

Table 14. Breastfeeding among mothers 15–44 years of age, by year of baby's birth and selected characteristics of mother: United States, average annual 1986–1988 through 2002–2004

[Data are based on household interviews of samples of women of childbearing age]

<i>Selected characteristics of mother</i>	1986–1988	1989–1991	1992–1994	1995–1998	1999–2001	2002–2004
Percent of babies breastfed						
Total	54.1	53.3	57.6	64.4	66.5	73.3
Age at baby's birth						
Under 20 years	28.4	34.7	41.0	49.5	47.3	73.2
20–24 years	48.2	44.3	50.0	55.9	59.3	66.2
25–29 years	58.2	56.4	57.4	68.1	63.5	72.5
30–44 years	68.6	66.0	70.2	72.8	80.0	78.4
Race and Hispanic origin ¹						
Not Hispanic or Latina:						
White only	59.1	58.4	61.7	66.5	68.7	79.1
Black or African American only	22.3	22.4	26.1	47.9	45.3	44.4
Hispanic or Latina	55.6	57.0	63.8	71.2	76.0	76.5
Education ²						
No high school diploma or GED	31.8	36.5	44.6	50.6	46.6	61.0
High school diploma or GED	47.4	45.5	51.1	55.9	61.6	63.0
Some college, no bachelor's degree	62.2	61.4	64.3	70.1	75.6	70.4
Bachelor's degree or higher	78.4	80.6	82.5	82.0	81.3	91.5
Geographic region ³						
Northeast	51.3	53.5	56.5	61.6	66.9	75.5
Midwest	52.3	49.6	51.7	61.7	61.9	67.9
South	44.6	43.6	48.6	58.1	60.9	70.2
West	71.4	69.5	77.3	78.1	78.9	84.0
Percent of babies who were breastfed 3 months or more						
Total	34.6	31.8	33.6	45.8	48.4	53.2
Age at baby's birth						
Under 20 years	18.5	*10.5	*11.7	30.0	30.0	48.8
20–24 years	26.1	24.1	25.1	36.6	41.8	39.3
25–29 years	36.9	32.3	35.6	46.3	43.7	50.5
30–44 years	50.1	46.8	46.7	57.5	62.4	64.7
Race and Hispanic origin ¹						
Not Hispanic or Latina:						
White only	37.7	35.2	36.6	47.8	49.7	57.1
Black or African American only	11.6	11.5	13.3	29.6	33.7	30.1
Hispanic or Latina	38.2	33.9	35.0	49.7	54.3	58.2
Education ²						
No high school diploma or GED	21.8	17.6	25.2	33.9	37.0	45.8
High school diploma or GED	28.2	28.0	27.4	36.9	43.1	43.2
Some college, no bachelor's degree	38.7	33.1	38.7	49.6	52.8	43.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	55.0	56.1	59.3	64.5	64.1	74.6
Geographic region ³						
Northeast	29.9	37.2	36.4	48.2	48.8	61.1
Midwest	30.3	31.5	30.1	42.0	42.8	44.1
South	27.7	20.1	26.2	38.9	44.4	50.1
West	52.4	42.9	45.3	58.2	59.2	64.5

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of 20%–30%.

¹Starting with 1995 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. Starting with 1995 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group. Prior to data year 1995, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1995 included persons who reported one race or, if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. See Appendix II, Race.

²Educational attainment is presented only for women 22–44 years of age. Education is as of year of interview. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma. See Appendix II, Education.

³See Appendix II, Geographic region and division.

NOTES: Data are based on single births to mothers 15–44 years of age at interview, including those births that occurred when the mothers were younger than 15 years of age. Data on breastfeeding during 1986–1994 are based on responses to questions in the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) Cycle 5, conducted in 1995. Data for 1995–2001 are based on the NSFG Cycle 6 conducted in 2002. Data for 2002–2004 are based on the NSFG Cycle 7 conducted in 2006–2008. See Appendix I, National Survey of Family Growth. Standard errors are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 5 (1995), Cycle 6 (2002), and Cycle 7 (2006–2008).