

# HOW WIC HELPS RHODE ISLAND



## State WIC Director

Ann Barone  
3 Capitol Hill, Room 303  
Providence, RI 02908

401.222.4604  
ann.barone@health.ri.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.



**43%**

OF INFANTS BORN  
IN RHODE ISLAND  
PARTICIPATE IN WIC



**54%**

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS  
IN RHODE ISLAND  
PARTICIPATE IN WIC

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN RHODE ISLAND?

**17,986**

WIC  
PARTICIPANTS

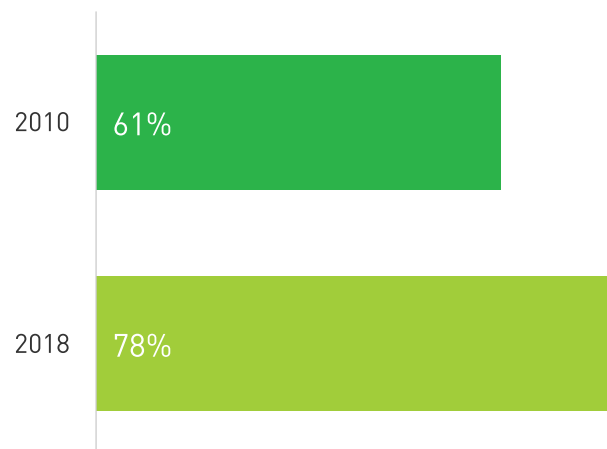
Pregnant women.....	1,416
Breastfeeding women...	1,337
Postpartum women.....	1,133
Infants.....	3,908
Children.....	10,193

## MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2022.....	3.9
Preterm birth rate, 2022.....	9%

## BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Rhode Island WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **29 percent** between 2010 and 2018.



**Online Shopping:** Rhode Island WIC is progressing towards a successful WIC online shopping project by partnering with WIC software provider JPMA, WIC EBT (eWIC) processor FIS/CDP, Connecticut WIC, West Virginia WIC, and a consultant project management organization to identify a WIC-authorized vendor to participate in a curbside pickup model, with RI serving as the lead WIC state agency. Additionally, the project team will conduct listening sessions with project partners and subject matter experts to understand participant needs, wants, and shopping habits, and to determine possible implications of a WIC online shopping project on EBT and MIS systems.

## RHODE ISLAND WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

**\$16,376**

AVERAGE FAMILY  
INCOME

**\$60.03**

AVERAGE  
MONTHLY FOOD  
COST IN 2024

**70%**

RECEIVED  
MEDICAID

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE RHODE ISLAND ECONOMY IN FY 2024

**\$13.0M**

TO SPEND AT FOOD  
RETAILERS

**\$4.9M**

FORMULA REBATES  
RECEIVED

**\$6.9M**

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)). Online shopping from Center for Nutrition and Health Impact (<https://www.wicshopplus.org/projects>).