



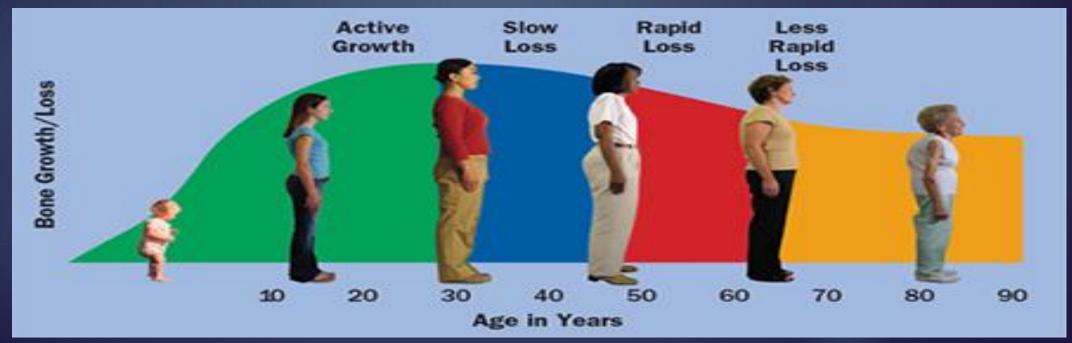


Introduction:

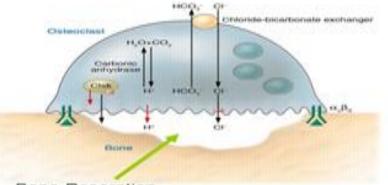
- Nutrition is an important modifiable factor that affects bone health. Diet is a complex mixture of nutrients and foods that interact with each other.
- The desire to maintain health, including bone health, into old age has led to almost one-half of the population and 70% of older adults in the United States and up to 26% in Europe using dietary supplements.

SKELETAL HEALTH THROUGHOUT LIFE

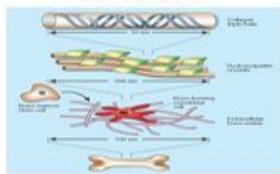
- Modifiable determinants of adult bone health, to include nutrition, influence accrual of peak bone mass and size.
- Bone growth generally tracks at a consistent trajectory during youth until puberty, when bone turnover and nutrient demand markedly increase. Depending on the skeletal site, peak bone mass occurs by the end of the second or early in the third decade of life. Supported by sufficient nutrition, bone mass and bone turnover remain relatively stable in midlife.
- Menopause-related estrogen deficiency leads to an increase in bone remodeling. The rate of bone resorption exceeds formation, leading to micro-architectural deterioration and loss of both cortical and trabecular bone.



BONE HEALTH



Bone Structure



Bone Resorption

Hydrochloric Acid = Dissolve Mineral

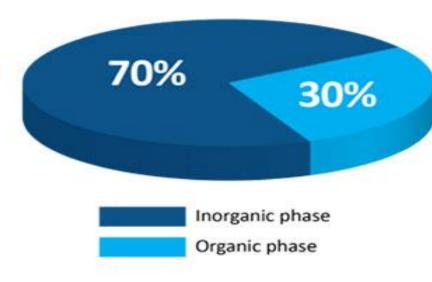
Hydroxyapatite (Ca₅(PO₄)₅(OH) = Storage of Calcium in Bone

Acid Proteases (Enzymes) = Digest Bone Matrix Protiens (Collagen, etc.)

INORGANIC PHASE 70%

- Hydroxyapatite 95%
- Other components 5%

(Mg, Na, K, F, Zn, Sr and C)



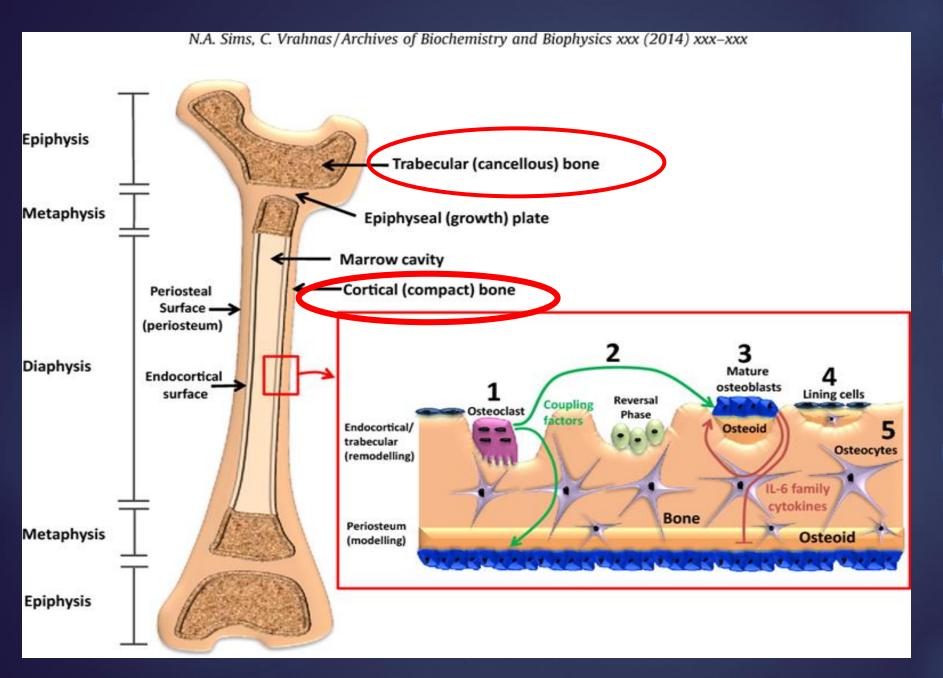
ORGANIC PHASE 30%

- Bone matrix 98%
- collagen type I 95% non-collagenous proteins 5% (BMPs, TGF - B: 2% NCPs)
- Bone cells 2%

Osteoblasts

Osteocytes

Osteoclasts



 Bone is a mineralized connective tissue that exhibits two different types of bone:

Cortical bone

The cortical bone has a predominantly structural function, since 80%–90% of its volume is calcified

Trabecular bone

The role of the trabecular bone is regarded as metabolic and only 15%–25% calcified.



