

Which US airports are breastfeeding friendly?

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Credit: Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

More than half of women with children less than a year old are working, and work travel can make breastfeeding a challenge. A study of 100 U.S. airports found that few provided a suitably equipped, private lactation room, even though most described themselves as being breastfeeding

friendly, as reported in *Breastfeeding Medicine*, the official journal of the Academy of *Breastfeeding Medicine*.

In "[Airports in the United States. Are They Really Breastfeeding Friendly?](#)," authors Michael Haight, University of California, San Francisco-Fresno and Joan Ortiz, Limerick Inc. (Burbank, CA), report that while 62% of the airports surveyed answered yes to whether they were "breastfeeding friendly," only 37% provided a specific lactation room. In only 8% of the airports did that designated space offer the minimum requirements of not being used as a bathroom and having an electrical outlet, table, and chair. These included San Francisco International, Minneapolis-St. Paul International, Baltimore/Washington International, San Jose International, Indianapolis International, Akron-Canton Regional (OH), Dane County Regional (WI), and Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional (FL) airports.

"This study presents provocative data about our [airports](#)," says Ruth Lawrence, MD, Editor-in-Chief of *Breastfeeding Medicine* and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Rochester School of Medicine. "The good news is that 62% think they are 'breastfeeding friendly.' The bad news is that their actions do not support the claim. There is a lot of work to be done to make travel possible for breastfeeding dyads."

More information: The article is available free on the *Breastfeeding Medicine* website at <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/bfm.2014.0112> until November 27, 2014.

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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