

Prevention and Health Promotion

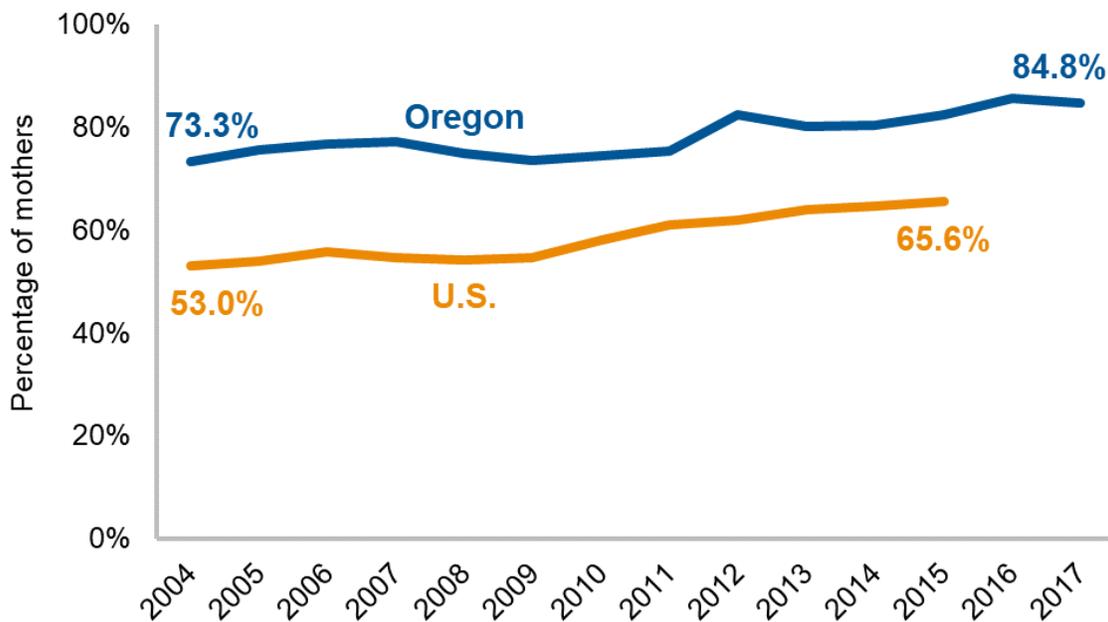
Infant breastfeeding

Breast milk is the most complete form of nutrition for infants, with well-documented benefits for infants’ health, growth, immunity, and development. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding for reduced risk of infection in infants and for the prevention of childhood obesity. Breastfeeding also enhances bonding between infant and mother.

Breastfeeding rates in Oregon are higher than in the U.S. as a whole (Figure 1), and in 2017, 84.8% of Oregon mothers breastfed their infants at 8 weeks after delivery. Oregon also has the second highest rate of breastfeeding at 6 months postpartum of any state: 70.4% in Oregon compared to 57.3% in the U.S. in 2016¹.

FIGURE 1

Breastfeeding 8 weeks after delivery by year, Oregon and U.S.



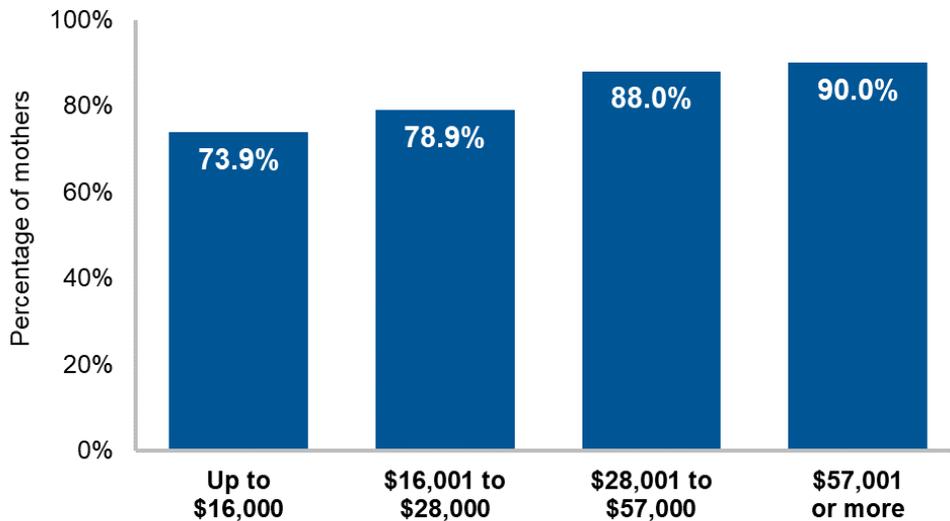
Source: CDC PRAMStat

¹ [Breastfeeding Among U.S. Children Born 2009-2015. CDC National Immunization Survey](#)

Infant breastfeeding overall in Oregon is high, but mothers who are <20 years old or very low-income have lower rates (Figures 2 and 3). In the weeks following birth, mothers often reduce or stop breastfeeding for a variety of reasons. With active support, these barriers can be resolved so mothers can achieve their personal breastfeeding goals and meet breastfeeding recommendations.