Calcium



Magnesium



Vitamin D



Vitamin k



Zinc



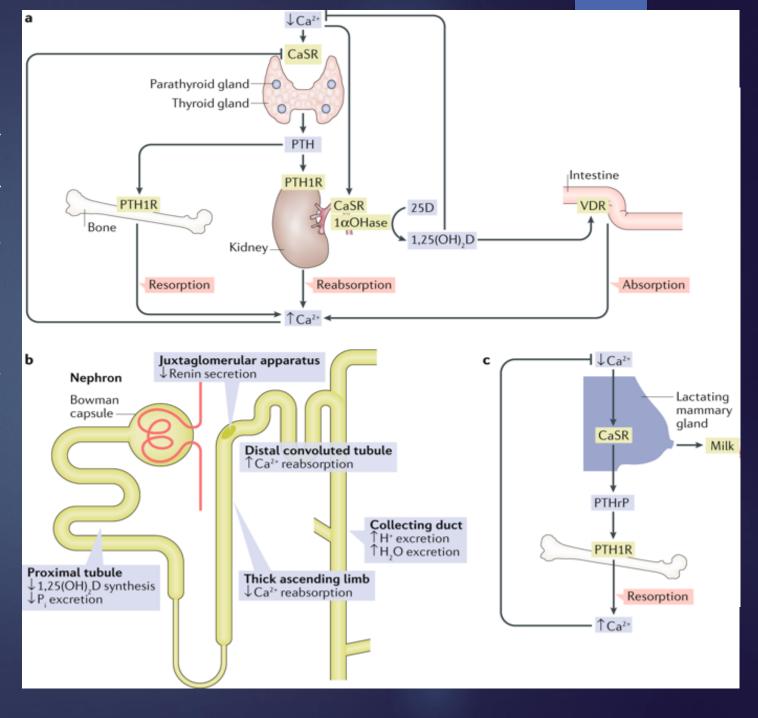
Manganese



Boron

Calcium

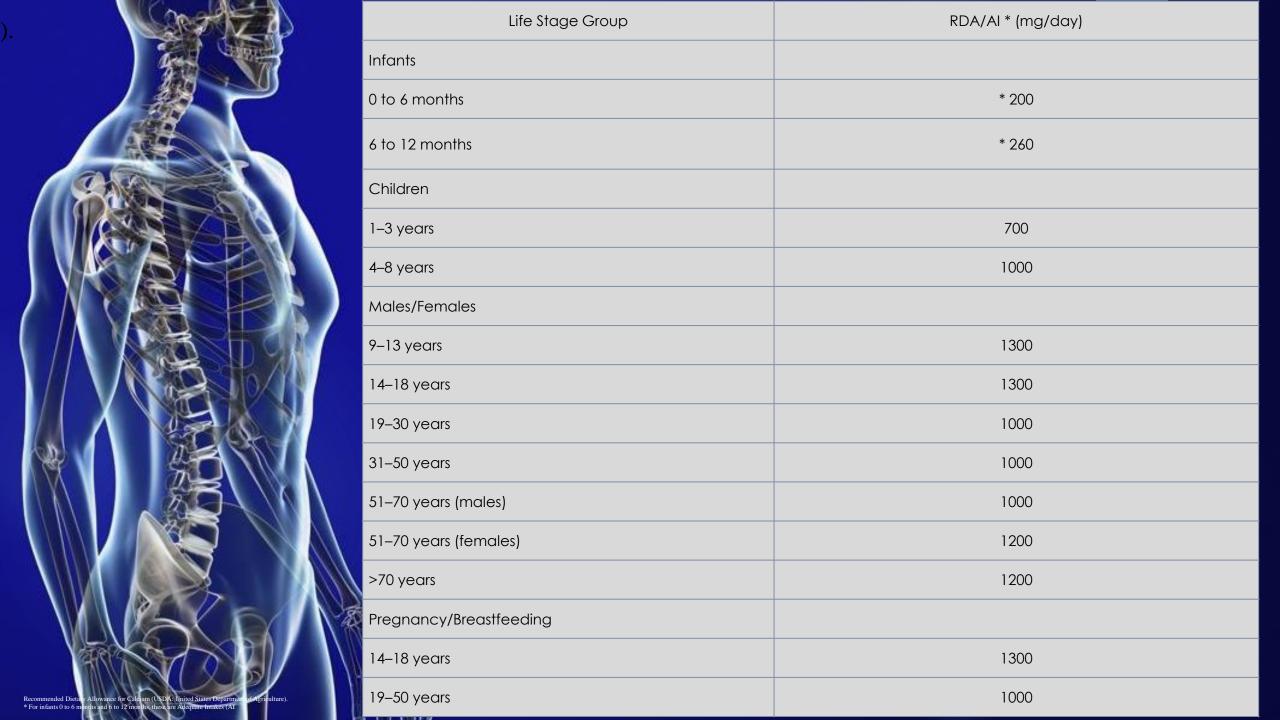
- Calcium is an essential element that plays numerous biological functions in the body, and one of the most important is the skeletal mineralization. Calcium is the major component of the bone, where it is present at more than 99% as calcium-phosphate complexes, and provides the skeleton strength and structure, making the bone a metabolic reservoir to maintain the intra- and extracellular calcium pool.
- The concentration of serum ionized calcium is tightly maintained at the physiological range in healthy subjects, by the action of calciotropic hormones:
 - Parathyroid hormone (PTH)
 - \triangleright 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D [1,25(OH)₂D],
 - Fibroblast Growth Factor 23 (FGF23),
 - Calcitonin.





CALCIUM

- Few clinical trials have assessed the effects of calcium supplementation on BMD and fracture risk independent of vitamin D administration.
- Two RCTs of calcium supplementation in elderly women reported reduced bone turnover and decreased bone loss.
- A Cochrane meta-analysis reported calcium alone was not superior to vitamin D alone in preventing fractures in postmenopausal women and older men.
- Several meta-analyses showed that calcium given with vitamin D reduces vertebral and nonvertebral fracture risk, consistent with vitamin D's action to improve gastrointestinal (GI) absorption of calcium and ensure adequate bone mineralization.



