

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

16-19. Increase the proportion of mothers who breastfeed their babies.

16-19b. At 6 months.

National Data Source	National Immunization Survey (NIS), CDC, NCIRD and NCHS.
State Data Source	National Immunization Survey (NIS), CDC, NCIRD and NCHS.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	14.9 (Maternal and Infant Health) (also 2.11).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	Revised baseline (see Comments). Revised data source (see Comments).
Measure	Percent.
Baseline (Year)	34 (2000)
Target	50
Target-Setting Method	Retention of the Healthy People 2000 target. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of mothers who indicate that breast milk is at least one of the types of milk their infant was fed at 6 months of age.
Denominator	Number of children aged 19 to 35 months born in one calendar year.
Population Targeted	U.S. resident population.
Questions Used to Obtain the National Baseline Data	From the 2001 National Immunization Survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Was [child] ever breastfed or fed breast milk?</i>➤ <i>How long was [child] breastfed or fed breast milk?</i>➤ <i>How old was [child] when s/he was first fed something other than breast milk or water? [If respondent hesitates, add: This includes formula, juice, cow's milk, sugar water, solid foods or anything</i>

else.]

Expected Periodicity

Annual.

Comments

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that breastfeeding continue for at least 12 months, and thereafter for as long as mutually desired.¹

The NIS covers all 50 states, District of Columbia, and selected geographic areas within states. Using a computer generated list across the county, the NIS identifies households with children aged 19–35 months and interviews the person who is most knowledgeable about the child's immunization status. Beginning July 2001 and continuing through December 2002, a sample of respondents was asked about breastfeeding using the original questions listed above. Starting January 2003, all respondents to the household telephone survey were asked these breastfeeding questions. The breastfeeding questions used in the NIS were later modified in 2004 and 2006.

Survey years were combined to calculate breastfeeding by year of child's birth instead of year in which the participant was surveyed. The original 1998 baseline of 29 percent was revised to 34 percent for 2000 in 2007 due to a change in the data source. The target of 50 percent did not change.

See Appendix C for a description of NIS and Appendix A for focus area contact information.

References

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. Breastfeeding and the use of human milk. *Pediatrics* 100(6), 1997. Available at: <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics%3b100/6/1035>