



**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.

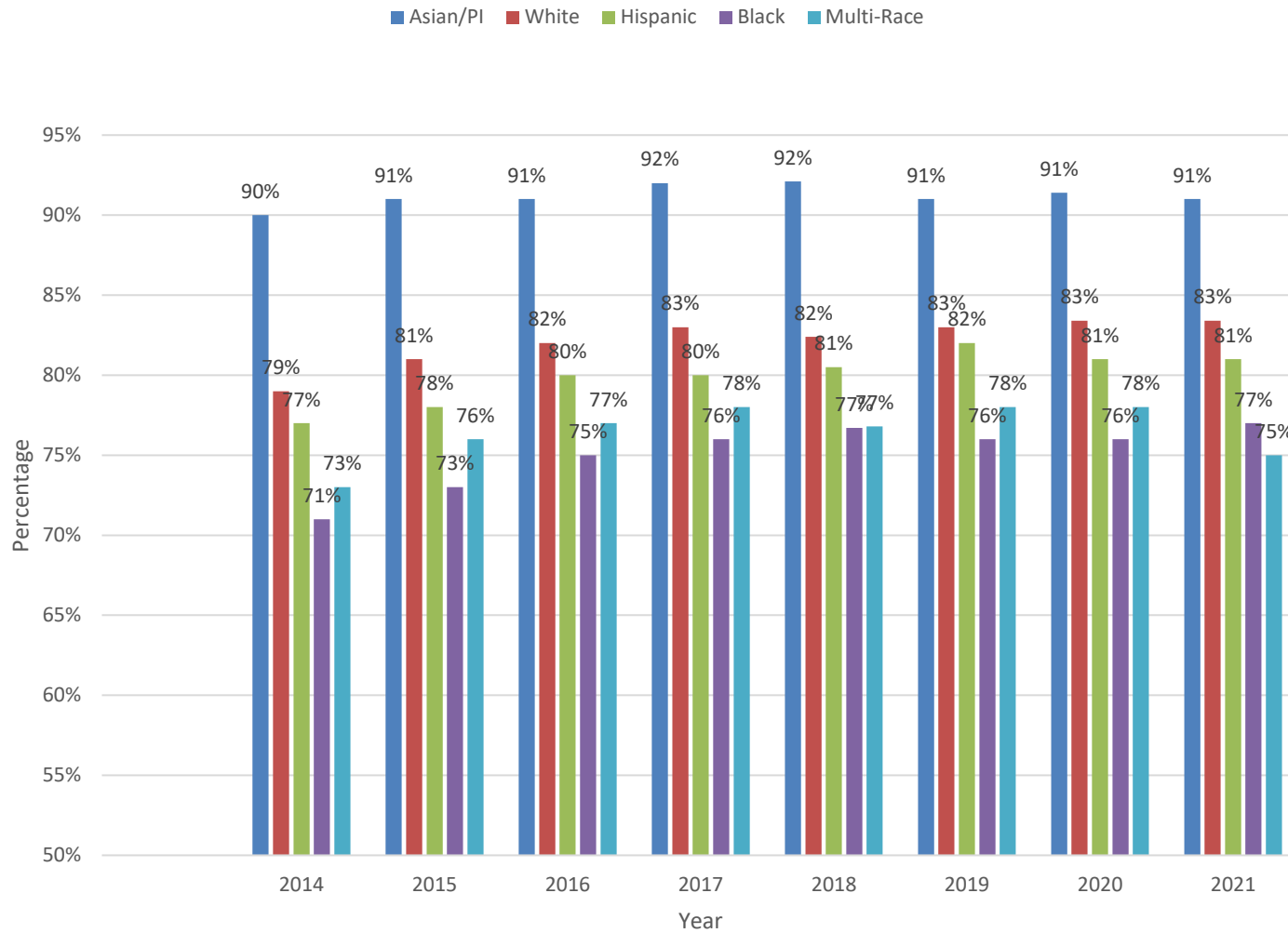
**Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Initiation Rate by Race/Ethnic Groups, 2014-2021**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Asian/PI*</b> (*Pacific Islander)	90%	91%	91%	92%	92.1%	90.9%	91.4%	91.0%
<b>White</b>	79%	81%	82%	83%	82.4%	83.3%	83.4%	83.4%
<b>Hispanic</b>	77%	78%	80%	80%	80.5%	81.7%	81.1%	81.7%
<b>Black</b>	71%	73%	75%	76%	76.7%	76.5%	76.0%	77.0%
<b>Multi-Race</b>	73%	76%	77%	78%	76.8%	77.9%	78.2%	75.9%

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'. Data excludes births from Holy Spirit Geisinger Hospital. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations, or conclusions.

## Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Initiation Rate by Race/Ethnic Groups 2014-2021



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.

