



Advances and Challenges in Breastfeeding

Guest Editor:

Dr. Amal Mitra

Department of Public Health,
Julia Jones Matthews School of
Population and Public Health,
Texas Tech University Health
Sciences Center, Abilene, TX, USA

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Breastfeeding is a key public health strategy to improve the health of mothers and their infants. It is the best source of nutrition for most infants and reduces the risk for some short- and long-term health conditions for both infants and mothers. Clinicians, public health advisors, nutritionists, and others have been attempting to increase breastfeeding rates for the last few decades, with varying degrees of success. We need social science researchers to help us understand the role of infant feeding in the family.

While breastfeeding rates are increasing in all racial/ethnic populations, disparities in breastfeeding continue, with the lowest rates of breastfeeding being reported among African American and Native American mothers/infants. Low rates of breastfeeding add more than \$3 billion a year to medical costs for women and children in the United States. Actions are needed with a focus on health equity and decreasing disparities in breastfeeding, primarily among African American and Native American families.

This Special Issue will present original articles, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, and case reports on breastfeeding.





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USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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