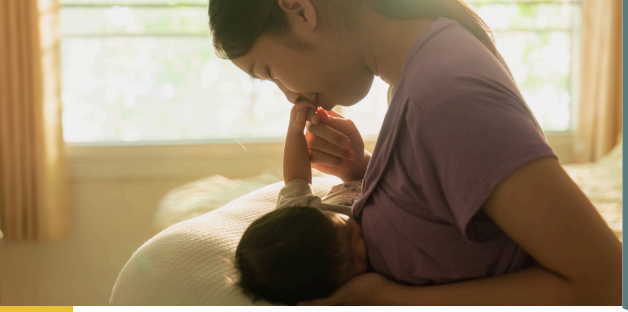


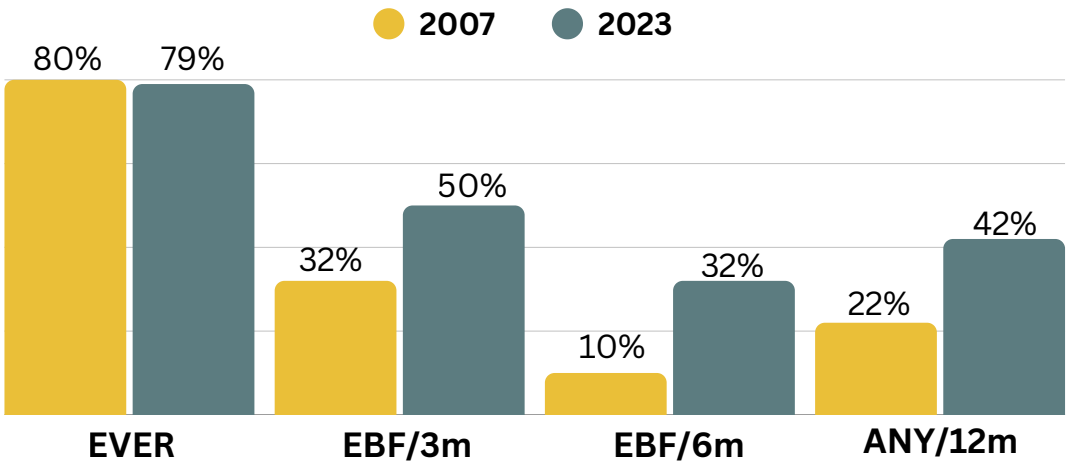
The **Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition (NE BFC)** is a volunteer-led organization advancing the health of Nebraskans by making breastfeeding the norm through education, advocacy, and collaboration. Our vision is a Nebraska where every family is supported to breastfeed through a strong, statewide network of advocates and lactation providers delivering quality, effective care - creating informed communities, equitable access, and a culture that values human milk.

Why is a Breastfeeding Coalition Necessary?

Breastfeeding and the feeding of human milk has been identified as a major factor in improving the health of our country, especially for vulnerable populations: families of color, families living with poverty, premature and at-risk infants, and mothers experiencing mental health challenges. Optimal infant nutrition is the first step in obtaining food security for all children in Nebraska.

Centers for Disease Control Breastfeeding Data for Nebraska

The CDC has tracked breastfeeding rates in Nebraska since 2007. The most recent CDC data reports rates of any and exclusive breastfeeding by state among children born in 2023. The four gold standards are: Ever Breastfed **(EVER)**, Exclusive Breastfeeding at 3 months **(EBF/3m)**, Exclusive Breastfeeding at 6 months **(EBF/6m)**, and Any Breastfeeding at 12 months **(ANY/12m)**. Breastfeeding rates have slowly increased since the inception of the NE BFC in 2009, however, fewer than 32% of Nebraska babies are exclusively breastfed for the recommended six months.



Source: Centers for Disease Control's National Immunization Survey, babies born 2016 - 2023

Lactation Care as a Primary Intervention Strategy

The Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition aims to increase breastfeeding rates by supporting a wide network of breastfeeding advocates and lactation providers to deliver quality, effective care to families in a variety of settings throughout our communities. The U.S. Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding (Action 11) identifies lactation professionals as an essential medical service for families and advocates for increasing the number of racially diverse IBCLCs. Mothers of color face many barriers when it comes to providing human milk for their babies, and they are less likely to breastfeed. Increasing the number of racially diverse IBCLCs is one strategy to decrease barriers for mothers of color.

Health Partners Initiative dba Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition
4600 Valley Road Suite 250, Lincoln NE 68510 | info@nebreastfeeding.org

The Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition benefits its members by:

- MEMBERSHIP: Free membership upon registration.
- NETWORKING: Quarterly Zoom and In Person meetings encourage members to brainstorm, network, and share effective strategies and programs. This is especially important for members who work in rural or small towns or serve unique populations (families new to America or of color).
- COMMUNICATION: Our website, social media, and digital monthly email newsletters share educational opportunities, current breastfeeding news and research, and highlight model programs.
- EDUCATION: Lactation education sessions (continuing education) are offered quarterly to our membership. Special projects promote the value of breastfeeding to the general public and to institutions and organizations across the state.
- ACCESS: An online Lactation Support Directory Map connects providers with providers and families with providers.
- OUTREACH: IBCLC Zoom Mentor meetings support women of color and rural women who wish to pursue their IBCLC certification.
- ADVOCACY: Members are routinely updated on local, state, and federal action related to breastfeeding laws and legislation.

The Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition's 2025 - 2028 Strategic Goals are:

- **Awareness & Education** - Build awareness among lactation providers and promote membership through continuing education and networking.
- **Connection & Collaboration** - Strengthen partnerships with organizations and businesses supporting breastfeeding and maternal-child health.
- **Advocacy & Impact** - Promote breastfeeding-friendly policies at local, state, and national levels.
- **Representation & Inclusion** - Ensure our membership, leadership, and workforce reflect Nebraska's diversity while expanding access to and awareness of qualified lactation providers.

About the Coalition

The Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition is a group of dedicated volunteers who are passionate about supporting lactation providers and breastfeeding families. Donors support a part-time paid administrative coordinator, fiscal agent fees, continuing education fees, and communication and technology costs. Additional funding allows the NE BFC to support outreach projects. The NE BFC operates under the auspices of Health Partners Initiative, a 501C3 non-profit.

To become a Member of the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition, or to become a Financial Donor, scan the QR codes on this page or visit our website. To contribute via check, mail your envelope to: ***Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition, c/o Tami Frank, Health Partners Initiative,*** at the address below.

1:1 Hospital Donor Campaign

Primary financial support for the NE BFC comes from Nebraska hospitals via our 1:1 campaign. Hospitals are asked to donate $1 per birth per year. Nebraska hospitals play an integral part in breastfeeding rates and outcomes and their support is vital in making sure that the NE BFC is here for lactation providers across the state.

Membership

Donations

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