

Cyprus public hospitals, 2007: Peristat Indicators

5 - THE CARE OF WOMEN AND BABIES DURING PREGNANCY AND THE POSTPARTUM PERIOD

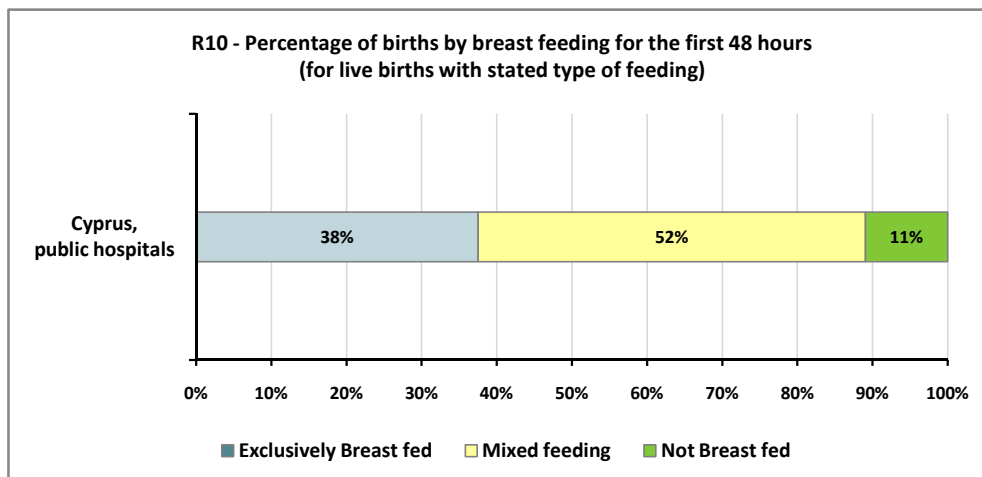
INDICATOR (R10): BREAST FEEDING AT BIRTH

Number of births	Total	%
Breast feeding		
Exclusively Breast fed	783	35.3%
Mixed feeding	1075	48.5%
Not Breast fed	228	10.3%
Not stated	116	5.2%
Stillborn	13	0.6%
Total	2215	100%

* Stillbirths and births without stated type of breastfeeding are excluded

R10 - Percentage of births by breast feeding for the first 48 hours (for live births with stated type of feeding)

Breast feeding	Cyprus, public hospitals
Exclusively Breast fed	38%
Mixed feeding	52%
Not Breast fed	11%
Cyprus public hospitals	100%





