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1 **Abstract : Sources and correlates of sodium consumption in the first two years of life**

2 High sodium intake during infancy and early childhood may change salt preference and blood  
3 pressure trajectories across life, representing a modifiable cardiovascular risk factor.

4 Describing young children's sodium intake is important in informing effective targets for  
5 sodium reduction. This study aimed to describe food sources and demographic and

6 behavioral correlates of sodium intake in 295 young Australian children using three

7 unscheduled 24-hour recalls (when children were 9 and then 18 months of age) with mothers  
8 participating within an existing randomized controlled trial, The Melbourne InFANT

9 Program. Differences in individual and family level demographic and behavioural variables  
10 were assessed across tertiles of sodium density (mg/1000 kilocalories). Descriptive statistics

11 were used to describe food group contributions to total energy and sodium intakes at both

12 ages. The mean sodium intake was 486 (SD 232) mg at 9 months and had more than doubled  
13 to 1069 (SD 331) mg at 18 months of age. Fifty-four percent of children at 18-months

14 exceeded the recommended daily Upper Level for sodium intake, with bread, cheese,

15 breakfast cereal, soup and mixed dishes all important sources of sodium at both ages. Yeast

16 extracts, processed meats and bread products became important additional sources at 18-

17 months. A greater proportion of children in the highest sodium density tertile had ceased

18 breastfeeding and had commenced solids at an earlier age. In conclusion the key food

19 sources of sodium for children under two years are those that contribute to the whole

20 populations' high salt burden and highlight that policy driven changes that will reduce

21 sodium in the food supply are a high priority.

22

## 23 **Introduction**

24 Hypertension is considered to be one of the most important preventable causes of stroke and  
25 cardiovascular disease (CVD).<sup>1</sup> After reducing smoking, worldwide reduction in dietary  
26 sodium (salt) intake has been proposed to be the most effective strategy to reduce CVD.<sup>2,3</sup>  
27 The high sodium intake of developed nations is associated with higher levels of blood  
28 pressure (BP),<sup>1,4,5</sup> and importantly BP has been shown to track across the lifespan.<sup>6-8</sup>  
29 Understanding opportunities in early life where this tracking trajectory might be altered will  
30 be important in reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with CVD.

31

32 Evidence suggests that sodium intake predicts BP in older children.<sup>9,10</sup> For example, in a  
33 Unites States (US) sample of 6235 8-18 year olds, each additional 1000mg of sodium/day  
34 was associated with an increased standard deviation score of 0.097 in systolic BP (95% CI:  
35 0.006, 0.188, ~ 1.0mm Hg).<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, a meta-analysis including 10 controlled trials  
36 showed a 42% reduction in daily sodium predicted significant reductions in systolic (-  
37 1.17mm Hg) and diastolic (-1.29mm Hg) BP in children aged 8-16 years.<sup>11</sup>

38

39 There is also evidence that exposure to higher sodium intake during infancy increases BP in  
40 childhood and adolescence. Hoffman et al.,<sup>12</sup> in a randomized controlled trial (n=476)  
41 comparing low sodium to normal sodium diets from two months of age, reported that systolic  
42 BP was 2.1mm Hg (95% CI: 0.5,3.7) lower in the low sodium compared to the normal  
43 sodium group at six months of age. When followed up at 15 years of age (n=167), the  
44 difference between the original low and normal sodium diet groups had increased to 3.6mm  
45 Hg (95% CI: 0.5, 6.6).<sup>13</sup> Additionally, one longitudinal study reported that sodium intake at  
46 four months of age (n=533) was positively associated with systolic BP at age seven.<sup>14</sup>

47 Relatively little is known about young children's sodium intake, with just five studies  
48 worldwide providing high quality dietary recall data in the last two decades.<sup>15-19</sup>

49

50 The few existing studies report that most children under two years of age are consuming  
51 sodium in excess of national recommendations.<sup>15-19</sup> Importantly however, just two studies  
52 report contemporary data<sup>15, 17</sup> with most data now more than a decade old e.g. Australian data  
53 was collected in 1998 and 2001. Moreover, these latter studies do not identify key food  
54 sources of sodium in the diet. The aim of this study, therefore, was to describe sodium intake,  
55 food sources as well as demographic and behavioral correlates of sodium intake in young  
56 Australian children.

