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| **Domain:** | Environmental Exposures |
| **Measure:** | History of Being Breast Fed |
| **Definition:** | Question about whether or not the respondent was breastfed as a child. |
| **Purpose:** | Human milk has health benefits for infants (i.e., nutritional and immunologic benefits). Lactation has been shown to be beneficial to the health of mothers (e.g., lower risk of some cancers). Breastfeeding also has been shown to have psychological and neurodevelopmental benefits. Unfortunately human milk may also be a vehicle for transfer of viruses (e.g., HIV) and environmental chemicals (e.g, polyhalogenated chemicals). Generally, the benefits of human milk and lactation have been found to outweigh the risks of exposures to pathogens or toxic substances in breast milk but there are higher risk situations that have been recognized. Researchers can use information about breastfeeding to make inferences relevant to early nutritional status and immunologic development, the mother-child relationship, and potential exposures. |
| **Essential PhenX Measures:** |  |
| **Related PhenX Measures:** | Current Age |
| **Collections:** |  |
| **Keywords:** | Breastfeeding, breast milk, lactation, immunology, virus transmission, Environmental Exposures |

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| **Protocol Release Date:** | October 30, 2009 |
| **PhenX Protocol Name:** | History of Being Breast Fed |
| **Protocol Name from Source:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |
| **Description:** | The respondent is asked whether or not his/her mother breastfed him/her. |
| **Specific Instructions:** | Ideally a question about the duration of breast feeding also would be added to this protocol. Men may be less likely than women to know whether they had been breastfed as an infant. |
| **Protocol:** | 1. Did your mother breastfeed you?  [ ] 1 Yes  [ ] 2 No  [ ] 8 Don't know |
| **Selection Rationale:** | This is a simple question that captures the basic information needed, about whether or not the person was breastfed. |
| **Source:** | National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute. Long Island Breast Cancer Study, Section M. Pregnancy Related Problems, 1996, Question number: M1a. (question 1) |
| **Life Stage:** | Adolescent Adult |
| **Language of source:** | English, Spanish |
| **Participant:** | Any age |
| **Personnel and Training Required:** | The interviewer must be trained to conduct personal interviews with individuals from the general population. The interviewer must be trained and found to be competent (i.e., tested by an expert) at the completion of personal interviews\*.  \* There are multiple modes to administer this question (e.g., pencil and paper and computer-assisted interviews). |
| **Equipment Needs:** | While the source instrument was administered in-person via a pencil and paper instrument, the PhenX Working Group acknowledges that these questions can be administered in a computerized format (i.e., computer-assisted personal interview). Computer software is necessary to develop computer-assisted instruments. The interviewer will require a laptop computer/handheld computer to administer a computer-assisted questionnaire. |
| **Standards:** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Standard** | **Name** | **ID** | **Source** | | Common Data Element (CDE) | Person Breast Feeding History Indicator | 2954194 | [CDE Browser](https://cdebrowser.nci.nih.gov/CDEBrowser/search?elementDetails=9&FirstTimer=0&PageId=ElementDetailsGroup&publicId=2954194&version=1.0) | | Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) | Environ exp hx breast fed proto | 62532-7 | [LOINC](http://s.details.loinc.org/LOINC/62532-7.html?sections=Web) | |
| **General references:** | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Breastfeeding. Accessed August 25, 2009 at http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/  Needham, L. L. and R. Y. Wang. (2002). Analytic considerations for measuring environmental chemicals in breast milk. Environ Health Perspect 110(6): A317-324.  Miotti, P. G., T. E. Taha, et al. (1999). HIV transmission through breastfeeding: a study in Malawi. JAMA 282(8): 744-749. |
| **Mode of Administration:** | Interviewer-administered questionnaire |
| **Derived Variables:** | None |
| **Requirements:** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Requirement Category** | **Required** | | Major equipment | No | | Specialized training | No | | Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection | No | | Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual | No | |
| **Process and Review:** | The Expert Review Panel has not reviewed this measure yet. |