

Breastfeeding in New York City Hospitals, 2009

The New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) are working with hospitals to assure that women who choose to breastfeed are supported in this decision. While much progress has been made, the provision of infant formula to babies who are intended to be breastfed reduces the likelihood of sustained exclusive breastfeeding, and is a potential risk to infant health.

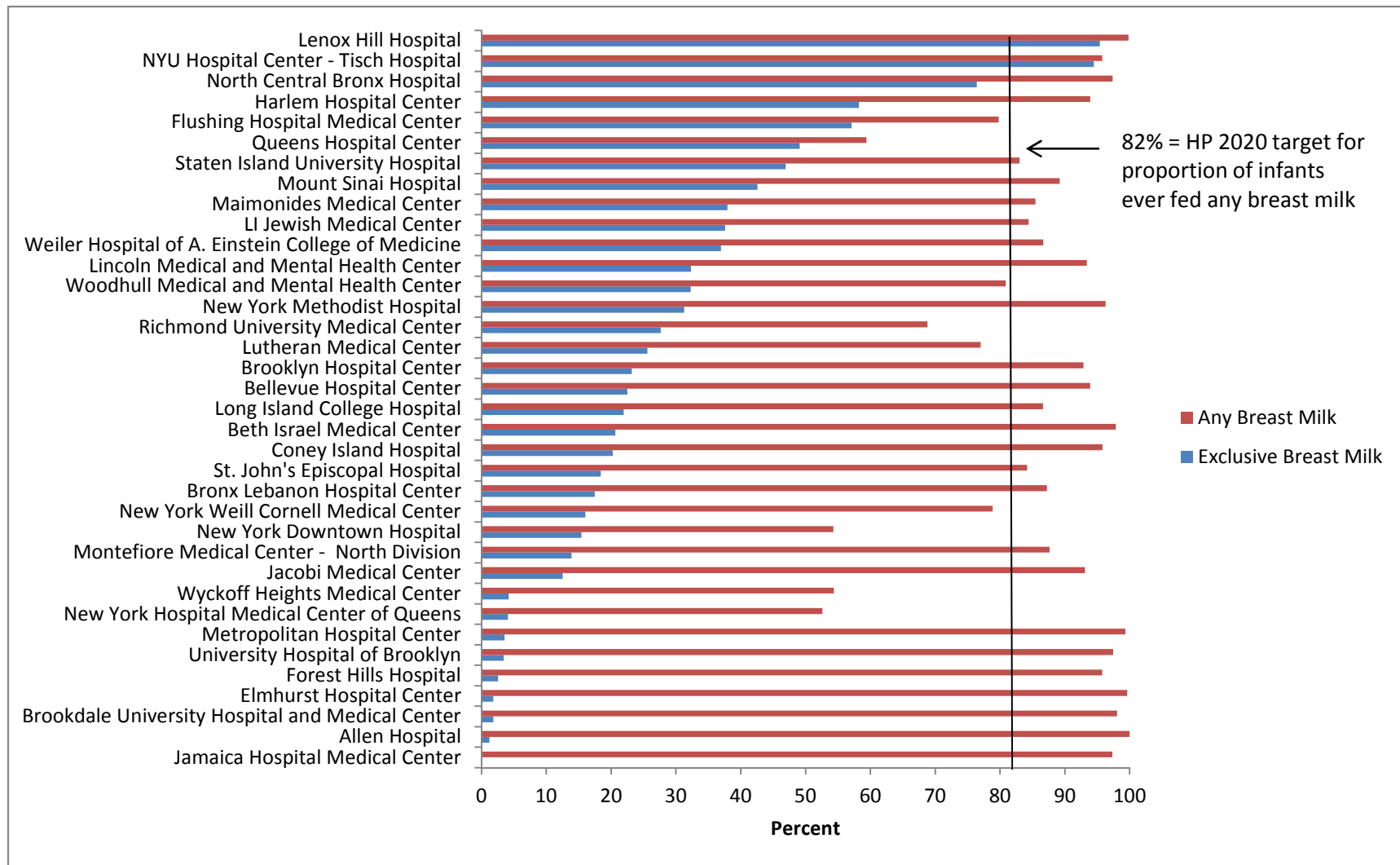
These two charts show data for New York City breastfeeding rates by hospital, based on information recorded on New York City birth certificates in 2009. On average, 61% of healthy breastfed infants in New York City were also fed formula in the hospital.¹ A limitation of these data is that this was the second full year in which New York City hospitals were required to report data on infant feeding.

The first chart ranks New York City hospitals by the percentage of infants who were fed exclusively breast milk (blue bars). The red bars show the percentage of infants who were fed any breast milk (i.e., those exclusively breastfed plus those fed both breast milk and formula), compared to the Healthy People 2020 goal of at least 82%.

The second chart shows, among infants fed any breast milk, the percent who were also given formula. Hospitals are ranked and compared to the Healthy People 2020 target of no more than 14% of breastfed infants receiving formula supplementation within the first two days of life.

¹ Infant Feeding by NYC Hospital, 2009. Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC Dep't of Health and Mental Hygiene. Graph prepared by Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health, NYC Dep't of Health and Mental Hygiene.

