

Table 7.18

Breastfeeding at Eight Weeks by Mother's Race/Ethnicity in Hawai'i, Aggregate 2004-2008.

Race/Ethnicity	Prevalance (%)
Japanese	84.3
Chinese	83.0
Korean	82.1
White	76.6
All Others	74.7
Filipino	66.9
Native Hawaiian	62.6
Black	59.6
Samoan	54.9

Background:

“Breast milk is the most complete form of nutrition for infants, and offers a range of benefits for infant including prevention of childhood illnesses such as obesity and ear infections. Breastfeeding mothers report fewer sick visits and improved work productivity for mothers and society. The U.S. Healthy People 2010 objective is to increase the initiation of breastfeeding in the early postpartum period to 75% of newborns and to improve breastfeeding rates to 50% of infants at age 6 months and 25% at 1 year.”

PRAMS Definition:

“Self-reported measures of timing of breastfeeding for at least 8 weeks was calculated. In women who reported no longer breastfeeding on the survey, the time that women reported stopping was used. Among mothers that were still breastfeeding at time the survey was completed, the number of weeks at that point was used. This measure did not include the degree of exclusive breastfeeding.”

Differences Related to Maternal Race:

“Samoan, Hawaiian, Black, and Filipino mothers reported the lowest estimates of breastfeeding at least 8 weeks.”

Source: Hawai'i State, Department of Health, Hawai'i Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). (Honolulu)