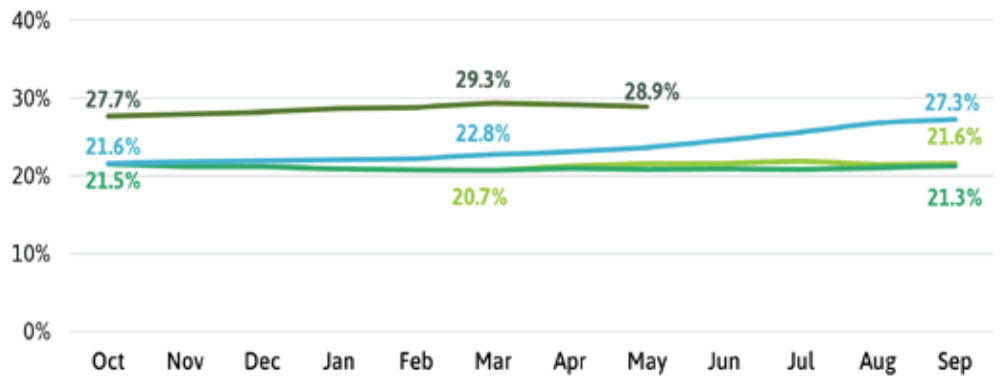


ANNUAL WIC BREASTFEEDING RATES

**29.3% OF
BABIES**
participating in WIC
are breastfed

Breastfeeding rates in the WIC Program have continued to steadily rise over time. At its highest, 29.3% (March 2023) of infants participating in the WIC Program were fully or partially breastfed compared to 20.7% in 2020 and 2021 during the same month.

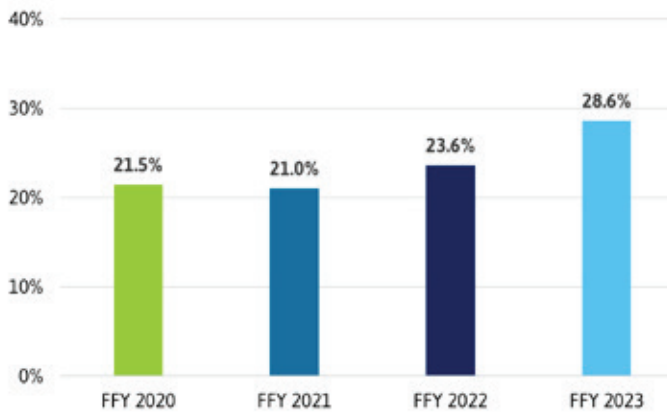
FFY 2020 | FFY 2021 | FFY 2022 | FFY 2023



Note: The federal fiscal year begins in October and ends in September. Due to data migration, federal fiscal year 2020 only includes months March through September. Federal fiscal year 2023 includes months October through May 2023.

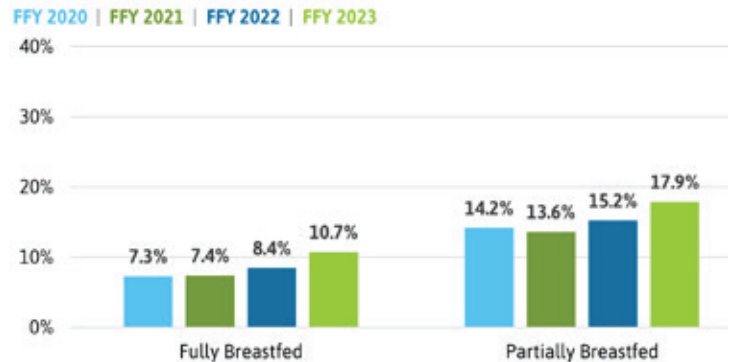
Average breastfeeding rates increased between **2.6** in 2022 (versus 2021) and **5.0** percentage points in 2023 (versus 2022).

AVERAGE WIC BREASTFEEDING RATES BY FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR



Note: The federal fiscal year begins in October and ends in September. Due to data migration, federal fiscal year 2020 only includes months March through September. Federal fiscal year 2023 includes months October through May 2023.

