

## **Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care in Mississippi**

In 2007, CDC administered the first national **Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care** (“mPINC”) survey. All hospitals and birth centers in the U.S. that provide maternity care were invited to participate. This report describes specific opportunities to improve mother-baby care at hospitals and birth centers in Mississippi in order to more successfully meet national quality of care standards for perinatal care.

For more information about the mPINC survey, visit [www.cdc.gov/mpinc](http://www.cdc.gov/mpinc)

### **Changes in Maternity Care Practices Improve Breastfeeding Rates**

Breastfeeding provides optimal nutrition for infants and is associated with decreased risk for infant morbidity and mortality as well as maternal morbidity.<sup>1</sup> Maternity practices in hospitals and birth centers can influence breastfeeding behaviors during a period critical to successful establishment of lactation.<sup>2</sup> The literature, including a Cochrane review, found that institutional changes in maternity care practices to make them more supportive of breastfeeding increased initiation and duration of breastfeeding.<sup>3</sup>

### Strengths in Breastfeeding Support in Mississippi Facilities

Pie chart of prevalence	Documentation of Mothers' Feeding Decisions	Staff at all (100%) facilities in Mississippi consistently ask about and record mothers' infant feeding decisions.	Standard documentation of infant feeding decisions is important to adequately support maternal choice.
Pie chart of prevalence	Availability of Prenatal Breastfeeding Instruction	Staff at 86% of facilities in Mississippi include breastfeeding education as a routine element of their prenatal classes.	Prenatal education about breastfeeding is important because it provides mothers with a better understanding of the benefits and requirements of breastfeeding, resulting in improved breastfeeding rates.

### Needed Improvements in Mississippi Facilities

Pie chart of prevalence	Appropriate Use of Breastfeeding Supplements	Only 19% of facilities in Mississippi adhere to standard clinical practice guidelines against routine supplementation with formula, glucose water, or water.	The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Guidelines for Perinatal Care recommend against routine supplementation because supplementation with formula and/or water makes infants more likely to receive formula at home and stop breastfeeding prematurely.
Pie chart of prevalence	Adequate Assessment of Staff Competency	Only 6% of facilities in Mississippi annually assess staff competency for basic breastfeeding management and support.	Implementing comprehensive assessment of staff training and skills for basic breastfeeding management and support establishes the foundation for quality infant feeding care. Adequate training and skills assessment are critical to ensure that mothers and infants receive care that is consistent, evidence-based, and appropriate.
Pie chart of prevalence	Use of Combined Mother/Baby Postpartum Care	Only 10% of facilities in Mississippi report that most healthy full-term infants remain with their mothers for at least 23 hours per day throughout the hospital stay.	Mother-infant contact during the hospital stay helps establish breastfeeding and maintain infant weight, temperature, and health. Rooming-in increases breastfeeding learning opportunities and duration and quality of maternal sleep, and reduces supplemental feeds.
Pie chart of prevalence	Initiation of Mother and Infant Skin-to-Skin Care	Only 24% of facilities in Mississippi initiate skin-to-skin care for at least 30 minutes upon delivery of the newborn.	Upon delivery, the newborn should be placed skin-to-skin with the mother and allowed uninterrupted time to initiate and establish breastfeeding in order to improve infant health outcomes and reduce the risk of impairment of the neonatal immune system from unnecessary non-breast milk feeds.

## **Breastfeeding is a National Priority**

Breastfeeding protects mothers' and infants' health.<sup>1</sup> *Healthy People 2010*<sup>4</sup> includes breastfeeding as a national priority and it is recommended by a number of health professional organizations.<sup>5</sup>

Establishing evidence-based, breastfeeding-supportive maternity practices as standards of care in US hospitals and birth centers will help meet *Healthy People 2010* breastfeeding objectives and will help improve maternal and child health nationwide.

Department of Health and Human Services

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## **The CDC mPINC Survey**

The CDC mPINC survey was mailed to all US maternity facilities, with the request that it be completed by the person most knowledgeable about the facility's maternity practices related to infant feeding and care.

83% of the 46 eligible hospitals and birth centers in Mississippi responded to the 2007 CDC mPINC survey.

Each participating facility received its facility-specific benchmark report in October 2008.

For more information about the mPINC survey, visit [www.cdc.gov/mpinc](http://www.cdc.gov/mpinc)

