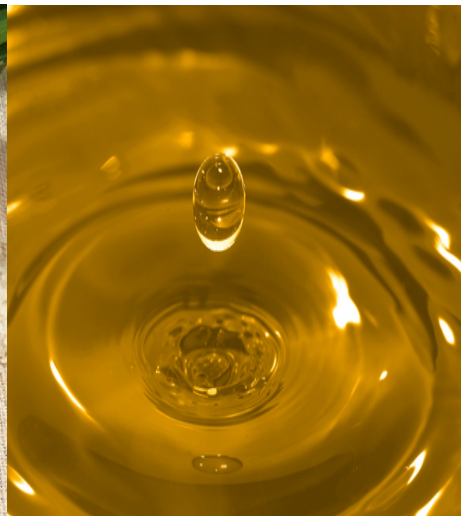


# Fortification Efforts in the Philippines: Successes and Challenges



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National Nutrition Council



# Outline

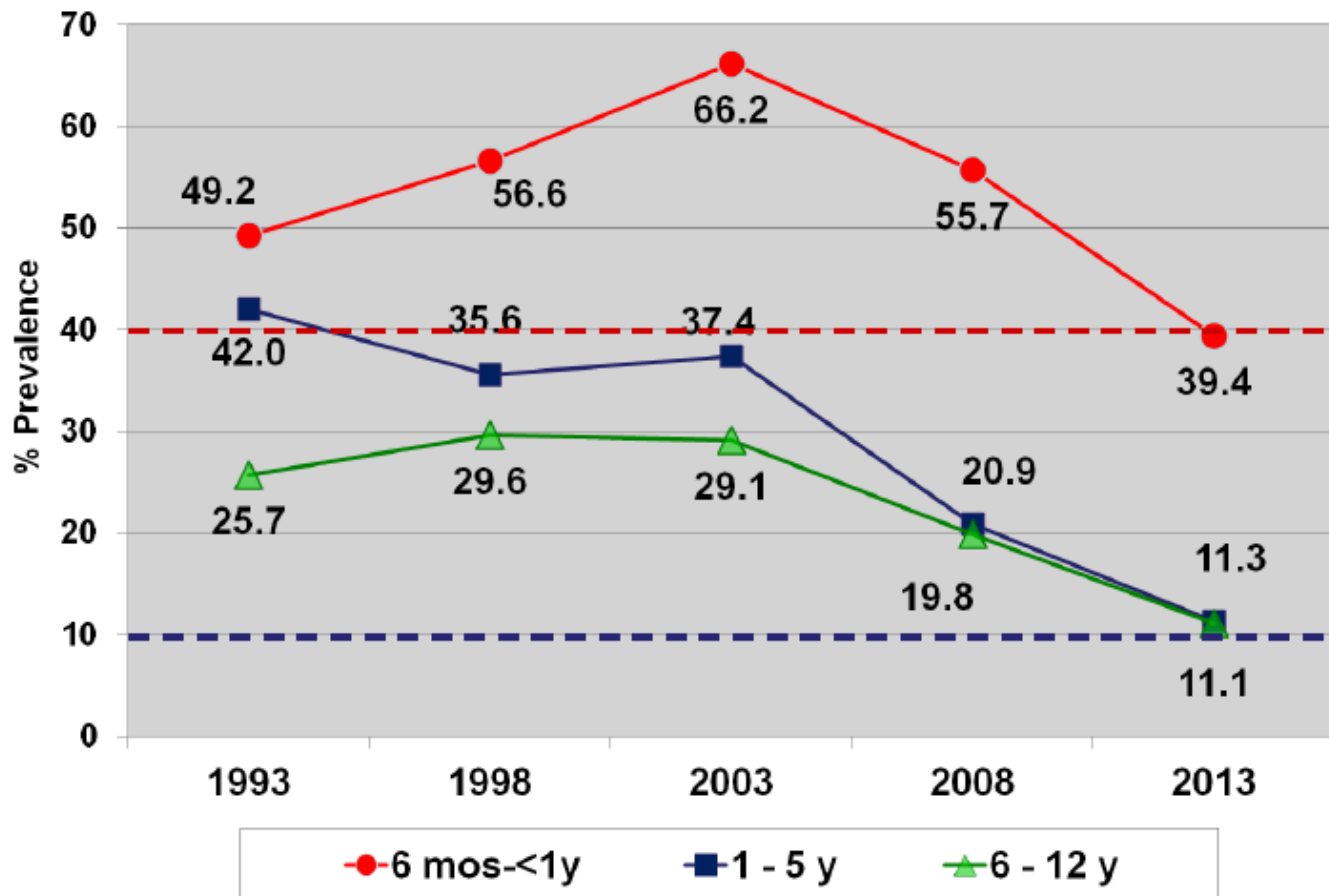
- Trends in the prevalence of anemia and vitamin A deficiency in the Philippines
- Implementation of Mandatory Food Fortification Program
- Successes
- Challenges



