The National Children’s Study (NCS), a prospective study of children and mothers covering the personal, parental, and early childhood environment, was designed to examine relationships between factors early in life and health outcomes as they age. Breastfeeding is an important outcome of the NCS. Sustained breastfeeding is defined as breastfeeding at 6 months postpartum. This report presents findings on sustained breastfeeding among Hispanic, Non-Hispanic White, and Non-Hispanic Black women of the NCS Vanguard Study. Access to breastfeeding support and availability of public breastfeeding support services was evaluated as possible factors that may contribute to sustained breastfeeding.

## METHODS

### Study Sample

The NCS Vanguard Study sample was a prospective, longitudinal cohort of mother-child pairs residing in the United States. Participants were recruited from 2004 to 2006, and the first wave of data collection occurred from 2004 to 2007. The sample included 5,400 birth families across 43 counties in 17 states.

### Data Collection

Data were collected through interviews and surveys, and a few thousand blood samples were also collected. Mothers provided information on their feeding intentions at different time points, and at the 6-month visit, mothers were asked about their feeding practices.

### Analysis

The analysis focused on demographic factors that may influence breastfeeding intentions and practices. The analysis employed a chi-square test to assess the relationship between demographic factors and breastfeeding intentions.

## RESULTS

### Sustained Breastfeeding

Sustained breastfeeding was defined as breastfeeding at 6 months postpartum. The analysis found that 57.2% of mothers intended to breastfeed at birth, with differences observed based on race-ethnicity.

### Feeding Intentions

Mothers were asked about their feeding intentions at different time points. The analysis found that mothers of Hispanic, Non-Hispanic White, and Non-Hispanic Black ethnicity had different feeding intentions.

### Breastfeeding Support Services

The availability of breastfeeding support services was assessed. The analysis found that more than half of the participants had access to breastfeeding support services.

## CONCLUSIONS

The findings suggest that sustained breastfeeding can be influenced by demographic factors and the availability of breastfeeding support services. Further research is needed to understand the factors that contribute to sustained breastfeeding and to develop effective interventions to promote breastfeeding.

## REFERENCES


## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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