



Repeat the Australian National Infant Feeding Survey in 2025

What is ABA's position?

ABA strongly supports the collection of national breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding data every 5 years and the publication of these data in a timely manner.

Key messages

When speaking with or writing to your Federal Member of Parliament:

- The need for the Australian National Infant Feeding Survey to be repeated is urgent, as it was last conducted in 2010
- The collection of meaningful breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding data nationally every 5 years is important as identified in the Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2019 and beyond (ANBS)¹,
- The methodology of the survey conducted in 2010 provides a robust a model for repeating the survey in 2025

Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2019 and beyond (ANBS)¹

Action on policy coordination, monitoring, research and evaluation

What is recommended?

Action area 1.3 of the ANBS includes a recommendation to Monitor and report on breastfeeding rates by:

Commissioning a national baseline infant feeding survey and repeating the survey every five years.

Why is implementing this recommendation important?

The extent and nature of national monitoring and evaluation of breastfeeding practices can influence public awareness and support for breastfeeding and whether it is valued...¹

In other words, we measure what we value. Internationally, it is accepted that national infant feeding surveys should be conducted every 5 years². The last time a large, nationwide infant feeding survey was undertaken in Australia was 15 years ago in 2010³ and it has not been repeated.

This means:

- 1) We don't know whether breastfeeding rates in Australia are changing, either improving or declining further.
- 2) We don't know whether any strategies that have been implemented nationally or in State or Territory jurisdictions in the last 15 years have led to changes to breastfeeding rates.

If breastfeeding rates are not monitored nationally and not reported in a timely manner, we won't know whether any ANBS actions implemented change breastfeeding rates.

References

1. COAG Health Council (2019). The Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy: 2019 and Beyond. <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2022/03/australian-national-breastfeeding-strategy-2019-and-beyond.pdf>

2. IBFAN/BPNI, 2024. World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) assessment tool. <https://www.worldbreastfeedingtrends.org/uploads/resources/document/wbti-tool-version-march-2024.pdf>

3. AIHW, 2011. 2010 Australian National Infant Feeding Survey Indicator results. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/af2fe025-637e-4c09-ba03-33e69f49aba7/l3632.pdf.aspx?inline=true>