

# Innovative Partnerships between WIC and the Research Community

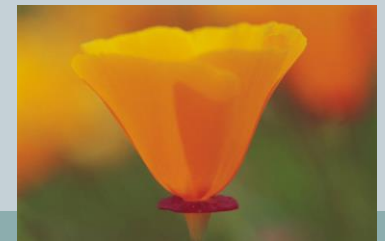


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PHFE WIC PROGRAM

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- **National WIC Association Evaluation Committee**

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# Goal of today's presentation



- NWA Evaluation committee work



- Examples from Los Angeles County



- Importance of WIC research for IOM committee



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# NWA Evaluation Committee



- Annual Research Needs Assessment

- [www.nwica.org](http://www.nwica.org)

- Click on Topics and Resources

- Click on WIC Research Activities



Overview	Recommendations
<p>Historically, the WIC program has benefited greatly from program evaluation and high quality research focused on program impact. Given the current federal fiscal and political landscape and competition for resources, it is crucial for WIC to continue to update, reinforce and expand the rigorous documentation of its positive impacts on the women, infants and young children served by the program, including its cost-effectiveness as a nutrition education and breastfeeding support program. With the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act mandating a WIC food package review every ten years to ensure the package's scientific integrity and appropriateness, research that focuses on the food package and related areas will also be of considerable importance. Significant efforts have been undertaken since 2010 related to WIC research. Following a July 2010 Institute of Medicine (IOM) conference titled "Planning a WIC Research Agenda," the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) embarked on funding numerous studies suggested by the IOM. Similarly, USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) has funded a series of research projects that will further enhance our understanding of the impact of WIC across multiple domains. A listing of currently funded FNS and ERS studies is included in the Appendices.</p> <p>The 2015 WIC Research Needs Assessment highlights areas of research that our community feels will have significant potential to (1) provide essential information to document the program's impact on the women, infants and children served by the program, and/or (2) improve the program's effectiveness.</p>	<p><b>IMPROVE QUALITY AND USE OF WIC ADMINISTRATIVE DATA.</b></p> <p>WIC Programs collect vast amounts of health data through their management information systems (MIS). However, most MIS are not designed for easy data retrieval and analysis. In addition, non-standardized definitions make it difficult to compare variables across states, and efforts to aggregate state-level data for national-level analysis are expensive and time intensive. As tighter budgets have resulted in reduced research funds, it is critical to consider how to make WIC Program data more easily available for both internal programmatic evaluations and for the broader research community that plays an important role in documenting WIC impacts. The sunseting of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Pregnancy and Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance Programs (PnNS/PNSS) has further contributed to a lack of data for program planning and monitoring, for national surveillance, and as a benchmark with which to compare state data. This data vacuum has led many states to consider the need to invest in administrative data systems that can efficiently serve multiple purposes, such as program planning, monitoring surveillance, and research.</p> <p>Given the diversity of state MIS designs and capabilities, a top priority for WIC is to determine the best approach to improving the quality and usability of WIC program data. Such an endeavor is heavily dependent on identification of top research priorities and key variables, careful assessment of data systems and data sharing capacities across WIC programs, and identification of appropriate funding streams. It is also critical to enhance state and local agency WIC Programs'</p>

