

## LEAD IN HUMAN MILK FROM MOTHERS IN KANO NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

Milk samples were collected in June, 1999 from 89 volunteer nursing mothers aged between 18-32 years, prima and multipara living in Kano was determined. The samples were obtained from the first to the 72 week post partum under standardized conditions. This was achieved by the lead-catalyzed oxidation of pyrollgallol by potassium persulphate. Reproducibility was enhanced by employing solvent extraction of the lead in order to minimize interference. The mean lead level in samples was  $1.77 \pm 0.24$   $\mu\text{g/ml}$  with a progressive decrease with the duration of breast-feeding. The established daily lead intake of the breast fed infants in Kano was below the tolerable levels.

**Key words:** Lead, human milk, Kano , Nigeria