EUROPEAN PERINATAL HEALTH REPORT

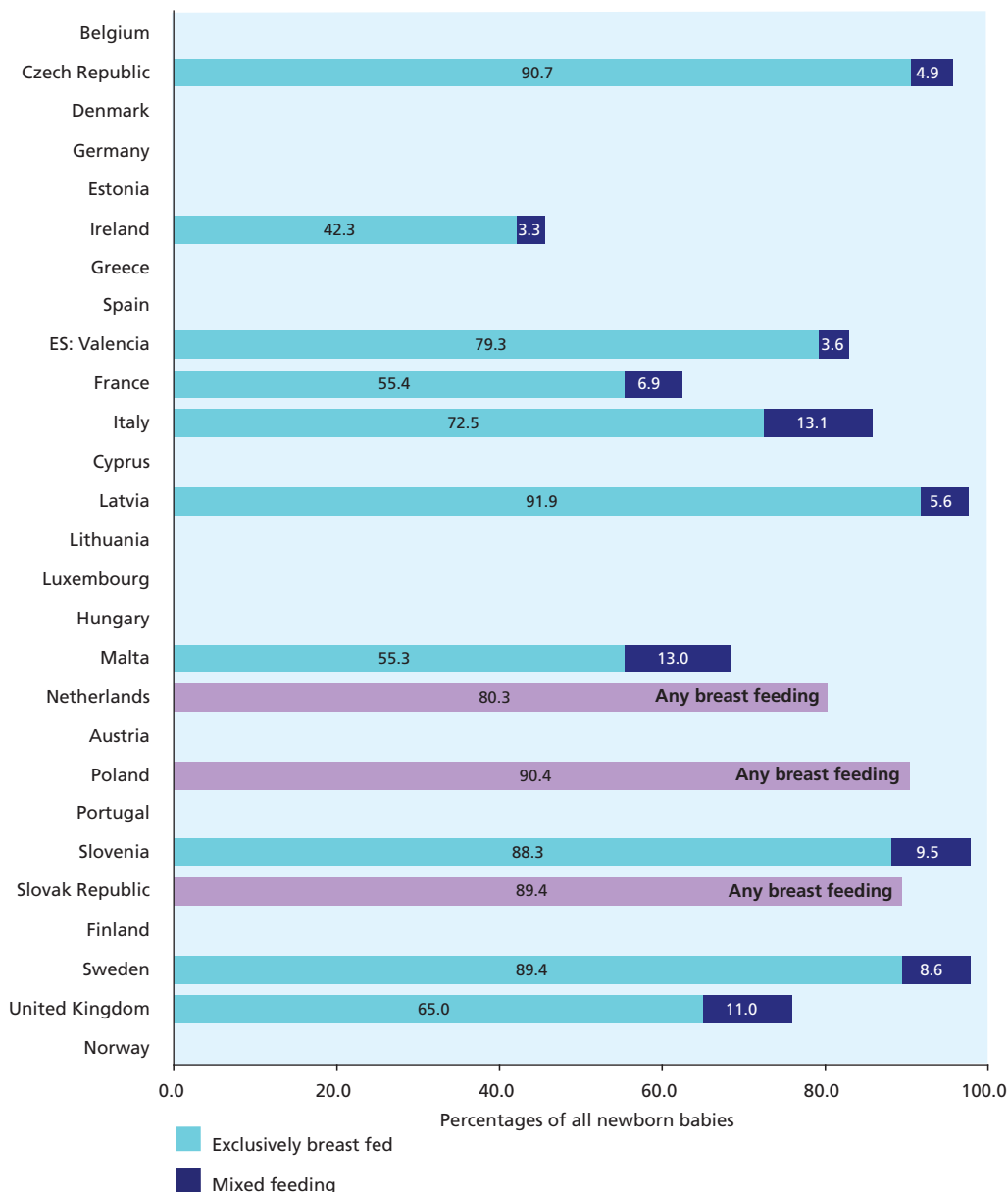
by the **EURO-PERISTAT** project
in collaboration with
SCPE, EUROCAT & EURONEOSTAT

Data from 2004

EURO-PERISTAT Project, with SCPE, EUROCAT, EURONEOSTAT. European Perinatal Health Report. 2008. Available: www.europeristat.com

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Figure 5.7 Distribution of exclusive and mixed breast feeding for the first 48 hours.



5.6 BREAST FEEDING AT BIRTH

INDICATOR TITLE: (R10) BREAST FEEDING IN THE FIRST 48 HOURS AFTER BIRTH PER 100 LIVE BIRTHS

Justification

Breast feeding during the first 48 hours after birth is an important indicator because such feeding is beneficial for the baby's health and because its success often depends on the support, information, and assistance of healthcare professionals during pregnancy and the immediate postpartum period.¹⁻³ Breast feeding is considered to give babies crucial benefits, including important nutritional advantages and improved resistance to infections.^{4,5} Although recommendations about the length of time breast feeding should continue vary substantially between and within countries, there is general agreement about its benefits for babies and thus about the importance of the initial postpartum intake.⁶ Records of feeding in the first 48 hours provide an indication of support to women and their newborns.

Definition and presentation of indicator

Babies breast fed in the first 48 hours after birth are defined as: (i) the number of newborn babies who are exclusively breast fed (baby receives breast milk and is allowed to receive drops and syrups) or (ii) the number of newborn babies who receive mixed food (baby receives breast milk and is

allowed any food or liquid including non-human milk), or it can be defined as its opposite (iii) the number of newborns who are not breast fed throughout the first 48 hours of age as a percentage of all newborn babies.⁷

This indicator provides one measure in the perinatal period, which is complemented by recommended indicators from the CHILD and EURODIET projects of the Health Monitoring Programme, both of which extend past the perinatal period and through infancy.

Breast feeding in the first 48 hours after birth is presented as a percentage of all newborns. Figure 5.7 shows the percentages and distribution of babies who are exclusively, mixed, and not breast fed during the first 48 hours.

Data sources and availability of indicator in European countries

As Figure 5.7 shows, data on breast feeding are available from 13 countries (Czech Republic, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Sweden, and the UK). These data come mostly from population-based surveys and hospital discharge data. Data on breast feeding in Cyprus will be collected soon. Denmark does not collect data on breast feeding because over 95% of all newborns in Denmark are breast fed exclusively for at least the first 48 hours. In Hungary approximately 40% of infants are breast fed exclusively during the first six months. The Netherlands and Poland could not distinguish between exclusive and mixed breast feeding. The Czech Republic provided percentages of breast feeding based on hospital discharge data for the years 2000-2005 combined.

