


The size, shape, density of human bodies and how they change in form and function from conception to older age varies by **sex, age, ethnicity, activity and heritage/genes and environment**. All the molecules that the body is composed of are determined by the foods that are consumed: quantity and quality. The most simple anthropometric measures of body composition are **body mass, height and waist**. The most widely used determinant of relative body size is **body mass index**. The concept of the quadruple burden of malnutrition and the relationship to BMI will be discussed. With more sophisticated measures such as bioimpedance, plethysmography, isotope dilution and dual xray absorptiometry the body mass can be divided into two compartments; **fat free mass (FFM) and fat mass (FM) and hence % body fat**. If FFM and FM are divided by height squared then **FFMI and FMI** are determined. Of practical interest is how body composition changes with growth, particularly in the critical periods of growth: in utero, baby and toddlerhood and adolescence. Metabolic rate, dietary and energy requirements, physical activity levels all impact on body composition and function. Practical examples of the importance of measures of body composition and function will be discussed.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hWMyO86CqlyMWZvYWDxbXyhg4ICDDiRxy/view>



Body Composition and  
Measurements:  
Pros and Cons  
“What Lies Underneath”

Elaine Rush MNZM, PhD

Auckland University of Technology

<https://www.aut.ac.nz/profiles?id=erush&asset=263217>

# Outline of presentation

age/growth

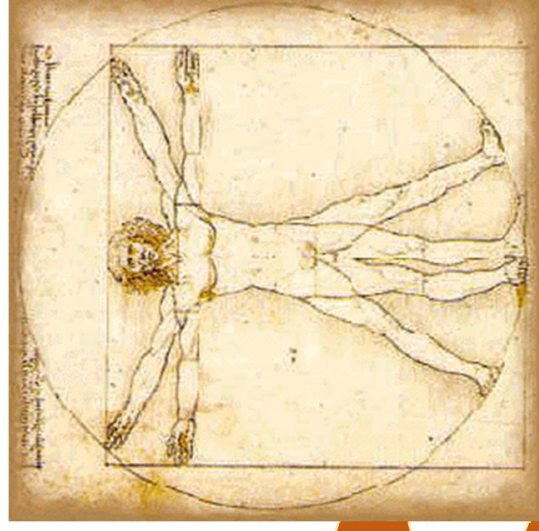
gender/sex

ethnicity

foods/dietary patterns

metabolism/ physical  
activity/climate

Food security



relationships

elemental

molecular

weight, height,  
waist, skinfolds,

electrical, BIA

two compartment

Regional,  
skeletal muscle

fat  
compartments

# Our bodies are what we eat and do!

All the molecules that the body is composed of are determined by the foods that are consumed: quantity and quality.

foods/dietary patterns



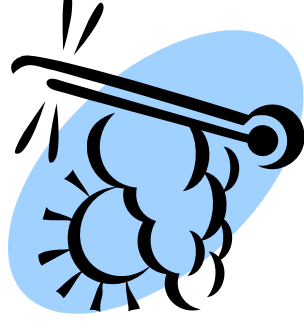
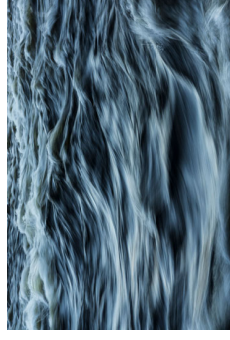
metabolism/ physical activity/climate

# Where does food come from- the food ecosystem?

To grow healthy plants and animals  
you need



Water



Soil/minerals



Carbon dioxide,  
nitrogen, oxygen

Sun/warmth/light

Healthy seeds



Human

11.4 kg

12

$^{13}\text{C}$  137g

16

68.6g

18

12.3g

17

30.4kg

1.30 kg

N

H

5.00 kg

K

5.10 g

1.50 g

Body weight 50.0 kg

Heavier isotopes 225g

elemental

# Isotopic Composition of 50 kg Human



To grow healthy humans you need

# Foods not nutrients

Wholesome foods in sensible combinations

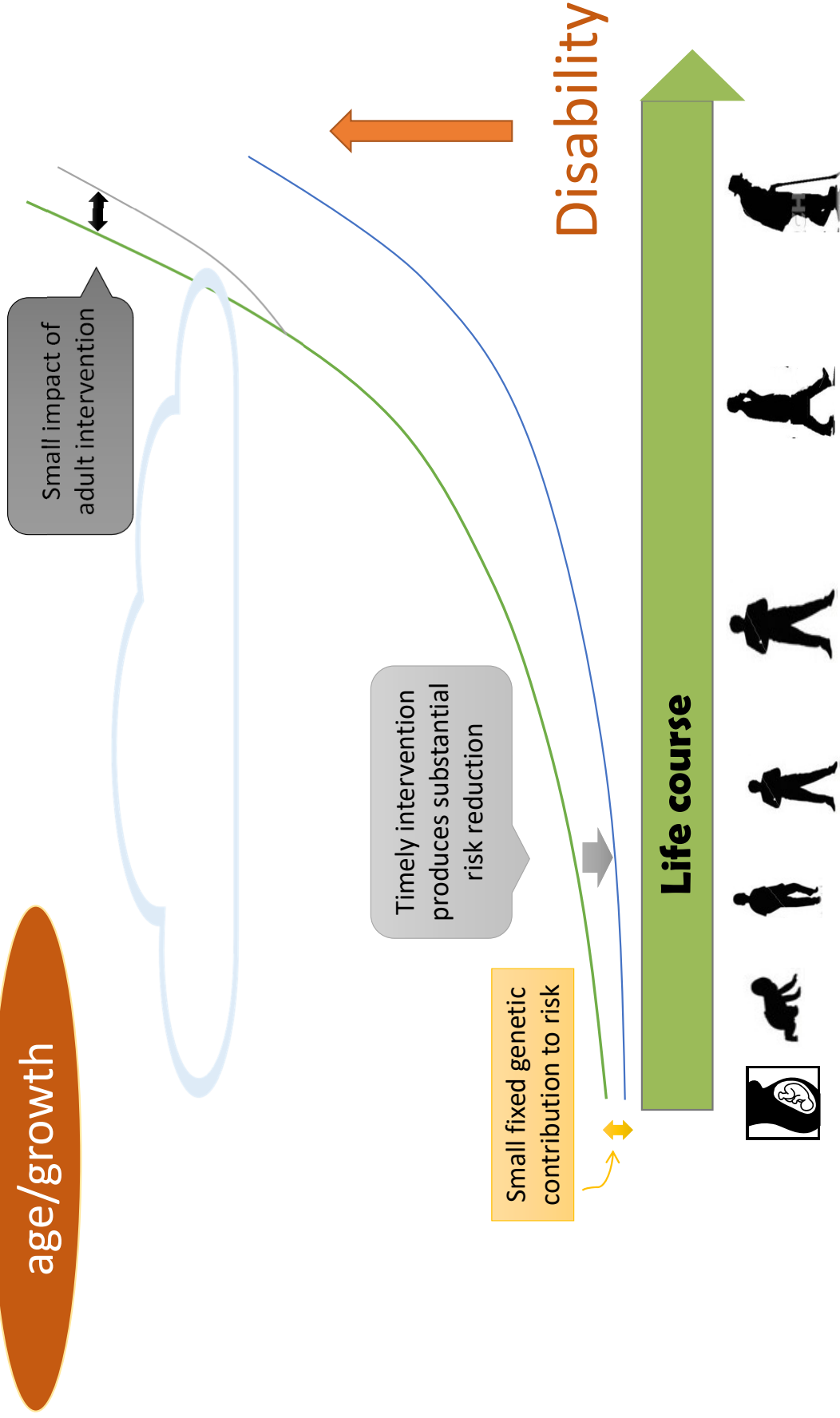


Four Fs!

food, feet, fingers, and fellowship

foods/dietary patterns

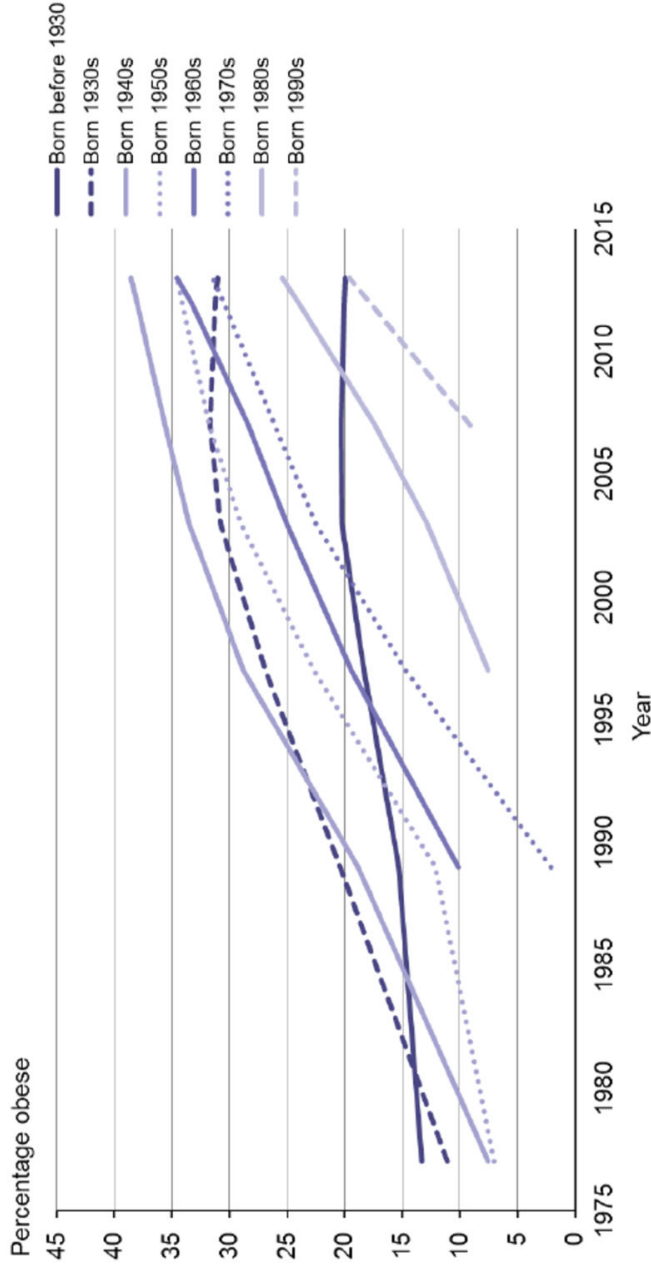
age/growth





Weight relative  
to height, BMI  
>30 kg.m<sup>-2</sup>

**Figure 10: Adult obesity rate, by birth cohort, 1977–2012/13**



Note: Years of survey were 1977, 1989, 1996/97, 2002/03, 2006/07, 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Ministry of Health. 2015. *Understanding Excess Body Weight: New Zealand Health Survey*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

Obesity increases with aging - the older you are the more likely to be obese!

# Quadruple Burden of Malnutrition



1. obesity and overweight,
2. underweight, stunting
3. food insecurity, and
4. hidden hunger

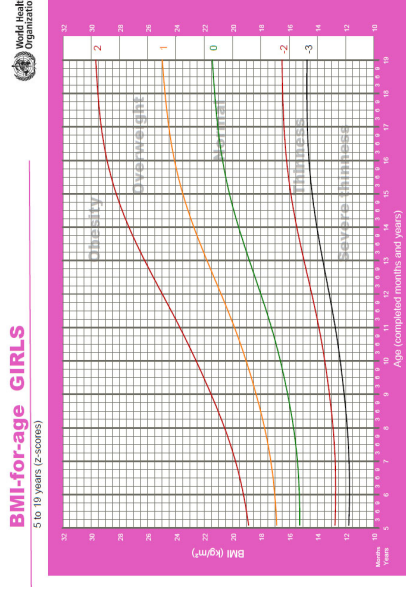
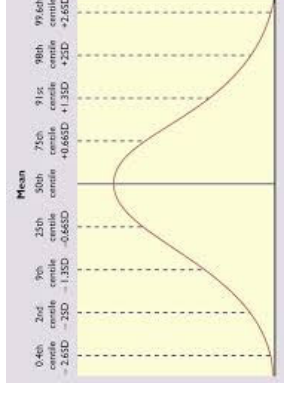
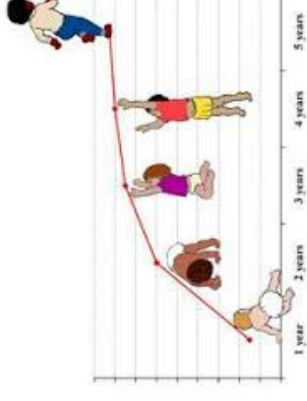
BMI

Fat, famished  
or starved?

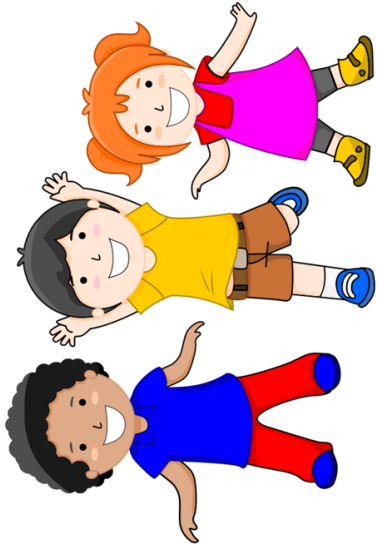
Food security

# Ratios and relativity

- Waist to height  $< 0.5$
- Waist to hip
- Subscapular to triceps
- Stunting
- Z scores/percentiles

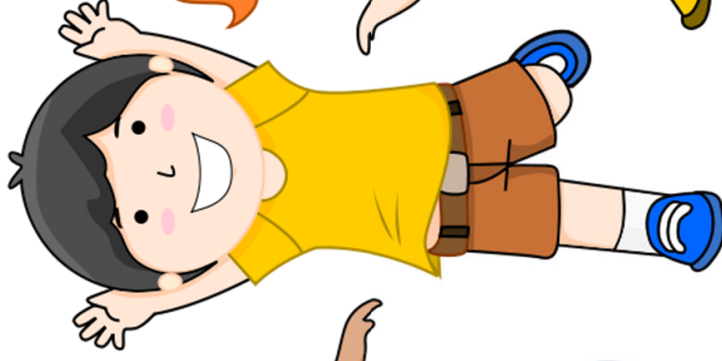
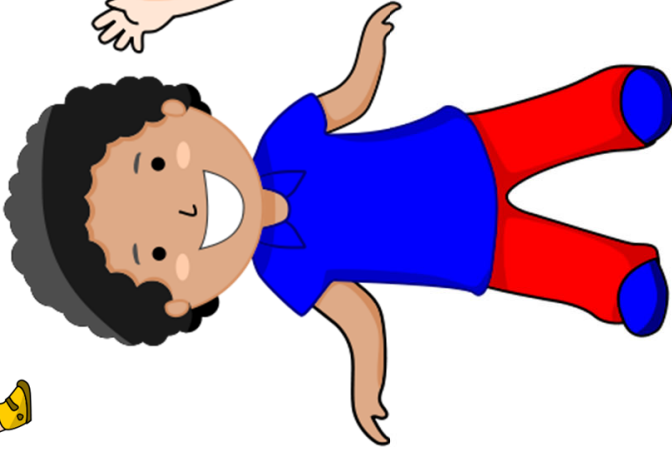


weight, height,  
waist, skinfolds,



Same age,  
Same BMI  
Same centile,  
Same z score for BMI

Weight 25 kg  
Height 110 cm  
BMI 20.6 kg/m<sup>2</sup>



Weight 50 kg  
Height 156 cm  
BMI 20.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>

