

Effect of breastfeeding on infant and child mortality due to infectious diseases in less developed countries: a pooled analysis

Author: **WHO Collaborative Study Team, Lancet.**

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This study addresses the protective effect of breastfeeding according to the age and sex of the infant, the cause of death and education status of the mother. It was found the protection (relative risk) from breastfeeding declined steadily with age (5.8 for infants <2 months, 4.1 for 2-3 month olds, 2.6 for 4-5 month olds, 1.8 for 6-8 month olds and 1.4 for 9-11 month olds. In the first 6 months of life protection against diarrhoea was substantially greater than for ARI. For second year risk ratio was 1.6-2.1. Protection highest with maternal education was low. Paper did not assess type of breastfeeding.

www.ennonline.net/effectbreastfeedingchildmortality

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