Fifteen Vermont primary care practices received training in use of a novel referral for breast pump distribution of infant < 28 days, referral for frenotomy, and other referral to a lactation consultant. The initial training consisted of a series of 1-hour post-discharge, to evaluate breastfeeding, assess problems and provide education.

We evaluated use of the breastfeeding mother/baby pair at every visit, using a standardized breastfeeding assessment tool in which providers ask a standardized set of questions at each well-child visit during the first 6 months. We evaluated use of the breastfeeding mother/baby pair at every visit, using a standardized breastfeeding assessment tool in which providers ask a standardized set of questions at each well-child visit during the first 6 months.

Breastfeeding Rates saw overall improvement:

- The percentage of providers performing breastfeeding evaluations in their offices increased from 70% at the start of our study to 88% after 6 months.
- The percentage of infants receiving any breast milk between 1-4 weeks infant age increased from 67% to 77%.

A statistically significant increase in exclusive breastfeeding was not shown for any of the age groups.

Conclusions:
Training primary care providers to perform breastfeeding evaluations in their offices as well as improvements in office systems for breastfeeding support resulted in a dramatic increase of breastfeeding assessments by primary care providers and an increase in breastfeeding rates among 1-4week old infants. Continued breastfeeding support and training in primary care offices would hopefully eventually improve exclusive and long-term rates of breastfeeding - an area for continued study.

Future Research
The project is currently entering year two with expansion of the pool of participating primary care providers. The initial trainings will be consolidated into a single day with monthly support calls. Expansion of the project into a broader geographic area in the future will allow for more rigorous evaluation of the new assessment tool and provider trainings.

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