

The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current status, challenges, and opportunities

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The Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Current status, challenges, and opportunities

BFHI background

- Launched by WHO and UNICEF in 1991
- Purpose: protect, promote and support BF en maternity facilities
- Defines 10 steps to successful breastfeeding
- Rigorous process of certification
- Materials last updated in 2009



Image: Pablo Picasso. Maternity

Purpose of report

- Revitalize BFHI
- Evaluate the current status of implementation
- Identify challenges and opportunities
- Provide a basis to set country-specific and regional targets

Methods

- Survey sent to 34 Ministries of Health and one territory to collect information on:
 - Number of births
 - Number of births in health services
 - Number of health facilities that attend births
 - List of facilities certified as “baby friendly”
 - Dates of certifications, re-certifications and if a recertification process was in place
 - Challenges and opportunities

Analysis

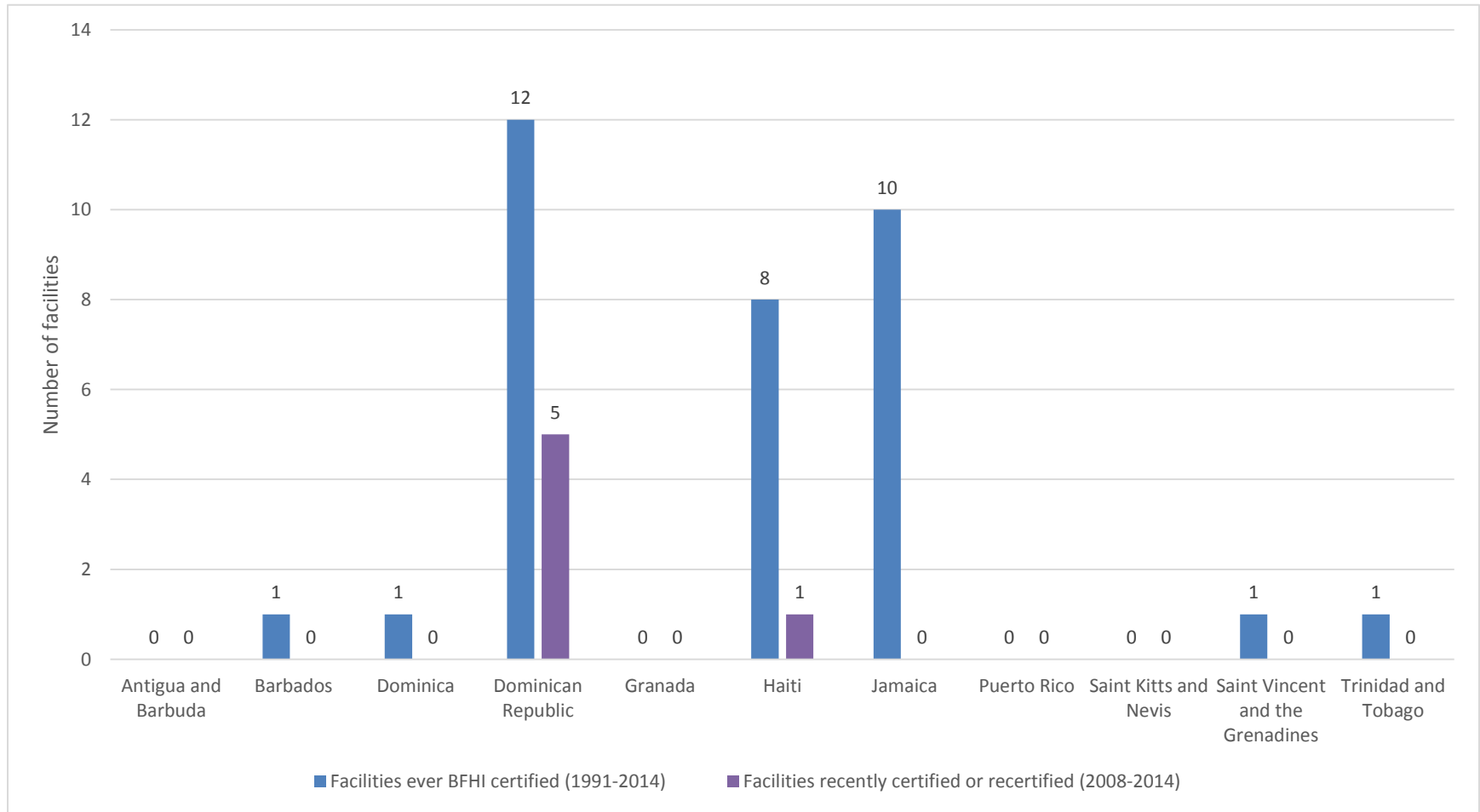
- Descriptive analysis of
 - Number and proportion of facilities certified or re-certified
 - Number and proportion of infants born in certified facilities
 - Number and proportion of infants born in facilities certified since 2008
 - Trends
 - Challenges and opportunities

