




Summary Report

Laws That Support Breastfeeding Among Hospital Maternity Patients

The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) is a global initiative of UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) aimed at promoting hospital policies that encourage and support breastfeeding. Baby-Friendly USA, the organization with primary responsibility for implementing BFHI in the United States, has outlined 10 evidence-based practices that hospitals can implement to support breastfeeding (the “10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding”). These practices include, for example, having a written breastfeeding policy, training staff on the skills necessary for implementing the policy, rooming-in, encouraging breastfeeding on demand, and informing women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding.

This report summarizes key findings from the Laws That Support Breastfeeding Among Hospital Maternity Patients dataset, which includes laws in effect as of April 2018. Additional maps and tables are available at www.LawAtlas.org.

	<p>Laws That Support Breastfeeding Among Hospital Maternity Patients</p> <p>Eighteen states have laws addressing hospital practices that support breastfeeding among maternity patients.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 18 (AR, CA, FL, GA, HI, IL, KS, LA, MA, MD, MO, MS, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, TX)</p>
	<p>Mandatory Practices That Support Breastfeeding Among Hospital Maternity Patients</p> <p>Fifteen states have laws mandating that hospitals implement practices that support breastfeeding among maternity patients.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 15 (AR, CA, GA, IL, KS, LA, MA, MD, MO, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, TX)</p>
	<p>Rooming-in</p> <p>Five states require hospitals to permit rooming-in, which allows healthy babies and their mothers to stay together day and night.</p> <p>Jurisdictions: 5 (AR, CA, GA, NJ, NY)</p>