# Trends in the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies in the Philippines

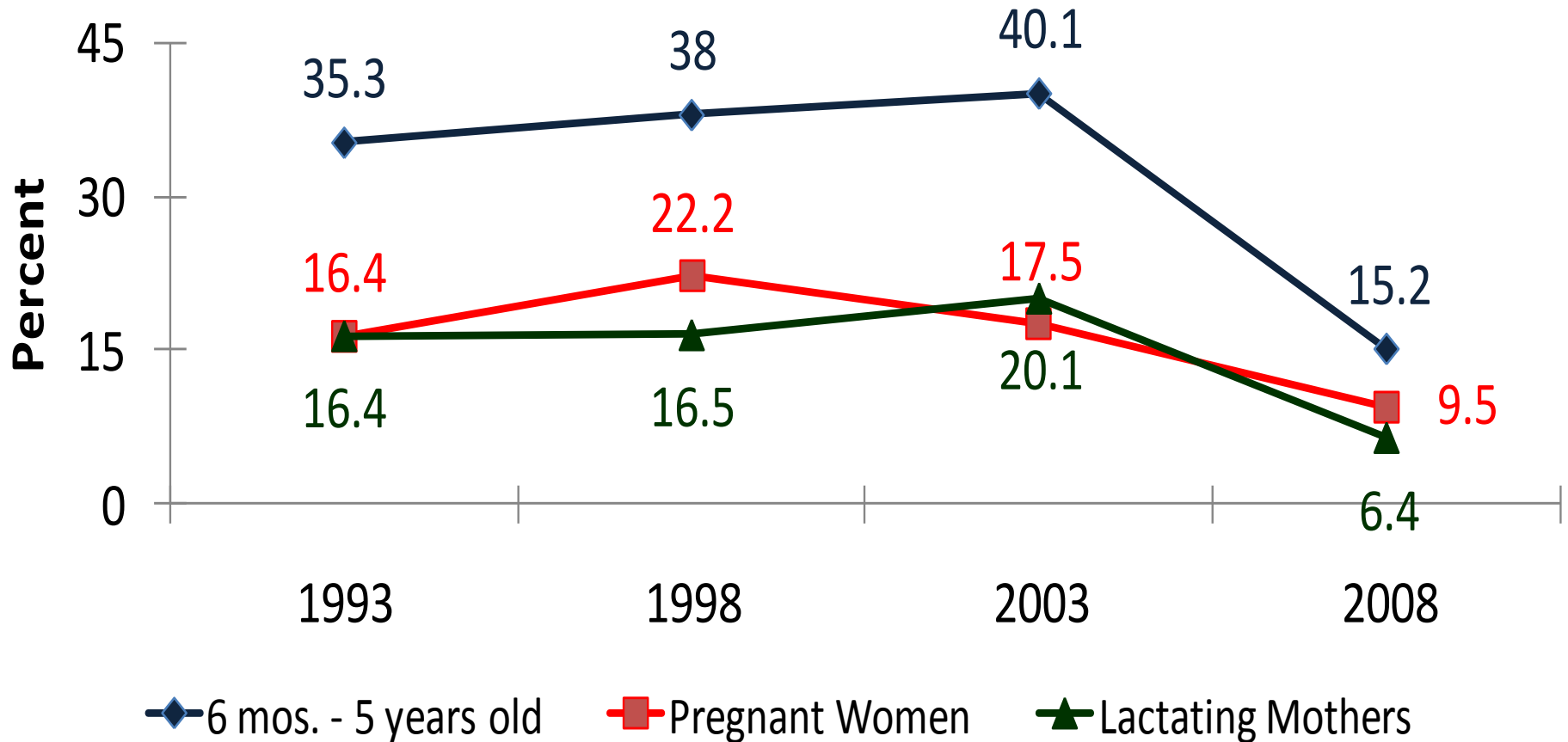
# Anemia

## Trends in the prevalence of anemia among children Philippines: 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013



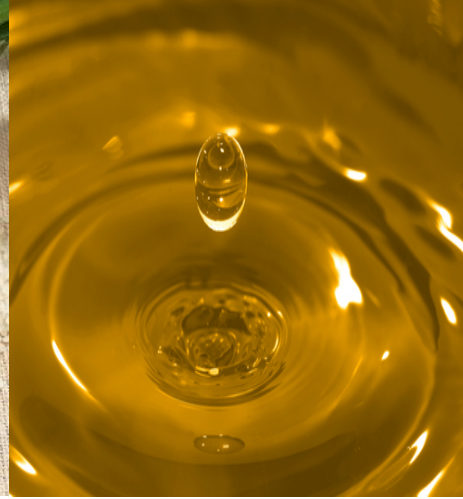
# Vitamin A deficiency

## Prevalence of vitamin A deficiency, in percent



# The Copenhagen Consensus: High Benefit Cost Ratio

	Solution	Challenge
1	Micronutrient supplements for children (A & Zn)	Malnutrition
2	The Doha development agenda	Trade
<b>3</b>	<b>Micronutrient fortification</b>	<b>Malnutrition</b>
4	Expanded immunization coverage for children	Diseases
5	Biofortification	Malnutrition
6	Deworming, other nutrition programs in school	Malnutrition
7	Lowering the price of schooling	Education
8	Increase and improve girl's schooling	Women
9	Community-based nutrition programs	Malnutrition



**RA 8976**

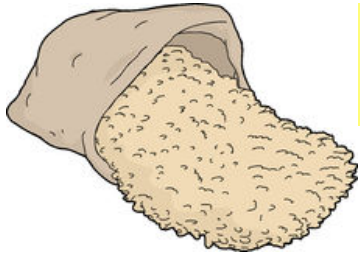
