

Table 18. Breastfeeding by mothers 15–44 years of age by year of baby's birth, according to selected characteristics of mother: United States, average annual 1972–74 to 1993–94

[Data are based on household interviews of samples of women in the childbearing ages]

<i>Selected characteristics of mother</i>	1972–74	1975–77	1978–80	1981–83	1984–86	1987–89	1990–92	1993–94
	Percent of babies breastfed							
Total	30.1	36.7	47.5	58.1	54.5	52.3	54.2	58.1
Race and Hispanic origin ¹								
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White	32.5	38.9	53.2	64.3	59.7	58.3	59.1	61.2
Black or African American	12.5	16.8	19.6	26.0	22.9	21.0	22.9	27.5
Hispanic or Latino	33.1	42.9	46.3	52.8	58.9	51.3	58.8	67.4
Education ²								
No high school diploma or GED ³	14.0	19.4	27.6	31.4	36.8	30.0	38.6	43.0
High school diploma or GED ³	25.0	33.6	40.2	54.3	46.7	46.6	46.0	51.2
Some college, no bachelor's degree	35.2	43.5	63.2	66.7	66.1	57.8	60.7	65.9
Bachelor's degree or higher	65.5	66.9	71.3	83.2	75.3	79.2	80.8	80.6
Geographic region								
Northeast	29.9	34.7	49.3	68.2	55.3	49.9	54.0	56.7
Midwest	22.3	30.9	34.4	46.0	50.9	50.4	51.6	49.7
South	30.6	33.1	49.5	57.9	45.3	42.5	43.6	49.7
West	47.1	54.5	66.6	69.9	70.9	69.1	70.5	79.3
Age at baby's birth								
Under 20 years	17.0	22.1	31.4	31.0	30.6	26.2	35.2	45.3
20–24 years	28.7	33.5	44.7	50.8	50.2	46.7	44.7	50.9
25–29 years	38.7	45.9	53.6	62.2	59.8	57.1	56.5	55.9
30–44 years	43.1	47.5	55.2	73.1	65.9	65.3	67.5	71.1
	Percent of breastfed babies who were breastfed 3 months or more ⁴							
Total	62.3	66.2	64.7	68.3	63.2	61.5	61.0	56.2
Race and Hispanic origin ¹								
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White	62.1	66.7	67.6	68.1	62.5	62.3	62.6	56.8
Black or African American	47.8	60.7	58.5	61.1	56.8	46.9	56.7	45.4
Hispanic or Latino	64.7	62.7	46.3	65.6	66.4	64.3	58.2	55.5
Education ²								
No high school diploma or GED ³	54.4	54.7	53.7	50.5	59.8	57.3	55.5	44.5
High school diploma or GED ³	53.7	62.5	59.4	59.6	58.0	58.3	58.2	49.7
Some college, no bachelor's degree	69.5	77.2	63.8	73.3	63.4	60.7	53.8	60.2
Bachelor's degree or higher	69.2	65.3	79.8	80.9	72.2	68.1	73.8	68.1
Geographic region								
Northeast	64.6	68.2	71.2	75.0	64.8	59.7	72.7	58.7
Midwest	44.4	54.3	53.1	64.4	60.4	58.6	63.1	56.7
South	72.6	74.1	67.6	65.0	60.3	55.2	50.8	50.9
West	69.0	70.6	66.8	69.6	66.9	69.9	60.4	59.0
Age at baby's birth								
Under 20 years	50.0	61.0	48.2	49.1	62.5	56.3	31.9	22.6
20–24 years	57.7	59.4	60.0	63.7	51.9	51.6	54.0	50.6
25–29 years	68.3	71.5	65.1	70.8	65.6	58.3	59.7	63.7
30–44 years	79.4	72.8	81.5	72.8	73.2	73.5	71.8	62.3

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

²For women 22–44 years of age. Education is as of year of interview. See NOTES below.

³General equivalency diploma.

⁴For mothers interviewed in the first 3 months of 1995, only babies age 3 months and over are included so they would be eligible for breastfeeding for 3 months or more.

NOTES: Data on breastfeeding during 1972–83 are based on responses to questions in the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) Cycle 4, conducted in 1988. Data for 1984–94 are based on the NSFG Cycle 5, conducted in 1995. Data are based on all 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.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle 4 1988, Cycle 5 1995.