

**CYPRUS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
MATERNITY UNITS**

**BREASTFEEDING DURING THE FIRST
48 HOURS AFTER BIRTH
FOR THE YEAR 2017**

HEALTH MONITORING UNIT

September 2019

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Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth

The following tables and charts are extracted from the Birth Registry of the Health Monitoring Unit and present birth data from all Public and Private Maternity Units in the Government Controlled Areas of Cyprus.

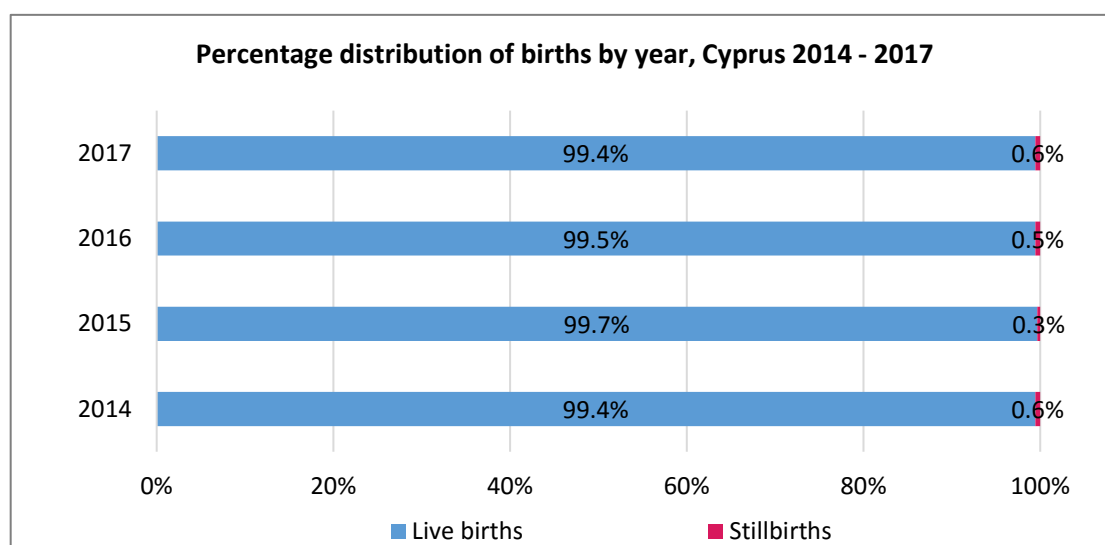
Birth Distribution

Live births in 2017 were 9443, less compared to 2016 that were 9670. Fetal deaths in 2017 were 53, much higher than in 2015 and at the same levels as in 2016 and 2014, giving a fetal mortality rate equal to 5.6 per 1000 total births.

Birth distribution by year, Cyprus 2014 – 2017

Births by year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014 - 2017
Live births	9499	9394	9670	9443	38006
Stillbirths	53	31	52	53	189
Total births	9552	9425	9722	9496	38195

Births per year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014 - 2017
Live births	99.4%	99.7%	99.5%	99.4%	99.5%
Stillbirths	0.6%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
% of total births	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by Sector

The chart below shows breastfeeding rates for the years 2014-2017. Overall, they are at much higher levels than they were in 2010 according to Euro-Peristat data (see chart on page 4) (91.2% in 2017 compared to 65.7% in 2010). However, the percentages remain at fairly low levels for exclusive breastfeeding.

