

Breast Feeding among African American Versus White Mothers

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Research Question

Do African American mothers have a lower success rate with breastfeeding throughout the six months of baby's life than their White mother counterparts.

Research suggests that Infants who are breastfed are less likely to experience infectious diseases and mortality (Benefits of Breastfeeding, 2022). It has long been recognized that African American infants are more than twice as likely as White infants to die in their first year of life. (Colins, 2010). This paper/ poster examines breast feeding rates among black versus white women based on data collected through a lactation consultant program. These findings on breastfeeding rates may help address some of the racial factors driving infant mortality and

BACKGROUND & SIGNIFICANCE

Breastfeeding has been found to **build strong immune systems** and **lowers baby's risk of:**

- Diarrhea
- Ear infection
- Bacterial meningitis
- Asthma
- SID
- Childhood obesity
- Eczema
- Type 2 diabetes
- Leukemia
- Cavities
- Celiac disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Hospitalization rate
- Odds of post-perinatal infant deaths in multiple racial and ethnic groups

CONCLUSION

Breastfeeding Success Rate Comparison

- 2 Months – Black 2.0% higher rate than White
- 4 Months – Black 1.5% lower rate than White
- 6 Months – Black 1.3% lower rate than White

Despite black mothers starting at a slightly higher breastfeeding success rate postpartum, by the 4-month mark, the success rate for black mothers was slightly lower than white mothers. The 6 month-mark displayed the same outcome as the 4-month mark with black women breastfeeding at a slightly lower rate than white women. Further analyses will be done to better understand differences in breastfeeding outcomes among women of low socio-economic status, both black and white and of other ethnicities.

METHOD

Secondary Data Analysis

Data:
Breastfeeding Status
Lactation Appointment Results
Race
Age
Breastfeeding Goals

Data Sources:
Hospitals
Regional KY Clinics
Lactation Consultants

Data Formats:
Electronic Health Record System
Microsoft Excel

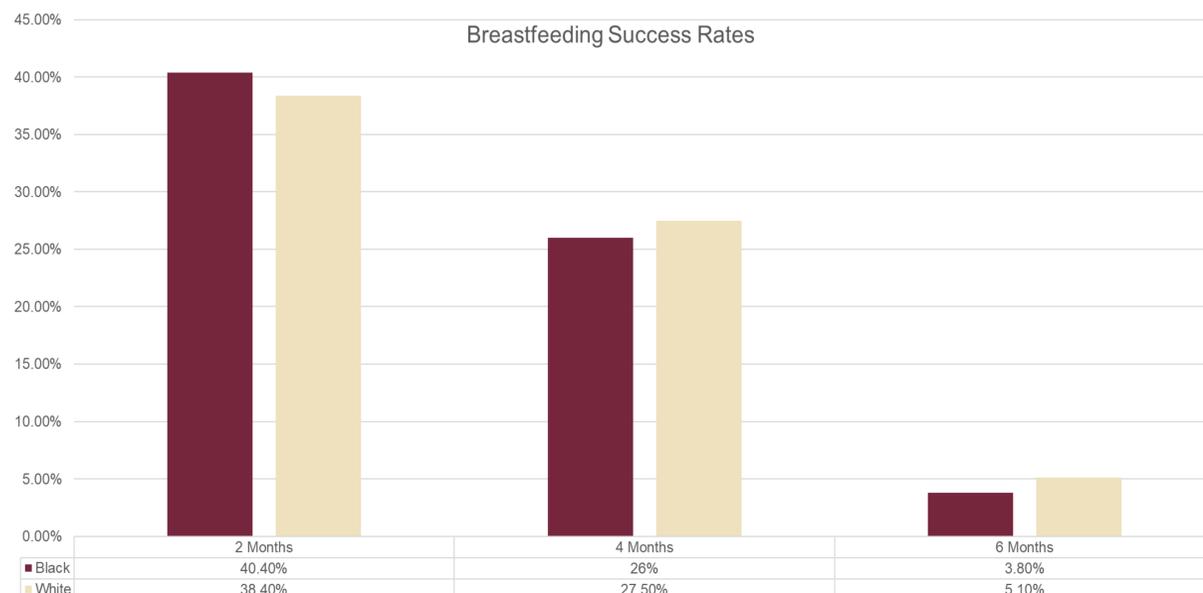


Table 1.
Breastfeeding Success Rates for Black and Whites Mothers at 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months postpartum

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