



# GrassrootsHealth Nutrient Research Institute

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## Moving Research Into Practice

*2016 Humanitarian Award Recipient from the  
American College of Nutrition*

*Co-recipient of the 2018 NBJ Award for Excellence in  
Education*



The Humanitarian Award  
presented to  
**GrassrootsHealth**

In recognition of their  
dedication to moving public health  
messages regarding vitamin D  
from research into practice.





**GrassrootsHealth  
Nutrient  
Research Institute**

**Moving  
Research  
Into Practice**

- 501c3, started in 2007 by Carole Baggerly
- World-wide organization based in Encinitas, CA
- Tagline “**Moving Research into Practice**”
  - Vitamin D, omega-3s, magnesium, other nutrients
- **The D\*action Study** – the world’s largest public health intervention trial on vitamin D
  - Approved by WCB IRB, IRB Protocol Number: 20111002
  - Sub-studies for Type 1 Diabetes Prevention, Breast Cancer Prevention, Pregnancy and more
- Nearly 20,000 participants world-wide
- Home testing, online data gathering, dissemination and education

# International Scientists' Panel Formed in 2007

**Ahepa University Hospital  
Thessaloniki ,Greece**

Kalliopi Kotsa, MD, Ph.D.  
Spyridon Karras , MD, Ph.D.

**Baxter International**

Mathew Mizwicki, Ph.D.

**Boston University School of Medicine**

Michael F. Holick, Ph.D., M.D.

**Creighton University**

Robert P. Heaney, M.D. †  
Joan M. Lappe, Ph.D., R.N.

**Emory University**

Vin Tangpricha, M.D., Ph.D.

**Harvard University**

Carlos A. Camargo, Jr., M.D., Dr. P.H.  
Edward Giovannucci, M.D., ScD.  
Walter C. Willett, Dr. P.H., M.D.

**Inova Comprehensive Cancer  
and Research Institute**

Donald L. Trump, M.D.

**Institute VitaminDelta**

Raimund von Helden, M.D.

**McGill University**

John H. White, Ph.D.

**Medical University of Graz, Austria**

Stefan Pilz, M.D.

**Medical University of South Carolina**

Bruce W. Hollis, Ph.D.  
Carol L. Wagner, M.D.

**Mt. San Jacinto College**

Laura P. Schoepf, Ph.D.

**National Center for Global  
Health and Medicine**

Tetsuya Mizoue, M.D., Ph.D.

**Oregon State University,  
Linus Pauling Institute**

Adrian F. Gombart, Ph.D.

**Roswell Park Cancer Institute**

Candace Johnson, Ph.D.

**Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital,  
United Kingdom**

Benjamin Jacobs, M.D.

**Society For Medical  
Information and Prevention**

Joerg Spitz, M.D.

**Sunlight, Nutrition and Health  
Research Center**

William B. Grant, Ph.D.

**University of Albany - SUNY**

JoEllen Welsh, Ph.D.

**University of Alberta**

Gerry Schwalfenberg, M.D., CCFP

**University of Angers, France**

Cedric Annweiler, M.D., Ph.D.

**University of Auckland**

Robert Scragg, M.D., Ph.D.

**University of Birmingham**

Martin Hewison, Ph.D.

**University of California Davis**

Bruce D. Hammock, Ph.D.  
Hari A. Reddy, Ph.D.  
Ray Rodriguez, Ph.D.

**University of California Los Angeles**

John Adams, M.D.  
Milan Fiala, M.D.  
H. Phillip Koeffler, M.D.  
Keith C. Norris, M.D.

**University of California Riverside**

Anthony W. Norman, Ph.D.

**University of California San Diego**

Richard L. Gallo, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cedric F. Garland, Dr. P.H.  
Frank C. Garland, Ph.D. †  
Edward D. Gorham, Ph.D.  
Tissa Hata, M.D.

**University of California San Francisco**

David Gardner, M.S., M.D.  
Bernard P. Halloran, Ph.D.

**University of Saskatchewan**

Susan J. Whiting, Ph.D.

**University of Toronto,  
Mt Sinai Hospital**

Reinhold Vieth, Ph.D.

**Vienna Medical University**

Heidi S. Cross, Ph.D.

**Vitamin D Council**

John J. Cannell, M.D.

**Wismar University of  
Applied Sciences**

Alexander Wunsch, M.D.

# GrassrootsHealth Mission Statement

GrassrootsHealth is a nonprofit public health research organization dedicated to promoting optimal health worldwide through research, education, and advocacy, with a primary focus on the role of vitamin D. Through **evidence-based education, tools and resources**, and our **citizen-science approach to research**, we empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health and healthcare providers to move research into practice.

Evidence-Based Education	Citizen Science: The D*action Study	Tools & Resources
Reviews of important and latest published research with easy-to-read charts and visuals	Online data gathering with home blood spot testing, education, and guidance for taking health <i>action!</i>	Tools include the vitamin D and omega-3 dosing calculators & the Vitamin D Deficiency Risk Assessment Quiz
Scientist-led interviews, videos, and courses	Data analysis reviews, published research, and tool development have been produced from D*action data	Downloadable resources such as infographics, brochures, guides and eBooks



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**Moving  
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Into Practice**

# **CITIZEN SCIENCE: THE D\*ACTION STUDY**

## VITAMIN D\*ACTION PROJECT ENROLLMENT HOW IT WORKS



### STEP 1

#### Test your current level

Measure your vitamin D status along with other nutrients or levels of your choice.



### STEP 2

#### Answer an online questionnaire about your health and habits



### STEP 3

#### Educate yourself to determine your target level

Experts recommend a level of at least 40-60 ng/ml (100-150 nmol/L). A higher level may be desired for certain concerns such as cancer prevention and auto-immune conditions.



### STEP 4

#### Need to boost your level?

Use the D\*calculator to see how much vitamin D it may take to reach your target. Opt for the Loading Dose for a quicker boost



### STEP 5

#### Optimize how your body absorbs and utilizes vitamin D

Factors such as digestive health, sun exposure, and co-nutrient intake also play an important role



### STEP 6

#### Re-Test!

Did you reach your target? Are you taking enough/too much? Re-test after 3-6 months, or sooner if using a loading dose. Complete your next questionnaire for updated health data at the same time.



### STEP 7

#### Track your progress

Gain insights on various areas of your health based on your test results, questionnaire answers and statistical data gathered from thousands of other participants with your personal myCharts and myStats.



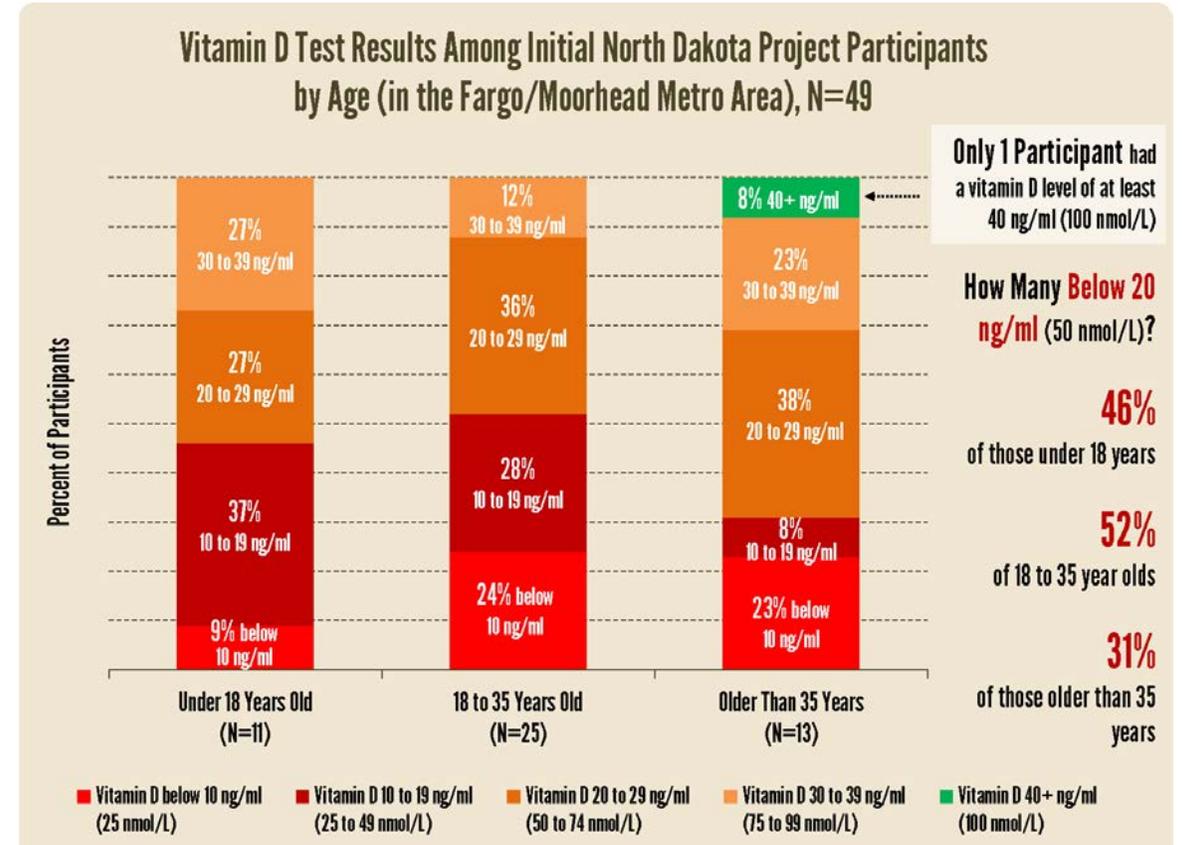
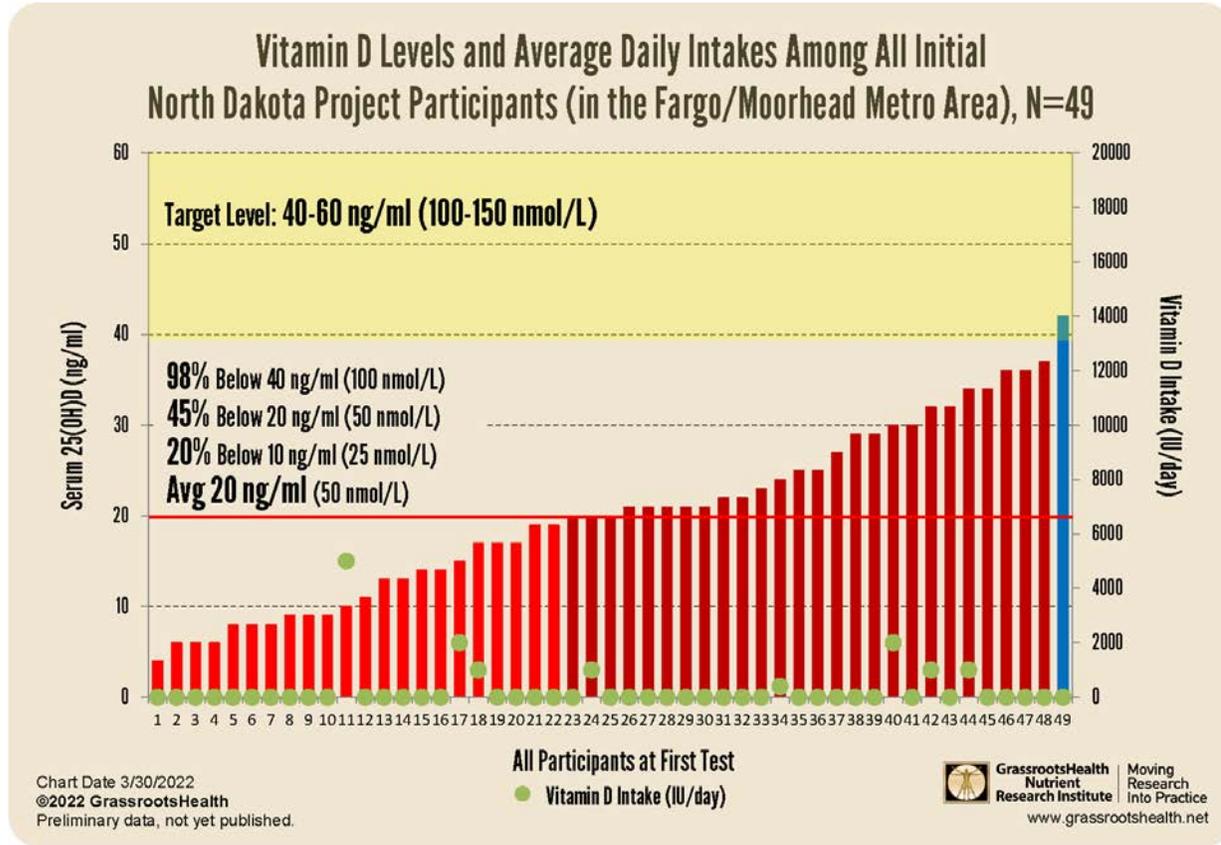
### STEP 8