Calcium

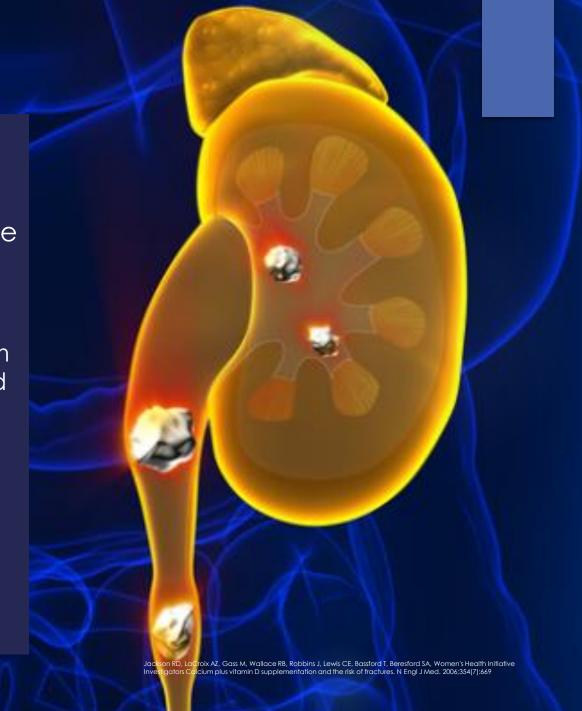
Food	Calcium, milligrams
Milk (skim, 2 percent, or whole, 8 oz	300
Yogurt (6 oz)	250
Orange juice (with calcium, 8 oz	300
Tofu with calcium (1/2 cup	435
Cheese (1 oz)	195 to 335 (hard cheese = higher calcium)
Cottage cheese (1/2 cup)	130
lce cream or frozen yogurt (1/2 cup)	100
Soy milk (8 oz)	300
Beans (1/2 cup cooked)	60 to 80
Dark, leafy green vegetables (1/2 cup cooked)	50 to 135
Almonds (24 whole)	70
Orange (1 medium)	60

Side Effects

The total intake of calcium (diet plus supplements) should not routinely exceed 2000 mg/day, because of the possibility of adverse effects

Nephrolithiasis

- In randomized clinical trials, calcium supplements have been associated with an increased risk of kidney stones.
- The Women's Health Initiative (WHI) trial reported an increased risk of kidney stones in postmenopausal women who were supplemented with calcium and vitamin D when compared with placebo.



Side Effects

- •The effect of calcium supplementation on risk of CVD, particularly MI, is controversial. However, neither calcium supplements (up to 1000 mg daily), increased dietary intake of calcium, nor vitamin D supplements have been shown to increase all-cause or cardiovascular mortality.
- One meta-analysis of trials comparing vitamin D with or without calcium with no treatment or placebo, calcium plus vitamin D was associated with reduced all-cause mortality in older adults (hazard ratio [HR] 0.91, 95% CI 0.84-0.98.

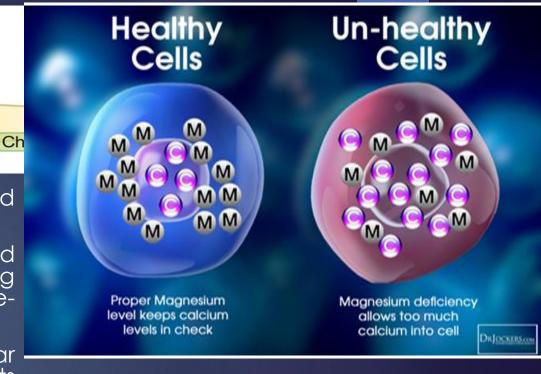
- •In the WHI trial, there was no effect of calcium and vitamin D supplementation on CVD.
 - •36,282 postmenopausal women ages 50 to 69 years were randomly assigned to calcium (1000 mg/day) plus vitamin D (400 IU/day) or placebo. After seven years, calcium plus vitamin D supplementation had no significant effect on the incidence of **MI** (confirmed in 411 and 390 women assigned to calcium/vitamin D and placebo, respectively; HR 1.05, 95% CI 0.91-1.20) or **stroke** (362 versus 377 strokes; HR 0.95, 95% CI 0.82-1.10).
- •Two meta-analyses evaluating calcium or calcium with or without vitamin D supplementation raised some concern about an increased risk of MI in patients randomly assigned to calcium versus placebo (166 versus 130 MIs; pooled relative risk [RR] 1.27, 95% CI 1.01-1.59) or calcium with or without vitamin D versus placebo (374 versus 302 MIs; RR 1.24, 95% CI 1.07-1.45). The meta-analyses had several limitations.
- Not designed to explore cardiovascular
- The baseline dietary calcium intake in the trials ranged from 750 to 1240 mg daily, and the addition of calcium supplements raised total intake over 1500 to 2000 mg daily in many patients, which is higher than recommended

Recommendations:

- ▶ The National Osteoporosis Foundation and the American Society for Preventative Cardiology stated that calcium intake not exceeding 2,000 to 2,500 mg/day should be considered safe from CV risk.
- ▶ The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE)/American College of Endocrinology (ACE) clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis recommend sufficiency of both calcium and vitamin D as part of the treatment regimen. A patient's total calcium intake should be assessed from both the diet and any supplement use, and the total daily amount of calcium should not exceed 1,200 to 1,500 mg.
- Studies suggest that it is most prudent to obtain calcium from food sources and to use supplements only as needed to reach the recommended total calcium intake