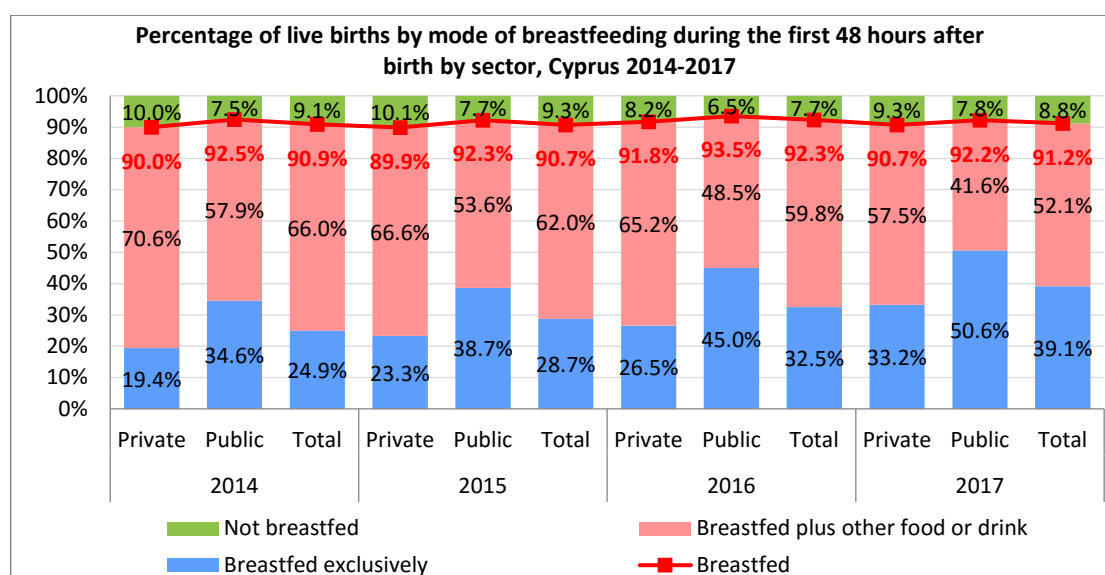
Live births by mode of breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by Public (Pu) and Private (Pr) Sector, Cyprus 2014-2017

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by sector	2014			2015			2016			2017		
	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total
Breastfed exclusively	1133	1147	2280	1375	1263	2638	1729	1414	3143	2069	1627	3696
Breastfed plus other food or drink	4122	1921	6043	3938	1749	5687	4249	1524	5773	3582	1336	4918
Not breastfed	585	250	835	598	253	851	537	204	741	577	251	828
Not stated	341	0	341	218	0	218	13	0	13	1	0	1
Live births	6181	3318	9499	6129	3265	9394	6528	3142	9670	6229	3214	9443

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by sector	2014			2015			2016			2017		
	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total
Breastfed exclusively	19.4%	34.6%	24.9%	23.3%	38.7%	28.7%	26.5%	45.0%	32.5%	33.2%	50.6%	39.1%
Breastfed plus other food or drink	70.6%	57.9%	66.0%	66.6%	53.6%	62.0%	65.2%	48.5%	59.8%	57.5%	41.6%	52.1%
Not breastfed	10.0%	7.5%	9.1%	10.1%	7.7%	9.3%	8.2%	6.5%	7.7%	9.3%	7.8%	8.8%
% of live births*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Breastfed	90.0%	92.5%	90.9%	89.9%	92.3%	90.7%	91.8%	93.5%	92.3%	90.7%	92.2%	91.2%