2015 Please direct all questions to NWA at 202.232.5492 1

# Recommendations

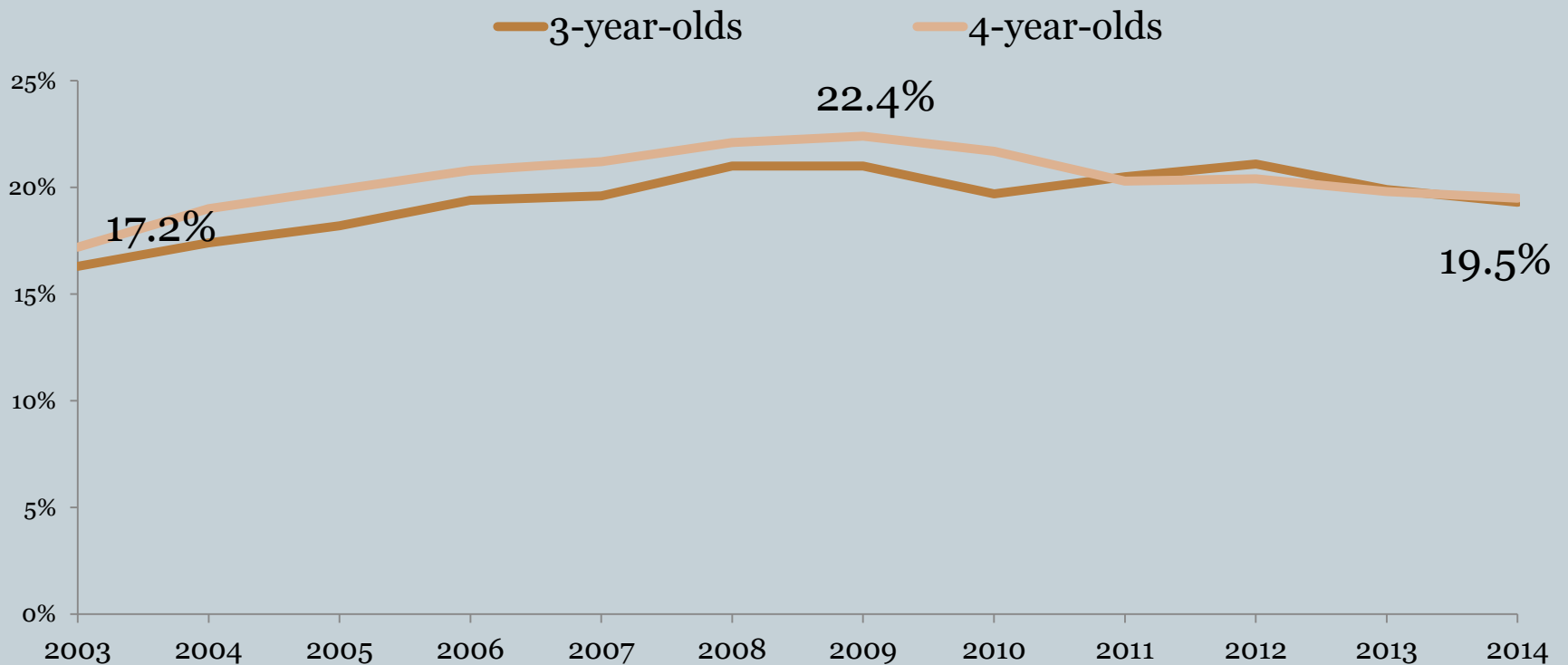


- Improve quality and use of WIC administrative data
- Examine WIC service delivery
  - Nutrition Education
  - EBT
  - Functional Ingredients
- Improve maternal health during peri- and interconceptional periods
- Examine obesity trend and WIC's impact on obesity