57

## 58 **Materials and methods**

### 59 *Study design and participants*

60 The Melbourne Infant Feeding Activity and Nutrition Trial (InFANT) Program was a cluster  
61 randomized controlled trial, involving first-time mothers attending parents' groups, from  
62 when their infants were three to 20 months of age. This lifestyle intervention was conducted  
63 in 2008-2010 within Melbourne, Australia (population 4 million). Primary aims of the  
64 InFANT Program focused on reducing children's obesity-risk behaviors; there was no focus  
65 on sodium consumption and no difference in sodium consumed between trial arms (data not  
66 shown). The study design has been previously reported.<sup>20</sup> Eighty six percent of eligible  
67 parents consented to participate (n=542).

68

69 This paper describes data collected from both intervention and control group children when  
70 they were approximately nine and 18- months, herein referred to as time two (T2) and three  
71 (T3), for consistency with other publications arising from these data <sup>21</sup>. Data were excluded  
72 for children from non-first-time mothers (n=14) and those lost to follow-up at T2 (n=21) or  
73 T3 (n=27). To ensure comparability between participants and to maximize capacity to  
74 describe children's food sources of sodium, children with <3 complete dietary recalls at nine  
75 or 18- months were excluded (n=131). Outliers for total energy and liquid intakes were  
76 identified and excluded according to the criterion of mean  $\pm$  3SD (n=8). To avoid a  
77 possible influence of age on the results, children were excluded from the analysis if they were  
78 younger than seven months or older than 11 months at T2 (n=27); and younger than 16 or  
79 older than 20 months at T3 (n=19). This resulted in a sample of 295 children. InFANT was  
80 approved by the Deakin University Human Research Ethics Committee (ID number: EC 175-  
81 20078) and the Victorian Government Department of Human Services, Office for Children,  
82 Research Coordinating Committee (Ref: CDF/07/1138).

83

#### 84 *Measurements*

##### 85 *Socio-demographic data*

86 Self-administered paper-based questionnaires were provided to parents at the recruitment  
87 meeting and returned to program staff at the first InFANT Program session. These provided  
88 demographic and socioeconomic data at baseline (T1: children 3 months). Maternal  
89 education level was dichotomized as low ( $\leq$  secondary school or trade qualifications) or high  
90 ( $\geq$  college or university degree).

91

92 *Dietary intake and dietary behaviors*

93 Children's diet was assessed by nutritionists trained by the researchers (KC, SAM) using  
94 standardized telephone-administered, 5-pass 24-hour recalls.<sup>22</sup> Study specific food  
95 measurement books aided parents' estimation of infants' food consumption. Three non-  
96 consecutive days of dietary data (including one weekend day) were collected via a purpose  
97 designed computer program facilitating reporting fidelity and analytical consistency between  
98 interviewers. Overall, 96% of telephone calls were unscheduled. Nutrient intakes were  
99 evaluated using the 2007 AUSNUT food composition database.<sup>23</sup> Breastfeeding was  
100 recorded as minutes spent breastfeeding and converted to volume consistent with previous  
101 studies.<sup>24</sup> Single questions assessed the age at which solids were introduced, and at which  
102 breastfeeding was ceased.<sup>25</sup>

103

104 *Data management and statistical analyses*

105 Tertiles of sodium intake (as a density, mg of sodium per 1000 kilocalories) at T2 were  
106 calculated to examine differences in individual and family demographic and behavioural  
107 variables across levels of sodium density. Analysis of variance (with Bonferroni  
108 adjustments) and the Chi-squared test were used to assess differences between sodium  
109 density tertiles. Descriptive statistics were used to describe food group contributions to total  
110 energy and sodium intake at T2 and T3. The 2007 AUSNUT food composition database  
111 categorizes foods into a hierarchy of food groups<sup>26</sup> and the sub-major food groupings (98  
112 food groupings) were used. To understand how the transition from breast milk/formula milk  
113 to family foods contributed to sodium intake, the results are presented in two broad  
114 categories: (1) "Infant food and milks" which aggregate the following subgroups defined by  
115 the Australian Food Coding System:<sup>26</sup> 'Infant foods' (jarred fruit and vegetable based meals,

116 infant custards and yoghurts); ‘Infant cereal foods’ (jarred cereals and cereal based meals and  
117 rusks); and breast milk and infant formula and (2) “Other foods” including bread and  
118 breakfast cereal, cheese and regular (non-infant) yoghurt and dairy milk, as well as foods  
119 consumed as part of family meals such as casseroles and stews. Sodium intake at each time  
120 point was near normally distributed. Mean contribution and standard deviation for the  
121 sample are presented, as well as the percentage of the sample consuming each food group.  
122 Sub-major food groups contributing more than 2% to children’s sodium intake are presented  
123 here and those contributing less than 2% are presented in Supplemental on-line Table 1. All  
124 analyses were conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics 20 (SPSS, Version 20.0, 2011, IBM,  
125 Chicago, IL, USA).

