

# HOW WIC HELPS ILLINOIS



## State WIC Director

Stephanie Bess  
823 E Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62701

217.524.3353  
stephanie.bess@illinois.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.



**38%** OF INFANTS BORN IN ILLINOIS PARTICIPATE IN WIC



**39%** OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN ILLINOIS PARTICIPATE IN WIC

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN ILLINOIS?

**170,102**

WIC PARTICIPANTS

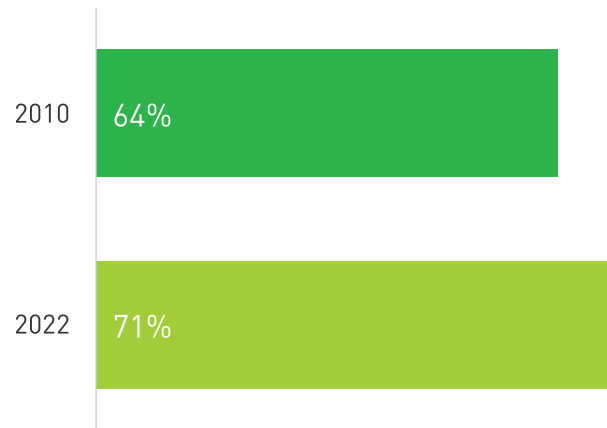
Pregnant women.....	<b>15,634</b>
Breastfeeding women...	<b>14,711</b>
Postpartum women.....	<b>9,005</b>
Infants.....	<b>44,354</b>
Children.....	<b>86,399</b>

## MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES

Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2018-2022...	<b>18.1</b>
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2022.....	<b>5.6</b>
Preterm birth rate, 2022.....	<b>11%</b>

## BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Illinois WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **11 percent** between 2010 and 2022.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Illinois in 2022, **16 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

## ILLINOIS WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

<b>\$34,579</b>	<b>\$62.32</b>	<b>62%</b>
AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME	AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD COST IN 2024	RECEIVED MEDICAID

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY IN FY 2024

<b>\$127.2M</b>	<b>\$57.5M</b>	<b>\$53.4M</b>
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](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](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/stats_of_the_states.htm)).