



August is National Breastfeeding Month



This month is dedicated to bringing awareness to breastfeeding and highlighting resources, educational tools and access to lactation care.

The [Healthy People 2030 Objectives](#) include increasing the proportion of infants exclusively breastfed at six months to 42.4% and increasing the proportion of infants who are breastfed at 12 months to 54.1%. According to the [National Immunization Survey \(NIS\)](#), while 79.5% of Ohio infants born in 2019 were ever breastfed, only 23.7% were exclusively breastfed for six months and 32.2% of Ohio infants were breastfed at 12 months.



**FIRST
STEPS**
for healthy babies

A breastfeeding initiative by the
OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION and
the **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

[Ohio First Steps for Healthy Babies](#) is a program led jointly by the Ohio Hospital Association and the Ohio Department of Health. The program [recognizes maternity centers](#) in Ohio that have taken steps to promote, protect and support breastfeeding in their organizations. First Steps offers many [opportunities for learning](#) and networking to support the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding. The Ohio First Steps for Healthy Babies is a five-star program, which awards a star for every two steps achieved. In the last year, First Steps has also added a [Father/Partner designation](#) component.

If you would like to learn how to get involved with Ohio First Steps or other ongoing statewide initiatives to promote breastfeeding, please contact [Ryan Everett](#) or [Meredith Smith](#).

Don't Forget to Register for the final Compassionate, Respectful and Equitable Care Learning Community Informational Call (August 24th)



OPQC, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Hospital Association, will launch a Learning Community in fall 2023 to focus on delivering Compassionate, Respectful, and Equitable Care. This focus aligns with the new Joint Commission health equity safety standards. We invite you to join us in this Learning Community to learn and work together to improve equitable care for maternity, delivery and postpartum patients.

[Register here](#) to attend the August 24th informational call that OPQC will be hosting about the Learning Community.