126

## 127 **Results and Discussion**

128 Demographic characteristics and sodium intake of participants by tertile of sodium density at  
129 9 and 18 months of age are presented in Table 1. These longitudinal data indicate that during  
130 the second nine months of life, a time of progressive introduction to family foods, children’s  
131 mean sodium intake doubled from 486 (SD 232)mg at T2 (mean age 9.2 months (SD 0.74))  
132 to 1069 (SD 331)mg at T3 (17.5 months (SD 0.84)) (data derived from Table 1). Fifty four  
133 percent of 18-month old children in this study exceeded the Australian National Health and  
134 Medical Research Council Upper Level of 1000mg/d for sodium for one to three year olds.<sup>27</sup>

135

136 Our results are similar to earlier high quality Australian data (1991 and 1997-2000) collected  
137 at similar ages,<sup>16,19</sup> suggesting sodium intake in Australia has not changed substantially over  
138 the past 12-14 years. Internationally, the US Feeding Infants and Toddlers Study<sup>15</sup> reported a

139 similar mean daily sodium intake of 528mg (SD 21.2mg) in six to 11-month old children  
140 (n=505), but a 40% greater mean intake (1489mg, SD 16mg) at 12- to 23-months (n=925).  
141 The 2008/09–2009/10 United Kingdom (UK) National Diet and Nutrition Survey also  
142 reported higher mean daily sodium intakes (1312mg) in one and a half to three year olds  
143 (n=219).<sup>17</sup> Given absolute sodium intake increases with age these higher values may reflect  
144 the slightly older ages of these US and UK participants, however it is likely that cultural  
145 differences in consumption and or differences in food processing practices between countries  
146 plays a role. It is important to acknowledge that despite describing a younger sample, US  
147 national data shows mean sodium intakes are around 13% higher than comparable UK  
148 national data.

149

150 High sodium intakes in young children are concerning given evidence that taste preferences  
151 develop in early life,<sup>28, 29</sup> and that food intake tends to track across childhood through  
152 adolescence<sup>30</sup> and into adult life.<sup>31</sup> As sodium consumption is associated with increased  
153 blood pressure at all ages,<sup>10-12, 32</sup> and given that the cumulative effect of higher blood pressure  
154 increases risk for stroke and cardiovascular disease,<sup>33</sup> it is important that we understand how  
155 we can limit this transition to a sodium-dense diet. Understanding the food sources of  
156 sodium and factors associated with higher sodium intake in early life can guide potential  
157 targets to reduce population sodium consumption.

158

### 159 *Food sources of sodium*

160 In the current study, the primary sources of sodium include milk (breast milk at nine months,  
161 cow's milk at 18 months), and foods known to contribute to the high sodium intake across the



162 population; bread, cheese, breakfast cereals and soup<sup>34</sup>. By 18 months of age, a range of  
163 highly salted processed foods commonly consumed in the family setting (herein termed  
164 ‘family foods’) had become additional important sources of sodium, with highly salted yeast  
165 extract spreads, processed meats, bread products (i.e. English muffins and crumpets), baked  
166 beans and crackers all important contributors. To our knowledge, just two studies have  
167 described sources of sodium in young children’s diets over the past 20 years<sup>17, 35</sup> and these  
168 findings, while not directly comparable due to differences in food group classifications, are  
169 broadly consistent.

170

#### 171 *Food group contributions to sodium intake at 9 months (T2) and 18 months (T3)*

172 At T2, all children were consuming breast milk and/or infant formula, and this contributed  
173 31% of total sodium and around half of total energy intake (Table 2). “*Infant foods and*  
174 *milk*” provided 36% of children’s total sodium and 56% of total energy intake. In contrast,  
175 “*Other foods*” provided 47% of total sodium, but only 23% of total energy. Within this  
176 category, contributors to sodium intake were bread and rolls (providing 11% of total sodium),  
177 cheese (9%) and yoghurt (6.7%). Soup and breakfast cereal each provided around 4% of  
178 total sodium intake, although soup was only consumed by 16% of children. Mixed dishes  
179 individually provided 2-3% of sodium however collectively were an important source of  
180 sodium providing ~10% of total sodium intake.

