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Maternal Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Concentrations during Pregnancy and Infant Birthweight for Gestational Age: A Three-Cohort Study

Yan Tian^a, Claudia Holzman^a, Anna M. Siega-Riz^b, Michelle A. Williams^c, Nancy Dole^b, Daniel A. Enquobahrie^d, and Cynthia D. Ferre^e

^aDepartment of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

^bDepartment of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health, the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

^cDepartment of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

^dDepartment of Epidemiology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

^eMaternal and Infant Health Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Abstract

Background—In response to inconsistent findings, we investigated associations between maternal serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) concentrations and infant birthweight for gestational age (BW/GA), including potential effect modification by maternal race/ethnicity and infant sex.

Methods—Data from 2,558 pregnant women were combined in a nested case-control study (preterm and term) sampled from three cohorts: the Omega study, the Pregnancy, Infection and Nutrition study, and the Pregnancy Outcomes and Community Health study. Maternal 25(OH)D concentrations were sampled at 4 to 29 weeks' gestation (80% 14–26 weeks). BW/GA was modeled as sex-and gestational age-specific birthweight z-scores. General linear regression models (adjusting for age, education, parity, pre-pregnancy body mass index, season at blood draw, and smoking) assessed 25(OH)D concentrations in relation to BW/GA.

Results—Among non-Hispanic Black women, the positive association between 25(OH)D concentrations and BW/GA was of similar magnitude in pregnancies with female or male infants (β (SE)=0.015, standard error (SE)=0.007, $P=0.025$; β =0.018, SE=0.006, $P=0.003$, respectively). Among non-Hispanic White women, 25(OH)D-BW/GA association was observed only with male infants and the effect size was lower (β =0.008, SE=0.003, $P=0.02$).

Corresponding author: Dr. Claudia B. Holzman, Michigan State University, 909 Fee Road, West Fee Hall, Room B601, East Lansing, MI 48823, Phone: 517-353-8623 ext. 122, Fax: 517-432-1130, holzman@msu.edu.

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Conclusions—Maternal serum concentrations of 25(OH)D in early and mid-pregnancy were positively associated with BW/GA among non-Hispanic Black male and female infants and non-Hispanic White male infants. Effect modification by race/ethnicity may be due, in part, to overall lower concentrations of 25(OH)D in non-Hispanic Blacks. Reasons for effect modification by infant sex remain unclear.

Keywords

birthweight for gestational age; race/ethnicity; pregnancy; sex difference; 25-hydroxyvitamin D

Recent research on maternal vitamin D levels in pregnancy raises questions about adequacy of maternal vitamin D levels for optimal perinatal outcomes.¹ Some investigators have proposed that 27% to 91% of pregnant women in the United States have deficient or insufficient vitamin D levels due to lack of enough sunlight exposure or inadequate vitamin D intake.² Non-Hispanic Black women are at higher risk for vitamin D deficiency because darker skin may limit vitamin D synthesis in the skin.³ A recent review reported that maternal vitamin D deficiency in pregnancy has been associated with gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, preterm delivery, and infants who are small for gestational age.⁴ The fetus largely depends on maternal sources of vitamin D.⁵ The impact of vitamin D on fetal growth may be mediated through vitamin D's roles in calcium homeostasis, bone mineralization, and normal production and secretion of insulin.⁶

Epidemiologic findings on maternal vitamin D and fetal growth are inconsistent. Low birthweight and small for gestational age (SGA) are commonly used as proxy measures of fetal growth. Intervention trials of maternal vitamin D supplementation during pregnancy have reported mixed results with regard to effects on birthweight.^{7–10} Observational studies of vitamin D deficiency and fetal growth have likewise produced conflicting findings.^{11–24} The diverse results may be due to varied study methodologies or different populations studied. Two studies noted a link between maternal vitamin D levels and fetal growth in non-Hispanic White women, but not in non-Hispanic Black women.^{11,14} The lack of association among non-Hispanic Blacks may be explained by small sample size and a relatively narrower distribution of vitamin D levels among non-Hispanic Blacks. One recent study observed effect modification by sex, with the vitamin D-fetal growth link occurring mainly among male offspring.²⁵

We measured maternal serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) concentrations in a nested case-control (preterm-term) study assembled from three U.S. prospective cohort studies of pregnant women. Here we test the hypotheses that low maternal 25(OH)D concentrations in pregnancy are associated with decreased infant birthweight for gestational age (BW/GA) (operationalized as infant sex-and gestational age-specific birthweight z-scores), and this association is modified by maternal race/ethnicity and infant sex.

