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[Association between an anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern and diabetes in British adults: Results from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey rolling programme Years 1-4.](#)

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**Association between an anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern and diabetes in British adults: Results from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey rolling programme Years 1-4**

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3 1 **Association between an anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern and**  
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5 2 **diabetes in British adults: Results from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey rolling**  
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7 3 **programme Years 1-4**  
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3 26 **Abstract**  
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5 27 This study investigated the cross-sectional association between an anti-inflammatory and  
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7 28 anti-oxidant dietary pattern and diabetes in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey rolling  
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9 29 programme Years 1-4. A total of 1531 survey members provided dietary data. Reduced Rank  
10  
11 30 Regression was used to derive an anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern. Serum  
12  
13 31 C-reactive protein and plasma carotenoids were selected as response variables and markers of  
14  
15 32 inflammation and antioxidant status, respectively. Overall, 52 survey members had diabetes.  
16  
17 33 The derived anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern was inversely related to C-  
18  
19 34 reactive protein and positively to carotenoids. It was associated with lower odds of diabetes  
20  
21 35 (multivariate adjusted OR for highest compared with lowest quintile: 0.17; 95%CI: 0.04-0.73;  
22  
23 36 *P* for linear trend=0.013). In conclusion, an anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary  
24  
25 37 pattern is inversely related to diabetes. Further research is required to understand the overall  
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27 38 framework within which foods and nutrients interact to affect metabolic pathways related to  
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29 39 diabetes risk.  
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iew Only

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3 41 **Keywords:** Glycosylated Haemoglobin; C-reactive protein; carotenoids; dietary patterns;  
4  
5 42 National Diet and Nutrition Survey; Diet; Nutritional epidemiology  
6

7 43 **Abbreviations:** National Diet and Nutrition Survey NDNS; Reduced Rank Regression RRR;  
8  
9 44 C-reactive protein CRP; Odds Ratio OR; Lower reference nutrient intake LRNI; Diet In  
10  
11 45 Nutrients Out (DINO); Glycosylated haemoglobin Hb<sub>A1c</sub>; Computer Assisted Personal  
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13 46 Interview CAPI; National Statistics Socio-economic Classification NSSEC  
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## 49 INTRODUCTION

50 Inflammation and oxidative stress play a central role in the pathophysiology of type 2  
51 diabetes (Rosen et al. 2001;Spranger et al. 2003). However, to date, little is known of how  
52 various dietary components interact to influence this inflammatory and anti-oxidant process  
53 and subsequently the development of type 2 diabetes. Most current research has focused on  
54 assessing individual nutrients or foods in relation to diabetes risk. Such research ignores the  
55 complexity of eating behaviour and diet providing an oversimplified view of the role of  
56 nutrition in chronic disease prevention (Sievenpiper and Dworatzek 2013). Although  
57 globally the role of diet as a whole is increasingly recognised in the nutritional management  
58 of diabetes, the same is not true for prevention (Sievenpiper and Dworatzek 2013). Of the  
59 few studies that have investigated the relationships between dietary patterns and diabetes,  
60 most assessed diet using food frequency questionnaires, a method that captures data on usual  
61 intake and remains useful in assessing dietary intake in large cohorts, but which also suffers  
62 from systematic bias due to errors in estimating portion size and limitations concerning the  
63 food groups included in the questionnaires (Schulze et al. 2005;Nettleton et al.  
64 2007;Nettleton et al. 2008). Because foods are consumed in combination, it is imperative for  
65 observational studies to utilise more advanced methods of analysis to investigate diet-disease  
66 relationships. Reduced rank regression (RRR) is more effective than the widely-used  
67 principal component analysis, since it permits the use of prior knowledge to identify dietary  
68 patterns that explain as much variation as possible in a set of response variables presumed to  
69 be related to disease risk (Hoffmann et al. 2004;Hoffmann et al. 2005;Michels and Schulze  
70 2005;Schulze and Hoffmann 2006;DiBello et al. 2008). The resulting dietary patterns thus  
71 provide information on potential biological pathways that link diet to disease (Michels and  
72 Schulze 2005). To our knowledge, only two studies have so far utilised this method to  
73 identify dietary patterns related to biomarkers linked to diabetes (Heidemann et al.

