

# Don't Mess With Breastfeeding Women

September 06, 2011

## *Miller-McCune:*

Earlier this year, we reported that breast-feeding women are widely viewed as less competent. Newly published research suggests it would be unwise to share that unflattering opinion with them.

According to a team led by UCLA health psychologist Jennifer Hahn-Holbrook, lactating women display higher levels of aggression than both non-mothers and their bottle-feeding counterparts. What's more, their blood pressure stays low even as their combativeness increases, which may be nature's way of allowing new mothers to calmly but effectively deal with potential threats.

Writing in the journal *Psychological Science*, Hahn-Holbrook and her colleagues describe an experiment featuring 33 mothers with infants between 3 and 6 months old, and 18 women who had never given birth.

Read the whole story: [Miller-McCune](#)