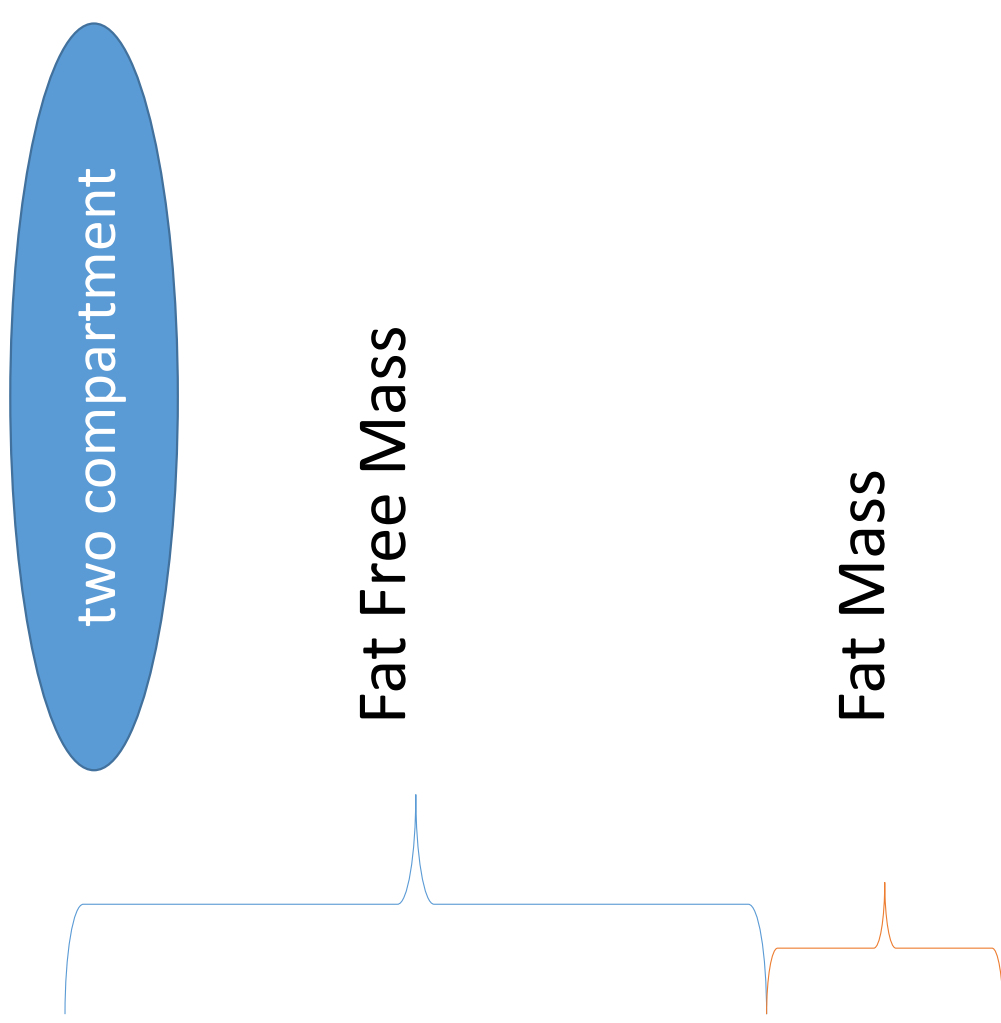
# Methods of Measurement

BMI –anthropometry

Bioimpedance analysis (BIA)

and two compartment model

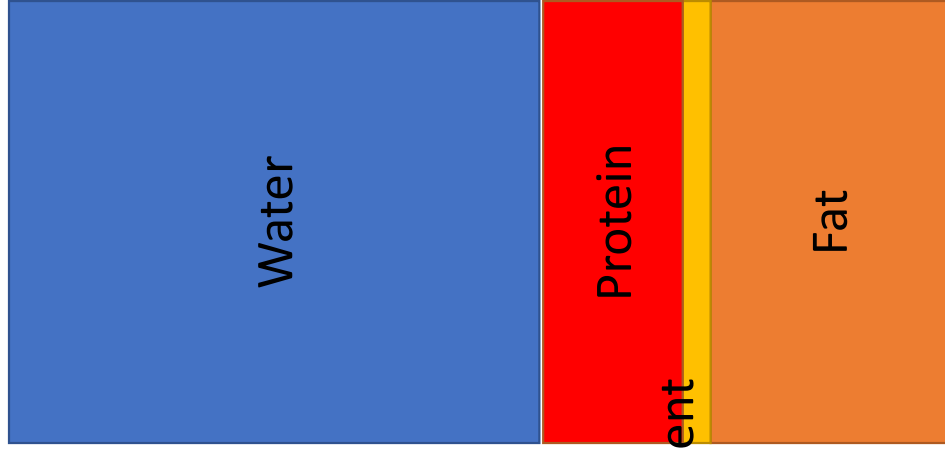




two compartment

Fat Free Mass

Fat Mass



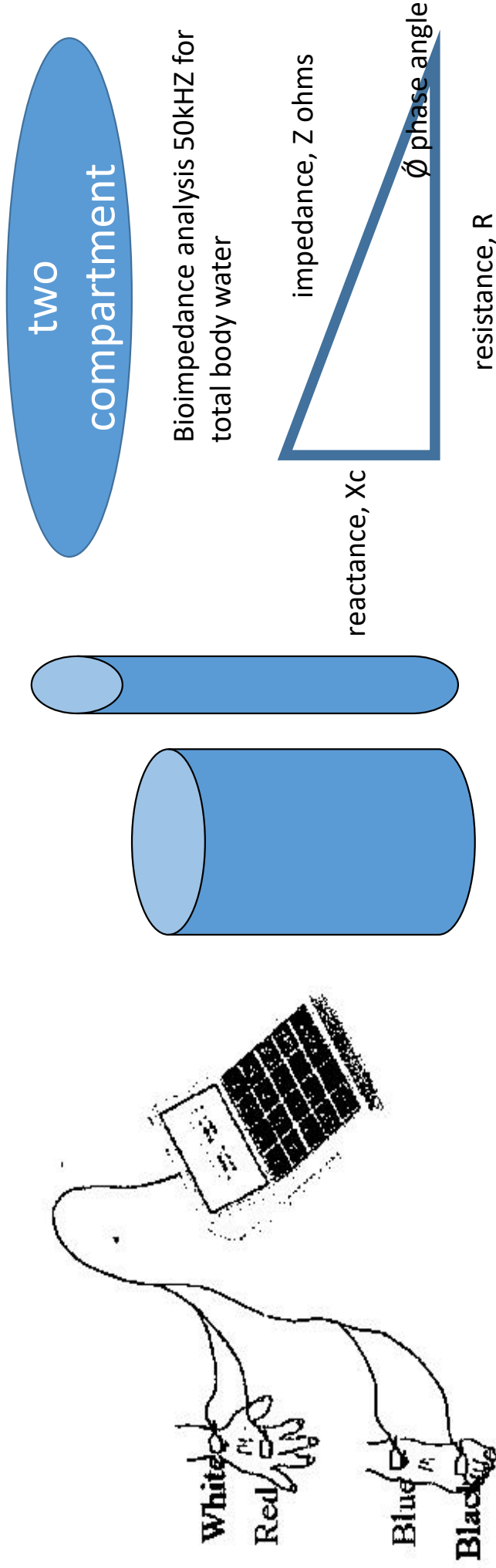
total body water  
2/3 intracellular,  
1/3 extracellular

bone mineral content

Water

Protein

Fat



Electrical properties of the human body are related to the dimensions & the amount of water in the body. Total body water  $\propto$  (height of body)<sup>2</sup>/resistance

*Skinfolds*

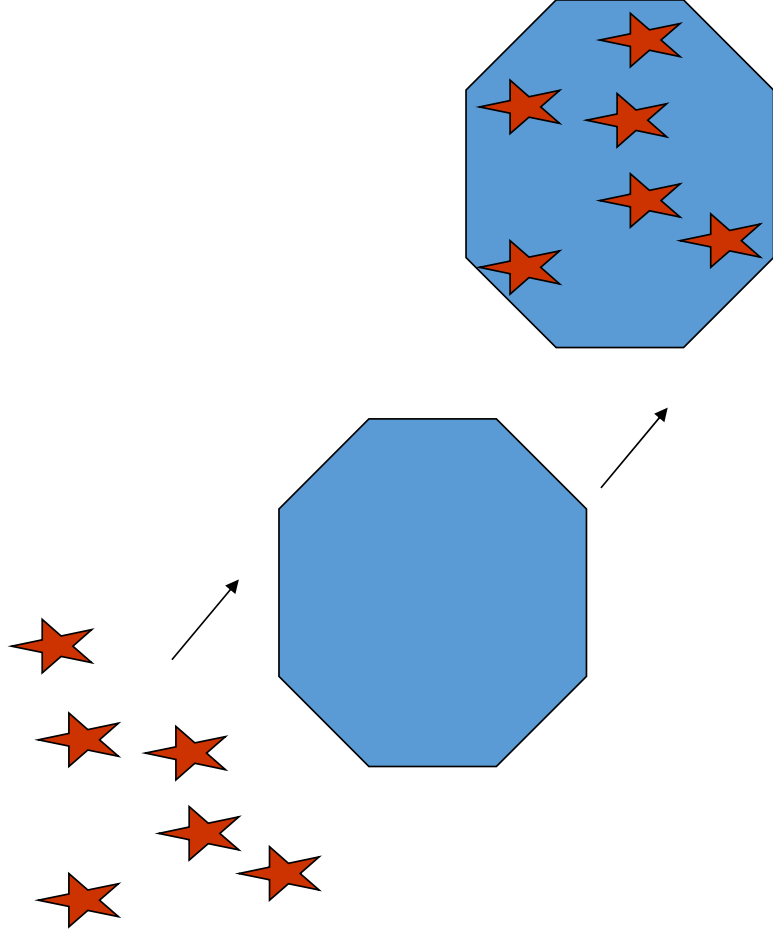
*Prediction Equations validated by other methods.*



Body water can be measured by deuterium dilution and from that body fat may be calculated given that the fat-free mass of the body has a known and constant hydration. ~73% in adults

# Measurement of unknown volume by dilution

- Add indicator such as isotopically labelled water
- Dose = 6 stars
- Final concentration
- 6 stars /litre
- What is the volume?
- Answer = 1 litre



Weight relative to volume – measure of body density related to body fat mass and fat free mass



Pea Pod, Bod Pod = air displacement plethysmography  
underwater weighing

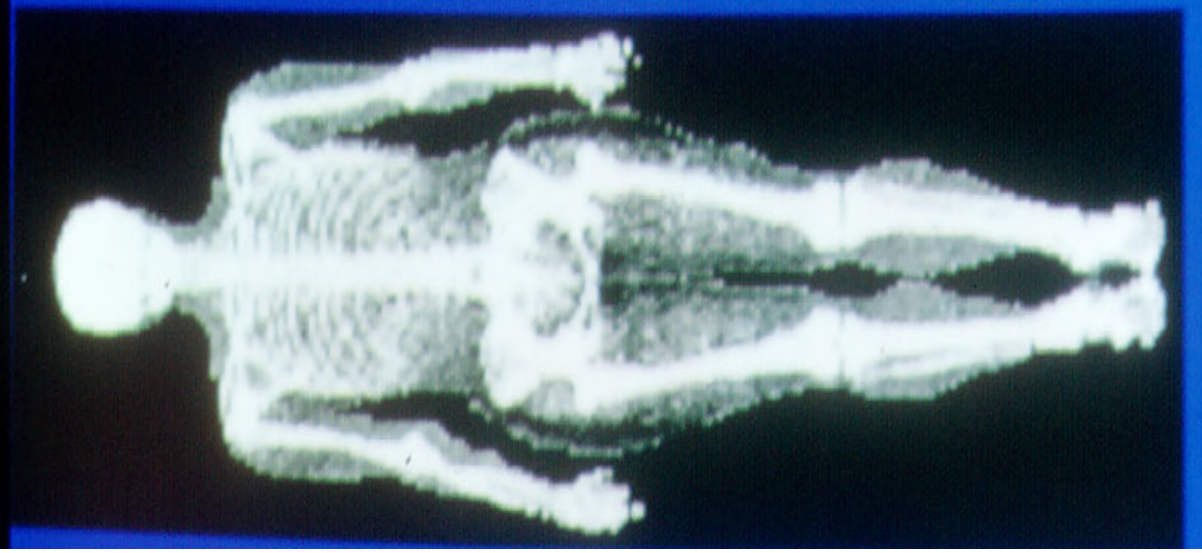
two compartment

two compartment  
+ bone mineral  
content



DEXA

Dual-energy Xray absorptiometry



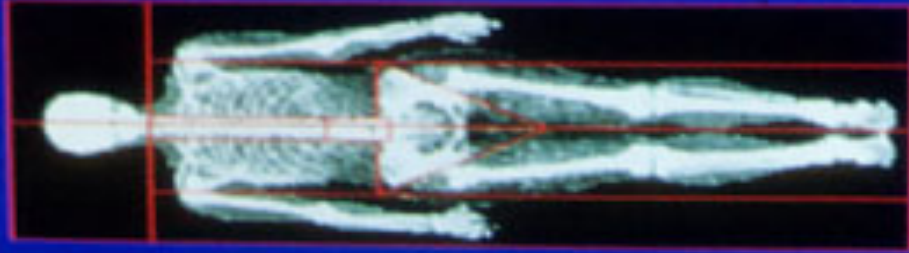
Dual energy Xray  
Absorptiometry

DEXA SCAN

fat, lean & bone  
mineral

two compartment  
+ bone mineral  
content





ID: NORMAL

SCAN DATE: 23.04.91

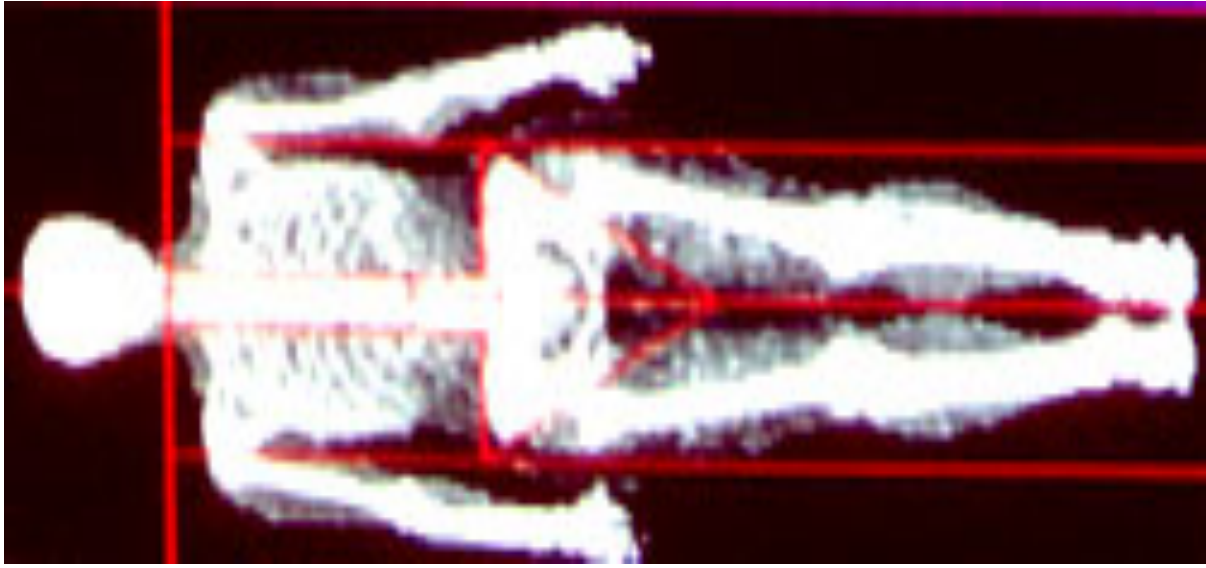
### TOTAL Comparison to Reference



TOTAL BMD (g/cm<sup>2</sup>) 1 1.895 ± 0.01  
TOTAL % Young Adult<sup>2</sup> 97 ± 3  
TOTAL % Age Matched<sup>3</sup> 97 ± 3