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3 74 2005;Schulze et al. 2005). Of these studies, none has been conducted in the UK or utilised  
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5 75 more robust methods of dietary assessment such as food diaries.  
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8 76 The National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) rolling programme is a cross-  
9  
10 77 sectional survey of a nationally representative sample of the UK population (Whitton et al.  
11  
12 78 2011). It utilises food diaries to collect data on food consumption, nutrient intakes and  
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14 79 nutritional status. This method of dietary assessment is known to correlate more highly with  
15  
16 80 biomarker data [11] and to be less prone to measurement error than food frequency  
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18 81 questionnaires (Heidemann et al. 2005;Stephen 2007). The NDNS rolling programme also  
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20 82 contains up to date information on lifestyle and blood biomarkers in people aged 1.5 years  
21  
22 83 and above living in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, thereby providing a  
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24 84 unique opportunity for studying the association between diet and diabetes in a nationally  
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26 85 representative sample.  
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30 86 The present study investigated the association between an anti-inflammatory and anti-  
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32 87 oxidant dietary pattern derived using reduced rank regression (Hoffmann et al.  
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34 88 2004;Hoffmann et al. 2005;Schulze and Hoffmann 2006) and diabetes status in the National  
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36 89 Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) rolling programme Years 1-4.  
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## 41 **METHODS**

### 42 **Study population**

43  
44 92 The survey design and sampling methods of NDNS have been described extensively in  
45  
46 93 previous studies (Bates et al. 2014). The NDNS rolling programme is a nationally-  
47  
48 94 representative survey of food consumption, nutrient intakes and nutritional status in people  
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50 95 aged 1.5 years and above living in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (Bates et  
51  
52 96 al. 2014). The survey is implemented by a consortium of three organisations: the National  
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54 97 Centre for Social Research (NatCen), MRC Human Nutrition Research, and the Department  
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3 99 of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University College London Medical School.  
4  
5 100 Fieldwork for the NDNS rolling programme began in 2007 and is on-going.  
6

7 101 The overall response rate for fully productive individuals (i.e. those completing three  
8  
9 102 or four dietary recording days) was 56% in Year 1, 57% in Year 2, 53% in Year 3 and 55% in  
10  
11 103 Year 4, giving a sample size of 3,450 fully-productive adults aged 19 years and over (Bates et  
12  
13 104 al. 2014). All individuals who completed three or four days of dietary recording were eligible  
14  
15 105 for a nurse visit. Of these, 1531 adult survey members (19-65 years) went on to have a nurse  
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17 106 visit  
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20  
21 107 This survey was conducted according to the guidelines set in the Declaration of  
22  
23 108 Helsinki. All procedures involving human volunteers were approved by the Oxfordshire  
24  
25 109 Research Ethics Committee and all participants gave informed consent for each phase of the  
26  
27 110 study.  
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30 111

### 31 112 **Dietary assessment**

32  
33 113 Details of dietary assessment have been provided elsewhere (Riley 2010;Department of  
34  
35 114 Health 2011;Whitton et al. 2011). Diet was assessed using 4 day estimated food diaries. In  
36  
37 115 Year 1, the recording period started on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday and included both  
38  
39 116 weekend days. This led to an over-representation of weekend days while Wednesdays were  
40  
41 117 never represented. From Year 2 onwards, the food diary recording period was changed to  
42  
43 118 allow all days of the week to be equally represented. Participants were asked to report all  
44  
45 119 foods and drinks consumed both at home and away from home. Portion sizes were estimated  
46  
47 120 using household measures, weights on labels or by comparison with life-size photographs of  
48  
49 121 spoons and glasses. To improve compliance and recording, food diaries were reviewed by  
50  
51 122 trained interviewers on the second day of recording and participants were asked to clarify any  
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53 123 uncertainties (Bates et al. 2014). When completed, diaries were checked by interviewers with  
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3 124 respondents and missing details added to improve completeness. Diet diaries were coded and  
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5 125 edited using DINO (Diet In Nutrients Out) and nutrient intakes calculated using the NDNS  
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7 126 nutrient databank (Whitton et al. 2011).  
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### 11 128 **Definition of diabetes and biomarkers of glycaemic control**