#### Adjust, Repeat...see what works for YOU!

# The D\*action Study: A Citizen Science Approach to Research & Education

- Measuring vitamin D, omega-3, and other nutrient levels lets participants know if they are currently getting enough
- Evidence-based education on health outcomes associated with specific target levels allows participants to choose where they'd like to be
- Tracking and action steps are provided to help participants reach their goals
- Data gathered is used for further analysis, publication, and education

# Testing Creates Awareness & Opportunities for Health Improvement

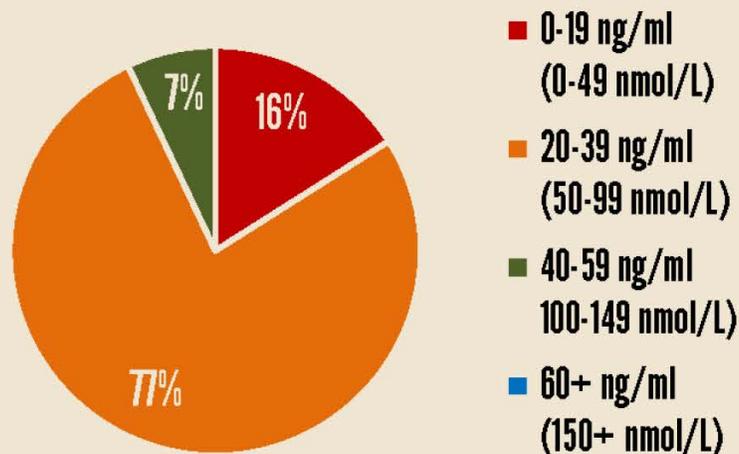


The North Dakota project enrolled 49 participants to measure vitamin D levels, with a focus on determining the extent to which certain factors affected the risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Only 1 participant was in the recommended 40-60 ng/ml range for vitamin D.

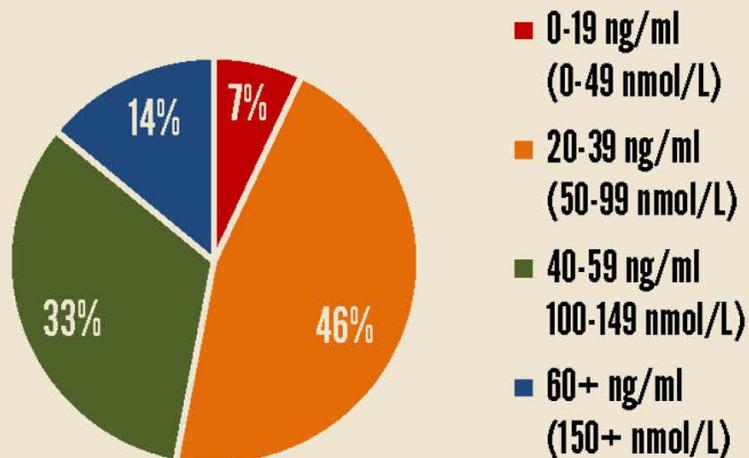
# Over 90% of Children in the United States have Vitamin D Levels Below the Recommended 40 ng/ml (100 nmol/L)

## Vitamin D Levels for Children in the General U.S. Population



Based on NHANES, 2009-2014 data, ages <18 years

## Vitamin D Levels for Children in the GrassrootsHealth Cohort



Participants ages <18 years who tested 2009 - 2014

Chart Date 9/30/21  
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CDC, NCHS, NHANES, GRH.

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- 93% of children in the general US population have vitamin D levels below 40 ng/ml, 16% of whom are below 20 ng/ml
- Vitamin D levels tend to drop among children and teens as they age, likely due to the need for increased intake as they grow bigger. A general requirement for vitamin D intake from all sources is around 35 IU/pound (75 IU/kg) per day, on average.
- Not testing children's levels as they age and grow can easily lead to vitamin D levels below what is recommended

While children tested in the GrassrootsHealth cohort had much better levels of vitamin D than the general population, more than 50% were still below 40 ng/ml

# As Children Grow – So Does Their Requirement for Vitamin D!

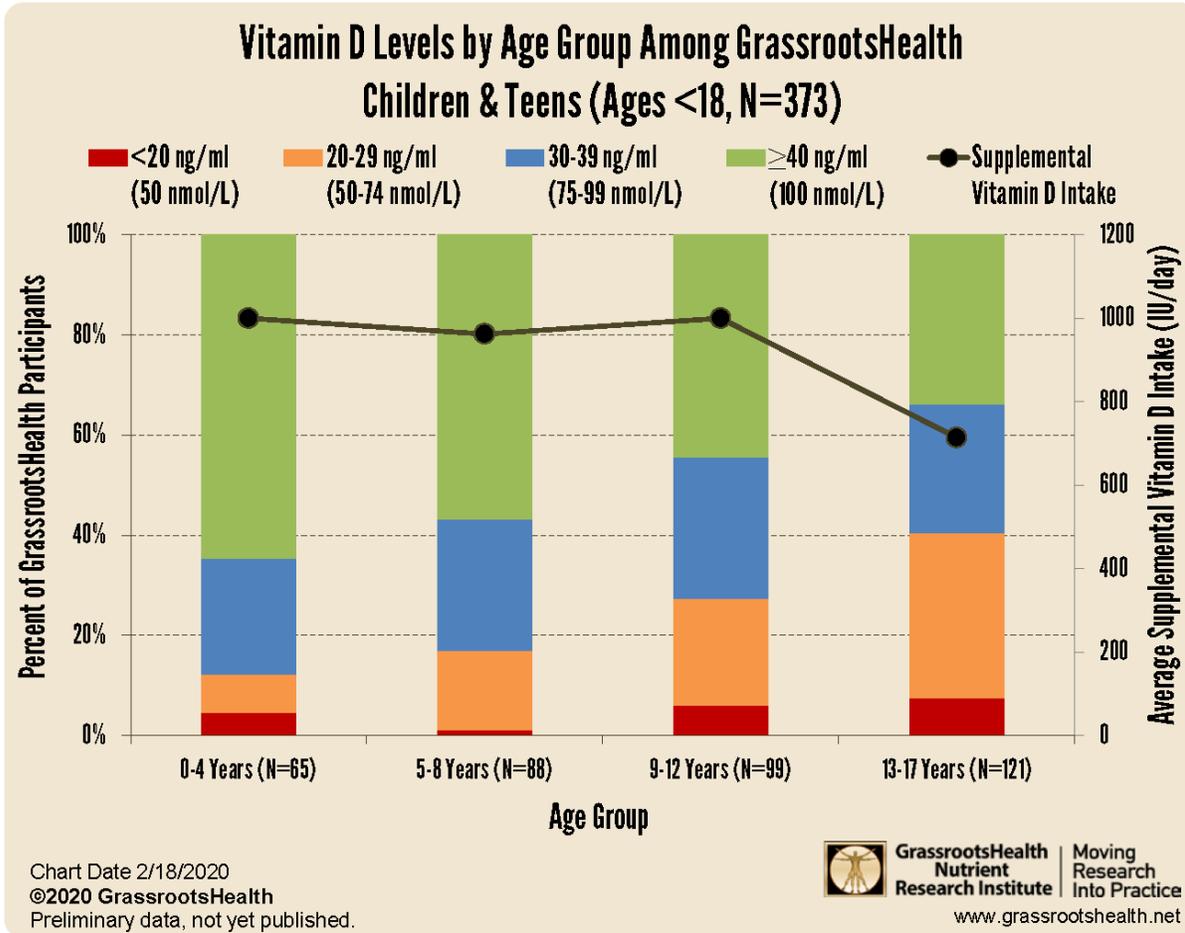


In a past analysis of vitamin D intake and levels among children in the GrassrootsHealth cohort, we discovered that **as the age of the children increased, the percent of children with levels at or above 40 ng/ml decreased, from about two-thirds for those 0-4 years to about one-third for those 13-17 years.** We also found that, while vitamin D intake should increase as body weight increases, **intake remained the same or decreased as age increased,** which is likely the main cause of the decreasing vitamin D levels with age.

