



THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN LIVING WITHIN INSTITUTIONALIZED CARE: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

BACKGROUND

An estimated **2.7 MILLION CHILDREN** live in institutionalized care worldwide. This review evaluated currently available data on the nutritional status of children living within institutionalized care.



METHODS

Using our search strategy, we looked for peer-reviewed research published between January 1990 and January 2019 in four databases: Pubmed/Medline, CINHAI Plus, Embase and Global Health Database. Studies that included information on the anthropometry or micronutrient status of children living within institutionalized care were eligible for inclusion.

RESULTS

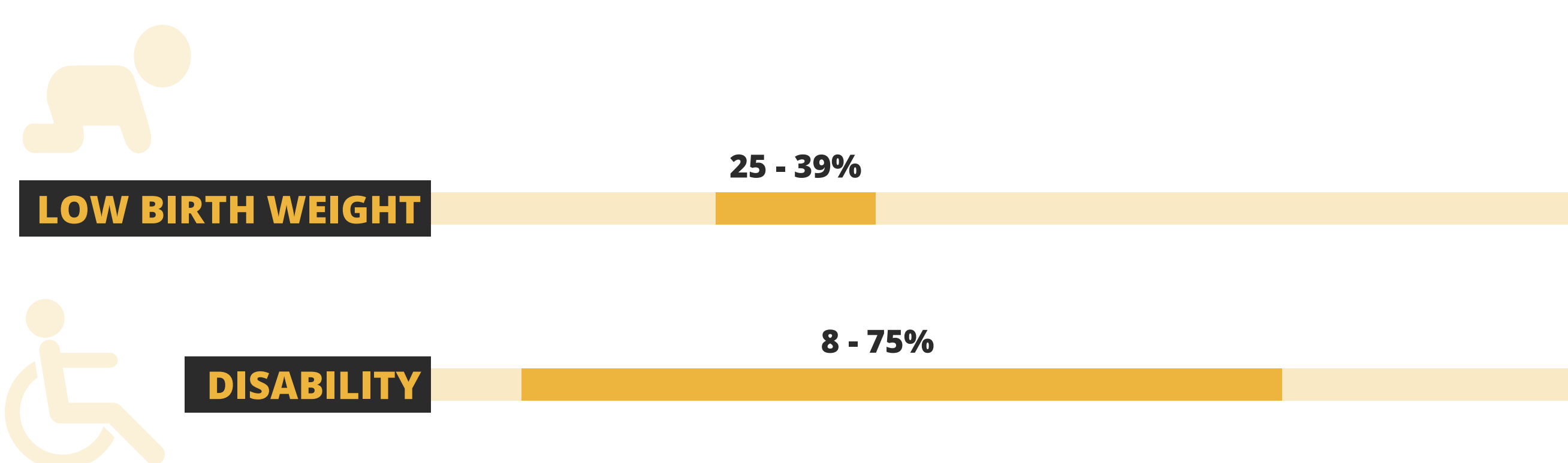
From the 3,602 titles screened, we reviewed 98 full texts and found that **25 papers were eligible**. Two studies reported data from multiple regions. The other studies reported data from the following regions:



