

Health Indicator Report

Attitudes Towards Mothers Breastfeeding in Restaurants and Shopping Malls

Background

The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information on the acceptance of breastfeeding in restaurants and shopping malls among adults aged 18 and over living in Halton Region.

Breastfeeding is the recommended method of feeding for infants.¹ Health Canada guidelines promote breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months after birth, and sustained for up to two years or longer in conjunction with appropriate complementary feeding.¹ This optimizes the nutrition, growth and development of infants and toddlers.¹ In 2014, 97% of mothers in Halton Region reported initiating breastfeeding.² For more information about breastfeeding in Halton visit halton.ca.

This health indicator report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS).

Acceptance of Breastfeeding in Restaurants

Overall Findings

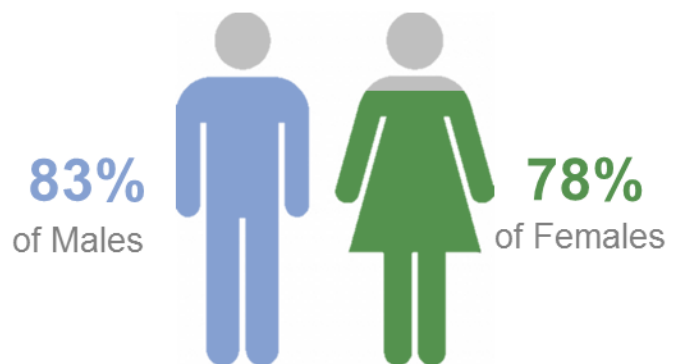
In 2016, 80% of Halton adults reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant, Halton Region, 2016

Sex

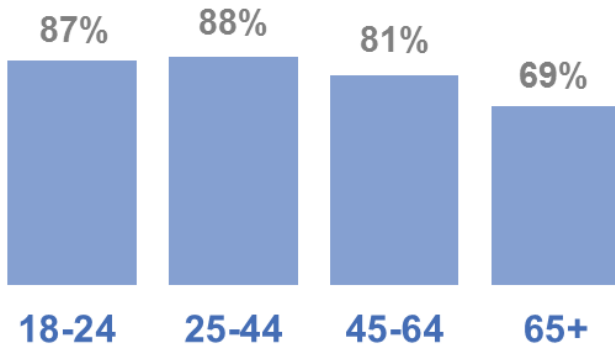
In 2016, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant, by sex, Halton Region, 2016

Age

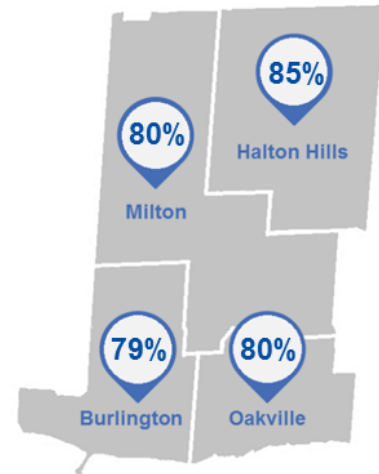
In 2016, Halton adults aged 65+ were less likely than all other age groups to report that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant. These differences were all **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant, by age, Halton Region, 2016

Municipality

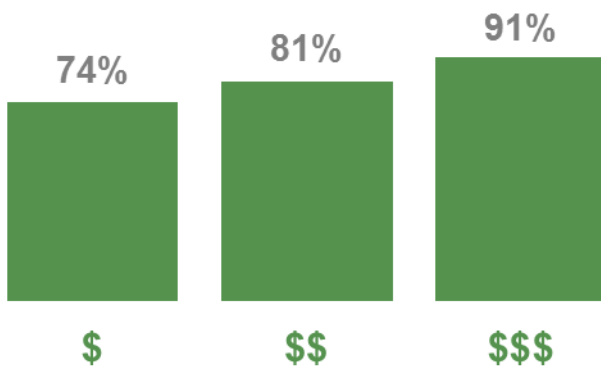
In 2016, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant, by municipality, Halton Region, 2016

Income

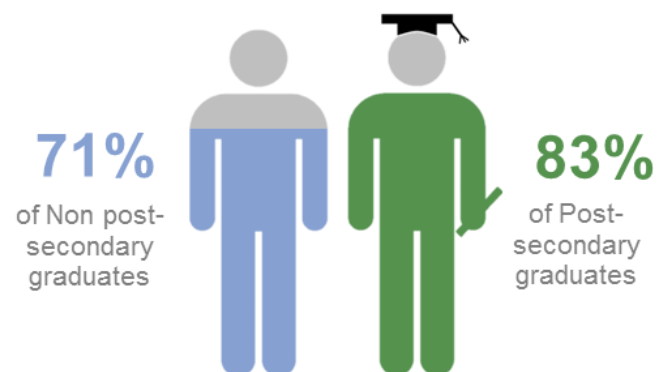
In 2016, the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant increased as income increased. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing adults in the lowest and middle income groups to adults in the highest income group.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant, by income, Halton Region, 2016

Education

In 2016, the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant was higher among those who were post-secondary graduates compared to those who were not post-secondary graduates. This difference was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 25 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a restaurant, by education, Halton Region, 2016

