

HOW WIC HELPS

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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.



40%

OF INFANTS BORN IN THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATE IN WIC



51%

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATE IN WIC

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?

6,575,498

WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women.....	534,264
Breastfeeding women.....	597,335
Postpartum women.....	354,908
Infants.....	1,470,032
Children.....	3,618,959

BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

The United States WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **10 percent** between 2010 and 2020.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in the U.S. in 2020, **22 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 **\$1.9B** in fruit and vegetable benefits to **5,105,466** participants in the United States.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The obesity rate among WIC toddlers in the United States decreased **9 percent** between 2010 and 2020.

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

MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2017-2021... **22.4**

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2021..... **5.4**

Preterm birth rate, 2021..... **10%**

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

\$20,398

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME

74%

RECEIVED MEDICAID

\$56.02

AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD COST IN FY 2023

HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY IN FY 2023

\$4.4B

TO SPEND AT FOOD RETAILERS

\$1.6B

FORMULA REBATES RECEIVED

\$2.2B

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>).