181

182 The reduction or cessation of breast or formula feeding and the reduction in the consumption  
183 of “*Infant foods*” at T3, was associated with an increase in both the amount (as indicated by  
184 energy contribution) and proportion of higher sodium foods consumed (Table 3). “*Other*

185 *foods*” (e.g. bread and rolls, cheese, breakfast cereal) provided ~57% of total energy and  
186 nearly three-quarters of children’s total sodium intake (72%). Dairy milk was the greatest  
187 single contributor to children’s energy intake at T3 (providing 22% of energy intake) and  
188 provided 13% of sodium intake. In contrast, bread and rolls provided a third as much energy  
189 (8%) but contributed a similar proportion of total sodium (15%). Bread, cheese, breakfast  
190 cereal, soup and mixed dishes remained important contributors to children’s sodium intake at  
191 T3. Other foods contributing significantly to sodium intake at this age included highly salted  
192 yeast extract spreads, processed meats and English muffins or other sweet/savory bread  
193 products (each contributing about 3%). Despite a low frequency of consumption (<25% of  
194 the sample), legumes (including baked beans) and crackers still contributed, on average,  
195 around 2% of total sodium intake.

196

#### 197 *Factors associated with children’s higher sodium intakes*

198 The factors associated with a high sodium intake have not been previously reported in this  
199 young age group. In the current study, we considered a range of social and behavioral  
200 variables as potential correlates of sodium intake at nine months and found that children with  
201 the highest sodium intakes at nine months had ceased breastfeeding at a younger age  
202 ( $P=0.040$ ) and commenced solid food earlier in life ( $P=0.051$ ). Children with higher sodium  
203 densities were significantly older at T2 ( $P <0.001$ ) and T3 but only between lowest and  
204 highest tertiles ( $P <0.003$ ).

205

206 The association of higher sodium intakes with maturation (older child age) and earlier  
207 commencement of solid foods are closely linked and likely to reflect the move from

208 government regulated ‘infant’ or weaning foods, where the addition of salt is not permitted,  
209 to family foods. The incorporation of high sodium family foods, particularly staple foods  
210 such as bread, breakfast cereals and cheese into a young child’s diet appears to drive the rapid  
211 increase in children’s sodium intakes. This phenomena has also been documented by  
212 Smithers et al<sup>36</sup> who report from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children that a  
213 ‘home-made traditional’ dietary pattern in infants was positively associated with sodium  
214 intake while the ‘ready-prepared baby foods’ pattern was negatively associated, suggesting  
215 that food regulation of infant foods limited sodium intakes. Understanding the impact of  
216 staple family foods on children’s sodium intakes provides further rationale for sodium  
217 reduction across the food supply. To achieve the greatest population reach, government  
218 policy focused on reducing the sodium in processed foods (e.g. bread, breakfast cereals and  
219 cheese) will be particularly beneficial. Gradual product reformulation is a focus in many  
220 countries, with the UK having been a leader in this field.<sup>37</sup> In comparison to the UK, USA  
221 and Canada,<sup>38-40</sup> where more than 80 food categories have voluntary sodium reduction targets  
222 in place, Australia has less than ten categories of food with nominated sodium reduction  
223 targets.<sup>41</sup>

224

225 While food reformulation is fundamental to population-wide reductions in sodium, so too is  
226 accessible and accurate food labelling regarding the sodium content of foods. It is also  
227 important that parents are provided with guidance regarding how to provide a healthy diet  
228 which is lower in sodium. Self-reported use of nutrition labels is common in Australia,  
229 however comprehension is limited.<sup>42</sup> Parents, therefore, may benefit from guidance  
230 regarding use of food labels to discern lower sodium options, particularly when choosing  
231 breads and breakfast cereals, where sodium contents vary widely.<sup>43</sup> Further, given the  
232 findings that cessation of breastfeeding and early introduction of solids were associated with

233 the highest sodium intakes at nine months of age, it is timely to reassess the predictors of  
234 these behaviors and promote, in line with current recommendations,<sup>44</sup> the best practices of  
235 maintaining breastfeeding and delaying the introduction of solids until six months of age.