Results

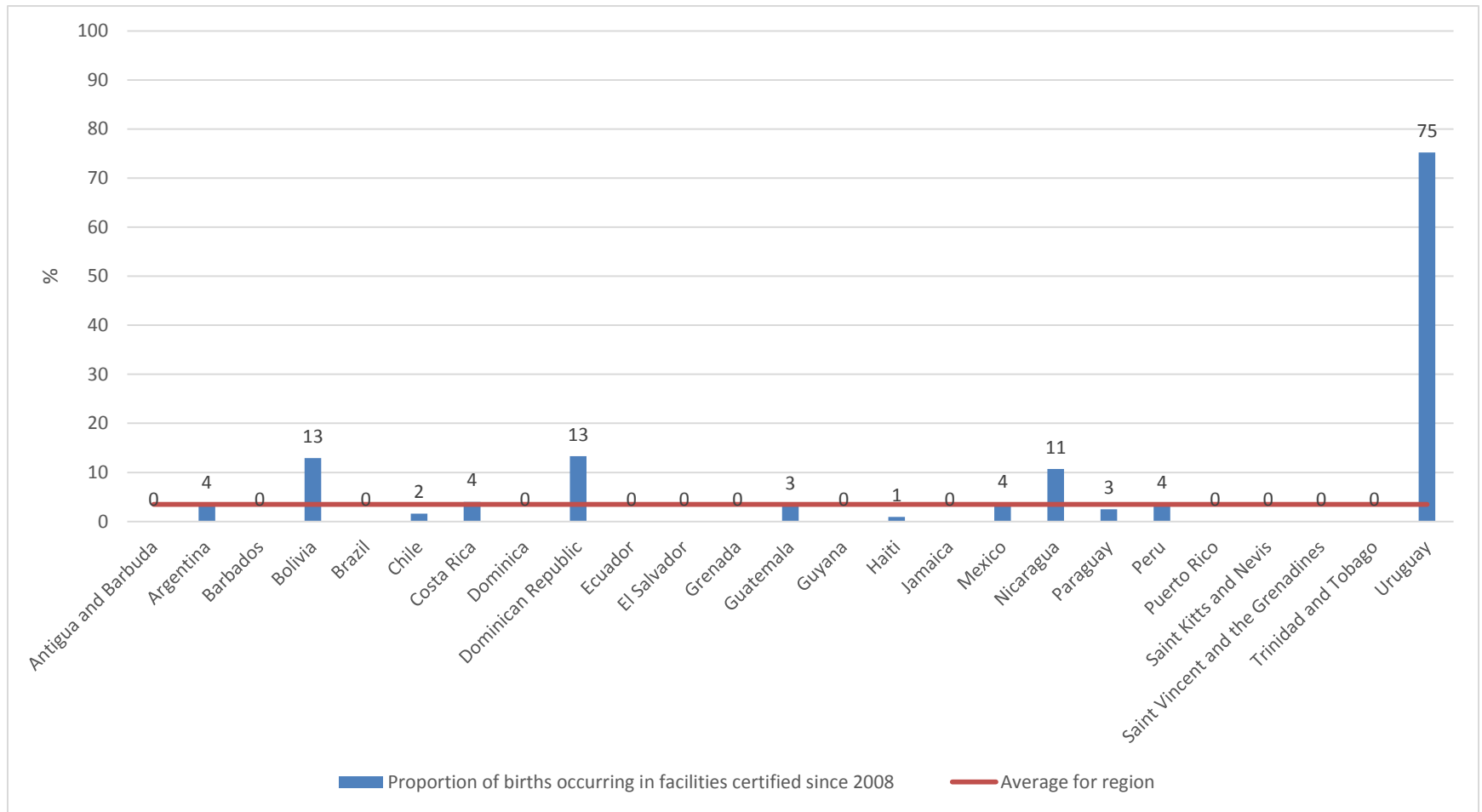
26 countries (76.5%) responded in 2013/2014

