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Title: Feeding practices among children aged 6- 23 months (<24mo) assisted at the National Health System (NHS) in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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Introduction. Feeding practices in the first two years of life are essential for child's growth and development. This study presents the feeding practices of children <24mo assisted at the NHS in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. **Methods.** Cross-sectional study in a representative sample of children assisted in Basic Health Units (BHU) at NHS in the city of Rio de Janeiro (n=190). Data were collected at BHU in a scheduled day, using a questionnaire focused on food intake in the previous day. The indicators used in the study were based in recommendations of World Health Organization and Brazilian Ministry of Health. Analyses for complex samples were conducted using the software SPSS 17.0. **Results.** Continued breastfeeding showed prevalence of 57.7%. The proportion of children aged between six and 8.9 months with adequate introduction of foods was 67.1%. Only 36.3% of children had diversified diet. In relation to frequency and consistency of meals, 69.5% presented adequate profile. Almost all of them (94.4%) received iron-rich foods and approximately 2/3 (61.4%), vitamin A-rich foods. The intake of at least one ultra-processed food was high (95.7%), especially for cookies (79.1%), artificial juice (44.6%) and yogurt (41.7%). **Conclusion.** Feeding practices among children <24mo assisted at NHS in the city of Rio de Janeiro are distant from the recommendations, mainly regarding dietary diversity and consumption of ultra-processed foods. These findings highlight the need for intensification of public policies focused on adequate and healthy eating promotion for this population.