236

237 It is important to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the current study. The use of three  
238 days of 24-hour dietary recall data for each measurement period, and the use of a  
239 contemporary nutrient database represent important strengths of this study. However,  
240 measurement of usual sodium intake is challenging and it is possible that our methodology  
241 may under represent actual sodium intakes as it does not capture the use of salt at the table or  
242 in cooking. Importantly, the collection of detailed dietary intake data in this study enabled  
243 food sources of sodium to be described and provides food-based information to guide dietary  
244 education specific to parents of young children. It is important to acknowledge that the over-  
245 representation of college/tertiary educated women in this sample, and the exclusion of  
246 participants with missing data, or those who did not have three days of dietary intake data,  
247 has implications for generalizability.

248

## 249 **Conclusion**

250 In summary, the current study describes the principal food sources of dietary sodium in a  
251 sample of Australian children at approximately nine and 18 months of age. This knowledge  
252 may be used to inform policy driven approaches to reducing children's sodium intakes to be  
253 more in line with national dietary guidelines. It also may be used by health professionals to  
254 support parents in making health promoting dietary changes to prevent excessive sodium  
255 consumption by children.





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**Table 1.** Daily dietary intake and demographic characteristics by tertile of sodium density (mg/1000kcal) of a cohort of 295 infants enrolled in The Melbourne Infant Study. Data presented at 9- and 18 months of age (T2 and T3 respectively)

	mg Na/1000kcal (mean (SD))						Difference between tertiles	<i>P</i> value
	Lowest (1)		Middle (2)		Highest (3)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
	376(73)		555(44)		809(156)			
	n=98		n=99		n=98			
<b>Child daily dietary intake</b>								
Sodium intake at 9 months (T2) (mg)	277	94	454	114	727	192	<0.001 a,b,c	
Sodium intake at 18 months (T3) (mg)	1033	356	1033	292	1142	334	0.028	
Change in sodium intake (mg) <sup>d</sup>	756	357	579	298	415	352	<0.001 a,b,c	
Sodium density at T3 (mg/1000 kcal)	991	258	997	230	1080	260	0.022 a	
Change in sodium density (mg/1000 kcal) <sup>d</sup>	615	269	441	232	442	302	<0.001 a,b,c	
Energy (kcal) at 9 months (T2)	729	183	814	181	901	181	<0.001 a,b,c	

Energy (kcal) at 18 months (T3)	1035	191	1040	197	1059	191	0.663
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**Child characteristics**

Gender (n (%))

Boys	49	50.0	53	53.5	54	55.1	0.764
Girls	49	50.0	46	46.5	44	44.9	

Age at T2 (months)	8.9	0.7	9.3	0.7	9.4	0.7	<0.001 <sup>a,b,c</sup>
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Age at T3 (months)	17.4	0.9	17.6	0.8	17.8	0.8	0.003 <sup>a</sup>
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Weight at T2 (kg)	8.7	1.1	8.9	1.1	9.0	1.2	0.124
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BMI z-score at T2	0.07	1.0	0.08	1.0	0.2	0.9	0.617
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Weight at T3 (kg)	11.1	1.3	11.3	1.1	11.5	1.3	0.071
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BMI z-score at T3	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.111
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Cessation of breastfeeding (age in months)	9.4	4.7	8.2	4.9	7.5	4.7	0.040 <sup>a</sup>
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Commencement of solids (age in months)	5.5	0.7	5.3	0.7	5.2	0.7	0.051 <sup>a</sup>
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**Parent characteristics<sup>e</sup>**

Body Mass Index	24.2	4.8	24.3	5.2	24.6	5.3	0.873
Current employment status (n (%))							
Back at work	5	5.1	9	9.1	4	4.1	0.299
Still at home	93	94.9	90	90.9	94	95.9	
Highest level of education (n (%))							
Trade or high school	32	32.7	38	38.4	45	45.9	0.161
Bachelor degree or higher	66	67.3	61	61.6	53	54.1	
Marital status (n (%))							
Partner	97	99.0	99	100.0	95	96.9	0.167
Single parent	1	1.0	0	0.0	3	3.1	
Parent country of birth (n (%))							
Australian	77	78.6	77	77.8	79	80.6	0.881
Other	21	21.4	22	22.2	19	19.4	
Main language at home (n (%))							

English	90	91.8	95	96.0	94	95.9	0.342
Other	8	8.2	4	4.0	4	4.1	

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T2 is the data collection time when children are ~9 months of age, T3 is the data collection time when children are ~ 18-months of age

<sup>a</sup> Significant difference between lowest and highest tertile (1v3)

<sup>b</sup> Significant difference between lowest and middle (1v2)

<sup>c</sup> Significant difference between middle and highest (2v3)

<sup>d</sup> Change is intake at 18-months minus intake at 9-months, meaning positive value equals an increase in intake.

