Breastfeeding Support: Low Cost & High Value

Breast Milk Saves Money & Improves Health for Babies & Moms

Breast Milk Reduces Risks of 4 Most Common & Costly Childhood Conditions in the First Year of Life

- **Ear Infections (Otitis Media)**: 50%
  - $290 MILLION
- **Gastroenteritis**: 64%
  - $832 MILLION
- **Respiratory Infections**: 72%
  - $527 MILLION
- **Intestinal Infection (Necrotizing Enterocolitis, NEC)**: 77%
  - $1.9 BILLION

Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) is a major cost driver in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) & is among highest per-case cost for Medicaid & commercial insurance.\(^5\)

19% of NICU expenditures\(^6\)

$5 BILLION PER YEAR IN HOSPITALIZATION COSTS\(^8\)

Breast milk significantly reduces the incidence of NEC and is the only treatment to do so.

Breast Milk Saves Health Systems & US Taxpayers Money

- **$1.6 MILLION**\(^7\)
  - PER 100,000 BABIES PER YEAR

Breastfeeding Support: Negligible Impact on Premiums

- **14 cents**\(^2\)
  - Per $500 typical commercial insurance premium
- **20 cents**\(^7\)
  - Per $500 expenditure for a Medicaid enrollee

More moms go back to work today than any other time in history\(^8\)

- **1961-1965**: 16.8%
- **2005-2007**: 63.8%

Policies Supporting Breastfeeding are Making a Difference

- **Start lives out breastfeeding**
  - 2012: 5%
  - 2014: 81%
- **Receive breast milk for at least six months**
  - 2012: 76%
  - 2014: 51%
- **Given any breast milk for at least one year**
  - 2012: 49%
  - 2014: 31%

One Day Absences Twice as Often for Formula-Fed compared with Breast Milk Fed Babies\(^3\)

- **1961-1965**: 16.8%
- **2005-2007**: 63.8%

For more information about breastfeeding and education resources, please visit www.medelabraestfeedingus.com.


\(^4\) Combines premature death, direct medical costs and indirect costs.


Based on the study performed by Milliman, Inc.