

March 14, 2007
PSYC 430
Summary

Topic 3: Breastfeeding and Intelligence

Evenhouse, E., Siobhan, R. 2005. "Improved Estimates of the Benefits of Breastfeeding Using Sibling Comparisons to Reduce Selection Bias." *Health Services Research* 40 (6):1781-1802.

Evenhouse (2005) was interested at what could be a better measurement of the health and cognition benefits of breastfeeding by using sibling's comparisons to reduce sample selection bias. In order to study this, they examined the relationship between breastfeeding history and fifteen indicators of physical health, emotional health, and cognitive ability using ordinary least squares and logit regression. For each of the indicators, they estimated, in addition to the usual between-family model, a within-family model to see whether differences in siblings' outcomes are associated with differences in the siblings' breastfeeding histories. In their findings, they found out that there was an insignificant measurement with the within-family model. All it really showed was that there was a positive correlation between breastfeeding and cognitive development. In the conclusion, they said that the study showed that there could be a connection between breastfeeding and intelligence. But, they go on to say that "it suggests that nonexperimental studies of breastfeeding overstate some of its other long-term benefits, even if controls are included for race, ethnicity, income, and education."

What kind of methods were used? who was included/excluded?

→ good!

- what is inferred from this quote?

Brief, but good. try to include more about methods & participants!

What are possible problems of this experiment?