Methods

- Retrospective cohort study using EMR to review charts of patients who delivered at TJUH between July and December 2013.
- Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Total Cohort by Race
- Table 2: Likelihood of AA Breastfeeding Compared to Whites

Results

- Figure 1: Rates of Feeding Method Compared by Race

Discussion

Conclusions

- Breastfeeding rates of Jefferson patients fall below the Healthy People 2020 goal (81.9% initiation of BF) for both White and African American patients.
- BF rates among Jefferson patients differed significantly between races:
  - Whites: 55% exclusive BF; 64% any BF
  - African Americans: 37% exclusive BF; 53% any BF
- However, this relationship is no longer significant when the data is adjusted for demographic confounders. Considering only race in looking at a patient’s feeding method may overlook other important factors in this decision.

Potential sources of error/bias

- Feeding method was self-reported by mother.
- Feeding method was determined at PP visit within 8 weeks, but exact time of visits in PP period varied between patients. Timing is not perfectly comparable to Healthy People goals.
- Due to problems with EMR, data was missing from birthlog in August 2013. It was not possible to gather data from the full 6 month period.

Future research

- Increased discussion in the prenatal period will help clinicians understand patients’ knowledge and attitudes regarding breastfeeding. This will also allow clinicians to address possible barriers to breastfeeding.
- Intention to breastfeed has been shown as a stronger predictor of both breastfeeding initiation and duration than standard demographic factors.
- A prospective randomized case control study is being planned to take place at Jefferson Dept, of Ob/Gyn and JFMA. The intervention group will have increased discussions with physicians about breastfeeding at prenatal visits. Breastfeeding intention, initiation and duration will be assessed for each group.

References