State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Health Officer

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

DATE: October 26, 2015

TO: HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS,
UNIT NURSE MANAGERS (LABOR AND DELIVERY, POSTPARTUM, NEWBORN NURSERY, AND NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE)

SUBJECT: 2014 IN-HOSPITAL BREASTFEEDING DATA

The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH), Center for Family Health is pleased to announce the release of California 2014 in-hospital breastfeeding initiation rates. The Center for Family Health monitors the in-hospital infant feeding practices utilizing data obtained during routine newborn screening for genetic diseases. These data are posted on the CDPH Breastfeeding Statistics website at http://cdph.ca.gov/breastfeedingdata.

We encourage you to review your hospital's breastfeeding rates to identify how successful your facility is in promoting and supporting exclusive breastfeeding in the early post-partum period. Please take advantage of the attached resources to assist you with quality improvement efforts to ensure policies and practices support exclusive breastfeeding. Establishing evidence-based breastfeeding policies will support your hospital efforts to comply with the Joint Commission's Perinatal Care Core Measure on exclusive breast milk feeding guidelines. In addition, this will support legislation requiring hospitals with perinatal units to have evidenced-based policies and practices that supports breastfeeding (California Health & Safety Codes §123366 and §123367). Working together, we will build hospital environments in which staff and patients consider breastfeeding as natural and normal.

Sincerely,

Connie Mitchell, MD, MPH
Deputy Director
Center for Family Health

Enclosure