



Paper for Discussion: Infant Feeding Survey 2005 Key Findings

Agenda Item: 2

The 2005 Infant Feeding Survey, published on 14th May 2007, was the seventh national survey of infant feeding practices to be conducted. The main aim of the survey was to provide estimates on the incidence, prevalence, and duration of breastfeeding and other feeding practices adopted by mothers in the first eight to ten months after their baby was born. The 2005 survey is the first to provide separate estimates for all four countries in the United Kingdom, as well as for the UK as a whole.

The survey is based on an initial representative sample of mothers who were selected from all births registered during August and September 2005 in the United Kingdom. Three stages of data collection were conducted with Stage 1 being carried out when babies were around four to ten weeks old, Stage 2 when they were around four to six months old, and Stage 3 when they were around eight to ten months old. A total of 9,416 mothers completed and returned all three questionnaires. This paper shows some key findings from the survey. The full survey has also been circulated.

INFANT FEEDING SURVEY 2005

	Infant Feeding Survey								
	2000				2005				
	United Kingdom	England & Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom	England & Wales*	Scotland	Northern Ireland	
% women who breastfed initially (by socio-economic group**):									
All women	69	71	63	54	76	77	70	63	
Managerial/Professional	85	86	80	76	88	89	84	80	
Intermediate occupations	73	75	64	56	77	79	72	58	
Routine/Manual	59	60	53	45	65	67	56	49	
Never worked	52	54	41	33	65	67	52	37	
Unclassified	66	68	62	48	71	72	53	64	
% women breastfeeding at:									
6 weeks	42	43	40	26	48	49	44	32	
6 months	21	22	24	10	25	26	24	14	
% women exclusively breastfeeding at:									
Birth	-	-	-	-	65	66 & 58	61	55	
1 week	-	-	-	-	45	46 & 38	42	35	
6 weeks	-	-	-	-	21	22 & 15	19	13	
5 months	-	-	-	-	3	3 & 2	3	2	
% who had introduced solids by (by socio-economic group**):									
4 months	All women	85	85	83	85	51	50	60	51
	Managerial/Professional	84	-	-	-	41	-	-	-
	Intermediate occupations	86	-	-	-	53	-	-	-
	Routine/Manual	87	-	-	-	61	-	-	-
	Never worked	82	-	-	-	58	-	-	-
	Unclassified	83	-	-	-	47	-	-	-
6 months	All women	98	98	99	98	98	98	98	98
	Managerial/Professional	98	-	-	-	98	-	-	-
	Intermediate occupations	98	-	-	-	99	-	-	-
	Routine/Manual	98	-	-	-	98	-	-	-
	Never worked	95	-	-	-	94	-	-	-
	Unclassified	97	-	-	-	94	-	-	-

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	2000				2005			
	United Kingdom	England & Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom	England & Wales*	Scotland	Northern Ireland
% women who breastfed initially (by socio-economic group**):								
All women	69	71	63	54	76	77	70	63
% babies given supplementary vitamins at:								
Stage 1 - 4 to 10 weeks	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2
Stage 2 - 4 to 6 months	5	5	6	3	4	3	3	3
Stage 3 - 8 to 10 months	10	11	9	7	7	7	4	5
% babies breastfed in a public place by:								
Stage 2 – 4 to 6 months	-	-	-	-	39	40 & 31	38	24
Stage 3 – 8 to 10 months	-	-	-	-	39	41 & 30	39	25
Folic acid:								
% aware of recommendation to increase intake of folic acid:	-	-	-	-	79	78 & 77	80	88
% women who took supplements to increase folic acid intake (by ethnic group):								
All women	-	-	-	-	75	74 & 73	77	80
White					78			
Mixed					63			
Asian or Asian British					54			
Black or Black British					45			
Chinese or other ethnic group					55			
Smoking - % women smoking throughout pregnancy (by socio-economic group**):								
All women	20	19	22	23	17	17	20	18
Managerial/Professional	8	8	10	11	7	7	10	8
Intermediate occupations	13	13	14	16	12	12	14	13
Routine/Manual	29	28	33	29	29	29	33	30

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% women who breastfed initially (by socio-economic group**):								
All women	69	71	63	54	76	77	70	63
Never worked	36	35	40	46	24	23	31	34
Unclassified	22	22	27	19	17	17	17	24
Alcohol - % of women who drank before pregnancy who:								
Gave up drinking	30	29	34	37	34	33	41	43
Drank less	65	66	61	59	61	62	54	53
Reasons given by mothers for stopping breastfeeding:								
Insufficient milk	-	-	-	-	39	-	-	-
Baby rejected breast	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-
Painful breasts/nipples	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-
Took too long/tiring	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-
Mother was ill	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Domestic reasons	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Returned to work/college	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Too stressful	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Baby ill	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Baby could not be fed by others	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Didn't like breastfeeding	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Breastfed for as long as intended	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
More settled on formula	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Baby not gaining weight	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Teething/biting	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

* Where separate figures for England and Wales are available these have been given, otherwise figures are for England and Wales combined

** Socio-economic classification by NS-SEC

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Source: Infant Feeding Survey 2005 (Bolling K, Grant C, Hamlyn B & Thornton A) can be found at <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/infant-feeding/infant-feeding-survey-2005>