Background:

According to a previous analysis from NM Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) for the years 2012-2015, mothers aged <20 years were significantly more likely to receive prenatal care (PNC) counseling on breastfeeding than mothers aged 20+ years. However, mothers aged <20 years were significantly less likely to breastfeed for nine plus weeks than mothers aged 20+ years. Mothers whose PNC was covered by Medicaid were significantly more likely to receive counseling on breastfeeding than mothers not covered by Medicaid. However, mothers whose PNC was covered by Medicaid were significantly less likely to initiate breastfeeding and breastfeed for nine or more weeks than mothers not covered by Medicaid.

Study Question:

Are teen mothers and mothers covered by government insurance significantly less likely to experience hospital practices that encourage breastfeeding than older mothers and mothers not covered by government insurance? Which hospital practices were more likely to increase the likelihood of breastfeeding for nine or more weeks among teen and government insured mothers?

Methods:

The NM PRAMS survey had a question that lists things that may have happened at the hospital where their new baby was born which supported breastfeeding. The 2012-2015 NM PRAMS dataset was used to calculate breastfeeding practices prevalence and 95% confidence intervals for each age group and insurance group.

Results:

Teen Mothers. Teen mothers were no more likely or less likely to receive the hospital breastfeeding practices than older mothers with two exceptions. 1) Teen mothers (97.4% CI [96.0-97.8]) were more likely to receive information about breastfeeding from hospital staff than older mothers (93.3%, CI [92.5-94.2]) and 2) Teen mothers (91.6%, CI [88.8-94.4]) were more likely to get help from staff in learning how to breastfeed than older mothers (78.3%, CI [76.9-79.7]).

Conclusions:

Teen mothers were not significantly less likely to experience hospital breastfeeding practices than older mothers for eight of the hospital breastfeeding practices and were significantly more likely to experience two of the hospital breastfeeding practices than older mothers. Mothers covered by government insurance were not significantly less likely to experience any of the hospital breastfeeding practices than mothers not covered by government insurance and were significantly more likely to experience one of the hospital breastfeeding practices than mothers covered by private insurance.

Six hospital breastfeeding experiences significantly increased the likelihood of breastfeeding for 9+ weeks among teen mothers. Eight hospital breastfeeding experiences significantly increased the likelihood of breastfeeding for 9+ weeks among government insured mothers.