

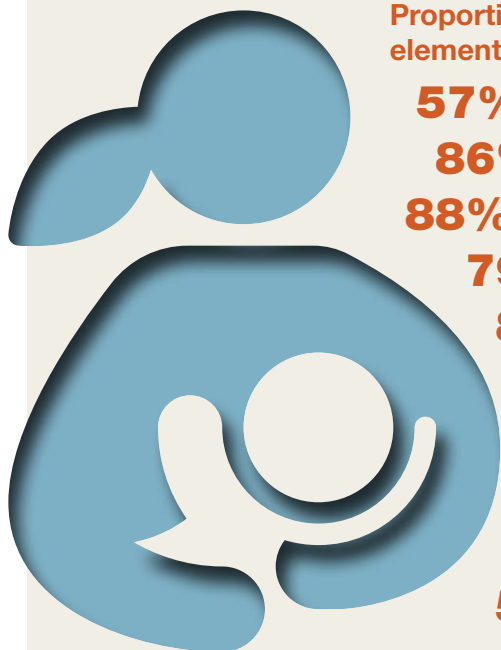
How are US hospitals faring when it comes to implementing breastfeeding-friendly policies?

WHO and other organizations support “10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding,” guidelines that positively impact breastfeeding outcomes. Step 1 requires “a written breastfeeding policy that is routinely communicated to all health care staff.”^a How many US hospitals that provide maternity care (with birth centers excluded) have adopted such model policies, and their individual elements, that support breastfeeding mothers and infants?

33%



of hospitals have a model breastfeeding policy that includes all 10 individual policy elements



Proportion of hospitals that incorporated an individual policy element in their breastfeeding policies

57% Offer prenatal breastfeeding education

86% Ask about mother’s feeding plans

88% Initiate early breastfeeding

79% Teach breastfeeding techniques

87% Teach feeding cues

76% Limit non–breast milk feeding of breastfed infants

68% Limit use of pacifiers

74% Have rooming-in

76% Provide postdischarge support

58% Assess staff competency

PLUS

29%



of hospitals do not receive free infant formula^b

^aResearchers analyzed 2009–2015 data from the Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care Survey (a CDC census tool administered every 2 years from 2007 to 2015) to assess trends. Prevalence estimates and percentage point change were calculated for 1) having a model breastfeeding policy, 2) individual breastfeeding policy elements, 3) policy dissemination methods, and 4) not receiving free infant formula. The survey response rate was ≥82% for all (2-year) cycles.

^bHospitals seeking designation as a Baby-Friendly center are required to purchase infant formula at fair market value.

Source: Nelson JM, Grossniklaus DA. Trends in hospital breastfeeding policies in the United States from 2009–2015: results from the Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care Survey. *Breastfeed Med*. 2019. doi:10.1089/bfm.2018.0224.

Abbreviations: CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; WHO, World Health Organization.