

WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2016



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Statistics Conference
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Presentation outline

1. WIC and WIC PC background
2. WIC participation and demographics
3. Income of WIC participants
4. Nutritional risks, anthropometrics, and hematology
5. Breastfeeding of WIC infants
6. WIC food packages
7. WIC PC data products

WIC PC background

What is WIC?



The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program)



WIC Since 1974
The Foundation of
Healthy Families

What is WIC? WIC was established as a permanent program in 1974 to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. This mission is carried out by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, nutrition education (including breastfeeding promotion and support), and referrals to health and other social services. Find out more: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/about-wic-wic-glance>

Who is eligible for WIC?

- ▶ Categorical requirements
- ▶ Income guidelines
- ▶ Nutritional risk
- ▶ Residency

History of PC data collection and report

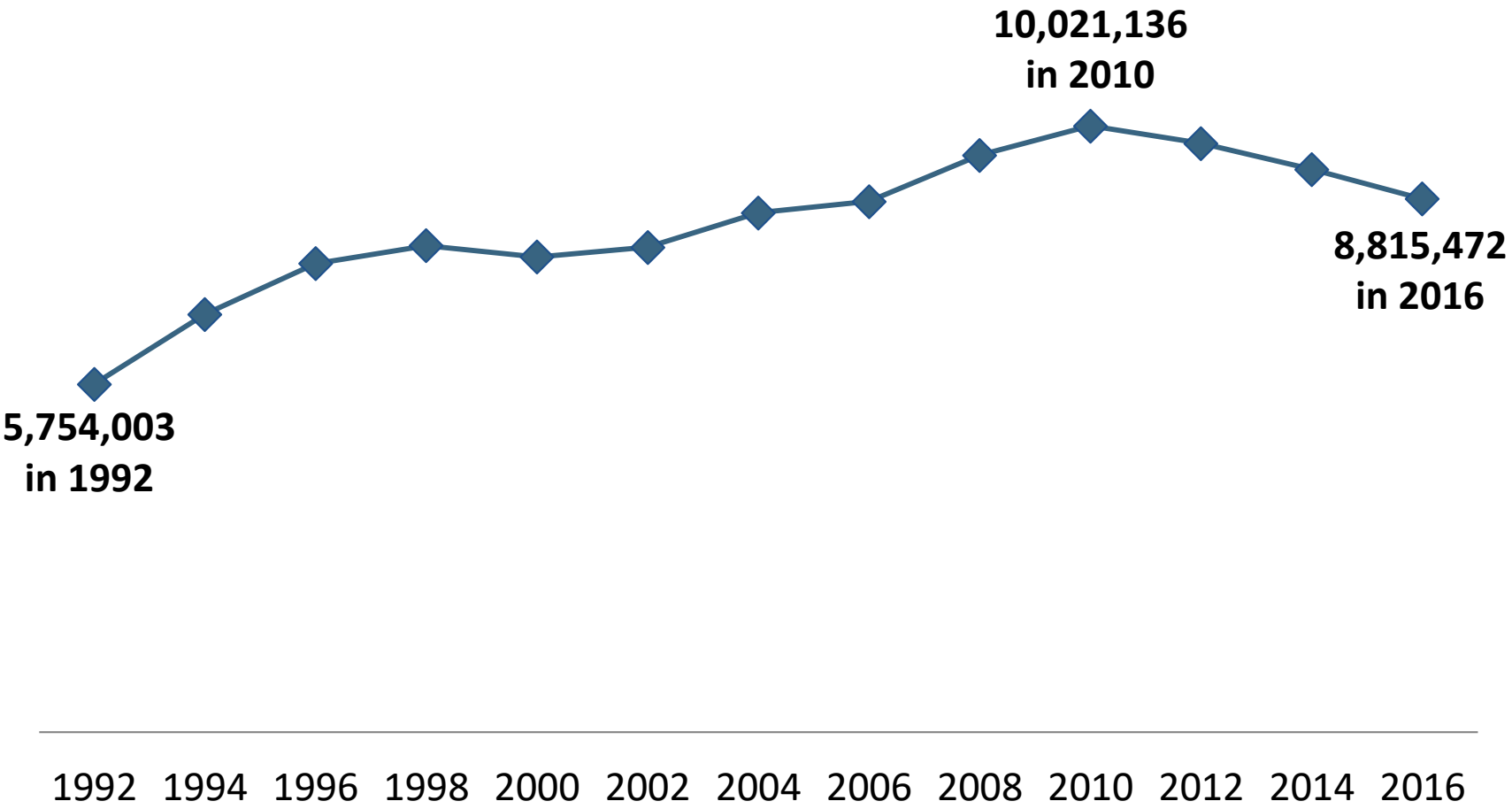
- ▶ WIC PC data collection
 - Biennial reports for 1992–2016
 - Census of individuals certified to receive WIC during April
 - Minimum Data Set (20 items)
 - Supplemental Data Set (11 items)
- ▶ Results have been presented in two reports: one on enrollee characteristics and one on food packages

Census of WIC participants

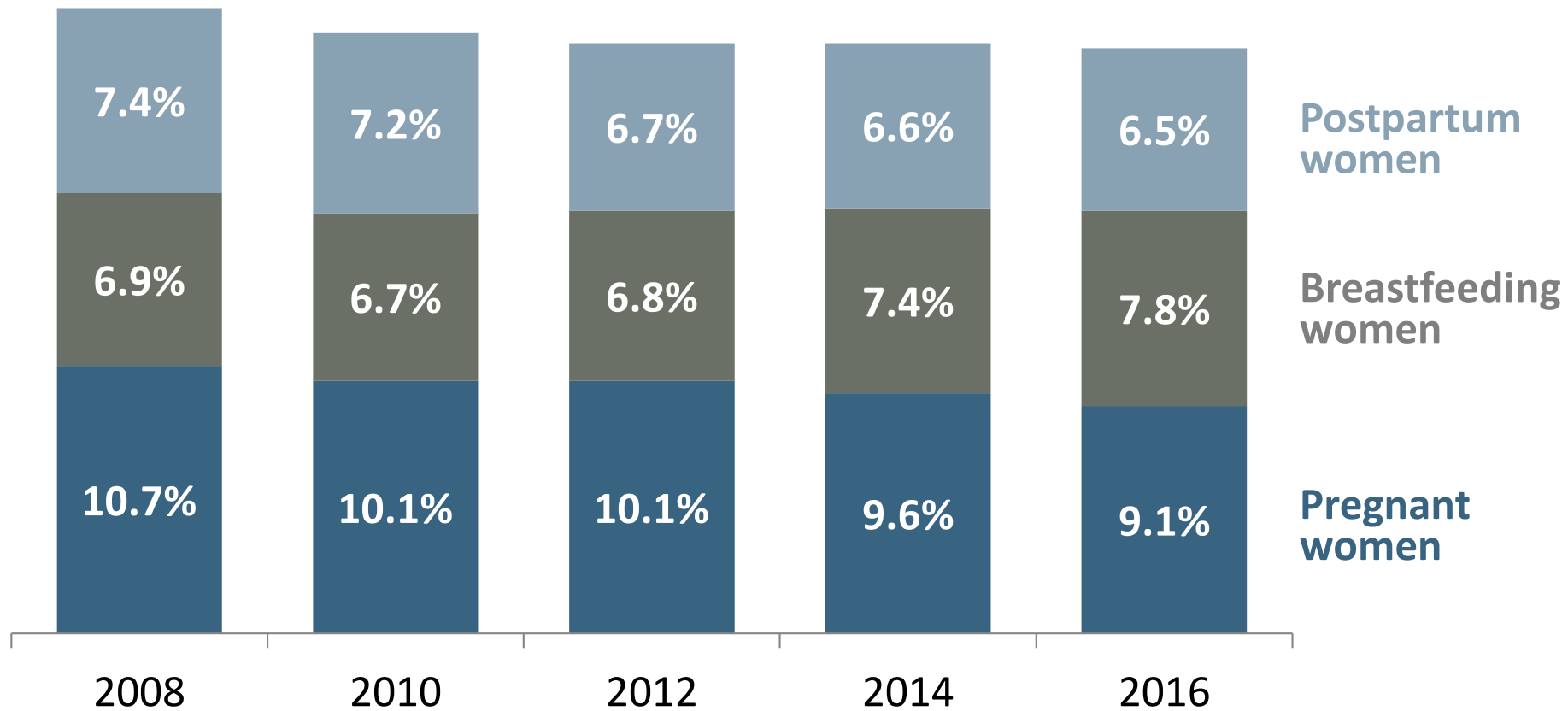
- ▶ Data collection represented everyone certified to receive WIC benefits
- ▶ In April 2016:
 - 7,631,683 food instruments claimed
 - 8,815,472 people certified to receive benefits
- ▶ Census of administrative data from 90 State agencies

