Belize
Ministry of Health & Sports

NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING POLICY
CARE

Developed by CARE, the Central Bank, UNICEF, USAID, and
Women's Association, the Public Organization for Women, and
Women's Affairs, the Labor Department, the Public Health
Family Health, the Association, the Department of
Ministry for Human Resources, the Health Ministry for Health,
The Public Health, the Public Health, the Public Health
School of Public Health, the Public Health, the Public Health
Education, the Public Health, the Public Health, the Ministry
Community Participation Bureau (HEGAP/HEGAP), the Ministry
Department of Nutrition, the Health, Education and
International Cooperation, the National and Child Health

General population regarding the benefits of breast feeding:

- Feeding promotion and in teaching an awareness among the
- Work through their own centers to ensure the best years in breast-
  Special thanks are due to the breast is best league for the
problems

Appropriate practices in some hospitals and clinics also
highlighted (water, juice, baby formula, formula) or solids in other
health facilities. However, more than 10% of children had been
given water or infant formula to drink or eat in the first
months of life, even when 24% were exclusively breastfed for the
first six months. This highlights the need for more intensive
education of health providers and the importance of

problems

difficulties in breastfeeding and show how to overcome them

If the situation is to be remedied, education and awareness

been developed

Until now, breastfeeding has been mentioned in the

recommendation in the national breastfeeding policy

achieved.

The 1993 National Breastfeeding Survey, which was

conducted to assess the success of breastfeeding initiatives

implemented so far, showed that 27% of mothers were

exclusive breastfeeders at 6 months. The survey also revealed that

exclusive breastfeeding was more common among rural

mothers, exclusive breastfeeding during the first three

months of life. At 6 months, the proportion of children

who were exclusively breastfed dropped to 21%.

The national context of the maternal and child health

Trends and expectations

Pointing: children (7) months in (brazilian). 7 months in both

months — considered fewer than the mean. 

months — considered fewer than the mean. The survey also revealed that

exclusive breastfeeding was more common among rural

mothers, exclusive breastfeeding during the first three

months of life. At 6 months, the proportion of children

who were exclusively breastfed dropped to 21%.

The national context of the maternal and child health

Trends and expectations

Pointing: children (7) months in (brazilian). 7 months in both

months — considered fewer than the mean. 

months — considered fewer than the mean. The survey also revealed that

exclusive breastfeeding was more common among rural

mothers, exclusive breastfeeding during the first three

months of life. At 6 months, the proportion of children

who were exclusively breastfed dropped to 21%.
Breastfeeding: the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and Support. This joint statement is made by the International Baby Food Action Network, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in a global effort to support and promote breastfeeding and nutrition. The purpose of this statement is to outline the responsibilities of health care providers and the general public in promoting and supporting breastfeeding as a key element in ensuring the health and well-being of infants and young children.

Breastfeeding is an essential part of early childhood development, as it provides the best possible nutrition for the baby. It also promotes the health and well-being of the mother and can improve the bond between mother and child. Breastfeeding is recommended for all women, regardless of their socioeconomic status, in order to maximize the health benefits for both mother and child.

In support of this statement, there are ten steps that can be taken to promote successful breastfeeding:

1. **Ensure the mother is healthy and comfortable:** Provide a comfortable environment for the mother, including a quiet, private space.
2. **Support the mother throughout the breastfeeding process:** Encourage the mother to seek support and guidance from others, such as family, friends, and professionals.
3. **Provide education and training:** Offer educational resources and training to health care providers and others involved in the breastfeeding process.
4. **Promote access to appropriate supplies and equipment:** Include access to breast pumps, bottles, and other supplies as necessary for successful breastfeeding.
5. **Encourage regular contact with the infant:** Encourage frequent contact between the mother and infant, which can help to maintain breastfeeding.
6. **Offer emotional support and encouragement:** Support the mother emotionally and provide encouragement and positive reinforcement.
7. **Avoid separating mother and baby:** Keep the mother and baby together, as this can help to maintain breastfeeding.
8. **Encourage lifelong breastfeeding:** Encourage breastfeeding for as long as both mother and child are willing and able.
9. **Offer support to new parents:** Offer support to new parents and provide information on breastfeeding and nutrition.
10. **Promote breastfeeding-friendly workplaces:** Encourage workplaces to be breastfeeding-friendly, providing support and resources to breastfeeding mothers.

Breastfeeding is a natural and important part of a woman’s role as a mother. It is essential for the health and well-being of infants and young children. By promoting and supporting breastfeeding, we can help to ensure that all children have the best possible start in life.
Governmental organizations have developed this policy to promote breastfeeding in consultation with the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. The policy emphasizes the importance of the first year of life, the introduction of breastfeeding into the diet of children up to six months of age, and the maintenance of breastfeeding from birth to age 12 months. The policy also outlines the need for education and training of health care providers. Essential components of this service include breastfeeding promotion and good infant nutrition are seen as a priority in the Palliative and Child Health Services. The policy emphasizes the importance of the primary health care providers in the implementation of the policy. The government of Belize recognizes the importance of breastfeeding as part of human development.

