

Breast milk provision in the Health Unit region

October 2, 2018

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Infants fed any breast milk

The percentage of infants within the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) region who were fed any amount of breast milk prior to discharge from hospital/midwifery care grew significantly between July 2009 and 2015; from 86% in 2009 to 93% in 2015 (see Figure 1 & Table 1).

Fewer two week old infants born in 2017 received any breast milk compared to infants born in 2015, however this difference was on the threshold of statistical significance.

More six month old infants born in 2014, 2015, and 2017 were fed any amount of breastmilk compared to six month olds born in 2009 & 2010 (about 60% in recent years, significantly higher compared to about 50% in 2009/10).

Figure 1. Percentage of infants in the Health Unit region who were fed any amount of breast milk, by infant age/time period after birth, July 1st 2009 – October 31st 2012 & January 12th, 2014 – December 31st, 2015, & January – December 2017.

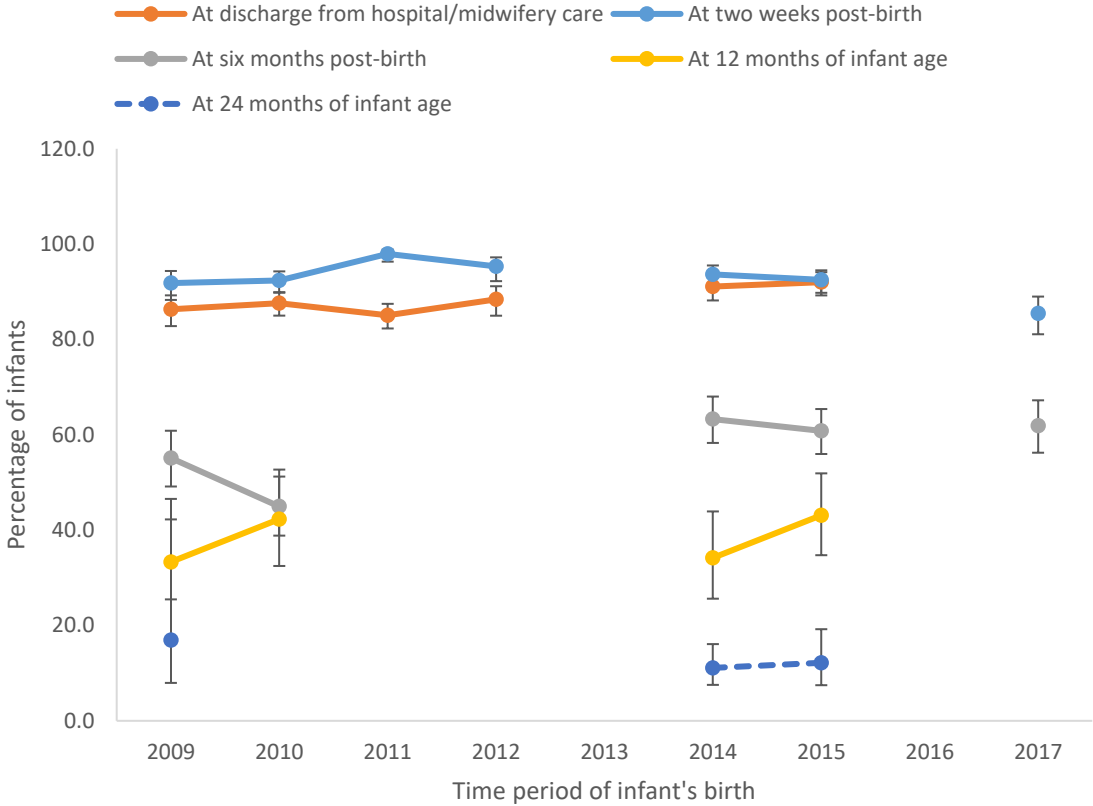


Table 1. Percentage (95% CI) of infants in the Health Unit region who were fed any amount of breast milk, by time period after birth, July 1st 2009 – October 31st 2012, January 12th, 2014 – December 31st, 2015, & January – December 2017.

Time Period of Infants' Birth	First drink	At discharge from hospital/ midwifery care	Two weeks of infant age	Six months of age	12 months of age	24 months of age
July 2009 – December 2009	83.4 (79.6, 86.6)	86.3 (82.8, 89.3)	91.8 (88.3, 94.4)	55.1 (49.2-60.9)	33.3 (25.5, 42.3)	16.9 ^{x E} (9.0, 29.6)
2010	86.3 (83.6, 88.6)	87.6 (85, 89.8)	92.4 (89.9, 94.3)	45.0 ^v (38.9-51.2)	42.3 ^v (32.5, 52.7)	x
2011	83.3 (80.4, 85.8)	85.1 (82.3, 87.5)	98.0 (96.3, 98.9)	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	87.2 (83.6, 90.1)	88.4 (85, 91.2)	95.3 (92.2, 97.2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2014	91.1 (88.6, 93.7)	91.1 (88.2, 93.4)	93.6 (91.1, 95.5)	62.4 (47.3-67.3)	34.2 (25.6, 43.9)	11.1 ^E (7.5, 16.1)
2015	87.3 (84.0, 90.0)	92.0 (89.2, 94.1)	92.5 (89.8, 94.5)	60.2 (55.1-65.0)	43.1 (34.7, 51.9)	12.2 ^E (7.5, 19.2)
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	85.5 (81.1, 89.0)	61.9 (56.2, 67.2)	N/A	N/A