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14 129 Fasting blood samples were collected for measurements of glycosylated haemoglobin (Hb<sub>A1c</sub>)  
15  
16 130 at four stages of recruitment between February 2008 to March 2009, April 2009 to May 2010,  
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18 131 April 2010 to August 2011, and April 2011 to August 2012 (Bates et al. 2014). For Hb<sub>A1c</sub>  
19  
20 132 analysis, samples were sent by nurses overnight to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.  
21  
22  
23 133 Consistency of measurements was checked by running three controls on each run. Optimal  
24  
25 134 concentration of Hb<sub>A1c</sub> was defined as Hb<sub>A1c</sub> < 6.5%, while survey members with Hb<sub>A1c</sub>  
26  
27 135 values ≥ 6.5% were deemed to have diabetes. Two categories of diabetes status were  
28  
29 136 defined: no diabetes, and self-reported or undiagnosed diabetes. This categorisation was  
30  
31 137 based on self-reported diabetes status and Hb<sub>A1c</sub> concentrations. Survey members were  
32  
33 138 deemed to have no diabetes if they did not report having diabetes and if Hb<sub>A1c</sub> was normal.  
34  
35 139 Survey members who reported having diabetes but had normal or high Hb<sub>A1c</sub> were deemed to  
36  
37 140 have self-reported diabetes. Survey members who did not report having diabetes but had  
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39 141 high Hb<sub>A1c</sub> were considered to have undiagnosed diabetes. Self-reported diabetes was  
40  
41 142 assessed by asking participants the following questions: Do you have any long-standing  
42  
43 143 illness, disability or infirmity? By long-standing I mean anything that has troubled you over a  
44  
45 144 period of time, or that is likely to affect you over a period of time? The variables for  
46  
47 145 longstanding illness had 42 codes. Participants who were assigned the code "diabetes  
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49 146 including hyperglycaemia" were deemed to have self-reported diabetes.  
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3 148 **Additional measures and covariates**  
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5 149 Height and weight were measured using a portable stadiometer and weighing scales. BMI  
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7 150 (weight (kg)/ height (m<sup>2</sup>)) was classified according to the criteria set by the World Health  
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9 151 Organisation and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. A Computer Assisted  
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11 152 Personal Interview (CAPI) was also conducted during the initial visit by trained interviewers  
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13  
14 153 to obtain information on respondent's health status; smoking and drinking habits; socio-  
15  
16 154 economic characteristics; medication use and some usual dietary behaviours. Socio-economic  
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18 155 status was defined based on the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC)  
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20  
21 156 as: 1) higher occupations, 2) intermediate occupations, 3) lower occupations, and 4) never  
22  
23 157 worked or long-term unemployed.  
24

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26  
27 159 **Statistical methods**  
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29 160 Data were weighed to correct for unequal sample selection, non-response for household and  
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31 161 individual interview and non-response to nurse visit (Food Standards Agency. 2010). This  
32  
33 162 weighing factor adjusts for differences in socio-demographic variables, such as age, sex,  
34  
35 163 ethnicity and region, between participants and non-participants to the nurse visit to ensure  
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37 164 survey sample is representative of the UK population (Food Standards Agency. 2010).  
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42 166 Differences between survey members with or without diabetes were assessed using  
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44 167 independent sample t-tests for continuous variables or  $\chi^2$  tests for categorical variables.  
45  
46 168 Trends in energy and macronutrient intake across quintiles of dietary pattern scores were  
47  
48 169 assessed using a non-parametric trend test ("**nptrend**" in Stata), an extension of the Wilcoxon  
49  
50 170 rank-sum test for trend across ordered groups. Bivariate associations were evaluated using  
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52 171 chi-square tests for categorical variables.  
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173 *Reduced Rank Regression*

174 To derive dietary patterns, reduced rank regression (RRR) was used on 49 pre-defined food  
175 groups. Serum C-reactive protein (CRP) a marker of inflammation, and plasma total  
176 carotenoids, a marker of anti-oxidant status, were selected as response variables. These  
177 markers were selected on the basis of their relation to diabetes and influence by diet (Ford et  
178 al. 2003; Higuchi et al. 2015; Sluijs et al. 2015) . Inflammation is known to reduce cellular  
179 anti-oxidant capacity (Khansari et al. 2009), and has been shown to be inversely related to  
180 serum carotenoids through the acute phase response (Schweigert 2001). Likewise, serum  
181 carotenoids have been shown to correlate negatively with CRP and other markers of  
182 inflammation (Kritchevsky et al. 2000). Both response variables were skewed and were log-  
183 transformed prior to inclusion in RRR. Details of quality control procedures and assays used  
184 to measure C-reactive protein and plasma total carotenoids have been published elsewhere  
185 (Public Health England and Food Standards Agency 2014). Briefly, CRP was assayed using a  
186 Dade Behring Dimension RXL Clinical Chemistry Analyser. The assay method is based on a  
187 high sensitivity particle enhanced turbidimetric immunoassay (PETIA) technique, with a  
188 detection range  $\geq 1.0\text{mg/L}$ . Carotenoids were measured by HPLC coupled with a photodiode  
189 array detector using a method derived from Thurnham et al (Thurnham et al. 1988).

190 RRR was run using a STATA module that implements the SAS partial least squares  
191 procedure. The module was installed using the command "ssc install plssas" (2007). Z-  
192 scores were assigned to each survey member indicating how closely their dietary intake  
193 reflects the obtained dietary pattern. Analysis were repeated using food groups adjusted for  
194 energy intake. The resulting factor loadings did not differ from the values obtained using the  
195 absolute food group intake. Consequently, only data from model including absolute food  
196 group intake are presented.