Methods

Study design and population

This study uses data gathered in a nested case-control study of maternal 25(OH)D concentrations among preterm cases and matched term controls from three prospective cohort studies: the Omega study; the Pregnancy, Infection and Nutrition (PIN) study; and the Pregnancy Outcomes and Community Health (POUCH) study. Detailed descriptions of the cohorts are published elsewhere.^{26–28} In brief, the Omega study (1996–2008) examined determinants of preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, and other pregnancy outcomes of pregnant women recruited from prenatal care clinics affiliated with Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. The PIN study (1998–2005) investigated the roles of infection, stress, physical activity, and nutrition on risk of preterm delivery among pregnant women recruited from prenatal care clinics in central North Carolina. The POUCH study (1998–2004) was designed to investigate infection, maternal vascular disease, and stress pathways to preterm delivery among pregnant women recruited from selected clinics in five Michigan communities. Human subjects approval for each study was granted by the Institutional Review Boards at the respective institutions.

Cohort protocols included maternal in-person interviews and/or self-administered questionnaires, and blood draws at enrollment. Maternal blood serum samples were frozen at -70°C and stored until analysis. Gestational age at enrollment was 4 to 23 weeks in the Omega study, 11 to 29 weeks in the PIN study, and 16 to 27 weeks in the POUCH study. Medical records were reviewed after delivery to obtain information on pregnancy course, perinatal events, and pregnancy outcome. In the original nested case-control study, preterm cases and term controls were matched within cohorts on maternal race/ethnicity, gestational week at blood draw, and season within a 45 day window of blood draw. Approximately 98% of cases were matched in a 1:2 ratio to controls; 2% were matched in a 1:1 ratio. The sample was limited to singleton pregnancies among non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Black women with information on infant sex, birthweight, and gestational week at delivery. After excluding women with outlier values for infant birthweight ($n=1$) or maternal 25(OH)D concentrations ($n=7$), the final sample size was 2,558 women (747 from Omega study, 977 from PIN study, and 834 from POUCH study).

Outcome measurement

Infant sex- and gestational age-specific birthweight z-scores (BWz) were used to represent BW/GA. Infant birthweight (grams) and sex were abstracted from the hospital medical records. Calculation of gestational age (weeks) varied across studies: 1) In the Omega study and POUCH study, gestational age was calculated according to the first day of the self-reported last menstrual period (LMP) or early ultrasound data from medical records. If both LMP and ultrasound dates were available and were within 14 days, LMP was used to determine gestational age. Otherwise, ultrasound gestational age estimates were used. In the PIN study, gestational age was determined by first ultrasound performed prior to 22 completed weeks of gestation. If no ultrasound was performed prior to the start of week 22, then self-reported LMP was used to date the pregnancy. The BWz was calculated as (infant's birthweight – mean birthweight of the gestational age and sex-specific stratum)/

standard deviation of birthweight from the same stratum. The mean and standard deviation specific to each gestational age and sex stratum come from a referent population.²⁹

Exposure measurement

Stored serum from the three cohorts was assayed in a single laboratory for hydroxyvitamin D₂ (25(OH)D₂) and hydroxyvitamin D₃ (25(OH)D₃) using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry with National Institute of Standards and Technology samples for quality control. The limit of detection was 1.1 ng/mL for 25(OH)D₂ and 0.6 ng/mL for 25(OH)D₃. The median intra-assay coefficients of variation were 7.1% (detectable range 1.4% to 23.0%) and 6.9% (range 1.5% to 12.2%) for 25(OH)D₂ and 25(OH)D₃, respectively. The median inter-assay coefficients of variation were 13.5% (detectable range 3.0% to 28.7%) and 7.4% (range 1.4% to 14.3%) for 25(OH)D₂ and 25(OH)D₃, respectively. Both 25(OH)D₂ and 25(OH)D₃ were combined for a measure of total serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D), regarded as the best available biomarker of vitamin D status. In these analyses, total 25(OH)D is modeled as a continuous variable.

