

HOW WIC HELPS MAINE



State WIC Director

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Mission of WIC

Assuring healthy pregnancies, birth outcomes, growth and development for mothers, babies, and young children to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. Providing nutritious supplemental foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, education on healthy eating, and referrals to healthcare and critical social services.



33%

OF INFANTS BORN
IN MAINE
PARTICIPATE IN WIC



55%

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS
IN MAINE
PARTICIPATE IN WIC

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN MAINE?

17,851

WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women.....	1,288
Breastfeeding women.....	1,543
Postpartum women.....	744
Infants.....	3,934
Children.....	10,342

BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Maine WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **19 percent** between 2010 and 2020.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Maine in 2020, **30 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.



Fruit and Vegetable Benefit: Congress enhanced WIC's fruit and vegetable benefit to align with scientific recommendations. Current monthly benefit amounts are \$26 for children, \$47 for pregnant and postpartum participants, and \$52 for breastfeeding participants. In FY 2023, WIC provided an estimated **\$5.1M** in fruit and vegetable benefits to **13,917** participants in Maine.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN MAINE

There was no significant change in the obesity rate among WIC toddlers in Maine between 2010 and 2020.

Childhood obesity rate, WIC toddlers, 2020..... **14%**

MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES IN MAINE

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2021..... **5.0**

Preterm birth rate, 2021..... **9%**

MAINE WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

\$21,935

AVERAGE FAMILY
INCOME

78%

RECEIVED
MEDICAID

\$49.52

AVERAGE
MONTHLY FOOD
COST IN FY 2023

HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE MAINE ECONOMY IN FY 2023

\$10.6M

TO SPEND AT
FOOD RETAILERS

\$3.6M

FORMULA
REBATES
RECEIVED

\$7.6M

NUTRITION,
BREASTFEEDING
SERVICES & ADMIN

Sources: WIC eligible individuals participating from USDA WIC Eligibility Estimates report for 2021 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/eligibility-and-program-reach-estimates-2021>). WIC participants and economic impact from USDA WIC Data Tables for fiscal year (FY) 2023 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>) as of January 30, 2024. Participant characteristics for 2020 and WIC breastfeeding and rates for years displayed from USDA WIC Participant and Program Characteristics reports (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/participant-program-characteristics-2020>). WIC fruit and vegetable benefit calculated as the sum of FY 2023 issuance rates multiplied by average participation rates for each participant category from USDA WIC Data Tables. Maternal mortality from America's Health Rankings (https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/maternal_mortality_c). Infant mortality and preterm birth rate from CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/stats_of_the_states.htm). Obesity outcomes from CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/obesity-among-WIC-enrolled-young-children>).