197

198 *Logistic Regression*

199 Odds ratios (ORs) and associated 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for quintiles of dietary  
200 pattern Z-scores in relation to diabetes status were estimated using multivariable logistic  
201 regression models. Model 1 adjusted for age, sex and ethnicity. Model 2 additionally adjusted  
202 for energy intake. Model 3 included all covariates in Model 2 as well as BMI. Finally,  
203 Model 4 included all of the above covariates in addition to adjusting for waist circumference.  
204 These covariates were selected on the basis of their relationship with diet and influence on  
205 diabetes status (Wang et al. 2005;Shai et al. 2006). BMI and waist circumference data were  
206 missing in 8% and 28% of the productive adult sample, respectively. These values were  
207 assumed to be missing at random and consequently imputed as continuous variables by using  
208 multiple imputation. Thirty imputed data sets were created and fitted by using the “ice” and  
209 “mim” packages in Stata (StataCorp LP). Sensitivity analysis were conducted comparing  
210 findings from imputed data and complete case analysis. Additional sensitivity analysis  
211 including social class, smoking status and physical activity as covariates were conducted.  
212 These covariates were subsequently dropped from the final model as they did not add to the  
213 predictive power of the model. Tests for linear trend of the association between quintiles of  
214 dietary patterns and diabetes status were assessed by assigning the median value of each  
215 quintile and modelling the variable as a continuous variable.

216 All statistical analyses were carried out by using Stata Statistical Software version 13.  
217 The *P*-values reported were 2-tailed, and a *P*-value <0.05 was considered statistically  
218 significant.

219

220 **RESULTS**

221 Characteristics of the study population are provided in Table 1, while intakes of food groups  
222 are provided in Table 2. Of the 1531 individuals included in the RRR analysis, 52 had

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3 223 diabetes. Survey members with diabetes were older ( $P<0.001$ ), and had higher BMI  
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5 224 ( $P<0.001$ ) and waist circumference ( $P<0.001$ ) compared to survey members without diabetes.  
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7 225 There were no differences in total energy intake over the day between survey members with  
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10 226 or without diabetes.

11  
12 227 Two dietary patterns were derived using RRR. Dietary pattern 1 explained the  
13  
14 228 maximum variation in response variables (13%) and was inversely related to serum CRP and  
15  
16 229 positively to plasma carotenoids. Correlation coefficients ranged from -0.42 for CRP to 0.90  
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18 230 for plasma carotenoids. This anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern was  
19  
20 231 characterised by high intake of vegetables and fruit and low intake of chips, sugar and white  
21  
22 232 bread (Figure 1). Dietary pattern 2 explained a smaller variation in food intake and was  
23  
24 233 positively associated with serum CRP and plasma carotenoids. As a result, only Dietary  
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26 234 pattern 1 was deemed of interest to the current study.

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28  
29 235 There were significant associations between the anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant  
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31 236 dietary pattern and sex and ethnicity, with a higher proportion of women and non-white  
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33 237 survey members being in the highest quintile of Dietary pattern 1 (Table 3). Energy and  
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35 238 macronutrient intake varied across quintiles of Dietary pattern 1. In particular, there was a  
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37 239 trend towards increased energy intake, protein (expressed as percentage of energy intake), n-3  
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39 240 polyunsaturated fatty acids (expressed as percentage of energy intake), fibre, intrinsic milk  
40  
41 241 sugars and starch across increasing quintiles of Dietary pattern 1. By contrast, there was a  
42  
43 242 trend towards lower carbohydrate intake (expressed as percentage of energy intake),  
44  
45 243 particularly non-milk extrinsic sugars, across quintiles of Dietary pattern 1. There was also a  
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47 244 marginally significant trend towards reduced BMI and waist circumference across quintiles  
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49 245 of Dietary pattern 1 (Table 3).

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52 246 In the logistic regression analysis, the highest quintiles of dietary pattern 1 were  
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54 247 associated with lower ORs of diabetes (OR for highest compared with lowest quintile: 0.17;  
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3 248 95% CI: 0.04-0.73; *P* for linear trend = 0.013; based on adjustment for age, sex, ethnicity and  
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5 249 energy intake) (Table 4). After adjustment for BMI and waist circumference, the association  
6  
7 250 weakened slightly but remained significant (OR for highest compared with lowest quintile:  
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9 251 0.22; 95% CI: 0.05-0.96; *P* for linear trend= 0.047).  
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## 13 253 **DISCUSSION**