Covariates

Covariates of interest were maternal race/ethnicity (non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic White), maternal age, maternal education (high school or less, post high school), gestational age at blood draw, marital status (married, unmarried), parity (primiparous, multiparous), smoking status during pregnancy (yes, no), vitamins used during pregnancy (yes, no), season of blood draw, and pre-pregnancy body mass index (BMI). Less than 5% of women had missing data for any of these covariates, the largest number being for vitamin use (n=118) and smoking (n=54). Season of blood draw was classified as winter (December–February), spring (March–May), summer (June–August), and fall (September–November). Pre-pregnancy BMI, calculated according to self-reported pregnancy height and weight, was categorized as underweight (<18.5 kg/m²), normal (18.5–24.9 kg/m²), overweight (25.0–29.9 kg/m²), and obese (≥30 kg/m²) for descriptive statistics and was treated as a continuous measure in regression models.

Statistical analyses

The heterogeneity of cohort-specific estimates for 25(OH)D was assessed with the DerSimonian and Laird Q statistic, which indicated that the data could be combined across cohorts.³⁰ Analysis of the distribution of 25(OH)D, using histograms and model fitting procedures, indicated it approximated a normal distribution. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to examine maternal characteristics associated with maternal 25(OH)D concentrations. Multivariable linear regression models were used to assess the association between maternal 25(OH)D concentrations and BWz. Covariates were incorporated in adjusted models if they: 1) showed associations with BW/GA and maternal 25(OH)D concentrations in the literature and in our data; 2) affected the magnitude of main effect estimates by greater than 10%; and 3) were not considered to be mediators. A model with 25(OH)D and 25(OH)D squared tested the potential for nonlinearity in the 25(OH)D-BW/GA association. Initially, separate analyses were performed for term and preterm deliveries for two reasons. First, the original study used a nested case-control design with preterm cases and term controls. Second, BWz scores for preterm infants use a mean that is

potentially biased downward (i.e., at a given gestational age a baby born preterm tends to be smaller than its counterpart who remains in-utero). Our goal was to examine if the 25(OH)D-BW/GA association was similar in the two groups, term and preterm, and therefore could be combined.

Consistent with previous reports,^{11,14} we detected a significant difference in the distribution of 25(OH)D serum concentrations between race/ethnic groups; we tested effect modification by maternal race/ethnicity using an interaction term within a regression model. We next tested for interaction by infant sex within each race/ethnic stratum. Finally, we conducted sensitivity analyses by removing women with preeclampsia or gestational diabetes to assess if observed effects were largely explained by these pregnancy complications. Data are presented as beta (β) and standard error (SE) parameter estimates. All statistical tests were two-sided and a 5% level of significance was used throughout. Analyses were performed using SAS, version 9.3, Cary, North Carolina.

Results

The following maternal characteristics were associated with lower mean 25(OH)D concentrations: non-Hispanic Black race/ethnicity, <30 years of age, unmarried, pre-pregnancy obesity, multiparity, smoking, and fewer years of education (Table 1). Women whose blood draw occurred from December to May, and who did not use vitamins during pregnancy also had lower mean 25(OH)D concentrations. Maternal 25(OH)D concentrations did not differ by infant sex ($P=0.44$). Figure 1 displays the distribution of maternal 25(OH)D concentrations in pregnancy by race/ethnicity; there is a left shift in non-Hispanic Black serum 25(OH)D concentrations compared to serum 25(OH)D concentrations in non-Hispanic Whites.

In separate statistical models, a positive relationship between maternal 25(OH)D concentrations and BWz score was observed in both preterm and term deliveries; therefore the two were combined. We present results for the combined analyses and for the term only for comparison (Table 2). The unadjusted general linear regression analysis showed that BWz score increased by 0.012 (SE=0.002, $P<0.001$) per 1 ng/mL increase in maternal 25(OH)D concentrations. The addition of a quadratic term for 25(OH)D did not significantly improve the model fit (data not shown). The linear association remained after adjustment for maternal age, education, parity, pre-pregnancy BMI, season, and smoking during pregnancy. Effect modification by maternal race/ethnicity was demonstrated using an interaction term in the regression model ($P=0.04$, results were unchanged after removing the Omega study which consisted of 37.56% non-Hispanic White women). Tests for effect modification by infant sex within each race/ethnic stratum suggested an interaction within the non-Hispanic White women only ($P=0.11$). A graphical representation reinforced this suggestion (Figure 2). Among non-Hispanic Black women, the positive association between maternal 25(OH)D concentrations and BW/GA (BWz) was of similar magnitude in pregnancies with female or male infants (adjusted $\beta=0.015$, SE=0.007, $P=0.025$; $\beta=0.018$, SE=0.006, $P=0.003$, respectively) (Table 2). Among non-Hispanic White women, the 25(OH)D-BW/GA association was observed only with male infants and the magnitude was less ($\beta=0.008$, SE=0.003, $P=0.02$), approximately half that of non-Hispanic Black women.