WIC participation and demographics

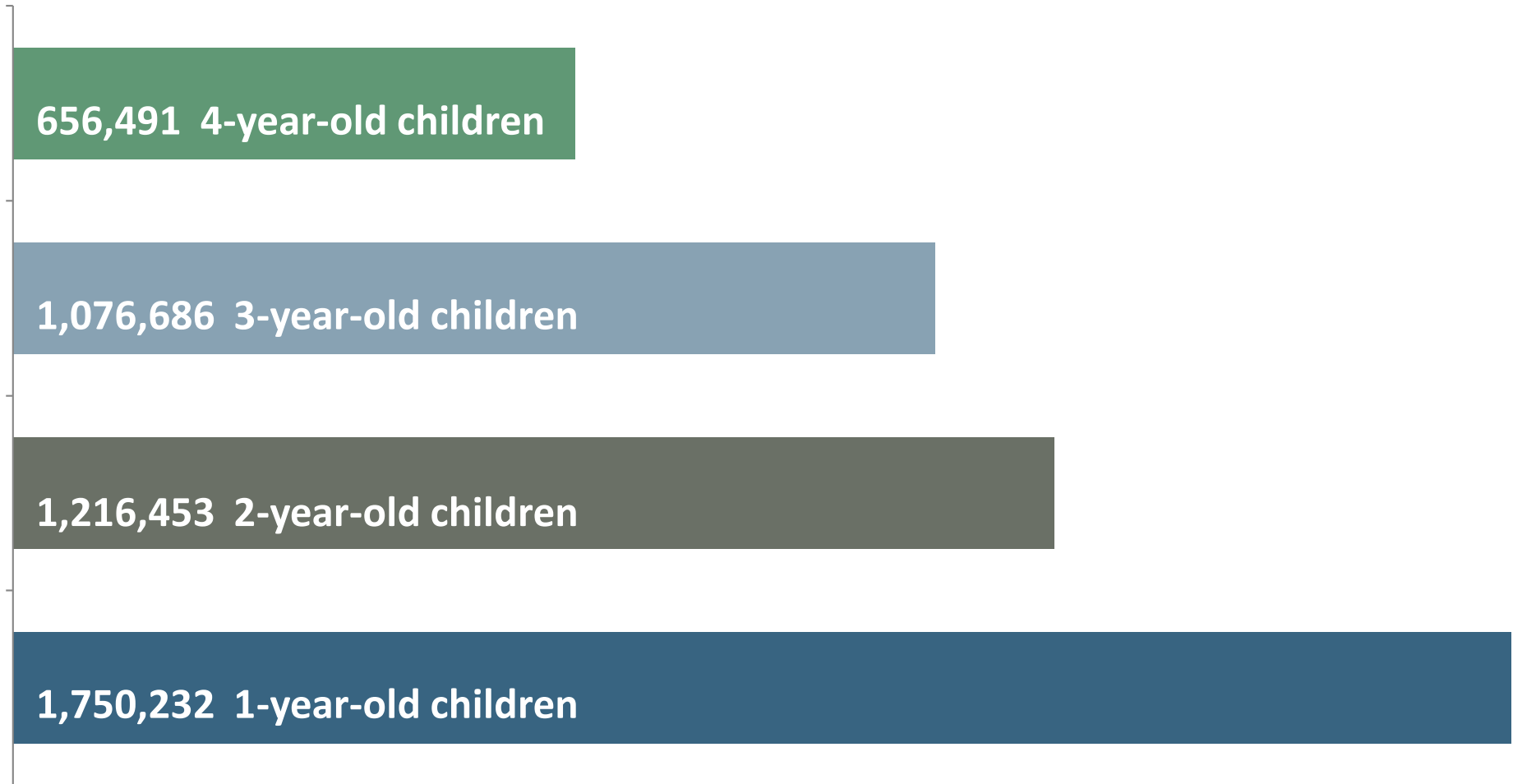
Enrollment generally increased from 1992 to 2010 and has decreased since then