### 14 254 **Interpretation of main findings**

15  
16 255 The current study identified a dietary pattern that was inversely associated with biomarkers of  
17  
18 256 inflammation and positively with biomarkers of anti-oxidant status. This anti-inflammatory  
19  
20 257 anti-oxidant dietary pattern, characterised by high intake of vegetables and fruit and low  
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22 258 intake of chips, sugar and white bread, was associated with lower prevalence of type 2  
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24 259 diabetes.  
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29  
30 260 Our findings are consistent with previous research on the association between dietary  
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32 261 patterns and type 2 diabetes risk. In particular, the dietary pattern identified in our study is  
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34 262 comparable to the dietary pattern identified in the Nurses' Health Study (Schulze et al. 2005).  
35  
36 263 In the latter study, the dietary pattern was associated with markers of inflammation and  
37  
38 264 endothelial dysfunction, and was characterised by low intake of vegetables and high intake of  
39  
40 265 sugary beverages. This pattern strongly predicted risk of type 2 diabetes independent of BMI  
41  
42 266 and other diabetes risk factors. In contrast in the current study, the association between the  
43  
44 267 derived dietary pattern and diabetes prevalence was reduced slightly following adjustment for  
45  
46 268 BMI and waist circumference. This may suggest that the relationship between the anti-  
47  
48 269 inflammatory anti-oxidant dietary pattern and diabetes is mediated by BMI and body fat  
49  
50 270 distribution. The latter is in line with previous studies demonstrating that the association  
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52 271 between diet and type 2 diabetes risk could be affected by BMI and body fat distribution For  
53  
54 272 instance, in the EPIC-InterAct study, the association between total protein as well as animal  
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3 273 protein and type 2 diabetes risk was attenuated in men after adjustment for body composition  
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5 274 (van Nielen et al. 2014). In the latter study, obesity - in particular, abdominal obesity - was an  
6  
7 275 independent risk factor for type 2 diabetes that strongly correlated with protein intake (van  
8  
9 276 Nielen et al. 2014). In our study, waist circumference was found to decrease across quintiles  
10  
11 277 of the anti-inflammatory anti-oxidant dietary pattern. This may imply that the observed  
12  
13 278 dietary pattern reflects an anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern related to  
14  
15 279 abdominal obesity, although this would need to be explored further.  
16  
17

18  
19 280 The role of individual foods and nutrients in relation to inflammation and anti-oxidant  
20  
21 281 status is well recognised (Ahluwalia et al. 2013;Barbaresko et al. 2013;Uusitupa and Schwab  
22  
23 282 2013). This knowledge provides us with a basic understanding as to how various dietary  
24  
25 283 constituents exert anti-inflammatory anti-oxidant effects. In the current study, the observed  
26  
27 284 dietary pattern was characterised by increasing intake of vegetables, fruit, nut and fish, and  
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29 285 decreasing intake of chips, sugar and white bread. This, in turn, was reflected in the nutrient  
30  
31 286 composition of the dietary pattern; high intake of protein, omega-3 fatty acids, starch and  
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33 287 fibre across the quintiles, and low intake of carbohydrate, non-milk intrinsic sugars and  
34  
35 288 extrinsic milk sugars. These findings are noteworthy as they provide us with insight into  
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37 289 specific combinations of food and nutrients that might be relevant to reducing inflammation  
38  
39 290 and improving anti-oxidant status. To date, our knowledge of how foods and nutrients  
40  
41 291 interact together and how these need to be combined to achieve a desired health outcome  
42  
43 292 remains limited. What remains clear, however, is that dietary approaches that take into  
44  
45 293 consideration complex interactions between various dietary components have proved to be  
46  
47 294 more effective compared to dietary interventions focusing on a single food or nutrient  
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49 295 (Franco et al. 2004;Shirani et al. 2013). One such example is the DASH diet, which has been  
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51 296 shown consistently to improve cardiovascular disease risk factors (Siervo et al. 2014) and  
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53 297 improve insulin sensitivity (Shirani et al. 2013). Such evidence implies the need to improve  
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3 298 our understanding as to how foods interact to prevent chronic diseases such as type 2  
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5 299 diabetes. In this respect, novel methods such as RRR provide a framework for investigating  
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7 300 diet-disease relationships taking into account existing knowledge of disease pathways.  
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9 301 Nonetheless, there is a need for developing models that will assist nutrition researchers in  
10  
11 302 interpreting dietary patterns further in order to devise dietary recommendations that could  
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13 303 assist in preventing chronic diseases.

