



2020 Louisiana Breastfeeding Report



Human milk feeding is a proven primary prevention strategy, building a foundation for life-long health and wellness for infants and parents.

Louisiana Breastfeeding Rates

See how Louisiana breastfeeding rates and other measures compare to national rates and targets set by the Healthy People 2020 (HP2020) initiative.

	Breastfeeding Initiation Rate	Largest Disparity Between Racial/Ethnic Groups
Louisiana	71%	30.5%
U.S. National	84.1%	16.7%
HP2020 Target	81.9%	N/A

Source: [National Vital Statistics System birth certificate data](#), a census of all 2019 births and the largest collection of breastfeeding data. Breastfeeding initiation is measured as a percentage. Largest disparity in breastfeeding initiation between racial/ethnic groups is measured as a percentage difference.

	Exclusive Breastfeeding at 6 Months	Any Breastfeeding at 12 Months	Formula Supplementation at 2 Days	mPINC Score
Louisiana	21.8%	21.8%	13.4%	75
U.S. National	25.6%	35.3%	19.2%	79
HP2020 Target	25.5%	34.1%	14.2%	N/A

Source: [CDC Breastfeeding Report Card](#), a biannual publication highlighting progress towards breastfeeding goals in the United States. Breastfeeding and supplementation rates are measured as a percentage. CDC's national Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey assesses maternity care practices that affect how babies are fed.

WIC Program Breastfeeding Performance Measures

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provides supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five. The WIC program serves approximately 53 percent of all infants born in the United States.

	Fully Breastfed Rate	Partially Breastfed Rate	Total Breastfed Rate	Fully Formula Fed Rate
Louisiana WIC Rates	4.4%	9.6%	14%	86%
National WIC Rates	12.1%	21.9%	33.9%	66.1%

Source: [Fiscal Year 2020 WIC Breastfeeding Data Local Agency Report](#). Breastfeeding and formula feeding rates are measured as a percentage of participating children under one year of age.

Federally Funded Lactation Projects in Louisiana During 2020

Each year funding is allocated to a variety of federally funded programs that include infant feeding support through the federal appropriations process.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- The [CDC Hospitals Promoting Breastfeeding program](#) provides critical support to advance breastfeeding continuity of care and increase access to lactation-friendly environments in states, hospitals, and communities. In Fiscal Year 2020, this program was funded at \$9 million.
- [State perinatal quality collaboratives](#) (PQCs) are state or multi-state networks of teams working to improve the quality of care for mothers and babies, including improvements in breastfeeding rates. CDC's Division of Reproductive Health is currently providing support for the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

Health Resources & Service Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA, MCHB)

- The [Title V Maternal and Child Health \(MCH\) Block Grant](#) provides funding for states and jurisdictions to meet the unique health needs of their children and families. Louisiana has chosen increasing the percentage of infants who are ever breastfed and infants who are breastfed exclusively through 6 months as one of their Title V Maternal and Child Health grant National Performance Measures.
- The [Children's Healthy Weight Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network \(CHW-CollIN\)](#), coordinated by the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists, partners with and supports states in adopting evidence-based or evidence-informed policies and practices related to nutrition, physical activity, and breastfeeding. The Louisiana CollIN team sought to build partnerships and expand outreach through the formation of a statewide workgroup comprised of various stakeholders, employers, and employees. Working closely together, they were able to expand policy and practice change, creating more breastfeeding-friendly workplace environments.
- The [Healthy Start program](#) strengthens the foundations at the community, state, and national levels to help women, infants, and families reach their fullest potential. The Healthy Start program implements community-based interventions to improve the health of mothers and children, including lactation education. Louisiana received four Healthy Start awards totaling \$4,661,372 in funding. The City of New Orleans, Crescent City WIC Services, Inc. in Gretna, Family Roads in Baton Rouge, and Family Tree Information Education & Counseling Center in Lafayette each were awarded \$1,165,343.
- The [Maternal Telehealth Access Project](#) (MTAP) is a one-time project funded through the CARES Act to increase access to quality maternity care and services via telehealth during (and beyond) the COVID-19 pandemic. The project focuses specifically on serving women at greatest risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, including women of color, Black women, Native American women, Latinx women, and women who live in rural and frontier communities. The MTAP [Community Grant Program](#) was designed to increase access to perinatal services and supports via telehealth, including clinical care, care coordination, support, and doula/community health workers. The project was coordinated by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), in partnership with Reaching Our Sisters Everywhere (ROSE) and the National Birth Equity Collaborative (NBEC). Through the MTAP program, the H.E.R. Institute of New Orleans used funding from ROSE to expand the hours of virtual and phone lactation support, offer additional drop-in hours, and expand prenatal birthing and breastfeeding education opportunities.

Breastfeeding Coalitions Serving in Louisiana

The USBC supports an extensive network of state, tribal, territorial, local, and cultural breastfeeding coalitions working to create policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) interventions to better serve babies and families. The following coalitions serve in Louisiana:

- Louisiana Breastfeeding Coalition: <http://www.louisianabreastfeeding.org>
- Greater New Orleans Breastfeeding Awareness Coalition: <http://gnobac.org>