

HAITI

IGN REGION: > Americas

POPULATION: 10,461,409 (2014)

MEDIAN UIC: 39 µg/L

POPULATION IODINE STATUS: Moderate deficiency

DATA SOURCE: 2012 (National)

HOUSEHOLD COVERAGE WITH IODIZED SALT (UNICEF): 3.0% (2005/6)

What have we achieved in 2015?

- The **IGN's Regional Coordinator for Americas**, Dr. Elizabeth Pearce, worked with Boston Children's Hospital to complete a survey of urinary iodine concentrations and thyroid function.
- The aim was to determine the iodine status of Haitian infants and pre-school children from 3 different geographical regions of Haiti.
- The IGN funded the laboratory measurements, which showed that **iodine nutrition has improved remarkably in the space of just a few years!**

What is the iodine status in Haiti?

- Haiti is the only country in the Western hemisphere **classified as being iodine deficient**, which means that people are at risk of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD).
- IDD puts infants and young children at risk of **impaired brain development**, which may prevent them from reaching their full educational potential.
- IDD has a negative impact on entire communities and national prosperity.
- For these reasons the Iodine Global Network recognizes Haiti as a **priority country** for IDD control.

Iodine nutrition among Haitian children has improved dramatically in just a few years.

What are the next steps?

- In 2016 we will try to better **understand the sources of dietary iodine** in Haiti to ensure that the improvements in iodine nutrition can be sustained.
- We will also **assess other population groups** (school-age children, pregnant women), to see if they are at risk of IDD.
- An **advocacy meeting** with the Haitian Ministry of Health is planned for February 2016, to be attended by the IGN and our partners (UNICEF and USAID). The meeting will **seek commitment** from the Government of Haiti to a sustainable IDD prevention program.