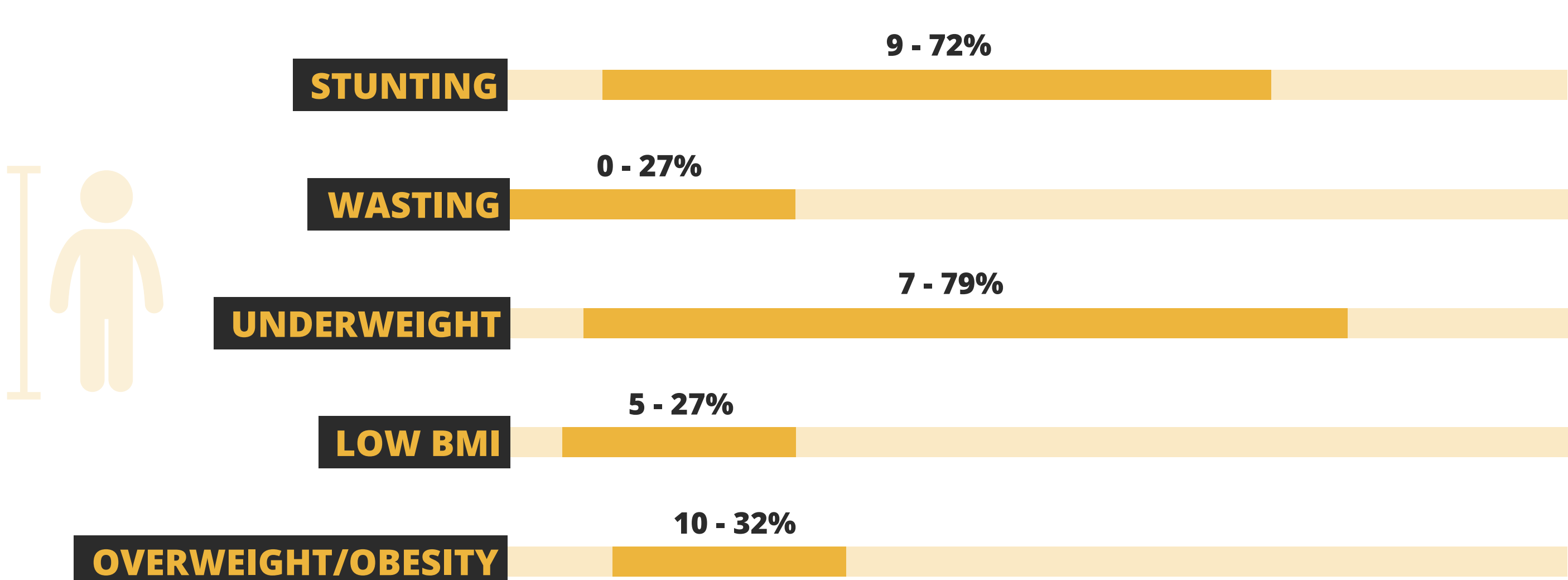
Twenty-two (88%) studies were cross sectional. Half of the studies with dietary information found inadequate intake or diet diversity.



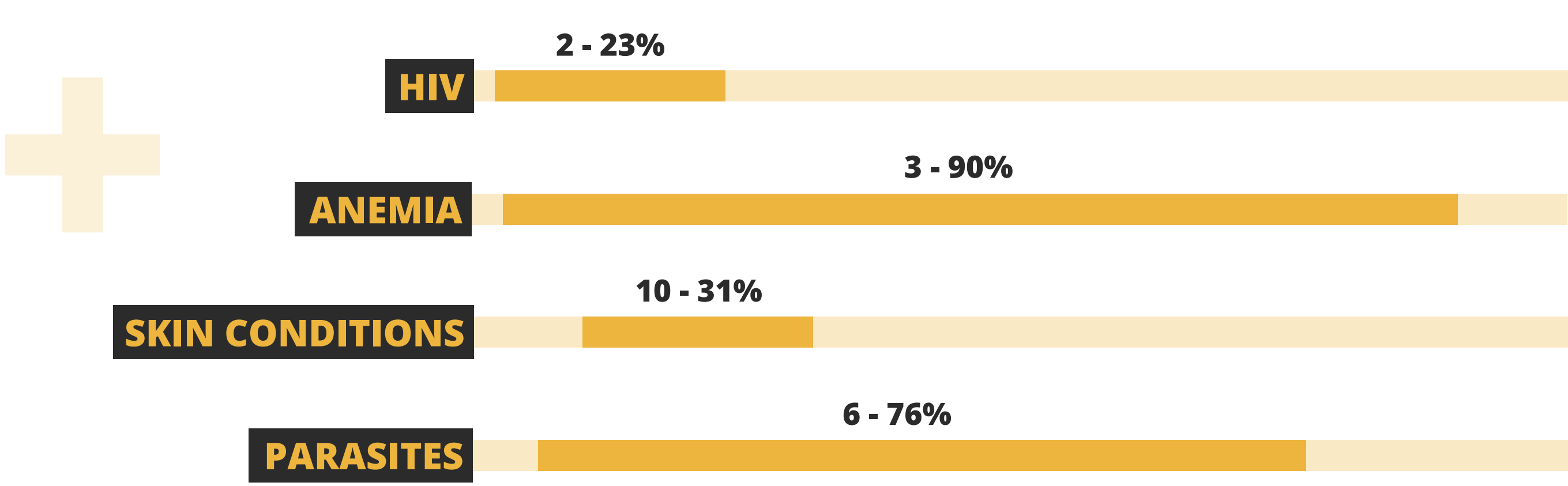
PREVALENCE OF HEALTH IMPACTING ISSUES



ANTHROPOMETRIC INDICATORS:



PREVALENCE OF:



CONCLUSIONS

There is a **limited amount of quality evidence-based data** available on the nutritional status of children in institutions, especially for those with disabilities.

Children living within institutionalized care were **commonly malnourished**.

There needs to be a **greater focus on improving the nutritional status** of children living in institutional care, especially for younger children and children with disabilities.

More information about children’s nutritional status is needed to support the millions of children living within institutionalized care to fully address their right and need for healthy development.