Problems related to the use of breast milk substitutes include:

- Breastfeeding is postnatal breastfeeding and an increase in child mortality and the child's breastfeeding health contributes to a decrease in postnatal breastfeeding and an increase in child mortality, and the child's breastfeeding health contributes to a decrease in postnatal breastfeeding and an increase in child mortality.
- Another factor is the breastfeeding rate, which is related to the breastfeeding rate.
- Breastfeeding has been shown to reduce the risk of breast cancer among women.
- The benefits of breastfeeding have been demonstrated in relation to improved access, coverage, and quality of basic health services.
- Improving access, coverage, and quality of basic child health services, including breastfeeding, has been highlighted.
- The goal of the Government of Belize's National Development Plan 1999-2000 is to ensure that breastfeeding is promoted and that breastfeeding services are available.

Health services in the under-five age group, including child health services, may subsequently result in death. Problems related to the use of breast milk substitutes include:

Despite increased access, coverage, and quality of basic child health services, improvements in access, coverage, and quality of basic child health services, including breastfeeding, have been demonstrated.


Global criteria for "baby-friendly" service in accordance with BFHI:

- Having lactation assistants and maternity education.
- Ensuring that breastfeeding assistance is provided in all hospitals and clinics.
- Conducting research and providing free and/or low-cost supplies.

BFHI is directed at the obstacles of implementing maternal and child health programs.

BFHI is a program of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. It is a global initiative to promote breastfeeding and reduce infant mortality.
The Government promotes the bonding of infants with their mothers at birth and the initiation of breast feeding.

Submissions are addressed to

Guidelines for the proper procurement and use of these substances for breast-feeding are essential. In addition to the immediate needs of approximately two out of five of breast-feeding mothers, the need for sustained breastfeeding for the growth and development of the child must be emphasized. The Government of Belize will promote breastfeeding.

The Government will ensure that public health

individual health workers and

will provide the necessary training for health care

Government workers, the Ministry of Health, and non-

Promotion of breastfeeding

Government authorities play a fundamental role in the

Health workers, the Ministry of Health, and non-

respect.

Breastfeeding is a basic right of the mother and child

A woman's right to knowledge regarding breastfeeding

Breastfeeding promotes the health of the child and the health of her child should be protected and respected.

Breastfeeding is a basic right of the mother, and health and development

World Health Assembly resolutions, which are principles and aims, are supplemented by

Government policies. All policies and programmes must

support breastfeeding. These include breastfeeding guidelines, breast-feeding promotion, and breast-feeding support.
feeding, whenever possible, within the first thirty minutes of the infant's life.

The Government discourages artificial feeding of newborns unless absolutely necessary.

The Government promotes infants “rooming-in” with their mothers while in hospitals so that breastfeeding may be carried out on a demand basis.

The Government through the Ministry of Health discourages the use of unnecessary sedation that may delay or prevent the mother from breastfeeding.

The Government will designate the Maternal and Child Health Department to coordinate the national breastfeeding programme. The Government will maintain a multi-sectoral national breastfeeding committee composed of representatives from relevant government departments, non-governmental agencies, and health professionals' associations. The responsibility of this committee will be to promote and monitor breastfeeding.

The Government, through the Ministry of Health, will strive towards ensuring that every public health facility providing maternity services fully adheres to the “Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding” (Annex I).

The Government will ensure that breastfeeding education is included in the curriculum of nutrition and science courses for primary and secondary level students.

The Government will continue to support the inclusion of breastfeeding education in the curriculum at the Belize School of Nursing, and integrate it into health courses at the Belize Teachers' College. Students will be sensitized to the importance of breastfeeding and disseminate this information through their various roles in society.

The Government, through the Ministry of Health, recognises that exceptions will be taken in cases of mothers with HIV/AIDS. If artificial feeding is an affordable option for such mothers they will be advised of the proper use of this alternative form of feeding.

The Ministry of Health will therefore provide the necessary counselling and education to the parents and Caregivers on the importance of reducing the risk of infection, the preparation of infant feeds and the proper care of the utensils used.

The Government will ensure that each social sector ministry establishes reporting procedures and lines of accountability to ensure that the policy is being implemented.

The Breastfeeding Rights of Working Women

The Government will take actions towards empowering women to breastfeed their children exclusively for four to six months and continue breastfeeding, with complementary foods, well into the second year.

The Government will periodically review legislation to ensure that the breastfeeding rights of working women are protected and ensure that legislation is enforced.

The Government will promote the provision of maternity benefits, including maternity leave, to enable working women to exclusively breastfeed their children from birth to the minimum internationally recommended period of four months.

The Government subscribes to the provision of “mother-friendly” work places and will encourage the creation of child care services on or near job sites.
The Ministry of Health will ensure that the breastfeeding policy:

- is included in the overall food security program of the National Food and Nutrition Policy;
- is publicized in the general public to the importance of breastfeeding in socio-economic and cultural programs designed to improve the nutritional status of the population and the health of women, children, and infants;
- recognizes the skills and capacity of the Ministry of Health in general health care and the community to reduce the burden on public health care;
- this breastfeeding policy is in the hands of the Minister of Health in charge of the overall thrust of the national health strategy.
from hospital.

Groups and peer mothers to them on discharge.

Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support.

Dummies and soothers to breastfeeding infants.

Give no artificial foods or pacifiers (also called
Encourage breastfeeding on demand.

Stay together 24 hours a day.

Practice rooming-in to allow mothers and infants to

Breastmilk unless medically indicated.

Give new-born infants no food or drink other than

Breastfeeding even if they are separated from their infants.

Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain

hour of birth.

Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within half an

management of breastfeeding

Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and

Implement this policy.

Train all health care staff in the skills necessary to

communicate to all health care staff.

Have a written breastfeeding policy that is routinely