

**Table 1 Demographic characteristics of schoolchildren (case and control groups), Zanjan, 2012**

Characteristic	Total (n = 872)		Cases with pica (n = 57)	
	No.	%	No.	%
<i>Sex</i> <sup>a</sup>				
Male	292	33.5	21	7.2
Female	580	66.5	36	6.2
<i>Age (years)</i> <sup>a</sup>				
6-9	401	45.9	16	35.5
> 9-11	425	48.9	24	53.4
> 11	46	5.2	5	11.1

<sup>a</sup>Only 45 participants agreed to the blood testing.

<sup>a</sup>Relationship between pica and sex and pica and age not significant ( $P > 0.05$ ).