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Puerto Rico
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago

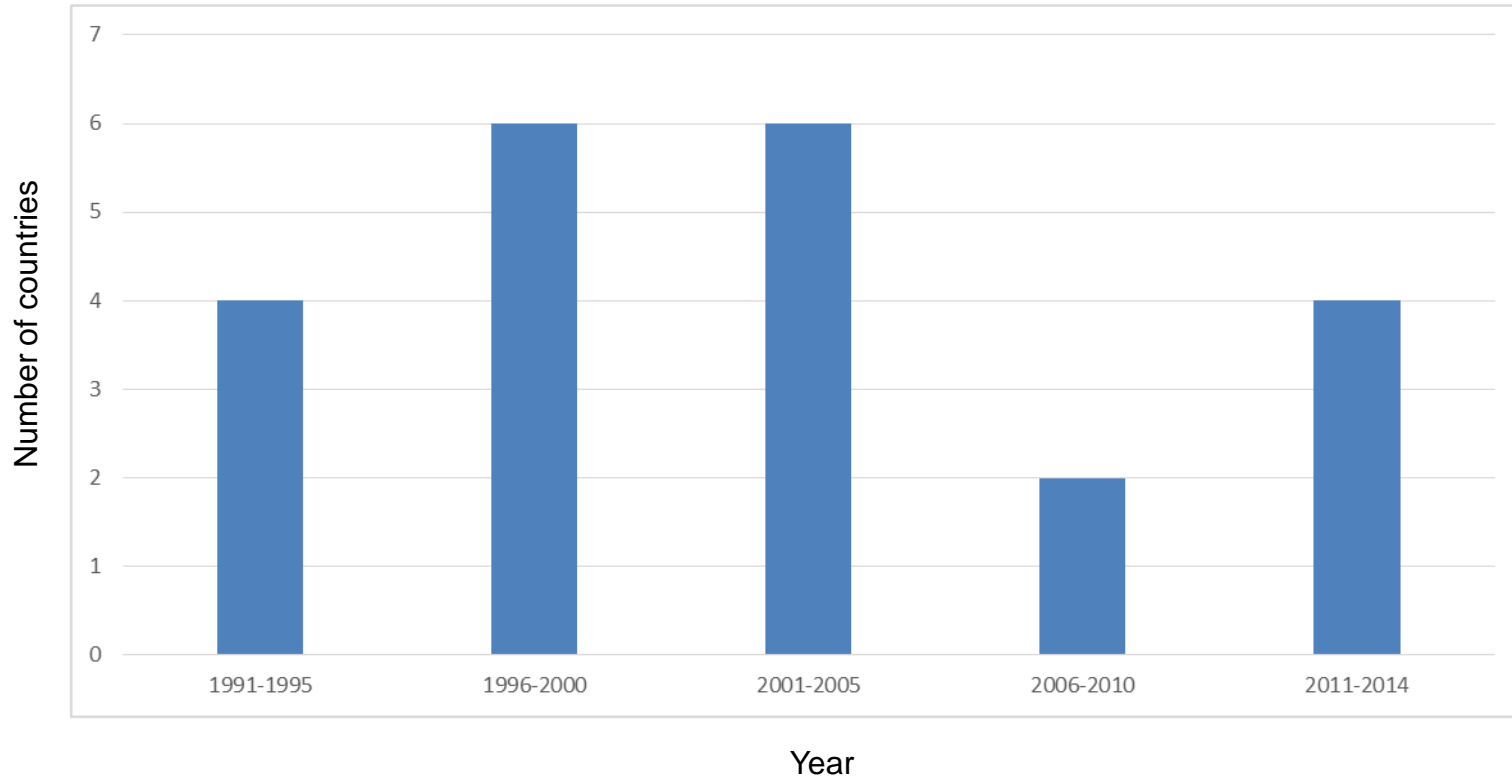
Facilities ever certified compared to those certified since 2008 in the Caribbean



