

2021 New York State Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System Report

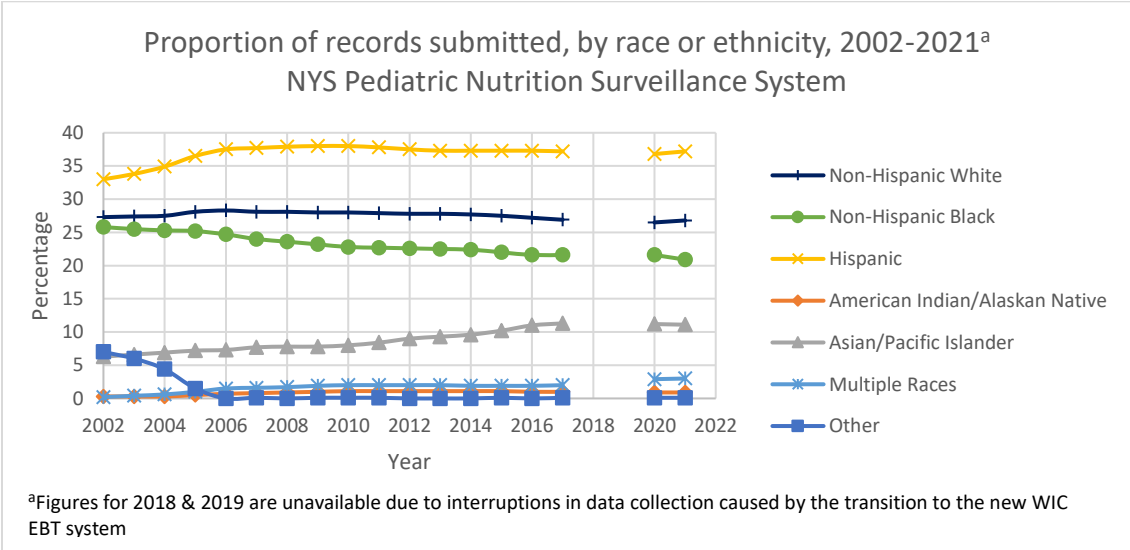
The annual New York State (NYS) Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS) report provides data on the prevalence and trends of nutrition-related indicators for infants and children (<5 years of age) who are enrolled in the NYS Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The list of indicators includes low birthweight, short stature, underweight, overweight, anemia, breastfeeding (e.g., initiation, duration, and exclusivity), smoking in household, and TV viewing.

If you have any questions regarding the PedNSS reports, please send your inquiry to WICDATA@health.ny.gov with **PedNSS** as the subject title.

Highlights from the 2021 NYS PedNSS Report

Demographic Characteristics

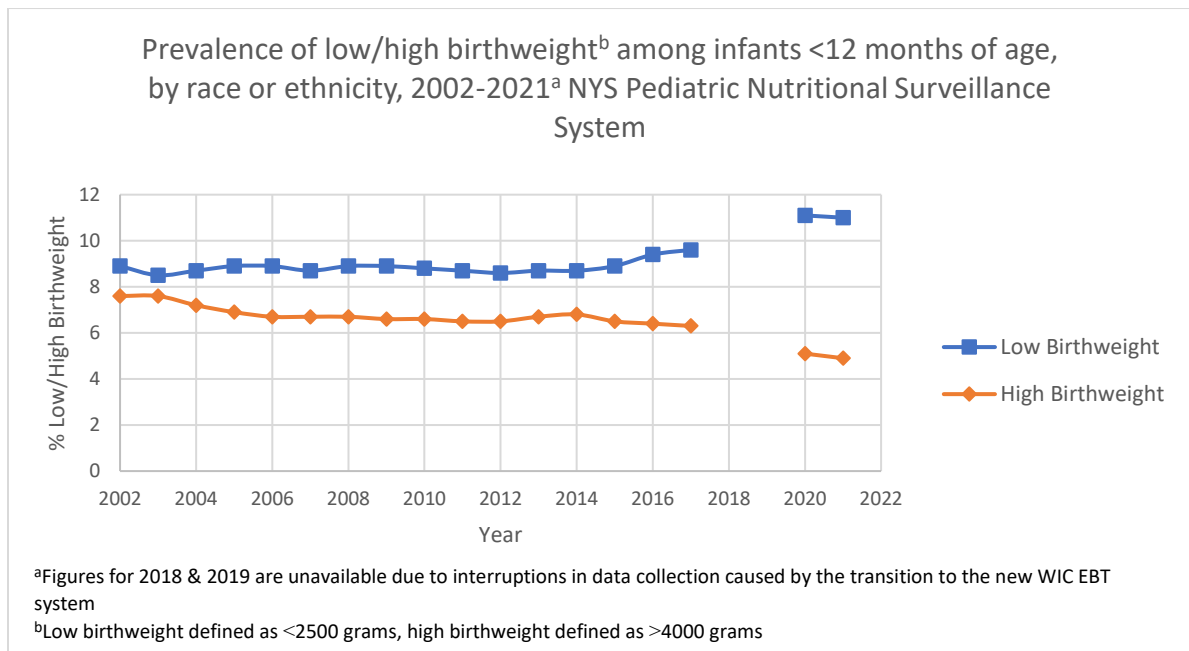
- There was a 2.9% increase in the number of individual infants and children certified in 2021 (366,079) compared to those certified in 2020 (355,656) (Table 1C).
- The percentage of WIC infants and children who identified as Black declined (20.9% in 2021 vs. 21.6% in 2020), remained stable for those who identified as Asian/Pacific Islander (11.1%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (0.9%), and Multiracial (3.0%), and increased slightly for those who identified as White (26.8% in 2021 vs. 26.5% in 2020) and Hispanic (37.2% in 2021 vs. 36.8% in 2020) (Table 1C).