Denominator: Live births

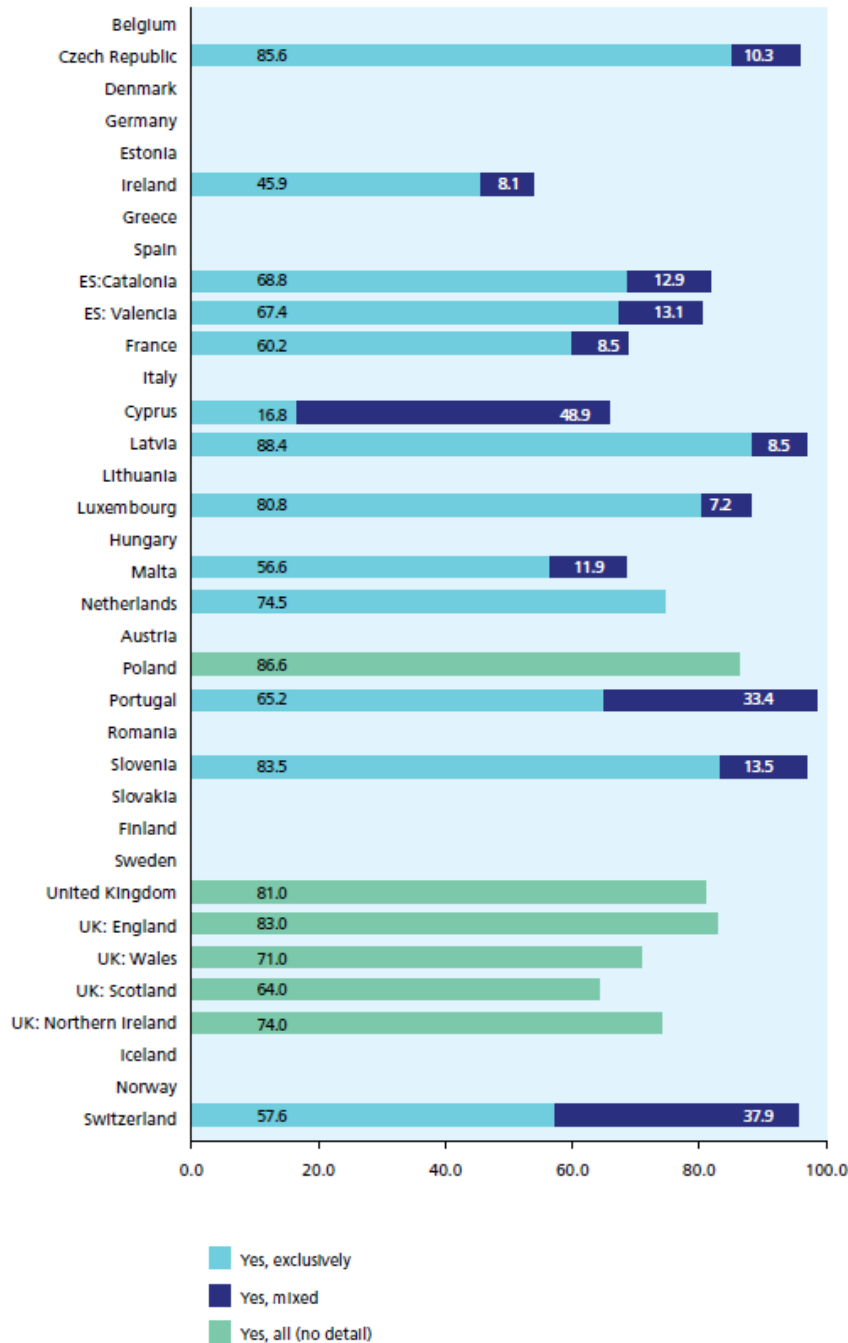
* "Not stated" cases are distributed in each category by a weighting factor



BREASTFEEDING DURING THE FIRST 48 HOURS AFTER BIRTH, CYPRUS 2010 FOR THE PERINATAL HEALTH REPORT 2010 OF EUROPERISTAT

EUROPEAN PERINATAL HEALTH REPORT

Figure 5.12 Distribution of exclusive and mixed breast feeding for the first 48 hours in 2010



NOTES:

Cyprus: Perinatal Survey in 2007

The Netherlands, no data on mixed feeding

Poland: National Health Survey in 2009

Portugal: National breastfeeding registry which was set up recently; coverage rate: 55% of public hospitals; includes term newborns from July 2010 to June 2011

Switzerland: includes healthy term newborns in hospitals and birthing homes participating in Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative; coverage rate: 38%

UK: no question on mixed feeding, only intended mixed feeding

Source: Perinatal Health Report 2010, Euro-Peristat

http://www.europeristat.com/images/European%20Perinatal%20Health%20Report_2010.pdf

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by district

It makes sense that in the Nicosia District, births are higher than in other districts because of the higher population, because of the greater number of obstetric clinics and because of the NICU in the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital. In 2017, the highest rates of exclusive breastfeeding are observed in the Nicosia District, while the highest mixed breastfeeding rates are observed in the Larnaca and Famagusta Districts.

