

Definition/Description:

Breastfeeding Duration Rates

This is the percentage of Manitoba infants who were being breastfed at various postpartum time points, using National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth (NLSCY) 1996 survey data¹. The World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding of infants until 6 months of age, and continued breastfeeding until age two years with introduction of complimentary foods.

Method

Breastfeeding duration is difficult to estimate, it is currently not a routinely collected piece of administrative data. Breastfeeding duration has been reported in NLSCY reports, however, those currently breastfeeding are excluded from the analysis, thus introducing under-reporting of breastfeeding duration rates. Brownell et al analyzed NLSCY data using a statistical technique that adjusts the survey data for those who were currently breastfeeding at the time of the survey interview.

Source:

Assessing the Health of Children in Manitoba: A Population-based Study, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, 2001

Findings/Highlights:

- Two pieces of information were shown in this report:
 - The percentage of all Manitoba infants in the NLSCY sample who were breastfed at various postpartum time periods.
 - The percentage of Manitoba infants in the NLSCY sample who initiated breastfeeding who remained breastfeeding at various postpartum time periods.
- The percentage of all Manitoba infants in the NLSCY sample who were breastfed at various postpartum time periods:
 - 85% initiated breastfeeding,
 - At three months postpartum, 57% of all infants were breastfed,
 - At six months postpartum, 36% were breastfed, and
 - At 12 months postpartum, 15% were breastfed.
- The percentage of Manitoba infants in the NLSCY sample who initiated breastfeeding who were still breastfeeding at various postpartum time periods:
 - 85% initiated breastfeeding,
 - At three months postpartum, 67% of this group of infants were still breastfed,
 - At 6 months postpartum, 42% of this group were still breastfed, and
 - At 12 months postpartum, 18% of this group were still breastfed.

¹ Brownell, et al. 2001