Analyses confined to term deliveries produced similar results, however, estimates were less stable due to limited statistical power. After removing women with preeclampsia or gestational diabetes, the positive association between maternal 25(OH)D concentrations and BWz scores persisted in all three of the four strata (data not shown).

Comment

This multi-cohort study found that maternal serum concentrations of 25(OH)D in early and mid-pregnancy were positively associated with BW/GA among non-Hispanic Black male and female infants and non-Hispanic White male infants. Comparison of our findings to those from previous studies of maternal 25(OH)D levels and BW/GA is challenging due to marked variation in study designs and analytic strategies across studies.

Results from studies examining maternal 25(OH)D concentrations and offspring birthweight, a measure affected by both fetal growth and gestational age at delivery, have been inconsistent. Observational studies following this approach have often failed to find an association.^{17–24} However, one multi-ethnic cohort study of 3,730 women in the Netherlands found significantly different mean birthweights for different 25(OH)D levels (<12 ng/mL: 3418g; <20 ng/mL: 3505g; 20 ng/mL: 3559g; $P<0.001$).³¹ A recent meta-analysis of observational studies evaluating maternal 25(OH)D levels and pregnancy outcomes by Aghajafari *et al.* used a binary measure of 25(OH)D with a cutoff level of <15 ng/mL.³² Their summary indicated that the low 25(OH)D group had significantly lower birthweight (mean difference -130.9 g; 95% confidence Interval (CI): $-186.7, -75.1$ g). Recently, data from three clinical trials were pooled by Thorne-Lyman *et al.*³³ Results from this study suggested that 25(OH)D supplementation led to a significant 60% reduction in the risk of low birthweight. Another approach has been to study maternal 25(OH)D status and its relation to SGA, a categorical variable commonly used to denote fetal growth. A Netherlands-based cohort study showed that the odds of SGA among women with 25(OH)D <12 ng/mL was almost two-fold that of women with 25(OH)D 20 ng/mL (adjusted odds ratio (OR)=1.9, 95% CI: 1.4, 2.7).³¹ In the meta-analysis by Aghajafari *et al.*, low 25(OH)D levels (<15 ng/mL) in pregnancy were associated with an increased risk of delivering an SGA infant, even after adjusting for potential confounders (pooled adjusted OR=2.1, 95% CI: 1.5, 2.7).³² In another meta-analysis by Wei *et al.*, six observational studies, including 6,013 women, were pooled.⁴ They found an increased risk of delivering an SGA infant among the low 25(OH)D group when the 25(OH)D cutoff level was <20 ng/mL (pooled OR=1.52, 95% CI: 1.1, 2.2), whereas there was no association detected with a 25(OH)D cutoff level of <30 ng/mL. Taken together, these studies support a positive association between maternal 25(OH)D levels and fetal growth, though the threshold of 25(OH)D for effect on fetal growth is uncertain.

In our study, the stronger association between 25(OH)D concentrations and BW/GA observed in non-Hispanic Black versus non-Hispanic White women may be due to a greater effect in the lowest end of the 25(OH)D distribution where there are limited data for non-Hispanic Whites. Among other studies examining effect modification by race/ethnicity, Bodnar *et al.* reported evidence of a U-shaped association between maternal 25(OH)D levels and SGA in white women but not in non-Hispanic Black women.¹¹ In Bodnar *et al.* nested

