

# Arkansas Breast Milk Bank

**HB1067** will **save the lives** and improve the quality of life for thousands of Arkansas infants and families every year.

**HB1067** seeks to create the **only human milk bank** in **ARKANSAS** for at risk infants.

## Statewide Economic Impact

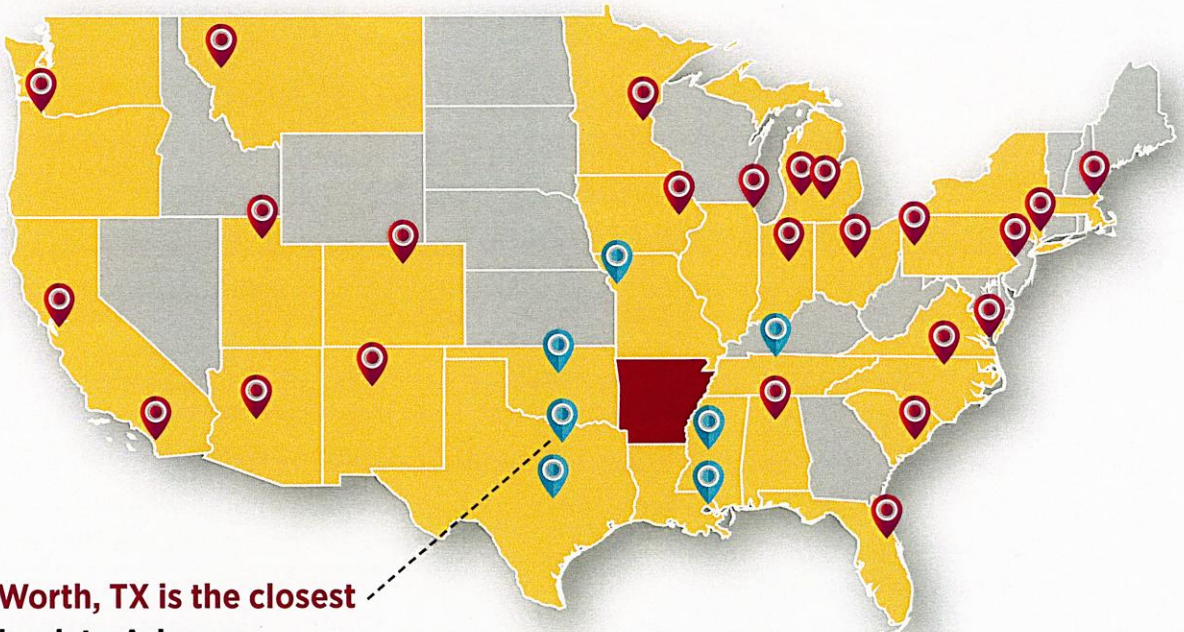


Currently, Arkansas hospitals are required to send thousands of dollars to other states to purchase human milk for at risk Arkansas infants.

**HB1067** will create a reliable source for certified human milk for all hospitals in the state.

## U.S. Milk Banks

The closest human milk banks to Arkansas are in Fort Worth, Texas, Austin, Texas, Nashville, Tennessee, and Flowood, Mississippi, Kansas City, Missouri, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, New Orleans Louisiana.