**LUNAR**<sup>®</sup>

PLEASE REFER FOR INDICATIONS



Central - head and torso

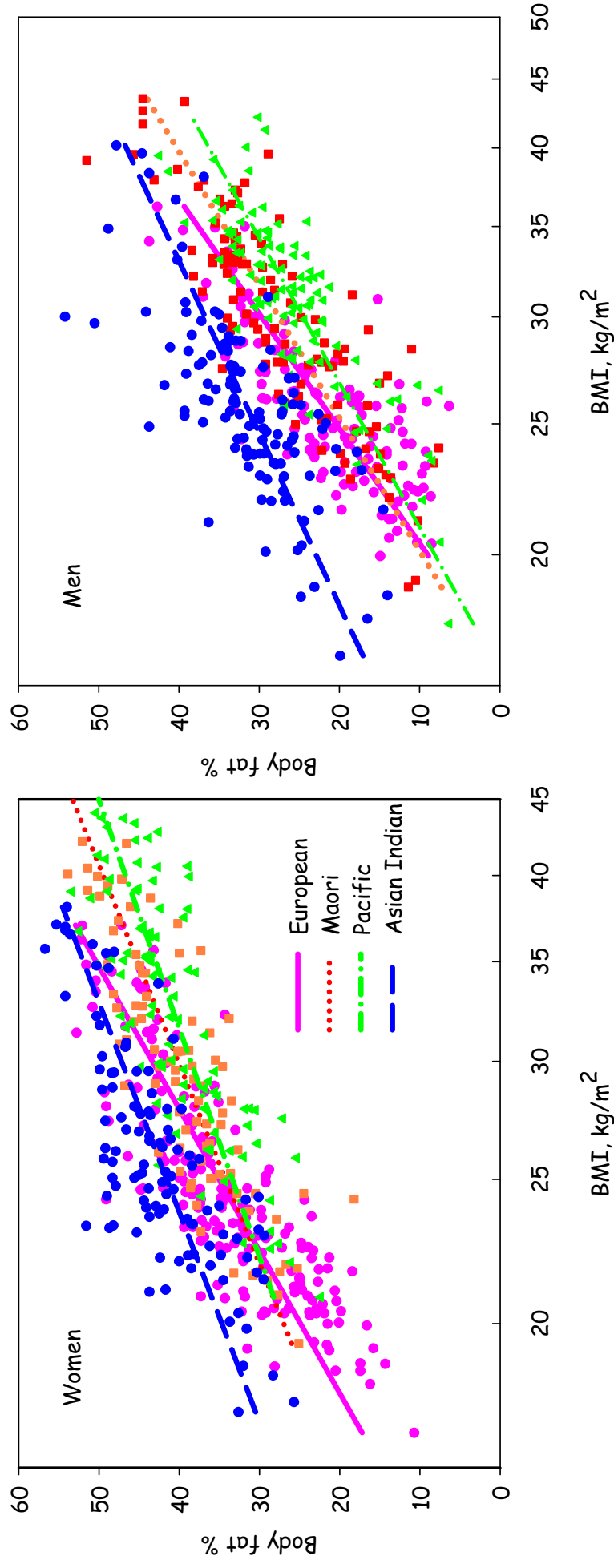
Peripheral - arms & legs



# Adults of 4 ethnic groups

gender/sex

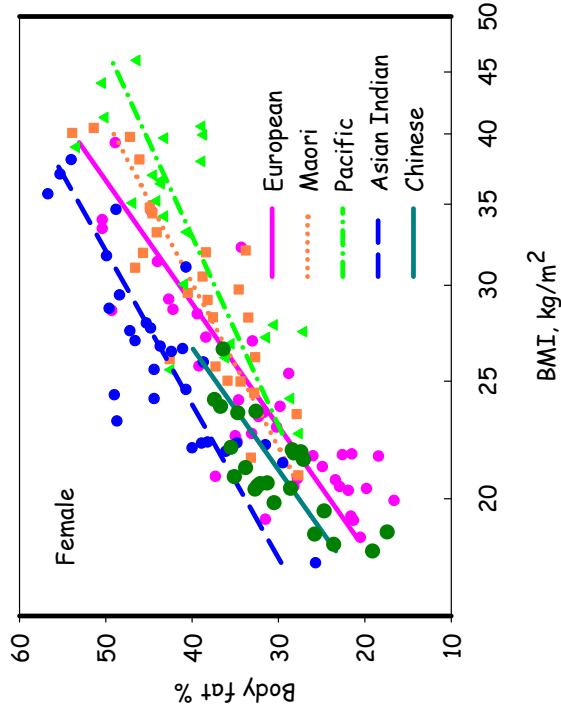
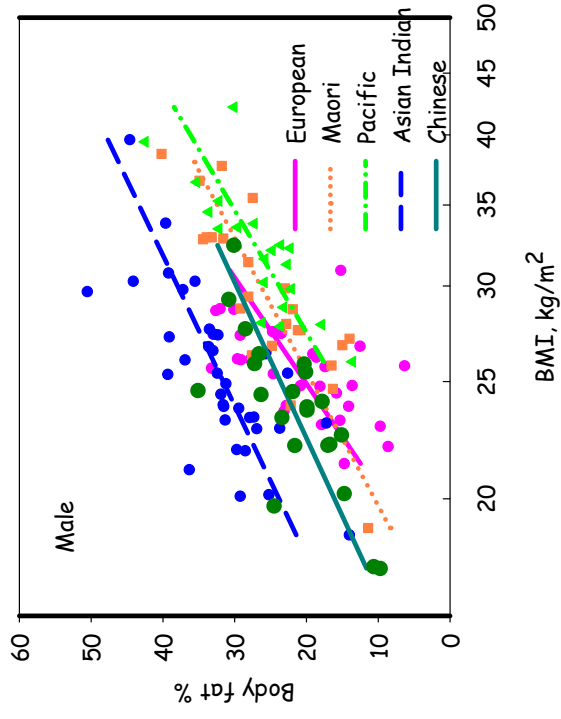
ethnicity



# 30-39y Chinese adults added

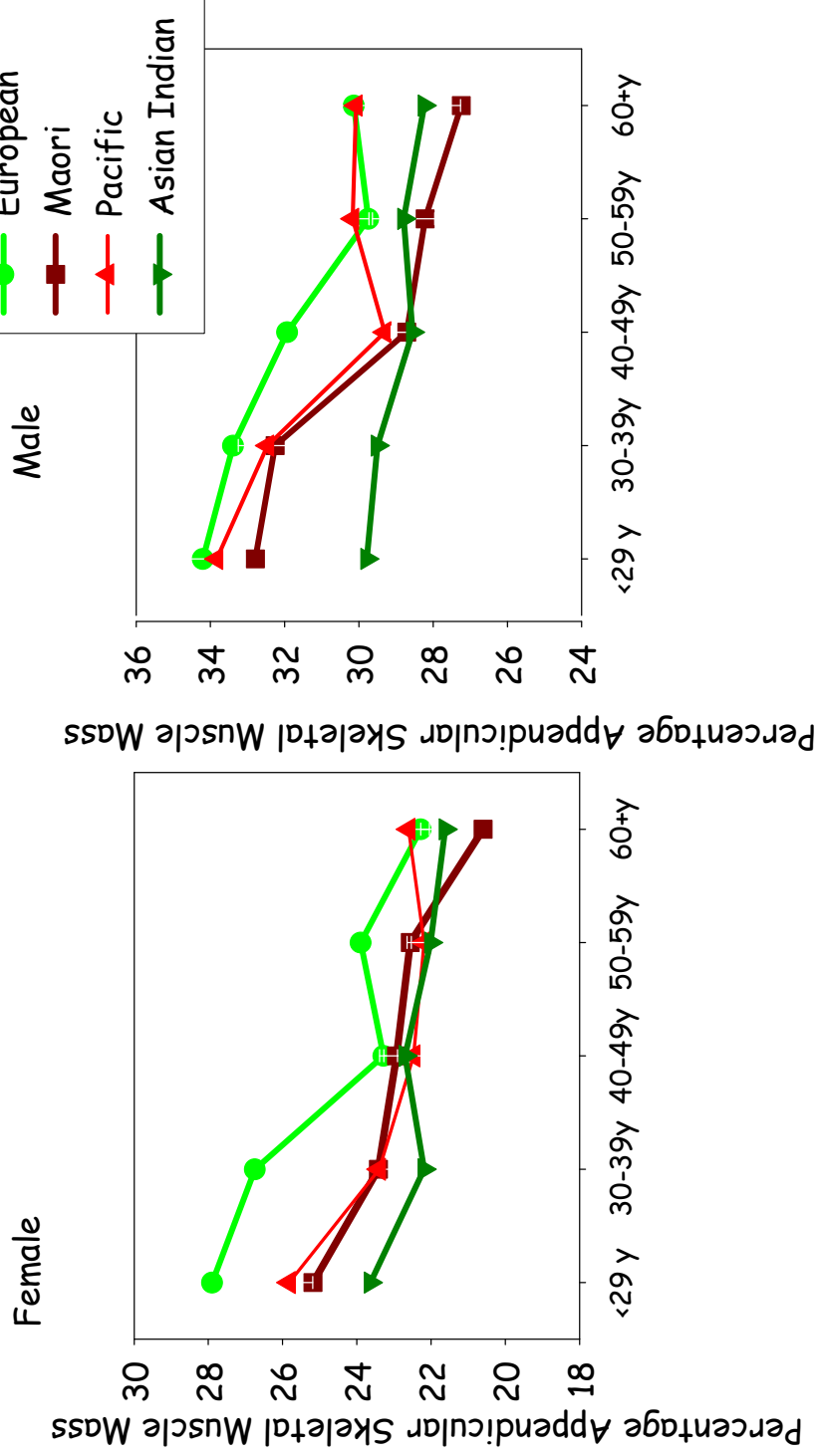
gender/sex

ethnicity



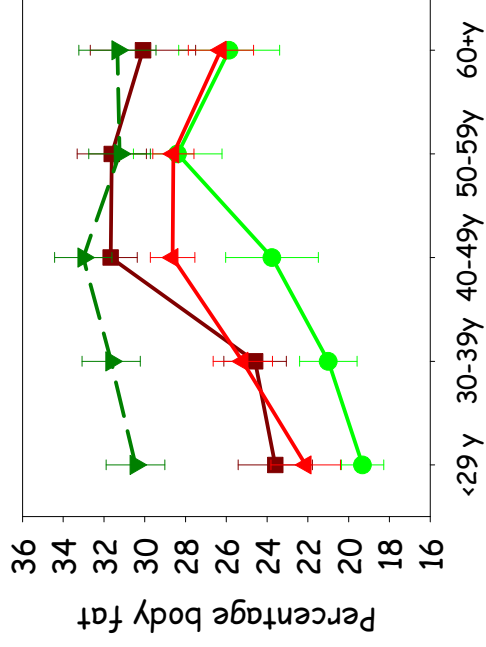
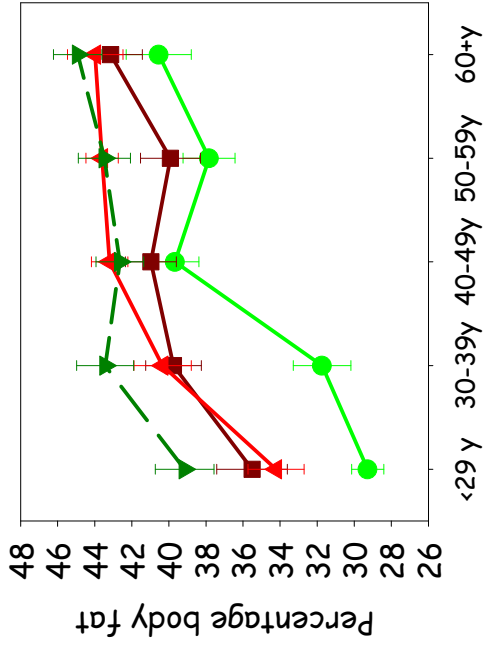
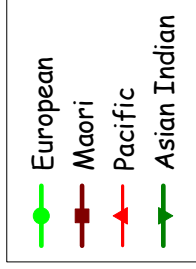
age/growth

