

Deaf Mothers and Breastfeeding: Assessing their Knowledge and Practices through Focus Group Discussions

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University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry, Rochester NY ultimately, how they feed their infants, is unknown. This qualitative study cannot establish the frequency of breastfeeding among Deaf mothers, but explores data on the range and types of information sources, as well as barriers and facilitators they face in trying to breastfeed.

This work brings together two community-based participatory research projects in the Department of Community & Preventive Medicine at the University of Rochester. The PRC funded National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) and an NCDHR-funded community breastfeeding support and promotion project. NCDHR has as its mission to identify and eliminate health disparities in deaf population.

NCDHR uses a cultural model of deafness which views deaf people who use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate as a cultural-linguistic minority group, not a disability group. Such we use a capital 'D' to designate Deaf, indexing the cultural group as opposed to indexing audiological status.