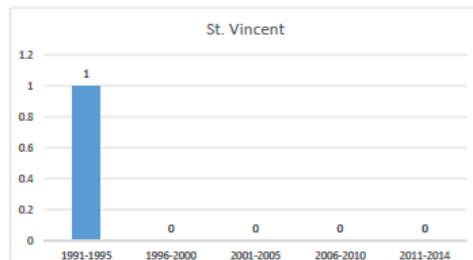
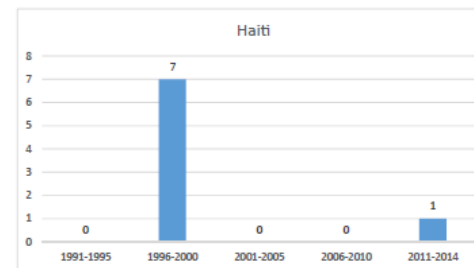
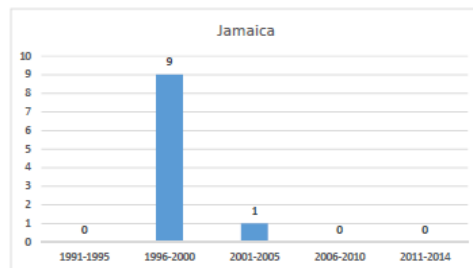
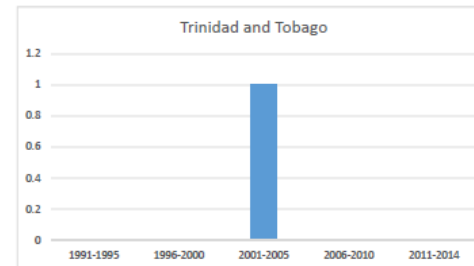
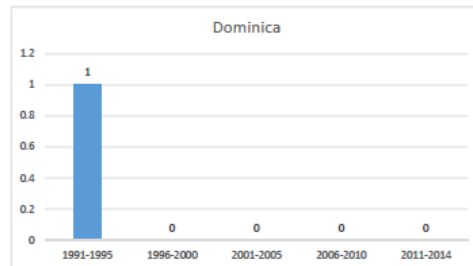
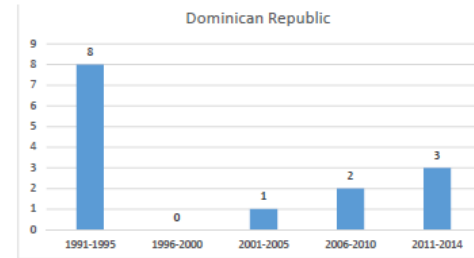
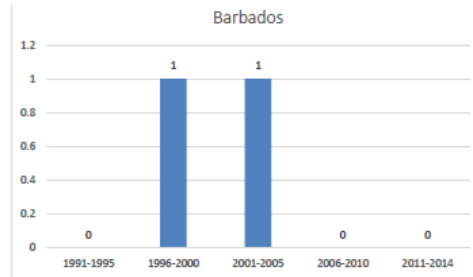
Births (%) in facilities certified since 2008 = 3.5%



