

Reasons for provision of liquids other than breast milk

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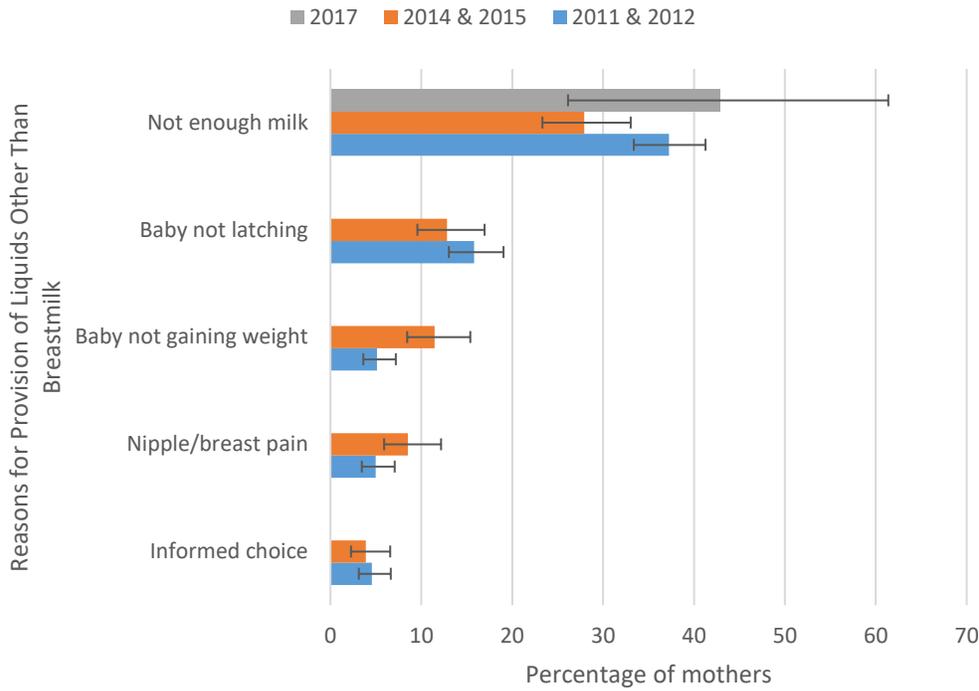
Reasons for other liquid provision at 2 weeks of age

Of infants born in 2017 who were partially fed breast milk at two weeks of age, more than four of every ten infants were given other liquids because the mother reported producing not enough milk (Figure 1 & Table 1). This percentage was similar compared to infants born in 2011/12 and 2014/15.

For infants born in 2014/15, about one in every ten infants received other liquids because the baby was not gaining enough weight, significantly higher compared to one in every 20 mothers in 2011 & 2012.

Of infants born in 2014/15, 34.0% (95% CI: 23.7, 46.0) were not provided any more breastmilk by two weeks of infant age due to an informed choice, while 17.2% (95% CI: 10.0, 28.0) had mothers who felt uncomfortable/self-conscious.

Figure 1. Percentage of Mothers Who Partially Provided Breast Milk to their Infants, By Reason for Provision of Other Liquid, 2011 & 2012 Combined, 2014 & 2015 Combined, and 2017



Note: Figure does not include all responses gathered, only the most common in 2014/15. In 2011/12, answer choices were provided to mothers while in 2014/15 & 2017, mothers wrote in their own responses which were categorized after collection.

Table 2. Percentage (95%) of Mothers Who Partially Provided Breast Milk to their Infants, By Reason for Provision of Other Liquid, 2011 & 2012 Combined, 2014 & 2015 Combined, and 2017

Reason for Provision of Other Liquid	2011 & 2012 Combined	2014 & 2015 Combined	2017
Not enough milk	37.2 (33.4, 41.3)	27.9* (23.3, 33)	42.9 (26.1, 61.4)
Baby not latching	15.8 (13.0, 19.0)	12.8 (9.6, 17)	F
Baby not gaining weight	5.1 ^E (3.6, 7.2)	11.5* (8.4, 15.4)	F
Nipple/breast pain	5.0 ^E (3.5, 7.1)	8.5 ^E (5.9, 12.2)	F
Informed choice	4.6 ^E (3.1, 6.6)	3.9 ^E (2.3, 6.6)	F

Note: Table does not include all responses gathered, only the most common in 2014/15. In 2011/12, answer choices were provided to mothers while in 2014/15, mothers wrote in their own responses which were categorized after collection.

* Estimate is significantly different from 2011 & 2012 estimate

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

F Estimate could not be released due to high sampling variability

Reasons for other liquid provision at 6 months of age

Of infants born in 2017, over half (57.0%; 95% CI: 45.3, 67.9) were not receiving breast milk by six months of age because their mother reported not having enough milk, almost significantly higher than infants born in 2014/15 (38.3%; 95% CI: 31.0, 46.1) and the percentage of infants born in 2009/2010 (38.2%; 95% CI: 29.5, 47.8). Another 19% (95% CI: 11.2, 29.2) infants born in 2017 were not receiving breast milk by six months of age because their mother reported problems with expressing or delivering breast milk. In 2014/15, about one in every ten of these mothers stopped due to an informed choice (7.5%; 95% CI: 4.9, 12.1), and 8.7% (95% CI: 5.3, 14.0) stopped because their baby was not latching.

Of the infants born in 2017 and partially provided breast milk at six months of age, 22.6% (95% CI: 8.1, 10.6) were provided other liquids because their mother reported not having enough milk, similar to percentages of infants born in 2014/15 (17.9%; 95% CI: 12.6, 24.8) and in 2009/10 (20.0%; 95% CI: 14.1, 27.7).

Reason for other liquid provision at 12 months of age

Of infants born in 2014 & 2015, 30.8% (95% CI: 21.6, 41.8) of their mothers said returning to work or school was their main reason for not providing breast milk to their infants at 12 months of infant age, similar to infants born in 2009/10 (20.4%; 95% CI: 14.4, 28.1). About 14.2% (95% CI: 8.2, 23.2) of infants' mothers said weaning their baby or a baby who self-weaned was the second most common reason for stopping breast milk provision for those born in 2014 & 2015. Not having enough milk was the third most common reason (10.0% 95% CI: 5.2, 18.3).

Reason for other liquid provision at 24 months of age

For infants born in 2014 & 2015, multiple reasons were frequently provided by their mothers for stopping breast milk provision by 24 months of infant age, including a baby who weaned herself (29.1%; 95% CI: 19.7, 40.7), returning to work or school (16.3%; 95% CI: 8.0, 26.7), the age of the baby (14.7%; 95% CI: 8.2, 24.8), and the mother being pregnant again (14.5%; 7.9, 24.9).

Baby formula recommended by healthcare professional

Among infants born between July and December 2015 and not provided or partially provided breast milk at two weeks of age, 40.2% (95% CI: 29.3, 52.2) of their mothers said they were recommended baby formula by a health care provider. Of those who were recommended formula by a health care professional, 33.7% (95% CI: 22.7, 46.9) were recommended by a doctor, 29.9% (95% CI: 19.4, 43.1) by a nurse, and 18.6% (95% CI: 10.3, 31.3) by a pediatrician

Definitions and data sources

Infants fed liquids other than breast milk:

Percentage of infants provided liquids other than breast milk (e.g., formula, water), at the specified time period of infant age, during the calendar year of infant birth.

Data sources:

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Infant Feeding Surveillance System [Jul 2009-Jun 2010, 2011 – Oct 2012, Jan 2014- Dec 2015, 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.