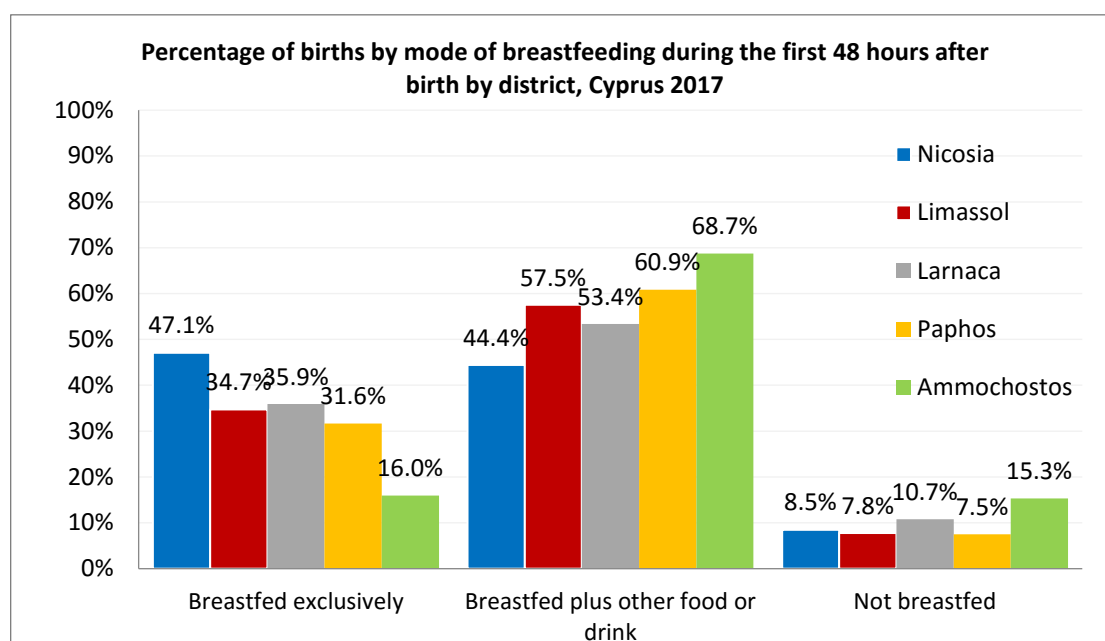
Live births by mode of breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by district, Cyprus 2017

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by district	Nicosia	Limassol	Larnaca	Paphos	Ammochostos	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	2001	943	364	312	76	3696
Breastfed plus other food or drink	1887	1563	541	600	327	4918
Not breastfed	361	211	109	74	73	828
Not stated	0	1	0	0	0	1
Live births	4249	2718	1014	986	476	9443

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by district	Nicosia	Limassol	Larnaca	Paphos	Ammochostos	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	47.1%	34.7%	35.9%	31.6%	16.0%	39.1%
Breastfed plus other food or drink	44.4%	57.5%	53.4%	60.9%	68.7%	52.1%
Not breastfed	8.5%	7.8%	10.7%	7.5%	15.3%	8.8%
% of live births*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Denominator: Live births

* "Not stated" cases are distributed in each category by a weighting factor



Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by mode of delivery

Cyprus has very high rates (probably the highest in the world) of caesarean section, approximately 53.3% (live births) in 2017 compared to 46.7% of normal delivery. In the Private Sector these rates are higher, 55.5% for caesarean and 44.5% for normal delivery.

The corresponding percentages in the Public Sector in 2017 were 49.1% for caesarean and 50.9% for normal delivery. Over time there is a slight downward trend in rates for caesarean section but they remain at the top high levels.

The World Health Organization, on its website, mentions that the "ideal" rate for caesarean section is between 10% and 15% and that caesarean section should be done only when is medically necessary, i.e. when vaginal delivery can be danger to mother or baby.

(<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2015/caesarean-sections/en/>)

In cases of normal delivery, the rates for exclusive breastfeeding are almost twice as high as those with caesarean section.

Live births by mode of delivery by Private (Pr) and Public (Pu) Sector,
Cyprus 2014-2017

Mode of delivery	2014			2015			2016			2017		
	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total
Normal (incl. vaginal instrumental)	2325	1755	4080	2390	1658	4048	2704	1609	4313	2769	1637	4406
Caesarean (emergency or elective)	3856	1563	5419	3739	1607	5346	3824	1533	5357	3460	1577	5037
Live births	6181	3318	9499	6129	3265	9394	6528	3142	9670	6229	3214	9443

Mode of delivery	2014			2015			2016			2017		
	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total	Pr	Pu	Total
Normal (incl. vaginal instrumental)	37.6%	52.9%	43.0%	39.0%	50.8%	43.1%	41.4%	51.2%	44.6%	44.5%	50.9%	46.7%
Caesarean (emergency or elective)	62.4%	47.1%	57.0%	61.0%	49.2%	56.9%	58.6%	48.8%	55.4%	55.5%	49.1%	53.3%
% of live births*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Denominator: Live births

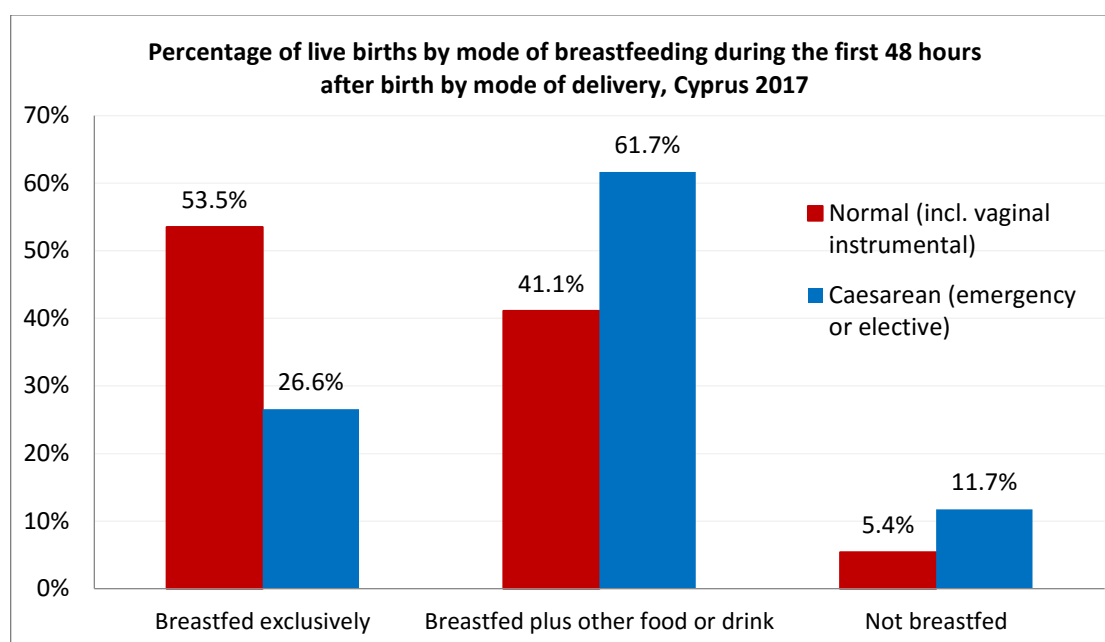
Live births by mode of breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by mode of delivery, Cyprus 2017

Breastfeeding by mode of delivery	Normal (incl. vaginal instrumental)	Caesarean (emergency or elective)	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	2357	1339	3696
Breastfed plus other food or drink	1811	3107	4918
Not breastfed	237	591	828
Not stated	1	0	1
Live births	4406	5037	9443

Breastfeeding by mode of delivery	Normal (incl. vaginal instrumental)	Caesarean (emergency or elective)	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	53.5%	26.6%	39.1%
Breastfed plus other food or drink	41.1%	61.7%	52.1%
Not breastfed	5.4%	11.7%	8.8%
% of live births*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Denominator: Live births

* "Not stated" cases are distributed in each category by a weighting factor



Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by mother's age

Most live births in Cyprus during 2017, about 75%, were from women aged 20-34. Exclusive breastfeeding rates are above 35% for all mother's age groups.

