

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**Breastfeeding And Employment:
Factors That Differentiate Those Who Are Able To Continue
Breastfeeding And Those Who Are Not**

April Buttaccio

Background:

Breastfeeding is considered the best form of infant nutrition providing numerous health benefits to both the infant and mother. Many professional associations recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life and continued breastfeeding for at least the first year. Healthy People 2010 established breastfeeding goals, but rates continue to remain low.

Numerous factors contribute to these low rates, including maternal employment. Several studies found that women working full-time have significantly shorter breastfeeding duration compared to non-employed women. Research that examines the factors about employment that encourage or hinder breastfeeding is limited. In addition, very little information exists on how breastfeeding labor laws are being implemented and their effect on breastfeeding rates.

Objective:

This study aims to examine the differences between barriers, facilitators and strategies among women with professional and non-professional jobs who are able to continue breastfeeding after their return to work and women who are not. A secondary aim is to specifically look at the implementation of the New York State labor law through the experiences of these working women.

Methods:

This study will employ qualitative methods by conducting in-depth semi-structured interviews with employed women who have either continued breastfeeding or have quit. The ecological model along with previous study results were used to develop the interview questions and will be used as a framework for the data. Coding schemes will be applied to the interview data to identify any themes or patterns. Differences between groups will be explored.

**Committee Chair:
Ann Dozier, PhD**

**Committee Members:
Nancy P. Chin, PhD
Kathleen Parrinello**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2010
12:30PM – 1:00 PM
Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME