



# Rhode Island Breastfeeding Report

Breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy, building a foundation for life-long health and wellness. Here's how Rhode Island'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
Rhode Island	81.4	30.9	28.9	86.0	4
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 Rhode Island'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
Rhode Island	\$7,705,575	\$3,152,830	\$33,722,981
U.S. National	\$2,405,023,438	\$1,093,681,596	\$10,798,725,299

## Federally Funded Breastfeeding Projects

### Health Resources & Service Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau

- Through a **Title V Maternal and Child Health** grant, Rhode Island has chosen increasing percentage of infants who are ever breastfed and infants breastfed exclusively through 6 months as one of their National Performance Measures.

## Your State Breastfeeding Coalition

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

### Rhode Island Breastfeeding Coalition

The vision of the Rhode Island Breastfeeding Coalition is that all babies in Rhode Island will be breastfed and breastfeeding will be accepted as the norm for infant feeding in Rhode Island. The coalition primarily focuses on increasing breastfeeding knowledge and awareness among breastfeeding families and health care professionals, building community partnerships, and developing community resources. We are ready to continue the work to support and protect breastfeeding families in Rhode Island and on the national level.

[www.ribreastfeeding.org](http://www.ribreastfeeding.org)