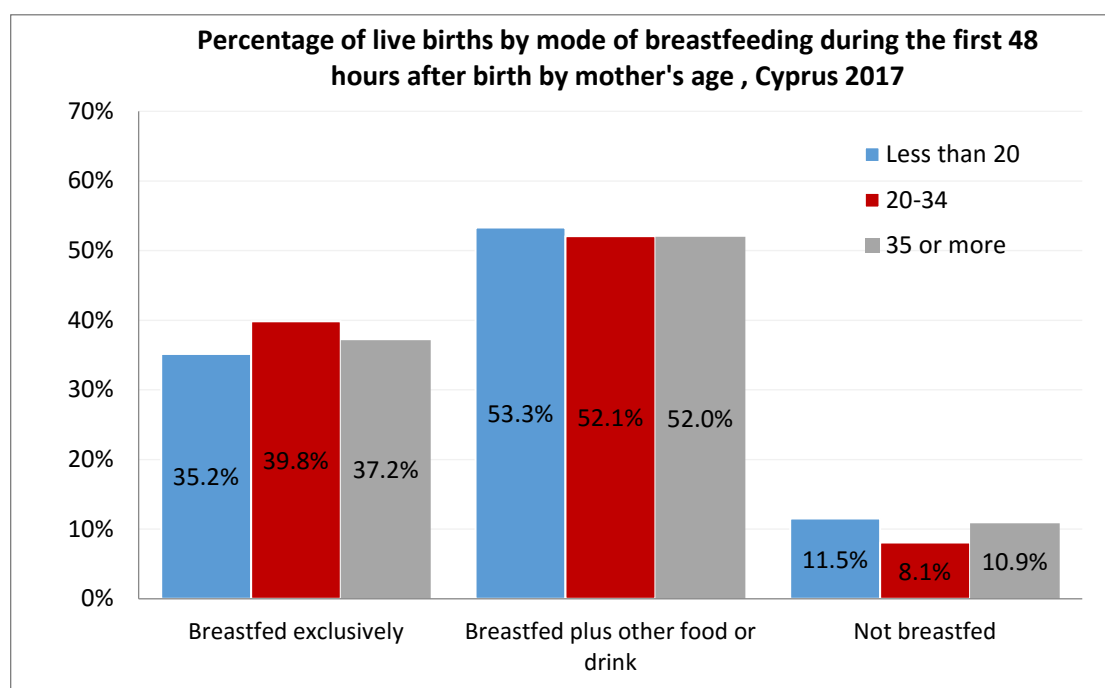
Live births by mode of breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by mother's age, Cyprus 2017

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by mother's age	Less than 20	20-34	35 or more	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	58	2841	797	3696
Breastfed plus other food or drink	88	3715	1115	4918
Not breastfed	19	576	233	828
Not stated	0	1	0	1
Live births	165	7133	2145	9443

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by mother's age	Less than 20	20-34	35 or more	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	35.2%	39.8%	37.2%	39.1%
Breastfed plus other food or drink	53.3%	52.1%	52.0%	52.1%
Not breastfed	11.5%	8.1%	10.9%	8.8%
% of live births*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Denominator: Live births

* "Not stated" cases are distributed in each category by a weighting factor



Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by psychoprophylaxis

A large proportion of women who follow the method of psychoprophylaxis choose to breastfeed exclusively.

