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

**U.S. Virgin Islands 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fully Breastfed Rate</th>
<th>Partially Breastfed Rate</th>
<th>Total Breastfed Rate</th>
<th>Fully Formula Fed Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Virgin Islands WIC Rates</strong></td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>61.6%</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National WIC Rates</strong></td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Federally Funded Lactation Projects in U.S. Virgin Islands 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](https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/hospitals-promoting-breastfeeding/) 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.

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

- The [Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant](https://www.hrsa.gov) provides funding for states and jurisdictions to meet the unique health needs of their children and families. The U.S. Virgin Islands have 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.