## How Can Children Get the Amount of Vitamin D They Need?

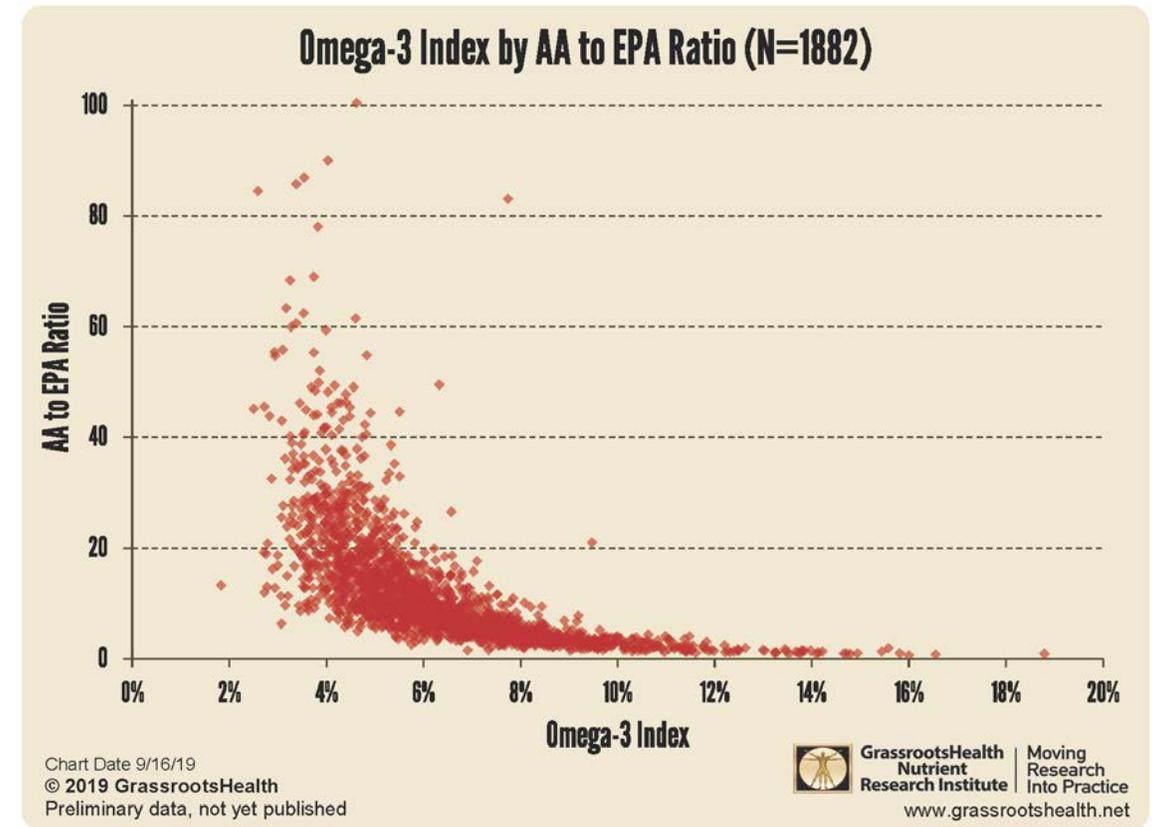
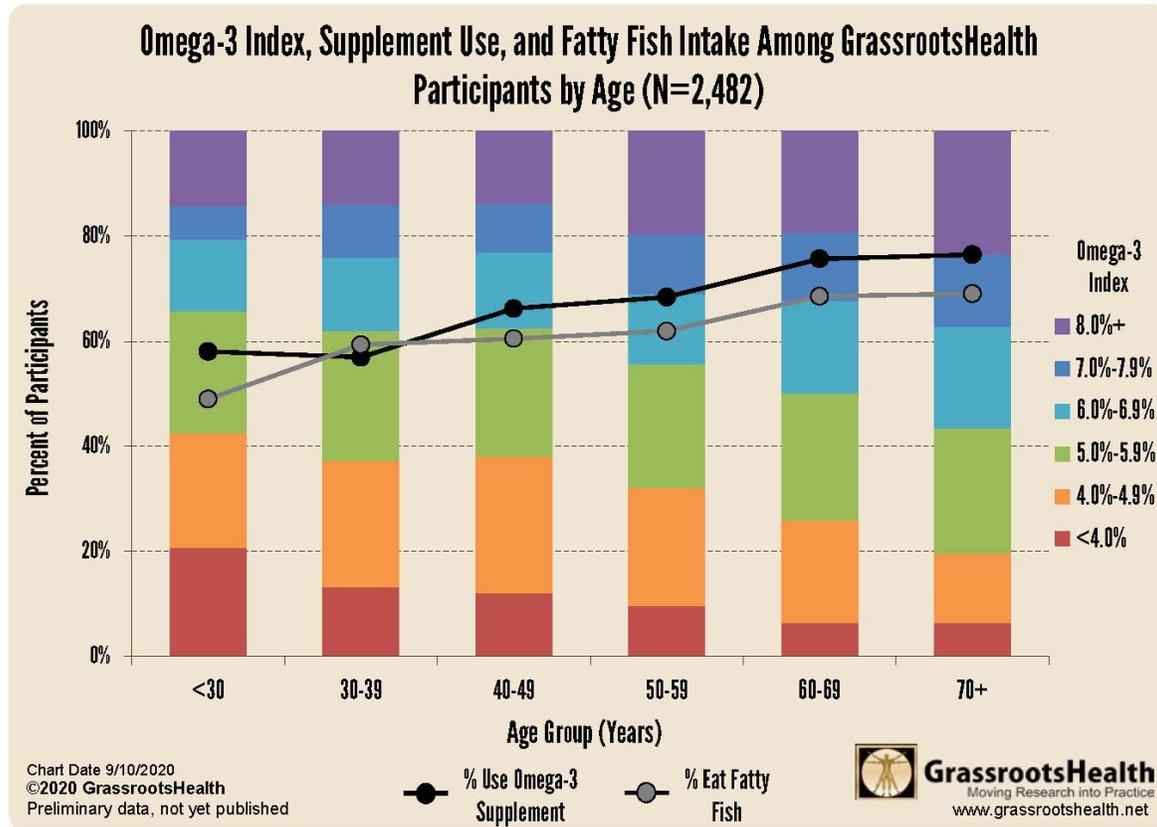
Testing is the first step – based on their current blood level an appropriate dose of vitamin D can then be determined. Re-testing is necessary to ensure the target blood level has been reached.

# Risk of Vitamin D Deficiency Increases with Age as Requirements Change



- Among all GrassrootsHealth participants younger than 18 years old, 5% had vitamin D levels less than 20 ng/ml, 21% had levels between 20-29 ng/ml, 26% had levels between 30-39 ng/ml, and 47% had levels at or above 40 ng/ml
- The chart shows the breakdown of levels by age group; as age increased, the percent of participants with levels at or above 40 ng/ml decreased, from about two-thirds for those 0-4 years to about one-third for those 13-17 years
- While vitamin D intake should increase as body weight increases, the black line on the chart shows that intake remained the same or decreased as age increased which is likely the main cause of the decreasing vitamin D levels with age

# Measuring Omega-3s and 6s with the Omega-3 Index and AA:EPA Ratio



- The percent of participants with an Omega-3 Index of 8% or higher, which evidence shows is optimal for health, increased with age, from 14% for those less than 30 years old to 23% for those aged 70 years and older
- The percent of participants using an omega-3 supplement and eating at least one serving per week of fatty fish also increased by age
- **Among those with an Omega-3 Index of 8% or higher**, nearly all (99.7%) had an AA:EPA ratio lower than 11 and about half (49%) had a ratio of 3 or lower

# Testing Provides Motivation to Take ACTION

Omega-3 Index Among GrassrootsHealth Participants (N=2,777)

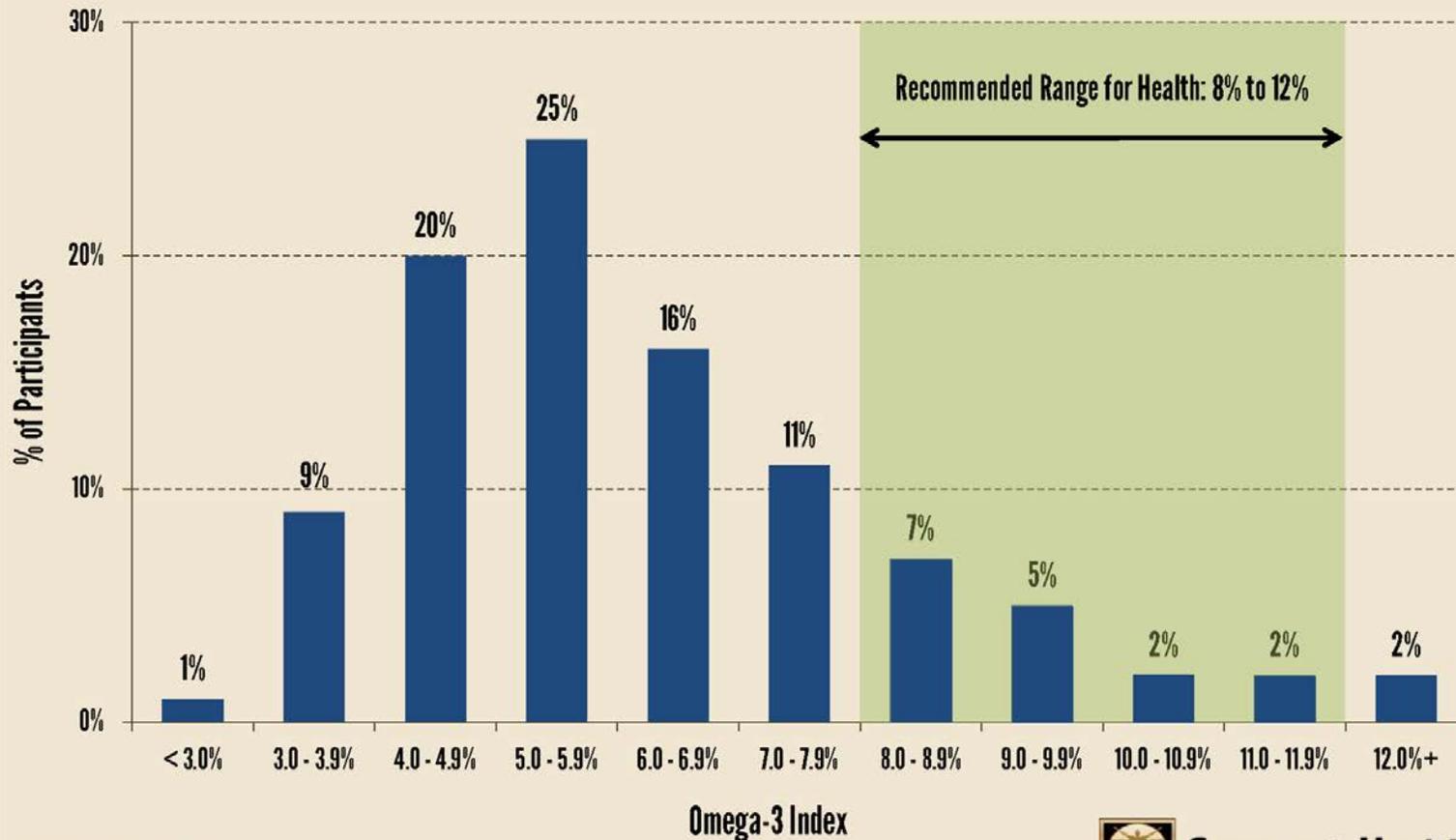
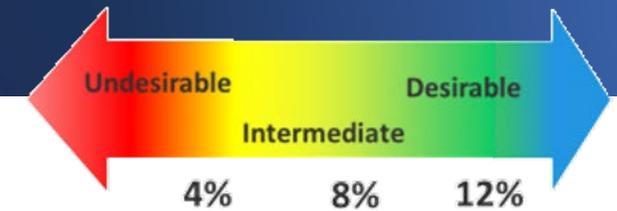


Chart Date 7/20/2020  
©2020 GrassrootsHealth  
Preliminary data, not yet published



