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## Breastfeeding Facts and Figures

Almost all babies throughout almost all time fed from the breast. Historically, a baby who did not receive human milk had very little chance for survival. Breastfeeding rates in the United States were at their lowest in the early 1970s, when only one-quarter of new moms breastfed at all. Rates have climbed steadily since then, although American moms continue to have lower breastfeeding rates than many of their counterparts around the world. Maternal and child health professionals are eager to see U.S. initiation *and* duration rates continue to increase.

### Breastfeeding Initiation Rates around the World

Norway	99%
Denmark	98%
Kenya	98%
Rwanda	97%
Canada	72%
England and Wales	71%
<b>United States</b>	<b>70%</b>
Belgium	63%
France	50%
Ireland	31%

Compiled from 2003 LLLI study: <http://www.llli.org//cbi/bfstats03.html>

### Top 5 Countries with the Highest Rates of Exclusive Breastfeeding

*The data is reproduced here with permission from UNICEF (see footnote).*

Country	% Exclusive breastfeeding: first 4 months	Country	% Exclusive breastfeeding: first 6 months
Rwanda	94.4	Rwanda	88.4
Kiribati *	80.0	Kiribati *	80.0
Madagascar	77.1	Benin	70.1
Benin	76.9	Madagascar	67.2
China	76.7	Korea, North	65.1

*Note:* \* The figures for Kiribati in the breastfeeding chart come from UNICEF's "Pacific Island Country Profile" (2000) and are calculated on a different basis. Data is from 2008 edition.

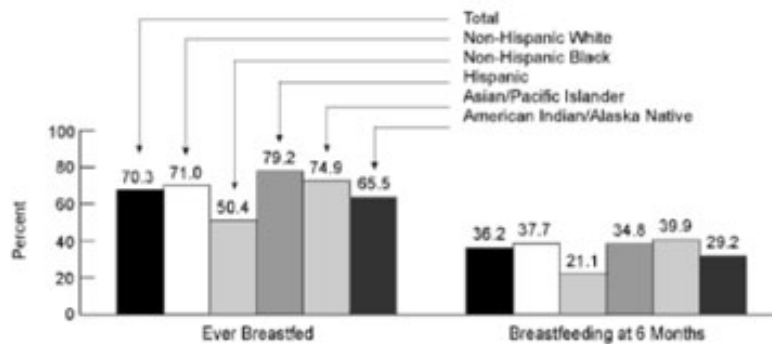
<http://ourtimes.wordpress.com/2008/09/09/world-breastfeeding-league-table/>

# Breastfeeding Rates in the US by Region and Ethnicity

Breastfeeding Rates by US Region			
White non-Hispanic		Black non-Hispanic	
West	86.2%	West	71.7%
Northeast	67.5%	Northeast	60.1%
Midwest	69.5%	Midwest	47.2%
South	67.8%	South	45.9%

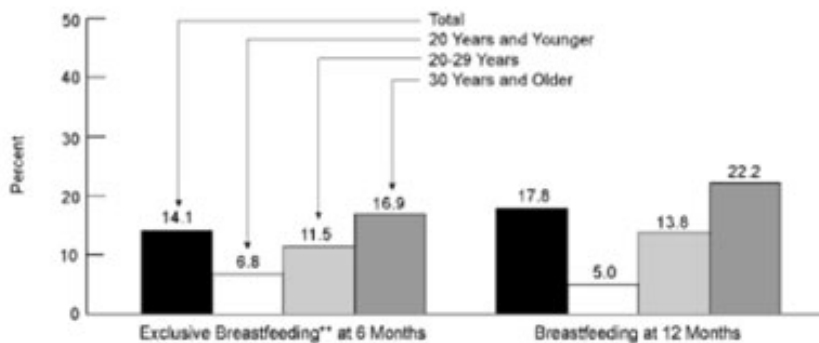
Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities in Breastfeeding – United States, 2004  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5512a3.htm>

**Breastfeeding\* Rates, by Race/Ethnicity: 2004**



\*Includes exclusive and supplemental breastfeeding.

**Breastfeeding Rates, by Recommended Duration\* and Maternal Age: 2004**



\*The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding through 6 months of age, and continued supplemental breastfeeding through 1 year.

\*\*Defined as breast milk only—no solids, water or other liquids.