FIGURE 2

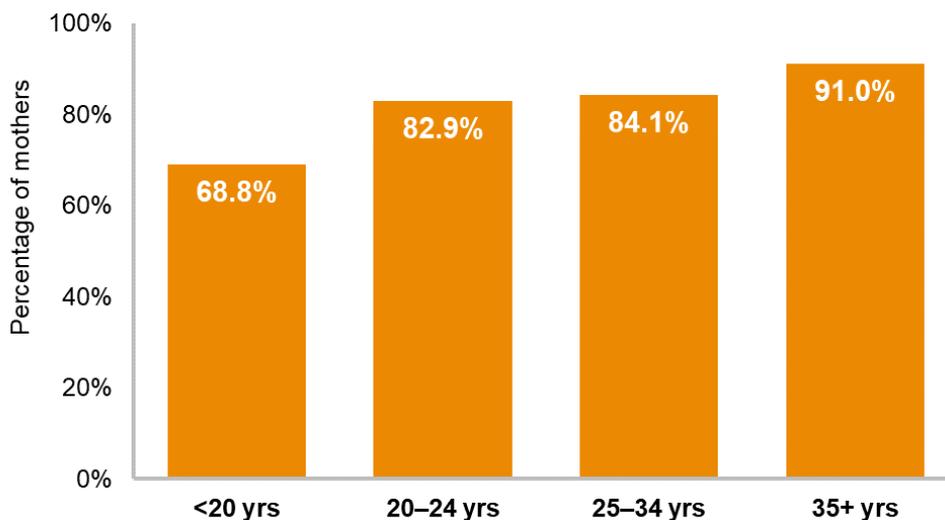
Breastfeeding 8 weeks after delivery by income, Oregon, 2017



Source: Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

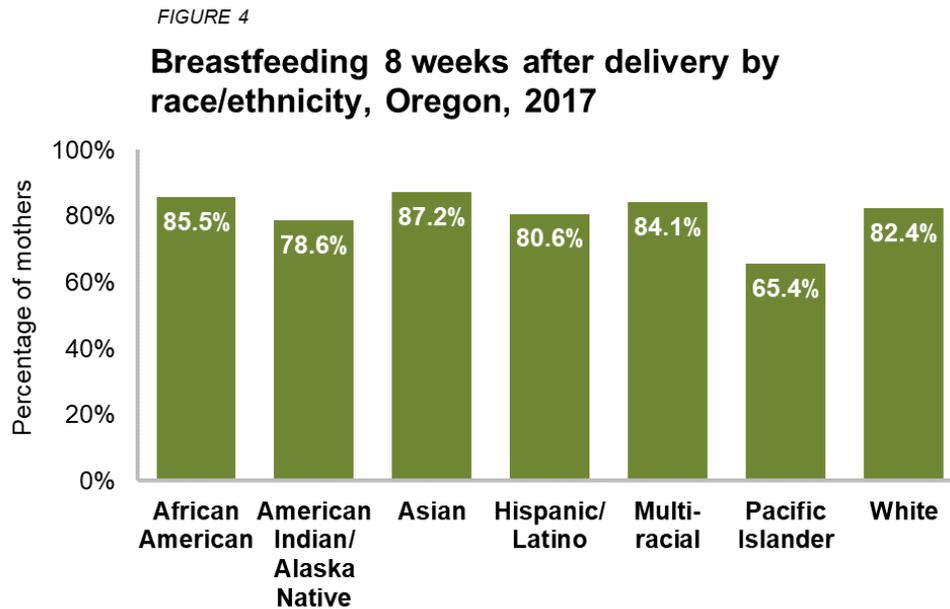
FIGURE 3

Breastfeeding 8 weeks after delivery by maternal age, Oregon, 2017



Source: Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

In Oregon, women who identify as Asian had the highest percentage of breastfeeding their babies at 8 weeks of age (87.2%), and Pacific Islander women the lowest (65.4%; Figure 4).



*Notes: All other groups exclude Hispanic ethnicity.
 Source: Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)*

Oregon conducts an ongoing statewide survey of mothers of newborns and of toddlers to better understand mothers’ knowledge and experiences of breastfeeding and to determine where breastfeeding promotion efforts can best be targeted. Oregon WIC offers breastfeeding education and support to all program participants. WIC provides breast pumps when they are needed for medical reasons and to help mothers continue feeding breast milk after returning to work or school. Some WIC locations offer additional support through Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Services.

Additional Resources: [Maternal and Child Health Data Book](#); [Oregon Public Health Division information on Breastfeeding](#)

About the Data: *Breastfeeding at 8 weeks data are from the Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) by year of birth. Unknowns are excluded from the analysis. Percentage of infants breastfed includes any breastfeeding of the infant at 8 weeks postpartum. Breastfeeding data at 6 months postpartum are from the CDC National Immunization Survey,*

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Oregon State Health Profiles

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