<sup>e</sup> Parent characteristics measured at baseline (child aged 3-months)



**Table 2.** The contribution of food groups <sup>a</sup> to daily energy and sodium intakes of a cohort of 295 9-month old infants enrolled in The Melbourne InFANT Program

Food groups	Percentage consuming	Contribution to total daily energy intake (%)		Contribution to total daily sodium intake (%)		Sodium provided (mg)	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
<i>Infant foods and milk (total contribution)</i>		<i>(55.5)</i>		<i>(36.1)</i>			
Breastmilk and infant formula	100	47.8	15.0	31.0	17.9	127.1	64.2
Infant foods <sup>b</sup>	63	3.7	4.6	2.7	5.1	11.6	20.5
Infant cereal foods <sup>c</sup>	77	4.0	4.9	2.4	4.4	11.3	27.3
<i>Other foods (total contribution)</i>		<i>(23.2)</i>		<i>(46.8)</i>			
Bread and rolls	76	3.6	4.4	10.9	11.9	57.2	69.5
Cheese	64	2.5	3.2	9.0	11.7	50.9	76.1
Yoghurt	76	5.4	5.4	6.7	7.4	28.7	30.0
Soup (Prepared, Ready to Eat)	16	0.7	2.2	4.0	11.2	25.3	83.4

Breakfast cereal	56	2.8	3.4	3.9	5.2	18.6	24.5
Mixed dishes with beef, veal, lamb <sup>d</sup>	32	1.5	3.4	3.2	7.7	18.0	49.1
Mixed dishes with cereals <sup>d</sup>	18	1.3	4.0	2.9	8.5	16.5	50.0
Stir fried vegetables and combinations <sup>e</sup>	65	2.0	2.8	2.1	3.8	8.6	13.8
Dairy milk	45	2.3	4.6	2.1	4.4	10.9	23.9
Mixed dishes with chicken <sup>d</sup>	21	1.1	3.3	2.0	6.6	12.0	46.2

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<sup>a</sup> Only the food groups contributing more than 2% to children's total sodium intake are presented.

<sup>b</sup> Infant foods includes jarred fruit and vegetable based meals, infant custard and yoghurts.

<sup>c</sup> Infant cereal foods include jarred cereals and cereal based meals, and rusks<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>d</sup> Mixed dishes containing meat include meat based casseroles or stews, stir fry, or crumbed meat. Mixed dishes containing cereals include spaghetti bolognese, pasta bakes, savoury or fried rice<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>e</sup> Stir fried vegetables and combinations includes mushrooms, corn (including canned), onions, garlic, and mixed vegetable combinations<sup>26</sup>.

**Table 3.** The contribution of food groups <sup>a</sup> to daily energy and sodium intakes of a cohort of 295 18-month old children enrolled in The Melbourne InFANT Program

Food groups	Percentage consuming	Contribution to total daily energy intake (%)		Contribution to total daily sodium intake (%)		Sodium provided (mg)	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
	%						
<i>Other foods (total contribution)</i>		(56.5)		(72.3)			
Dairy milk	92	22.0	13.1	12.5	8.8	123.1	75.6
Bread and rolls	94	7.8	5.0	14.6	9.3	155.2	103.7
Cheese	85	4.8	4.4	11.4	10.5	124.8	125.1
Breakfast cereal	86	6.1	4.4	5.0	4.3	51.1	44.4
Mixed dishes with cereal <sup>b</sup>	45	2.9	5.3	5.0	8.5	56.6	109.5
Soup (Prepared, Ready to Eat)	22	0.9	2.3	3.7	9.1	41.6	114.6
Yoghurt	78	5.3	5.0	3.6	3.7	37.2	37.9
Yeast extracts (vegemite)	56	0.2	0.3	3.3	4.5	37.9	54.9

Processed meat	32	0.4	1.0	3.3	6.3	40.4	85.1
English muffins, other sweet/savoury breads	39	2.0	3.6	2.9	5.7	31.3	61.0
Baked beans or other canned beans	23	0.8	2.2	2.5	6.8	27.2	76.3
Mixed dishes with beef, veal, lamb <sup>b</sup>	48	1.9	3.3	2.4	4.8	25.2	51.7
Crackers	61	1.4	2.0	2.1	3.6	20.6	30.5

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<sup>a</sup> Only the food groups contributing more than 2% to children's total sodium intake are presented.