case-control study there was a relatively small sample of non-Hispanic Black women delivering SGA infants. Ertl *et al.* found that at 11–13 weeks' gestation, 25(OH)D concentrations below 10th percentile were more common among pregnancies with SGA infants.¹⁴ This association was statistically significant in white women. In non-Hispanic Black women, the effect size was slightly less and sample size was limited for adequate statistical power. Our observed effect modification by race/ethnicity might also be explained by other factors associated with race/ethnicity that are also synergistic with vitamin D in their effects on fetal growth. Examples of these synergistic factors include maternal diet quality, physical activity, and pre-pregnancy vascular health. Among non-Hispanic White women in our study, the positive association between maternal 25(OH)D concentrations and BW/GA was confined to male infants, perhaps suggesting vulnerability for males, even within the moderately low 25(OH)D range. One previous study examined effect modification by infant sex and likewise reported a stronger association between maternal 25(OH)D status and fetal growth in male offspring.²⁵ The authors hypothesized that male and female infants respond differently to maternal nutritional stimuli, including maternal 25(OH)D status.²⁵

The biological plausibility of an association between maternal vitamin D levels and fetal growth rests on direct and indirect mechanisms. The fetus relies on maternal sources of vitamin D for bone remodeling and muscle function. Vitamin D is also involved in pathways that affect trophoblast invasion and angiogenesis, which are essential for adequate placenta implantation and fetal growth.⁴

From a clinical perspective, it may be helpful to translate our birthweight z-score results to birthweight differences between infants born to mothers with deficient vs sufficient levels of 25(OH)D in pregnancy, defined here by Institute of Medicine (IOM) criteria.³⁴ For example, among non-Hispanic Black male infants delivered at 40 weeks' gestation (term), those born to mothers with a 25(OH)D level of 11ng/ml (the cutpoint for lowest quintile in this population of non-Hispanic Black mothers and considered deficient by IOM criteria) were, on average, 56g lighter than infants born to mothers with a 25(OH)D level of 20ng/ml (IOM cutpoint for sufficient). At 32 weeks' gestation, this birthweight decrement is estimated to be, on average, 49g.

Our study had multiple strengths. By combining cohorts, the data included pregnant women from three different geographic areas in the United States, the sample size was relatively large, and the women represented diverse demographic characteristics. The large sample size and the diversity permitted an assessment of effect modification by maternal race/ethnicity and infant sex. In addition, the 25(OH)D concentrations were measured by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry, which is currently the most accurate technique.³⁵ A measure of serum 25(OH)D, with a half-life of about 2–3 weeks, reflects dietary and skin sources of the vitamin. Moreover, our study collected detailed data on several possible confounding variables. We used sex- and gestational age-specific birthweight z-scores as a proxy measure for fetal growth, instead of birthweight, which reflects a mixture of fetal growth and timing of delivery.

There were also study limitations worth noting. Women's 25(OH)D concentrations were measured only once and almost all measures were obtained before the third trimester. We do not know which trimester(s) in pregnancy are most relevant, but repeated measures of maternal 25(OH)D concentrations during pregnancy would be useful in future studies to examine this question. Due to the varying study protocols, the algorithm for determining gestational age across the three studies varied. Regardless of the small variation in approaches to calculating gestational age, results were rigorous enough to be consistent across the three population samples. The serum was assayed in 2011, thus some maternal blood samples were stored up to 15 years before being assayed for 25-Hydroxyvitamin D levels. However, if prolonged storage resulted in concentration decline it would be non-differential and therefore our results may underestimate effect sizes. Because samples were obtained 7–19 years ago, they may not reflect the current distribution of maternal vitamin D levels. We lacked information on lifestyle factors, such as diet and physical activity, which could act as confounders. While maternal early and mid-pregnancy 25(OH)D concentrations may affect risk of pregnancy complications, pregnancy conditions associated with poor fetal growth might also influence maternal 25(OH)D status (reverse causation). We attempted to partially address this concern through our sensitivity analysis that removed women with preeclampsia and gestational diabetes and showed that results were relatively unchanged. We also lacked measure of vitamin D binding protein which can impact bioavailability of 25(OH)D and may vary by race.³⁶ Regrettably, we did not have adequate sample size to consider the categorical variable, SGA, in the context of the observed effect modifications by race/ethnicity and infant sex.

Our results suggest that low maternal 25(OH)D concentrations may affect BW/GA. However, further research is indicated to better understand the role of vitamin D in BW/GA and the adequate levels of maternal serum vitamin D needed for optimal fetal growth. The challenges of unmeasured confounding by multiple lifestyle factors and the recent controversy over the biological meaning of vitamin D status measured as total 25(OH)D suggest that observational studies alone cannot guide clinical practice.³⁵ Large, well-designed randomized controlled trials of vitamin D supplementation in pregnancy are needed to assess effects on fetal growth and health.