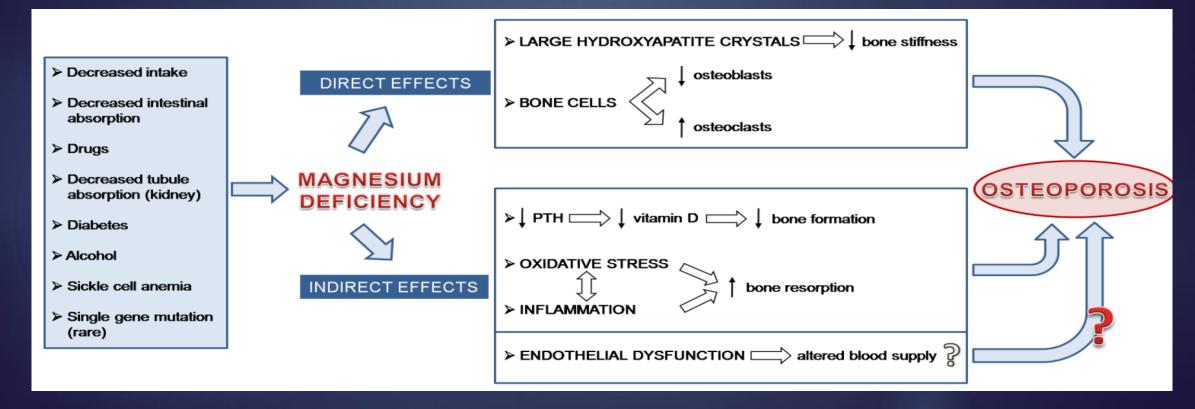
Role of Magnesium

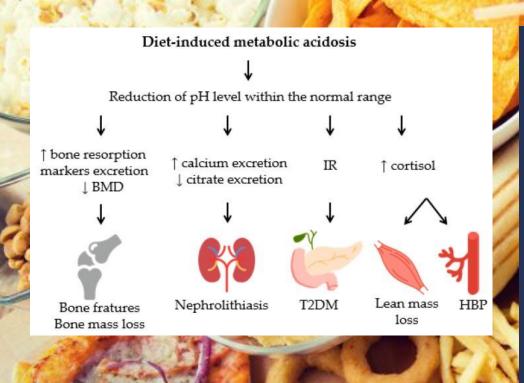
- About 60% of total Mg is stored in the bone.
- Mg is essential to all living cells, including osteoblasts and osteoclasts.
- Magnesium also has a role to play, together with the thyroid and parathyroid glands, in supporting bone health: stimulating the thyroid's production of calcitonin, which acts as a bonepreserving hormone, and regulating parathyroid hormone.
- Magnesium is an essential cofactor in 80% of all cellular enzymes. It is necessary for the conversion of vitamin D into its active form, and a deficiency of magnesium can lead to a syndrome known as vitamin D resistance.
- Alkaline phosphatase, also requires magnesium for activation, and if levels are low, abnormal bone crystal formation can result.
- Magnesium and calcium function together, so deficiency of one markedly affects the metabolism of the other. In fact, increasing calcium supplementation without increasing magnesium supplementation can actually increase magnesium loss. The use of calcium supplements in the face of a magnesium deficiency can lead to calcium deposition in the soft tissues, such as the joints, where it can promote arthritis, or in the kidney, contributing to kidney stones.



Magnesium deficiency

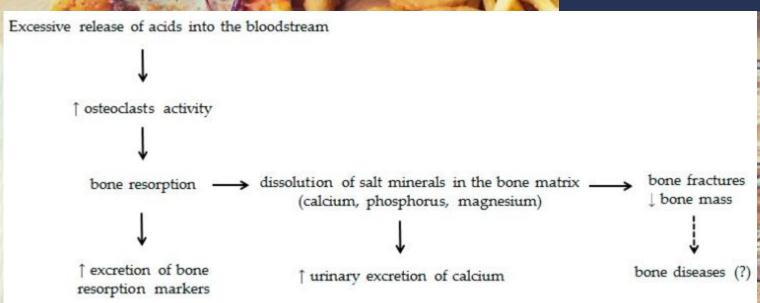
Hypomagnesmia exhibits other interesting phenomena, that of reducing the absorption of Ca, causing vitamin D to form hormonally inactive metabolites, and impairing the release of parathyroid hormone. both of which are involved in bone mineralization processes.





A western diet develop a low-grade acidosis which is intensified by aging. Recently, the acid load imposed by this diet has been suggested to play a role in the pathophysiology of osteoporosis. Indeed, metabolic acidosis has been shown to lead to calcium loss from bone, to inhibit osteoblast function and stimulate osteoclast activity, and to impair bone mineralization.

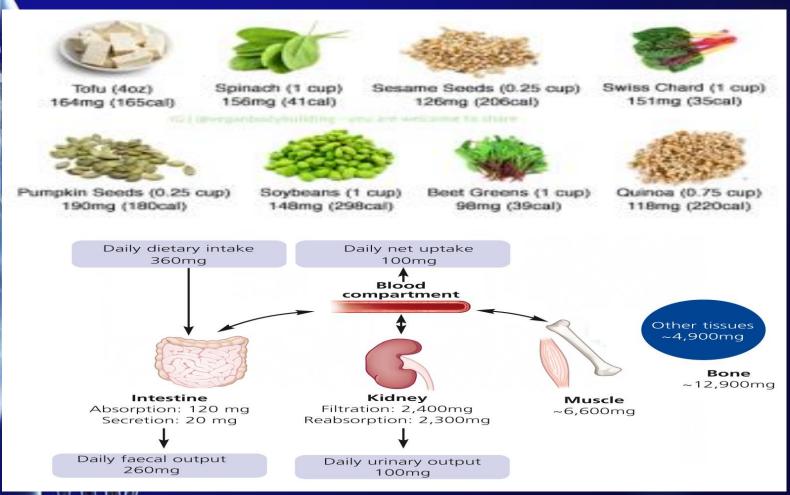
Accordingly, a neutralizing diet improves bone microarchitecture and bone mineral density. It is therefore feasible that part of the effects of Mg on the skeleton is due to its capability to act as a buffer for the acid produced by the typical western diet.





Magnesium Daily Recommendations:

The average daily magnesium intake is 360 mg.









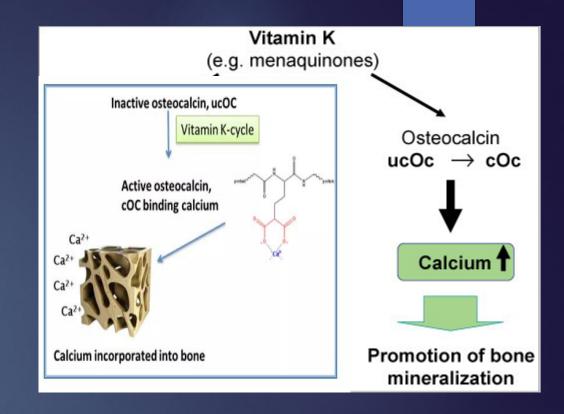
- 2.3 mg per day for men aged 19 and above
- 1.8 mg per day for women aged 19 and above
- 2 mg per day for pregnant women
- 2.6 mg per day for breastfeeding women

