

Breastfeeding Initiation for all Infants born in Minnesota by Race/Ethnicity and Cultural Identity and Region, CY 2017 to 2021

Minnesota WIC Information System

Community Health Board	Year	Total with BF Info ¹	Total BF Initiated ²	Amer Indian Total ³	Amer Indian BF	Hmong Total ⁴	Hmong BF	Asian Total ⁵	Asian BF	Black (A A) Total ⁶	Black (African American) BF	East Afr Total ⁷	East African BF	Other Black Total ⁸	Other Black BF	White NH Total	White NH BF	Hispanic all races Total	Hispanic all races BF
MINNESOTA	2021	63,063	♥56,017 (88.8)	1,720	1,307 (76.0)	2,039	1,214 (59.5)	2,372	♥2,086 (87.9)	4,176	3,182 (76.2)	3,825	♥3,597 (94.0)	1,542	♥1,421 (92.2)	39,396	♥36,121 (91.7)	7,993	♥7,089 (88.7)
	2020	62,371	♥55,783 (89.4)	1,747	1,359 (77.8)	2,117	1,357 (64.1)	2,424	♥2,159 (89.1)	4,397	3,477 (79.1)	3,986	♥3,772 (94.6)	1,524	♥1,356 (89.0)	38,361	♥35,322 (92.1)	7,815	♥6,981 (89.3)
	2019	64,848	♥58,077 (89.6)	1,369	997 (72.8)	2,138	1,327 (62.1)	2,525	♥2,249 (89.1)	4,487	3,583 (79.9)	4,096	♥3,864 (94.3)	1,478	♥1,332 (90.1)	40,971	♥37,695 (92.0)	7,784	♥7,030 (90.3)
	2018	66,210	♥59,539 (89.9)	1,696	1,317 (77.7)	2,174	1,365 (62.8)	2,514	♥2,262 (90.0)	4,353	3,500 (80.4)	4,013	♥3,779 (94.2)	1,492	♥1,374 (92.1)	42,165	♥38,916 (92.3)	7,803	♥7,026 (90.0)
	2017	67,268	♥60,245 (89.6)	1,495	1,177 (78.7)	2,106	1,334 (63.3)	2,582	♥2,339 (90.6)	4,252	3,385 (79.6)	3,977	♥3,726 (93.7)	1,572	♥1,422 (90.5)	42,971	♥39,503 (91.9)	8,313	♥7,359 (88.5)
Central	2021	8,887	♥7,867 (88.5)	246	185 (75.2)	50	27 (54.0)	118	♥112 (94.9)	310	237 (76.5)	450	♥427 (94.9)	118	♥105 (89.0)	7,004	♥6,268 (89.5)	591	♥506 (85.6)
	2020	8,710	♥7,785 (89.4)	246	182 (74.0)	37	29 (78.4)	120	♥107 (89.2)	309	234 (75.7)	474	♥448 (94.5)	110	♥102 (92.7)	6,804	♥6,140 (90.2)	610	♥543 (89.0)
	2019	8,762	♥7,824 (89.3)	193	136 (70.5)	26	19 (****)	110	♥98 (89.1)	269	202 (75.1)	462	♥435 (94.2)	73	♥67 (91.8)	7,082	♥6,381 (90.1)	547	♥486 (88.8)
	2018	9,053	♥8,036 (88.8)	233	174 (74.7)	26	15 (****)	110	♥99 (90.0)	268	♥223 (83.2)	457	♥423 (92.6)	81	♥74 (91.4)	7,304	♥6,541 (89.6)	574	♥487 (84.8)
	2017	9,023	♥7,959 (88.2)	200	136 (68.0)	12	8 (****)	142	♥132 (93.0)	232	180 (77.6)	447	♥389 (87.0)	75	♥65 (86.7)	7,313	♥6,539 (89.4)	602	♥510 (84.7)
Metro	2021	35,991	♥32,386 (90.0)	570	♥475 (83.3)	1,956	1,164 (59.5)	1,774	♥1,570 (88.5)	3,331	2,572 (77.2)	2,867	♥2,702 (94.2)	1,296	♥1,196 (92.3)	19,027	♥17,968 (94.4)	5,170	♥4,739 (91.7)
	2020	35,897	♥32,479 (90.5)	611	499 (81.7)	2,026	1,301 (64.2)	1,854	♥1,684 (90.8)	3,543	2,835 (80.0)	2,998	♥2,851 (95.1)	1,265	♥1,121 (88.6)	18,608	♥17,577 (94.5)	4,992	♥4,611 (92.4)