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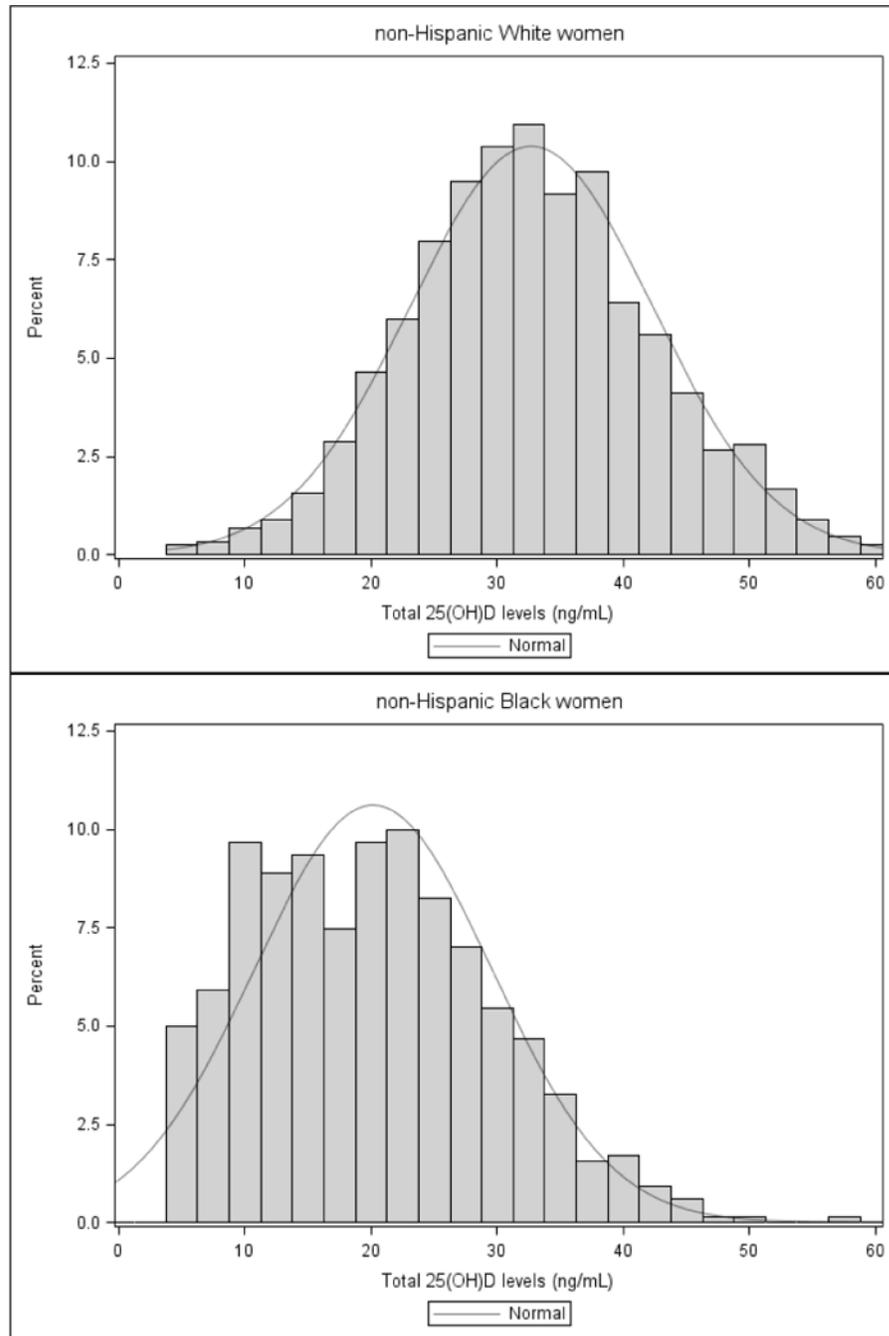


Figure 1.
The distribution of maternal 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) concentrations by maternal race/ethnicity, three-cohort study, 1996–2008
Abbreviations: 25(OH)D, 25-hydroxyvitamin D

