**Supplementary Table 1.** Maternal and infant characteristics during original trial (1994–1997), by supplement allocation, in rural Nepala

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Placebo (*n* = 71) | β-carotene (*n* = 123) | Vitamin A (*n* = 96) | *P*b |
| Household characteristics |  |  |  |  |
| Literate household head (%) | 47.1 | 63.9 | 38.7 | 0.001 |
| Low caste or non-Hindu (%) | 91.5 | 72.1 | 84.4 | 0.002 |
| Ethnicity (%) |  |  |  |  |
| Pahadi | 8.5 | 37.2 | 18.8 |  |
| Madheshi | 91.5 | 62.8 | 81.3 | <0.001 |
| Access to a latrine (%) | 14.1 | 34.4 | 17.7 | 0.001 |
| Electricity (%) | 76.1 | 76.2 | 49.0 | <0.001 |
| Asset ownership (%) |  |  |  |  |
| Land | 91.3 | 80.2 | 68.8 | 0.002 |
| Goats | 77.5 | 68 | 66.7 | 0.27 |
| Cattle | 77.5 | 73.8 | 67.7 | 0.35 |
| Bicycle | 67.6 | 59.8 | 54.2 | 0.22 |
| Radio | 32.4 | 36.1 | 24.0 | 0.15 |
| Mobile phone | 36.6 | 28.7 | 21.1 | 0.09 |
| Maternal characteristicsc |  |  |  |  |
| Age (y) | 23.7 ± 4.8 | 24.8 ± 5.7 | 23.9 ± 4.6 | 0.28 |
| Primiparous (%) | 22.5 | 23.8 | 24.5 | 0.96 |
| Gestational age (w) | 38.9 ± 2.9 | 39.0 ± 3.1 | 38.4 ± 3.8 | 0.41 |
| Height <145 cm | 15.5 | 16.3 | 12.5 | 0.73 |
| Maternal MUAC < 21.5 cm | 60.0 | 47.9 | 59.8 | 0.14 |
| Infant characteristics |  |  |  |  |
| Male sex | 46.5 | 45.5 | 52.1 |  |
| Season of birthd |  |  |  |  |
| Post-harvest | 11.3 | 13.8 | 21.9 |  |
| Pre-monsoon | 32.4 | 36.6 | 32.3 |  |
| Monsoon | 28.2 | 22.8 | 21.9 |  |
| Pre-harvest | 28.2 | 26.8 | 24.0 | 0.56 |
| Delayed breastfeeding initiatione | 35.3 | 50.0 | 41.3 | 0.14 |
| Infant size @ 3 months |  |  |  |  |
| Weight (kg) | 4.7 ± 0.6 | 4.9 ± 0.8 | 4.9 ± 0.9 | 0.16 |
| Length (cm) | 57.1 ± 2.4 | 57.5 ± 2.7 | 57.6 ± 2.7 | 0.50 |
| MUAC (cm) | 11.5 ± 1.0 | 11.7 ± 1.1 | 11.7 ± 1.1 | 0.65 |

MUAC, mid-upper arm circumference.

a Mean timing of antenatal clinic visit was 18 weeks gestational age (range: 5–38 weeks); mean timing of neonatal home visit was 13 days of age (range: 0–117 days); infant anthropometric data missing for n = 42 children.

b Values are n (%) or mean ± SD and P values are based on Χ2 test for categorical variables or ANOVA for continuous variables

c Measurements taken at antenatal clinic visit (mean timing was 18 weeks gestational age; range 5–38 week)

d Defined as post-harvest (December–February), pre-monsoon (March–May), monsoon (June–August) or pre-harvest (September–November)

e Started >3 days after birth