- A majority of NYS WIC families (80.0%) were living below 130 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2021, a 3.2 percentage point decrease compared to 2020 (83.2%). Additionally, there was a 4.5 percentage point decrease in families below 100 percent FPL compared to 2020 (Table 1C). This may indicate a continuing positive shift in household economic conditions among NYS WIC families in 2021.

Birth Weight

- In 2021, the prevalence of low birth weight (LBW) remained stable at 11.0 percent among infants and children (Table 2C). The prevalence of low birth weight has steadily increased from 8.9 percent in 2006 to 11.0 percent in 2021 (Table 18C). The corresponding Healthy People 2020 (HP2020[†]) objective is to reduce the rate of LBW to 7.8 percent.



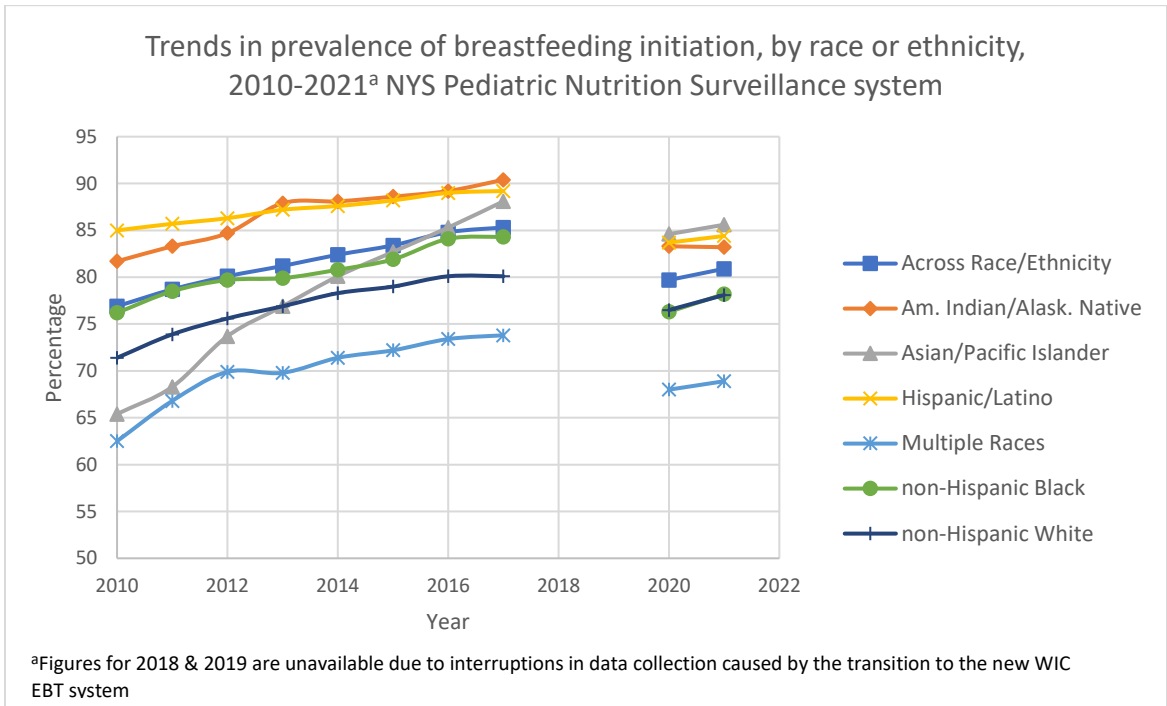
Growth Indicators

- Growth indicator data are not available for 2021 due to the WIC physical presence waiver and other telehealth flexibilities that were implemented in WIC as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Breastfeeding Indicators

