

2020 New York State Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System Report

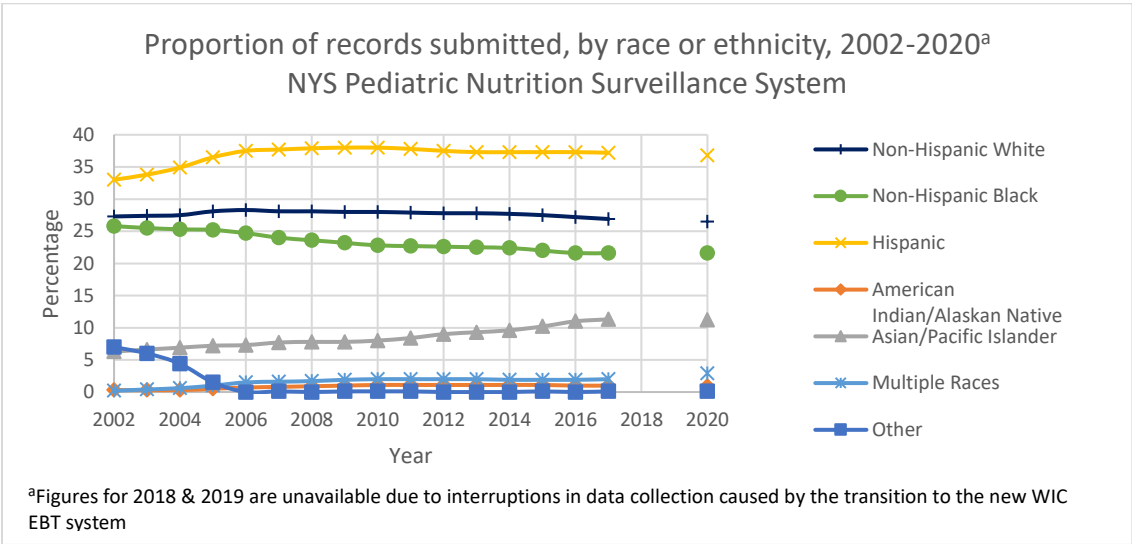
The annual New York State (NYS) Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS) report provides data on the prevalence and trends of nutrition-related indicators for infants and children (<5 years of age) who are enrolled in the NYS Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (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 2020 NYS PedNSS Report

Demographic Characteristics

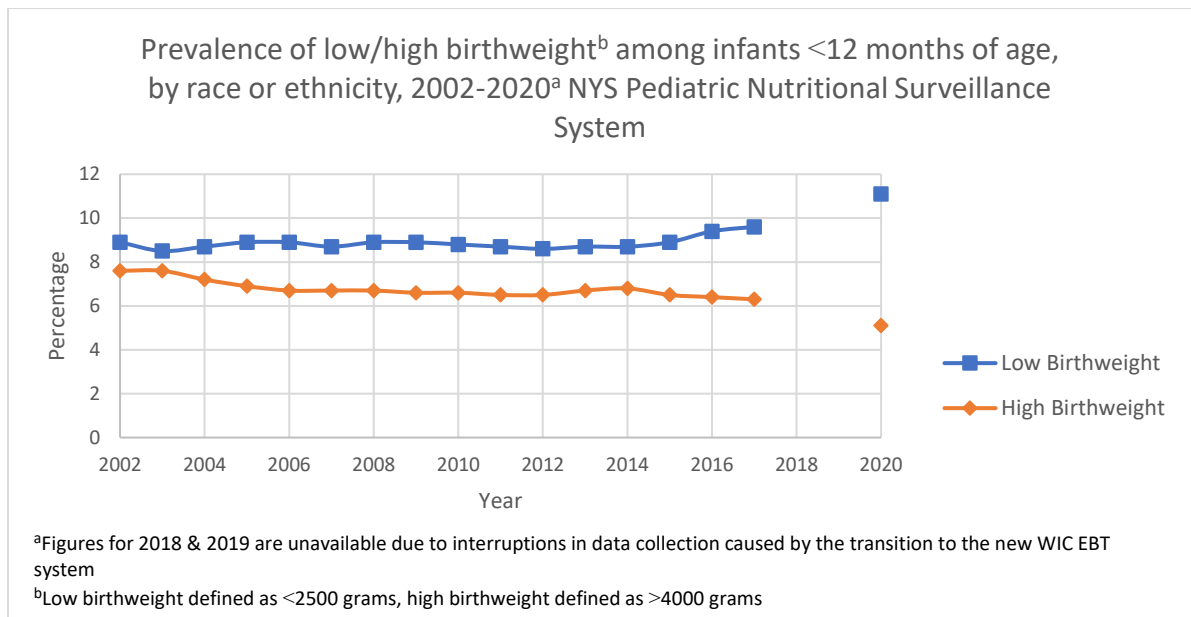
- There was a 9.2% decrease in the number of individual infants and children certified in 2020 (355,652) compared to those certified in 2017 (391,599) (Table 1C).
- The percentage of WIC infants and children who identified as non-Hispanic White and Hispanic declined slightly (26.9% in 2017 vs. 26.5% in 2020 and 37.2% in 2017 vs. 36.8% in 2020 respectively), remained stable for those who identified as Black (21.7%), Asian/Pacific Islander (37.2%), and American Indian/Alaskan Native (0.9%) and increased for those who identified as Multiracial (3.0% in 2020 vs. 2.0% in 2017) (Table 10C).



