

# HOW WIC HELPS ALABAMA



## State WIC Director

Allison Hatchett  
Division of WIC,  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0001

Phone: 800-654-1385

Email: [allison.hatchett@adph.state.al.us](mailto:allison.hatchett@adph.state.al.us)

## 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.

### COVID-19 Response

Alabama WIC received at least 7 waivers, including physical presence and larger package sizes for whole grains.



# 60%

of infants born in Alabama participated in WIC in 2017



# 53%

of eligible individuals in Alabama participated in WIC in 2017

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC?

# 130,739

## WIC PARTICIPANTS

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Pregnant women      | 14,393 |
| Breastfeeding women | 4,044  |
| Postpartum women    | 13,992 |
| Infants             | 35,438 |
| Children            | 62,872 |

Alabama WIC participation in 2018

## BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Alabama WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **3 percentage points** between 2010 and 2018.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Alabama in 2018, **23 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

## CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN ALABAMA

The obesity rate among WIC toddlers in Alabama increased by **<1 percentage point** between 2010 and 2016.

Obesity rate among WIC toddlers, 2016 **16%**

## MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES IN ALABAMA

Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2010–2015 **11.9**

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2017 **8.2**

Preterm birth rates, 2017 **12%**

## ALABAMA WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

**\$17,111**  
average family income in 2018

**71%**  
received Medicaid in 2018

**\$44.32**  
average monthly food cost in FY 2019

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE ALABAMA ECONOMY IN FY 2019

**\$61.4M**  
to spend at food retailers

**\$33.2M**  
formula rebates received

**\$27.6M**  
nutrition, breastfeeding services & admin

Sources: CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2019;68:1057-1061 ([cdc.gov/mmwr/](http://cdc.gov/mmwr/)) for childhood obesity in WIC. CDC WONDER ([wonder.cdc.gov](http://wonder.cdc.gov)) for mortality and birth outcomes. National WIC Association ([nwica.org](http://nwica.org)) for total infants participating in state. USDA 2017 WIC Eligibility Estimates report ([fns.usda.gov/wic/national-and-state-level-estimates-wic-eligibility-and-wic-program-reach-2017](http://fns.usda.gov/wic/national-and-state-level-estimates-wic-eligibility-and-wic-program-reach-2017)) for percent of eligible individuals participating. USDA FNS WIC Program Data FY 2019 ([fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program](http://fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program)) as of January 19, 2021. USDA WIC Participant and Program Characteristics reports for years displayed.

