

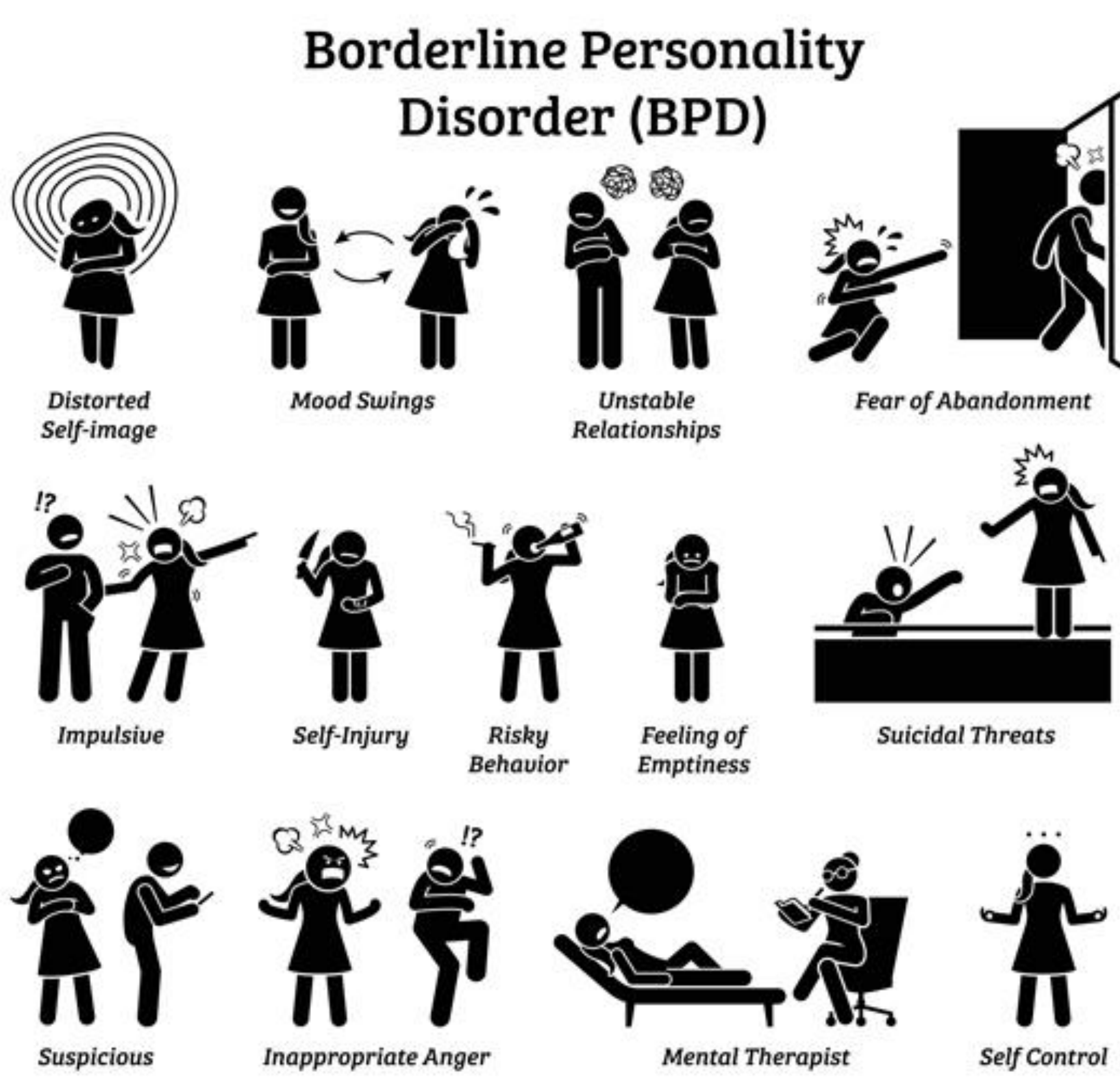
# The Effects of Breastfeeding on the Development of Borderline Personality Disorder

By: Chana N. Felix

## Background

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a psychiatric disorder characterized by a pattern of instability in interpersonal relationships, intense emotional outbursts, impulsivity, and splitting. BPD is thought to originate from impaired attachment and bonding that occurred early in life. Research has shown that breastfeeding may play a role in bonding and the development of the mother-infant relationship.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to use the attachment and bonding association formed in breastfeeding to help prevent the development of BPD.