<sup>b</sup> Mixed dishes containing meat include meat based casseroles or stews, stir fry, or crumbed meat. Mixed dishes containing cereals include spaghetti bolognese, pasta bakes, savoury or fried rice<sup>26</sup>

Supplemental on-line Table 1: The contribution of food groups contributing less than 2% of daily sodium intakes in a cohort of 295 9 and 18-month old infants enrolled in The Melbourne InFANT Program

9 month of age		18 months of age	
Mean percentage contribution of food groups to total sodium intake		Mean percentage contribution of food groups to total sodium intake	
Yeast and yeast extracts	1.6	Savoury biscuits	2.1
Legumes and pulse dishes	1.3	Mixed dishes with poultry	1.9
Meat (beef, lamb, pork and veal)	1.1	Sausages, Frankfurts and saveloys	1.8
Gravies and savoury sauces	1.1	Gravies and savoury sauces	1.7
Savoury biscuits	1.1	Sweet and savoury pastries	1.6
Processed meat	0.9	Cakes, sweet buns, muffins, cake-type desserts	1.5
Prepacked fish and seafood	0.8	Breast milk and infant formula	1.5
Carrot and other root vegetables	0.8	Pancakes, waffles, drop scones	1.4
Poultry	0.7	Egg based dishes, omelettes	1.1
English muffins, flat, savoury and sweet breads	0.7	Sweet biscuits	1.1
Sweet biscuits	0.5	Pasta and pasta products	0.9
Fin fish	0.5	Soy milk	0.8
Sausages, Frankfurts and saveloys	0.4	Other vegetables and combinations	0.8
Vegetable dishes	0.4	Fish and seafood products (Homemade, Takeaway)	0.8
Mature legumes and pulses	0.4	Vegetable dishes	0.7
Egg based dishes, omelettes	0.3	Potatoes	0.6
Potatoes	0.3	Margarine and table spreads	0.6
Soy-based yoghurt	0.3	Meat (beef, lamb, pork and veal)	0.6
Butters	0.3	Mixed dishes with fish or seafood	0.5
Cabbage, cauliflower and brassica vegetables	0.3	Prepacked fish and seafood	0.5
Margarine and table spreads	0.3	Infant foods, fruit, custards	0.5
Mixed dishes with fish or seafood	0.2	Butters	0.4

Sweet and savoury pastries	0.2	Poultry	0.4
Cakes, sweet buns, muffins, cake-type desserts	0.2	Pickles, chutneys and relishes	0.4
Pancakes, waffles, scones	0.2	Hot porridge breakfast cereal	0.4
Soy milk	0.2	Cereal, fruit and nut bars	0.3
Leaf and stalk vegetables	0.2	Infant cereal products	0.3
Pasta and pasta products	0.2	Custards	0.2
Pumpkin, squash and zucchini	0.2	Nuts and nut products	0.2
Flour and cereal grains	0.2	Dried fruit	0.2
Other fruits	0.2	Extruded snacks	0.2
Hot porridge breakfast cereal	0.2	Flours and other cereal grains	0.2
Pome fruit (apples and pears)	0.1	Soy yoghurt	0.2
Custards	0.1	Canned condensed soup	0.2
Fish and seafood products (Homemade, Takeaway)	0.1	Fin fish	0.2
		Carrot and other root vegetables	0.2
		Jelly and water ice confection (gelato, sorbet)	0.2
		Eggs	0.2
		Herbs, spices, and stock cubes	0.2
		Other fruits	0.2
		Other snack foods	0.2
		Potato based snacks	0.2
		Mature legumes and pulses	0.1
		Dairy blends	0.1
		Tomato and tomato products	0.1
		Cabbage, cauliflower and brassica vegetables	0.1

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