**Mandatory Food Fortification**

# RA 8976

- Enacted in 2000, but full implementation by 2004
- Required staples to be fortified
- Also provided for voluntary fortification for processed foods



# RA 8976



**rice + iron**



**wheat flour +  
iron + vit. A**



**refined  
sugar + vit. A**



**cooking oil +  
vit. A**

**The law applies to all imported and locally processed foods for sale and distribution in the Philippines**

**Other nutrients as may be required by NNC**

# RA 8976

- BFAD (FDA) as lead implementing agency and in charge of monitoring flour fortification

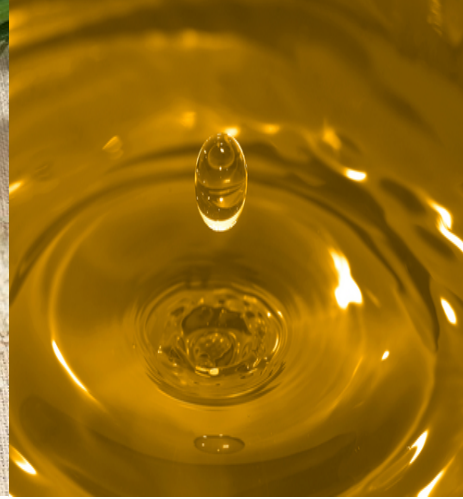
# RA 8976

- Agencies assisting FDA in monitoring
  - Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)
  - National Food Authority (NFA)
  - Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) for
  - Bureau of Customs (BOC) for imported products

# RA 8976

## The NNC

- Conduct periodic review of the micronutrients added to food
- May add nutrients and food to be covered but **CANNOT** delist from RA 8976