Percentage of breastfeeding women has increased over time



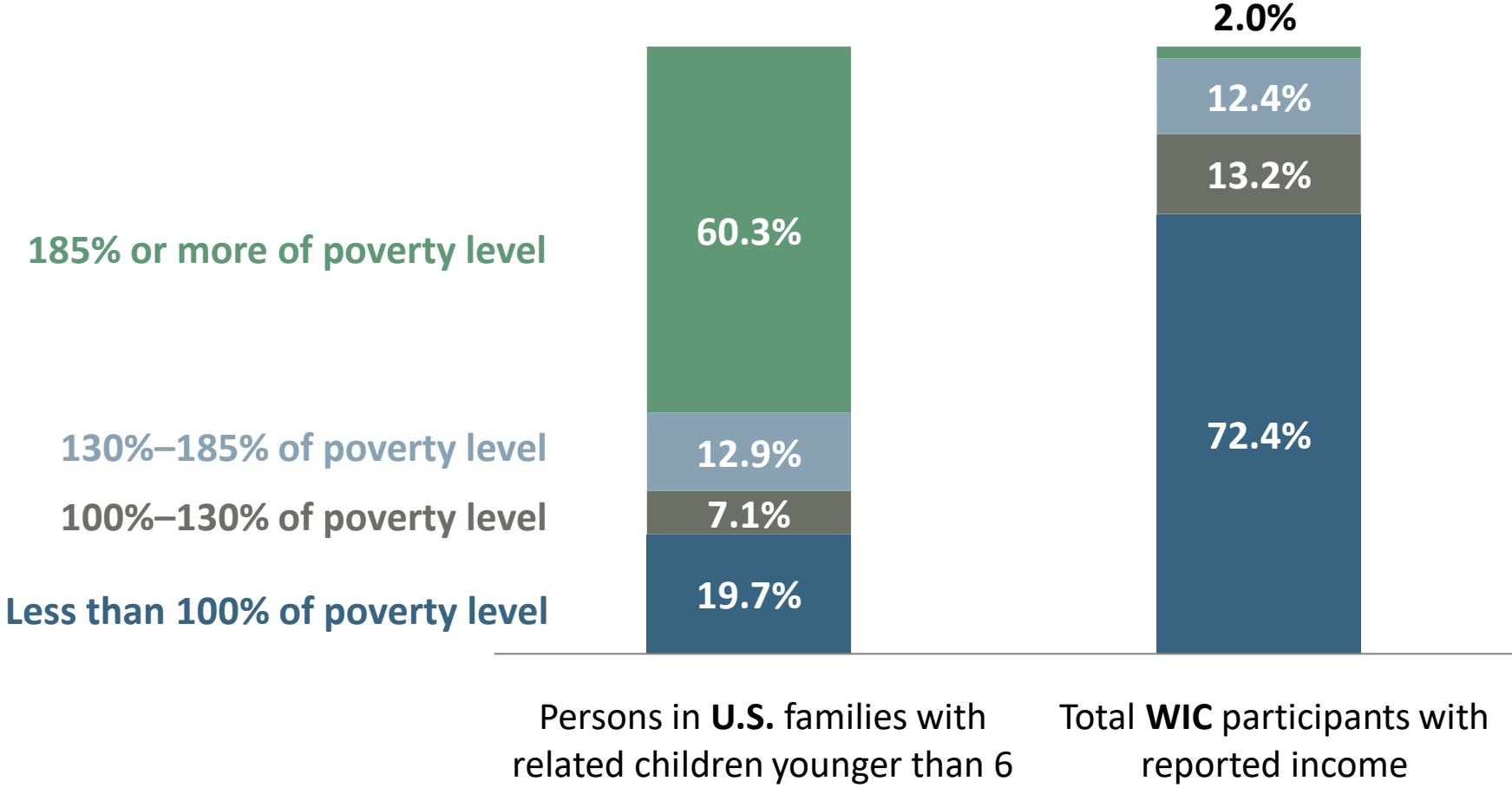
More younger children than older children participated in WIC in April, 2016



Note: Age was not reported for 333 children.

Income of WIC participants

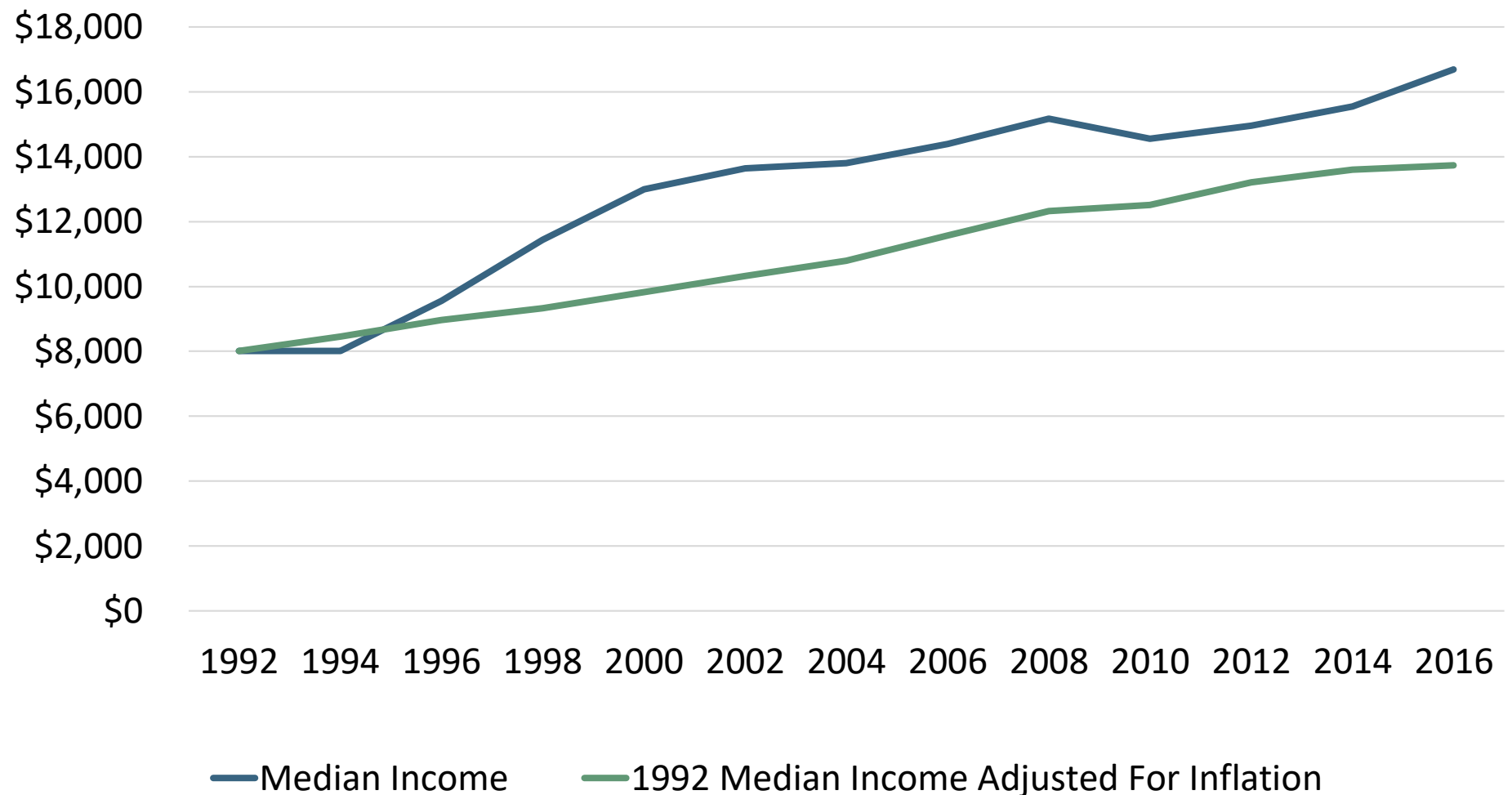
WIC participants were much more likely to live in poverty than the U.S. population as a whole