- The breastfeeding initiation rate increased from 79.7 percent in 2020 to 80.9 percent in 2021, with increases across all racial/ethnic groups except for American Indian/Alaskan Natives, whose rates remained the same (Table 19C). Non-Hispanic Blacks and Whites had the largest increases (1.8 and 1.6 percentage points, respectively). Despite the increase in initiation rates, Black,

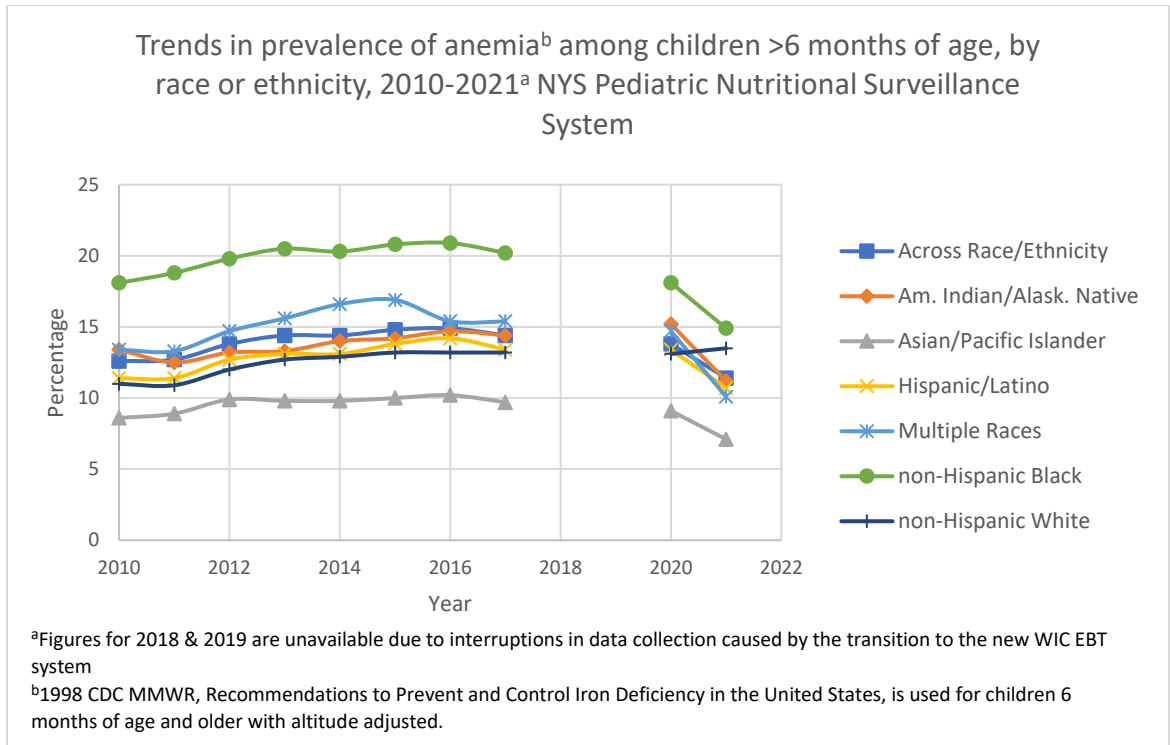
White, and Multiracial (with initiation rates of 78.2, 78.1, and 69.0 percent respectively) racial/ethnic groups did not reach the HP2020† breastfeeding initiation goal of 81.9% in 2021.



- Breastfeeding duration data are not available for 2020 due to enhancements that had to be made to the WIC management information system.

