



**Bureau of Family Health  
Breastfeeding Awareness and Support Program**

Birth certificate information is collected for both in-hospital and out-of-hospital Pennsylvania births. Each birth certificate is submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics where it is analyzed. The question: *Is newborn being breastfed?* was added to the birth certificate in 2003.

**Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Initiation Rate by Race/Ethnic Groups, 2013-2017**

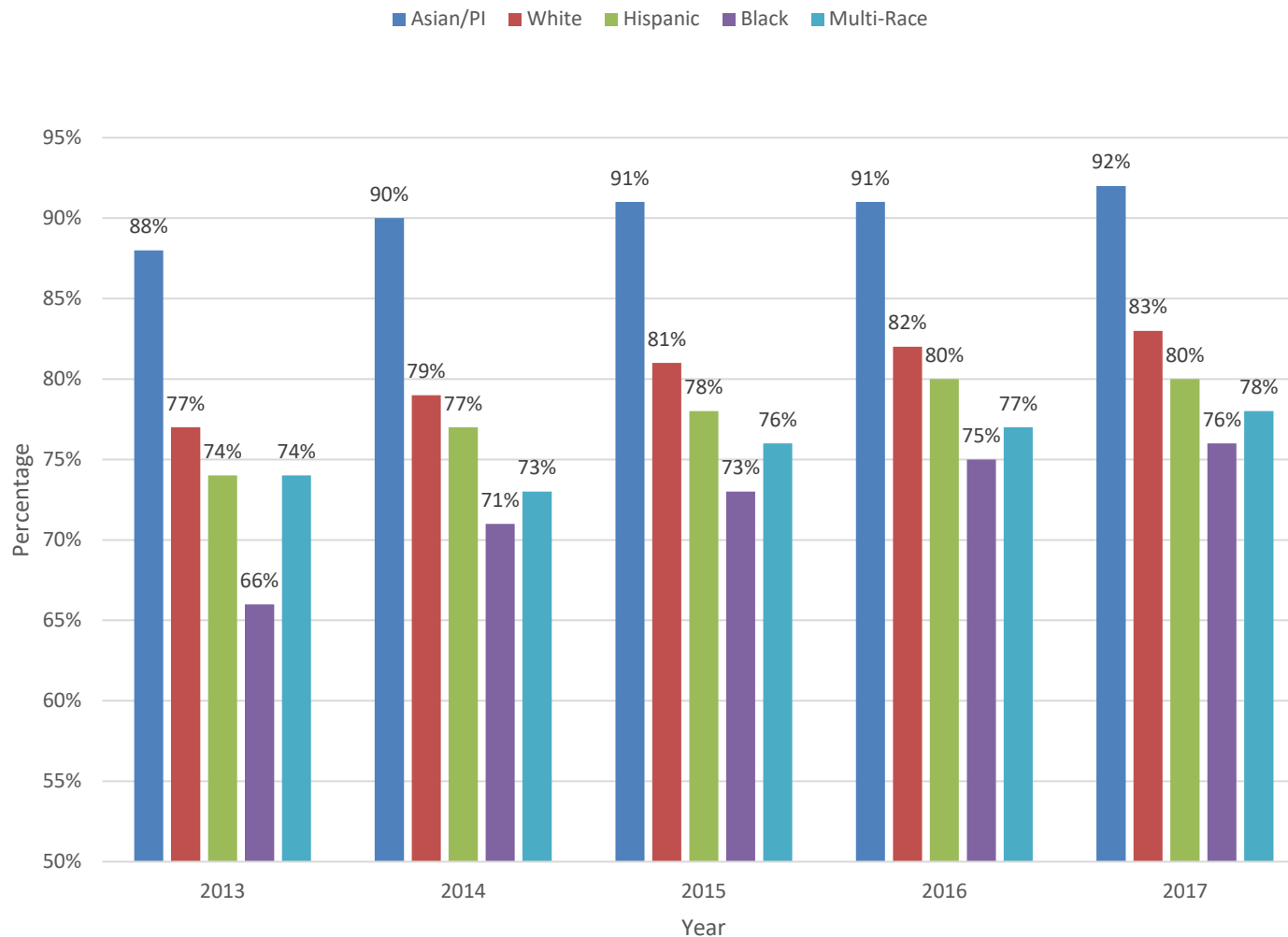
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Asian/PI*</b> (*Pacific Islander)	88%	90%	91%	91%	92%
<b>White</b>	77%	79%	81%	82%	83%
<b>Hispanic</b>	74%	77%	78%	80%	80%
<b>Black</b>	66%	71%	73%	75%	76%
<b>Multi-Race</b>	74%	73%	76%	77%	78%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics, Certificate of Live Birth. Provided by: Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Awareness and Support Program. Starting in 2013, calculating method changed to exclude infants not living at time of birth certificate reporting.

Starting in 2013, race of mother was derived from multiple race selections. Prior to 2013, race of mother was derived from a single race designation. For example, starting in 2013, 'White' means that it was the only race selected from a list of multiple race selections. Prior to 2013, 'White' means that the single race designation was 'White'. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations, or conclusions.

Pennsylvania has adopted the Healthy People 2020 breastfeeding initiation goal that 81.9% of women ever breastfed.

## Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Initiation Rate by Race/Ethnic Groups 2013-2017



Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics, Certificate of Live Birth. Provided by: Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Awareness and Support Program. Starting in 2013, calculating method changed to exclude infants not living at time of birth certificate reporting. Starting in 2013, race of mother was derived from multiple race selections. Prior to 2013, race of mother was derived from a single race designation. For example, starting in 2013, 'White' means that it was the only race selected from a list of multiple race selections. Prior to 2013, 'White' means that the single race designation was 'White'. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations, or conclusions.