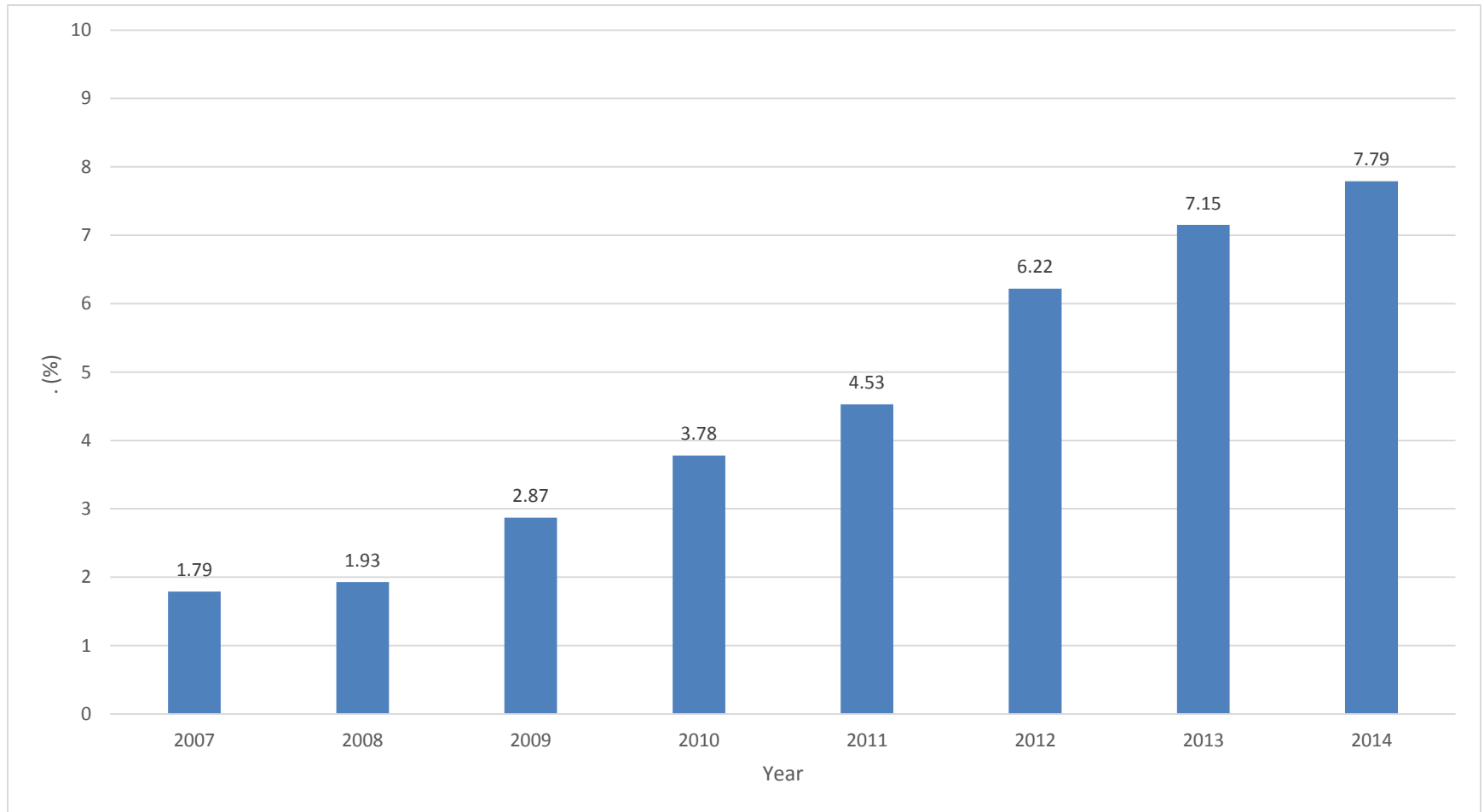
Peak five-year period for "baby friendly" certifications and recertifications, by time period



