Study summaries examining the latest science on beef's place in a healthy diet

# MANY CANADIANS DO NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS

## **STUDY DESIGN:**

Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) - Nutrition, 2015 data was used to estimate adults' usual nutrient intakes from foods and assess how these compare to the DRI recommendations.

#### **WHAT IS CCHS:**

CCHS – Nutrition, 2015 is the most recent national survey of Canadians' food and beverage intakes, conducted by Health Canada in partnership with Statistics Canada.

### **METHODS:**

24-h dietary recalls from both available days were analyzed to assess usual nutrient intakes. Usual nutrient intakes were compared to DRI values to estimate the prevalence of inadequacy.

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Data from 11,992 adults (≥19 years) who participated in the CCHS: Nutrition 2015 study.

#### **RESULTS:**

- Protein, fat and carbohydrate intakes of Canadian adults were within the recommended acceptable macro nutrient distribution ranges.
- Many Canadian adults did not meet their requirements for key essential nutrients.

| Essential Nutrients | Prevalence of Inadequate Intakes from Foods (based on the EARs)   |
|---------------------|---|
| Iron                | Nearly 30% of women aged 19-50 years                              |
| Zinc                | 30-34% of women and 21-44% of men (depending on age group)        |
| Calcium             | More than 60% of women and 40% of men 19+ years                   |
| Magnesium           | 66% of women and 58% of men 19+ years                             |
| Vitamin A           | 47% of women and 51% of men 19+ years                             |
| B-Vitamins          | Many Canadians had inadequate vitamin B12, B6 and thiamin intakes |
| Vitamin C           | 28-59% of women and 38-64% of men (depending on age group)        |
| Vitamin D           | Almost all Canadian adults - 98% of women and 94% of men          |

## **CONCLUSION:**

National nutrition surveillance data indicates that a significant number of Canadian adults do not meet the recommendations for key essential nutrients and are at risk of inadequacy.

## **FOR YOUR PRACTICE:**

Beef is a source of key essential nutrients many Canadians don't get enough of in their diets, including iron, zinc, vitamins  $B_{12}$  and  $B_{6}$ , thiamin, and magnesium.

Ahmed M, Ng AP, and L'Abbe MR. Nutrient intakes of Canadian adults: results from the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)-2015 Public Use Microdata File. Am J Clin Nutr 2021;ngab143. Online ahead of print.

