



## Indicators for Duration of Breastfeeding Among Florida Women, 2000-2001

Breastfeeding duration of at least three months is highly associated with breastfeeding initiation during the postpartum hospital stay. This report identifies associations between breastfeeding initiation in the hospital and breastfeeding duration of at least three months among new mothers in Florida.

According to Florida PRAMS 2000 and 2001 survey data, among new mothers in Florida who breastfed their babies, 91.6 percent did so during their postpartum hospital stay. Overall, one in six (17.7 percent) new mothers who were told by hospital staff to breastfeed on demand were still breastfeeding at three months postpartum, in contrast to only one in 20 (5.5 percent) among those who received no such advice from hospital staff. One in five (18.8 percent) new mothers who initiated during their postpartum hospital stay breastfed for at least three months, while only one in 50 (2.5 percent) of those who did not breastfeed in the hospital were still breastfeeding at three months postpartum.

The prevalence among women in Florida of breastfeeding initiation during the postpartum hospital stay was:

- The lowest among non-Hispanic Black women (54.5 percent); 78.6 percent among Hispanic women, and 74.2 percent among non-Hispanic White women.
- The highest among women age 25 and older (74.9 percent), followed by women age 20 to 24 (66.8 percent), then by women age 19 and younger (59.3 percent).
- The highest among women with more than a high school education (80.4 percent); 63.3 percent among those with a high school education, and 62.4 percent among women with less than a high school education.
- Higher as annual household incomes increased. In particular, 62.9 percent among women with household incomes of \$15,600 or less, 71.1 percent among women with household incomes between \$15,601 and \$39,600, and 83.0 percent among those with household incomes over \$39,600.
- Higher among non-Medicaid recipients (78.8 percent) than among Medicaid recipients (60.0 percent).
- Higher among married women (78.5 percent) than among unmarried women (57.7 percent).
- Higher among first-time mothers (73.5 percent) than among those with previous live births (69.1 percent).
- Higher among normal weight births (72.5 percent) than among low birth weight infants (49.5 percent).
- Higher among full-term births (72.2 percent) than among pre-term births (58.4 percent).
- Higher among women with intended pregnancies (75.2 percent) than among those with unintended pregnancies (66.1 percent).
- The highest among women who were told by hospital staff to breastfeed on demand (90.3 percent) than among those who were not told to breastfeed on demand (40.5 percent).

This study shows that women in Florida are more likely to continue breastfeeding for at least three months when breastfeeding is initiated during the postpartum hospital stay. The data show that women who are less likely to initiate breastfeeding during hospital stay are non-Hispanic Blacks, are under the age of 25, have lower levels of education or income, are Medicaid recipients, are unmarried, have previous live births, have pre-term pregnancies, or low birth weight infants, and/or have unintended pregnancies. These findings may assist healthcare providers in providing effective information for increasing the prevalence and the duration of breastfeeding among new mothers.

The Florida Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a random survey of recent mothers of live-born infants. It is designed to monitor the physical, economic, and social health of Florida mothers and newborns. PRAMS data are "weighted" so that the resulting estimates can be generalized to the entire state population. PRAMS data from 2000 and 2001 were combined to increase sample size and precision of estimates for this study.

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