

RFI Category and Number:

*Breastfeeding and Lactation Support
RFI 10*

RFI Question:

Describe how your Service-branch, to include the Reserve and Guard components, are tracking the effectiveness of the Breastfeeding and Lactation Support Policies. Please describe methods of tracking policy and program compliance; how feedback is solicited from affected servicewomen; and what trends and constraints are noted from those who elect/don't elect to breastfeed their newborns.

RFI Response:

Navy collects feedback from Sailors on breastfeeding and lactation support every two years via the Personal and Professional Choices (P&PC) Survey, last conducted Spring 2018. Formerly known as the Pregnancy & Parenthood Survey, it asked eight questions relating to breastfeeding. Two questions were related to how long the mother breastfed versus how long they were planning on breastfeeding. If the member responded that they did not breastfeed or that they did not plan to, subsequent questions pertaining to breastfeeding were skipped. For those who did respond, additional questions were asked about whether they were breastfeeding/pumping upon their return to work, if they were provided ample time, what kind of space was used, and where the milk was stored. Lastly, members were asked if they stopped breastfeeding/pumping before they planned to, and if so, what the reasons were. The last question was open-ended and asked members to share any comments or thoughts. Responses to the 2018 survey led to three overall takeaways: 1) Additional breastfeeding and education support is needed for enlisted Sailors, 2) Standards about space for breastfeeding are inconsistently enforced, and 3) Many women still do not have access to a designated nursing room despite updated policies, indicating potential policy implementation issues. All items were reviewed by a recommendations working group, and the following actions were taken:

- Conducted Breastfeeding/Lactation Room Awareness campaign via social media*
- Established a Breastfeeding webpage on the Navy Personnel Command website, advertised via above campaign*

POC or office responsible:

OPNAV N1D