Regional, skeletal muscle



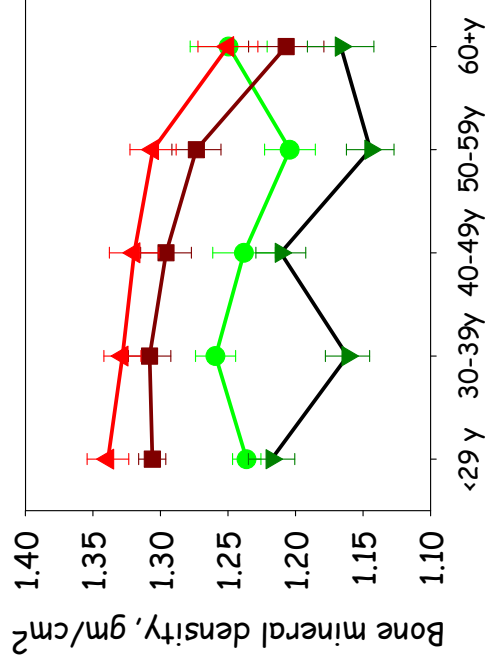
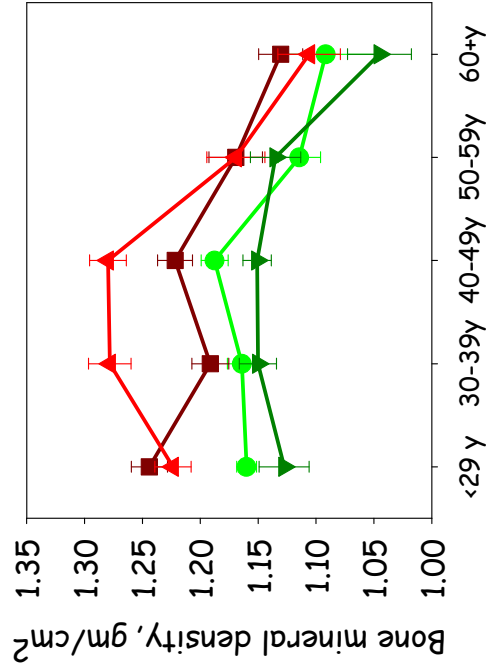
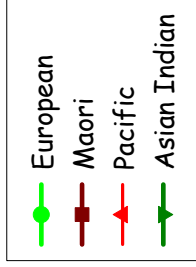
age/growth

ethnicity

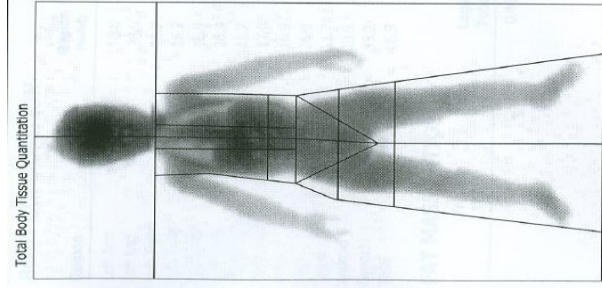


age/growth

ethnicity



# MIGTOFU Study aged 2.2y



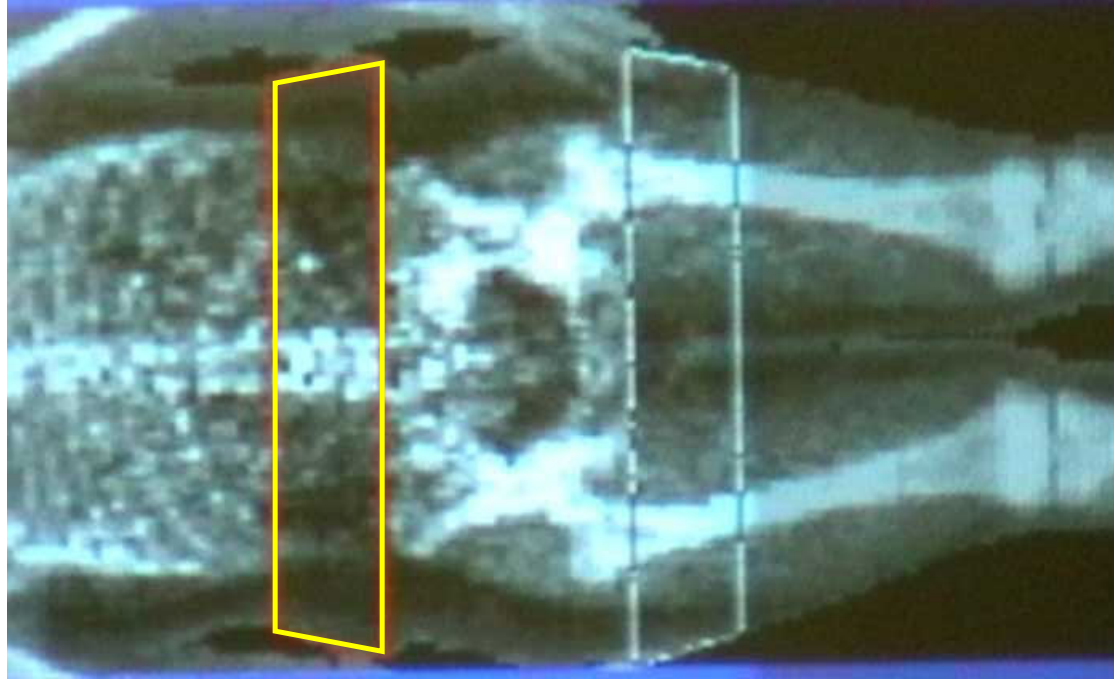
**Central**  
**Appendicular**

# Region of interest analysis

Abdominal area

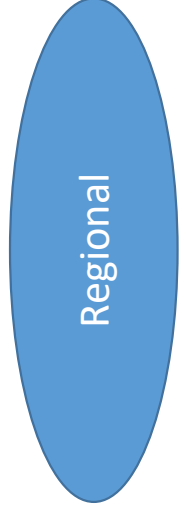
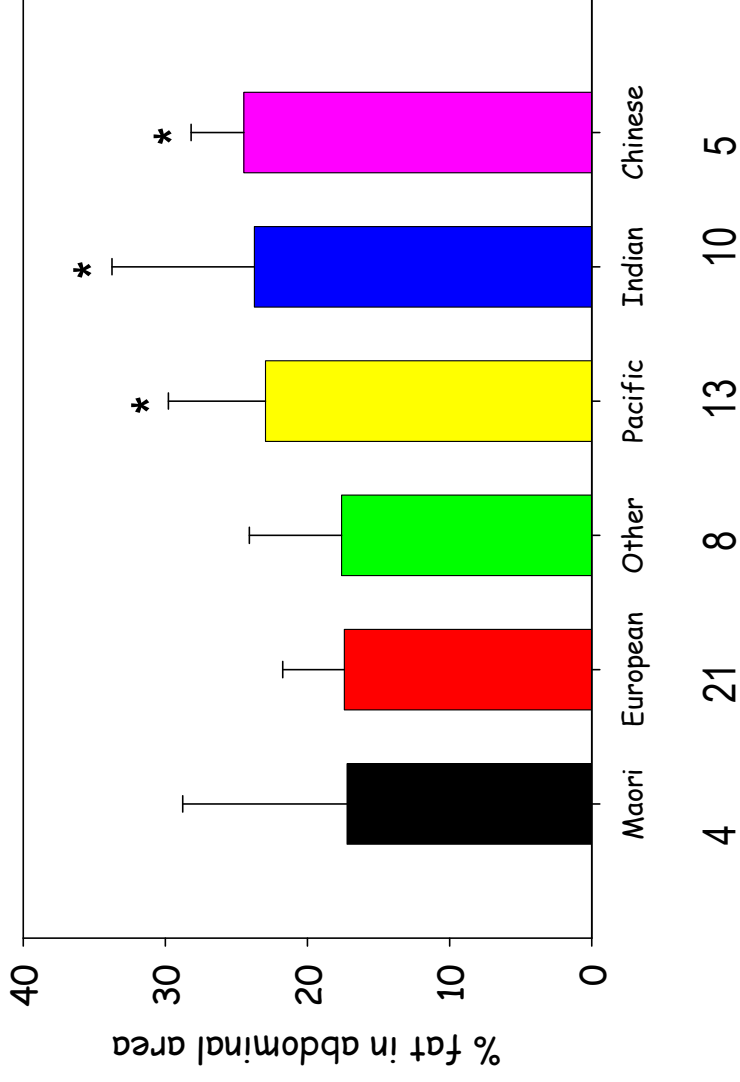
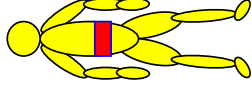
Thigh area

Regional





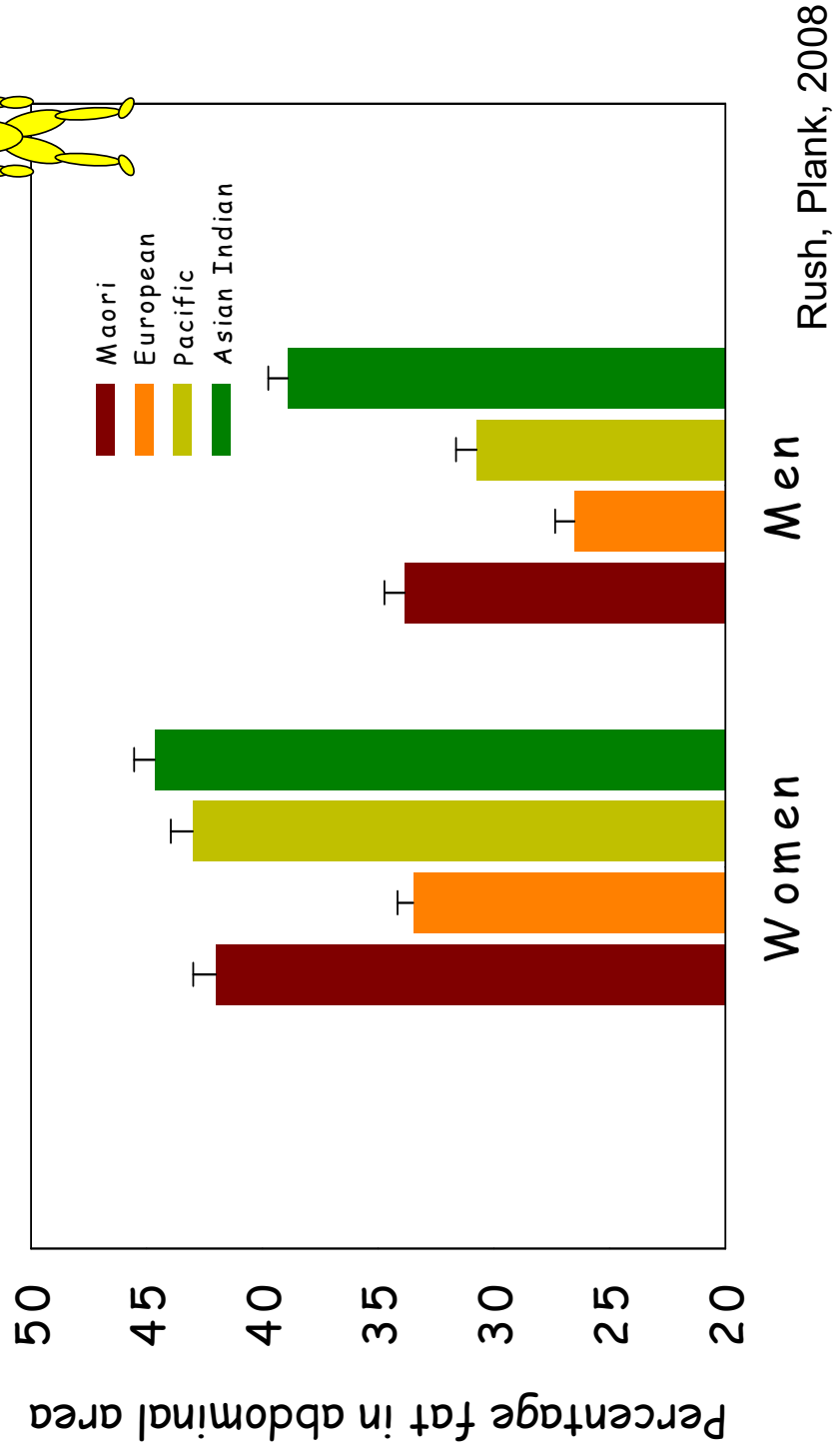
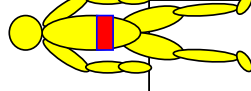
MIGTOFU Ethnic differences at age two years  
– abdominal fat percentage by DXA  
(treatment, age and sex not significant)



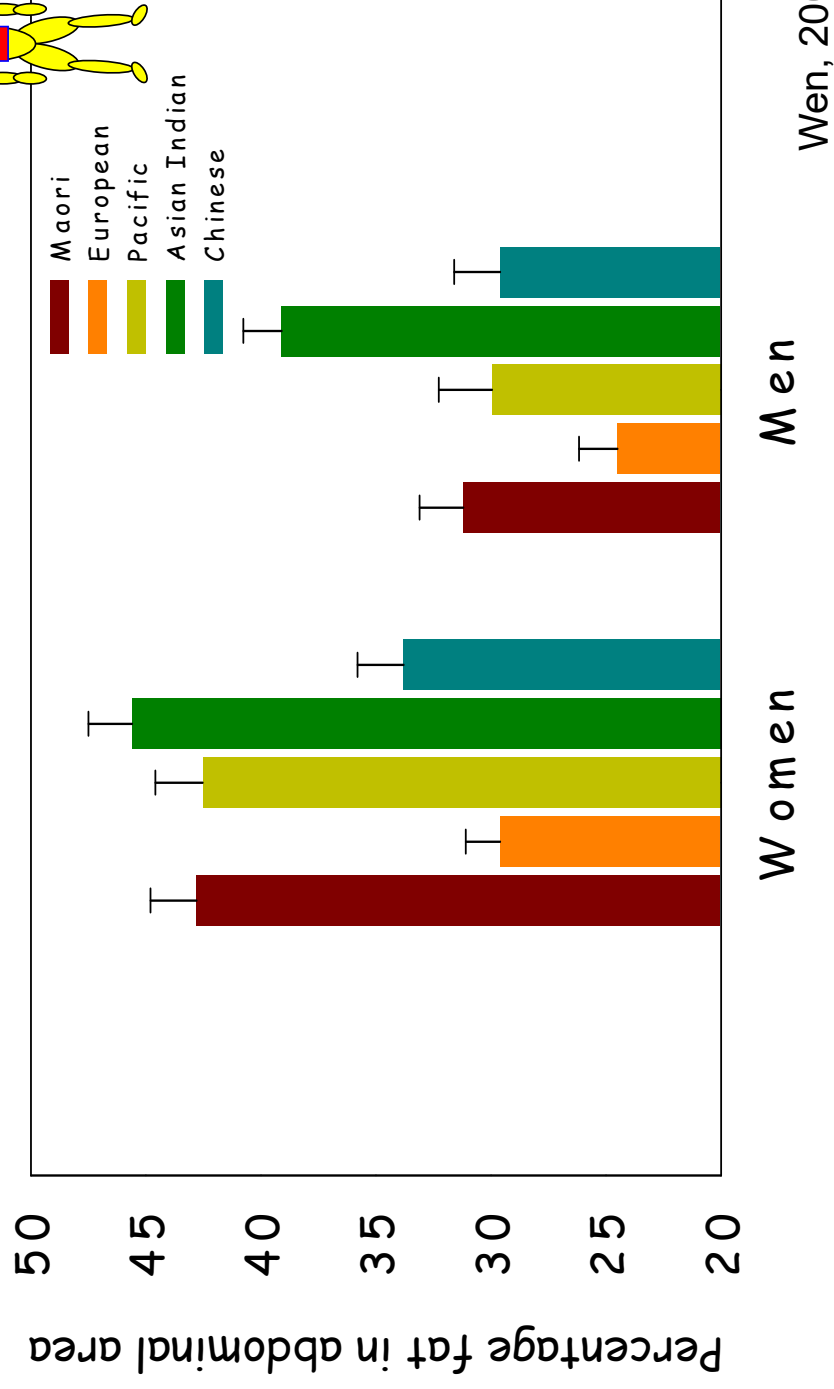
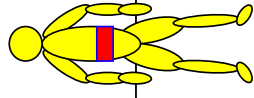
\* significantly different to European

