

# Reimbursement of Lactation Services

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# Ask

- Adopt the support of medical lactation services as a Legislative Recommendation, giving DMA permission to cover medical lactation services, but with the provision that coverage of these services would be projected to be cost saving to the Medicaid budget.

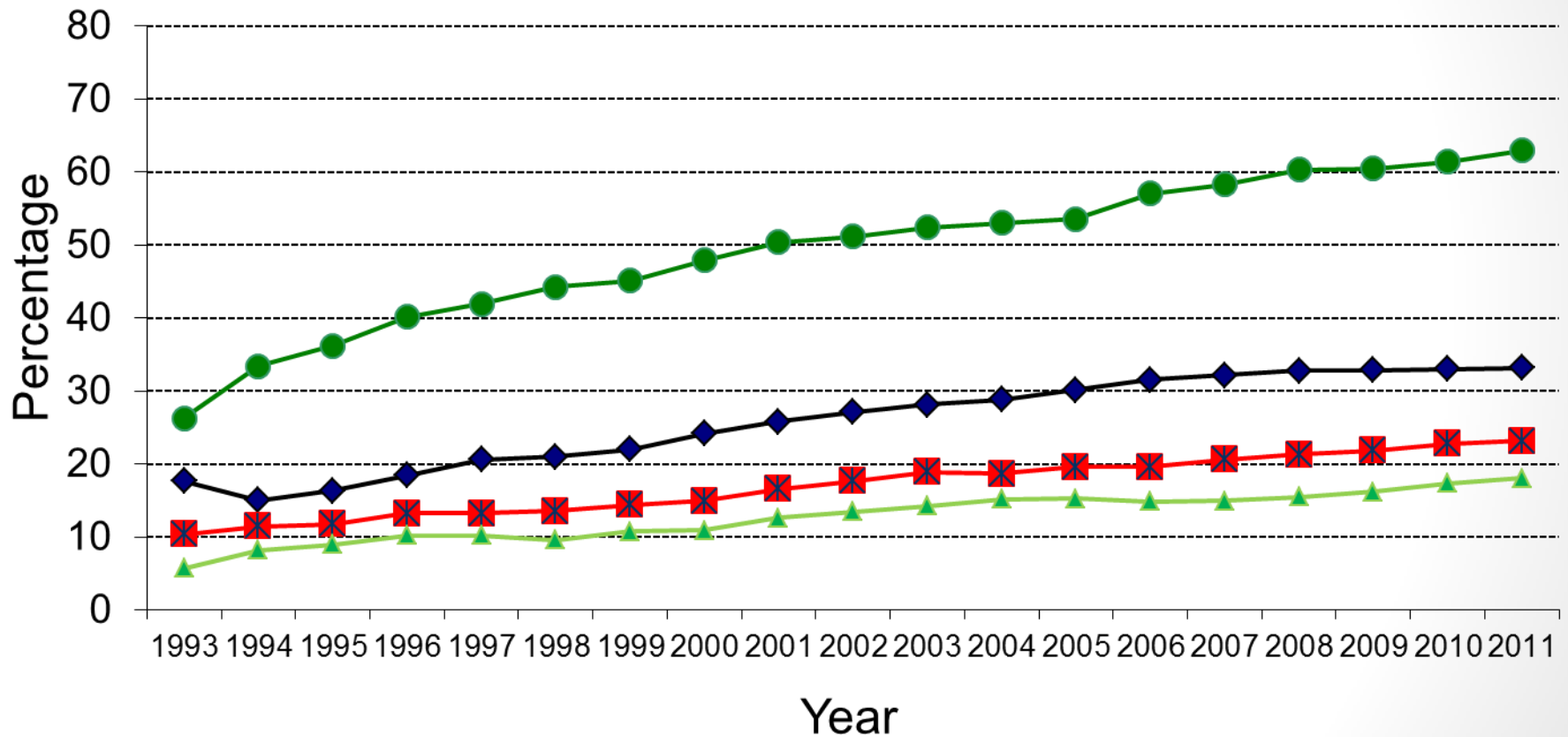
# Service Definition

- Lactation evaluation and breastfeeding counseling for children through two years of age when there is a chronic, episodic, or acute condition for which lactation therapy is a critical component of medical management provided by International Board Certified Lactation Consultants, Physicians and Physician Extenders.

# Breastfeeding as Public Health

- Important Public Health Concepts:
  - Breastfeeding is a short term health care intervention that can benefit both mother and child immediately and for the duration of their lives
  - Breastfeeding, unlike other health care practices, is extremely vulnerable to disruption if problems are not addressed rapidly and appropriately

# Trends in the percentage of infants ever breastfed and breastfed at least 6 weeks, 6 & 12 months, NC WIC Program 1993-2011 (data provide by DPH-NSB)



● Ever Breastfed

■ Breastfed 6 Months

◆ Breastfeeding 6 Weeks

▲ Breastfed 12 Months

# Cost Calculations

<b>North Carolina Births</b>	<b>~120,000</b>
Births Covered by Medicaid	61,200 (51%)
# of Women on Medicaid initiating breastfeeding (Assuming 80% initiation goal is met)	48,960
Estimated Number of women who need lactation support visit (Estimated at 75%)	36,720
Estimated number of lactation support visits (1.3 visits)	47,736
Estimate cost of visits (assuming \$100/visit)	\$4.77 Million

# NC Medicaid Savings

Condition	NC Medicaid Cases Averted	Estimated Cost Savings
Lower Respiratory Illness	500	\$2.5 Million
Gastroenteritis	6000	\$2.5 Million
Necrotizing Enterocolitis	10	\$2.1 Million

# Medicaid Coverage of Lactation Support

Estimated Annual Cost of Service	\$4.77 million
Estimated Infant Deaths Prevented	14-18
Estimated Annual Medicaid Savings	\$7 million



# Supporters

- Perinatal Quality Collaborative of NC
- NC Pediatric Society
- NC Child-Action for Children
- NC Institute of Medicine
  - ***Promoting Healthy Weight for Young Children: A Blueprint for Preventing Early Childhood Obesity in North Carolina***
    - <http://www.nciom.org/publications/?childhoodobesityprevention>
    - Policy Strategy #6

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# Questions