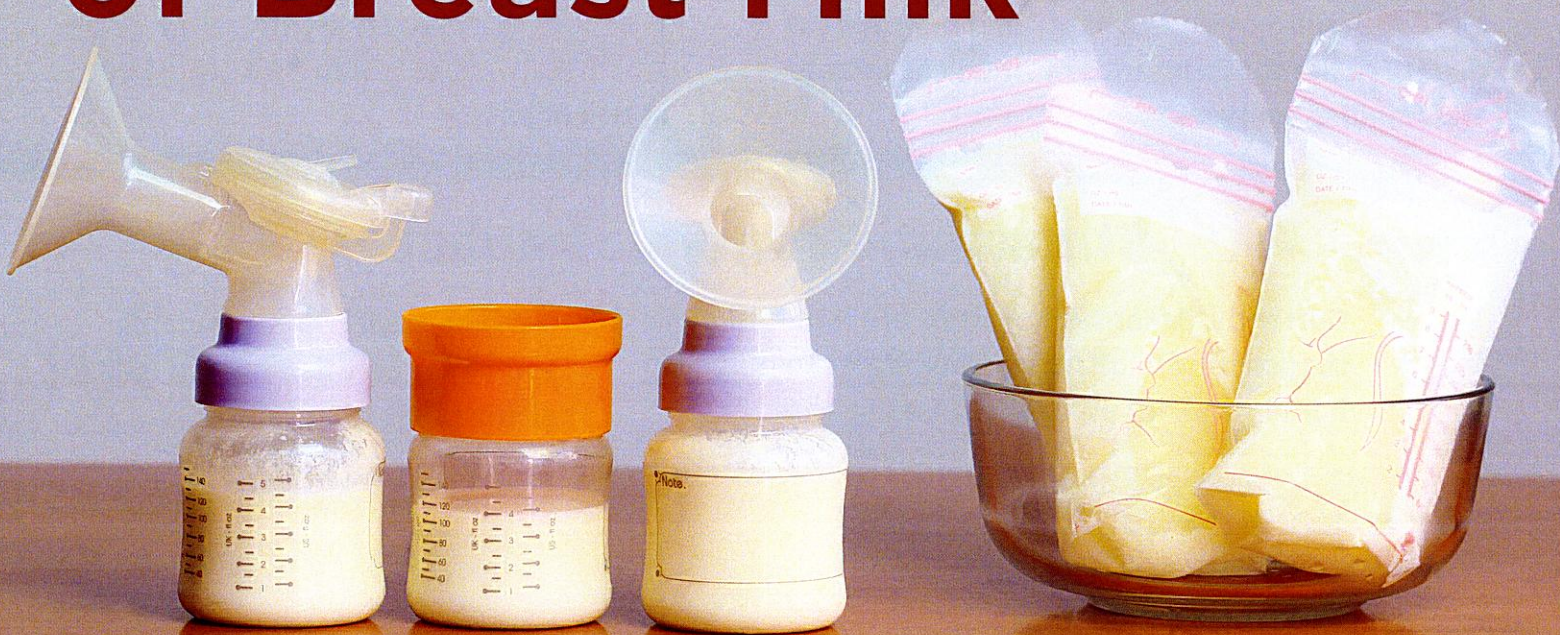


**Fort Worth, TX is the closest milk bank to Arkansas.**

Donor human milk is dispensed by prescription primarily to babies born premature or who are ill. Common reasons for prescribing donor human milk include:

- Premature birth
- Failure to Thrive
- Formula intolerance
- Food allergies
- Malabsorption syndromes
- Immunologic deficiencies
- Pre or Post-operative nutrition and immunologic support

# Health Benefits of Breast Milk



Human milk makes a huge difference in how well tiny and fragile babies do after birth because it vastly reduces the incidence of NEC (Necrotizing Enterocolitis), and it helps to repair the intestines should they become infected. Human milk matures the intestinal tissue, fights infections, and promotes brain development while providing ideal nutrition.

- **1 in 9 infants** in Arkansas is born prematurely.
- On average **82 infants are born prematurely** in Arkansas every week, of those 12 are extremely premature (less than 32 weeks gestation).
- In 2018 there were **4,299 infants born prematurely** in Arkansas.
- Most preterm infants and many term infants are cared for in Arkansas' 8 - level 3 and 4 NICUs; **All of these NICU's provide and use donor milk** to specific populations of these infants.
- The incidence of **Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)**, an inflammatory intestinal condition complicating premature birth is roughly 5-7% of all preterm births.
- **NEC is one of the leading causes of morbidity** in preterm infants.
- **NEC affects 10% of preterm infants** weighing less than 1500 grams (3 pounds 5 ounces) and leads to death in 10-30% of these infants.
- NEC in infants weighing <1000 grams at birth (2 pounds 4 ounces) has a **mortality rate of 30-50%**.
- **Human milk, specifically mom's own milk, reduces risk of many problems associated with prematurity.**
- **Use of Donor milk reduces risk of NEC** by allowing feeding that avoid use of formula (cow milk derived formulas), feeding donor milk instead of formula when Mom's own milk is not available reduces risk of NEC to 1/3 of the risk if that infant were fed formula instead.