Rush, Rowan

# Abdominal percentage fat adjusted for age



# Abdominal percentage fat <sup>30-39y</sup>

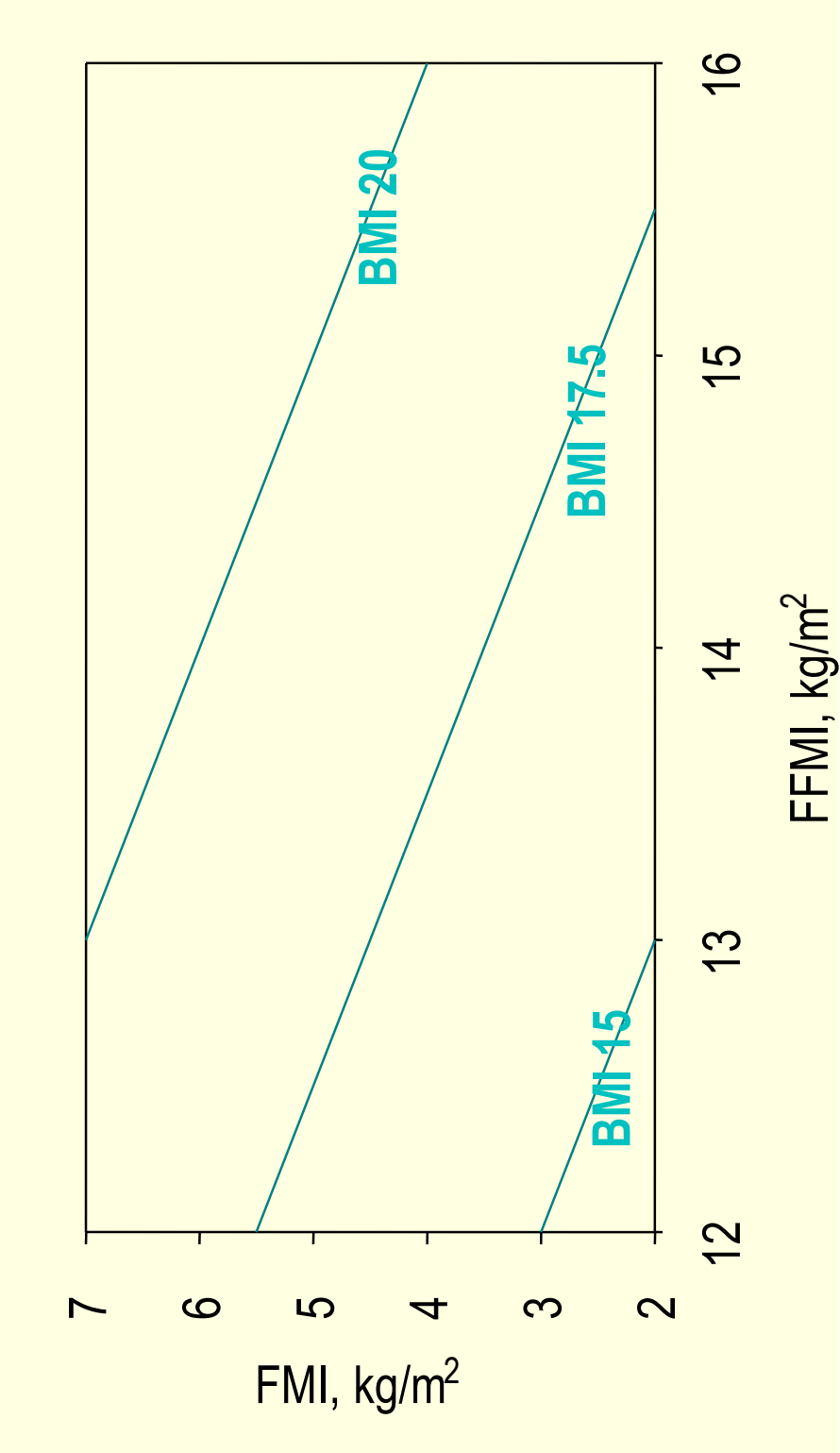


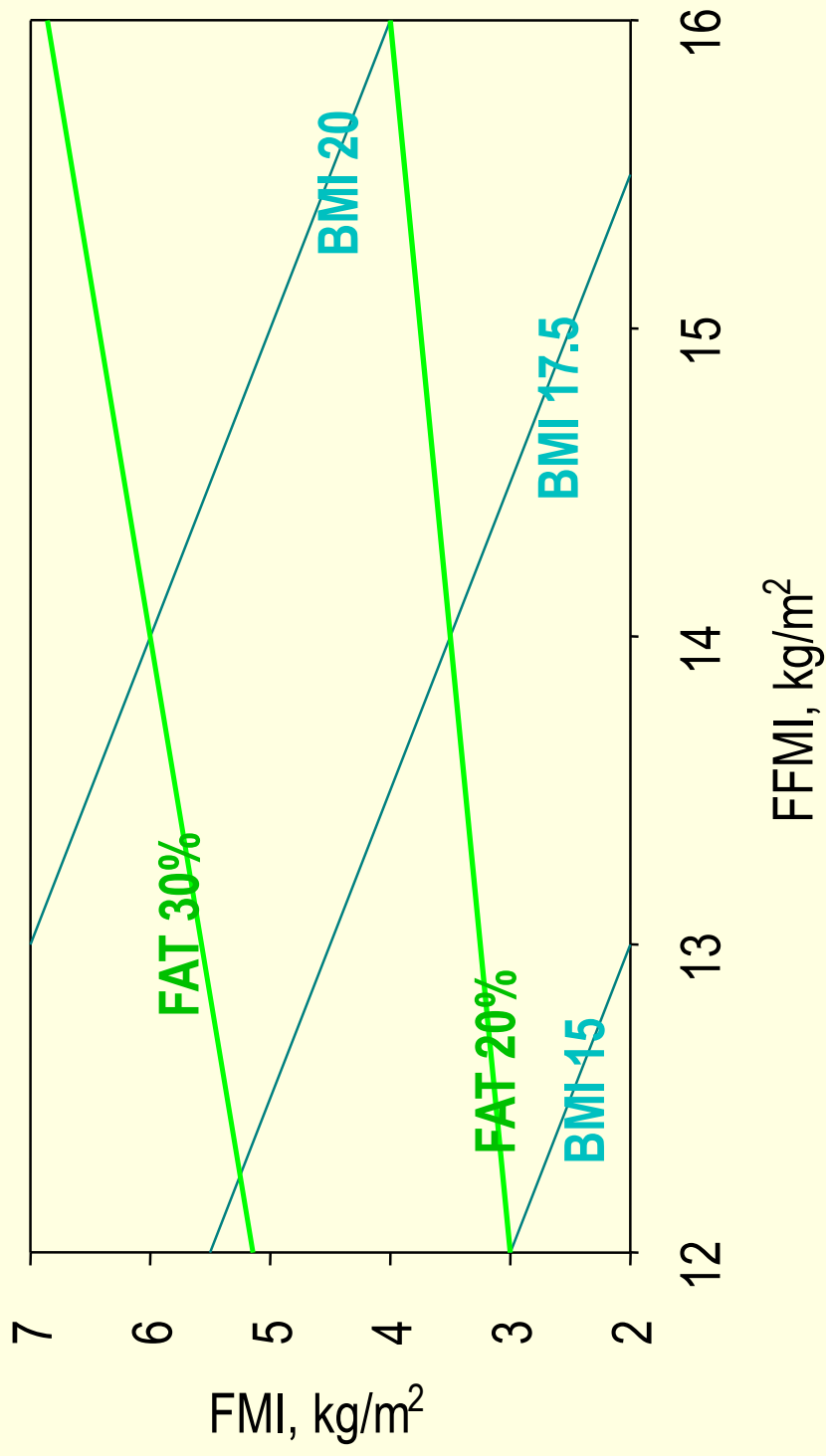
# Hattori Chart

two compartment

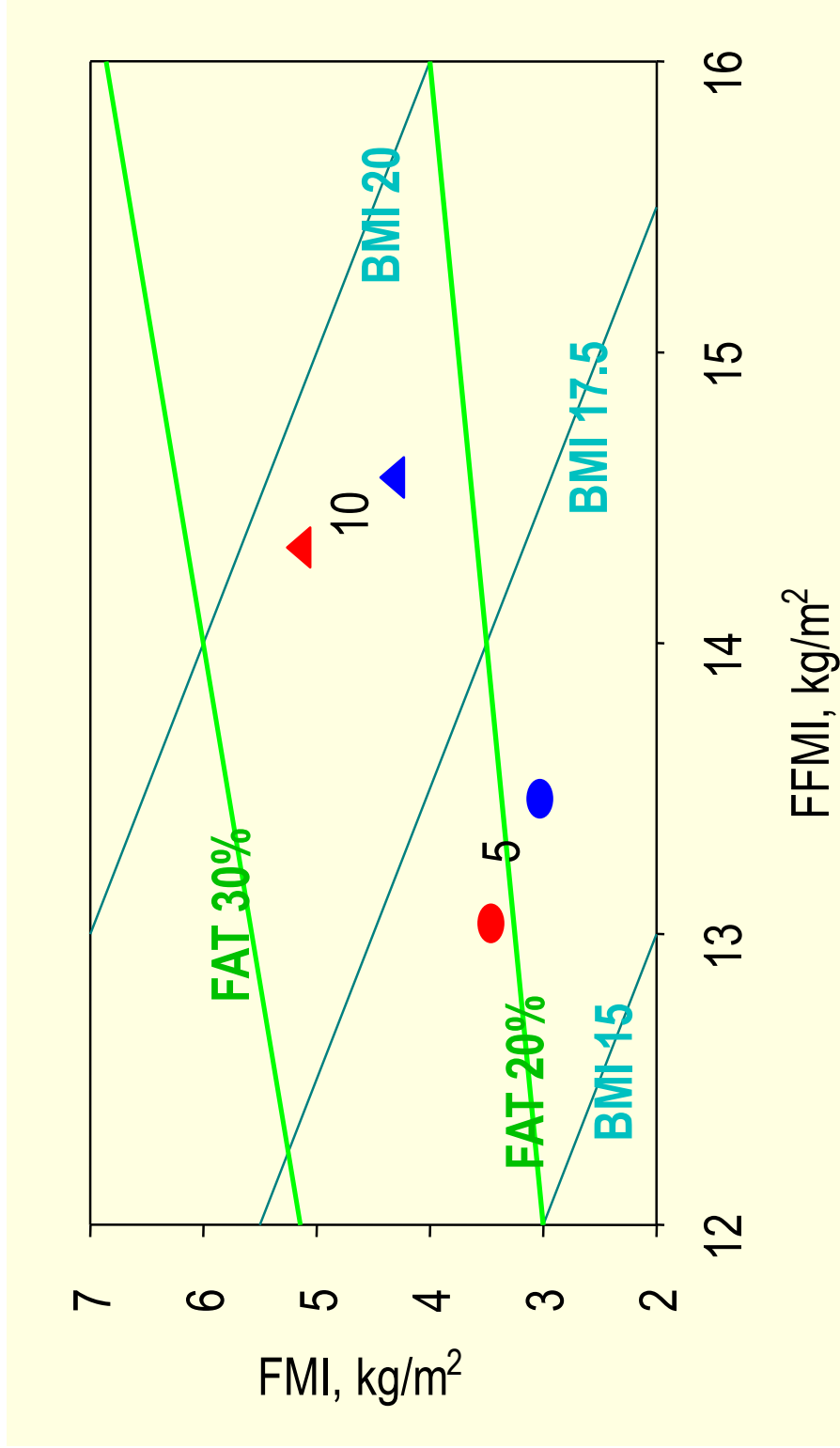
- Illustrates relationship between
  - Fat Mass Index
  - Fat Free Mass Index
  - BMI
  - % Body fat  $\text{fat mass/body mass} * 100$
  - $\text{Fat mass plus fat free mass} = \text{Body mass}(\text{weight})$
  - $\text{Fat mass/height m}^2 \text{ plus fat free mass /height m}^2 = \text{body mass/height m}^2 \text{ index}$
  - $\text{FFMI} + \text{FFMI} = \text{BMI}$



