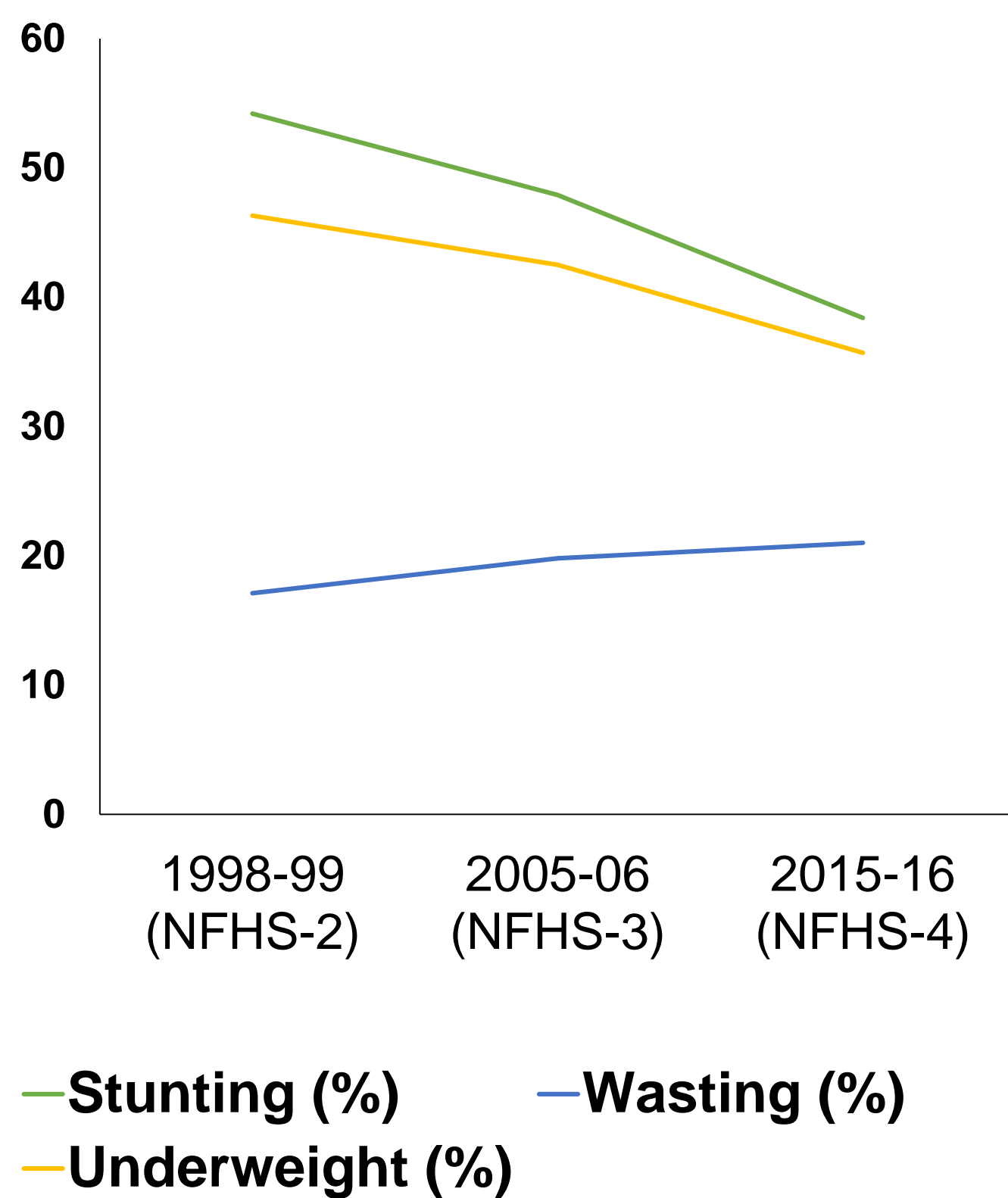


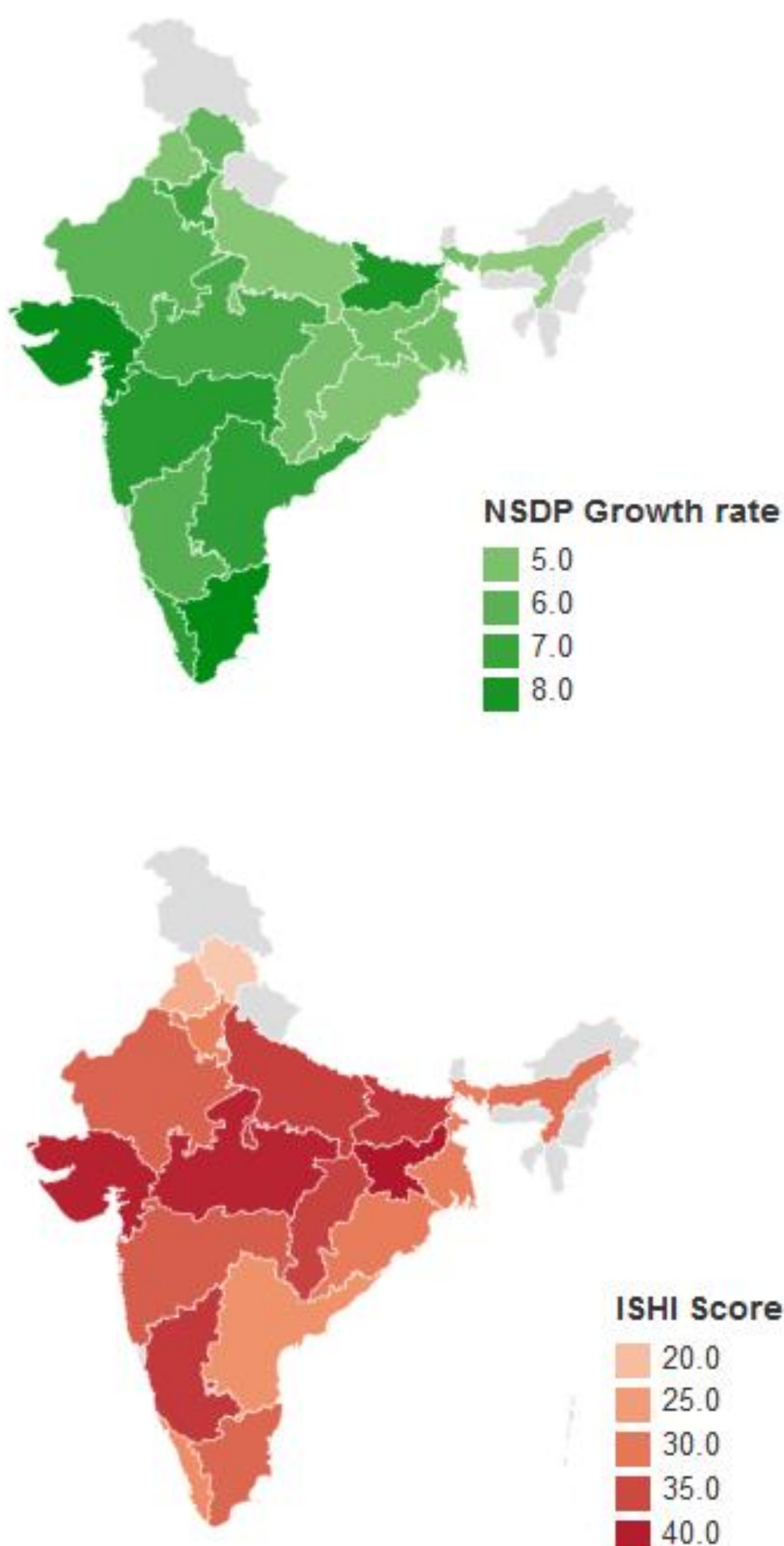
State Intervention in Food Provisioning in India – Impact on Nutrition

Anjana Thampi
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Anthropometric Trends in India



Growth-Nutrition Mismatch



Research Question

What is the impact of the Public Distribution System (PDS) on child anthropometry?

Data

National Sample Survey, 2004-05, 2009-10, 2011-12
India Human Development Survey, 2004-05, 2011-12

