Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Predictors of 6-Month Exclusive Breastfeeding among Canadian Women: A National Survey

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Reviewer: Wendy H Oddy

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BMC Pediatrics
Ban Al-Sahab et al
Prevalence and predictors of a 6-month exclusive breastfeeding among Canadian women: a national survey

This study aimed to examine the prevalence and predictors of 6-month exclusive breastfeeding among Canadian women. Using data from the Maternity Experience Survey of 5,615 women>= 15 years. The main outcome studies was duration of exclusive breastfeeding based on the World health Organisation definition.

In this study the authors showed that in a Canadian population the breastfeeding initiation rate was 90.3 and the 6-month breastfeeding rate was 13.8%. Factors impacting on an increase in this rate included more years of maternal education, older maternal age, living in Northern or western provinces, living with a partner and having previous pregnancies. Factors that had a detrimental effect on this rate included maternal smoking during pregnancy, caesarean birth, infant admission to intensive care and maternal employment before 6 months.

The conclusion from this study was that the 6-month exclusive breastfeeding rate in Canada is low.

Minor Essential Revisions
Background
Page 5
Line 14. a study cannot use data – this sentence ought to be written as ‘In the present study, however, we use data from …territories. We aim to examine…’

Results
Page 9
Line 5. The authors state ‘around 10% of the women intended to provide…’. Give the precise amount.
Line 11- northern territories should be capitalised.
Line 16 – use word 'shown' rather than 'illustrated'
Line 19 – could read ‘Out of the demographic variables tested, immigrant status…’

Page 10
Line 1 – should read ‘…first 6 months of the infant’s life (rather than age)’.
Line 3 – Rather than use the word ‘moreover’ use the word ‘Furthermore’
Line 7 – it is midwives, and not midwifes’ (also on page 11 line 10)
Line 10 – home rather than homes
Line 12 – Caesarean rather than cesarean

Page 13 –
Line 7 – rather than ‘chances’ use ‘likelihood’
Line 19 – do not use ‘etc…’ Be precise – what does the etc mean?

Page 14
Are any hospitals in Canada ‘Baby Friendly’. The authors mention on page 19 that ‘.47.9% of the infants received formula milk during hospital stay’ – can you discuss BFHI and if this has been implemented in Canada at all.

Line 17
The word ‘working’ ought to be replaced with ‘employment’

Table 2.
Were results dropped out of the model if they were not significant. This is not all that clear from the table.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'