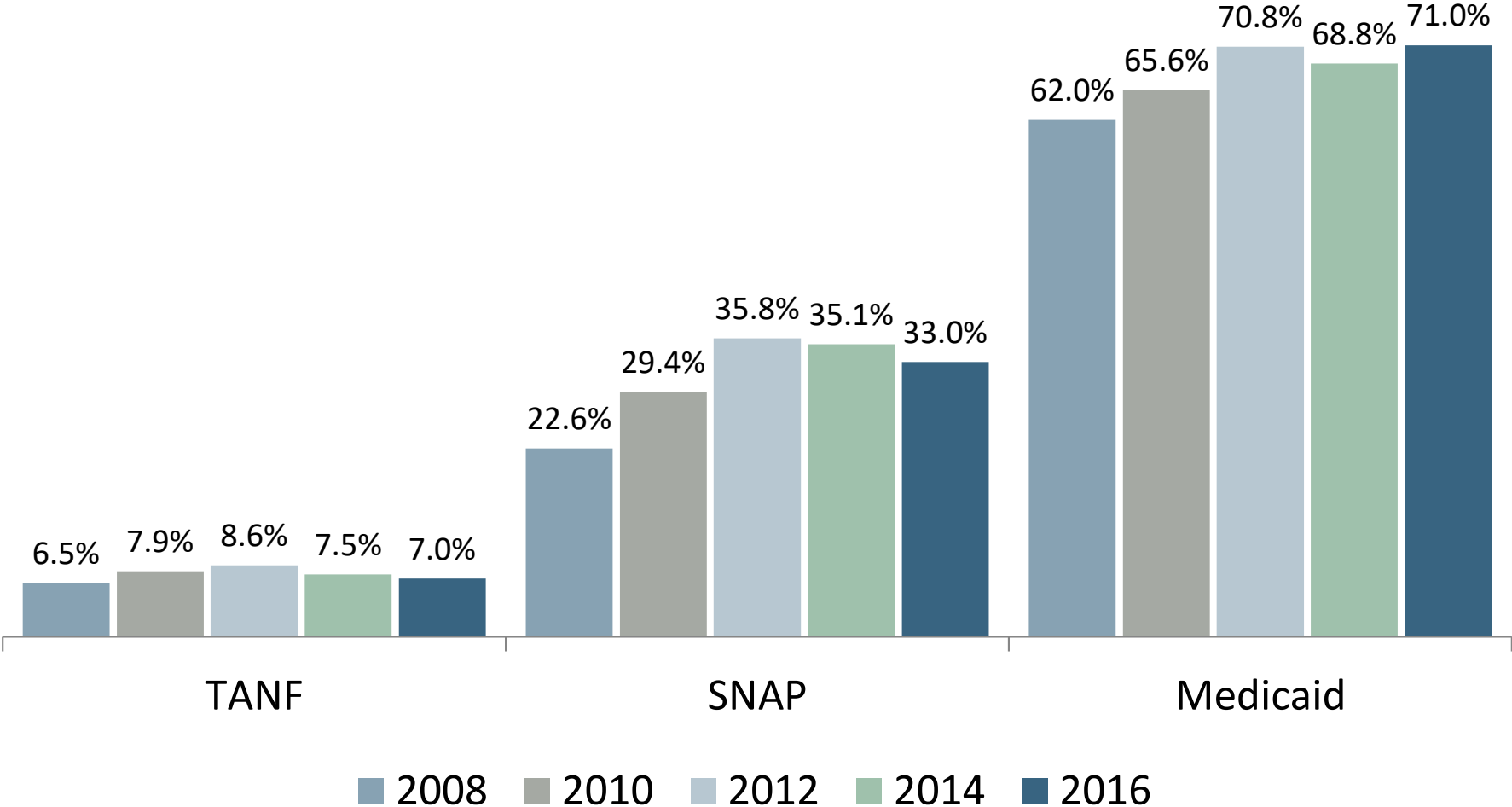
Sources: WIC PC2016, 2016 CPS ASEC

Note: PC analysis uses Federal Poverty Guidelines; CPS analysis uses Federal Poverty Thresholds

Among WIC participants, income increased over time

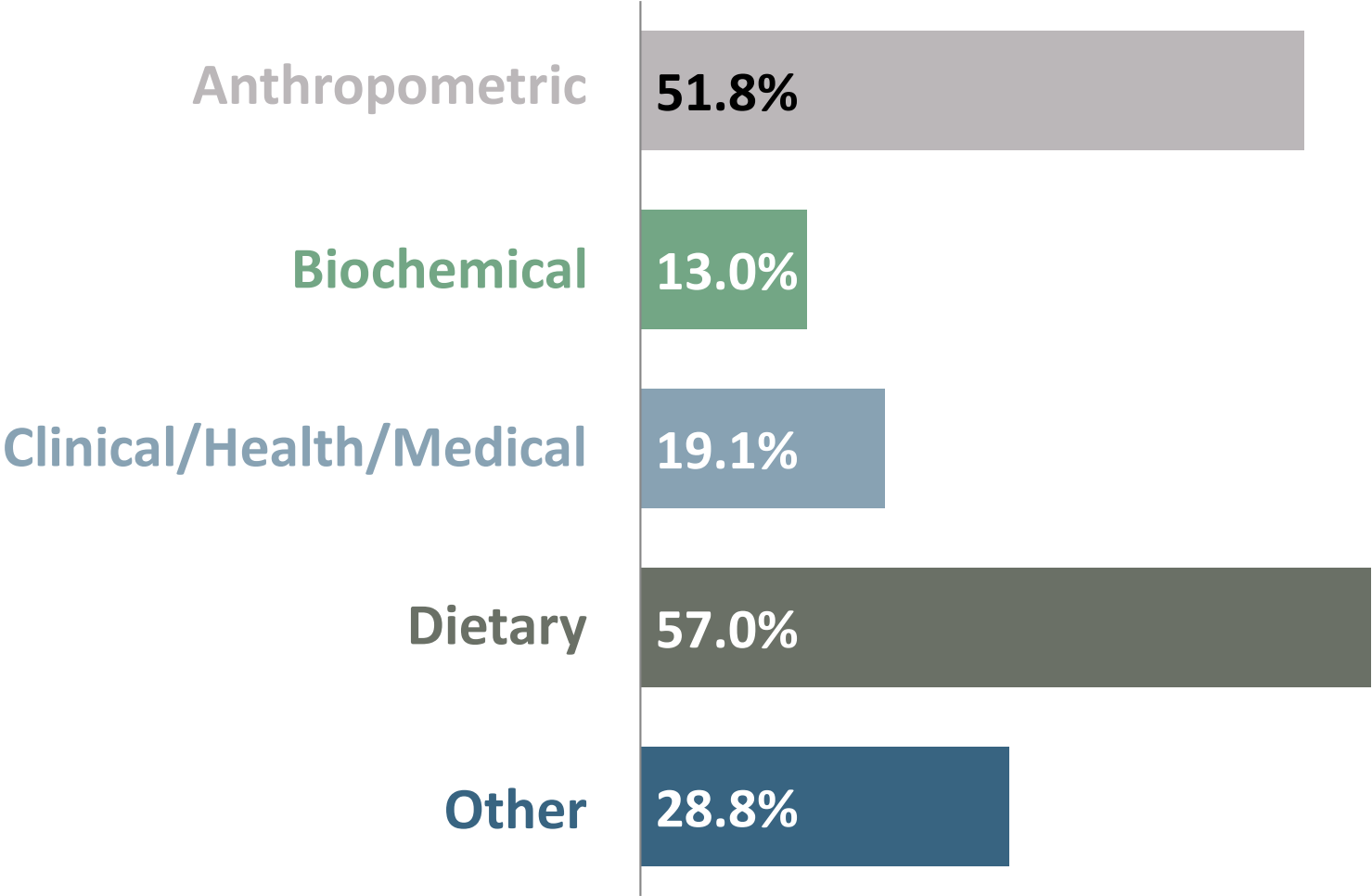


TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid participation trends among WIC participants