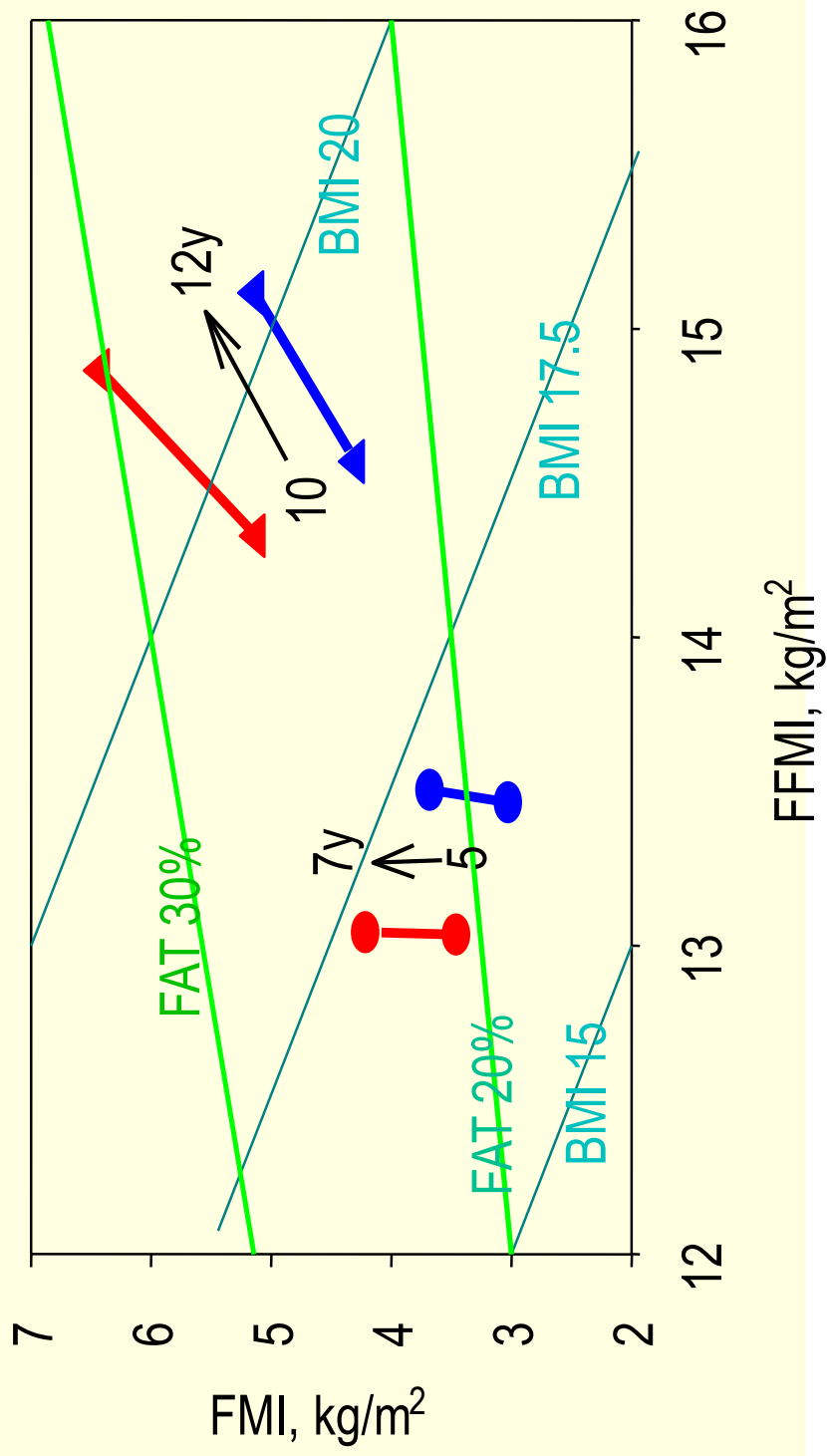




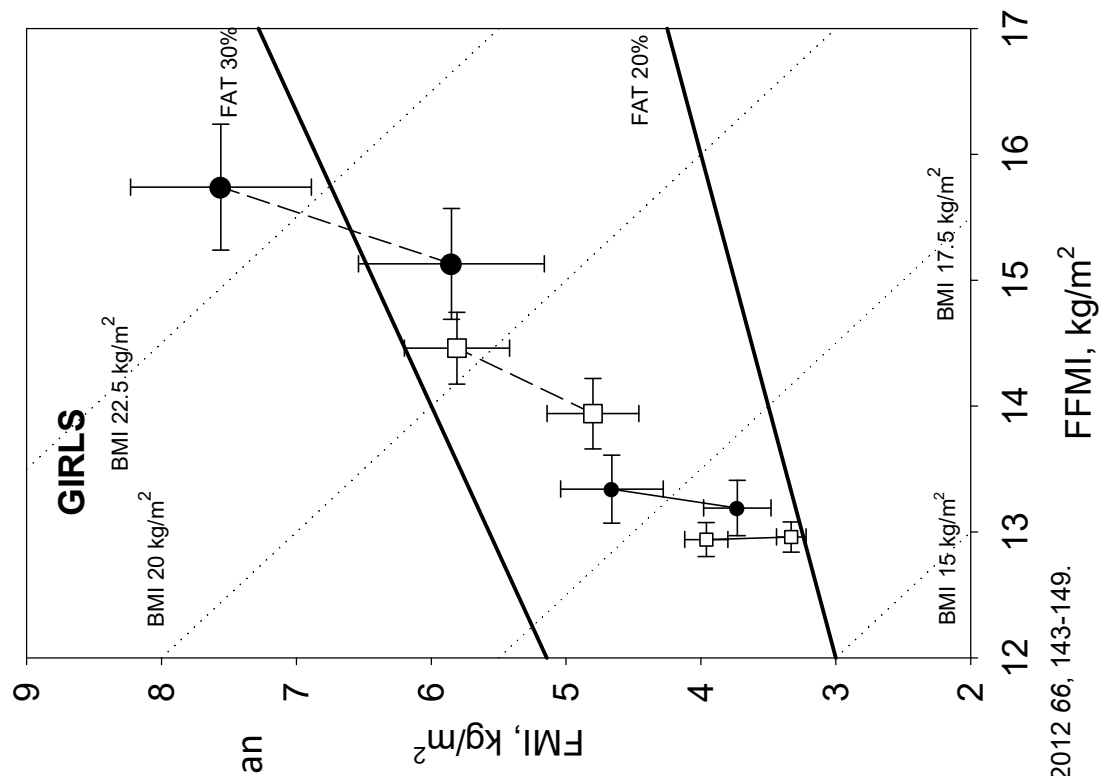
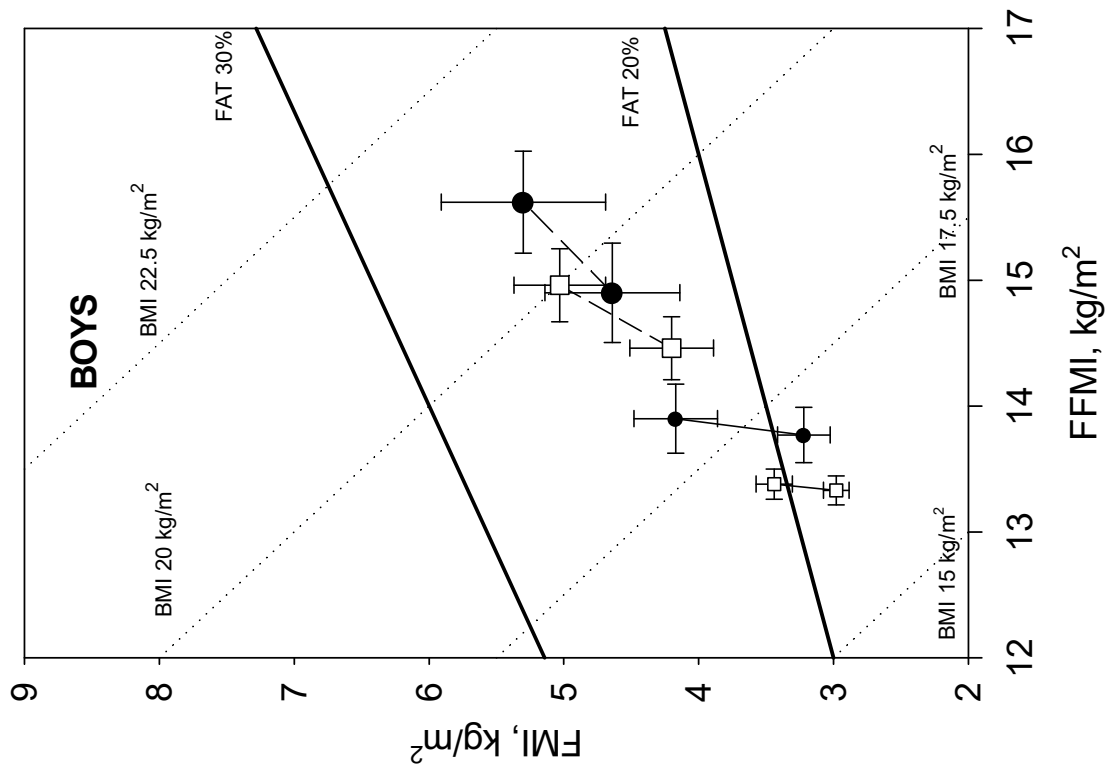




● girls  
● boys



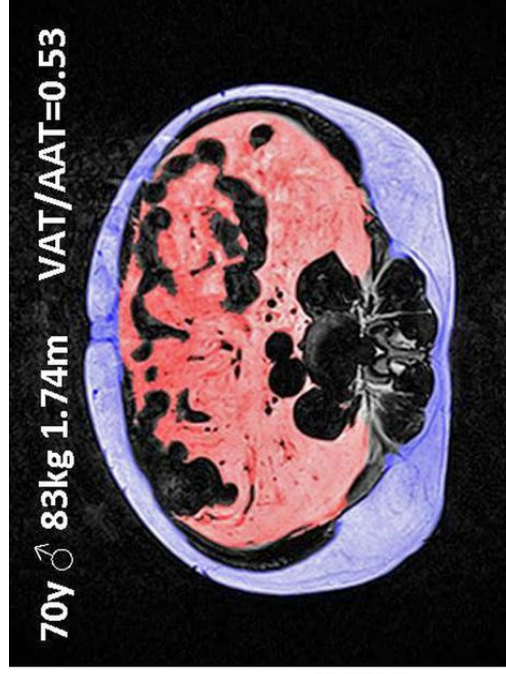
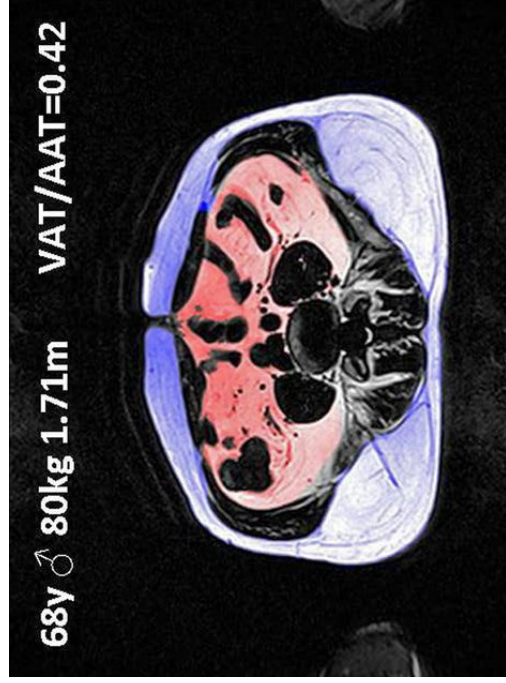
● girls  
● boys



- Māori
- European



# Example of abdominal fat segmentation. Magnetic Resonance Imaging

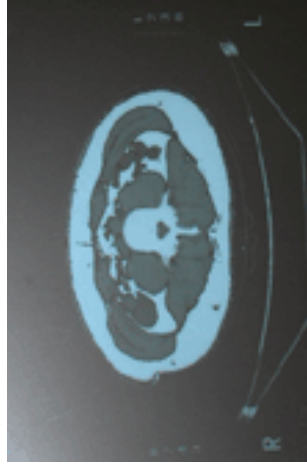
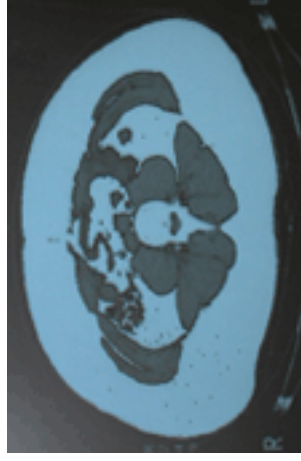


fat  
compartments

Matthias Raschpichler et al. *BMJ Open* 2013;3:e001915

BMJ Open

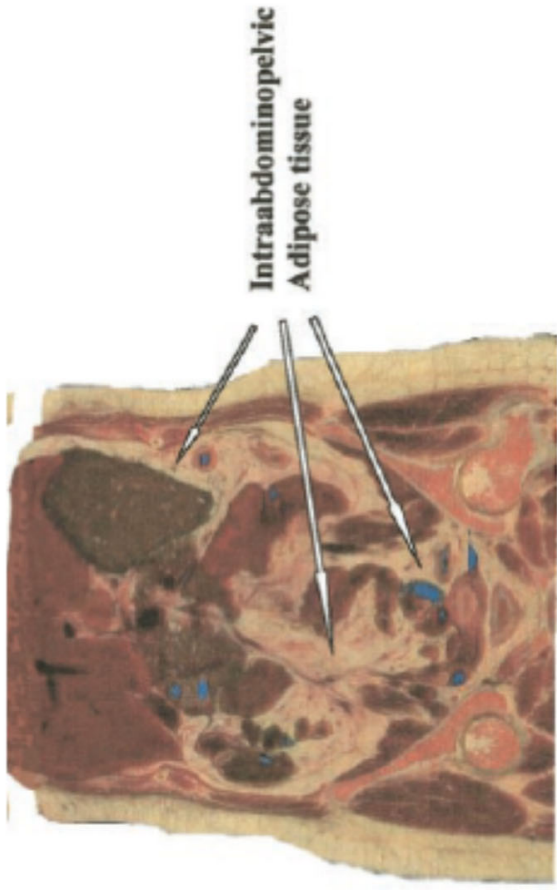
# CT scan (computerised chromatography)



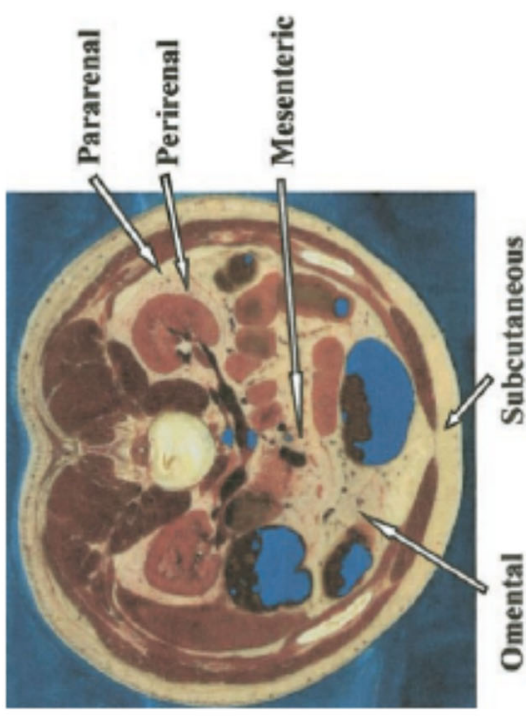
loss of 54 kg

fat  
compartments

# Anatomical



**Figure 2.1 VAT compartment**



**Figure 2.2 Main adipose tissue compartments**

fat  
compartments



Population: **5M**  
Ethnically diverse  
**66%** adults, **32%**  
children overweight  
or obese  
**70%** waist/height  
>0.5

## Food security

# Households with food insecurity

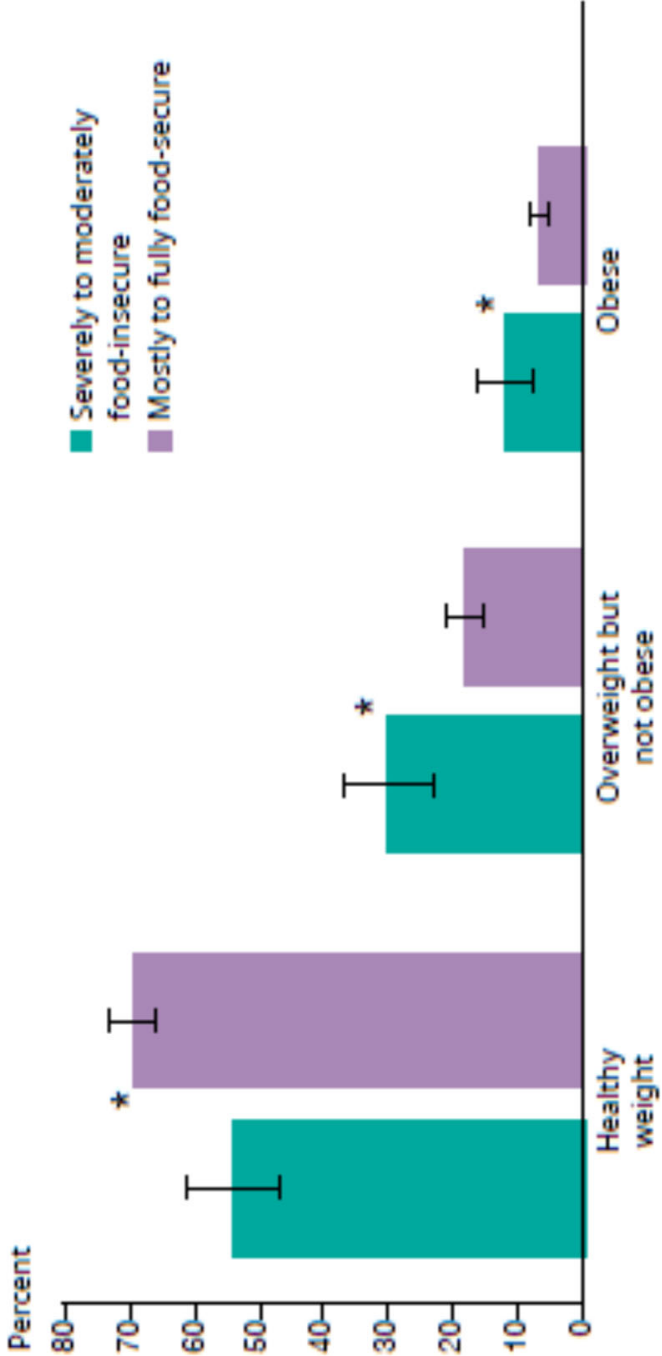
	% children in households with food insecurity	95% CI
ALL	19	17.5–20.4
Least deprived 40%	9.5	7.0–12.1
Quintile 3	17.8	14.0–21.6
Quintile 4	19.5	16.2–22.9
Most deprived 20%	34.8	31.6–37.9

