

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
FR Doc. 2026-00717 (91 FR 1792)
Attn: Jeffrey M. Zirger

RE: Proposed Data Collection: Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC)
Survey

Dear Mr. Zirger,

BreastfeedLA submits this comment in support of renewing the Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey.

BreastfeedLA is a Los Angeles–based nonprofit dedicated to advancing infant feeding equity and the holistic well-being of families through outreach, education, advocacy, and direct support. We envision a world where all families are empowered with the information, access, and support to determine for themselves the safest, healthiest, and most affirming ways to birth, feed, and raise their children.

We strongly support renewal of the mPINC survey as a critical public health surveillance and quality-improvement tool. As noted in the Federal Register notice, substantial evidence shows the health, social, and economic benefits of breastfeeding, yet significant disparities in exclusivity and duration persist across population groups. The health care system, particularly the birth hospital stay, plays a crucial role in shaping breastfeeding outcomes, making maternity care practices a key point for intervention and improvement.

The mPINC survey provides a national census of maternity facilities, enabling the CDC to track changes in practices over time, identify gaps, and share results at hospital, state, regional, and national levels. These data are also used by researchers to examine how maternity care practices influence breastfeeding initiation and continuation.

To ensure the survey reflects the full range of infant feeding experiences and supports equitable improvements, BreastfeedLA recommends the following enhancements:

- **Disparities:** Include questions capturing care for diverse populations to identify and reduce inequities.
- **Post-Discharge Continuity:** Add items on referrals to community-based lactation support, WIC, peer programs, and donor milk services.
- **Patient Experience:** Incorporate indicators on whether families' feeding goals were discussed and their satisfaction with support.
- **Workforce Training:** Strengthen questions on staff training, cultural and linguistic competence, and evidence-based education.
- **Timely Data Release:** Explore opportunities to shorten the timeline between data collection and public release of results so that hospitals, community partners, and policymakers can use the findings for more timely quality improvement and decision-making.

Renewing and strengthening the mPINC survey will help ensure maternity care practices support the health and ability of all families to thrive, while advancing national breastfeeding goals and reducing inequities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that all families receive the support they need to meet their infant feeding goals. Please direct any questions to info@breastfeedla.org.

Sincerely,



Arissa Palmer, MHS
Executive Director
BreastfeedLA



Brenda Vieyra, IBCLC, Doula
Program Director
BreastfeedLA