

Breastfeeding Data Collection

Policy

USDA Federal Regulations: Breastfeeding assessment and the mother's plans for breastfeeding serve as the basis for determining food package issuance for all breastfeeding women.

Authority

7 CFR Part 246.10(e)*excerpt*

Procedures

Breastfeeding history data is required for all new infants and children (up to 24 months of age) that are certified. Breastfeeding status must be continually updated in the data system at every contact with the infant or the infant's mother until breastfeeding is terminated or the infant/child leaves the program. This includes health updates, nutrition appointments, subsequent certifications, and any other contacts.

You must answer the pop-up question, "Do you want a child certification?" when you click "New" on the Nutrition Interview panel, with a "No" when certifying a participant in the transition month from 11 –12 months of age.

This data is used for surveillance reporting systems to capture ever breastfed; duration of exclusive breastfeeding; age at first introduction to something other than breast milk, vitamins, minerals and/or medications; and duration of any breastfeeding. The following definitions will be used as the Breastfeeding Description in the data system to describe the amount of breastfeeding that is occurring/occurred. These definitions can also be found in the WIC data system by hitting F1 when you are on the Breastfeeding Panel for an infant or child or by using "BF Description Definitions" link.

Exclusively Breastfeeding No food package from WIC	Has been fed only human milk, vitamins, minerals, and/or medications.
Primarily Exclusive/No Formula Package No food package from WIC	Has been fed something other than human milk, vitamins, minerals, and/or medications on rare occasions or has received a one-time feeding of infant formula, human milk fortifier, cow's milk, juice, sugar water, water, rehydration solution, baby food, or anything else. This description identifies an infant whose exclusive breastfeeding is interrupted because of special circumstances, such

	as acute illness, hospitalization or caregiver misinformation.
Primarily Exclusive/Comp Age-appropriate food package with no WIC formula	Is fed any complementary foods in addition to only being fed human milk, vitamins, minerals, and/or medications. These complementary foods are provided on a routine or ongoing basis regardless of the amount.
Partially Breastfeeding	The infant is breastfeeding and receiving formula. May also be fed complementary foods. The infant receives a WIC food package that includes formula and may include WIC foods. Human milk fortifier is considered a formula and infants routinely receiving it must be defined as Partially (Mostly) Breastfeeding. Once the human milk fortifier is discontinued, then the infant may be classified as Primarily Exclusive/No Formula Package, if the appropriate definition is met.
No Longer Breastfeeding	Was breastfeeding at some point in time, but has now discontinued.
Never Breastfed	Was never breastfed.
Breastfeeding Child	Greater than or equal to 12 months of age and continuing to breastfeed.

The following definitions should be used when filling out the formula and foods columns of the breastfeeding panel:

- **Nothing** - The infant has not been fed anything other than human milk, vitamins, minerals, and/or medications.
- **Rarely** - The infant has been fed something other than human milk, vitamins, minerals, and/or medications **one or more times but it is not very often**.
- **Regularly** - The infant is breastfeeding and receiving something other than breast milk, vitamins, minerals, and/or medications (including formula, cereal) on a regular basis.