- A majority of NYS WIC families (83.2%) were living below 130 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2020, a 1.3 percentage point decrease compared to 2017 (84.5%). Additionally, there was a 2.2 percentage point decrease in families below 100 percent FPL compared to 2017 (Table 1C). This may indicate a continuing positive shift in household economic conditions among NYS WIC families in 2020.

Birth Weight

- In 2020, the prevalence of low birth weight (LBW) increased to 11.1 percent among infants and children from 9.6 percent in 2017 (Table 2C). The prevalence of low birth weight has steadily increased from 8.9 percent in 2006 to 11.1 percent in 2017 (Table 12C). The corresponding Healthy People 2020 (HP2020[†]) objective is to reduce the rate of LBW to 7.8 percent.



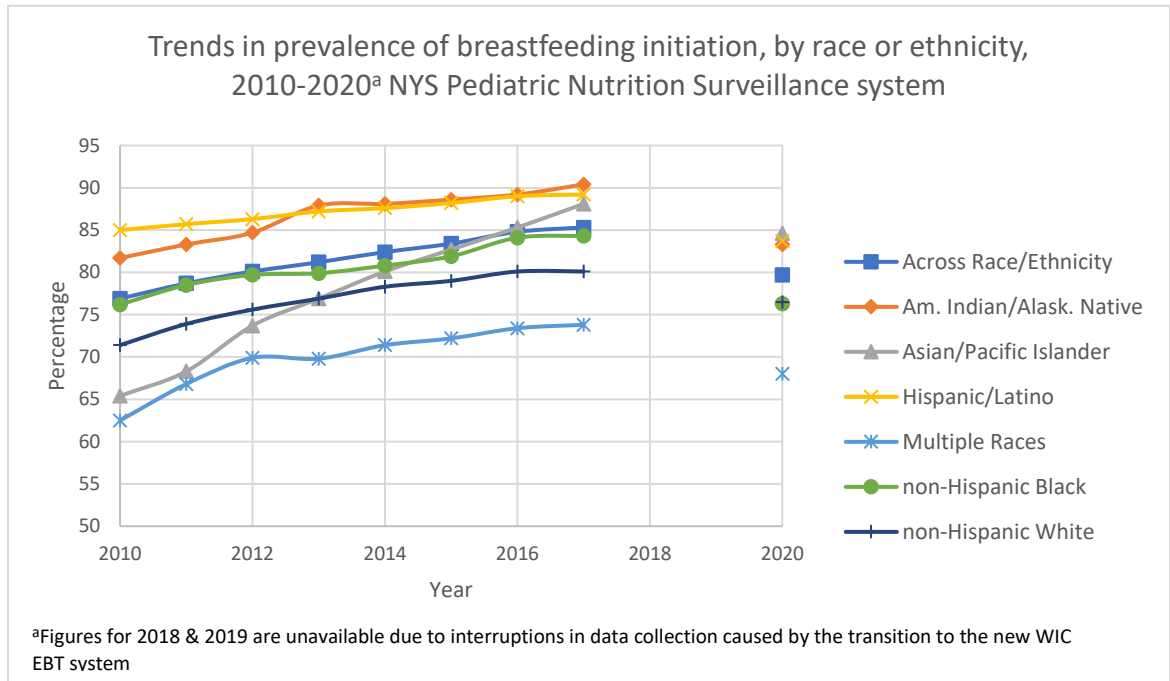
Growth Indicators

- Growth indicator data are not available for 2020 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 decreased 5.6 percentage points from 85.3% in 2017 to 79.7% in 2020, with decreases across all racial/ethnic groups. WIC infants identified as Asian/Pacific Islander and White had the smallest decreases (3.5 and 3.6 percentage