Methodological issues in the computation, reporting, and interpretation of the indicator

There were differences in the period of breast feeding considered, even though the indicator specified feeding status in the first 48 hours. Many countries, such as Malta; Ireland, and the Slovak Republic, collect data on breast feeding at discharge, which may not always be close to 48 hours. France provided data on breast feeding collected from an interview at the second or third day post partum, while Sweden provided data on it at the age of one week. It is unclear how these differences in the time period at which the data are recorded affect estimates of breast feeding at birth.

Results

Figure 5.7 illustrates the large differences in rates of breast feeding in Europe. In some countries, almost all babies receive some breastmilk at birth (Czech Republic, Latvia, Slovenia, and Sweden). In these countries, most mothers were exclusively breast feeding their babies. Rates of breast feeding were also high in Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and the Valencia region of Spain. Ireland had the lowest percentage (46%), followed by France (62%), Malta (68%), and the UK (76%).

KEY POINTS

Many countries were unable to provide data on this important indicator of child health and care at birth. In those countries that were able to provide data, rates of breast feeding at birth varied greatly. In some European countries, almost all newborns receive some breast milk at birth; in France and Ireland, rates are considerably lower.

REFERENCES

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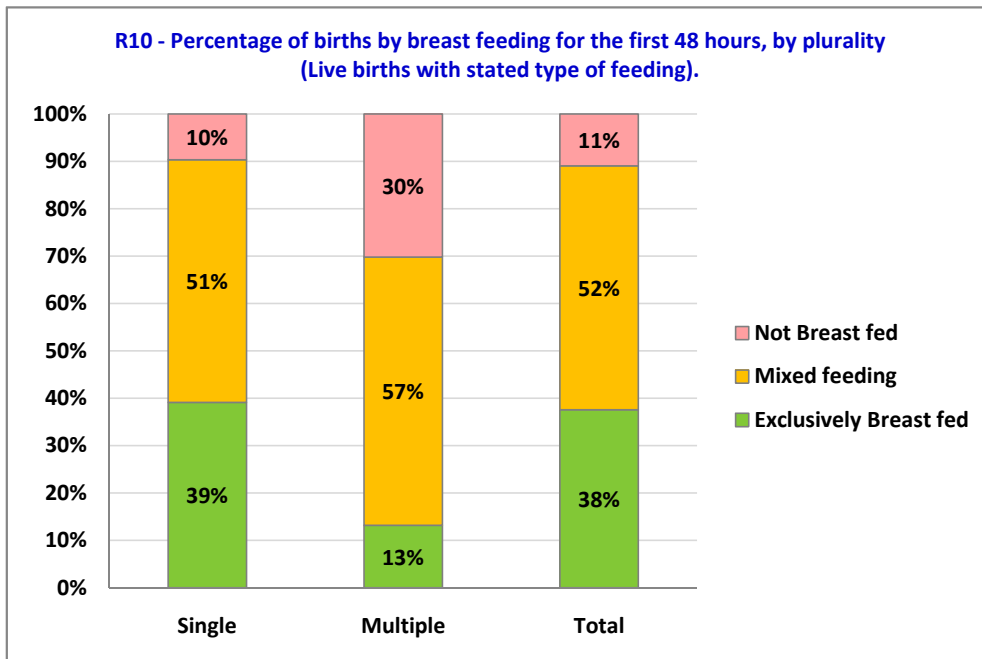
INDICATOR (R10): BREAST FEEDING AT BIRTH by PLURALITY OF PREGNANCY

Number of births Breast feeding	Plurality of pregnancy		Total
	Single	Multiple	
Exclusively Breast fed	766	17	783
Mixed feeding	1002	73	1075
Not Breast fed	189	39	228
Total	1957	129	2086

* Stillbirths and births without stated type of breastfeeding are excluded

R10 - Percentage of births by breast feeding for the first 48 hours, by plurality (Live births with stated type of feeding).