# Examples from Los Angeles: Obesity Rates



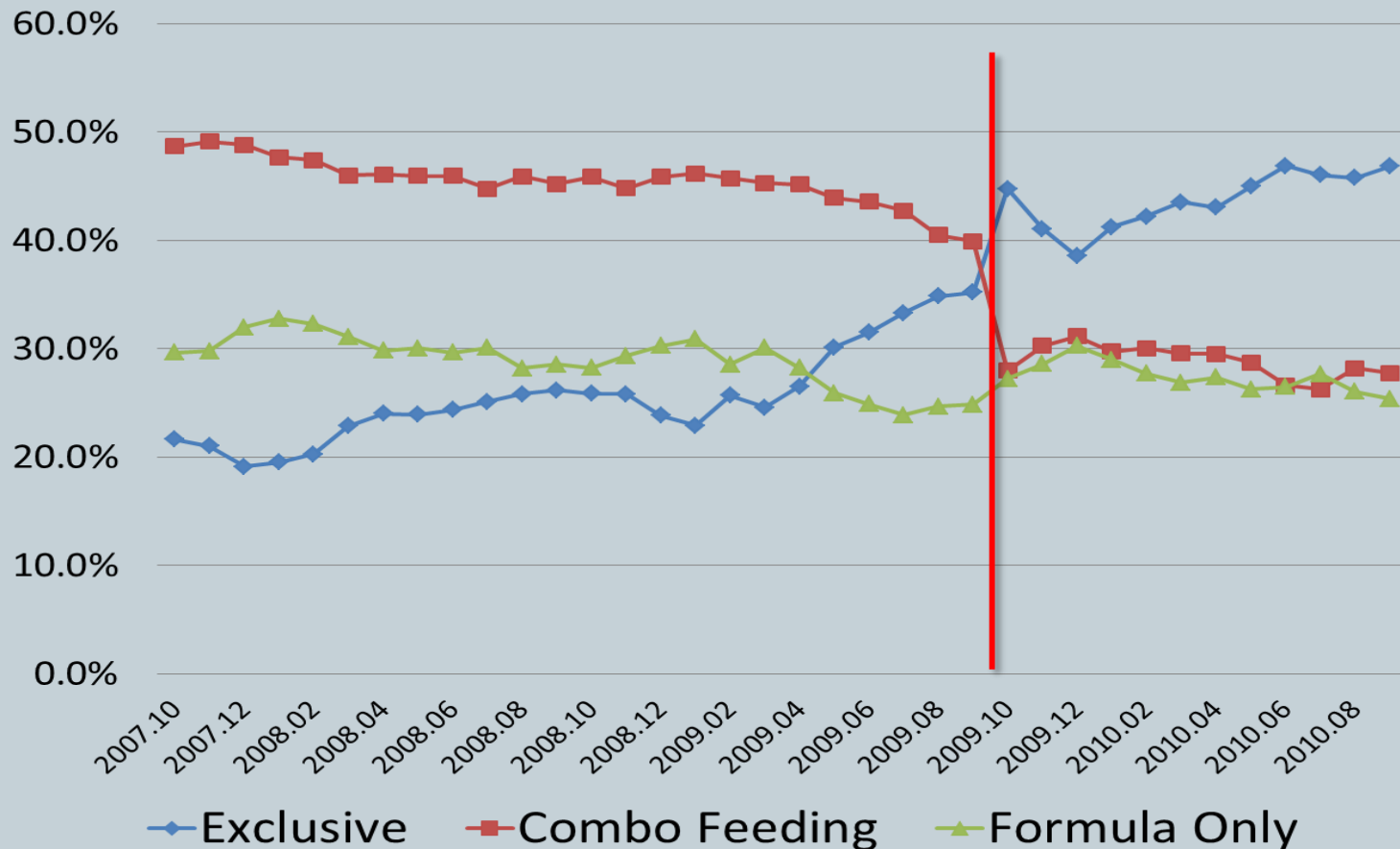
## % Obese among WIC Children, LA County, 2003-2014



