

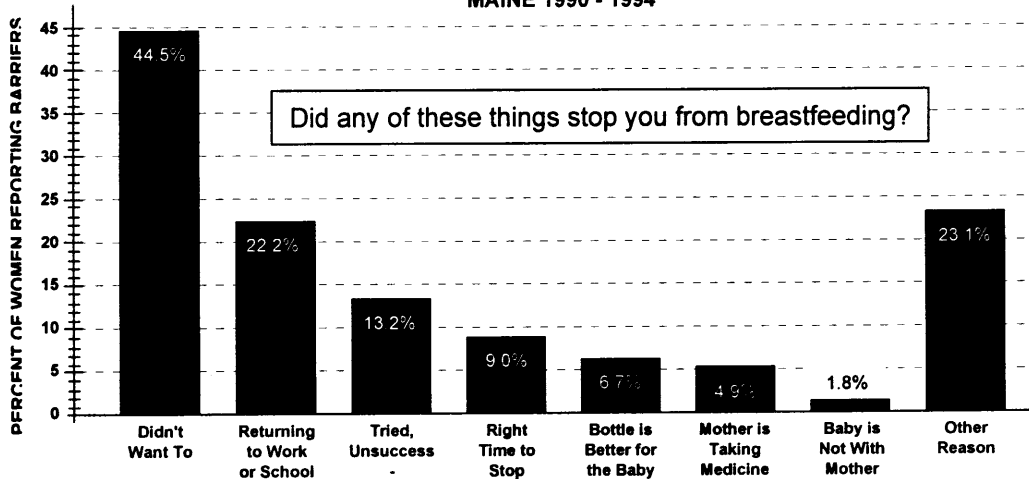
CHARACTERISTICS OF BREASTFEEDING

Data from the
MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (PRAMS)
 1990 - 1994

Number 10

- ➔ One of the National Health Objectives for the Year 2000 is to increase the prevalence of breastfeeding in the first weeks after delivery to at least 75%¹; in Maine, 56% of mothers breastfeed at some point after delivery.
- ➔ College graduates are more than 3 times as likely to breastfeed as mothers with less than twelve years of education and almost twice as likely to breastfeed as high school graduates.
- ➔ Mothers 20 years old and over are almost twice as likely to breastfeed as teen mothers.
- ➔ Nearly half (45%) of mothers who do not breastfeed say they do not want to.

REPORTED BARRIERS TO BREASTFEEDING
 MAINE 1990 - 1994



- ➔ 59% of mothers who intended to become pregnant breastfed their babies while only 47% of those who did not intend to become pregnant breastfeed; *this difference is significant.*
- ➔ 60% of married Maine mothers breastfeed their babies compared to 36% of those who are unmarried; *this difference is significant.*
- ➔ Mothers who receive prenatal care from a private doctor or an HMO are 50% more likely to breastfeed their babies than those who receive care at a hospital clinic; *this difference is significant.*

NOTE: Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance
 Footnote 1: A full citation is available upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
 the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, Bureau of Health
 at 35 Anthony Avenue, State House Station 11, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
 The contact person(s) is: Marty Burns - 624-5445

For program information, please contact: the WIC Program at 287-3991

Angus S. King, Jr.
 Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
 Commissioner

DS:FACTS5.FRP P5
 PRA.009
 06201996

OFFICE OF DATA, RESEARCH, AND VITAL STATISTICS

Series 4

FACT SHEET - PRAMS