points, respectively), while infants identified as Black had the largest decrease of 8 percentage points. The racial/ethnic groups who fell below the HP2020 breastfeeding initiation goal of 81.9% are Black, White,

and Multiracial.

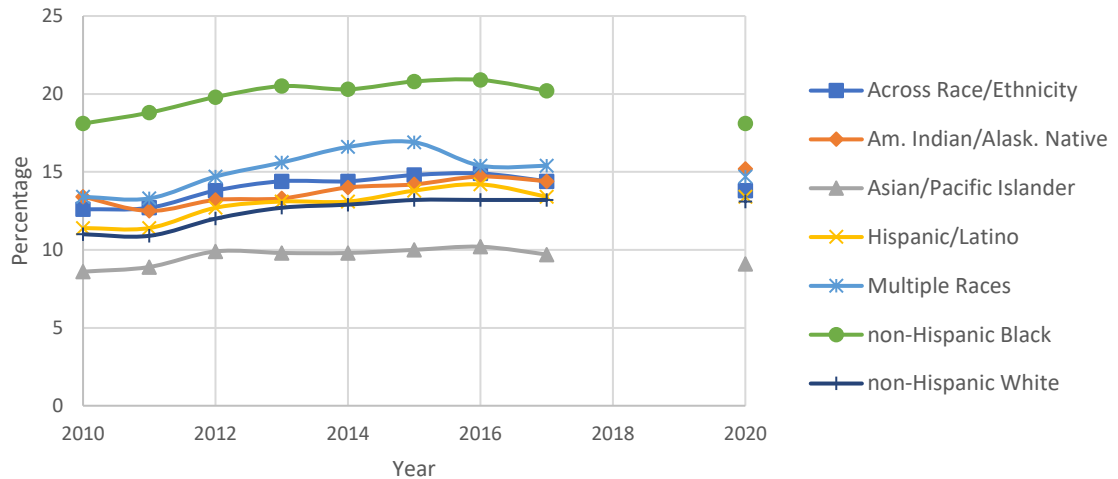


- Breastfeeding duration data are not available for 2020 due to enhancements that had to be made to the WIC management information system.

Anemia Indicators

- The rate of WIC infants and children meeting the criteria for low hemoglobin/hematocrit reached a high point of 14.9% in 2016 and has since begun to fall. The rate decreased to 14.4% in 2017 and continued decreasing to 13.6% in 2020. This decrease was observed across all racial/ethnic groups except for American Indian/Alaskan Native, among whom there was an increase (14.4% in 2017 vs. 15.2% in 2020). Black, Multiracial, and Asian/Pacific Islander racial/ethnic groups experienced the largest decreases (2.1, 0.7, and 0.6 percentage points respectively) while White and Hispanic groups remained stable (Table 8C).

Trends in prevalence of anemia^b among children >6 months of age, by race or ethnicity, 2010-2020^a NYS Pediatric Nutritional Surveillance System