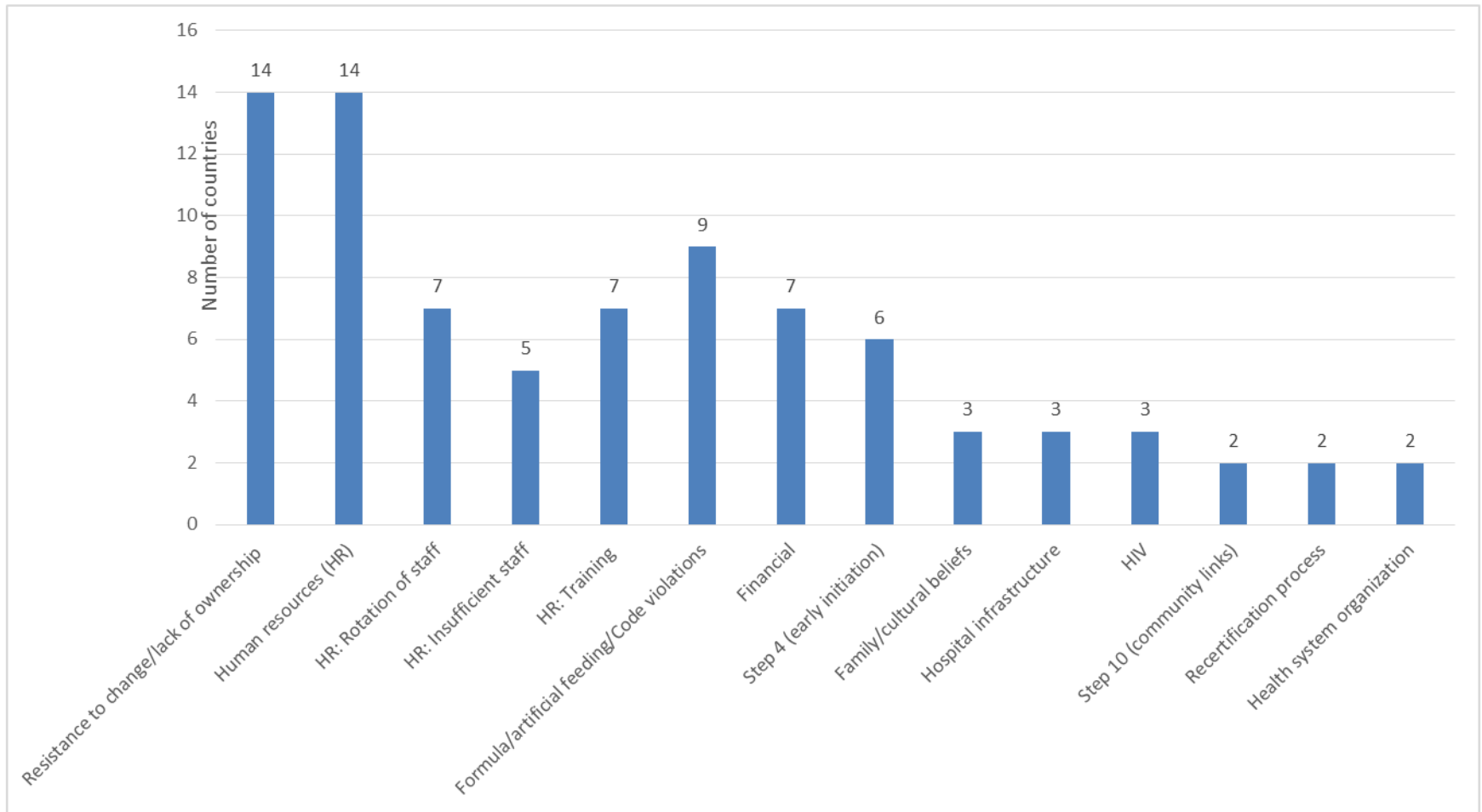
Tendencies in the implementation of the BFHI in the Caribbean



