



Montana Breastfeeding Report

Breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy, building a foundation for life-long health and wellness. Here's how Montana's breastfeeding rates and other measures (2015 births) compare to national rates and targets set by the Healthy People 2020 initiative.

BREASTFEEDING RATES & PROGRESS	% ever breastfed	% duration to 12 months	% exclusive at 6 months	% of births at Baby-Friendly facilities	# of Baby-Friendly facilities
Montana	83.9	40.5	35.7	27.9	10
U.S. National	83.2	35.9	24.9	26.1	555
HP2020 Target	81.9	34.1	25.5	8.1	N/A

A 2016 study published in the journal Maternal & Child Nutrition quantified excess cases of pediatric and maternal disease and death and associated costs attributable to suboptimal breastfeeding (using rates for 2014 births and defining "optimal" as 90% of infants breastfed according to medical recommendations). Here's how Montana's costs resulting from sub-optimal rates compare:

COSTS OF SUB-OPTIMAL BREASTFEEDING RATES	Medical Costs of Sub-Optimal Rates	Non-Medical Costs of Sub-Optimal Rates	Death Costs of Sub-Optimal Rates
Montana	\$7,531,822	\$3,164,906	\$32,042,590
U.S. National	\$2,405,023,438	\$1,093,681,596	\$10,798,725,299

Your State Breastfeeding Coalition

The USBC is affiliated with breastfeeding coalitions in all 50 states that carry out activities at state/local levels.

Montana State Breastfeeding Coalition

Because healthy babies and healthy moms mean a healthy Montana, the Montana State Breastfeeding Coalition continues to focus its efforts on promoting and supporting lactation education opportunities, increasing access to rural breastfeeding support, and supporting best practices in maternity care. While our moms and babies start off great, our breastfeeding rates drop significantly at 3 months and it is with this in mind that the Montana State Breastfeeding Coalition needs your help in protecting, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding families in our communities.

www.mtbreastfeedingcoalition.weebly.com