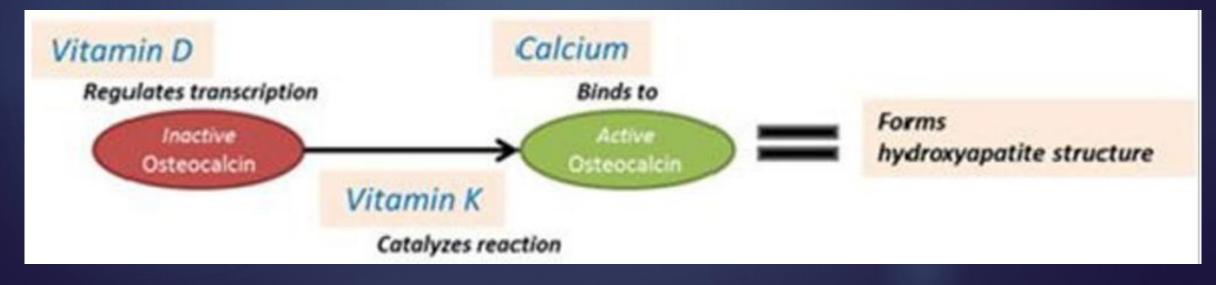
Best Food Sources of Manganese

Food	Serving Size	Amount in milligrams		
Cloves	1 teaspoon	1.27		
*Oats, cooked	½ cup	3.84		
*Brown rice, cooked	1 cup	1.76		
*Garbanzo beans, cooked	1 cup	1.69		
Spinach	1 cup	1.68		
Pineapple	1 cup	1.53		
Pumpkin seeds	1/4 CUP	1.47		
Tempeh	4 ounces	1.46		
Tofu	4 ounces	1.34		
*Quinoa	0.75 cup	1.17		
Walnuts	1/4 CUP	1.02		
Sweet potato	1 cup	0.99		
*Lentils, cooked	1 cup	0.98		
*Lima beans, cooked	1 cup	0.97		

Vitamin k

- Osteocalcin is a protein produced by the osteoblasts, must be carboxylated before it can be effective. Vitamin K functions as a cofactor of γ-carboxylase and essential for γ-carboxylation of osteocalcin, a major noncollagenous bone matrix protein important in bone mineralization.
- Undercarboxylated osteocalcin, lacks structural integrity, and its ability to bind to hydroxyapatite is impared.







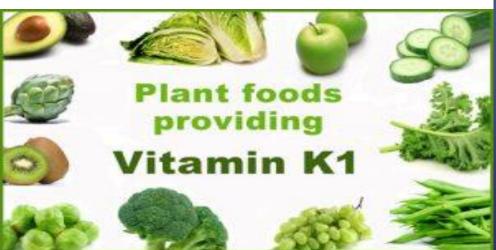
Vitamin K

- ► There are two naturally occurring vitamin K forms; phylloquinone (K1) is the major dietary form (especially in green leafy vegetables), whereas menaquinone (K2) is the main tissue form, to include bone. Vitamin K2 is synthesized by gut bacteria but also present in some foods (fermented soy beans, cheese, and curds).
- A review of eight small RCTs (n = 63 to 241 subjects) of 1 to 2 years in duration showed that a synthetic vitamin K2, decreased serum ucOC, increased spine BMD, and reduced the incidence of vertebral fractures.



Vitamin k Recomendations

Table 1: Adequate Intakes (Als) for Vitamin K [3]					
Age	Male	Female	Pregnancy	Lactation	
Birth to 6 months	2.0 mcg	2.0 mcg			
7-12 months	2.5 mcg	2.5 mcg			
1-3 years	30 mcg	30 mcg			
4-8 years	55 mcg	55 mcg			
9–13 years	60 mcg	60 mcg			
14-18 years	75 mcg	75 mcg	75 mcg	75 mcg	
19+ years	120 mcg	90 mcg	90 mcg	90 mcg	



Food	Serving Size Vi	tamin K (mcg
Kale, cooked	1/2 cup	531
Spinach, cooked	1/2 cup	444
Collards, cooked	1/2 cup	418
Swiss chard, raw	1 cup	299
Swiss chard, cooked	1/2 cup	287
Mustard greens, raw	1 cup	279
Turnip greens, cooked	1/2 cup	265
Parsley, raw	1/4 cup	246
Broccoli, cooked	1 cup	220
Brussels sprouts, cooked	1 cup	219
Mustard greens, cooked	1/2 cup	210
Collards, raw	1 cup	184
Spinach, raw	1 cup	145
Turnip greens, raw	1 cup	138
Endive, raw	1 cup	116
Broccoli, raw	1 cup	89
Cabbage, cooked	1/2 cup	82
Green leaf lettuce	1 cup	71
Prunes, stewed	1 cup	65
Romaine lettuce, raw	1 cup	57
Asparagus	4 spears	48
Avocado	1 cup (cube, slice, pure	ee) 30-48
Tuna, canned in oil	3 ounces	37
Blue/black-berries, raw	1 cup	29
Peas, cooked	1/2 cup	21

^{*} Food Values are from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. 2010. USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 23. Nutrient Data Laboratory home page: http://www.ars.usda.gov/nutrientdata

FLUORIDE

Fluoride supplementation is not recommended for skeletal health

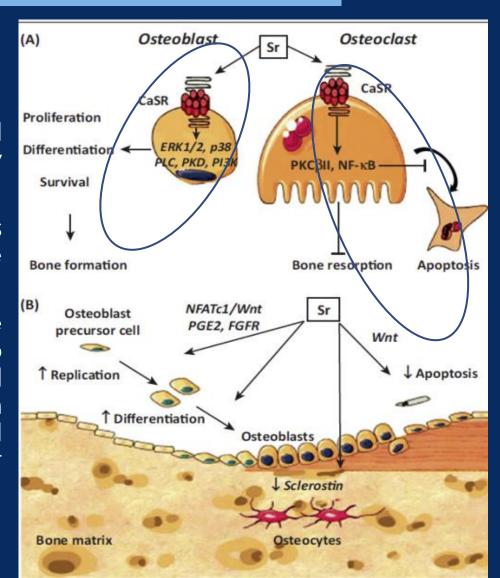
rract. Fluoriae absorption arops to 50 to 80% when complexes form with proteins, calcium, and other minerals.

- Approximately 95% of bodily fluoride is found in the bones and teeth.
- Fluoride stimulates bone formation at low doses, and although the mechanism is unclear, possible means include increasing osteoblast number and function.
- At a dose of 75 mg/day, bone may become abnormally mineralized and susceptible to fracture, and skeletal fluorosis has developed from excessive consumption of fluoride in tea.
- A meta-analysis reported no benefit for reducing vertebral fractures and an increased nonvertebral fracture risk after 4 years of treatment.



