The Role of Grandmothers on Breastfeeding Duration

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BACKGROUND

• Breastfeeding benefits mothers and babies\(^1\)
• US breastfeeding initiation rates are increasing, but duration rates lag\(^2\)
• Grandmothers play important role in infant feeding decisions\(^3\)\(^-\)\(^5\)

METHODS

• Secondary data analysis: Infant Feeding Practice Study II (longitudinal surveys; 2005-2007)
• Cox Regression analysis (survival analysis)
• Social influence is measured by the interaction of grandmother’s opinion of infant feeding and importance, of that opinion, to the participant

RESULTS

Positive social influence, from maternal grandmother, associated with lower hazard of stopping breastfeeding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant Characteristics (N=2241, 1001 censored)</th>
<th>% Mean (SD), Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White*</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married*</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; High School education*</td>
<td>75.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed *</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfed previous baby*</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)*</td>
<td>28.8 (5.34), 18-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks at breastfeeding cessation</td>
<td>19.77 (17.05), &lt;1-65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Confounders controlled for in final model

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE RESEARCH

• Maternal grandmother may be important for breastfeeding duration
• Future studies: distinguish between maternal and paternal grandmother
• Future interventions: address gap in duration by leveraging maternal grandmothers

PURPOSE

Identify the social influence of maternal and paternal grandmothers on breastfeeding duration

REFERENCES

Breastfeeding Cessation

Maternal Grandmother Social Influence

Paternal Grandmother Social Influence

*Confounders controlled for in final model

*\(p<0.001\)