



# ENSURING THE HIGHEST PROGRAM INTEGRITY IN WIC

WIC’s improper payment totals and payment error rate remain low, underscoring the program’s commitment to accountability and responsible management of federal funds.

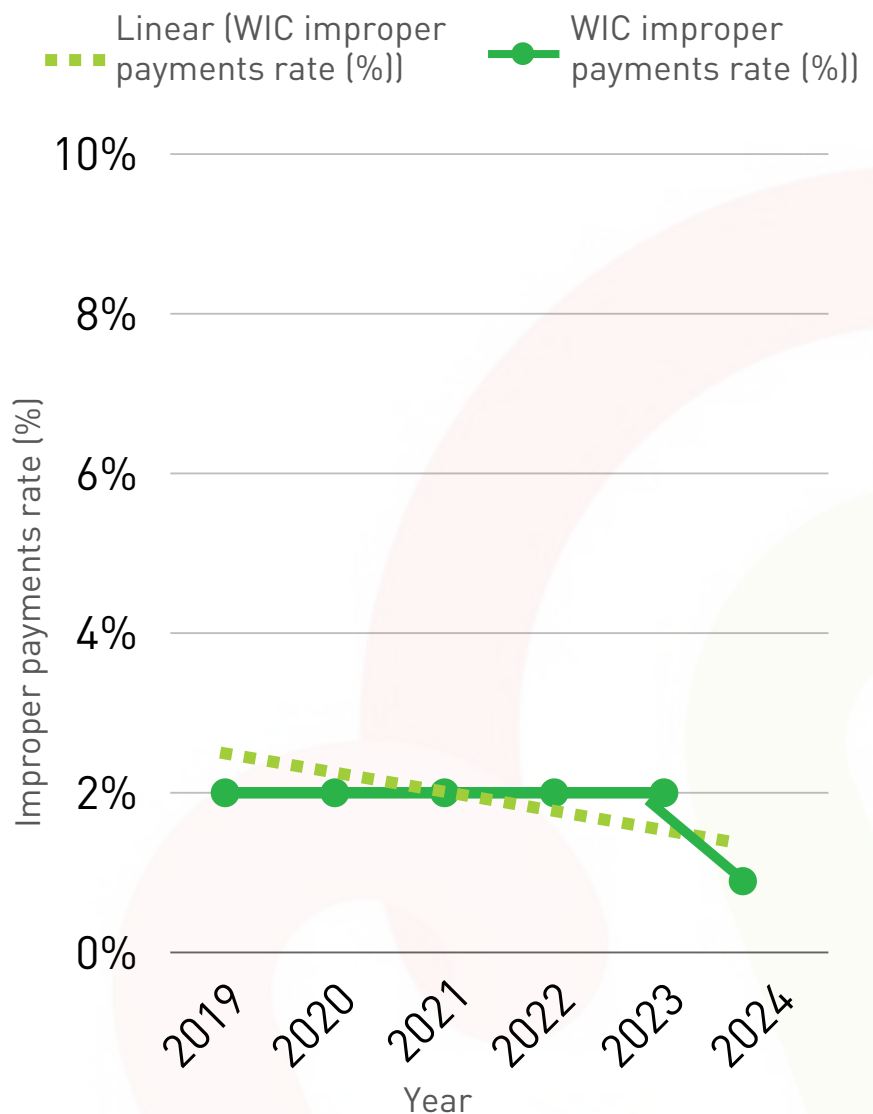
Improper payments is a term used to describe any payment or transfer of funds made by a public program that is either overpaid, underpaid, or issued to the wrong entity. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) regularly audits payments made by federal programs, like WIC, to ensure strong program integrity and accountability with public funds.

Strong program integrity is critical to ensuring that public programs are accurately and efficiently utilizing funds for their intended purpose. The WIC community takes pride in ensuring services and benefits are delivered efficiently and effectively.

WIC’s improper payments by percentage of program spending have consistently been between 1-2% since 2019. In Fiscal Year 2024, the most recent year for which GAO has published data, this number was 1%. For the Fiscal Years where the cause of improper payments was reported on by GAO (Fiscal Years 2021-2024), all improper payments were attributed to overpayments outside of agency control, with no instances of confirmed fraud.

**These findings demonstrate WIC’s reliability in properly allocating federal resources to serve eligible women, infants, and young children.**

GAO categorizes WIC as a low-risk program for fiscal fraud/improper payments. As of Fiscal Year 2024, the payment accuracy rate for WIC was 98.58%.



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office. (n.d.). Annual Improper Payment Datasets: FY 2025. PaymentAccuracy.gov. <https://www.paymentaccuracy.gov/payment-accuracy-the-numbers/>