Live births by mode of breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by psychoprophylaxis, Cyprus 2017

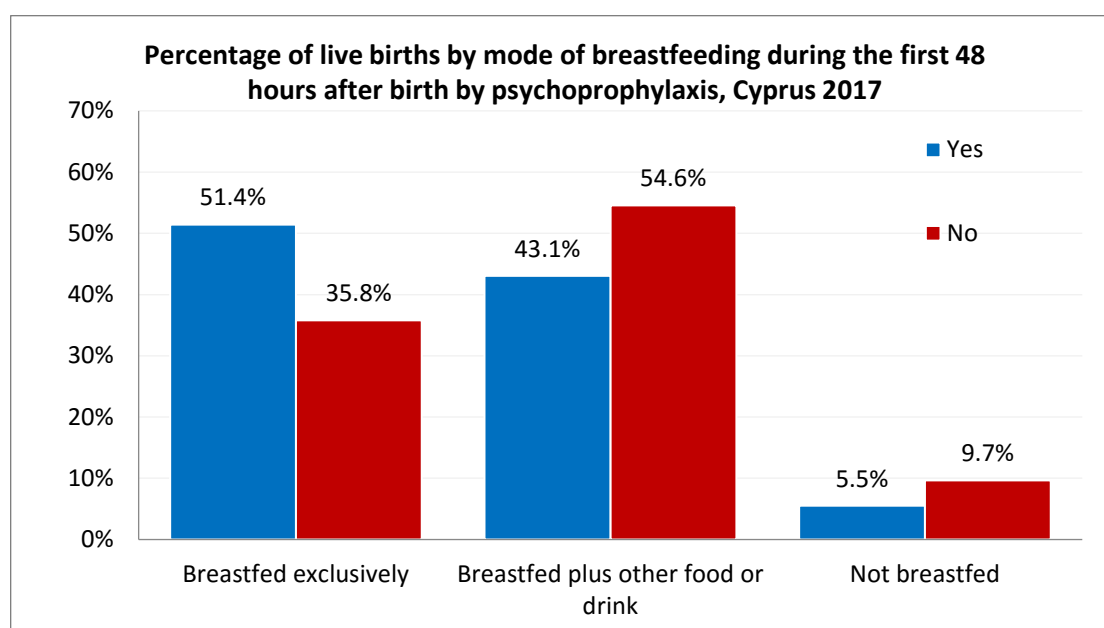
Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by psychoprophylaxis	Yes	No	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	1047	2649	3696
Breastfed plus other food or drink	877	4041	4918
Not breastfed	112	716	828
Not stated	1	0	1
Live births	2037	7406	9443

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by psychoprophylaxis	Yes	No	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	51.4%	35.8%	39.1%
Breastfed plus other food or drink	43.1%	54.6%	52.1%
Not breastfed	5.5%	9.7%	8.8%
% of live births*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Denominator: Live births

* "Psychoprophylaxis" is a method of preparing women for natural childbirth by means of special breathing and relaxation

** "Not stated" cases are distributed in each category by a weighting factor



Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after delivery by method of assisted fertilization

Women who follow a method of assisted fertilization are more likely to choose a caesarean section. It is observed that of the women assisted, 83.0% choose caesarean section. Therefore, it is reasonable that the rates for exclusive breastfeeding in cases of assisted fertilization to be lower than of those of mixed breastfeeding.

Live births by mode of breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by method of subfertility treatment, Cyprus 2017

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by mode of subfertility treatment	No subfertility treatment	In vitro fertilization (IVF)	Other subfertility treatment	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	3586	96	14	3696
Breastfed plus other food or drink	4629	238	51	4918
Not breastfed	760	60	8	828
Not stated	1	0	0	1
Live births	8976	394	73	9443

Breastfeeding during the first 48 hours after birth by mode of subfertility treatment	No subfertility treatment	In vitro fertilization (IVF)	Other subfertility treatment	Total 2017
Breastfed exclusively	40.0%	24.4%	19.2%	39.1%
Breastfed plus other food or drink	51.6%	60.4%	69.9%	52.1%
Not breastfed	8.5%	15.2%	11.0%	8.8%
% of live births*	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Denominator: Live births

* "Not stated" cases are distributed in each category by a weighting factor