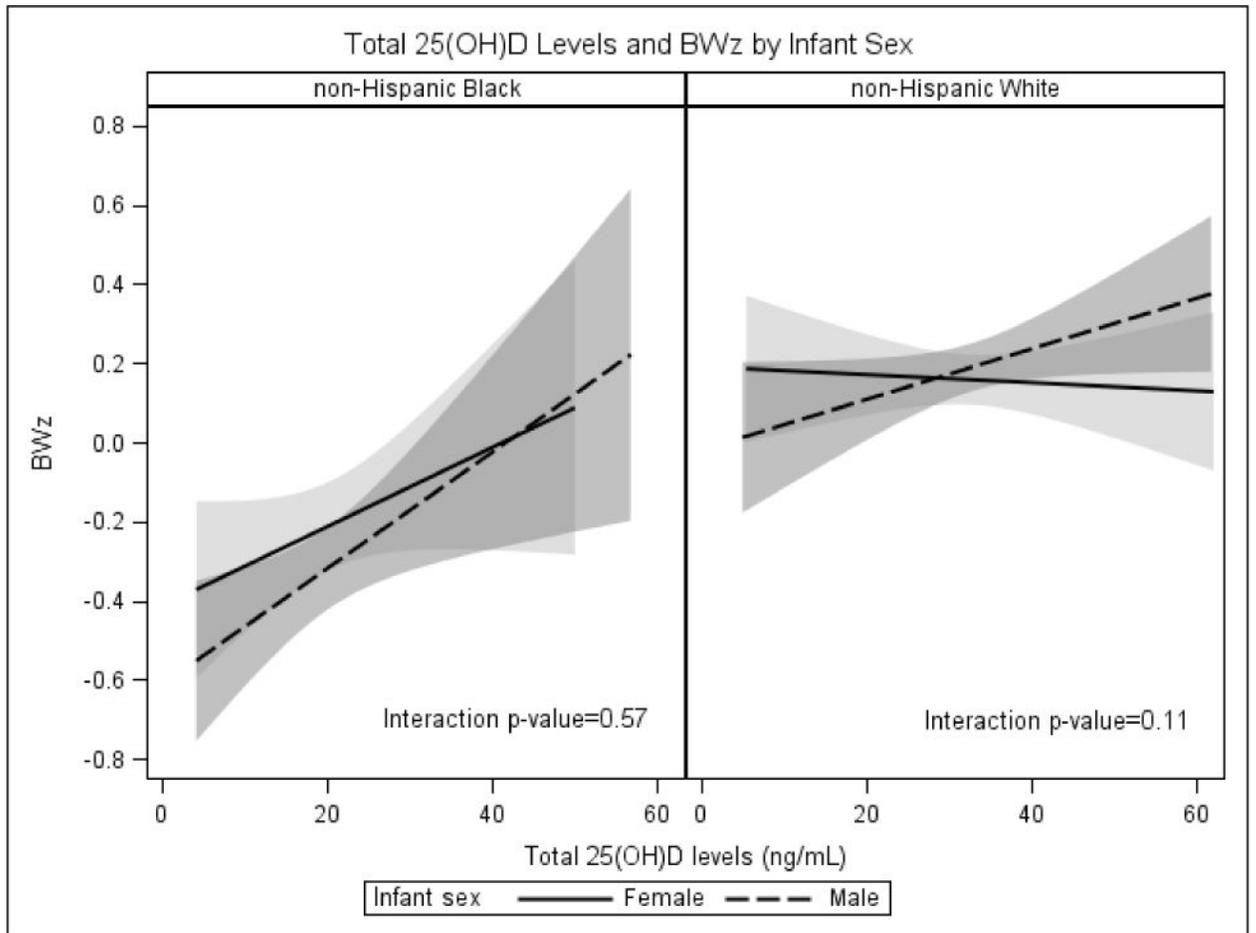


Figure 2.

