

Solid food provision to infants in the Health Unit region

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Author

Dinna Lozano, Epidemiologist
 Planning and Evaluation Services
 Email: research@healthunit.ca

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Introduction to solid foods

Almost half of infants born in 2017 in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) region were first introduced to solid foods at five months of age, while one of every four infants were first introduced at six months of age or older (Figure 1; Table 1). The percentages of infants provided food at each of the specified ages has not changed significantly over time.

Figure 1. Percentage of infants in the Health Unit region by infants’ age in months when solid foods were first introduced, July 2009 – June 2010, 2014-2015 combined, and 2017.

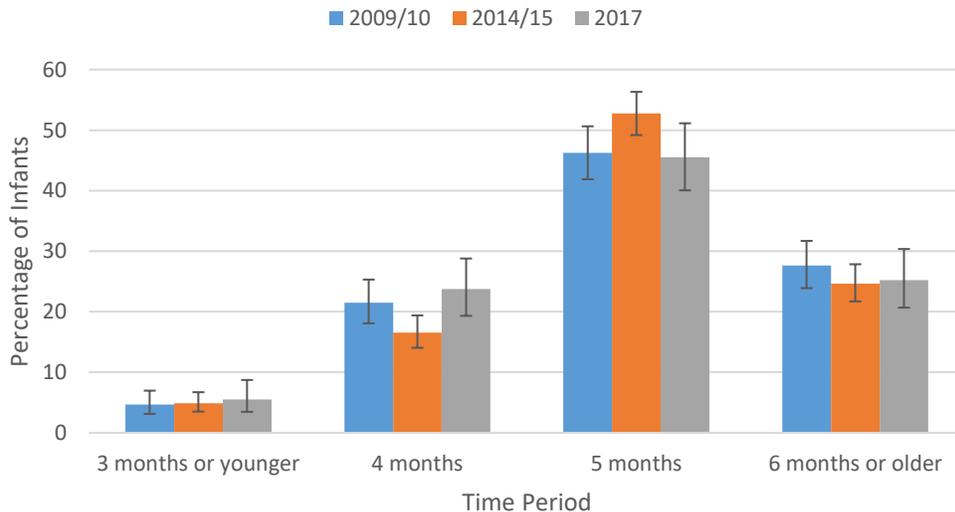


Table 1. Percentage of infants in the Health Unit region by infants' age in months when solid foods were first introduced, July 2009 – June 2010, 2014-2015 combined, and 2017.

Infant Age	July 2009 – June 2010	January 2014 - December 2015	January – December 2017
Three months or younger	4.7 ^E (3.1, 7.0)	4.9 (3.5, 6.7)	5.5 ^E (3.5, 8.7)
Four months	21.5 (18.1, 25.3)	16.5 (14.0, 19.4)	23.7 (19.3, 28.8)
Five months	46.2 (41.9, 50.6)	52.8 (49.2, 56.3)	45.5 (40.1, 51.1)
Six months or older	27.6 (23.9, 31.7)	24.6 (21.7, 27.8)	25.2 (20.7, 30.4)

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

Definitions and data sources

Infants fed solid foods:

Percentage of infants provided solid foods 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, 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.