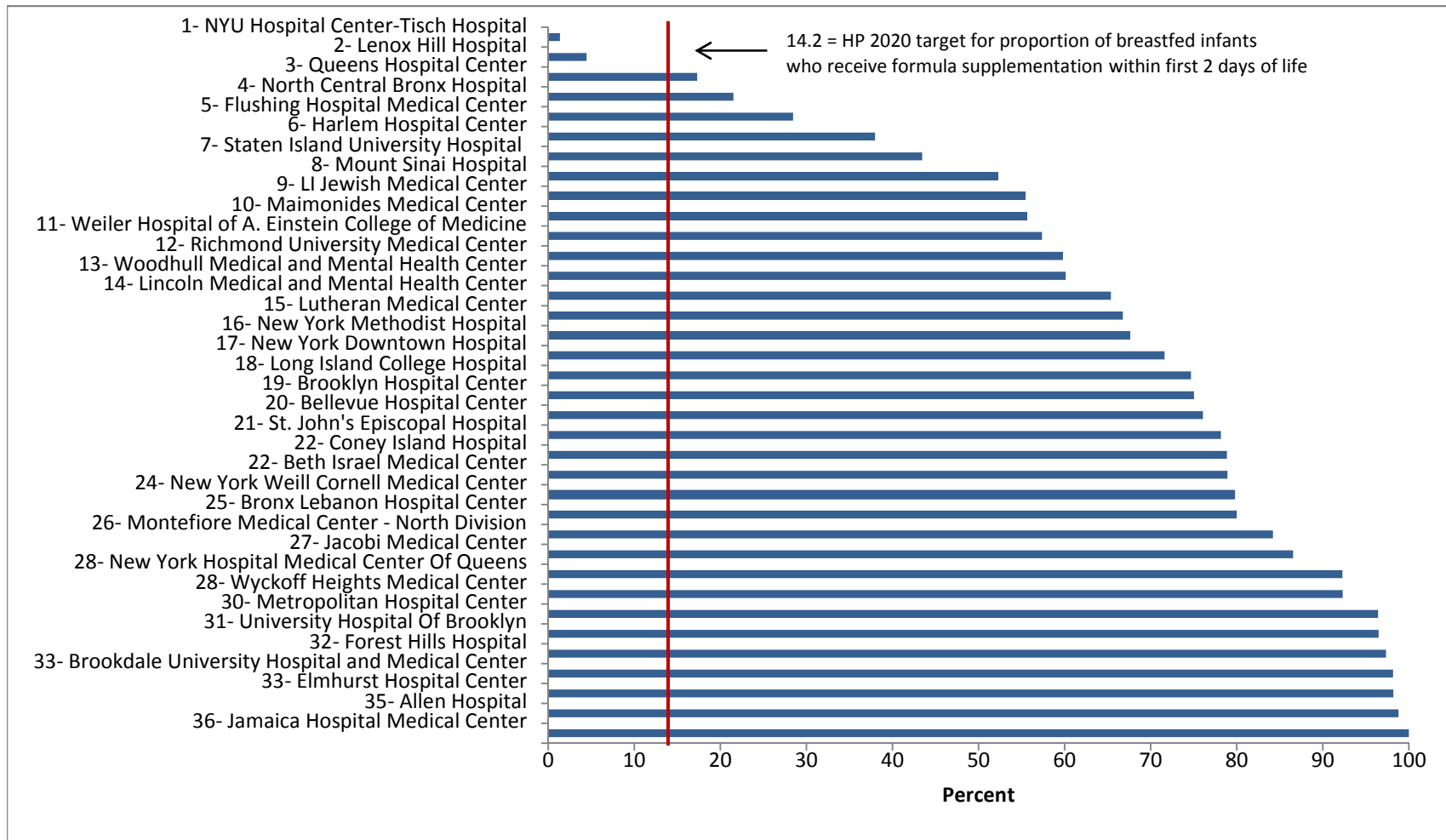
Percent of Healthy Infants Fed Exclusively Breast Milk and Any Breast Milk in the Hospital, NYC 2009



Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Bureau of Vital Statistics. Graph prepared by Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health.

Technical notes: Excludes infants in NICU, transferred, and those with feeding information recorded as missing or neither; hospitals with > 5% missing (n=4) or < 100 births (n=3); and 2 hospitals that closed. Infant feeding question was introduced in 2008 at which time guidance indicated that feeding should be classified based on feeding prior to discharge. Guidance was changed in 2010 to cover period from birth to discharge or 5th day in hospital. Limited data quality efforts were made prior to 2010, therefore data should be interpreted with caution. Any breast milk implies infant was fed some breast milk. Exclusive breast milk implies infant was fed no other liquid except vitamins/medicines, if medically indicated.

Percent of Healthy Breastfed Infants also Fed Formula in the Hospital, 2009



Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Bureau of Vital Statistics. Graph prepared by Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health.

Technical notes: Excludes infants in NICU, transferred or with missing feeding information; hospitals with > 5% missing (n=4) or < 100 births (n=3); and 2 hospitals that closed.

Limited to infants who were breastfed. Infant feeding question was introduced in 2008 at which time guidance indicated that feeding should be classified based on feeding prior to discharge. Guidance was changed in 2010 to cover period from birth to discharge or 5th day in hospital. Limited data quality efforts were made prior to 2010, therefore data should be interpreted with caution.