Strontium supplementation is not recommended for skeletal health

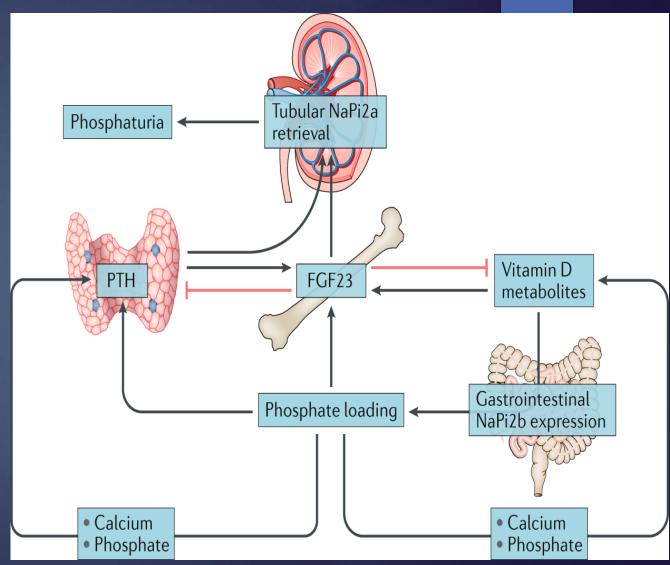
- lt is a naturally occurring mineral in soil and water.
- Strontium has chemical similarity to calcium but is found primarily on the surface of bone apatite crystals, and only a small amount replaces calcium within the crystal lattice.
- Strontium is rapidly incorporated into bone and reduces bone resorption while modestly stimulating bone formation.
- Strontium ranelate is approved outside the U.S. for the treatment of severe osteoporosis and reported to decrease the incidence of vertebral and nonvertebral fractures. However, due to lack of data on bone health and concerns of severe cutaneous drug reactions and increased CV events, strontium supplementation is not recommended for skeletal health.



Phosphate

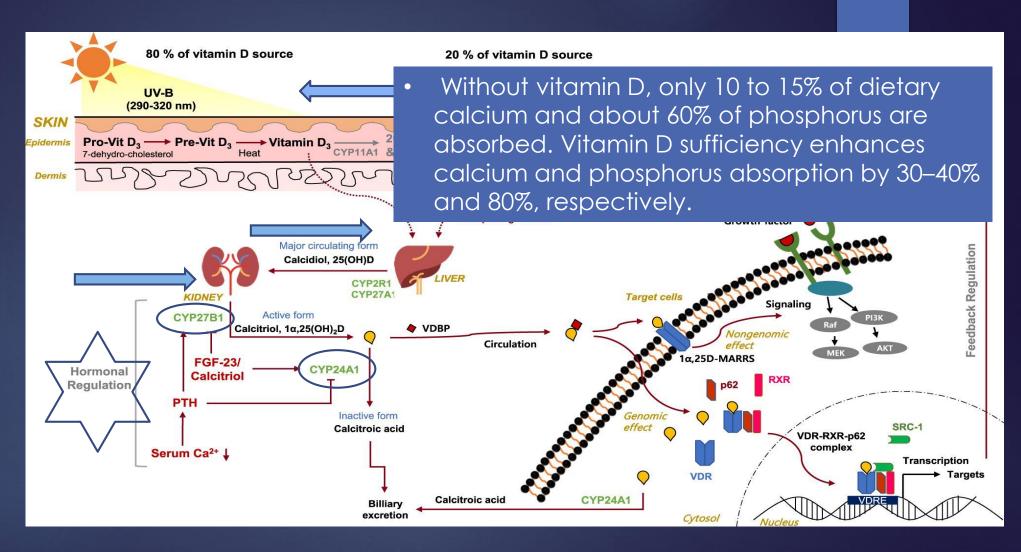
Phosphate supplementation in otherwise healthy adults is not recommended and may be detrimental to bone, particularly in those with compromised renal function or low calcium intake

- Phosphate is readily absorbed in the gut, enhanced to some extent by 1,25dihydroxyvitamin D.
- Insufficient phosphate intake can lead to impaired bone mineralization and rickets or osteomalacia, although inadequate intake is rarely a concern, except for persons experiencing starvation.
- Data suggest increased dietary phosphate intake is associated with increased PTH and FGF-23 levels and increased bone resorption. However, excessive phosphate consumption does not interfere with calcium absorption if there is adequate calcium intake and does not seem to be associated with a lower BMD.



Vitamin D- Metabolism

- Hepatic The hepatic enzyme 25–hydroxylase places a hydroxyl group in the 25 position of the vitamin D molecule, resulting in the formation of 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25[OH]D, calcidiol).
- Renal In the renal tubule, entry of the filtered 25(OH)D-vitamin D-binding protein complex into the cells is facilitated by receptormediated endocytosis.
- Within the tubular cell, 25(OH)D is released from the binding protein. The renal tubular cells contain two enzymes, 1-alpha-hydroxylase (CYP27B1) and 24-alpha-hydroxylase (CYP24), that can further hydroxylate 25(OH)D, producing 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D, the most active form of vitamin D, or 24,25-dihydroxyvitamin D, an inactive metabolite.



Definitions of Vitamin D Deficiency

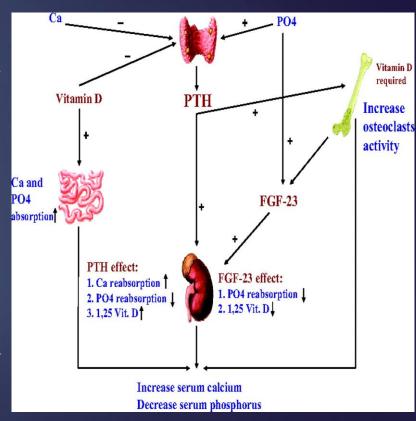
The Endocrine Society	The Institute of Medicine (Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies)	The Mayo Clinic	The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
Deficiency: ≤ 20	Deficiency: < 12	Severe deficiency:	Deficiency: < 30
ng/ml	ng/ml	< 30 ng/ml	ng/ml
Insufficiency: 21-	Insufficiency: 12-20	Mild to moderate	Optimal: 30-50
29 ng/ml ng/ml	ng/ml	Deficiency: 10-24	ng/ml
Optimal:≥30 ng/ml	Optimal: ≥ 20 ng/ml	Optimal: 25-80 ng/ml	

Cause Vitamin D deficiency

- Wearing a sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 30 reduces vitamin D synthesis in the skin by more than 95%.
- People with a naturally dark skin tone have natural sun protection and require at least three to five times longer exposure to make the same amount of vitamin D as a person with a white skin tone.
- There is an inverse association of serum 25(OH)D and body mass index (BMI) greater than 30 kg/m², and thus, obesity is associated with vitamin D deficiency.
- Patients with one of the fat malabsorption syndromes and bariatric patients are often unable to absorb the fat-soluble vitamin D, and patients with nephrotic syndrome lose 25(OH)D bound to the vitamin Dbinding protein in the urine.
- Patients on a wide variety of medications, including anticonvulsants and medications to treat AIDS/HIV, are at risk because these drugs enhance the catabolism of 25(OH)D and 1,25(OH)₂D.

