

# HOW WIC HELPS PUERTO RICO



## State WIC Director

Jeanette Canino  
268 Ave Munoz Rivera  
San Juan, PR 00918

787.766.2805  
jcanino@salud.pr.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.



**41%**

OF INFANTS BORN IN THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATE IN WIC



**84%**

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN PUERTO RICO PARTICIPATE IN WIC

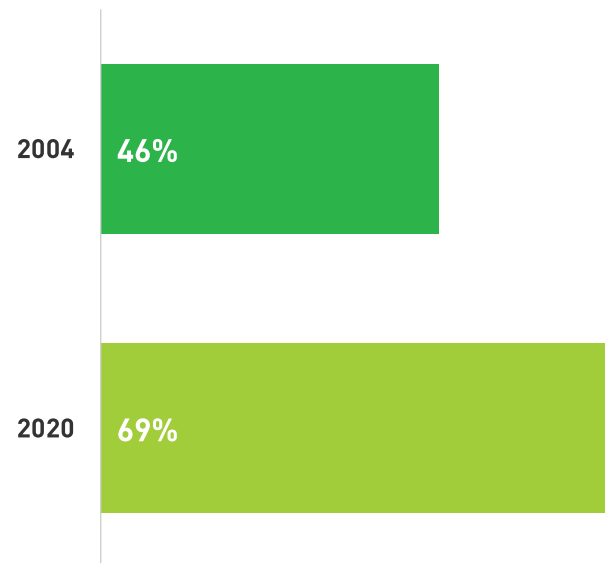
## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN PUERTO RICO?

**87,036** WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women.....	8,204
Breastfeeding women.....	5,064
Postpartum women.....	4,891
Infants.....	14,076
Children.....	54,801

## BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Puerto Rico WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **50 percent** between 2004 and 2020.



## PUERTO RICO WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

**\$8,646**

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME

**\$164**

AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD COST IN FY 2025

**59%**

RECEIVED MEDICAID

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE PUERTO RICO ECONOMY IN FY 2025

**\$175.2M**

WIC FOOD AND FORMULA BENEFITS

**\$36.7M**

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>). 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)).