

Breast-feeding rates up; 77 percent of moms try

July 31 2013, by Mike Stobbe

Health officials say breast-feeding rates continue to inch up: Now more than 3 in 4 mothers try to breast-feed their newborns.

Breast-feeding rates remain highest in Idaho and lowest in Mississippi. Experts attribute that to regional differences in culture and [workplace policies](#) that support breast-feeding.

Wednesday's report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that 77 percent of moms tried breast-feeding in 2010. A decade earlier it was 71 percent. The percent still breast-feeding a year later rose to 27 percent from 16 percent in 2000.

The report comes from a national telephone survey of more than 8,000 parents and caretakers of small children.

Experts say [breast milk](#) contains antibodies that protect newborns from infections, and breast-fed babies are less likely to become overweight.

More information: Report: www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/reportcard.htm

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