

# HOW WIC HELPS ILLINOIS



## 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

Illinois WIC completed EBT/e-WIC rollout during the pandemic. Illinois received at least 9 waivers, including physical presence and larger package sizes for whole grains.



# 42%

of infants born in Illinois participated in WIC in 2017



# 42%

of eligible individuals in Illinois participated in WIC in 2017

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC?

# 232,543

## WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women	19,362
Breastfeeding women	17,452
Postpartum women	20,014
Infants	62,601
Children	113,114

Illinois WIC participation in 2018

## BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Illinois WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **9 percentage points** between 2010 and 2018.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Illinois in 2018, **22 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

## CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN ILLINOIS

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

Obesity rate among WIC toddlers, 2016 **15%**

## MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES IN ILLINOIS

Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2010–2015 **16.6**

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2017 **6.3**

Preterm birth rates, 2017 **10%**

## ILLINOIS WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

**\$17,342**  
average family income in 2018

**86%**  
received Medicaid in 2018

**\$48.76**  
average monthly food cost in FY 2019

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY IN FY 2019

**\$106.7M**  
to spend at food retailers

**\$61.7M**  
formula rebates received

**\$52.2M**  
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.