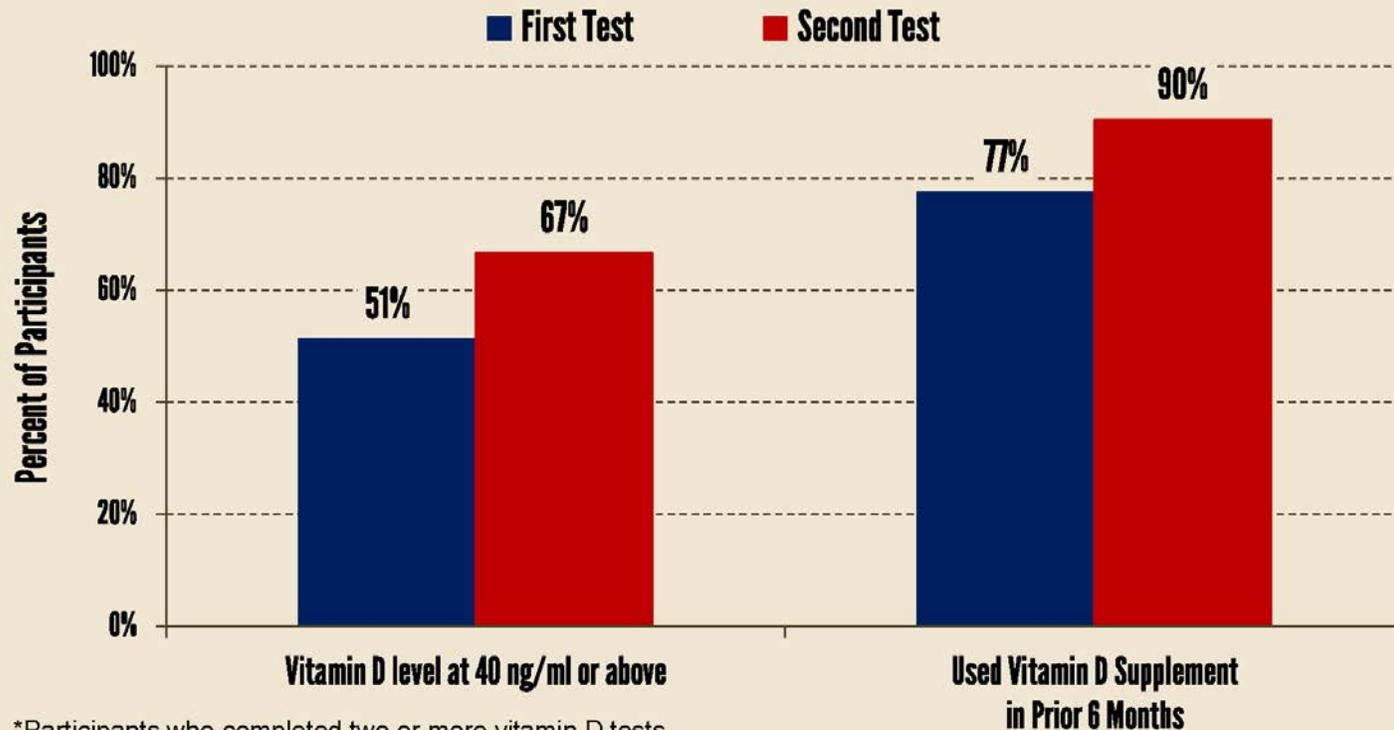
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- Among 2,777 participants who had tested their Omega-3 Index between mid-2017 and mid-2020, the average index was 5.7%
- 71% of those with an Omega-3 Index less than 8% increased their index after their first test; this indicates that when individuals are provided with information about their health, they are empowered to make changes and to take charge of their own health

# Testing and Retesting are Necessary to Determine Correct Supplement Dose

## Change in Vitamin D Status and Supplement Use (N=5,442\*)



\*Participants who completed two or more vitamin D tests

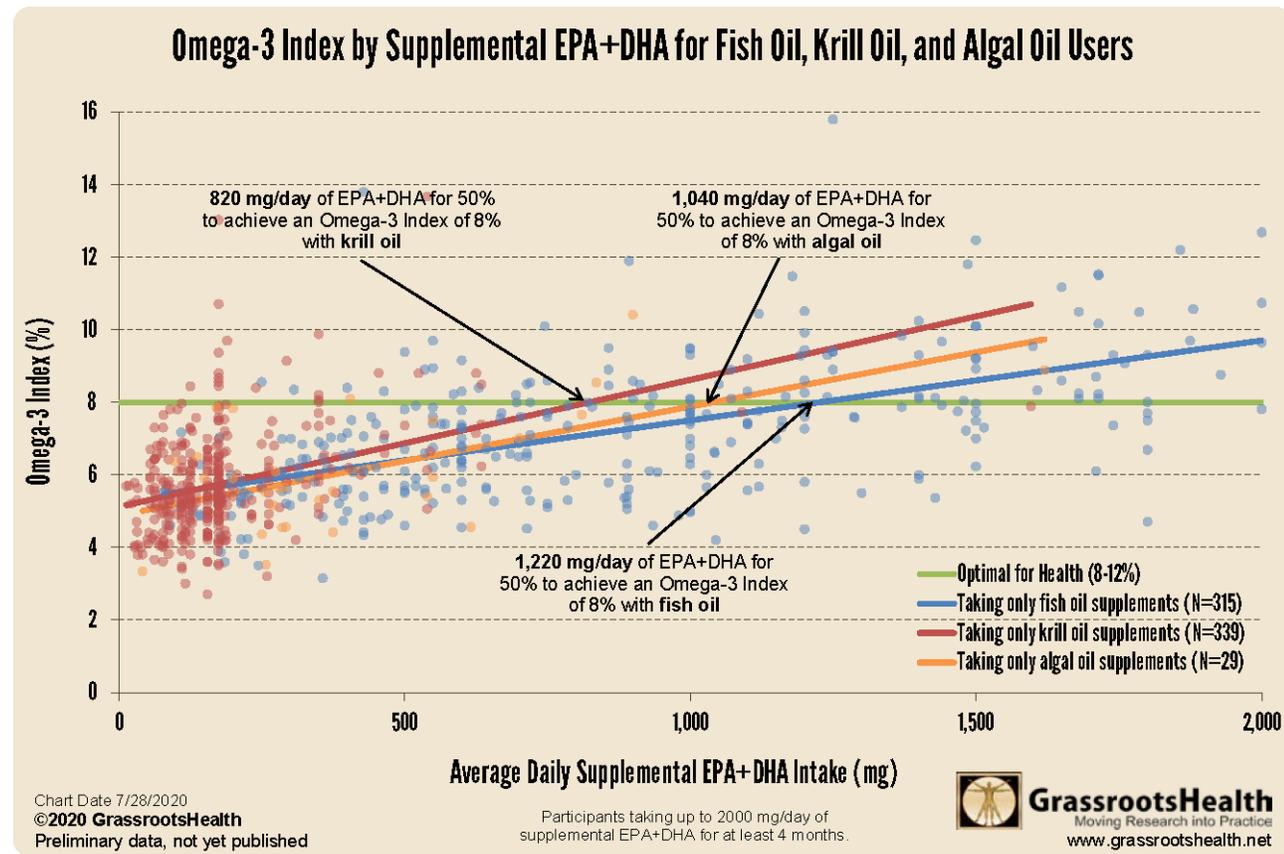
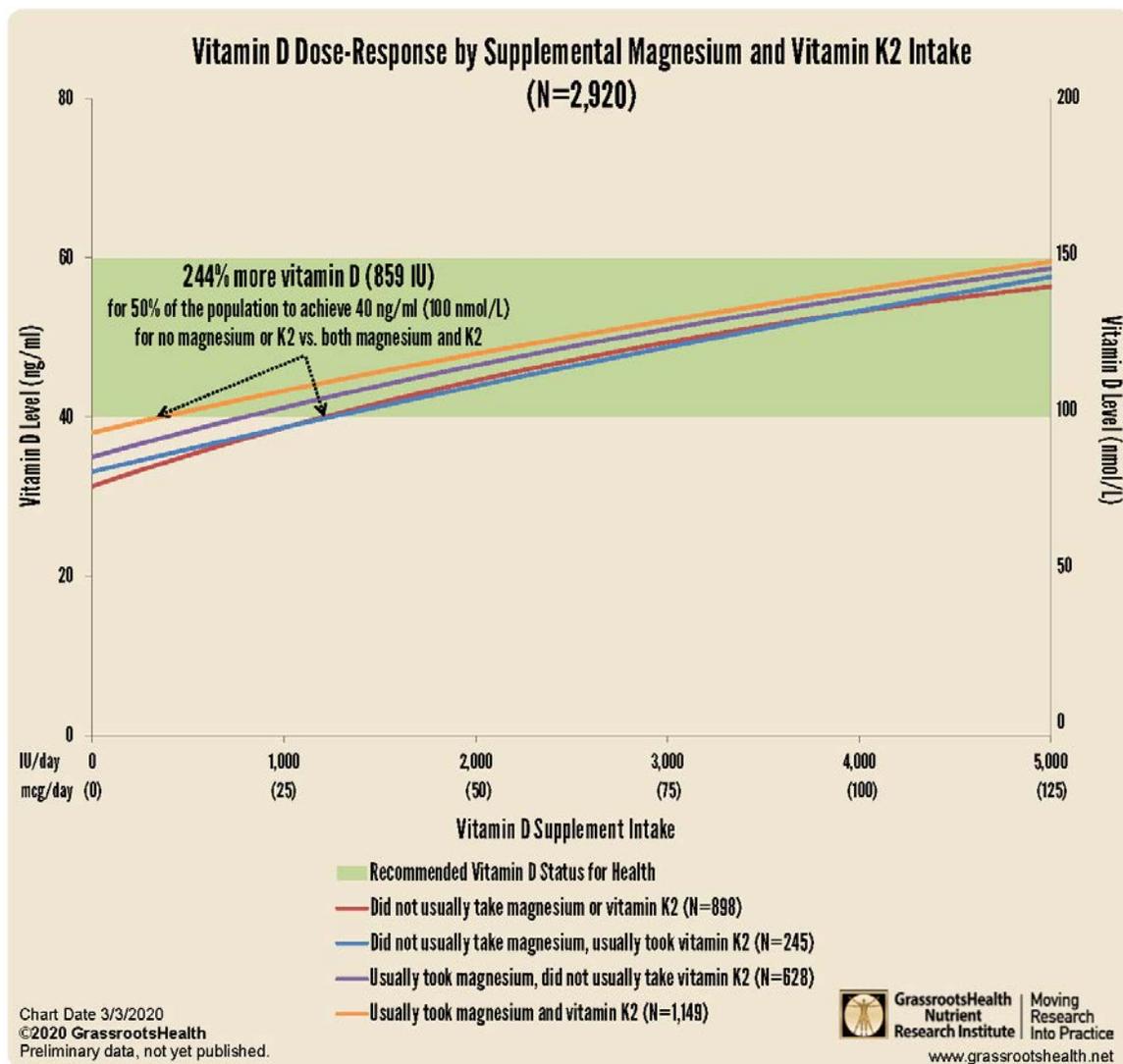
Chart Date 4/8/2019  
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Preliminary data, not yet published



