

Intended duration of breast milk provision

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Duration of breast milk provision by intent

Among infants born in 2014/15, more two week old infants fed with breast milk had mothers who planned to provide breast milk until 7 months of infant age or older compared to infants born in 2009/10 (Figure 1 & Table 1). The median duration of breast milk provision for infants born in 2014/15 was 9 months, longer compared to the median of 6 months among infants born in 2009/10.

For infants born in 2017 and provided breast milk at 6 months of age, 32.6% of their mothers (95% CI: 23.5, 43.2) did not have definite plans on when they would stop breastfeeding, or would stop when their baby weaned. About a third (29.1%; 95% CI: 20.5, 39.6) would receive breast milk until 12 to less than 15 months of age, 21.9% (95% CI: 14.4, 31.8) until 7 months to less than 12 months of age, and 16.5% (95% CI: 10.0, 25.9) until the infant is 15 months of age or older.

Of infants born in 2017, 35.3% (95% CI: 25.9, 36.0) of their mothers stated returning to school or work was a factor in planning how long they would provide breastmilk. This percentage is similar to that of mothers of infants born in July to December 2015, where 34.2% (95% CI: 28.2, 40.9) of mothers said returning to work/school was a factor they considered when planning how long to provide breastmilk.

Figure 1. Percentage of infants’ mothers providing breastmilk at two weeks of age, by time period when breast milk provision would stop and year of infant birth, July 2009/June 10 & 2014/15.

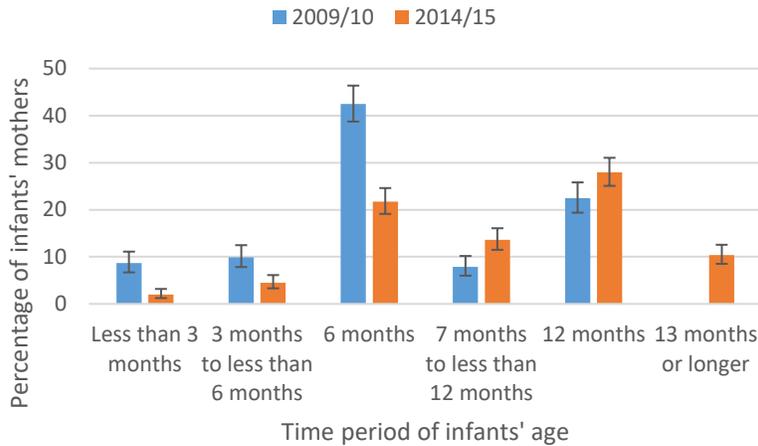


Table 1. Percentage of infants’ mothers providing breastmilk at two weeks of age, by time period when breast milk provision would stop and year of infant birth, July 2009/June 10 & 2014/15.

Infant Age	July 2009 – June 2010	January 2014 - December 2015
Two months or younger	8.6 (6.7, 11.1)	2.0 ^E (1.2, 3.2)
Three months to younger than six months	9.9 (7.8, 12.5)	4.5 (3.3, 6.1)
Six months	42.5 (38.7, 46.4)	21.7 (19.1, 24.6)
Seven months to less than 12 months	7.8 (6.0, 10.2)	13.6 (11.5, 16.1)
12 months	22.4 (19.4, 25.8)	28.0 (25.1, 31.0)
13 months or older	F	10.4 ^E (8.5, 12.6)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

F Estimate is suppressed due to high sampling variability

Definitions and data sources

Intended duration of breast milk provision:

Percentage of mothers who provided breast milk to their infant at two weeks of age and when they intended to stop providing breast milk, according to the calendar year of infant birth.

Data sources:

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Infant Feeding Surveillance System [Jul 2009-Jun 2010, Jan 2014- Dec 2015, 2017, & Jan – Dec 2017].

Analysis:

All measures have been weighted to account for differences in the age range of all mothers who gave birth, and those who participated in the survey. Sampling and non-response weights were calculated by maternal age group (under 20 years, 20 to 29 years, and 30 years or older), year, and contact point (i.e., 2 weeks, 6 months, 12 months, 24 months). Where possible, percentages are presented annually

Confidence intervals:

Confidence intervals (CI) and variances were estimated using the poisson distribution in STATA IC/14.2 (2014) for all regions.

Interpretation of a significant difference:

A statistic interpreted as 'significantly different' from another is an estimate found to be statistically meaningful; the difference is unlikely due to chance. Error ranges noted in tables within this report illustrate 95% confidence intervals. If there is no overlap in range between confidence intervals, the difference can be described as statistically significant.