Consequences of Vitamin D Deficiency

- Secondary hyperparathyroidism maintains serum calcium in the normal range at the expense of mobilizing calcium from the skeleton and increasing phosphorus wasting in the kidneys. The PTH-mediated increase in osteoclastic activity creates local foci of bone weakness and causes a generalized decrease in bone mineral density (BMD), resulting in osteopenia and osteoporosis.
- Phosphaturia caused by secondary hyperparathyroidism results in a low normal or low serum phosphorus level. This results in an inadequate calcium-phosphorus product, causing a mineralization defect in the skeleton.
 - Rickets
 - Osteomalacia,
- Vitamin D deficiency also causes muscle weakness; affected children have difficulty standing and walking, whereas the elderly have increasing sway and more frequent falls, thereby increasing their risk of fracture



Guideline Endocrine

Calcium and Vitamin D

- In postmenopausal women with low BMD and at high risk of fractures with osteoporosis, we suggest that calcium and vitamin D be used as an adjunct to osteoporosis therapies.
- In postmenopausal women at high risk of fracture with osteoporosis who cannot tolerate bisphosphonates, estrogen, selective estrogen response modulators, denosumab, tibolone, teriparatide, and abaloparatide, we recommend daily calcium and vitamin D supplementation to prevent hip fractures.

Treatment: Endocrine Society Recommendations

Age 0-1

> 2,000 IU per day Infants and Toddlers or 50,000 IU once weekly for 6 weeks to achieve a blood level 25(OH)D above 30 ng/ml. Followed by maintenance therapy of 400-1,000 IU/day.

Children Age 1-18

> 2,000 IU per day for at least 6 weeks or 50,000 IU once weekly for at least 6 weeks to achieve a blood level 25(OH)D above 30 ng/ml. Followed by maintenance therapy of 600-1,000 IU/day.

Adults

6,000 IU per day or 50,000 IU per week for 8 weeks to achieve a blood level 25(OH)D above 30 ng/ml. Followed by maintenance therapy of 1,500-2,000 IU/day.

Special Cases

Obese patients, those with malabsorption syndromes, and those on medications affecting vitamin D metabolism should receive a higher dose of 6,000 to 10,000 IU/day to achieve levels above 30 ng/ml. Followed by a maintenance dose of 3,000-6,000 IU/day.

Prevention: Endocrine Society Recommendations

- The Endocrine Society recommends the following daily intakes of vitamin D to prevent deficiency and maximize bone health.
 - Children age 0-1: at least 400 IU/day. May require 1,000 IU/day to achieve > 30ng/ml •
 - Children age 1-18: at least 600 IU/day. May require 1,000 IU/day to achieve > 30ng/ml
 - Adults age 19-70: at least 600 IU/day. May require 1,500-2,000 IU/day to achieve > 30ng/ml
 - Adults older than 70: at least 800 IU/day. May require 1,500-2,000 IU/day to achieve > 30ng/ml
- Obese children and adults; those on anticonvulsant medications, glucocorticoids, and antifungals such as ketoconazole; and those taking medications for AIDS should be given at least two to three times more vitamin D for their age group to satesfy their body's requirement

Prevention: AACE Recommendations

- Daily supplementation with vitamin D3 at a dose of 1,000 to 2,000 IU is typically needed to maintain an optimal serum 25(OH)D level.
- Higher doses may be necessary in the presence of certain factors including obesity, malabsorption, and certain ethnicities. Transplant patients and older individuals may also need higher doses.

Vitamin D Toxicity

Excess vitamin D supplementation can lead to hypercalcemia, but vitamin D toxicity is extremely rare. It generally occurs only after ingestion of large doses of vitamin D (>10,000 IU/day) for prolonged periods in patients with normal gut absorption or those ingesting excessive amounts of calcium.

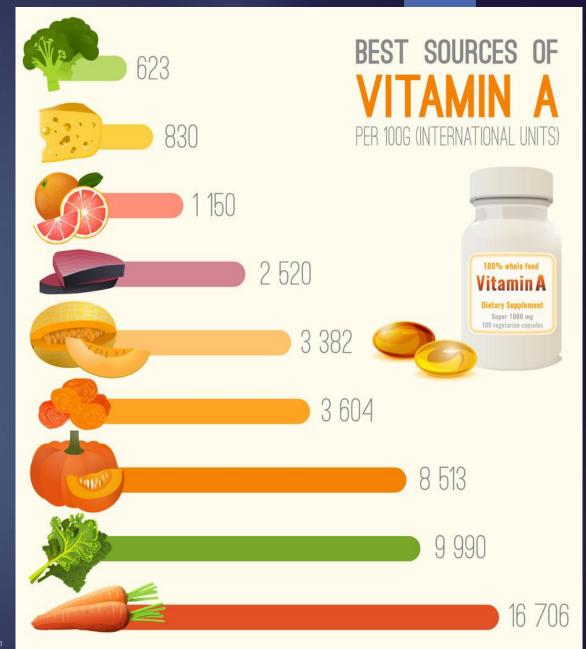
Do not administered yearly high-dose (eg, 500,000 international units) vitamin D.

hypercalcemia, including nausea, dehydration, and constipation, or symptoms of hypercalciuria such as polyuria and kidney stones.

