

HOW WIC HELPS ARKANSAS



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.



52% OF INFANTS BORN IN ARKANSAS PARTICIPATE IN WIC



40% OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN ARKANSAS PARTICIPATE IN WIC

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN ARKANSAS?

62,949

WIC PARTICIPANTS

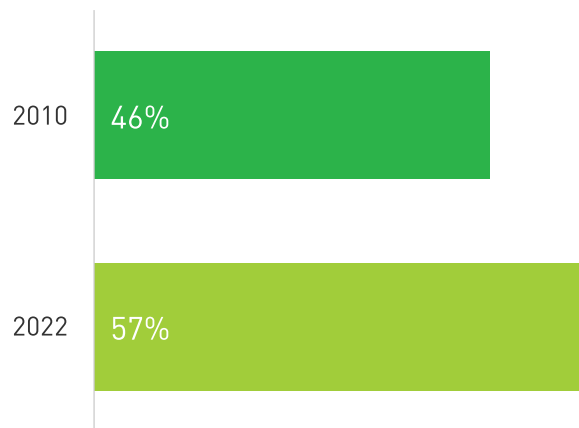
Pregnant women.....	6,345
Breastfeeding women...	3,427
Postpartum women.....	5,353
Infants.....	16,748
Children.....	31,077

MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES

Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2018-2022...	38.3
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2022.....	7.7
Preterm birth rate, 2022.....	12%

BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Arkansas WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **24 percent** between 2010 and 2022.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Arkansas in 2022, **13 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

ARKANSAS WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

\$20,875	\$62.25	77%
AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME	AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD COST IN 2024	RECEIVED MEDICAID

HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE ARKANSAS ECONOMY IN FY 2024

\$47.0M	\$13.2M	\$22.8M
TO SPEND AT FOOD RETAILERS	FORMULA REBATES RECEIVED	NUTRITION, BREASTFEEDING SERVICES & ADMIN

Sources: WIC eligible individuals participating from USDA WIC Eligibility Estimates report for 2022 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/research/wic/ee-2022>). WIC participants and economic impact from USDA WIC Data Tables for fiscal year (FY) 2024 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>) as of January 21, 2025. Participant characteristics for 2022 and WIC breastfeeding and rates for years displayed from USDA WIC Participant and Program Characteristics reports (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/research/wic/participant-program-characteristics-2022>). 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).