Anemia Indicators

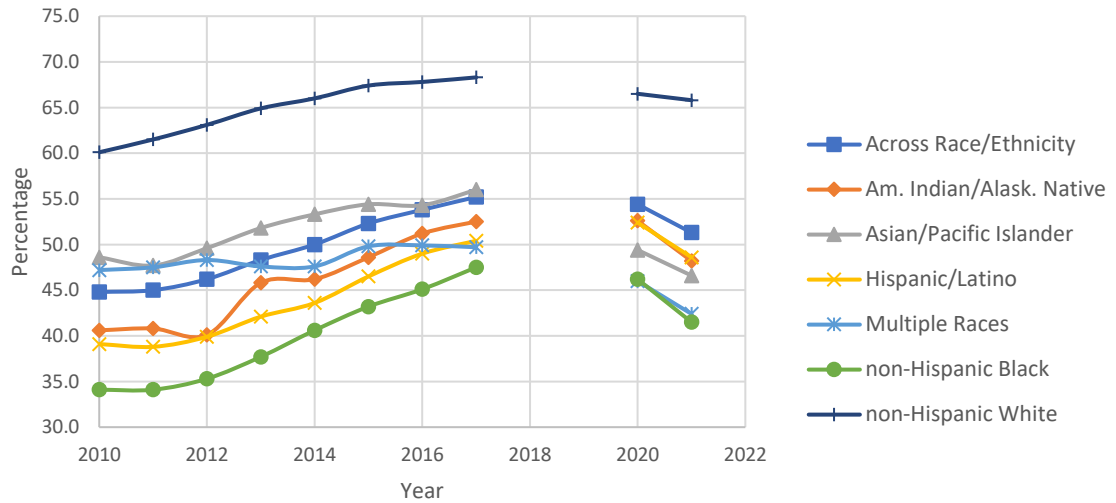
- The rate of WIC infants and children meeting the criteria for low hemoglobin/hematocrit continued to decrease from 13.6% in 2020 to 11.4% in 2021. This decrease was observed across all racial/ethnic groups except for Whites, among whom there was a slight increase (13.1% in 2020 vs. 13.5% in 2021). Multiracial, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Black racial/ethnic groups experienced the largest decreases, with 4.6, 4.0, and 3.2 percentage point declines respectively (Table 8C).



Behavioral/Environmental Indicators

- After reaching a peak of 56.3% in 2017 the rate of WIC children meeting the screen time recommendations of 1 hour or less per day continued to fall in 2021. The rate dropped by 3.1 percentage points, from 54.4% in 2020, to 51.3% in 2021. This decrease was observed across all racial/ethnic groups; Whites saw the smallest decrease at 0.7 percentage points, while the largest decreases were seen by Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic, and Multiracial groups (4.7, 4.4, 3.8, and 3.6 percentage points respectively) (Table 9C).

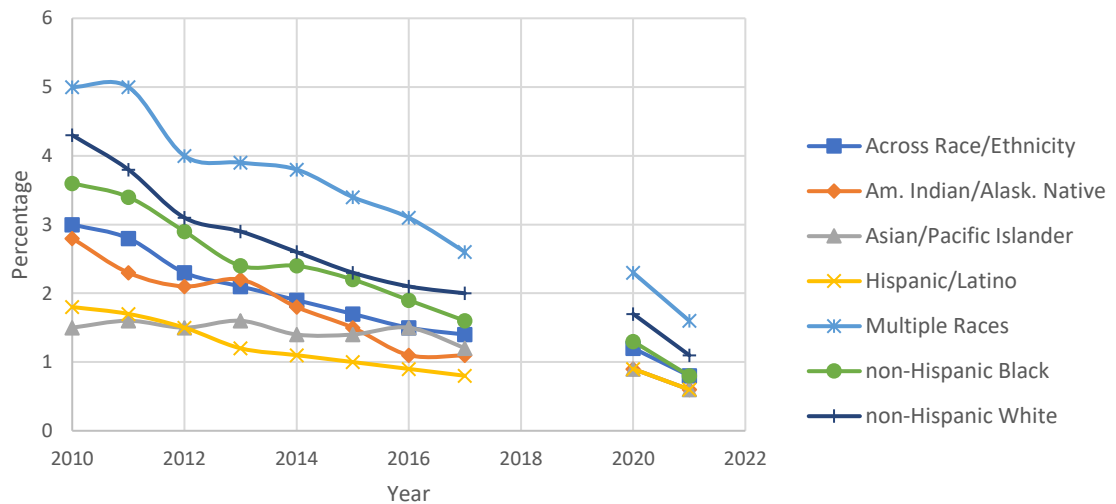
Trends in prevalence of children ≥ 2 years of age meeting the recommendation of ≤ 1 hour screentime, by race or ethnicity, 2010-2021^a NYS Pediatric Nutritional Surveillance System



^aFigures for 2018 & 2019 are unavailable due to interruptions in data collection caused by the transition to the new WIC EBT system

- The rate of WIC infants and children who live in households where adults smoke inside continued to decrease from 1.2% in 2020 to 0.8% in 2021. The decrease was seen across all racial/ethnic groups, with Multiracial showing the largest decrease (0.7 percentage points) (Table 9C).

Trends in prevalence of infants and children living in households where adults smoke inside, by race or ethnicity, 2010-2021^a NYS Pediatric Nutritional Surveillance System



^aFigures for 2018 & 2019 are unavailable due to interruptions in data collection caused by the transition to the new WIC EBT system