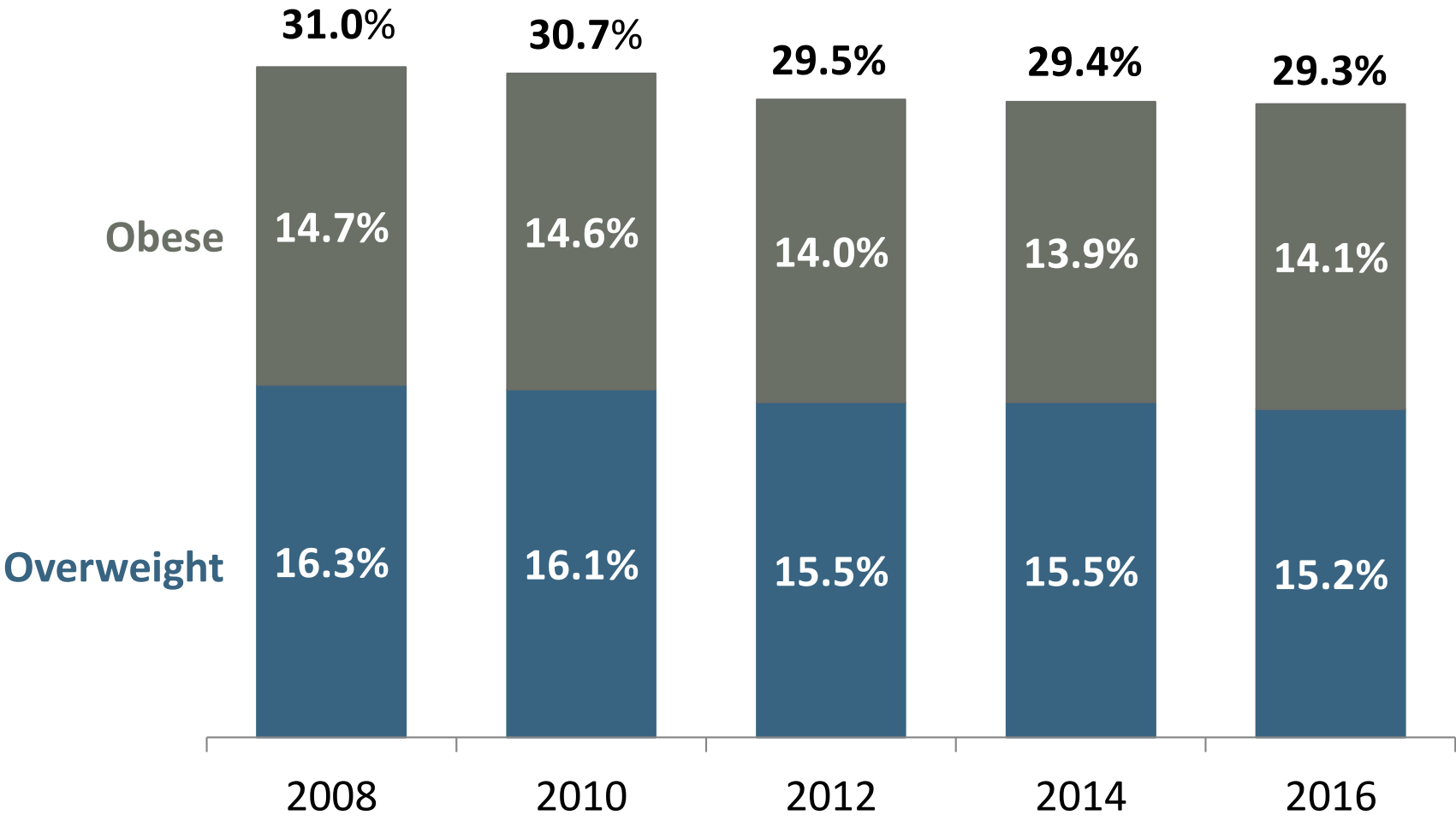


Nutritional risks, anthropometrics, and hematology

Anthropometric and dietary risks were most commonly assigned in April, 2016

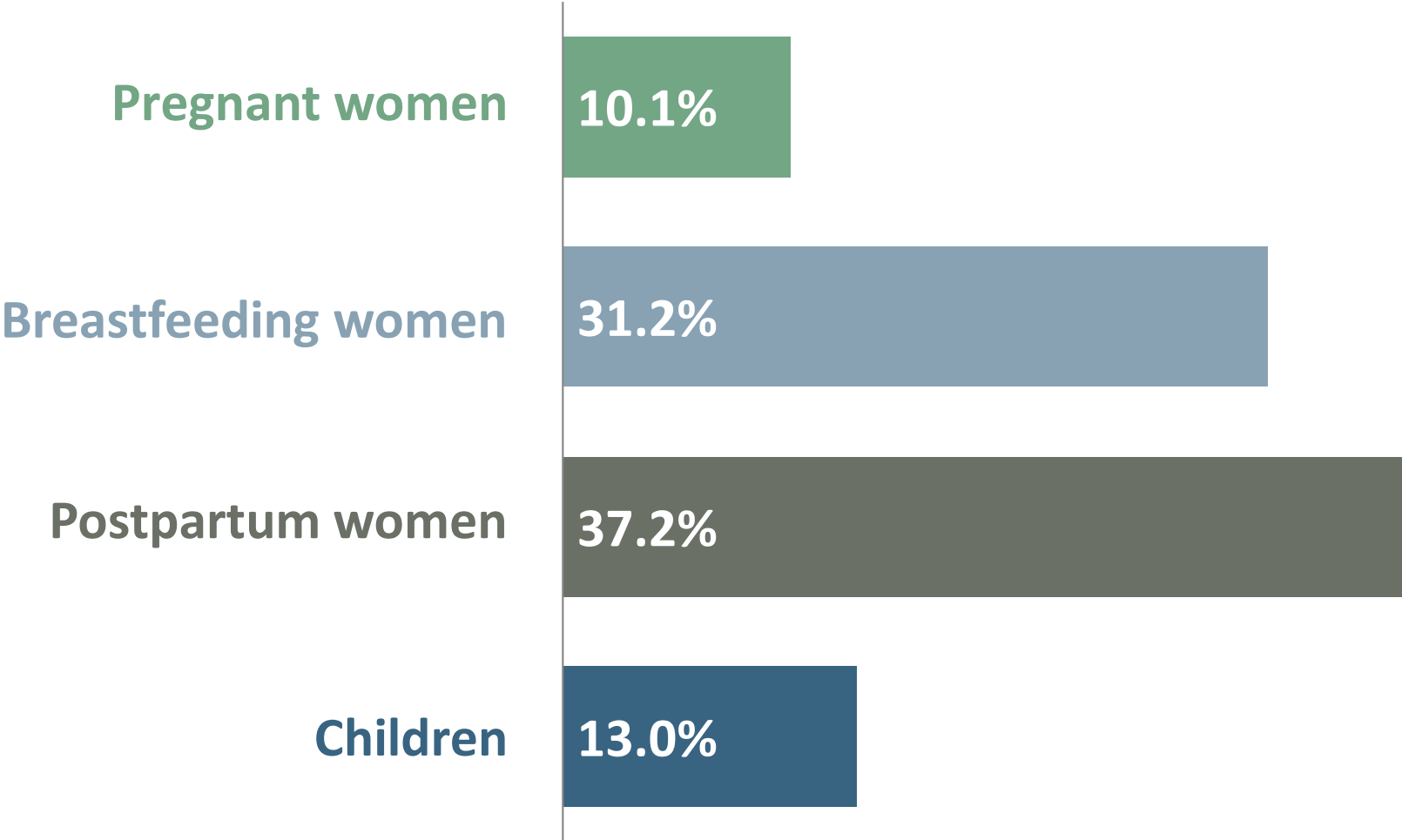


Overweight and obesity among children on WIC aged 2 and older over time



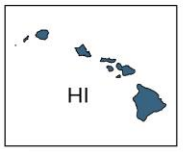
