

HOW WIC HELPS ARKANSAS



State WIC Director

Mitzi Fritschen
5800 W 10th Street, Suite 300
Little Rock, AR 72204

501.661.2598
mitzi.fritschen@arkansas.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.



48%

OF INFANTS BORN
IN ARKANSAS
PARTICIPATE IN WIC



35%

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS
IN ARKANSAS
PARTICIPATE IN WIC

WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN ARKANSAS?

62,158

WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women.....	6,292
Breastfeeding women.....	3,354
Postpartum women.....	5,475
Infants.....	16,891
Children.....	30,146

BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

Arkansas WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **24 percent** between 2010 and 2022.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in Arkansas in 2022, **13 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.



Fruit and Vegetable Benefit: Congress enhanced WIC's fruit and vegetable benefit to align with scientific recommendations. Current monthly benefit amounts are \$26 for children, \$47 for pregnant and postpartum participants, and \$52 for breastfeeding participants. In FY 2023, WIC provided an estimated **\$17.2M** in fruit and vegetable benefits to **45,267** participants in Arkansas.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN ARKANSAS

There was no significant change in the obesity rate among WIC toddlers in Arkansas between 2010 and 2020.

Childhood obesity rate, WIC toddlers, 2020..... **14%**

MORTALITY AND BIRTH OUTCOMES IN ARKANSAS

Maternal mortality per 100,000 births, 2017-2021... **40.6**

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 2021..... **8.6**

Preterm birth rate, 2021..... **12%**

ARKANSAS WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

\$20,875

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME

77%

RECEIVED MEDICAID

\$52.55

AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD COST IN FY 2023

HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE ARKANSAS ECONOMY IN FY 2023

\$39.2M

TO SPEND AT FOOD RETAILERS

\$17.0M

FORMULA REBATES RECEIVED

\$24.7M

NUTRITION, BREASTFEEDING SERVICES & ADMIN

Sources: WIC eligible individuals participating from USDA WIC Eligibility Estimates report for 2021 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/eligibility-and-program-reach-estimates-2021>). WIC participants and economic impact from USDA WIC Data Tables for fiscal year (FY) 2023 (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program>) as of June 20, 2024. 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>). WIC fruit and vegetable benefit calculated as the sum of FY 2023 issuance rates multiplied by average participation rates for each participant category from USDA WIC Data Tables. 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). Obesity outcomes from CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/obesity-among-WIC-enrolled-young-children>).