Breast feeding	Plurality of pregnancy		Total
	Single	Multiple	
Exclusively Breast fed	39.1%	13.2%	37.5%
Mixed feeding	51.2%	56.6%	51.5%
Not Breast fed	9.7%	30.2%	10.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



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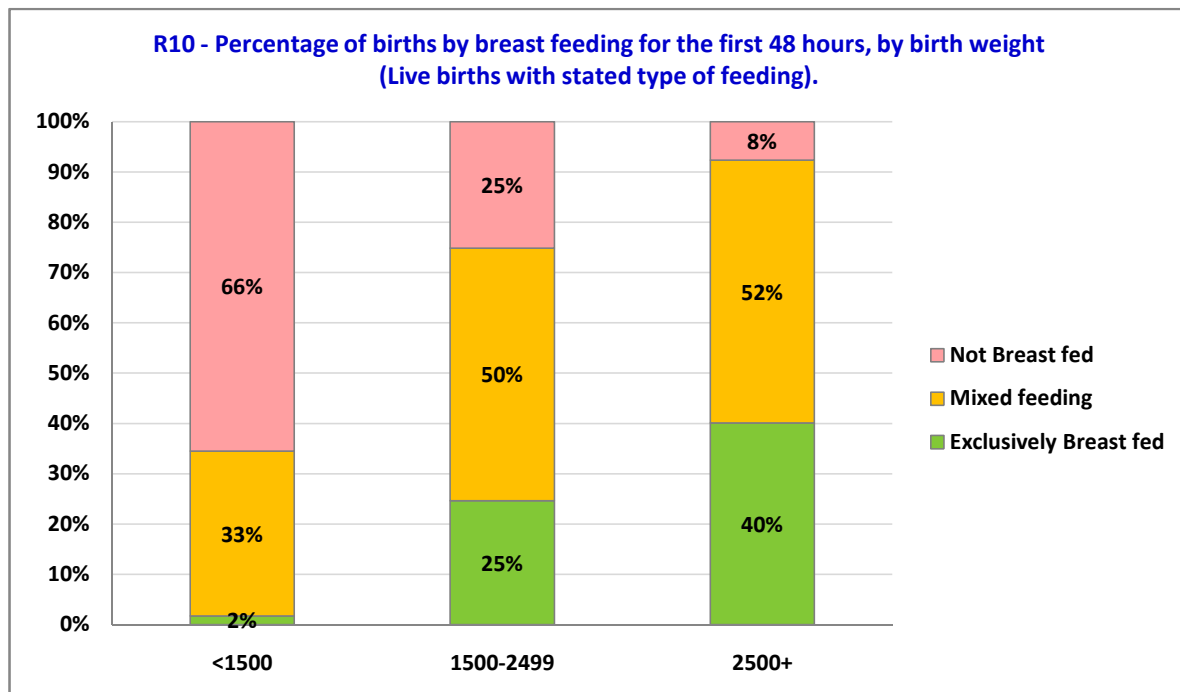
INDICATOR (R10): BREAST FEEDING AT BIRTH by BIRTH WEIGHT

Number of births	Birth weight (g)			Total
	<1500	1500-2499	2500+	
Breast feeding				
Exclusively Breast fed	1	50	732	783
Mixed feeding	19	102	954	1075
Not Breast fed	38	51	139	228
Total	58	203	1825	2086

* Stillbirths and births without stated type of breast feeding are excluded.

R10 - Percentage of births by breast feeding for the first 48 hours, by birth weight
(Live births with stated type of feeding).

Breast feeding	Birth weight (g)			Total
	<1500	1500-2499	2500+	
Exclusively Breast fed	1.7%	24.6%	40.1%	37.5%
Mixed feeding	32.8%	50.2%	52.3%	51.5%
Not Breast fed	65.5%	25.1%	7.6%	10.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



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INDICATOR (R10): BREAST FEEDING AT BIRTH by Mother's EDUCATION

Number of births	Education						Total
	Pre primary	Primary	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Post secondary	First stage tertiary	
Breast feeding							
Exclusively Breast fed	4	41	125	281	118	213	782
Mixed feeding	9	51	147	459	142	265	1073
Not Breast fed	1	12	27	89	35	62	226
Total	14	104	299	829	295	540	2081

* Stillbirths and births without stated type of breast feeding are excluded.

R10 - Percentage of births by breast feeding for the first 48 hours, by mother's education.
(Live births with stated type of feeding).

Breast feeding	Education						Total
	Pre primary	Primary	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Post secondary	First stage tertiary	
Exclusively Breast fed	28.6%	39.4%	41.8%	33.9%	40.0%	39.4%	37.6%
Mixed feeding	64.3%	49.0%	49.2%	55.4%	48.1%	49.1%	51.6%
Not Breast fed	7.1%	11.5%	9.0%	10.7%	11.9%	11.5%	10.9%
Upper secondary	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