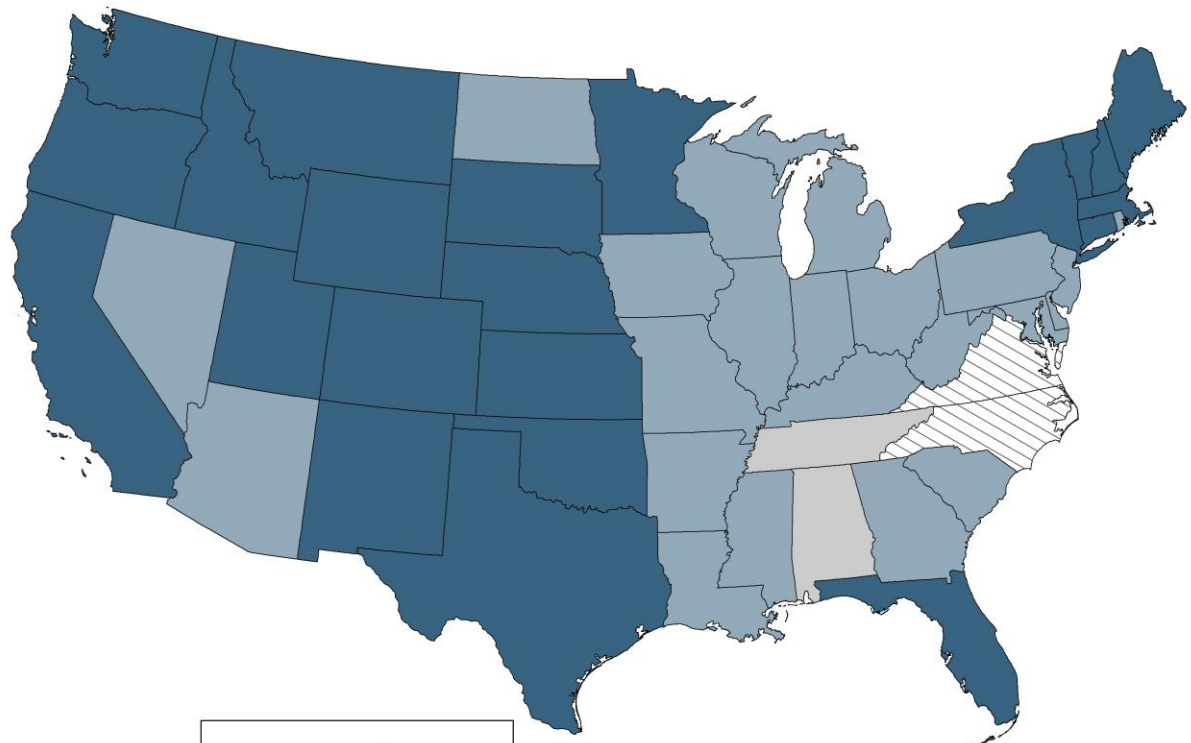
Note: Overweight is defined as at or above the 85th percentile of the CDC growth curves; obese is defined as at or above the 95th percentile.

Anemia Rates in April, 2016



Breastfeeding of WIC infants

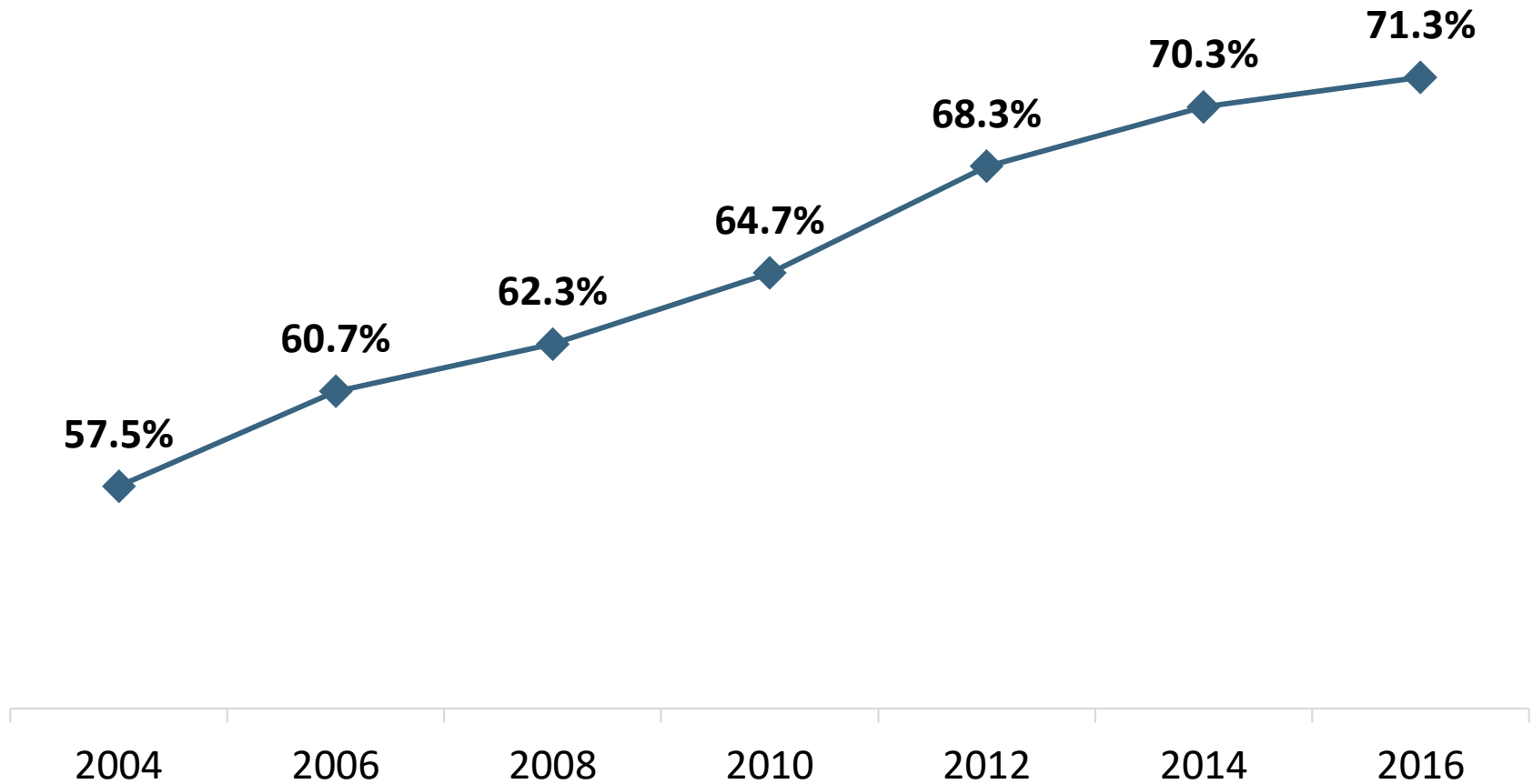
Nationally, 71.0 percent of infants initiated breastfeeding as of April, 2016