FULL AND PARTIAL BREASTFEEDING RATES IN WIC

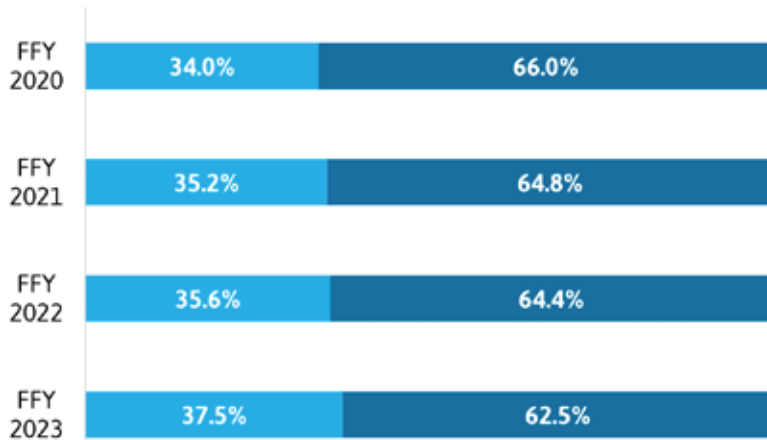


Note: The federal fiscal year begins in October and ends in September. Due to data migration, federal fiscal year 2020 only includes months March through September. Federal fiscal year 2023 includes months October through May 2023.

In 2021, 7.4% versus 13.6% of infants participating in the WIC Program were fully or partially breastfed, respectively. **These rates increased to 10.7% among fully breastfed infants and 17.9% among partially breastfed infants in 2023.**

PROPORTION OF FULLY TO PARTIALLY BREASTFED INFANTS WIC

Fully Breastfed | Partially Breastfed



Note: The federal fiscal year begins in October and ends in September. Due to data migration, federal fiscal year 2020 only includes months March through September. Federal fiscal year 2023 includes months October through May 2023.

37.5% OF BREASTFED BABIES

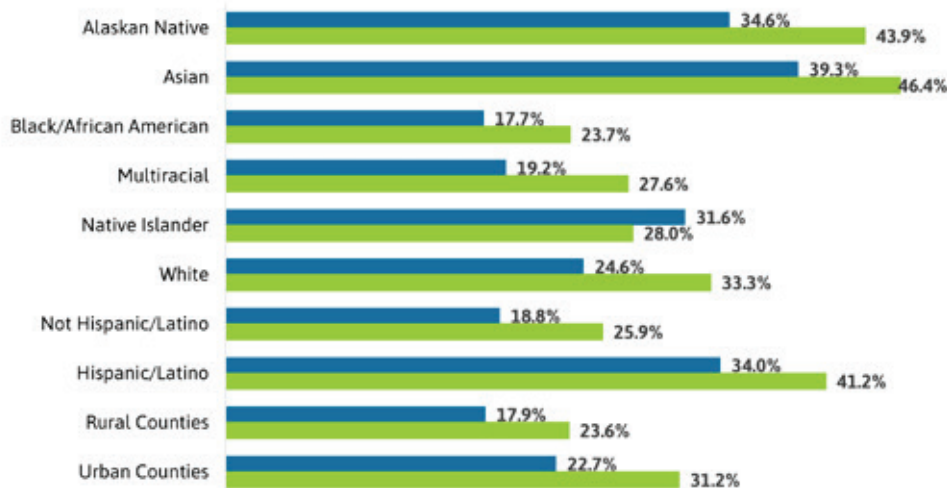
participating in WIC are fully breastfed

The majority (64.8%) of all breastfed infants in the WIC Program were partially breastfed in 2021 compared to 35.2% who were fully breastfed. Although partial breastfed infants continue to make up the majority of breastfed infants in the program, the proportion of infants who are

fully breastfed **increased 2.3 percentage points by 2023.**

WIC BREASTFEEDING RATES, BY SELECT CHARACTERISTICS

FFY 2021 | FFY 2023



Note: The federal fiscal year begins in October and ends in September. Due to data migration, federal fiscal year 2020 only includes months March through September. Federal fiscal year 2023 includes months October through May 2023.

In 2021, breastfeeding rates in the WIC Program ranged from 17.7% among Black and African American infants to 39.3% among Asian infants. In the same year, the Hispanic and Latino population had rates that were nearly doubled those of the non-Hispanic and Latino populations (34.0% vs. 18.8%, respectively).

All racial and ethnic populations in the program, except the Native Islander population, experienced an increase in their breastfeeding rates.

BREASTFEEDING RATES BY STATES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION UNITED STATES, 2021

Alabama	11%	8th
Florida	37%	1st
Georgia	27%	3rd/4th
Kentucky	23%	5th
Mississippi	15%	7th
North Carolina	29%	2nd
South Carolina	21%	6th
Tennessee	27%	3rd/4th

South Carolina had the 6th highest breastfeeding rate

among other states in the southeastern region of the United States with Florida having the highest rate (37%) and Alabama having the lowest rate (11%). Since 2021, breastfeeding rates in South Carolina have increased substantially which may also be consistent with other states across the southeastern region.