

# HOW WIC HELPS HAWAII



## State WIC Director

Melanie Murakami  
235 S. Beretania St, 701,  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 808-586-8191

Email: melanie.murakami@doh.hawaii.gov

## 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

Hawaii WIC completed EBT/e-WIC rollout during the pandemic. Hawaii received at least 11 waivers, including physical presence and extended certification periods for children.



# 42%

of infants born in Hawaii participated in WIC in 2017



# 43%

of eligible individuals in Hawaii participated in WIC in 2017

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC?

# 32,197

## WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women	2,479
Breastfeeding women	3,455
Postpartum women	1,388
Infants	7,276
Children	17,599

Hawaii WIC participation in 2018

## BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Hawaii WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **4 percentage points** between 2010 and 2018.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Hawaii in 2018, **35 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

## CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN HAWAII

The obesity rate among WIC toddlers in Hawaii decreased by **<1 percentage points** between 2010 and 2016.

Obesity rate among WIC toddlers, 2016 **10%**

## MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES IN HAWAII

Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2010–2015 **11.7**

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2017 **5.7**

Preterm birth rates, 2017 **10%**

## HAWAII WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

**\$26,215**  
average family income in 2018

**69%**  
received Medicaid in 2018

**\$54.82**  
average monthly food cost in FY 2019

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE HAWAII ECONOMY IN FY 2019

**\$16.8M**  
to spend at food retailers

**\$5.8M**  
formula rebates received

**\$9.2M**  
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.

