

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.



38%

OF INFANTS BORN
IN RHODE ISLAND
PARTICIPATE IN WIC



61%

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS
IN RHODE ISLAND
PARTICIPATE IN WIC

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN RHODE ISLAND?

18,221

 WIC PARTICIPANTS

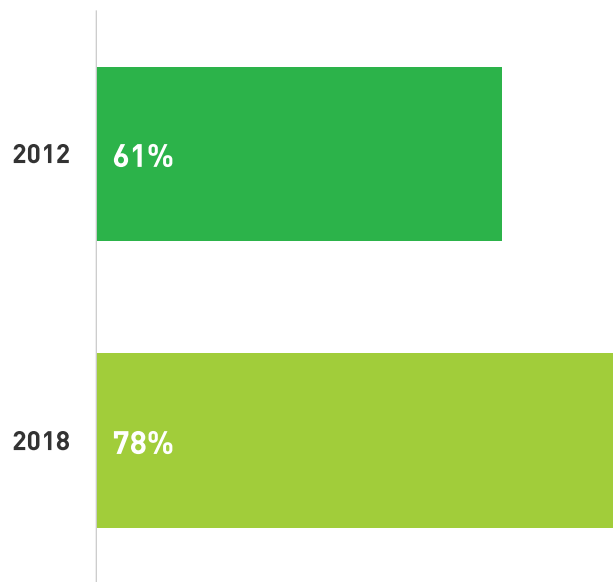
Pregnant women.....	1,466
Breastfeeding women.....	1,398
Postpartum women.....	1,019
Infants.....	3,826
Children.....	10,512

MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES

Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2019-2023....	19.7
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2023.....	4.8
Preterm birth rate, 2023.....	10%

BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Rhode Island WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **28 percent** between 2012 and 2018.



RHODE ISLAND WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

\$16,376

AVERAGE FAMILY
INCOME

\$62

AVERAGE
MONTHLY FOOD
COST IN FY 2025

70%

RECEIVED
MEDICAID

HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE RHODE ISLAND ECONOMY IN FY 2025

\$18.5M

WIC FOOD AND
FORMULA BENEFITS

\$7.4M

NUTRITION, BREASTFEEDING
SERVICES, AND PROGRAM
OPERATIONS

Sources: WIC eligible individuals participating from USDA WIC Eligibility Estimates report for 2023 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/research/wic/eer-2023>). WIC participants and economic impact from USDA WIC Data Tables for fiscal year (FY) 2025 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>) as of January 20, 2026. 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).