

# HOW WIC HELPS COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



## State WIC Director

Marie Attao  
PO Box 502509  
Saipan, MP 96950

670.664.4067  
marie.attao@chcc.health

### 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.



**45%**

OF INFANTS BORN IN  
THE UNITED STATES  
PARTICIPATE IN WIC



**54%**

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS  
IN THE UNITED STATES  
PARTICIPATE IN WIC

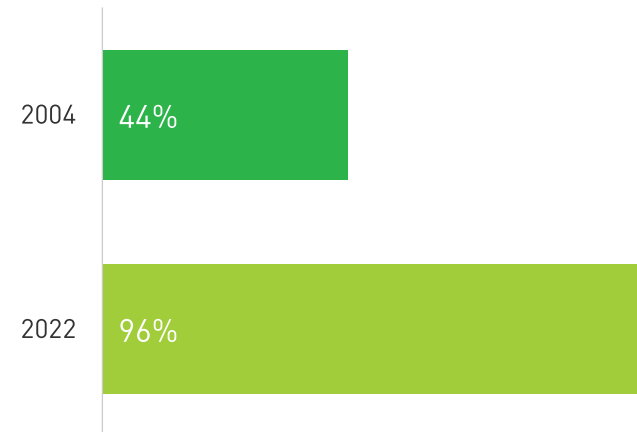
## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS?

**2,658**  
WIC  
PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women.....	<b>214</b>
Breastfeeding women.....	<b>237</b>
Postpartum women.....	<b>94</b>
Infants.....	<b>448</b>
Children.....	<b>1,665</b>

## BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

The Northern Mariana Islands WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **119 percent** between 2004 and 2022.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in CNMI in 2022, **43 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

**\$17,812**

AVERAGE FAMILY  
INCOME

**\$86.50**

AVERAGE  
MONTHLY FOOD  
COST IN 2024

**74%**

RECEIVED  
MEDICAID

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE CNMI ECONOMY IN FY 2024

**\$2.8M**

TO SPEND AT FOOD  
RETAILERS

**\$536,441**

FORMULA REBATES  
RECEIVED

**\$1.5M**

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)).