

Poster #5

Research Study

Title: "The Impact of Financial Insecurity on Breastfeeding Duration"

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Introduction and Objective. Financial insecurity is the most reported stressor during pregnancy, yet its potential impact on breastfeeding practices in the United States is unclear. The goal of the study is to assess the association between maternal financial insecurity and breastfeeding duration

Methods. Women participating in the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) year 2018. Financial insecurity was considered present if the mother reported either homelessness, job loss, loss of job of husband/partner, or that she couldn't pay bills. The outcome was breastfeeding duration ≥ 3 months. Multivariable logistic regression was conducted to estimate adjusted associations. Stata v.15 was used to account for the complex survey design.

Results. A total of 7,759 (88.2%) of PRAMS 2018 respondents were studied. Thirty-two percent reported financial insecurity. Overall, 56% of women reported breastfeeding for ≥ 3 months. The unadjusted odds of breastfeeding for ≥ 3 months decreased by 27% in women who reported financial insecurity compared to those that did not (OR=0.73, 95% CI=0.63-0.84, p-value < 0.001). After adjusting for demographics, insurance type, and other stressors, no difference in the odds of breastfeeding ≥ 3 months was found according to financial insecurity (OR=0.94, 95% CI=0.80-1.09, p-value=0.4).

Conclusions-Implications. Financial insecurity prevalence was high in the sample. Yet, no evidence was found for differences in breastfeeding duration according to reported financial stressors once other factors and variables were considered. Further prospective research into stressors during pregnancy and assessing longer breastfeeding duration are still warranted to better guide health care professional's strategies to improve breastfeeding practices in at-risk populations.