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



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

DATE: September 24, 2019

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

SUBJECT: 2018 IN-HOSPITAL BREASTFEEDING DATA

The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH), Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division (MCAH) is pleased to announce the release of California 2018 in-hospital breastfeeding initiation rates. The MCAH 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 www.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 your 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 support breastfeeding (California Health & Safety Codes §123366 and §123367).

Working together, we will build hospital environments in which staff and patients consider breastfeeding as the optimal way of providing needed nutrition to infants for healthy growth and development.

Sincerely,

Leslie Kowalewski, Chief
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division
Center for Family Health
California Department of Public Health