	2019	37,218	♥33,788 (90.8)	398	315 (79.1)	2,072	1,288 (62.2)	1,939	♥1,750 (90.3)	3,641	2,946 (80.9)	3,026	♥2,875 (95.0)	1,275	♥1,148 (90.0)	19,831	♥18,765 (94.6)	5,036	♥4,701 (93.3)
	2018	38,089	♥34,806 (91.4)	620	♥527 (85.0)	2,094	1,316 (62.8)	1,911	♥1,741 (91.1)	3,530	2,852 (80.8)	2,997	♥2,844 (94.9)	1,301	♥1,203 (92.5)	20,632	♥19,606 (95.0)	5,004	♥4,717 (94.3)
	2017	38,816	♥35,419 (91.2)	605	♥517 (85.5)	2,048	1,302 (63.6)	1,934	♥1,771 (91.6)	3,490	2,787 (79.9)	2,923	♥2,782 (95.2)	1,372	♥1,253 (91.3)	21,181	♥20,130 (95.0)	5,263	♥4,877 (92.7)
Northeast	2021	2,987	♥2,658 (89.0)	291	232 (79.7)	0	0	46	♥44 (95.7)	119	91 (76.5)	<5	****	13	13 (****)	2,379	♥2,147 (90.2)	135	♥127 (94.1)
	2020	2,905	♥2,596 (89.4)	304	♥249 (81.9)	<5	****	33	♥29 (87.9)	91	63 (69.2)	<5	****	13	12 (****)	2,339	♥2,132 (91.2)	122	♥108 (88.5)
	2019	3,146	♥2,815 (89.5)	229	177 (77.3)	<5	0	41	♥37 (90.2)	136	105 (77.2)	<5	****	15	14 (****)	2,593	♥2,365 (91.2)	127	♥114 (89.8)
	2018	3,109	♥2,716 (87.4)	282	214 (75.9)	<5	****	54	♥48 (88.9)	122	89 (73.0)	<5	****	13	10 (****)	2,498	♥2,239 (89.6)	134	♥111 (82.8)
	2017	3,318	♥2,927 (88.2)	301	230 (76.4)	0	0	30	♥28 (93.3)	125	98 (78.4)	<5	****	9	8 (****)	2,706	♥2,436 (90.0)	144	♥124 (86.1)
Northwest	2021	1,477	1,191 (80.6)	338	212 (62.7)	0	0	21	18 (****)	19	14 (****)	<5	****	<5	****	998	♥870 (87.2)	97	74 (76.3)
	2020	1,412	♥1,166 (82.6)	327	217 (66.4)	<5	0	19	18 (****)	26	23 (****)	<5	****	7	7 (****)	949	♥833 (87.8)	81	66 (81.5)
	2019	1,581	1,277 (80.8)	346	224 (64.7)	0	0	15	12 (****)	31	25 (80.6)	<5	****	<5	****	1,111	♥955 (86.0)	73	56 (76.7)
	2018	1,499	1,187 (79.2)	259	165 (63.7)	<5	****	12	10 (****)	20	16 (****)	<5	****	<5	****	1,011	♥866 (85.7)	189	122 (64.6)
	2017	1,614	1,251 (77.5)	99	65 (65.7)	0	0	27	25 (****)	29	27 (****)	<5	****	7	6 (****)	1,087	♥910 (83.7)	361	214 (59.3)
South Central	2021	3,095	♥2,618 (84.6)	42	28 (66.7)	<5	****	37	♥37 (100.0)	86	56 (65.1)	63	♥58 (92.1)	17	16 (****)	2,378	♥2,073 (87.2)	469	347 (74.0)
	2020	3,025	♥2,571 (85.0)	24	19 (****)	<5	0	41	♥38 (92.7)	83	♥68 (81.9)	79	♥74 (93.7)	22	17 (****)	2,308	♥2,023 (87.7)	466	332 (71.2)
	2019	3,126	♥2,669 (85.4)	18	11 (****)	<5	****	45	♥39 (86.7)	81	59 (72.8)	76	♥69 (90.8)	16	10 (****)	2,411	♥2,111 (87.6)	477	369 (77.4)
	2018	3,313	♥2,895 (87.4)	35	28 (80.0)	<5	****	47	♥42 (89.4)	87	67 (77.0)	66	♥59 (89.4)	14	13 (****)	2,601	♥2,317 (89.1)	462	368 (79.7)
	2017	3,162	♥2,745 (86.8)	38	♥33 (86.8)	<5	****	54	♥52 (96.3)	64	52 (81.3)	68	♥59 (86.8)	22	18 (****)	2,462	♥2,164 (87.9)	451	365 (80.9)