# Successes in the implementation of Mandatory Food Fortification Program

# Levels of Fortification in Food

Fortificant	Minimum acceptable level	Maximum acceptable level
Wheat Flour	All wheat flour is fortified	
Retinol palmitate/acetate	3.0 mg/kg as retinol	6.5 mg/kg as retinol
Elemental iron	70.0 mg Fe/kg	105 mg Fe/kg
Ferrous sulfate or ferrous fumerate	50.0 mg Fe/kg	75.0 mg Fe/kg
Cooking oil	All 46 c. oil manufacturers fortifying but only 2 are within the standards	
Vitamin A Retinol Palmitate	12.0 mg RE/L	23 mg RE/L
Rice	Limited fortification	
Ferrous sulfate	60 mg Fe/kg raw rice	90 mg Fe/kg raw rice
Refined sugar	Not fortifying	
Vitamin A retinol palmitate	5.0 mg/kg	30.0 mg/kg

# Successes

- Used iron-fortified rice in Food for School Program, rice distribution in Mindanao
- Strong implementation in Davao City  
– for a while

# MFFP Strategic Plan: Vision Statement

“Every Filipino family consumes adequately-fortified staple food towards improved productivity and quality of life.”





# MFFP Strategic Plan: Mission Statement (Government Agencies)

“We, in the government, are committed to lead the implementation of a rational Mandatory Food Fortification Program in collaboration with the private sector.”



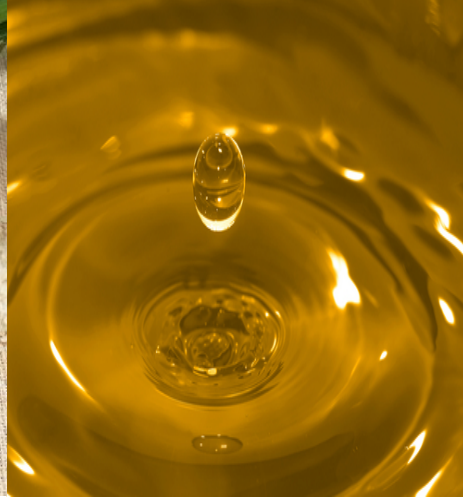
# MFFP Strategic Plan: Mission Statement (Civil Society Organizations)

“We, the civil society organizations, are committing our expertise in research, implementation, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation in support of the Mandatory Food Fortification Program.”



# MFFP Strategic Plan: Vision Statement (Food industry)

“We, in the food industry will work with the government for the rational implementation of the mandatory fortification program.”



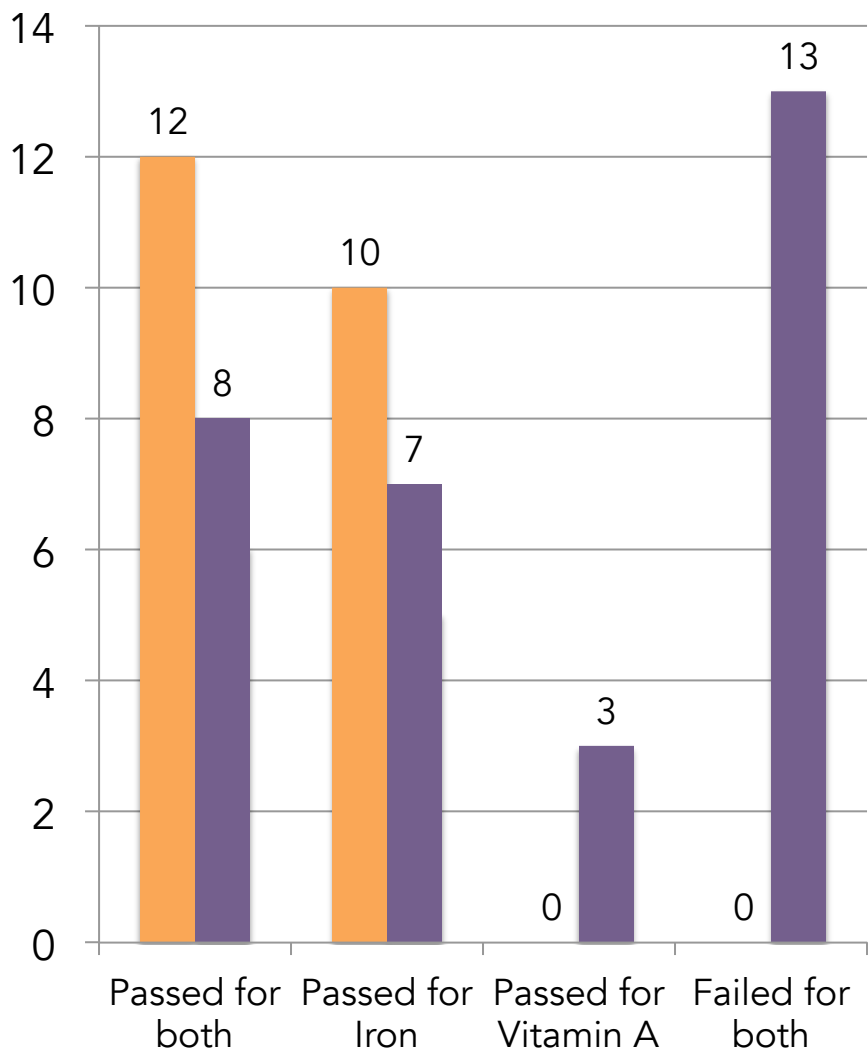
# Challenges in the implementation of Mandatory Food Fortification Program

