

# BREASTFEEDING PATTERNS EVOLUTION BETWEEN 1999 AND 2008 AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH DIARRHEA HOSPITALIZATION

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**Backgrounds and Aims:** Breastfeeding prevalence has been increased in the last two decades in Brazil, as pro breastfeeding policy result. The objective of this study is to correlate the increase in the prevalence of breastfeeding with hospitalization taxes due to diarrhea.

**Methodology:** It is an ecological study, with secondary database of Brazilian Capital City and Federal District. The breastfeeding prevalence of 1999 and 2008 was obtained from the "II Pesquisa de Prevalência de Aleitamento Materno" and the under one year of life children population was obtained from National Health Databank (DATASUS) for the same years. The outcome (hospitalization due to diarrhea) was obtained from the Hospitalary Information System (SIH). It was employed a Spearman Correlation and Wilcoxon Correlation as statistical analysis to evaluate correlations and tendencies. A Rate Ratio of diarrhea hospitalization (per 1000 children under one year of life) in 1999 and 2008 was estimated.

**Results:** 1.329.618 children under one year of life was studied in 1999 and 2008. The hospitalization taxes due to diarrhea had a decrease of 6,96/1000 children between 1999 and 2008 (from 13.18 to 6.22, respectively). The increase of exclusive breastfeeding among under 4 months prevalence was correlated with a decrease of hospitalization due to diarrhea ( $Rho=-0.483$ ,  $p<0,01$ ), this correlation was stronger for girls ( $Rho=-0.521$ ,  $p<0,01$ ) than for boys ( $Rho=-0.476$ ,  $p<0,01$ ).

**Discussion:** The increase of breastfeeding prevalence between 1999 and 2008 seems to reduce hospitalization due to diarrhea at the same period, what brings the importance of public policies that protect, support and promote breastfeeding.