Acceptance of Breastfeeding in Shopping Malls

Overall Findings

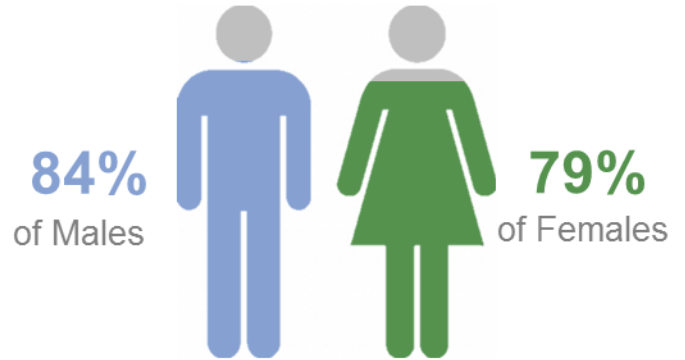
In 2016, 81% of Halton adults reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall, Halton Region, 2016

Sex

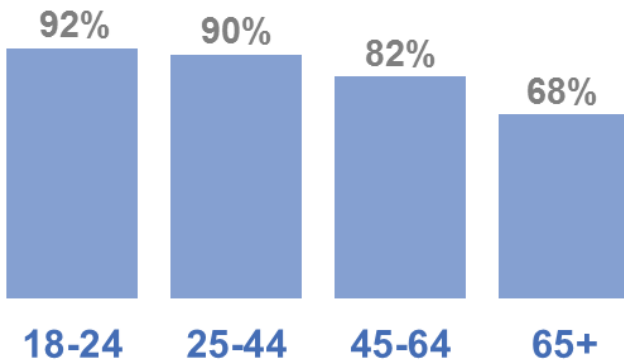
In 2016, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall, by sex, Halton Region, 2016

Age

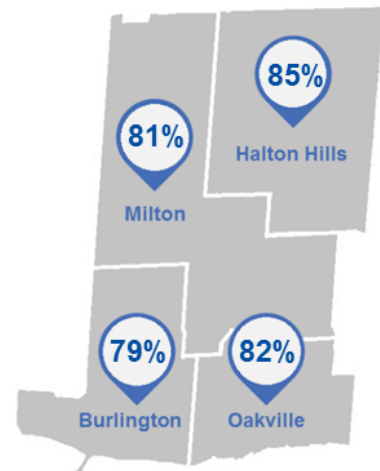
In 2016, the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall decreased as age increased. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing all age groups to adults aged 65+ and when comparing adults aged 25-44 to adults aged 45-64.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall, by age, Halton Region, 2016

Municipality

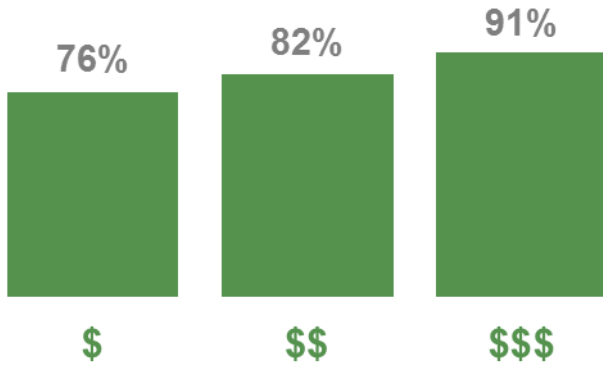
In 2016, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall, by municipality, Halton Region, 2016

Income

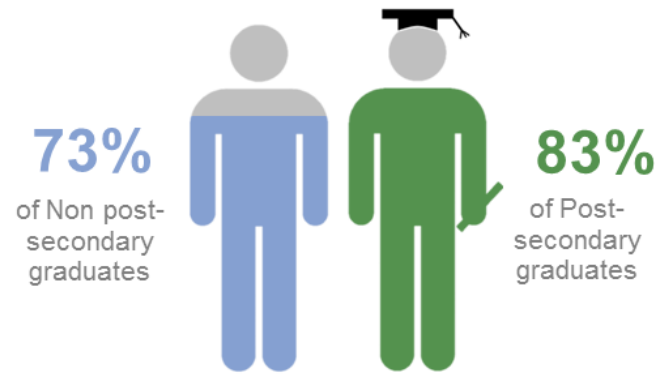
In 2016, the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall increased as income increased. This difference was **statistically significant** when comparing adults in the lowest and middle income groups to adults in the highest income group.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall, by income, Halton Region, 2016

Education

In 2016, the percentage of Halton adults who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall was higher among those who were post-secondary graduates compared to those who were not post-secondary graduates. This difference was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 25 and over who reported that it was acceptable for a mother to breastfeed her baby while in a shopping mall, by education, Halton Region, 2016

Data Notes

For more information on RRFSS, methods, statistical significance and limitations associated with health indicator reports, please see the Data Notes and Guide available at halton.ca

Definitions: Note: Responses that indicated that it is only okay for a mother to breastfeed her baby in a restaurant or shopping mall if she cannot be seen, or who responded that “it depends if the mother is discreet, if she is flaunting it, if she covers up” etc., were considered the same as “not acceptable” for analysis purposes.

Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [2016], Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

References

1. Health Canada. 2015. Infant Feeding. Accessed June 2017 from <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/infant-nourisson/index-eng.php>
2. Halton Region. 2014. Infant Feeding in Halton. Accessed June 2017

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics website at halton.ca

Last Revised: June 7th, 2017
Expected Update: 2020