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- Among 5,442 GrassrootsHealth participants who completed at least two vitamin D tests, approximately half (51%) achieved 40 ng/ml on their first test compared to two-thirds (67%) on their second test – leaving 1/3 of those who re-tested still below 40 ng/ml
- The median vitamin D supplement intake amount increased from 2000 IU/day on the first test to 4000 IU/day on the second test
- Among those who were less than 40 ng/ml on their first test, a majority increased their supplemental intake amount (76%) and their vitamin D level (81%) between their first and second tests

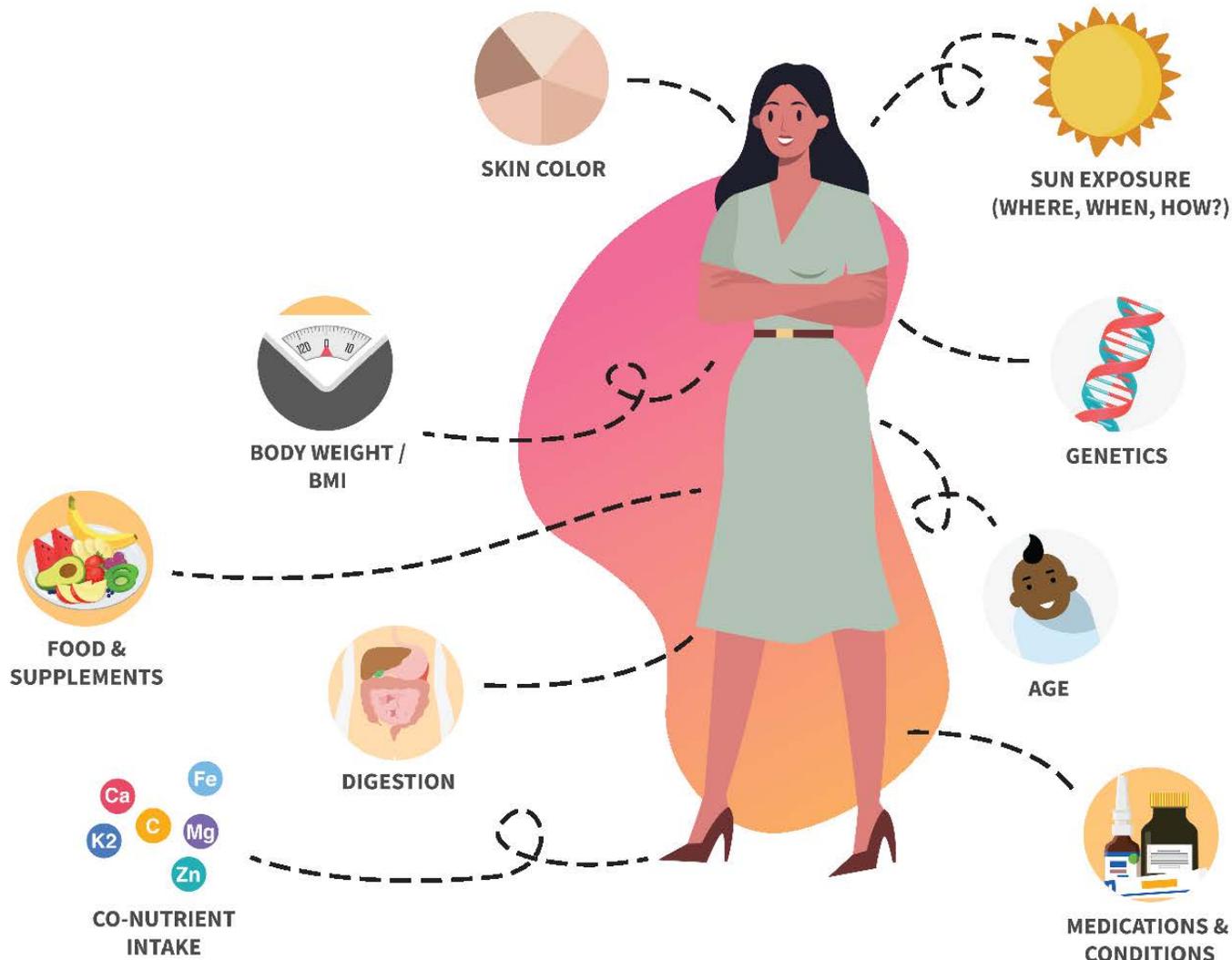
# Dose Response Varies by Supplement Type & Co-Nutrients



Dose-response analyses provide important information about how supplement type, co-nutrients, and individual factors can influence response to supplementation.

# Everyone Responds Differently to Vitamin D Inputs

For the same dose taken, individual vitamin D level response can vary by a factor of six or more. In other words, what might be enough vitamin D for one person may not be enough for another. On top of all that, children are constantly growing, and as they grow, so does the amount of vitamin D their body needs.



# Another Reason Testing is Necessary

Self-Reported Vitamin D Intake versus Calculated Vitamin D Intake Among  
GrassrootsHealth Participants (N=8,355)

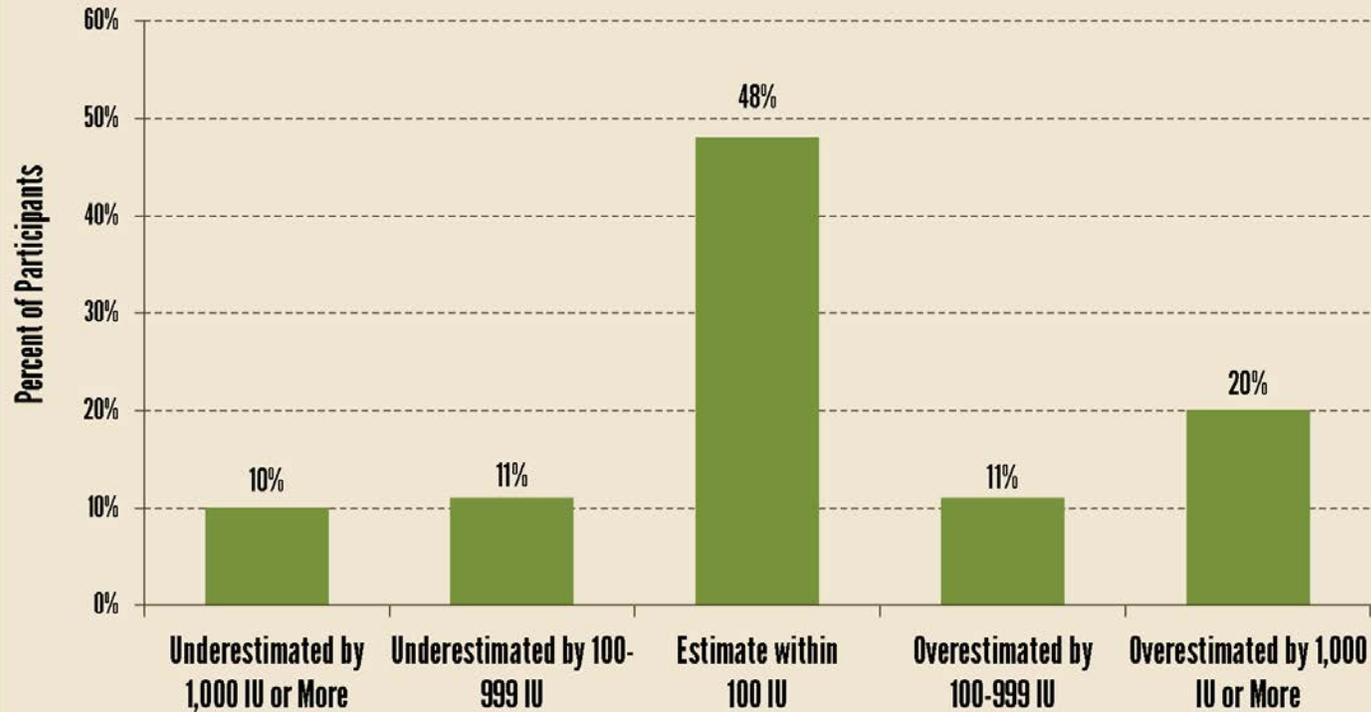


Chart Date 3/31/2023  
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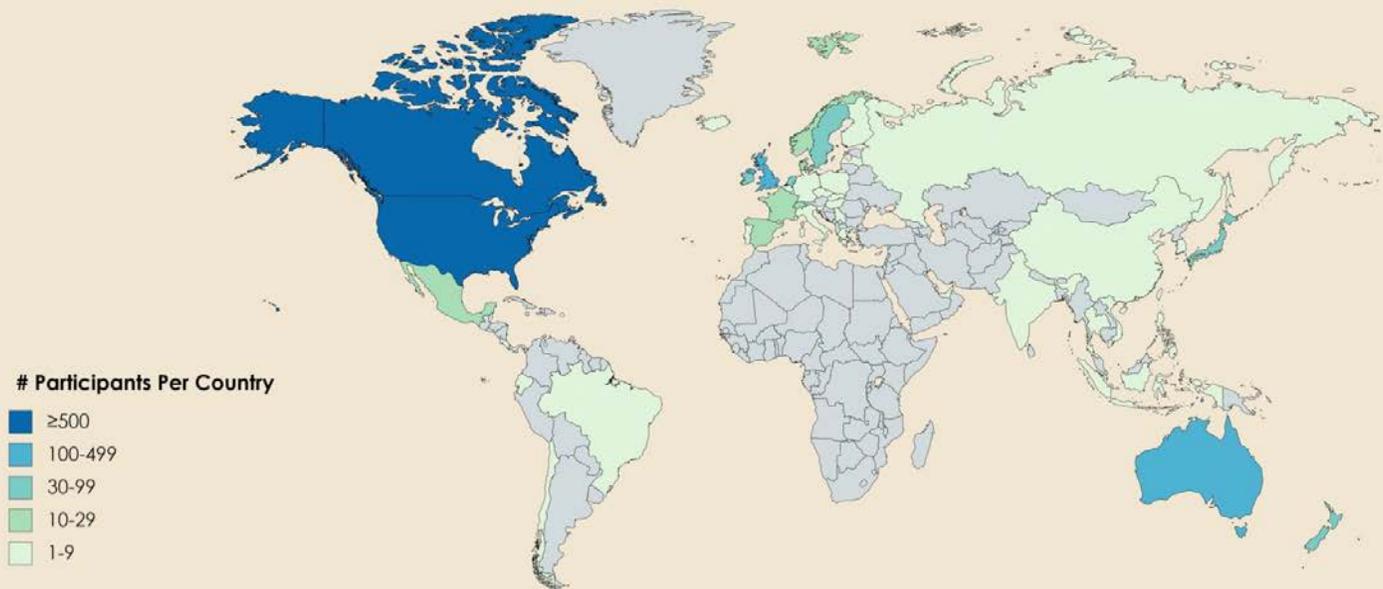
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- A total of 8,355 records were included in a preliminary analysis to compare the self-reported vitamin D intake to the calculated supplemental intake amounts
- According to our data, participants who underestimated their daily intake typically forgot to include the vitamin D from their multivitamin or other non-vitamin D specific supplements that contained vitamin D
- Those who overestimated typically put the amount that is on their supplement bottle but did not adjust for the fact that they didn't take it every day or that they took fewer pills than a full "dose"

# Participants of the International D\*action Study

## GrassrootsHealth Participants Worldwide



Participants reside in 55 countries worldwide

Chart Date 9/10/2019

©2019 GrassrootsHealth

Preliminary data, not yet published

As of 2019

- Participants resided in 55 countries worldwide
- A vast majority of participants reside in the United States (84%), 8% in Canada, 4% in the United Kingdom, and 1% in Australia

# D\*action Sub-study: Type 1 Diabetes Prevention Project

**Enrollment Open for Participants**

who have tested positive for islet cell autoantibodies  
but are not yet diagnosed T1D



**D\*action  
Type 1 Diabetes Prevention**

What's needed to solve the vitamin D deficiency and type 1 diabetes (T1D) epidemics?