**Results of the 2007 CDC mPINC Survey: Mississippi**

Mississippi Composite Quality Practice Score\*: 50

Mississippi State Rank<sup>+</sup>: 51

mPINC Dimension of Care	Ideal Response to mPINC Survey Question	Percent of Facilities with Ideal Response <sup>‡</sup>	MS Rank <sup>+</sup>	MS Subscale Score* (out of 100)
Labor and Delivery Care				42
	Initial skin-to-skin contact is $\geq 30$ min w/in 1 hour (vaginal births)	24	49	
	Initial skin-to-skin contact is $\geq 30$ min w/in 2 hours (cesarean births)	18	44	
	Initial breastfeeding opportunity is w/in 1 hour (vaginal births)	25	25	
	Initial breastfeeding opportunity is w/in 2 hours (cesarean births)	29	36	
	Routine procedures are performed skin-to-skin	0	48	
Feeding of Breastfed Infants				63
	Initial feeding is breast milk (vaginal births)	54	46	
	Initial feeding is breast milk (cesarean births)	46	42	
	Supplemental feedings to breastfeeding infants are rare	19	25	
	Water and glucose water are not used	50	45	
Breastfeeding Assistance				69
	Infant feeding decision is documented in the patient chart	100	-	
	Staff provide breastfeeding advice & instructions to patients	79	46	
	Staff teach breastfeeding cues to patients	68	46	
	Staff teach patients not to limit suckling time	21	45	
	Staff directly observe & assess breastfeeding	74	44	
	Staff use a standard feeding assessment tool	26	50	
	Staff rarely provide pacifiers to breastfeeding infants	13	45	
Contact Between Mother and Infant				49
	Mother-infant pairs are not separated for postpartum transition	8	52	
	Mother-infant pairs room-in at night	44	48	
	Mother-infant pairs are not separated during the hospital stay	10	40	
	Infant procedures, assessment, and care are in the patient room	0	36	
	Non-rooming-in infants are brought to mothers at night for feeding	72	32	

<b>mPINC Dimension of Care</b>	<b>Ideal Response to mPINC Survey Question</b>	<b>Percent of Facilities with Ideal Response‡</b>	<b>MS Rank<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>MS Subscale Score* (out of 100)</b>
Facility Discharge Care				28
	Staff provide appropriate discharge planning (referrals & other multi-modal support)	16	38	
	Discharge packs containing infant formula samples and marketing products are not given to breastfeeding patients	16	35	
Staff Training				43
	New staff receive appropriate breastfeeding education	6	20	
	Current staff receive appropriate breastfeeding education	13	47	
	Staff received breastfeeding education in the past year	23	46	
	Assessment of staff competency in breastfeeding management & support is at least annual	60	9	
Structural & Organizational Aspects of Care Delivery				55
	Breastfeeding policy includes all 10 model policy elements	6	42	
	Breastfeeding policy is effectively communicated	75	36	
	Facility documents infant feeding rates in patient population	36	45	
	Facility provides breastfeeding support to employees	43	45	
	Facility does not receive infant formula free of charge	0	46	
	Breastfeeding is included in prenatal patient education	86	42	
	Facility has a designated staff member responsible for coordination of lactation care	54	46	
<p>* Facility practices in 7 dimensions of care ("subscales") contribute to the overall "Composite Quality Practice Score." Possible item, subscale, and overall scores range from 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest, best possible score.</p> <p><sup>+</sup> State ranks range from 1 to 52, with 1 being the highest rank. In case of a tie, both states are given the same rank.</p> <p><sup>‡</sup> Calculation excludes facilities' responses that indicate prevalence is "unknown" for the practice measured in a given item.</p> <p>- State ranks are not shown for survey questions with 90% or more facilities reporting ideal responses.</p>				

## **Improvement is Needed in Maternity Care Practices and Policies in Mississippi**

Many opportunities exist in Mississippi to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding mothers and infants. To take action on this critical need, consider the following:

- Examine Mississippi regulations for maternity facilities and evaluate their evidence base; revise if necessary.
- Sponsor a Mississippi-wide summit of key decision-making staff at maternity facilities to highlight the importance of evidence-based practices for breastfeeding.
- Pay for hospital staff across Mississippi to participate in 18-hour training courses in breastfeeding.
- Establish links among maternity facilities and community breastfeeding support networks in Mississippi.
- Identify and implement programs within hospital settings—choose one widespread practice and adjust it to be evidence-based and supportive of breastfeeding.
- Integrate maternity care into related Quality Improvement efforts including:
  - Consistent delivery of optimal care
  - Improving patient flow
  - Improving patient experience & loyalty
  - Engaging physicians in a shared quality agenda
  - Increasing staff efficiency
  - Optimizing hospital-to-home transitions

- Develop a plan to ensure adherence to the Joint Commission’s recently revised (July 2009) Perinatal Care Core Measure Set to include exclusive breastfeeding at discharge in hospital data collection starting with April 1, 2010, discharges.

Questions about the mPINC survey? Information about the mPINC survey, benchmark reports, scoring methods, and complete references available at: [www.cdc.gov/mpinc](http://www.cdc.gov/mpinc) For more information:

Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Atlanta, GA USA

**[mpinc@cdc.gov](mailto:mpinc@cdc.gov)**

May, 2010

## **References**

- <sup>1</sup> Ip S, Chung M, Raman G, et al. Breastfeeding and maternal and infant health outcomes in developed countries. Rockville, MD: US Dept of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2007.
- <sup>2</sup> DiGirolamo AM, Grummer-Strawn LM, Fein S. Maternity care practices: implications for breastfeeding. *Birth* 2001;28:94-100.
- <sup>3</sup> Fairbank L, O’Meara S, Renfrew MJ, Woolridge M, Snowden AJ, Lister-Sharp D. A systematic review to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions to promote the initiation of breastfeeding. *Health Technology Assessment* 2000;4:1-171.
- <sup>4</sup> US Dept of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2010 midcourse review. Washington, DC: US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2005. Available at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/data/midcourse>.
- <sup>5</sup> Organizations including but not limited to: National Quality Forum; American Academy of Pediatrics; American Association of Family Physicians; American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses; American College of Nurse Midwives; Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine; American Public Health Association; World Health Organization.