Attitudes toward breast-feeding and infant formula feeding among Iranian ,Afghan, American and Southeast Asian immigrant women in the United States:

Implications for psychological and nutritional of health education

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In the United States, the number of mothers who breast-feed their infants has increased dramatically in recent years-more than doubling from 25% in 1971 to 63% in 1984 (1,2). In stark contrast to this national trend, immigrant mothers who breast-fed infants born in their native countries often do not breast-feed or reduce the time they breast-feed their infants born in the United States(3).

This Study used survey interviews to explore the social, psychological cultural, religion and economic factors associated with breast-feeding practices of Persian (ie, Iranian and Afghan) and southeast Asian (ie , Viet names , Cambodian, and Laotian) immigrant mothers. Many Iranian mothers stated societal and psychological support for breast-feeding in Iran by the post-revolutionary government, the Moslem religion, and support groups they had formed among themselves..

Key words: Breast-feeding, Attitude, Immigrant mothers, Social, Economical, Culture, Religion

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