

**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 2005-2007**

(Data are based on household interviews of samples of women of childbearing age)

Maternal characteristic	1986-1988	1989-1991	1992-1994	1995-1998	1999-2001	2002-2004	2005-2007
Percent of babies breastfed							
Total.....	54.1	53.3	57.6	64.4	66.5	69.5	68.8
Age at baby's birth							
Under 20 years.....	28.4	34.7	41.0	49.5	47.3	60.0	50.7
20-24 years.....	48.2	44.3	50.0	55.9	59.3	61.4	64.3
25-29 years.....	58.2	56.4	57.4	68.1	63.5	71.1	70.6
30-44 years.....	68.6	66.0	70.2	72.8	80.0	77.1	76.2
Race and Hispanic origin <sup>1</sup>							
Not Hispanic or Latina:							
White only.....	59.1	58.4	61.7	66.5	68.7	73.8	72.3
Black or African American only.....	22.3	22.4	26.1	47.9	45.3	42.3	46.2
Hispanic or Latina.....	55.6	57.0	63.8	71.2	76.0	76.6	73.7
Education <sup>2</sup>							
No high school diploma or GED.....	31.8	36.5	44.6	50.6	46.6	56.3	58.7
High school diploma or GED.....	47.4	45.5	51.1	55.9	61.6	61.2	55.4
Some college, no bachelor's degree..	62.2	61.4	64.3	70.1	75.6	68.1	72.7
Bachelor's degree or higher.....	78.4	80.6	82.5	82.0	81.3	89.6	88.3
Geographic region <sup>3</sup>							
Northeast.....	51.3	53.5	56.5	61.6	66.9	73.0	72.4
Midwest.....	52.3	49.6	51.7	61.7	61.9	66.0	66.2
South.....	44.6	43.6	48.6	58.1	60.9	62.2	62.6
West.....	71.4	69.5	77.3	78.1	78.9	83.3	79.0
Percent of babies who were breastfed 3 months or more							
Total.....	34.6	31.8	33.6	45.8	48.4	50.6	46.6
Age at baby's birth							
Under 20 years.....	18.5	*10.5	*11.7	30.0	30.0	37.6	26.6
20-24 years.....	26.1	24.1	25.1	36.6	41.8	38.0	38.6
25-29 years.....	36.9	32.3	35.6	46.3	43.7	50.2	49.0
30-44 years.....	50.1	46.8	46.7	57.5	62.4	63.9	56.3
Race and Hispanic origin <sup>1</sup>							
Not Hispanic or Latina:							
White only.....	37.7	35.2	36.6	47.8	49.7	54.5	49.5
Black or African American only.....	11.6	11.5	13.3	29.6	33.7	29.2	26.3
Hispanic or Latina.....	38.2	33.9	35.0	49.7	54.3	55.9	49.4
Education <sup>2</sup>							
No high school diploma or GED.....	21.8	17.6	25.2	33.9	37.0	39.9	41.3
High school diploma or GED.....	28.2	28.0	27.4	36.9	43.1	41.9	36.8
Some college, no bachelor's degree..	38.7	33.1	38.7	49.6	52.8	43.2	48.7
Bachelor's degree or higher.....	55.0	56.1	59.3	64.5	64.1	75.9	65.8
Geographic region <sup>3</sup>							
Northeast.....	29.9	37.2	36.4	48.2	48.8	59.9	51.5
Midwest.....	30.3	31.5	30.1	42.0	42.8	46.8	41.6
South.....	27.7	20.1	26.2	38.9	44.4	42.7	40.5
West.....	52.4	42.9	45.3	58.2	59.2	62.6	57.8

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

<sup>1</sup>Starting 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.

<sup>2</sup>Educational 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.

<sup>3</sup>See Appendix II, Geographic region.

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 NSFG Cycle 6, conducted in 2002.

Data for 2002-2007 are based on NSFG Cycle 7, conducted in 2006-2010.

See Appendix I, National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG).

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, 1995, 2002, and 2006-2010.  
See Appendix I, National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG).

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