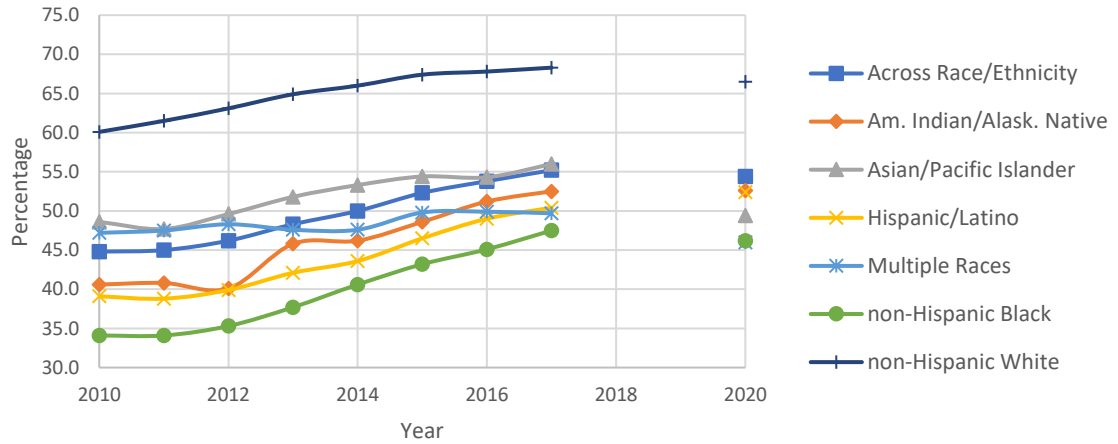
^aFigures for 2018 & 2019 are unavailable due to interruptions in data collection caused by the transition to the new WIC EBT system

^b1998 CDC MMWR, Recommendations to Prevent and Control Iron Deficiency in the United States, is used for children 6 months of age and older with altitude adjusted.

Behavioral/Environmental Indicators

- The rate of WIC children meeting the screen time recommendations of 1 hour or less per day has steadily increased from just 9.0% in 2002 to 55.2% in 2017. However, in 2020 there was a 0.8 percentage point decrease to 54.4%. This decrease was seen across all racial/ethnic groups except for American Indian/Alaskan Native which remained stable (52.6%) and Hispanic, which saw an increase of 2 percentage points (52.4%). Asian/Pacific Islander and Multiracial groups saw the largest decreases, 6.6 and 3.7 percentage points respectively (Table 9C).

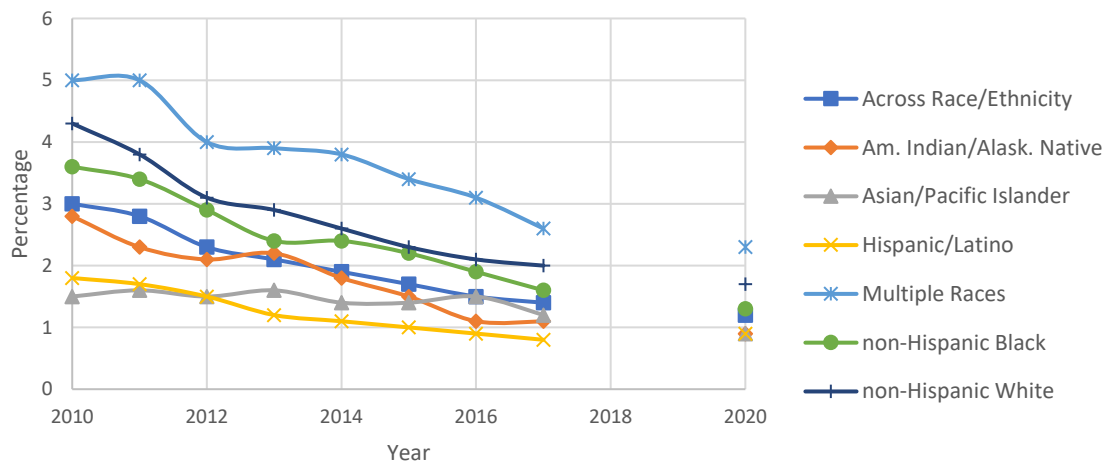
Trends in prevalence of children ≥ 2 years of age meeting the recommendation of ≤ 1 hour screentime, by race or ethnicity, 2010-2020^a NYS Pediatric Nutritional Surveillance System



^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 1.4% in 2017 to 1.2% in 2020. This decrease was relatively uniform across all racial/ethnic groups (0.2-0.3 percentage points) except Hispanic, which remained stable (0.9%) (Table 9C).

Trends in prevalence of infants and children living in households where adults smoke inside, by race or ethnicity, 2010-2020^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