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16 304 Two interesting findings of the current study are the relative change in the proportion  
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18 305 of energy obtained from protein versus carbohydrates across quintiles of the dietary pattern,  
19  
20 306 and the variation in fat composition across the quintiles. These findings warrant further  
21  
22 307 investigation in other observational studies on dietary patterns and type 2 diabetes. Most  
23  
24 308 current dietary guidelines focus on adjusting the percentage energy intake from carbohydrates  
25  
26 309 and fat, while maintaining energy intake from protein at 15%. In relation to clinical practice,  
27  
28 310 there has been a gradual shift in the nutritional recommendations for patients with diabetes,  
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30 311 with most current diabetes societies recommending up to 20% of energy intake from protein  
31  
32 312 (Sievenpiper and Dworatzek 2013). However, the debate concerning varying energy intake  
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34 313 from protein in relation to diabetes risk remains controversial (Afshin et al. 2014). In the  
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36 314 European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC)-NL Study, consuming  
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38 315 5% energy from total or animal protein at the expense of 5% energy from carbohydrates or  
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40 316 fat was associated with an increased diabetes risk (Sluijs et al. 2010). Similarly, in the EPIC-  
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42 317 InterAct Case-Cohort Study, high total and animal protein intake was associated with a  
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44 318 modest elevated risk of type 2 diabetes (van Nielen et al. 2014). This is in contrast to findings  
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46 319 from short-term intervention studies demonstrating a beneficial effect of high-protein diets on  
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48 320 weight loss and glycaemic control (Ajala et al. 2013). These discrepancies in findings could  
49  
50 321 be attributed to various factors, including the use of food frequency questionnaires to assess  
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52 322 food and nutrient intake. A reductionist approach to nutrition research could also be a key  
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3 323 factor, as research that does not take into consideration the context within which nutrients are  
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5 324 consumed, often ignores the complexity of diet and the potential additive and synergetic  
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7 325 effects of multiple foods and dietary components (Sievenpiper and Dworatzek 2013).  
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9 326 Nutrients are known to interact differently when present as foods, and as such there is a  
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11 327 pressing need to combine dietary patterns approaches and nutrient approaches in order to gain  
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13 328 a stronger understanding of the role of diet in health and disease.  
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### 330 **Strengths and Weakness of the Study**

331 One of the main weaknesses of the current study compared to previous studies is the cross-  
332 sectional design of the study which limits any causal inferences. Moreover, given that only a  
333 fraction of the productive sample went on to have nurse visits and that the total number of  
334 diabetes cases is relatively small, the extent to which the findings can be generalised is  
335 limited, although data were weighed to overcome this limitation and to account for the  
336 sampling method and non-responsiveness. The small number of cases also hindered further  
337 assessment of differences in dietary pattern between survey members with self-reported and  
338 undiagnosed diabetes, which is an important weakness of the current study compared to  
339 previous studies. The latter investigation could be of interest as it provides insight into  
340 changes in food choices following diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. Despite these weaknesses, it  
341 is important to acknowledge that the NDNS rolling programme is the only cross-sectional  
342 survey in the UK that utilises robust methods of dietary assessment and which is run on a  
343 rolling basis. As such, the NDNS rolling programme provides a unique opportunity to  
344 generate hypothesis and investigate diet-disease relationships. Undoubtedly, this points  
345 towards the importance of continuing to measure biomarkers of diabetes risk in this survey,  
346 as the pseudo-longitudinal design of this study might allow us in the future to improve our

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3 347 understanding of the association between diet and disease, thereby providing the basis for  
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5 348 further research and policy development.  
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## 8 9 350 **CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS**

10 351 The present study identified an anti-inflammatory anti-oxidant dietary pattern which was  
11  
12 352 related to lower prevalence of diabetes. This dietary pattern was characterised by high intake  
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14 353 of vegetables and fruit and low intake of chips, sugar and white bread. This research points  
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16 354 towards the importance of improving our understanding of the relation between diet as a  
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18 355 whole and chronic disease outcomes such as type 2 diabetes, as opposed to focusing on single  
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20 356 food or nutrients. Further research is required to understand the overall framework within  
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22 357 which various foods interact to affect metabolic pathways related to diabetes risk. Moreover,  
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24 358 evidence from observational studies need to be supported by further intervention studies that  
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26 359 can examine the effect of an anti-inflammatory anti-oxidant dietary pattern on biomarkers of  
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28 360 glucose metabolism. Finally, more research is required to understand the effect of varying  
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30 361 energy intake from the various macronutrients whilst taking into account macronutrient  
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32 362 sources and the overall diet. Such research will undoubtedly form the basis for developing  
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34 363 public health policies that take into consideration the complex nature of diet, shifting the  
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36 364 paradigm towards a more holistic view of nutrition.  
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14 377 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**  
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16 378 The authors declare no conflict of interest.  
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21 380 **AUTHORSHIP**  
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23 381 LM was responsible for analysing and interpreting data, drafting the article and revising and  
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25 382 approving the final draft. CRM supervised the project, assisted with data interpretation,  
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27 383 revised, edited and approved the final draft of the manuscript. SA conceptualised the study,  
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29 384 assisted in the analyses and data interpretation, supervised the research, wrote and revised the  
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Table 1 Characteristics of study population (n=1531). Data are presented as means and SDs for continuous variables or as counts and percentages for categorical variables.