- Measure the 25-hydroxyvitamin D serum levels, Omega-3 Index, AA:EPA ratios, hs-CRP, HbA1c, and T1D autoantibodies levels every 3-6 months along with an online health survey
- Provide education about supplementation, diet, UVB exposure, and other lifestyle changes to get vitamin D levels to at least 40-60 ng/ml (100-150 nmol/L), improve omega-3 status with an AA:EPA ratio of <3, and maintain an HbA1c level of 5.5% or below

# Type 1 Diabetes Prevention – A D\*action Sub-Study

CellR4 2019; 7: e2737

## Vitamin D and Omega 3 Field Study on Progression of Type 1 Diabetes

C. Ricordi<sup>1</sup>, M. Clare-Salzler<sup>2</sup>, M. Infante<sup>1</sup>, C. Baggerly<sup>3</sup>, J. Aliano<sup>3</sup>, S. McDonnell<sup>3</sup>, S. Chritton<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Diabetes Research Institute, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL, USA

<sup>3</sup>GrassrootsHealth, Encinitas, CA, USA

<sup>4</sup>Children With Diabetes Research Foundation, Superior, CO, USA



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- The [Type 1 Diabetes Prevention Project](#) began enrolling participants in the summer of 2018, offering testing and education to individuals who tested positive for any of the T1D autoantibodies and who were not yet diagnosed as stage 4 T1D
- **Objective:** to learn if achieving optimal levels of omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin D3 can help delay or prevent the onset of type 1 diabetes. We hypothesize that reaching and maintaining an optimal AA:EPA Ratio and vitamin D level [measured as 25(OH)D] may assist in slowing or reversing the progression towards T1D, even for those who test positive for one or more T1D autoantibody (aab).
- This study is approved by the WCB IRB, IRB Protocol Number: 20111002, and is ready for transfer to Qatar Foundation for its parallel application in Doha

# Incidence of Type 1 Diabetes Rises 3-5% Each Year

An illustration of the increase in incidence of T1D over the last several decades, as the recommended intake of vitamin D decreased

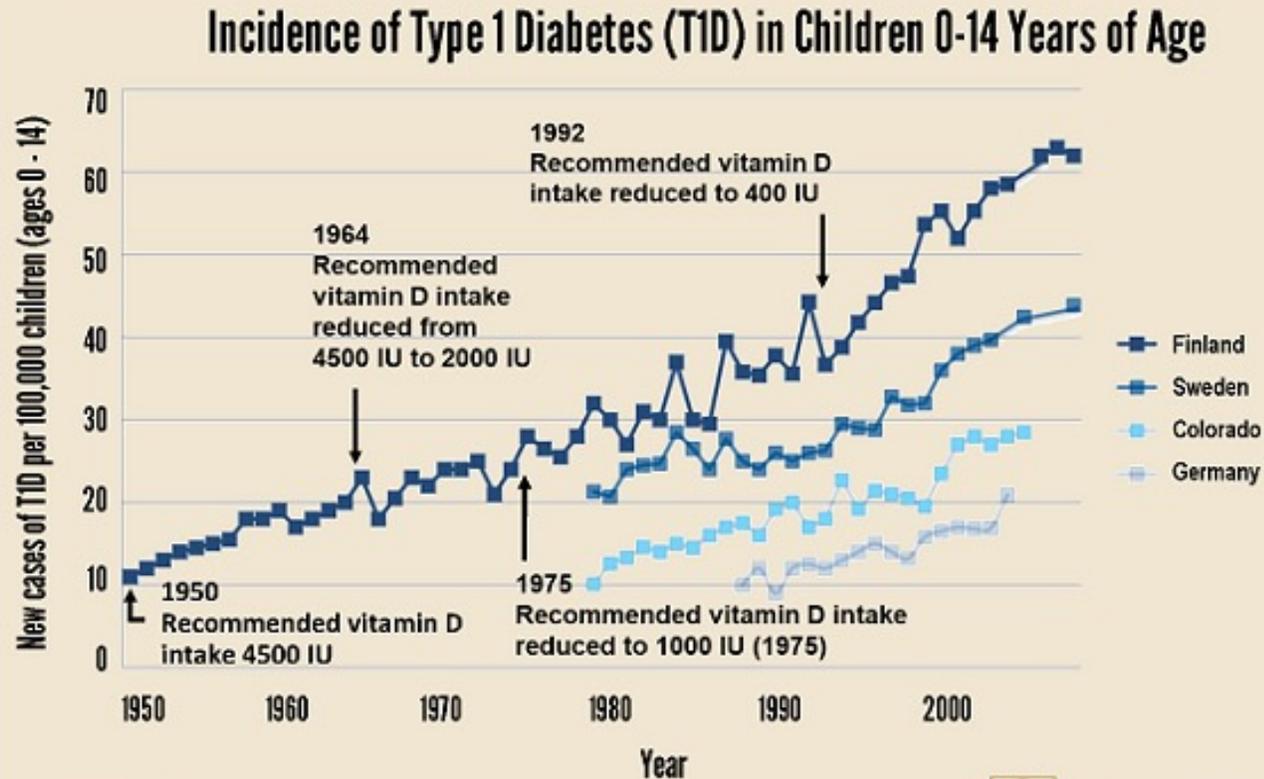


Chart Date 6/25/2018  
©2018 GrassrootsHealth  
Atkinson et al. Lancet 2014

Mohr SB, Garland FC, Garland CF, Gorham ED, Ricordi C; Am J Prev Med. 2010; Atkinson MA, Eisenbarth GS, Michels AW; Lancet 2014.

**A protocol involving vitamin D and omega-3s is now being implemented to help decrease the progression of T1D among those at risk...**

## **Success Story**

**Ben was told he was 'doomed' for T1D diagnosis at age 11;  
he has remained T1D free for over 23 years!**

His T1D prevention protocol, "Ben's Cocktail," has been shared with many others around the world who have tested positive for T1D autoantibodies, with similar stories from those who have implemented it with their children & for themselves.

**We invite you to participate!**



# Research Shows

## Vitamin D & Type 1 Diabetes

Lower vitamin D levels were associated with higher HbA1c and fasting blood glucose, higher risk of T1D diagnosis, higher insulin need & increased risk of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) among children with T1D (Alqudsi, 2020; Savastio, 2022)

A 44% lower risk of T1D was found among non-Hispanic whites with vitamin D levels of 40 ng/ml or higher vs below 30 ng/ml (Munger, 2013)

A lower risk of developing T1D has been associated with vitamin D supplementation in infancy and early childhood (Infante, 2019)

"Among nutritional deficiencies, that of vitamin D is one under the research magnifying glass as a trigger in T1D development" (Savastio, 2022)



## Research Shows

### **Omega-3s & Type 1 Diabetes**

Lower AA:EPA ratios (Arachidonic Acid, an omega-6 fatty acid, to Eicosapentaenoic Acid, an omega-3 fatty acid) have been associated with **lower inflammation & lower insulin requirements** after diagnosis (Savastio, 2022)

Higher omega-3 intake and levels were associated with a significantly **reduced risk of islet autoimmunity** (Norris, 2007)

A study involving 11,247 cases of adult onset T1D concluded that higher fish intake and higher omega-3 status may **prevent or prolong T1D onset**, even among GAD65 antibody-positive individuals (Lofvenborg, 2022)

## Case Report!

Case report of an 8 year old new onset T1D demonstrated effectiveness of vitamin D and omega-3 fatty acid testing and supplementation as a safe and cost-effective strategy to assist in halting the progression of T1D (Cadario, 2019)

*Become part of our T1D Prevention Study, so that we can measure, track, and publish the findings to help make this an officially recognized protocol in the scientific journals – and more likely to be discovered, shared, and accepted.*



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# **TOOLS & RESOURCES**

# Educational Tools and Resources: Vitamin D & Omega-3 Dosing Calculators



## Vitamin D\* Calculator™

Do you know your current vitamin D serum level?

Yes  No

Current Weight

lbs  kg

Current Daily Supplement Intake Amount

IU  mcg

Current Serum Level

ng/ml  nmol/L

Desired Serum Level

ng/ml  nmol/L

Calculate

Reset

*All suggested intake amounts are based on a weight of 120 lbs*

### Maintenance Dose

To achieve the desired serum level within approximately **3 months**, a supplementation amount of

**3,000 IU\* (75 mcg)** per day (this includes your current intake amount)

will be sufficient for **50%** of people to achieve the desired serum level of **40 ng/ml**

or

**4,000 IU\* (100 mcg)** per day (this includes your current intake amount)

will be sufficient for **90%** of people to achieve the desired serum level of **40 ng/ml**.

## Vitamin D\* Calculator

- Voted as an Absolute #1 Favorite Resource!
  - The original GrassrootsHealth Vitamin D\* calculator was published in 2015 as a tool to help individuals calculate the estimated additional Vitamin D intake (beyond their current intake from food, sun and supplements) needed to reach a target vitamin D level
- The updated Vitamin D\* calculator calculates a customized Loading Dose to help an individual reach their chosen target vitamin D level more rapidly (based on body weight and starting vitamin D level)

“Definitely essential!”

“So easy and helpful and I’ve shared it with many people!!!!”

