

Thesis Title Breastfeeding and Child Morbidity in
 Indonesia: A Secondary Data Analysis
 of 1991 Indonesian Demographic and
 Health Survey.

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ABSTRACT

The primary aim of this study is to establish the extent to which breastfeeding is related to infant and child morbidity in Indonesia. The results demonstrate that breastfeeding offers advantages in terms of reductions in infant and child morbidity. Almost 80 percent of infants were breastfed. Infants who were not breastfed or partially breastfed are at a higher risk of morbidity ie. diarrhoea, cough and fever. The effects are very strong for diarrhoea, especially at youngest ages of 0-6 months where the effect of breastfeeding are very strong. At older ages of 7-24 months effects are not significant. The reason might be that the greatest advantage of breastmilk over substitutes in terms of immunological protection occurs at the youngest ages of 0-6 months when the immune system is at its weakest. Breastfeeding patterns mask the expected relationship between other socio-economic variables and

morbidity. When the relationships between the socio-economic variables are examined while breastfeeding categories, the expected relationship are observed. The finding of the study suggest the importance of effects designed to increase the period of exclusive breastfeeding and improving socio-economic and environmental conditions.