

Child Feeding Patterns and Diarrhea

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Objective: To identify the type of feeding patterns and the occurrence of diarrhea among children less than two years old.

Design: Descriptive survey.

Setting: Maternal Child Health Centers, Al-Karak Governorate, Jordan.

Method: Data were collected by using questionnaire; the participants were 523 mothers attending maternal child health centers from 1 June to 13 September 2009.

Result: Two hundred seventy children (52%) were males. One hundred eighty-six (36%) children were exclusively breastfed. Four hundred seventy mothers (90%) were between 20-39 years. Four hundred twenty-four (81%) mothers had high school and BA degree. One hundred fifty-two (29) mothers were unemployed. One hundred forty-one (27%) had a monthly income less than two hundred JD, more than half of those families practiced breastfeeding. The most common causes of stopping breast-feeding were child's refusal, insufficient milk and mothers' work. Two hundred eighty-six (55%) children had no diarrhea; the majority were among exclusively breast-fed children.

Conclusion: The study revealed that practicing exclusive breastfeeding was low among mothers, and the occurrence of diarrhea was low among breastfed children.