♥ Percent meets Healthy People 2020 objective
Minnesota Department of Health, WIC Program

(.....) Percent not calculated for locations with less than 30 participants
4/21/2022

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Minnesota WIC Information System

Community Health Board	Year	Total with BF Info ¹	Total BF Initiated ²	Amer Indian Total ³	Amer Indian BF	Hmong Total ⁴	Hmong BF	Asian Total ⁵	Asian BF	Black (A A) Total ⁶	Black (African American) BF	East Afr Total ⁷	East African BF	Other Black Total ⁸	Other Black BF	White NH Total	White NH BF	Hispanic all races Total	Hispanic all races BF
Southeast	2021	5,271	♥4,668 (88.6)	48	♥43 (89.6)	18	13 (****)	246	♥212 (86.2)	204	139 (68.1)	334	♥305 (91.3)	69	♥64 (92.8)	3,602	♥3,228 (89.6)	750	♥664 (88.5)
	2020	5,120	♥4,576 (89.4)	42	♥38 (90.5)	23	14 (****)	221	♥182 (82.4)	235	170 (72.3)	301	♥271 (90.0)	74	♥67 (90.5)	3,492	♥3,187 (91.3)	732	♥647 (88.4)
	2019	5,510	♥4,939 (89.6)	28	23 (****)	13	9 (****)	256	♥227 (88.7)	223	165 (74.0)	354	♥327 (92.4)	67	♥62 (92.5)	3,819	♥3,454 (90.4)	750	♥672 (89.6)
	2018	5,487	♥4,928 (89.8)	51	♥45 (88.2)	22	13 (****)	243	♥211 (86.8)	220	166 (75.5)	337	♥310 (92.0)	53	♥50 (94.3)	3,899	♥3,552 (91.1)	662	♥581 (87.8)
	2017	5,588	♥4,988 (89.3)	50	40 (80.0)	17	11 (****)	254	♥224 (88.2)	181	145 (80.1)	348	♥326 (93.7)	52	♥43 (82.7)	3,973	♥3,571 (89.9)	713	♥628 (88.1)
Southwest	2021	2,275	♥1,923 (84.5)	55	38 (69.1)	8	****	89	58 (65.2)	37	25 (67.6)	86	♥82 (95.3)	15	15 (****)	1,426	♥1,261 (88.4)	559	440 (78.7)
	2020	2,308	♥1,967 (85.2)	46	33 (71.7)	21	8 (****)	86	59 (68.6)	37	25 (67.6)	116	♥110 (94.8)	6	6 (****)	1,400	♥1,241 (88.6)	596	485 (81.4)
	2019	2,341	♥1,987 (84.9)	36	27 (75.0)	18	7 (****)	75	53 (70.7)	27	23 (****)	145	♥130 (89.7)	10	10 (****)	1,473	♥1,289 (87.5)	557	448 (80.4)
	2018	2,474	♥2,127 (86.0)	51	35 (68.6)	21	13 (****)	93	71 (76.3)	49	♥41 (83.7)	131	♥121 (92.4)	17	12 (****)	1,552	♥1,382 (89.0)	560	452 (80.7)
	2017	2,513	♥2,129 (84.7)	47	♥40 (85.1)	17	5 (****)	84	59 (70.2)	55	38 (69.1)	163	♥144 (88.3)	15	13 (****)	1,575	♥1,375 (87.3)	557	455 (81.7)
West Central	2021	1,999	♥1,764 (88.2)	101	74 (73.3)	0	0	23	20 (****)	43	29 (67.4)	17	16 (****)	7	7 (****)	1,670	♥1,497 (89.6)	138	♥121 (87.7)
	2020	1,963	♥1,754 (89.4)	107	♥89 (83.2)	0	0	20	16 (****)	46	♥38 (82.6)	11	11 (****)	11	10 (****)	1,636	♥1,468 (89.7)	132	♥122 (92.4)
	2019	2,106	♥1,879 (89.2)	85	59 (69.4)	<5	****	18	16 (****)	55	40 (72.7)	20	17 (****)	9	8 (****)	1,778	♥1,615 (90.8)	140	♥123 (87.9)
