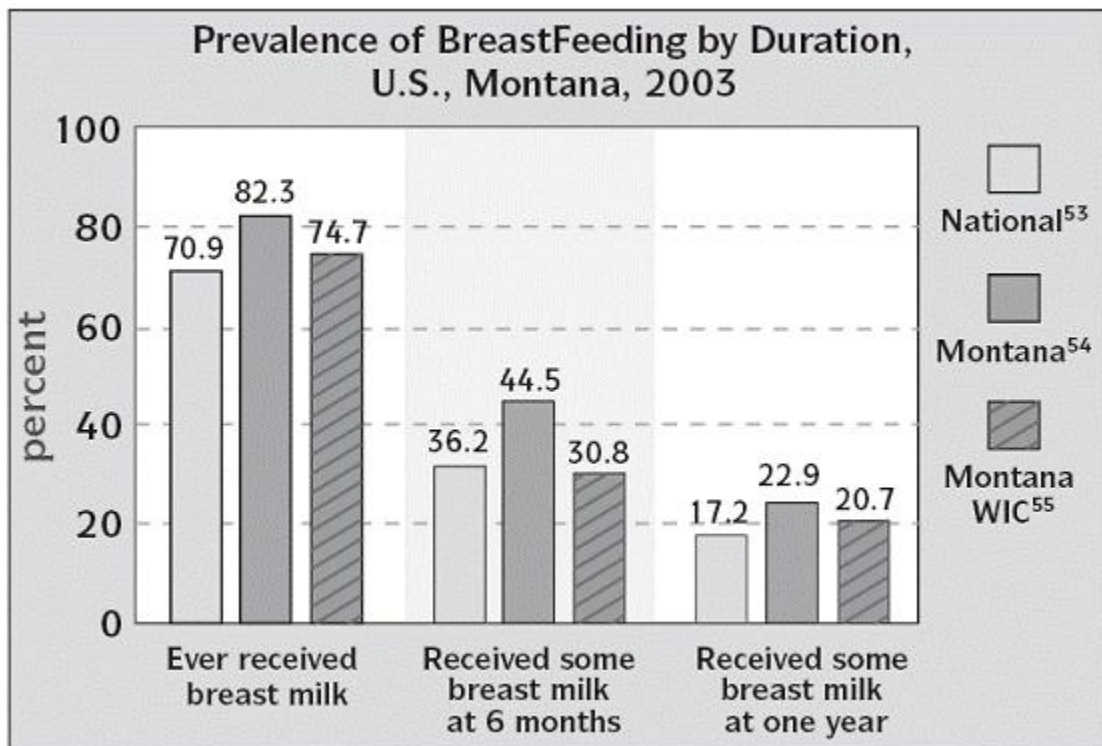




Breastfeeding In Montana

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Family and Community Health Bureau. Public Health and Safety Division. (2005, July). *Montana Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment*. Accessed on December 1, 2006 from MT DPHHS Website Montana



Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Family and Community Health Bureau. Public Health and Safety Division. (2005, July). *Montana Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment*. Accessed on December 1, 2006 from MT DPHHS Website Montana

Breastfeeding initiation rates may vary from one region to another in Montana. Overall, the initiation rate in the state is 82% ó higher than the *Healthy People 2010* goal. The most common cited reasons for not initiating breastfeeding were

- Other children
- Didn't like breastfeeding

- Work or School

Additionally, however, fewer than half of all Montana infants are still receiving any breast milk at six months. Evidence collected through focus groups and interviews with key informants around the state suggests that women stop breastfeeding prematurely for a variety of reasons, including:

- Embarrassment
- Low maternal motivation
- Breastfeeding difficulties
- Lack of education/misconception (not enough milk to feed baby)
- Lack of health care provider support and overall lactation support and promotion
- Work-related obstacles
- Returning to work
- Lack of family support
- Lack of access to peers or health care professionals who can help with breastfeeding difficulties