Breastfeeding initiation rate



Breastfeeding initiation rates have increased over time among WIC participants



WIC food packages

Food packages

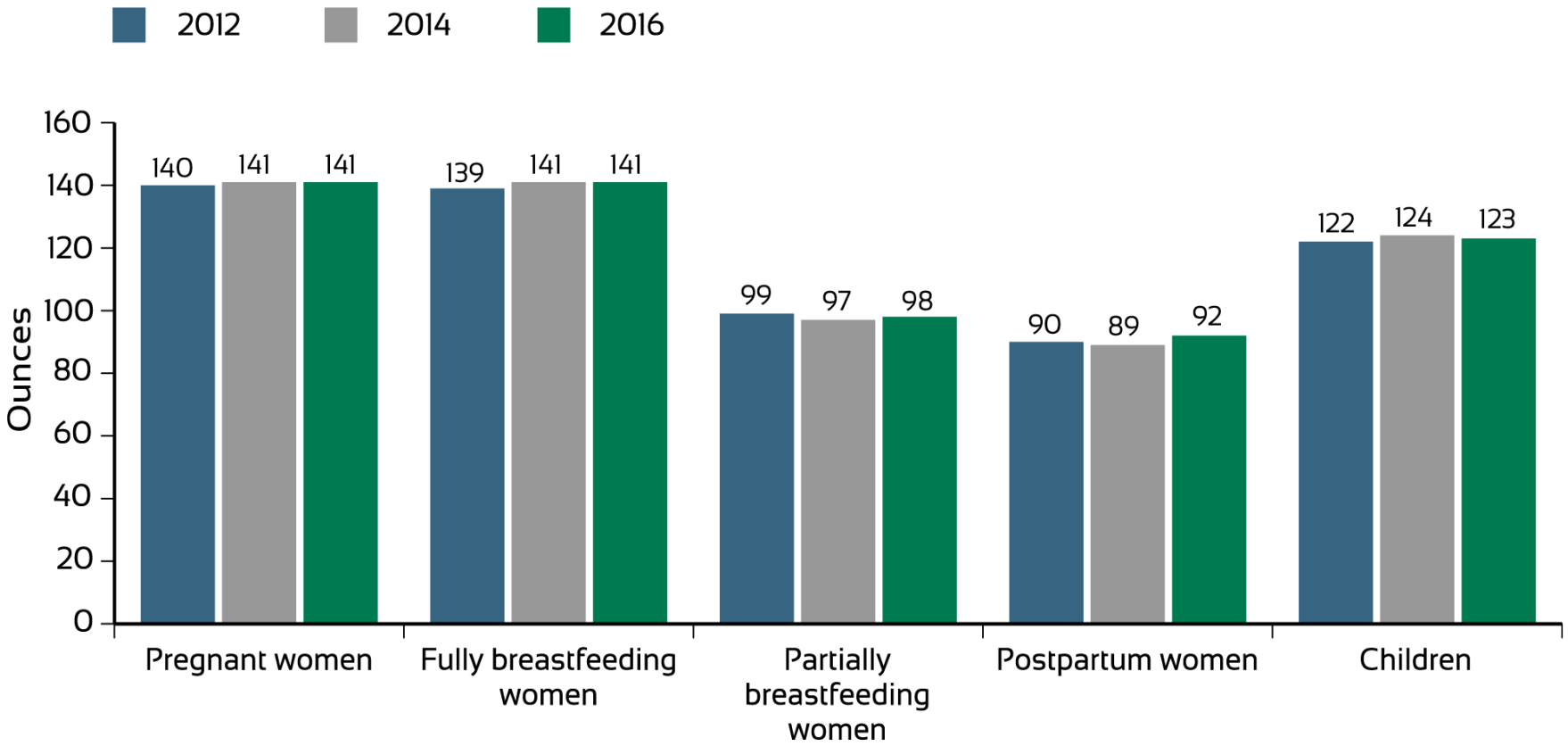
- ▶ WIC-Eligible food categories include:
 - Milk
 - Eggs
 - Cheese
 - Legumes (dry beans)
 - Peanut butter
 - Whole-grain bread
 - Canned fish
 - Breakfast cereal (hot and cold)
 - Juice
 - Infant foods (formula, cereal, fruits, vegetables, and meat)

Substitutions and alternatives

- ▶ Milk
 - Soy-based beverage
 - Tofu
 - Yogurt
- ▶ Legumes (dry beans)
 - Canned beans
- ▶ Whole-grain bread
 - Oats
 - Tortillas
 - Brown rice
 - Bulgur
 - Barley
 - Whole-wheat pasta