	<u>Diabetes Status</u>						P-value*
	No			Yes			
	Unweighted N	Mean (or count)	SD (or %)	Unweighted N	Mean (or count)	SD (or %)	
Dietary pattern z-score	1479	0.04	1.05	52	-0.16	1.21	0.195
Age (years)	1479	42	12	52	51	11	<0.001
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	1369	27.7	5.5	46	31.6	5.7	<0.001
Waist circumference (cm)	1054	93.1	14.6	42	105.2	16.2	<0.001
Total daily energy (kcal)	1479	1828	584	52	1716	633	0.175
Sex (% female)		842	56.9		28	53.9	0.659
Ethnicity (% non-white)		148	10.0		8	15.4	0.208
Smoking							
% ex-regular smoker		293	19.8		16	30.8	0.103
% current smoker		387	26.2		9	17.3	

\* P-value from 2-sided test for difference by diabetes status.

Table 2 Intake of food groups (grams) and percentage consumers of study population.

Food group	N	Consumers (%)	Mean	SD
Bacon and ham	1531	(59)	15	20
Beer, lager, cider and perry	1531	(33.6)	199	491
Biscuits	1531	(60.9)	13	18
Brown granary and wheat germ bread	1531	(34.2)	14	27
Buns, cakes, pastries and fruit pies	1531	(48.7)	17	27
Burgers and kebabs	1531	(13.1)	6	19
Butter	1531	(30.4)	3	7
Cheese	1531	(61.4)	29	37
Chicken and turkey dishes	1531	(66.5)	58	75
Chips, fried/roast potatoes and potatoes	1531	(64.3)	41	46
Coated chicken	1531	(14.4)	6	18
confectionery	1531	(48.1)	10	19
Crisps and savoury snacks	1531	(49.3)	7	11
Dry weight beverages	1531	(14.5)	2	10
Eggs and egg dishes	1531	(49.2)	20	36
Fruit	1531	(76.9)	91	104
Fruit juice	1531	(37.6)	52	114
High-fibre breakfast cereals	1531	(42.7)	19	43
Ice-cream	1531	(18.2)	5	13
Low fat milk	1531	(80.5)	117	125
Low fat spread not polyunsaturated	1531	(5.3)	0.44	2
Reduced fat spread not polyunsaturated	1531	(46.7)	4.65	7
Low fat spreads and polyunsaturated fatty acids spreads	1531	(33.8)	3	6
Meat pies and pastries	1531	(23.3)	11	27
Nuts and seeds	1531	76(18)	2	8
Oily fish and other fish	1531	(46.7)	28	50
Other breakfast cereals	1531	(29.3)	6	12
Other meats and meat products	1531	(17.3)	7	24



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Other milk and cream	1531	(19.3)	9	34
Other potatoes, potato salad dishes	1531	(65.2)	45	50
Pasta, rice and other cereals	1531	(76.6)	78	84
Pork and dishes	1531	(19.9)	10	30
Puddings	1531	(22.1)	11	27
Red meat and dishes	1531	(58.3)	61	82
sausages	1531	(32.6)	14	31
Savoury sauces, pickles gravies, condiments	1531	(81.1)	24	28
Soft drinks low calorie	1531	(35.9)	108	235
Soft drinks not low calorie	1531	(49.3)	123	224
Soup homemade and retail	1531	(27.8)	32	66
Spirits and liqueurs	1531	(12.5)	5	25
Sugars preserves and sweet Spreads	1531	(64.4)	11	16
Tea, coffee and water	1531	(98.3)	1104	627
Vegetables	1531	(96.5)	133	103
White bread	1531	(79.4)	50	49
White fish, coated or fried	1531	(21.6)	8	18
Wholemeal bread and other bread	1531	(41.5)	20	35
Whole milk	1531	(18.9)	23	73
Wine	1531	(33.9)	65	137
Yogurt, fromage frais and dairy desserts	1531	(37.5)	28	49

Figure 1 Factor loading for the anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern.

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Table 3 Survey member characteristics and macronutrient intake according to quintiles of the anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern.

