use our instruments to protect and improve both of them.



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- The analysis of **diet pattern** is complex and need the integration of quantitative and qualitative aspects
- Since lifestyle, and most of all diet has a notable impact on health and environment **dietary reccomendation** on children's diet are fundamental and needs to be implemented and studied
- Cultural shift and policies needs to be implemented in parallel to an educational effort

THANK YOU!!!







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