# Examples from Los Angeles: Breastfeeding



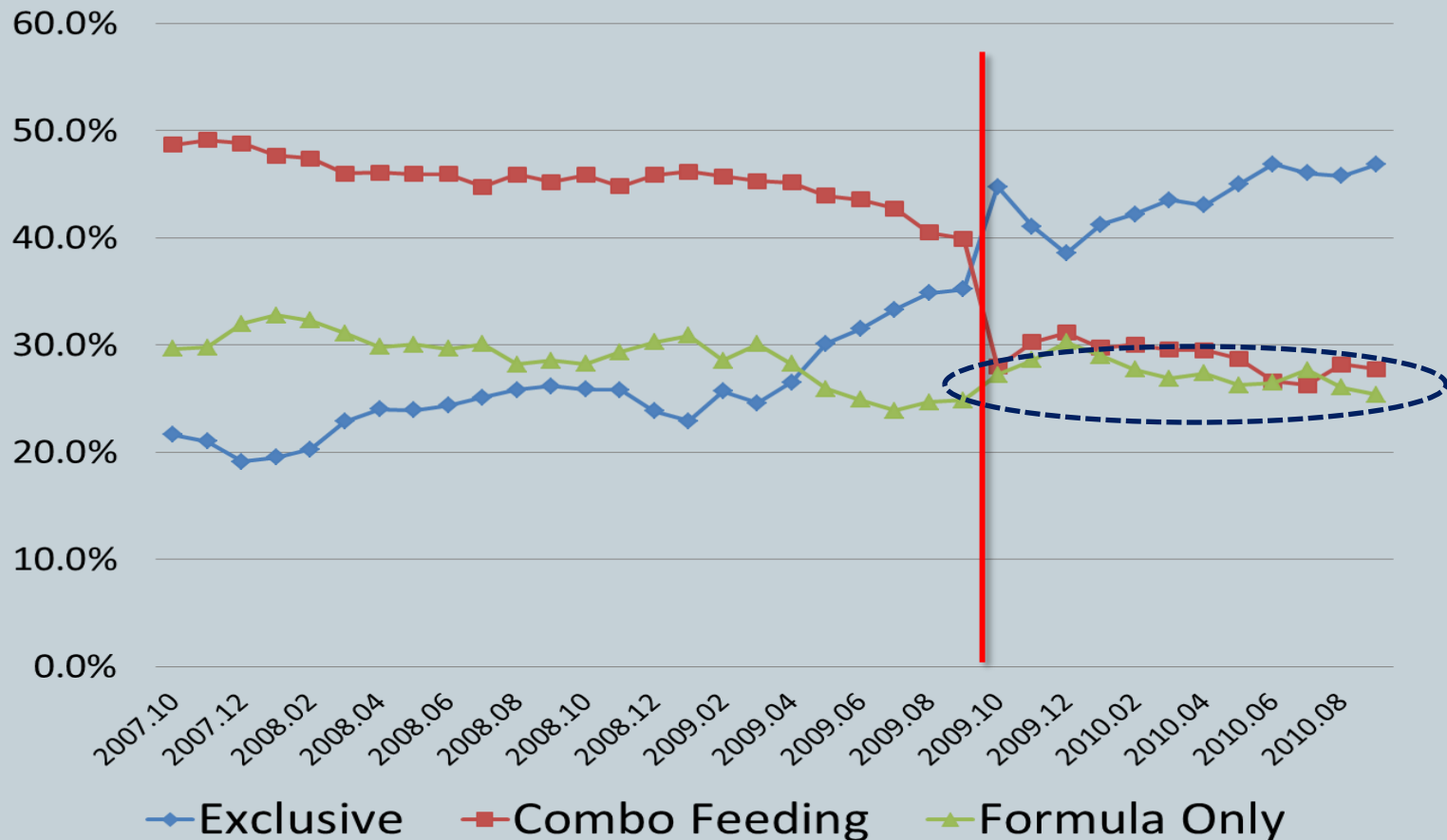
## Breastfeeding Rates at Enrollment



# Examples from Los Angeles: Breastfeeding



## Breastfeeding Rates at Enrollment





# 2014-2017 IOM Review of WIC Food Packages



- Letter Report on White Potatoes (released Feb 2015)
- Phase I Report (2016)
  - Description of the evidence-based review of dietary and energy intake analyses, data on breastfeeding trends and variability, and food expenditure analysis. Will recommend general food groups that could be used to address specific nutritional deficits.
  - Public Comment session: June 25, 2015 in Irvine, CA
  - Written comment accepted any time: [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu)
- Phase II (2017)
  - Utilize the previous 2 reports to recommend revisions for WIC Food Packages that are culturally suitable, cost-neutral, efficient for nationwide distribution, and non-burdensome to administration.

# In closing...





**I welcome your ideas**

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