# Educational Tools and Resources: Vitamin D Deficiency Risk Assessment Quiz

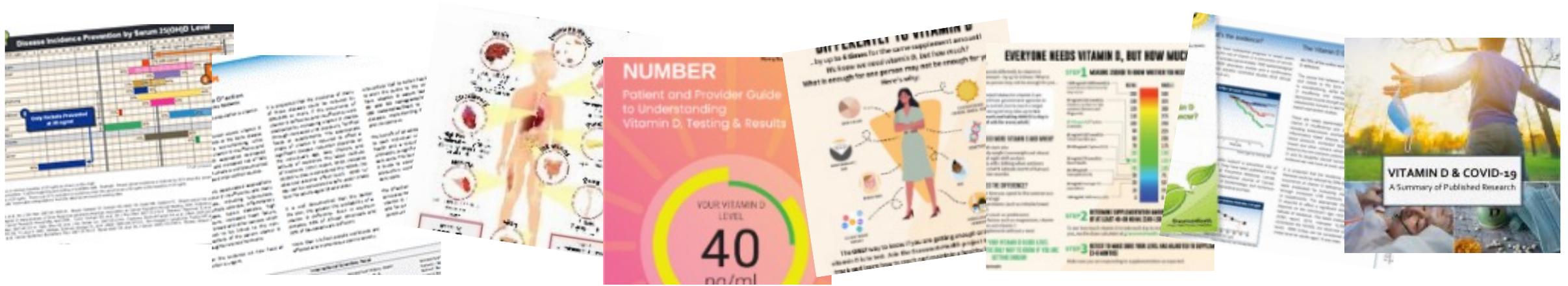


YOUR RISK OF LOW VITAMIN D



- Built to help educate individuals about their unique risk factors for vitamin D deficiency
- Short set of questions about an individual's supplemental vitamin D intake, UVB exposure, and low exposure indicators to assess risk level
- Scoring is intended to determine if an individual has a low, moderate, or high risk of having a vitamin D level below 40 ng/ml (100 nmol/L)
- This tool can help motivate individuals to take their supplements or take other steps to reach and maintain healthy vitamin D levels!
  - Western IRB Approved, in Beta

# Educational Tools and Resources: Download, Share & Print



Voted as a #1 ABSOLUTE FAVORITE: The *Disease Incidence Prevention Chart* (General): Summarizes 15 peer-reviewed, published papers on vitamin D and certain conditions, with percentage reductions based on vitamin D levels

Other favorites include the

- *Scientists' Call to D\*action*
- Interactive PDF: *How Vitamin D Deficiency Affects Every Part of the Body*
- *KNOW "D" NUMBER Patient and Provider Guide to Understanding Vitamin D, Testing & Results* Booklet
  - *Everyone Responds Differently to Vitamin D* Infographic
  - *How Much Vitamin D Do You Need?* Infographic
  - *Cancer Prevention with Vitamin D* Brochure
- *Vitamin D & COVID-19, A Summary of Published Research* eBook

# Educational Tools and Resources: Practitioner ToolKit & Best Practices Model



Article

## Exposure to a Vitamin D Best Practices Toolkit, Model, and E-Tools Increases Knowledge, Confidence, and the Translation of Research to Public Health and Practice <sup>†</sup>

Beth S. Sanford <sup>1,\*</sup>, Jennifer L. Aliano <sup>2</sup>, Courtney S. Omary <sup>1</sup>, Sharon L. McDonnell <sup>2</sup>,  
Samantha M. Kimball <sup>2</sup> and William B. Grant <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>†</sup> The Preliminary Results of This Paper Were Presented at the 15th National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference in Tampa, FL, USA, 3–5 August 2022.

**Abstract:** Preventable vitamin D deficiency (VDD) is a global health concern. The prevention, early detection, and treatment of vitamin D deficiency aligning with serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration recommendations of 40–60 ng/mL (100–150 nmol/L), provided by an international panel of 48 vitamin D researchers, would result in significant health benefits and cost savings to individuals and society. However, research shows that healthcare professionals lack knowledge and confidence in best practices with respect to vitamin D. A vitamin D toolkit was developed

- GrassrootsHealth, with Dr. Beth Sanford and Dr. William Grant, published a paper on utilizing our best practices model and toolkit for improving vitamin D knowledge and confidence among individuals and health care providers
- This publication demonstrates the success of our online vitamin D education course (CEUs available for nurses and dietitians) and supporting ToolKit of resources in filling existing gaps that currently prevent the translation of vitamin D research into practice

# Participated in Over 20 Research Publications (Several using data from the Vitamin D\* action Study)



## 60% lower preterm birth risk associated with maternal 25(OH)D concentrations $\geq 40$ ng/mL

Maternal 25(OH)D concentrations  $\geq 40$  ng/mL associated with 60% lower preterm birth risk among general obstetrical patients at an urban...



## 65% Lower Cancer Risk with 25(OH)D Concentrations $\geq 40$ ng/ml

The objective of this analysis was to investigate whether the previously reported inverse association between 25(OH)D and cancer risk...



## Type 2 Diabetes 50% Lower

Incidence Rate of Type 2 Diabetes is  $>50\%$  Lower in GrassrootsHealth Cohort with Median Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D of 41...



## Lower Risk of Preterm Birth with Higher Vitamin D

Post-Hoc Comparison of Vitamin D Status at Three Time Points During Pregnancy Demonstrates Lower Risk of Preterm Birth with...



## Vitamin D and Kidney Stones

25-Hydroxyvitamin D in the Range of 20 to 100 ng/mL and Incidence of Kidney Stones  
Stacie Nguyen, MPH, Leo...



## Association of Vitamin D Status with Insulin Resistance

A Novel Approach Localizes the Association of Vitamin D Status With Insulin Resistance to One Region of the 25-Hydroxyvitamin...



## Evidence that Vitamin D Supplementation Could Reduce Risk of Influenza and COVID-19 Infections and Deaths

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## Cross-sectional study of the combined associations of dietary and supplemental eicosapentaenoic acid + docosahexaenoic acid on Omega-3 Index

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### ABSTRACT

Studies have linked an Omega-3 Index (O3I), which measures eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) + docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in red blood cell membranes, of 8% with improved health.

French et al. *Journal of Medical Case Reports* (2019) 13:29  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13256-018-1948-9>

## CASE REPORT

## Open Access

## 25-Hydroxyvitamin D variability within-person due to diurnal rhythm and illness: a case report

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### Abstract

**Background:** Vitamin D nutrition research requires accurate measures of circulating 25-hydroxyvitamin D. Our objectives were to test whether a diurnal fluctuation in blood-spot concentrations of 25-hydroxyvitamin D can be demonstrated statistically in a single individual, and whether such fluctuation is affected by the pre-dose versus post-dose timing of the blood draw.

**Case presentation:** The participant in this case study was a generally healthy Caucasian woman in her 40s who has taken 5000 IU vitamin D3 supplement at midday for over 1 year. Each blood sample was drawn individually from a finger stick over the course of morning, midday, or night on a day when none of the individual

Journal of Medical Case Reports



OPEN ACCESS

### RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Breast cancer risk markedly lower with serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentrations $\geq 60$ vs $< 20$ ng/ml (150 vs 50 nmol/L): Pooled analysis of two randomized trials and a prospective cohort

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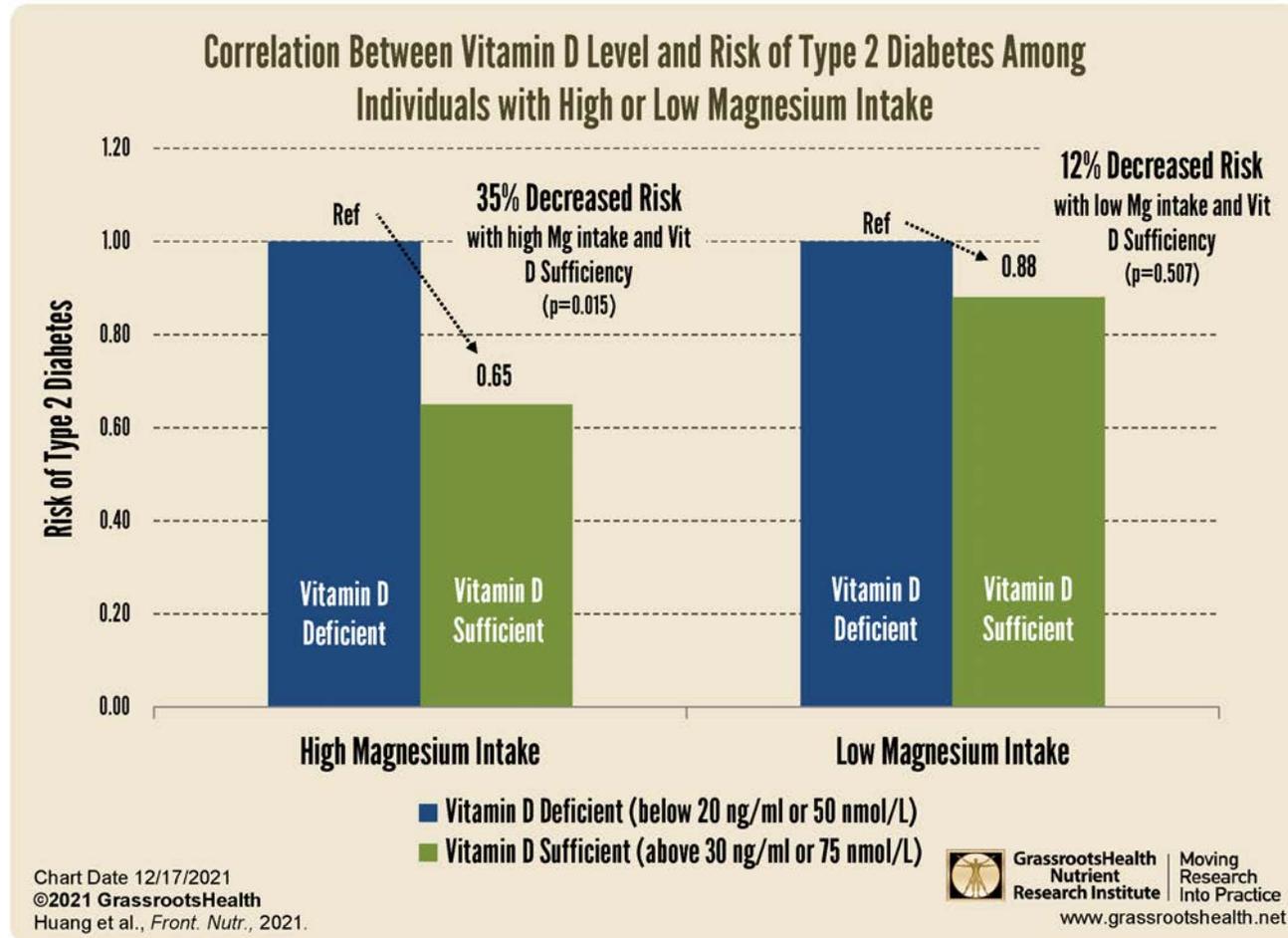


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# **EVIDENCE-BASED EDUCATION**

# Evidence-Based Education: Nutrient Research Reviews & Visuals



## Huang et al. (2021)

- Found that magnesium intake affected the association between vitamin D level and the incidence of type 2 diabetes
- Those getting more magnesium had a 35% significantly decreased risk of type 2 diabetes among those with vitamin D sufficiency vs those with vitamin D deficiency; those getting less magnesium only had a 12% decreased risk among those with vitamin D sufficiency, and the finding was not significant
- **Conclusion:** higher vitamin D levels were associated with a decreased incidence of type 2 diabetes, and the significance of the effect was greater among those who got more magnesium

# Evidence-Based Education: Nutrient Research Reviews & Visuals

Risk of Adult-Onset Type 1 Diabetes with Total Omega-3 Fatty Acids Blood Levels and GAD65 Antibody Status

