



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Formula Shortage Exposes Lack of Breastfeeding Support

Elizabeth Hoffmann, Purdue University

The baby formula shortage continues to frustrate parents who are still paying **significantly more** for the product — if they're **able to find it** on grocery store shelves at all. While President Joe Biden initiated Operation Fly Formula to ship in formula from other countries more than a month ago, a factory at the center of the crisis was **shut down again** recently due to flooding, causing the supply of formula to **plummet** once again.

Over the past few months, social media **has exploded** with posts suggesting that the shortage might spur reluctant parents to embrace breastfeeding. But this advice fails to acknowledge that breastfeeding without supplementing with formula is not an option available to everyone. Many workplaces lack sufficient accommodations for nursing employees who need more accessible spaces for pumping breast milk and a more flexible breaktime.