



In the face of a disaster or emergency, would Louisiana women breastfeed?

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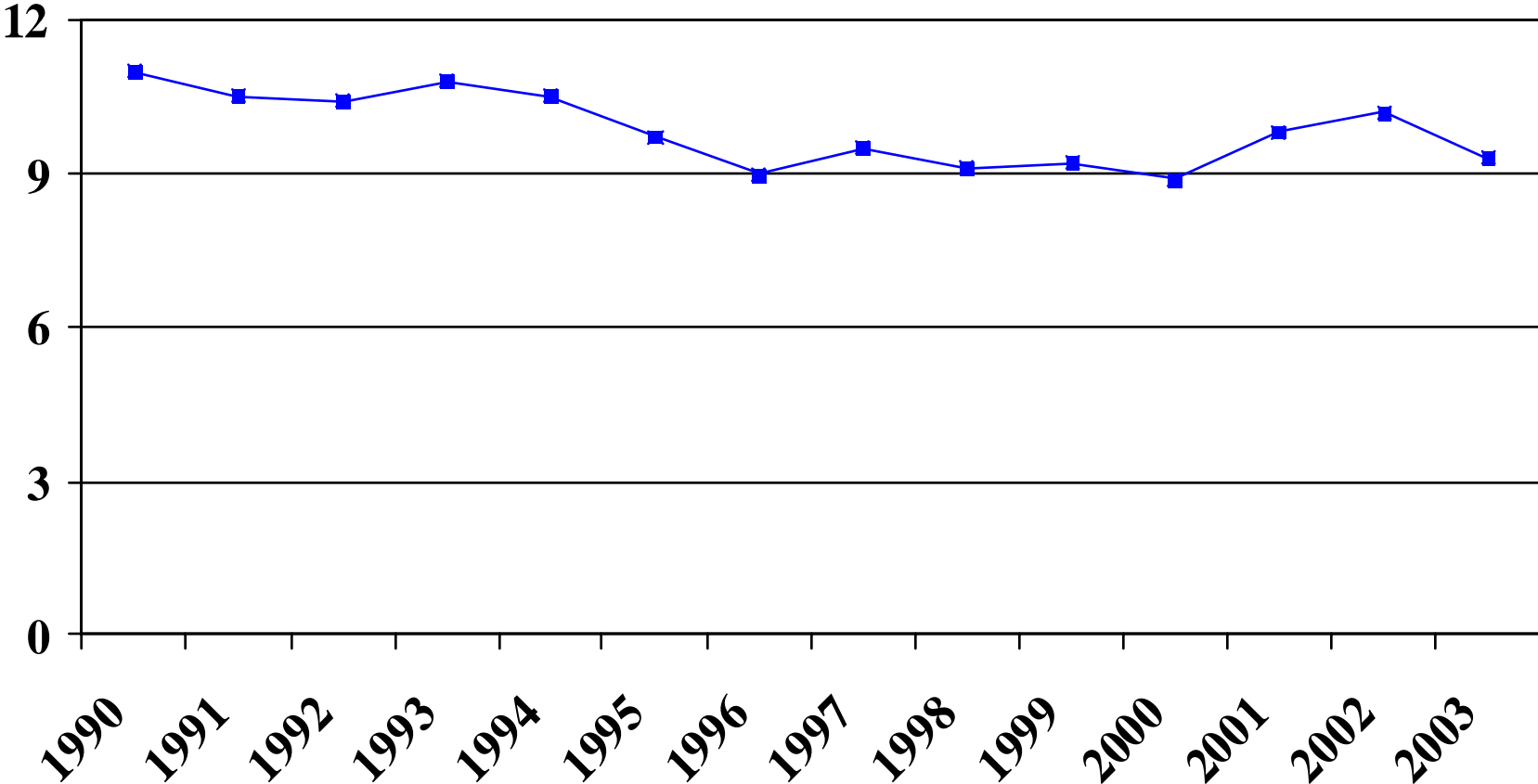


Infant Mortality Rate, 1999

Canada	5.5
Cuba	7.8
Louisiana	9.7
- White	6.4
- Black	14.6
Sri Lanka	16.0
United Kingdom	5.8
United States	7.0
World	56.0

J La State Med
Soc 2001

Louisiana Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live born baby, 1990-2003



Breastfeeding reduces postnatal death.