	2018	2,114	♥1,920 (90.8)	129	105 (81.4)	<5	****	25	25 (****)	26	21 (****)	16	13 (****)	<5	****	1,768	♥1,625 (91.9)	145	♥126 (86.9)
	2017	2,173	♥1,937 (89.1)	114	87 (76.3)	<5	****	28	24 (****)	47	34 (72.3)	15	13 (****)	6	5 (****)	1,829	♥1,657 (90.6)	133	♥116 (87.2)
unknown	2021	1,081	♥942 (87.1)	29	20 (****)	<5	****	18	15 (****)	27	19 (****)	<5	****	<5	****	912	♥809 (88.7)	84	♥71 (84.5)
	2020	1,031	♥889 (86.2)	40	♥33 (82.5)	6	****	30	♥26 (86.7)	27	21 (****)	<5	****	16	14 (****)	825	♥721 (87.4)	84	67 (79.8)
	2019	1,058	♥899 (85.0)	36	25 (69.4)	5	****	26	17 (****)	24	18 (****)	8	7 (****)	9	9 (****)	873	♥760 (87.1)	77	61 (79.2)
	2018	1,072	♥924 (86.2)	36	24 (66.7)	6	****	19	15 (****)	31	25 (80.6)	<5	****	6	5 (****)	900	♥788 (87.6)	73	♥62 (84.9)
	2017	1,061	♥890 (83.9)	41	29 (70.7)	8	5 (****)	29	24 (****)	29	24 (****)	6	6 (****)	14	11 (****)	845	♥721 (85.3)	89	70 (78.7)

Breastfeeding Benchmark References	Breastfeeding Initiation	Breastfeeding at Three months	Breastfeeding at Six months	Breastfeeding at Twelve months
Healthy People 2020 Objectives * Percent met Healthy People 2020 Objective	81.9%		60.6%	34.1%
Minnesota WIC Program 2020 Objective		70.0%		
National Immunization Survey Data Nationwide (Infants born in 2018)⁹	83.9%		56.7%	35.0%
National Immunization Survey Data Minnesota (Infants born in 2018)⁹	88.6%		66.2%	40.1%

Suggested citation: Minnesota WIC Information System. Breastfeeding Initiation for Infants Born in Minnesota During Calendar Years 2017 to 2021 by Race/Ethnicity and Selected Cultural Identities by Region. Minnesota WIC Program: 2022.

For more information contact: Minnesota Department of Health WIC Program 1 (800) 657-3942

¹ Total number of infants born in Minnesota during given calendar year with breastfeeding information on the birth certificate

² Number of infants born in Minnesota who initiated breastfeeding (percent of infants born in Minnesota who initiated breastfeeding)

³ Includes infants identified as American Indian/Alaskan native alone or in combination (AOIC) with other races

⁴ Includes infants born to Hmong-American women and Hmong immigrant women

⁵ Includes Asian infants who do not identify as Hmong, alone or in combination with other races except American Indian

⁶ Includes non-Hispanic Black (African-American) infants who not are identified with a culture outside the United States, alone or in combination with White race.