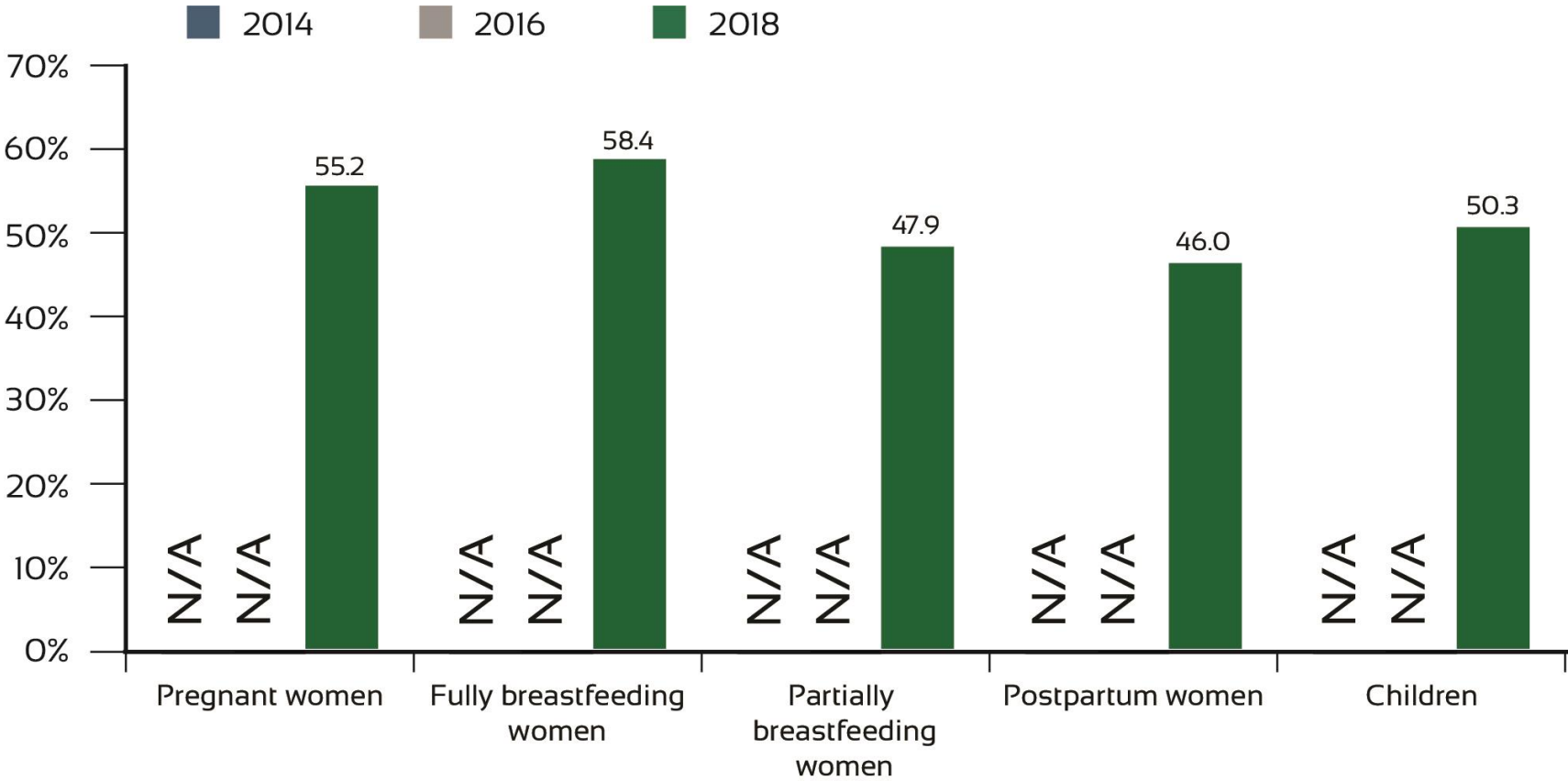
Quantities of foods prescribed have stayed consistent since 2012

Juice



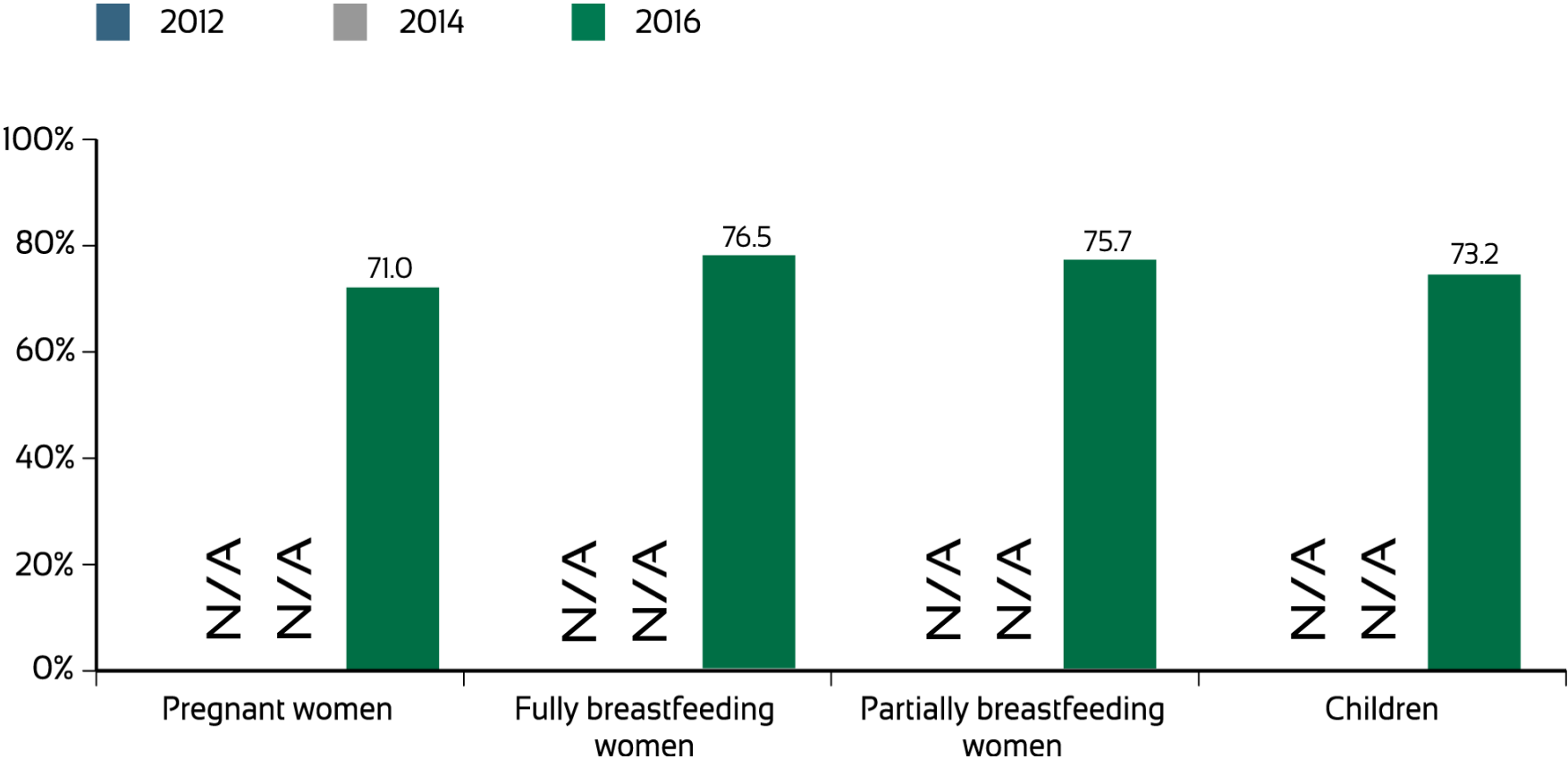
About half of prescriptions included yogurt

Yogurt



About three quarters of prescriptions included whole-wheat pasta

Whole-wheat pasta



WIC PC data products

Uses for PC data

- ▶ FNS Functions
 - Estimating budgets, submitting civil rights reports, identifying research needs, reviewing current and proposed policies and procedures
- ▶ FNS research reports
 - Food Package Costs Report, National- and State-Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and WIC Program Reach
 - Evaluation study sampling frames and weighting
- ▶ Work with others
 - Reports on weight status (CDC)
 - Academic research (public use versions)

What data are available?

- ▶ Nationally representative sample files available for public use
 - PC1992 through PC2016
 - About 60,000 records
- ▶ All the PC data elements except geographic identifiers.
- ▶ PC2018 data will be available in late 2019

Getting the data

- ▶ The reports are located on the FNS website
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/data-research>
- ▶ Data is available by request
OPSDDataRequests@usda.gov

Questions?

Address questions to:

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or

anna.potter@usda.gov