N/A - No data collected for infants born in this time period

^v – Data collected January 2010 to June 2010

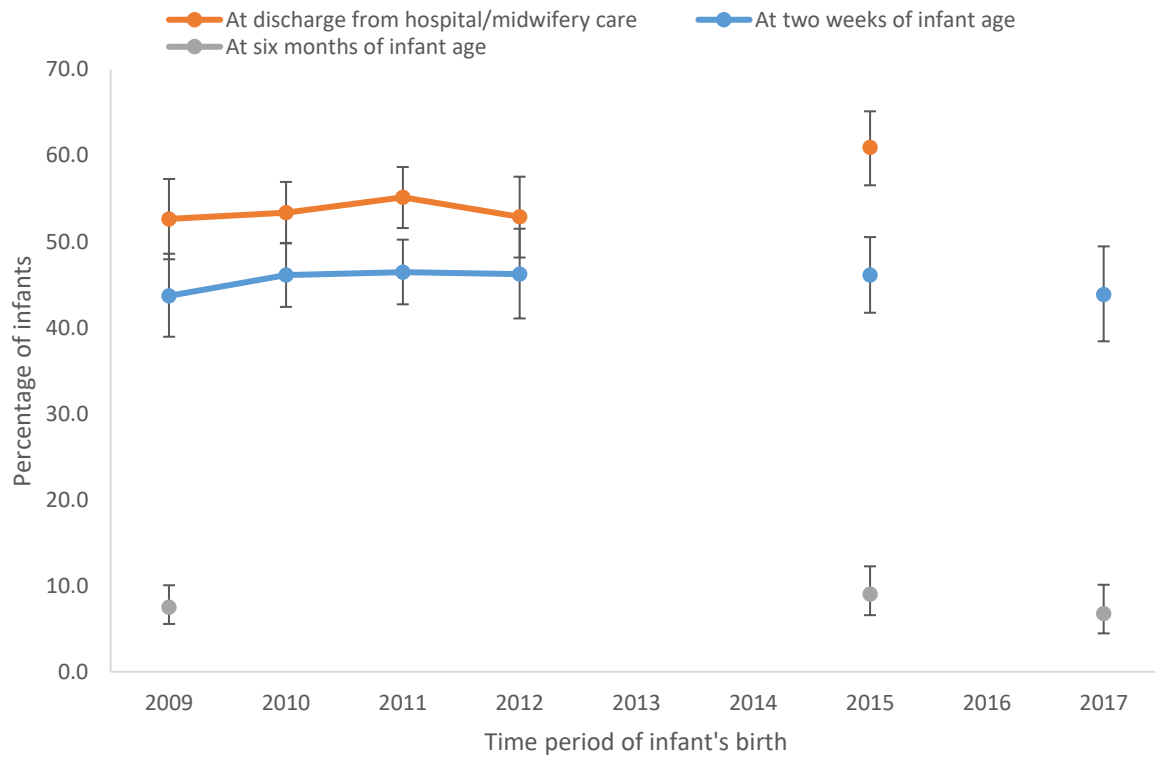
^x – Data collected July 2009 to June 2010

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

Infants fed only breastmilk

The percentage of infants in the Health Unit region only fed breast milk at the point of discharge from hospital or midwifery care, at two weeks of age, and at six months of age remains unchanged for infants born between 2009 and 2017 (Figure 2 & Table 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of infants in the Health Unit region who were only fed breast milk, by infant age/time period after birth, July 1st 2009 – October 31st 2012, January 12th, 2014 – December 31st, 2015, & January – December 2017.



Note: Data for exclusive provision of breast milk in 2009 was collected for infants born between July 2009 and June 2010.

Table 2. Percentage of infants in the Health Unit region who were only fed breast milk, by infant age/time period after birth, July 1st 2009 – October 31st 2012, January 12th, 2014 – December 31st, 2015, & January – December 2017.

Time Period of Infants' Birth	At discharge from hospital/ midwifery care	Two weeks of infant age	Six months of infant age
July 2009 – December 2009	52.7 (48.0, 57.3)	43.7 (39.0, 48.6)	9.0 ^V (6.6, 12.3)
2010	53.4 (49.8, 57)	46.1 (42.4, 49.9)	N/A
2011	55.2 (51.6, 58.7)	46.5 (42.7, 50.2)	N/A
2012	52.9 (48.2, 57.6)	46.3 (41.1, 51.5)	N/A
2013	N/A	N/A	N/A
2014	N/A	N/A	N/A
2015	60.6 (56.3, 64.7)	45.7 (41.4, 50.0)	7.4 ^E (4.7, 11.3)
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	43.9 (38.4, 49.5)	6.8 ^E (4.5, 10.1)

N/A - No data collected for infants born in this time period

^V – Data collected July 2009 to June 2010

^E – Estimate is associated with sampling variability. Interpret with caution

Definitions and data sources

Definition:

Any Breast Milk:

Percentage of infants provided any breast milk (e.g. only breast milk or a combination of breast milk and other liquids/solids), at the specified time period of infant age, according to the calendar year of infant birth.

Only (exclusive) Breast Milk:

Percentage of infants only provided breast milk (e.g. no other liquids or solids), at the specified time period of infant age, 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, 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.