

# INFANT FEEDING PRACTICES OF EMIRATI WOMEN IN ABU DHABI

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## ABSTRACT

Factors associated with infant feeding practices were examined from

 125 Emirati women and their infants

 with data collected at birth and 3, 6 and 15 months postpartum

 Corniche Hospital

## INTRODUCTION

UAE breastfeeding policy states that infants should be breast fed exclusively until six months of age. In Islam women are urged to breastfeed their infants for two years. And in 2014 the country's Federal National Council passed a draft clause in the child rights law to make breastfeeding mandatory for the first two years of an infant's life.

## METHOD

 Factors affecting the duration of breastfeeding and the introduction of complementary foods were investigated using univariate and multivariate statistics. Data were analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics package Version 23. Adjusted odds ratios and their 95% confidence limits were used to assess significant relationships.

## LIMITATION

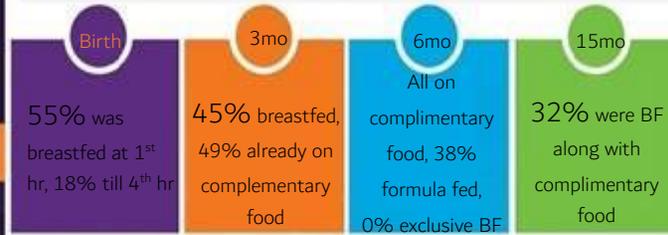
Caution is required in making generalizations from this study as the population is relatively small.



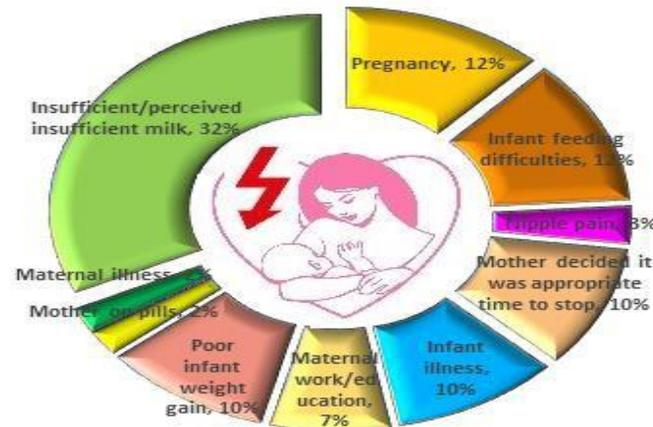
## RESULT

Recommended infant feeding practices, such as exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and timely introduction of appropriate complementary foods, was poorly adhered to

### PREVALENCE OF BREASTFEEDING



### REASONS FOR CESSATION OF BREAST FEEDING



## CONCLUSION

Emirati mothers experience many of the same barriers and influences to breastfeeding as women in other countries. The challenge for leaders in this rapidly developing society is to develop policies and support mechanisms to ensure that women can maintain breastfeeding whilst continuing to play an important role in the development of their country.



## DID YOU KNOW ?



Children who have been regularly breastfed (3-4 times or more) by the same woman are considered "milk siblings" and are prohibited from marrying each other. Adopted children also receives the rights of a birth child and makes them a mahram.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The Emirati mothers who took part in the study.
- Thuraya Al Shamsi facilitated access to the mothers at the Corniche Hospital through her role as director of research for HH Sheikha Fatima's Office.
- Nahied El-Temtamy- translation and data input.
- Dr. Donna Geddes reviewed the manuscript.
- Funding was received from Zayed University research incentive fund.

## REFERENCE



Human Lactation Research Group  
<http://humanlactationresearchgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/OP21-Infant-Feeding-Practices-of-Emirati-Women-copy1.pdf>

## OPINION

There has been great improvement in compliance to breastfeeding policy since the publication of this research. Health institutions both in Abu Dhabi and Dubai has been accredited as Mother and Baby Friendly Hospitals.