Methodology

Propensity Score Matching

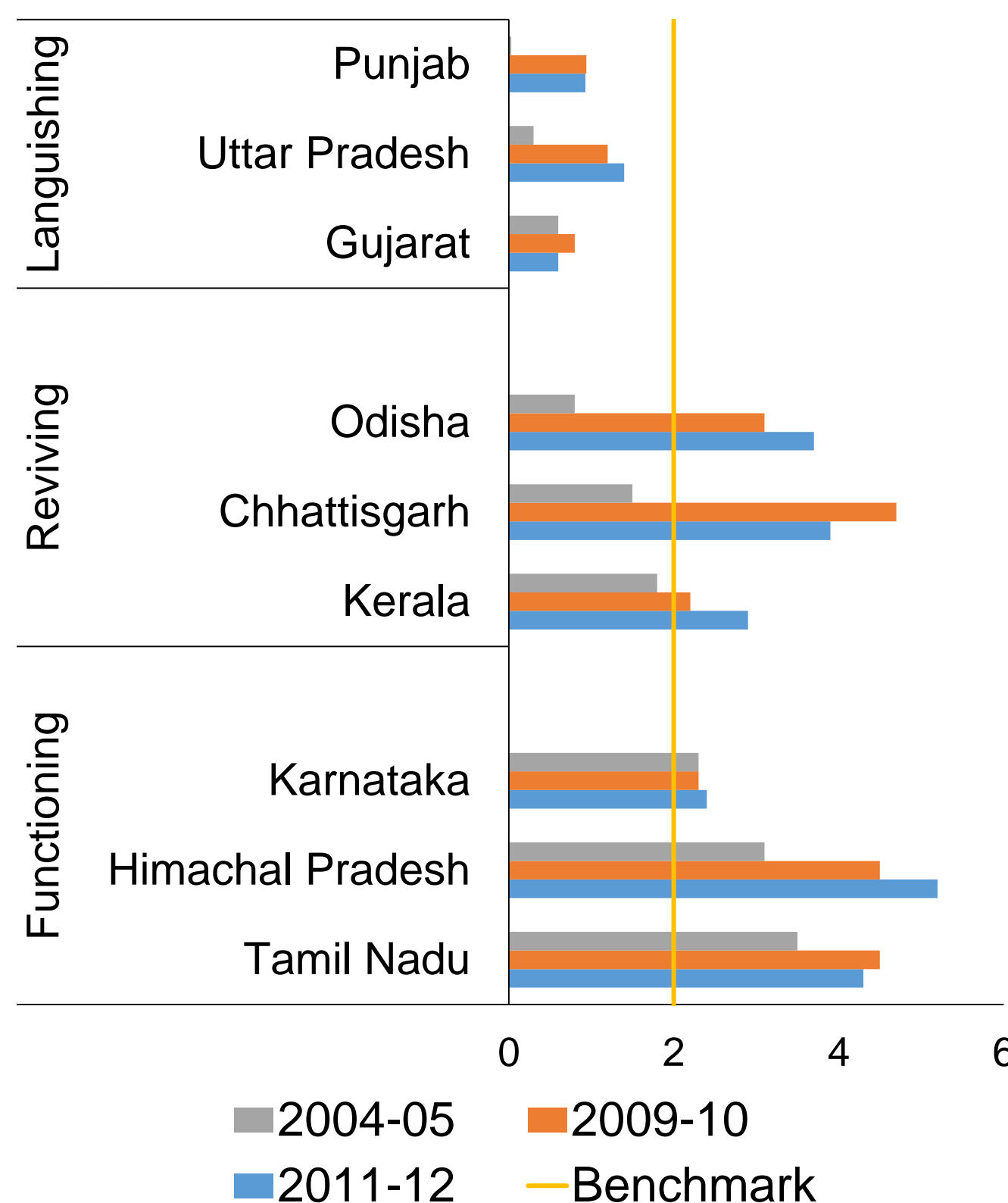
$$H_{i2} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 \cdot PDS_{i2} + \beta_3 \cdot H_{i1} + \beta_4 \cdot C_i + \varepsilon_i$$

H_{i2} = Height-for-age/Weight-for-age Z-score of 7-19 years in 2011-12

H_{i1} = Height-for-age/Weight-for-age Z-score of same child in 2004-05

PDS_{i2} = HH purchase of PDS cereals in 2011-12 (= 0 or 1)

Monthly Per capita Purchase of PDS Cereals (kg)



Results

Estimated Impact of PDS, 2011-12

Functioning States		
State	Height-for-age Z-score	Weight-for-age Z-score
Tamil Nadu	0.54**	#
Himachal Pradesh	0.38	0.16
Karnataka	0.29*	0.22
Reviving States		
Kerala	0.22	0.54*
Chhattisgarh	0.36***	0.45***
Odisha	0.08	0.02
Languishing States		
Gujarat	-0.18	-0.22
Uttar Pradesh	-0.08	0.02
Punjab	0.01	-0.12

Mechanism: Dietary Diversity?

Higher dietary diversity in PDS households in most functioning and reviving states

Conclusion

- Growth-nutrition mismatch in India
- PDS has had an impact on long-term nutritional indicator in functioning states; short-term indicator in some reviving states
- Possible mechanism – higher dietary diversity
- Scope for further reforms
- Adds to debate on PDS versus cash transfers