Based on questions such as – we eat less because of lack of money, variety of food limited  
Household food Insecurity among children, New Zealand Health Survey 2014-2016



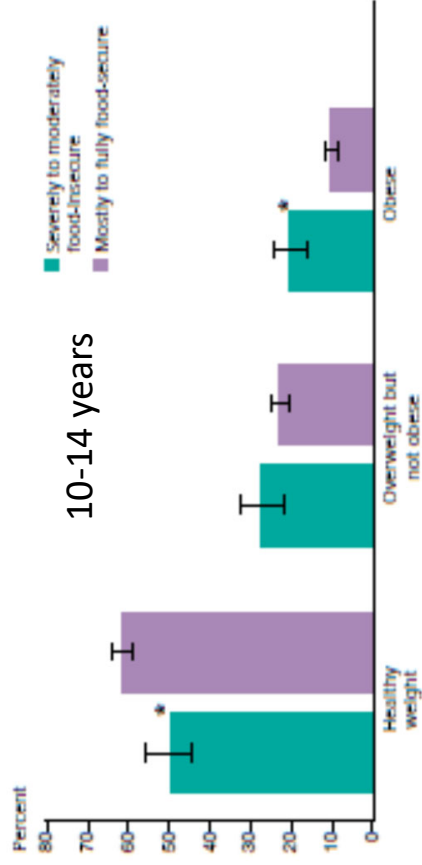
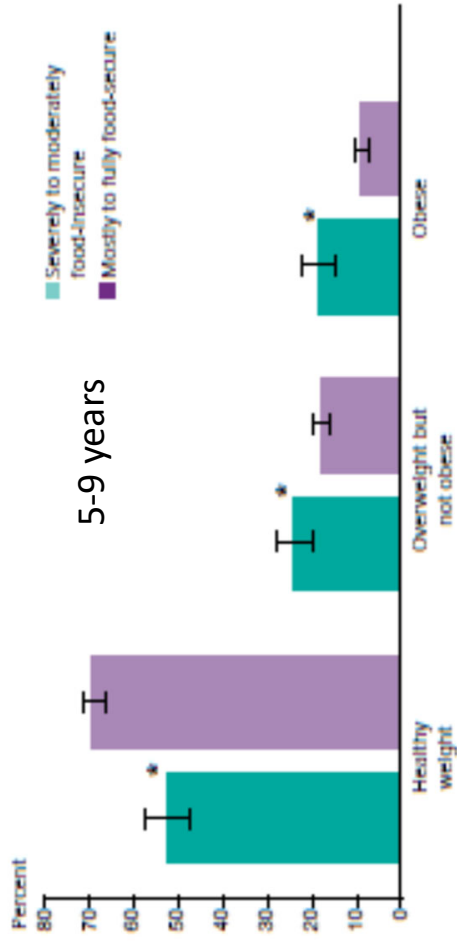
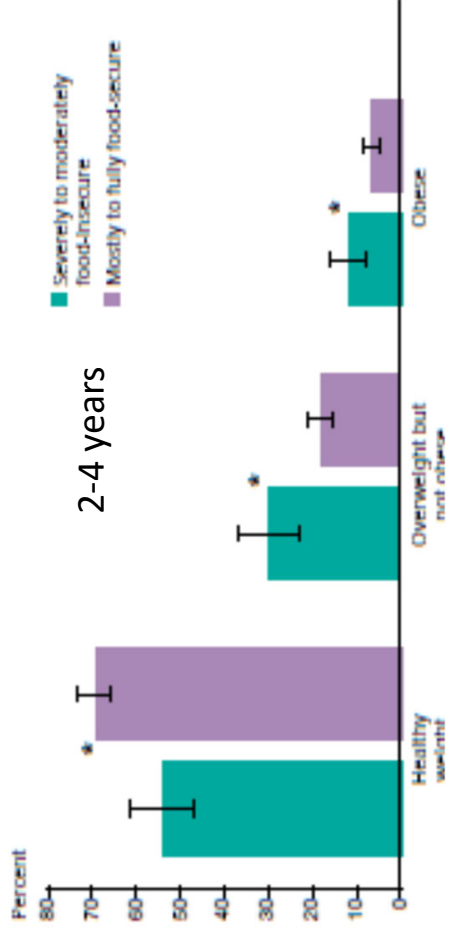
# Food security

Figure 15A: Body size indicators by food security status for children aged 2–4 years, 2014/15 and 2015/16

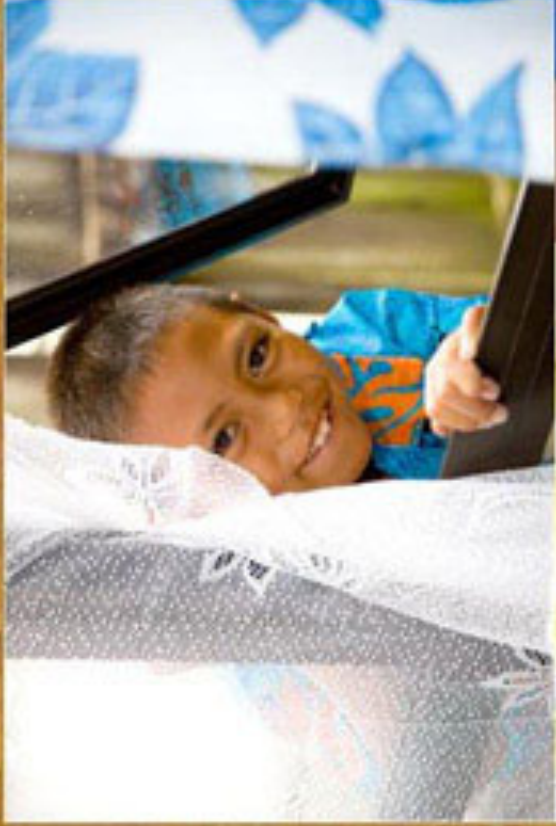
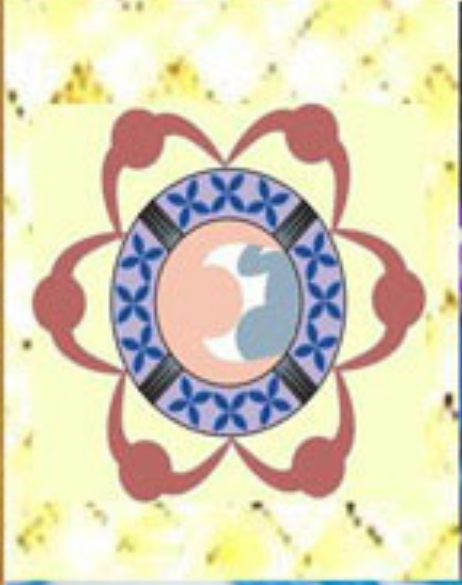


Based on questions such as – we eat less because of lack of money, variety of food limited  
 Household food Insecurity among children, New Zealand Health Survey 2014-2016