## Method:

A quantitative prospective observational design will be used to document the presence or absence of BPD in adults that were breastfed as infants.

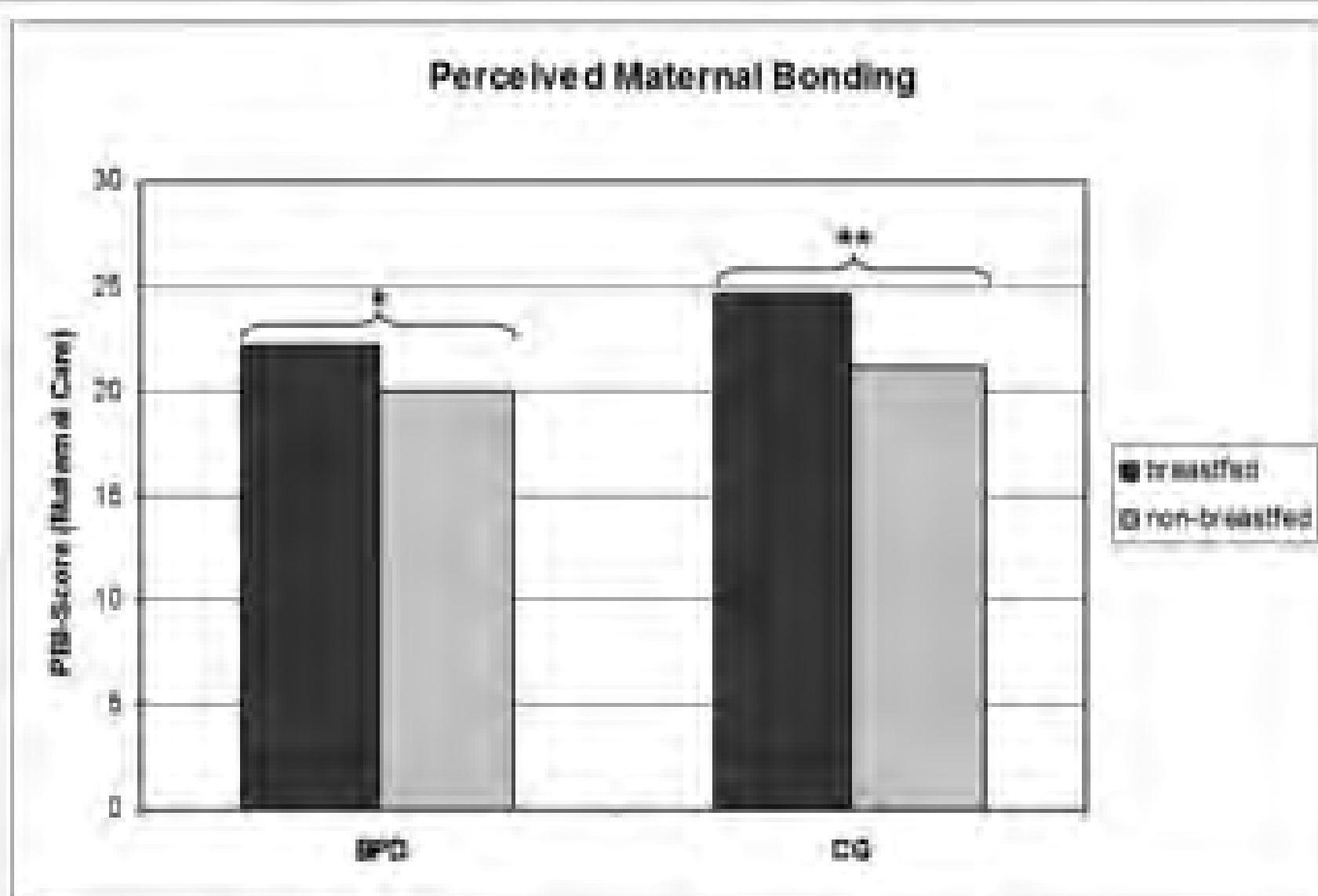


FIGURE 1. Lack of breastfeeding and perceived maternal bonding. PBI = Parental Bonding Instrument; BPD = borderline personality disorder; CG = control group. \*\**p* value < .01; \**p* value < .05.

**Discussion:** Data collected from this study may help future health care providers understand and prevent the occurrence of this disorder. Improved daily living would also be a benefit of this study.