		Amount per serving	
Vitamin D	Food	IU	
	Cod liver oil, 1 tablespoon	1360	
	Salmon (sockeye), cooked, 3oz	380 to 570*	
	Mushrooms that have been exposed to ultraviolet light to increase vitamin D, 3oz.	889	
	Mackerel, cooked, 3 oz.	388	
	Tuna fish, canned in water, drained, 3oz.	40 to 68	
	Milk, nonfat, reduced fat, and whole, vitamin D- fortified, 8oz.	100	
	Orange juice fortified with vitamin D, 8oz.	100	
	Yogurt, fortified with vitamin D, 6oz.	80	

Other Vitamins

- Vitamin A is known to influence bone content.
- Vitamin A is derived from retinol ingested as either retinyl esters (animal source foods) or carotenoids (fruits and vegetables) and metabolized to active compounds such as 11cis-retinal, important for vision, and all-transretinoic acid, which is the primary mediator of the biologic actions of vitamin A.
- The role retinoids play in regulating osteoclastogenesis remains unclear.



Vitamin E

There is conflicting evidence of the role of vitamin E on bone health. The most abundant vitamin E isomer present in food and most widely distributed in the body is a-tocopherol

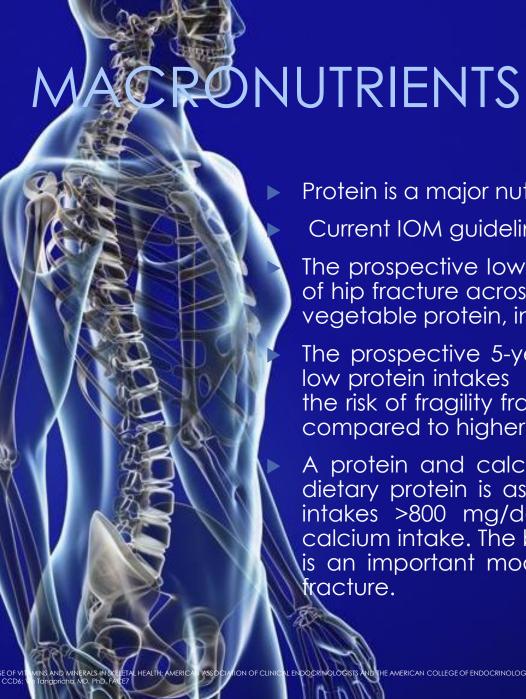
No recommendation for vitamin E supplementation can be made for bone health.

- Supplementation generally shows positive effects in various animal models of osteoporosis, but high-dose aTF may be detrimental to bone.
 - Possible reasons aTF may be harmful to bone include interference with the effects of vitamin K on bone.

Vitamin c



- Vitamin C is found naturally in fruits and vegetables, and it is a common fortification in cereals and juices due to its low toxicity.
- The prevalence of deficiency in the U.S. is reported as 6%. Human studies generally showed a positive relationship between vitamin C and bone health.
- The majority of studies have found either positive trends or significant effects of vitamin C on skeletal health. Vitamin C is known to play a role in collagen formation, bone matrix development, osteoblast differentiation, and in limiting bone resorption, but the exact effect that vitamin C may have on bone density is presently unknown.



Protein is a major nutrient essential for collagen synthesis in bone.

Current IOM guidelines for dietary protein are 0.8 g/kg.

The prospective Iowa Women's Health Study reported a decreased relative risk of hip fracture across increasing quartiles of animal protein intake, compared to vegetable protein, in postmenopausal women.

The prospective 5-year Canadian Multicentre Osteoporosis study showed that low protein intakes (<12% of total calories) were associated with almost double the risk of fragility fracture in postmenopausal women and men aged ≥50 years compared to higher (≥15% of total calories) protein consumption.

A protein and calcium interaction has been identified, suggesting increased dietary protein is associated with decreased fracture incidence with calcium intakes >800 mg/day, whereas the effect appears reversed during lower calcium intake. The balance of evidence suggests that adequate protein intake is an important modifiable risk factor associated with reduced risk of fragility fracture.

	Essential nutrient for growth and maintenance	Studies include RCTs	Effect on BCM	Effect on BMD	Effect on vertebral fractures	Effect on non- vertebral fractures	Recommended daily dose for bone health (adult RDA for 98% population health)
Minerals							
Calcium	Yes	Yes	+	+	+	+	1,000-1,200mg/d
Phosphorus	Yes						? (700 mg)
Magnesium	Yes			0/+			? (320-420mg)
Fluoride	Yes	Yes	+	0/+	0/+	-/0	? (3-4 mg)
Strontium	No	Yes	+	+	+	+	?RDA
Boron	No						?RDA
Vitamins							
Α	Yes						? (2,333-3,000 IU)
С	Yes	Yes		0/+	0/+	0/+	? (75-90 mg)
D	Yes	Yes	+	+	+	+	1,000-2,000 IU/d (600 IU)
Е	Yes			0/+			? (15 mg = 22.5 IU)
K	Yes		0/+	+	+		? (RDA not available; Al 90-120 µg/d)





Prevalence of Vitamin D Insufficiency and Deficiency among Young Physicians at University District Hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ramírez-Vick, Hernández-Dávila, Rodríguez-Rivera N, López-Valentín, Haddock, Rodríguez-Martínez, González-Bossolo

Vitamin D has been attracting increased attention because of higher prevalences of vitamin D insufficiency and deficiency than expected in areas with sufficient sun exposure. Even though sunlight exposure and diet are the main determinants of vitamin D status, other factors, such as age, race, the use (or not) of sunscreen, medications, and malabsorptive conditions, also affect vitamin D levels. Recent studies have found high prevalences of vitamin D deficiency and insufficiency in different populations. However, there are limited data regarding the prevalence of vitamin D deficiency and insufficiency in Puerto Rico. To shed more light on the subject, we evaluated a sample of 51 internal medicine residents and research fellows, aged from 25 to 39 years at the University District Hospital in San Juan, Puerto Rico, doing so by means of a questionnaire that explored basic socio demographic and lifestyle characteristics and collected anthropometric data; in addition, we obtained blood samples in order to determine 25-hydroxyvitamin D levels. The median 25-hydroxyvitamin D level was 21 ng/mL (range, 7-38 ng/mL). Forty-five participants (88.2%) had 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentrations of lower than 30 ng/mL. We found vitamin D deficiencies in 43.1% of the population and insufficiencies in 45.1%. Contributory factors to our findings include limited exposure to sunlight during periods of high sun intensity, increased body mass index, and a limited area of the body being exposed to sunlight. A relationship between reduced physical activity levels and hypovitaminosis D was also found. Both calcium intake and vitamin D intake, which were markedly below recommended daily allowances, were positively correlated with 25-hydroxy vitamin D levels, but with a weak association.