# Food insecurity and body size

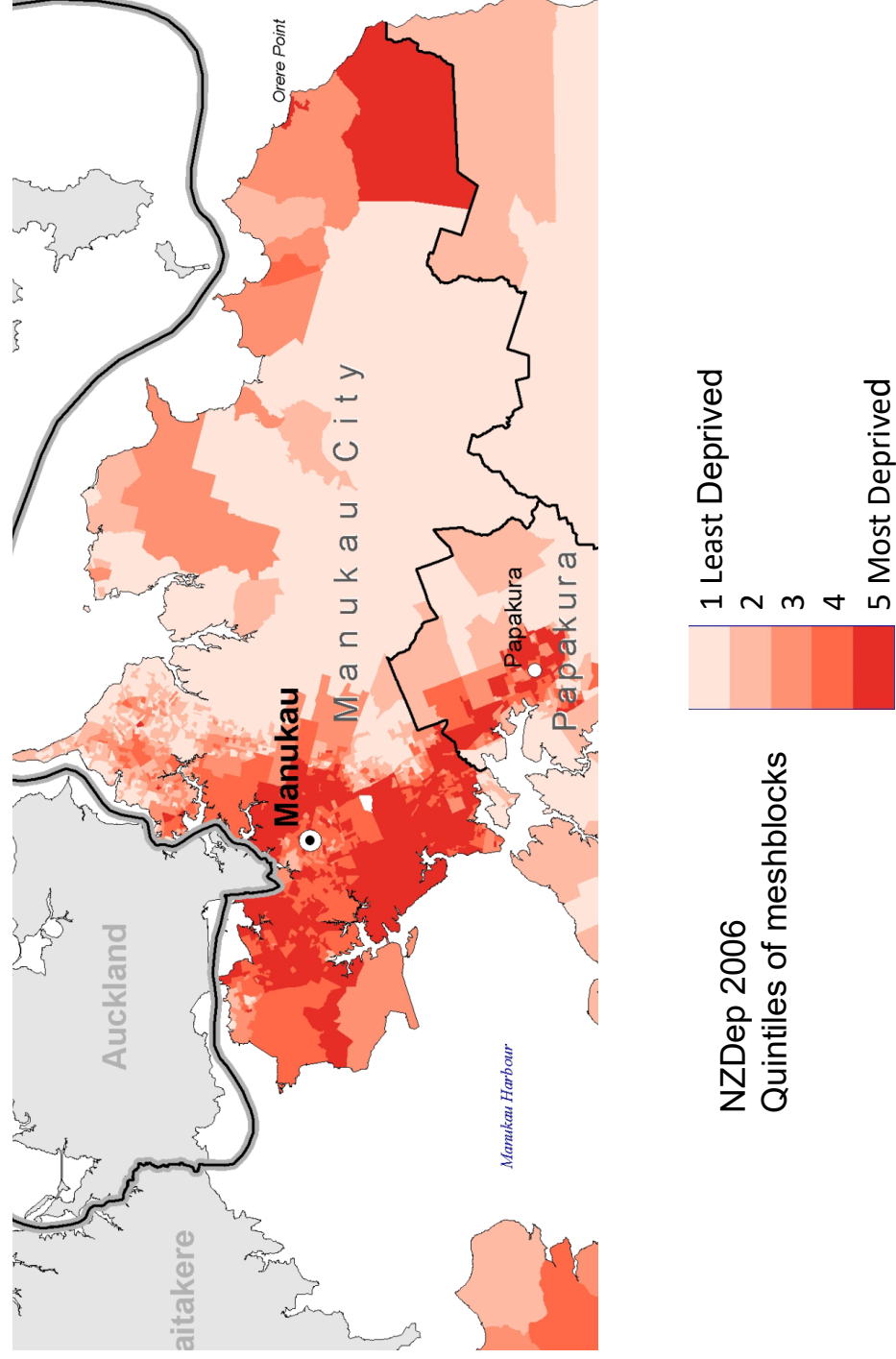


Food security



**Pacific Islands  
Families Study**  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

# PIF area of residence at birth Counties Manukau District Health Board







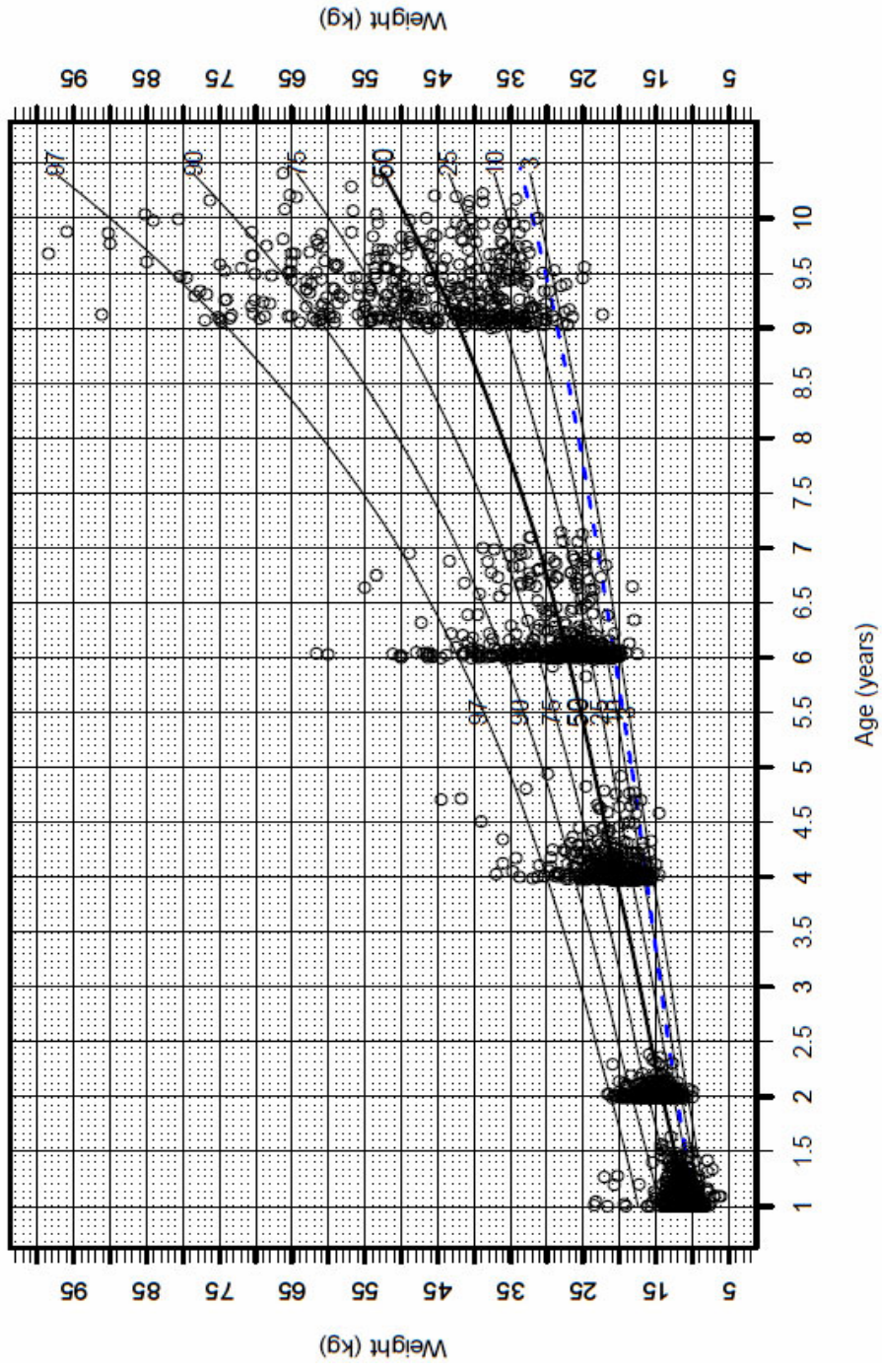
# Foundations of PIF Study

Original n=1394

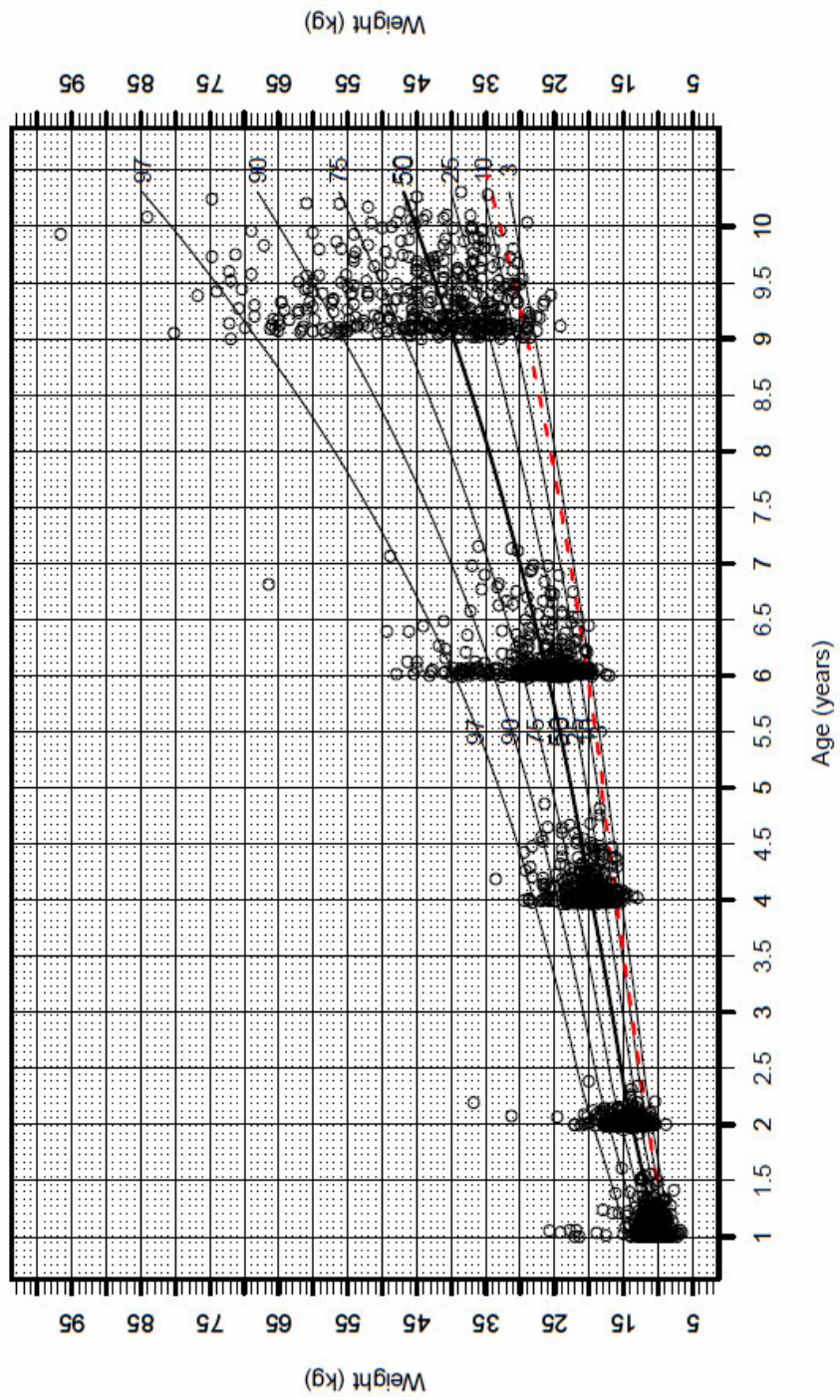




# Boys, weight



# Girls, weight

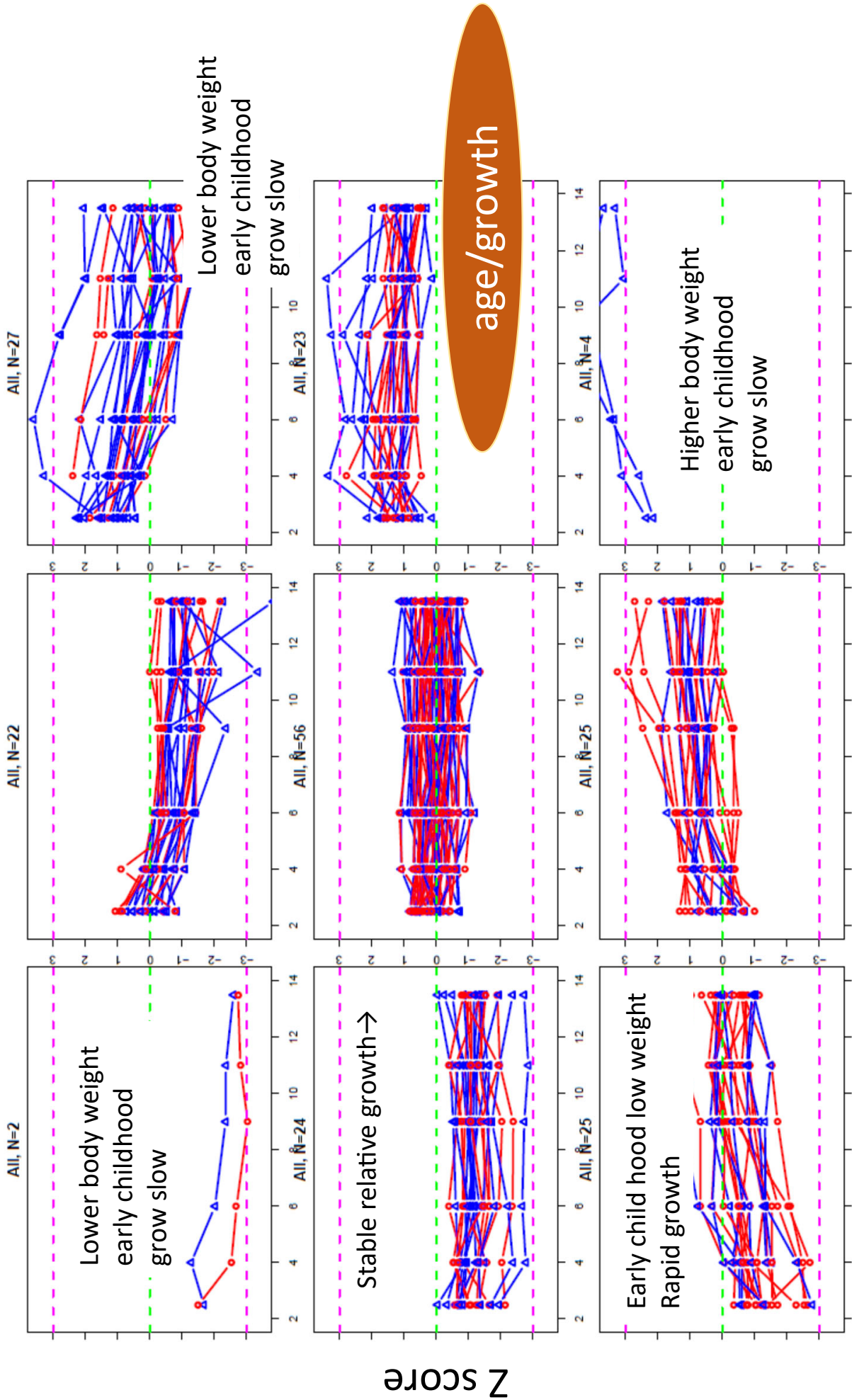




# Growth trajectories to age 14y

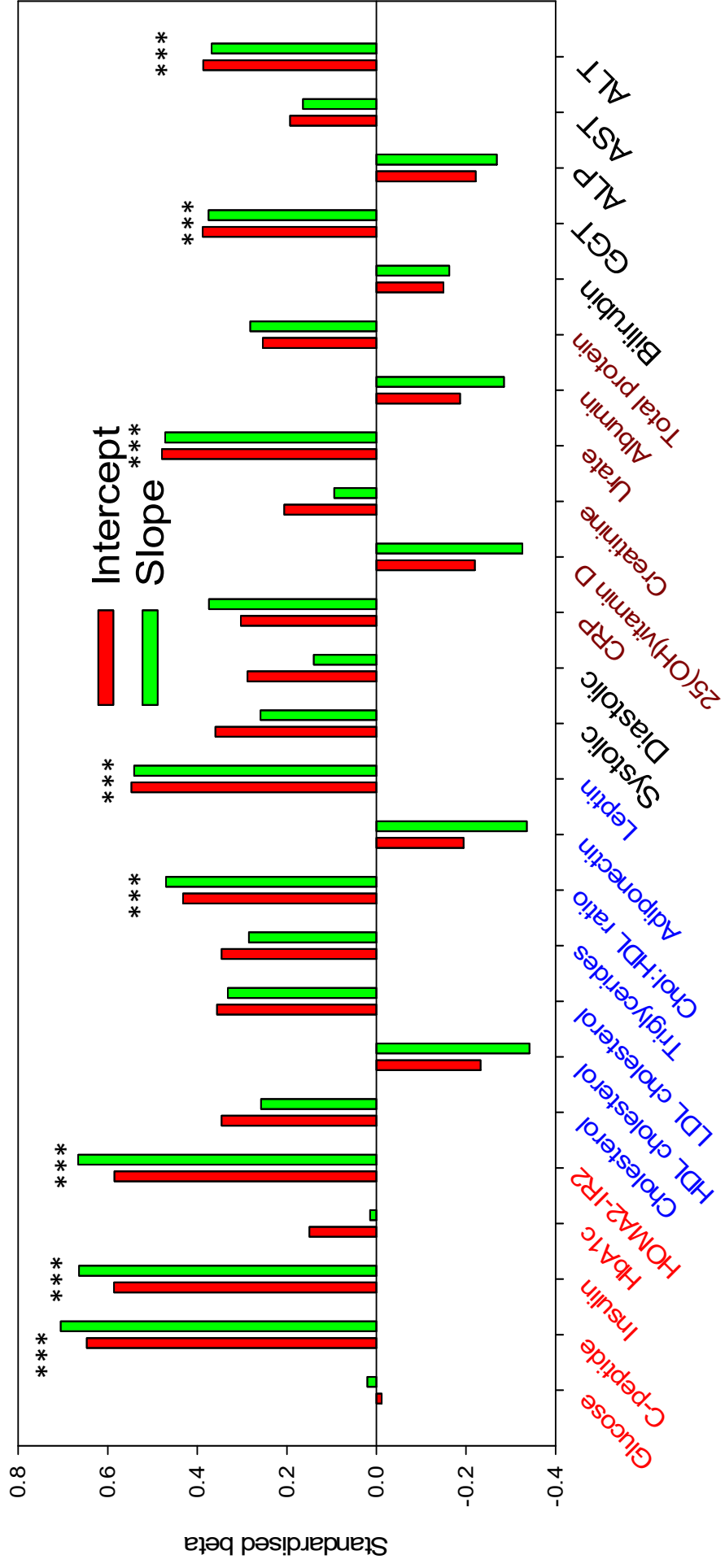
age/growth

- Measured weights linearly interpolated to ages of 2.5, 4, 6, 9, 11, and 14 years for entire cohort – **1050** had at least 3 measurements.
- Normalised and individual weight **Z-scores determined within age**.
- Trajectories were approximated by **linear regression** (trend) of Z-score on age.
- **Intercept and slope** of the trend calculated.
- Substudy (**204**) for metabolic measured the association with **intercept and slope adjusted for birthweight and sex by linear regression** was examined



# Growth and metabolites

relationships



Functional and nutrient measures are associated with body composition measures: Examples

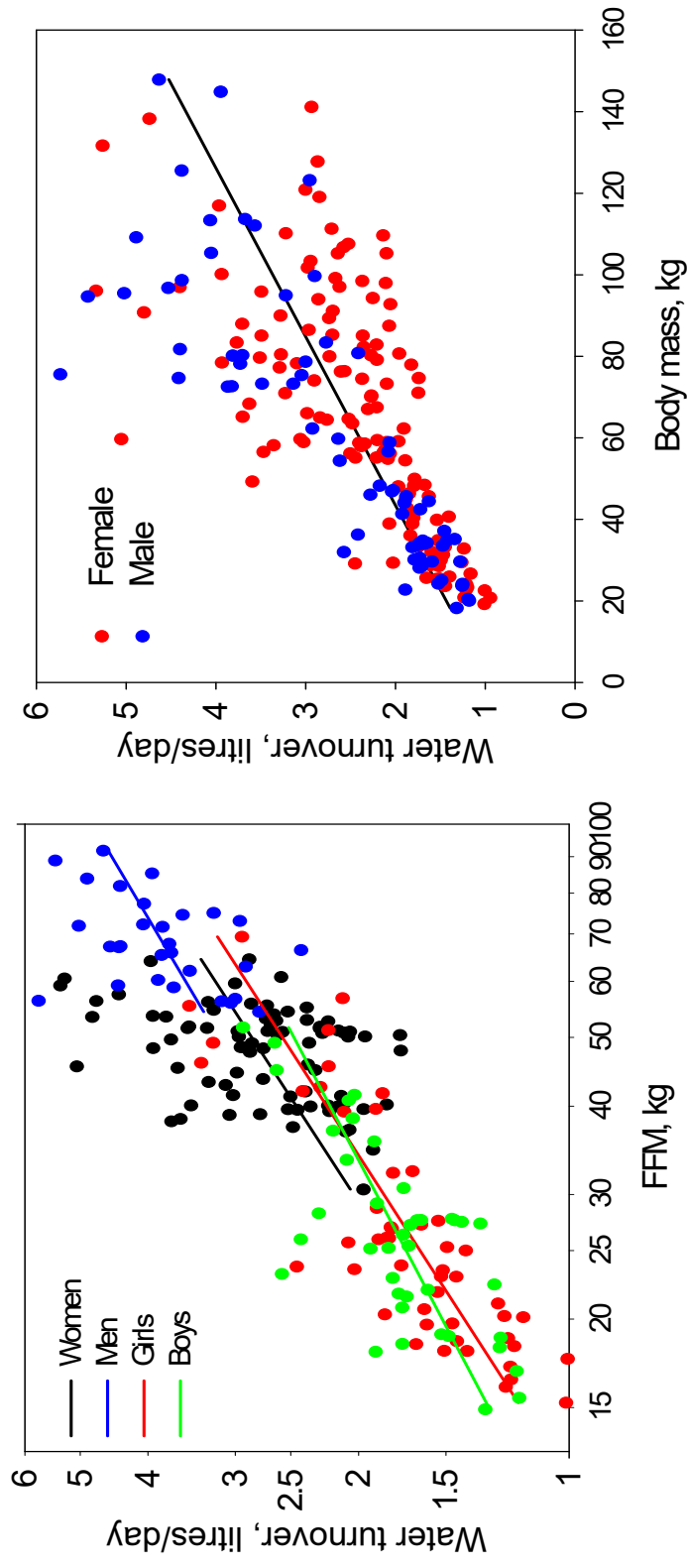
Distance walked in 6 minutes with leg length and body fat

Uric acid with skeletal muscle mass

Fat soluble vitamins negatively associated with body mass

# 8 glasses of water a day?

Water turnover from doubly labelled water studies



The world/ we are in balance?