	Quintile of dietary pattern (1=lowest quintile, 5=highest)										P-Value
	1		2		3		4		5		
	Mean (n=307)	SD	Mean (n=306)	SD	Mean (n=306)	SD	Mean (n=306)	SD	Mean (n=306)	SD	
Ethnicity (% non-white)	2.6		5.6		10.8		12.4		19.6		<0.001
Sex (% female)	47.2		55.9		64.4		62.4		54.2		<0.001
Age (yrs)	41.8	12.7	41.7	12.7	43.1	12.9	42.0	12.1	43.6	12.1	0.107
Waist circumference (cm)	67.9	45.4	69.7	45.1	64.9	44.2	66.3	43.2	64.6	44.4	0.025
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	26.0	9.5	26.2	9.5	25.4	9.4	26.0	8.6	24.8	9.5	0.050
Energy (kcal)	1855.6	685.3	1714.6	492.8	1780.5	504.0	1882.6	505.5	2036.4	545.0	<0.001
Food energy (kcal)	1730.2	579.4	1620.5	440.6	1691.4	454.0	1778.6	494.5	1924.9	516.4	<0.001
Protein (% Energy)	15.0	4.0	16.3	3.4	16.9	3.7	16.8	3.5	17.2	4.2	<0.001
Fat (% Energy)	32.8	6.7	33.5	6.2	33.0	5.8	32.5	6.4	32.8	6.8	0.345
Saturated fatty acids (% Energy)	12.1	3.5	12.5	3.4	12.1	3.1	11.9	3.3	11.8	3.4	0.093
Cis-monounsaturated fatty acids (% Energy)	12.1	2.8	12.1	2.6	11.9	2.6	11.8	2.7	11.8	3.1	0.053
Cis-n6 fatty acids (% Energy)	4.7	1.5	4.8	1.4	4.9	1.4	4.7	1.4	4.9	1.8	0.663
Cis-n3 fatty acids (% Energy)	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.008
Transfattyacids (% Energy)	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.353
Carbohydrate (% Energy)	46.4	7.6	45.4	7.8	45.6	7.2	45.6	7.9	44.7	7.7	0.008
Starch (g)	127.5	47.4	120.9	35.7	120.1	39.7	130.3	41.2	140.1	43.1	<0.001
Total sugars (g)	104.6	53.2	87.4	44.1	94.8	40.4	96.8	44.3	98.1	37.5	0.297
Nonmilkextrinsicsugars (g)	74.6	48.9	55.1	40.2	55.2	34.6	56.8	37.1	52.2	30.8	<0.001
Intrinsicandmilksugars (g)	30.0	17.1	32.3	15.1	39.6	16.4	40.0	17.9	45.9	19.6	<0.001
Fibre (g)	11.6	4.4	12.3	4.0	13.6	3.7	14.8	4.7	17.3	5.0	<0.001

Table 4 Associations between quintiles of the anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern and OR (95% CI) of diabetes\*.

	Quintile of dietary pattern (1=lowest quintile, 5=highest) †					P-value for linear trend
	1	2	3	4	5	
Model 1‡	1.0 (Ref)	0.66 (0.21, 2.08)	0.55 (0.16, 1.93)	0.5 (0.18, 1.4)	0.16 (0.04, 0.69)	0.008
Model 2	1.0 (Ref)	0.66 (0.21, 2.06)	0.56 (0.16, 1.94)	0.52 (0.19, 1.48)	0.17 (0.04, 0.76)	0.014
Model 3	1.0(Ref)	0.74(0.23,2.36)	0.69(0.2,2.41)	0.64 (0.22,1.87)	0.21 (0.05,0.92)	0.033
Model 4	1.0 (Ref)	0.69 (0.22, 2.12)	0.69 (0.19, 2.48)	0.69 (0.24, 1.98)	0.22 (0.05, 0.96)	0.047

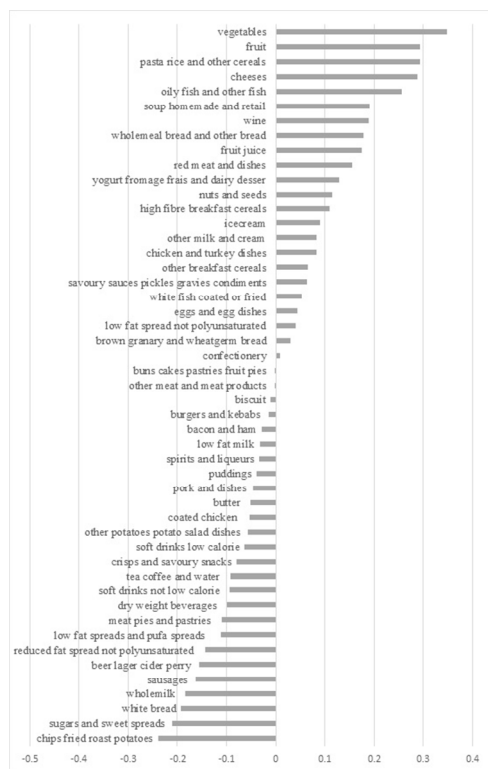
\* Data presented from the multiple imputation model.

† Cutoff values for quintiles of dietary pattern scores were: Q1: -5.4 to -0.8 (n=307), Q2: -0.79 to -0.25 (n=306), Q3: -0.24 to 0.24 (n=306), Q4: 0.25 to 0.83 (n=306), Q5: 0.84 to 5.96 (n=306).

‡ Model 1 adjusted for age (continuous), sex (male vs. female) and ethnicity (white vs. non-white). Model 2 additionally adjusted for energy intake (continuous). Model 3 included all covariates in Model 2 as well as BMI (continuous). Finally, Model 4 included all of the above covariates in addition to adjusting for waist circumference (continuous).

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For Peer Review Only



Factor loading for the anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant dietary pattern.  
304x232mm (96 x 96 DPI)

View Only