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Mountain Plains Business Conference

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### The Politics of Breastfeeding: A Biocultural Analysis

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## Abstract

### *The Politics of Breastfeeding: A Biocultural Analysis*

Although every major medical institution in the world has concluded that breastfeeding significantly reduces morbidity and mortality rates across the lifespan, America continues to report the lowest rates of breastfeeding on the planet. This presentation will 1. Provide statistics regarding the global health impact of breastfeeding: 2. Explore both the micro and macro level corollaries associated with the low incidence of breastfeeding in America: 3. Examine the economic, physiological, social, and emotional impact of breastfeeding (e.g., exclusive breastfeeding for just 6 months would save Americans 13 billion dollars a year in healthcare costs): and 4. Discuss ways to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates across diverse populations.