

HOW WIC HELPS ALASKA



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.

COVID-19 Response

Alaska WIC received at least 10 waivers, including physical presence and flexibility for mailed food packages.



39%

of infants born in Alaska participated in WIC in 2017



39%

of eligible individuals in Alaska participated in WIC in 2017

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC?

18,963

WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women	1,591
Breastfeeding women	1,988
Postpartum women	813
Infants	4,037
Children	10,534

Alaska WIC participation in 2018

BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Alaska WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **15 percentage points** between 1998 and 2018.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Alaska in 2018, **7 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN ALASKA

The obesity rate among WIC toddlers in Alaska decreased by **1 percentage point** between 2010 and 2016.

Obesity rate among WIC toddlers, 2016 **20%**

MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES IN ALASKA

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2017 **5.5**

Preterm birth rates, 2017 **9%**

ALASKA WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

\$26,638
average family income in 2018

\$54.52
average monthly food cost in FY 2019

HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE ALASKA ECONOMY IN FY 2019

\$10.5M
to spend at food retailers

\$2.5M
formula rebates received

\$7.5M
nutrition, breastfeeding services & admin

Sources: CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2019;68:1057-1061 (cdc.gov/mmwr/) for childhood obesity in WIC. CDC WONDER (wonder.cdc.gov) for mortality and birth outcomes. National WIC Association (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) for percent of eligible individuals participating. USDA FNS WIC Program Data FY 2019 (fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program) as of January 19, 2021. USDA WIC Participant and Program Characteristics reports for years displayed.