# Challenges

- Unfortified staples continue to be available in the market
- Compliance to standards
- Unlevelled playing field
  - *takal* cooking oil
  - imported flour
  - Smuggled cooking oil



# Flour Fortification Status (2013 and 2014)



2013

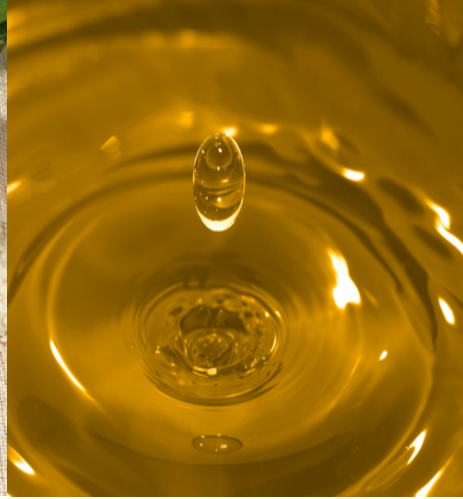
2014

	2013	2014
Passed for both	12	8
Failed for Vitamin A, Passed for Iron	10	7
Failed for Iron, Passed for Vitamin A	0	3
Failed for both	0	13
<b>Total Samples Tested</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>

22 samples were tested in **2013** while **31** samples tested in 2014

# Challenges

- Need a rapid test kit to detect presence of nutrient
- Use of more stable form of fortificant
- Funding for rice fortification in NFA
- Limited (if not absent) promotion



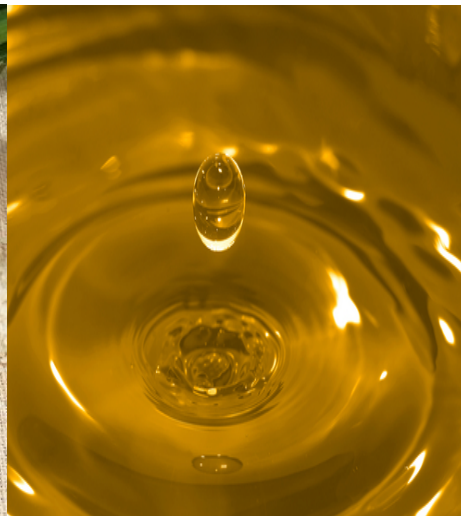
**POSSIBILITIES FOR FOLIC ACID  
FORTIFICATION?**



# Possibilities for mandatory folic acid fortification

- Yes, is one of the recommendations of the 2012 review of mandatory food fortification
- Flour industry expressed openness
- Request the academic community to “resolve” concerns on potential negative effects of mandatory folic acid fortification
- BUT STILL REGULATION IS IMPORTANT

# Thank you!



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