⁷ Includes non-Hispanic Black infants who are identified with an East African culture, including Somali, Kenyan, Sudanese, Oromo and Ethiopian

⁸ Includes non-Hispanic Black infants identified as Liberian, Ghanian, or “Other – Black”

⁹ National Immunization Survey Data (All 2018 births, accessed May 5, 2021)

Appendix A: Methodology and Interpretation

Methodology

Race/ethnicity and Selected Cultural Identities

Information on race/ethnicity for this report is derived from Minnesota birth certificate data linked to Minnesota WIC data. Minnesota WIC collects data on race and ethnicity. Parents/caregivers of infant WIC participants are asked to identify the infants' race and ethnicity. They are first asked if they identify the infant as Hispanic. They are then asked to choose as many races as apply from five choices: American Indian, Asian, Black/African-American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and White. Those who identify single-race Black or Asian may then be asked to choose a cultural identity from the following lists: for Black, the choices include Black Multigenerational American, Somali or Somali American, Liberian or Liberian American, Sudanese or Sudanese American, Ethiopian or Ethiopian American, Kenyan or Kenyan American, Oromo or Oromo American, and Other Black. For Asian, the choices include Hmong or Hmong American, KaRen or KaRen American, Bhutanese-Nepali or B-N American, Cambodian or Cambodian American, Karenni or Karenni American, Laotian or Laotian American, Vietnamese or Vietnamese American, and Other Asian.

For infants who did not participate in WIC, and for WIC participants without WIC data on race/ethnicity and cultural identity, this information is taken from the birth record. Black subcategories on the birth record include Somali, Ethiopian, Liberian, Ghanaian, Kenyan, Sudanese, Nigerian, and Other African. Asian subcategories on the birth record include Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hmong, Cambodian, Laotian, and Other Asian. All racial and cultural identity data is self-identified. In addition, the birth record provides information on mothers' nativity (country of origin).

For this report, multiracial infants are included in a single category only, prioritized as follows: Hispanic, American Indian, Hmong, East African, non-Hmong Asian AOIC, Other – Black AOIC, Black (African-American) AOIC, White. Due to low numbers, those identified as “Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander” are included in the “Asian” category. In this method of categorization, non-Hmong Asian AOIC will not include anyone identified as Hispanic, American Indian, Hmong, or East African. Black (African-American) AOIC

Interpretation

Although Minnesota as a whole has exceeded the Healthy People 2020 goal for breastfeeding initiation (81.9%) in every year reported, the rate dropped for a third year in a row in 2021. There remain wide disparities in rates across cultures and communities, with declining rates among all groups except Other Black.

- ☐ Hmong breastfeeding initiation rates remain the lowest among the reported groups, at 59.5% in 2021.
- ☐ American Indian rates declined 1.8 points in 2021. They varied widely by region, with the highest rate (89.6%) in the Southeast region, and lowest (62.7%) in the Northwest, which decreased 3.7 points from 2021.
- ☐ Black (African-American) rates, after steadily improving for several years to a high in 2018, dropped again in 2021, by almost 3 percentage points. The highest rate was reported by Metro region (77.2%, down from 80.9% in 2019) and the lowest by South Central (65.1%).
- ☐ Hispanic infants have high rates overall (88.7%) but declined 2.6 points from 2019. Hispanic rates vary greatly between regions. The Northeast had the highest rate at 94.1%. South Central was lowest with 74.0% of Hispanic infants ever breastfed.
- ☐ White infants met and exceeded the HP2020 goal in all regions, with the highest rate in the Metro (94.4%).

This report includes information on all infants born in Minnesota. Information on breastfeeding among Minnesota WIC participants (regardless of place of birth), can be found in the WIC Breastfeeding Reports.