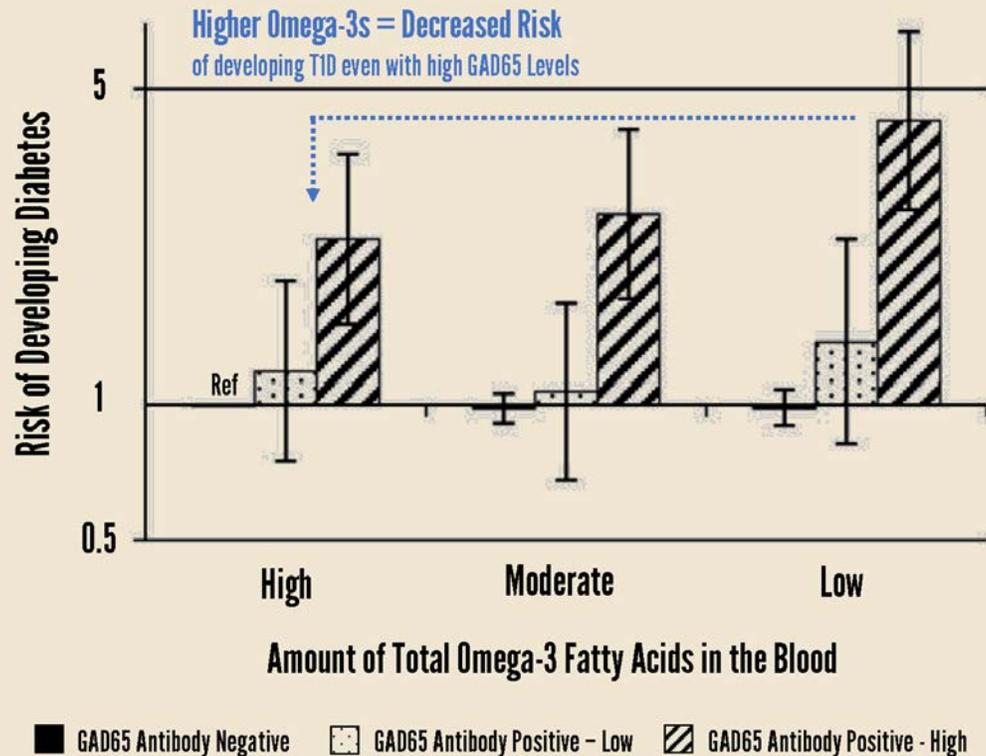


Chart Date 3/25/22  
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Lofvenborg et al., *Diabetes Care*, 2021.

- A study by Lofvenborg et al. looked to see if there was a relationship between fish intake and/or omega-3 fatty acid levels in the blood, GAD65 antibody positivity, and adult-onset type 1 diabetes
- Those who were GAD65 positive and had low fish intake had a significantly higher risk of diabetes, with **more than a fourfold risk of diabetes among those with both high levels of GAD65 antibodies and low omega-3s** compared to those who were negative for GAD65 and had high omega-3 levels

# Evidence-Based Education: Nutrient Research Reviews & Visuals

## Vitamin D Level Compared to HbA1c in Type 1 Diabetic Adolescents

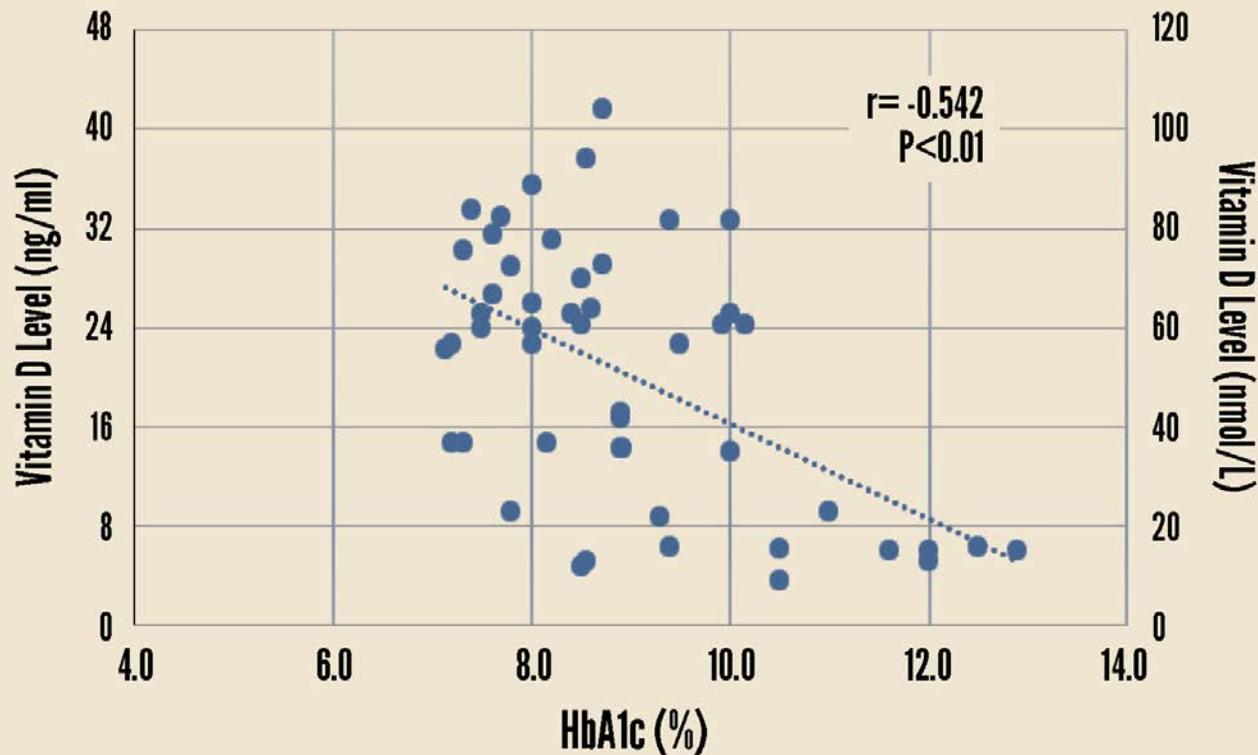


Chart Date 2/17/20

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Alqudsi et al., Int.J. Pharm. Res. Allied Sci., 2019.



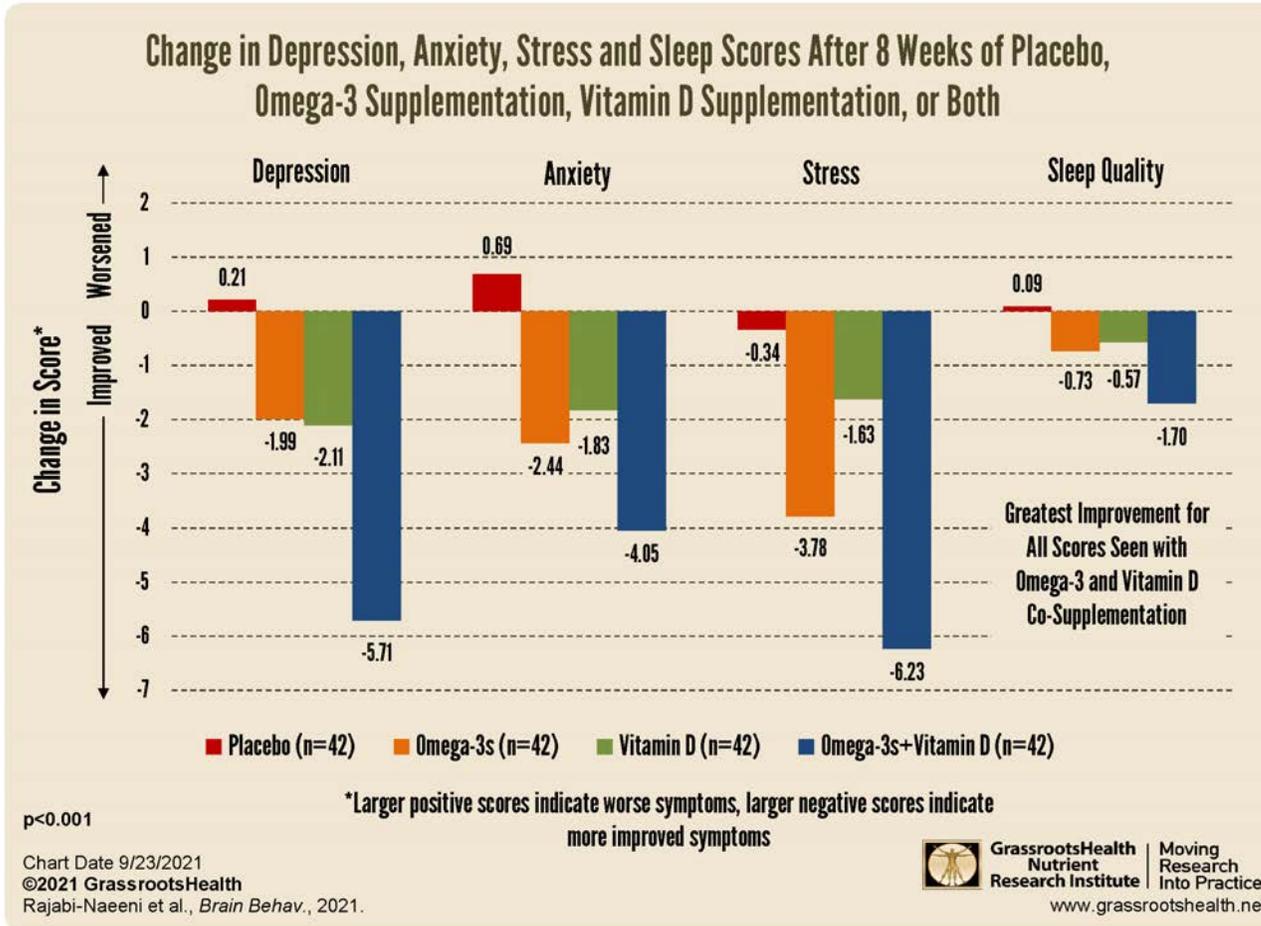
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- Alqudsi et al. looked at a group of adolescents in Saudi Arabia to determine the relationship between vitamin D levels and the incidence of T1D
- Those with a T1D diagnosis had an average vitamin D level of 19.8 ng/ml (49.5 nmol/L) which was significantly lower than those without T1D who had an average level of 27.2 ng/ml (68 nmol/L)
- There was an inverse, linear correlation between the HbA1c values and vitamin D levels and between fasting blood glucose and vitamin D levels for those with T1D. Both were statistically significant within the T1D group; there was no correlation in the control group.

# Evidence-Based Education: Nutrient Research Reviews & Visuals



## Rajabi-Naeeni et al. (2021)

- Sought to determine the effectiveness of supplementing with either omega-3s or vitamin D, or co-supplementing with both, on improving psychological stress, depression, and sleep
- All except those in the placebo group experienced improvement in depression, anxiety, and sleep
- The group supplementing with both vitamin D and omega-3s experienced the greatest improvements in depression, anxiety, stress, and sleep scores at the end of the study compared to all other groups



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