



# Pregnancy and neonates: breastfeeding 48 hours

NICE indicator

Published: 1 August 2014

Last updated: 20 August 2021

[www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind20](https://www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind20)

## Indicator

The percentage of mothers who give their babies breast milk in the first 48 hours after delivery.

## Indicator type

Network / system level indicator.

The indicator would be appropriate to understand and report on the performance of networks or systems of providers.

This document does not represent formal NICE guidance. For a full list of NICE indicators, see our [menu of indicators](#).

To find out how to use indicators and how we develop them, see our [NICE indicator process guide](#).

## Rationale

The evidence around the benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and baby is well established. [NICE's guideline on postnatal care](#) recommends pregnant women should be given information and support to encourage breastfeeding once the baby is born.

## Source guidance

[Antenatal care. NICE guideline NG201](#) (2021), recommendations 1.3.14 and 1.3.19

[Postnatal care. NICE guideline NG194](#) (2021), recommendations 1.5.2, 1.5.9, 1.5.12 and 1.5.14

[Maternal and child nutrition. NICE guideline PH11](#) (2008, updated 2014), recommendations 1 and 7

## Specification

**Numerator:** The number of mothers who initiate breastfeeding in the first 48 hours after delivery.

**Denominator:** The total number of maternities.

**Calculation:** Numerator divided by the denominator, multiplied by 100.

**Exclusions:** Maternities without a live birth.

**Data source:** [Public Health England's public health profiles](#).

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Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess the performance of networks or systems of providers.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-5530-5