The association between maternal 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) concentrations and sex- and gestational age-specific birthweight z-scores by maternal race/ethnicity and infant sex, three-cohort study, 1996–2008

Abbreviations: 25(OH)D, 25-hydroxyvitamin D; BWz, birthweight z-scores

Table 1

Sample characteristics and the frequency distribution and mean 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) concentrations (ng/mL), three-cohort study, 1996–2008

	N (%)	25(OH)D concentrations (ng/mL)	
		Mean (SD)	p-value ^a
25(OH)D concentrations	2558	29.6 (11.0)	
Race/ethnicity			<0.0001
non-Hispanic Black	641 (25)	20.2 (9.4)	
non-Hispanic White	1917 (75)	32.7 (9.6)	
Education ^b			<0.0001
High school or less	780 (31)	26.7 (12.0)	
Post high school	1761 (69)	30.9 (10.3)	
Age (years)			<0.0001
<20	231 (9)	26.8 (11.3)	
20–29	1100 (43)	28.6 (11.9)	
30–39	1134 (44)	31.0 (10.0)	
40	93 (4)	30.6 (8.5)	
Marital status ^b			<0.0001
Married	1654 (65)	31.7 (10.0)	
Unmarried	902 (35)	25.7 (11.7)	
Gestation age at blood draw (weeks)			0.01
<14	227 (9)	28.1 (7.3)	
14–26	2100 (82)	29.9 (11.2)	
27	231 (9)	28.3 (12.3)	
Season of blood draw			<0.0001
December-February	592 (23)	28.3 (11.2)	
March-May	736 (29)	27.2 (10.8)	
June-August	607 (24)	32.7 (10.7)	
September-November	623 (24)	30.5 (10.5)	
Prepregnancy BMI ^{bc}			<0.0001
Underweight	117 (5)	29.8 (12.7)	
Normal weight	1398 (55)	31.5 (10.3)	
Overweight	506 (20)	29.1 (10.6)	
Obese	530 (21)	25.2 (11.4)	
Smoking status during pregnancy ^b			0.004
No	2029 (81)	29.9 (10.7)	
Yes	475 (19)	28.3 (12.1)	
Parity ^b			<0.0001
Primiparous	1305 (51)	30.7 (10.2)	
Multiparous	1252 (49)	28.4 (11.7)	
Vitamins used during pregnancy ^b			<0.0001

		<u>25(OH)D concentrations (ng/mL)</u>		
		N (%)	Mean (SD)	p-value ^a
Infant sex	No	327 (13)	25.0 (12.0)	0.44
	Yes	2113 (87)	30.5 (10.6)	
	Female	1258 (49)	29.4 (11.1)	
	Male	1300 (51)	29.8 (10.9)	

Abbreviations: SD, standard deviation; 25(OH)D, 25-hydroxyvitamin D; BMI, body mass index

^a P-value for the global comparison test within the separate variables.

^b There are missing values for these variables; smoking is missing 54, vitamins used during pregnancy is missing 118, and the remainders are missing less than 20.

^c Underweight is <18.5 kg/m², normal is 18.5–24.9 kg/m², overweight is 25.0–29.9 kg/m², and obese is ≥30 kg/m².³⁷

Table 2
The associations between maternal 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) concentrations (ng/mL) and sex- and gestational age-specific birthweight z-scores by maternal race/ethnicity and infant sex, three-cohort study, 1996–2008

	Unadjusted model			Adjusted model ^a		
	β	SE	P-value	β	SE	P-value
All women combined (n=2,558)	0.012	0.002	<0.001	0.014	0.002	<0.001
non-Hispanic White female infants (n=934)	-0.001	0.003	0.756	0.002	0.003	0.508
non-Hispanic White male infants (n=983)	0.006	0.003	0.053	0.008	0.003	0.022
non-Hispanic Black female infants (n=324)	0.010	0.006	0.100	0.015	0.007	0.025
non-Hispanic Black male infants (n=317)	0.015	0.006	0.009	0.018	0.006	0.003
Women with term deliveries only (n=1,702)	0.011	0.002	<0.001	0.014	0.002	<0.001
non-Hispanic White female infants (n=645)	-0.004	0.004	0.368	0.003	0.004	0.545
non-Hispanic White male infants (n=632)	0.004	0.004	0.386	0.007	0.004	0.117
non-Hispanic Black female infants (n=213)	0.007	0.007	0.311	0.014	0.007	0.052
non-Hispanic Black male infants (n=212)	0.014	0.007	0.050	0.015	0.008	0.048

Abbreviations: 25(OH)D, 25-hydroxyvitamin D; β , beta; SE, standard error

^a Adjusted for maternal age, education, parity, pre-pregnancy body mass index, season at blood draw, and smoking status during pregnancy.