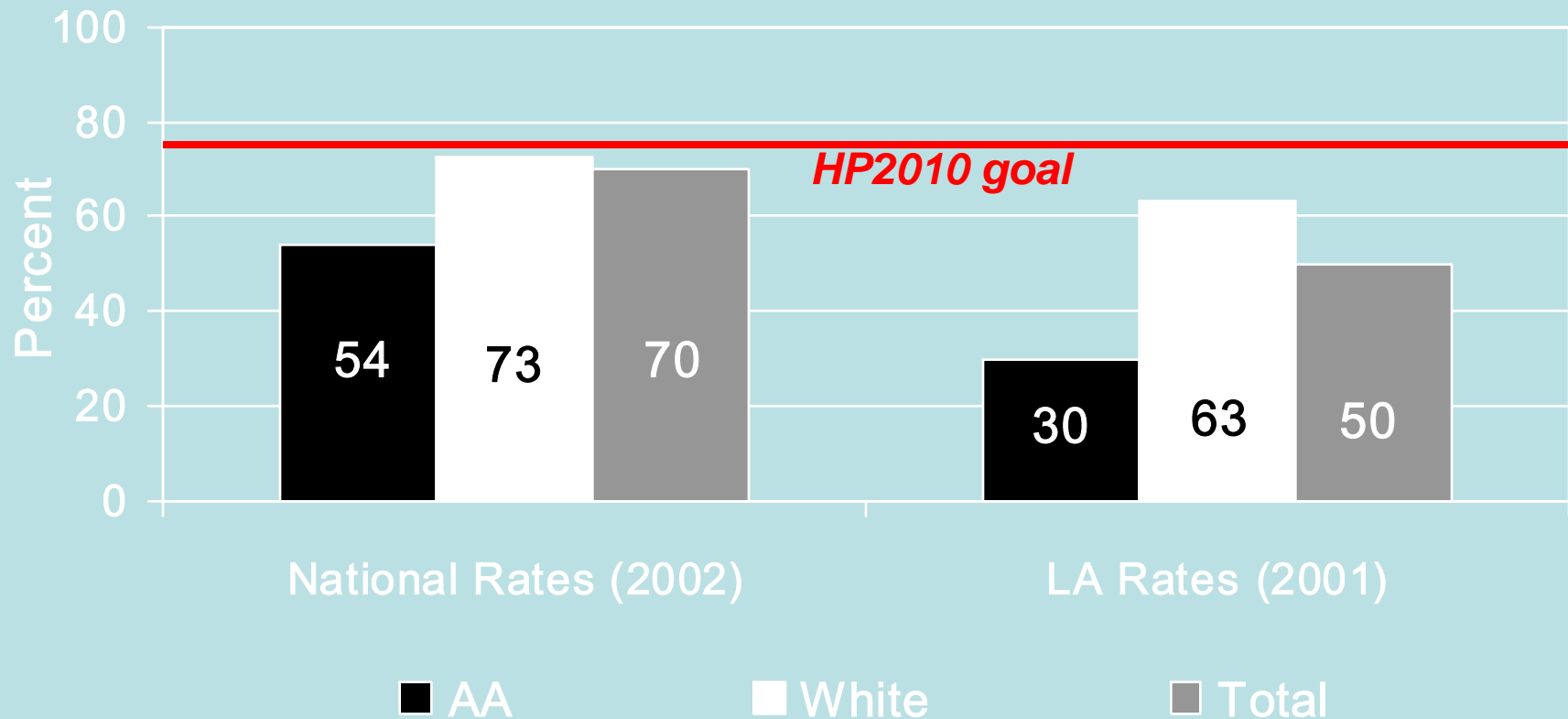
Ever breastfeed babies had 0.79 (CI 0.67-0.93) the risk of never breastfed children for dying in the postneonatal period.

Promoting breastfeeding has the potential to save or delay 720 postnatal deaths in the U.S. each year.

Chen & Rogan, Pediatrics 2004: 113:435

Background

Percent of Women Initiating Breastfeeding



Mother's Survey, Ross Products Division, Abbott Laboratories. LA PRAMS, 2001.

Breastfeeding & AA mothers

- Breastfeeding rates among African American (AA) women declined dramatically beginning in the 1960's.
- Misconceptions about breastfeeding passed on through generations resulting in a lack of breastfeeding role models for the current generation of mothers.
- African American women make care-giving decisions for their children intricately tied into the “kin-work” structure
- “Kin-work” refers to a multi-generational, interdependent network of people who share child care and other responsibilities.

Factors Related to Breastfeeding Initiation Among **White Women** in Louisiana, 2000-2002

	Adjusted* OR (95% CI)
Education (vs. < 12 years)	
13+ years	4.21 (2.60, 6.81)
Age (vs. < 19 years)	
30 + years	2.02 (1.10, 3.71)
Currently working or going to school (vs. not)	0.61 (0.46, 0.82)
Current smoker (vs. never smoked)	0.54 (0.38, 0.75)

*Adjusted for all variables in the model and delivery type.

Factors Related to Breastfeeding Initiation Among **African American Women** in Louisiana, 2000-2002

	Adjusted* OR (95% CI)
Education (vs. < 12 years)	
12 years	1.82 (1.12, 2.94)
13+ years	4.06 (2.45, 6.72)
Marital status (vs. other)	2.37 (1.43, 3.94)
Married	

*Adjusted for all variables in the model.

Qualitative Research on AA Perceptions on Breastfeeding

- Focus groups with pregnant women
- Focus groups with Formula feeding or breastfeeding mothers
- Focus groups with grandmothers and expectant dads
- Families participate in in-depth interviews
- Three inter-generational focus groups
- Some focus group conducted prior to Katrina and some after

MCH Disaster





MCH after Disaster



Research question

- During the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, babies died because there was no access to formula and clean drinking water.
- Has this image changed the perception of breastfeeding in the AA community?

Conclusion

- New Orleans AA women rely on the support/advice of their mothers, friends, husbands:
 - If a woman's friend has a child older than her baby she would seek advice from that friend.
 - A woman would listen to the advice of her mother if her mother's advice was in support of the husband's decision.
 - For married women, the support of the husband supersedes that of the baby's grandmother.

Conclusion

- New Orleans AA women rely on the support/advice from their health care provider depending on the circumstances:
 - If a woman's OB/GYN encourages breastfeeding the woman would consider changing her feeding decision from formula feeding to breastfeeding, but not vice versa.
 - If the Pediatrician advised the mother to discontinue breastfeeding she is more likely to do so.

Conclusions

- African American women are unlikely to re-evaluate their beliefs about breastfeeding without support from the community.
- Mothers who had babies after Hurricane Katrina express that they would be more likely to change their decision from formula feeding to breastfeeding if given education on breastfeeding in emergencies.

Breastfeeding promotion and emergency preparedness

- A missed public health
promotion opportunity?



Breastfeeding Lay health educator