Births (%) in "baby friendly" certified facilities in the US



Challenges in implementing the BFHI



Sustainability

- One of the greatest problems
- Virtual program
- One way to address this problem is to incorporate the 10 steps into an overall program of hospital accreditation
- Example of Vietnam

Conclusions

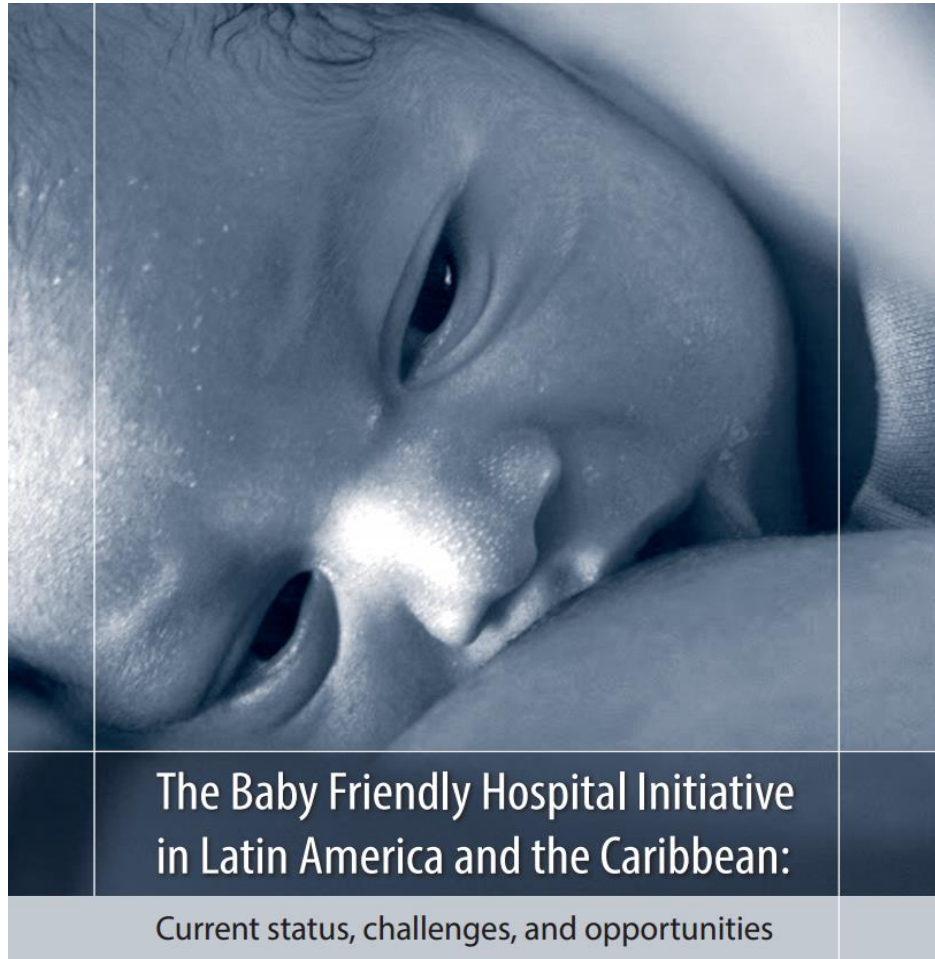
- Strengthening and revitalizing the BFHI offers an important opportunity to strengthen BF - 89% of births in LAC take place in health facilities
- Although the potential is very large, few women and children at birth benefit
- Several countries have made significant advances and can be used as examples

Conclusions

- Increasing the number of “baby friendly” facilities requires political commitment as well as human and financial resources
- This report and the 25th anniversary celebration of the BFHI can be used to set new aspirational through realistic goals and to put in place a permanent system to monitor progress

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www.paho.org/childfeeding

lutterch@paho.org



Pan American
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Organization

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