

# HOW WIC HELPS

# THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS



## State WIC Director

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### 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.



# 67%

OF INFANTS BORN  
IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS  
PARTICIPATE IN WIC



# 51%

OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS  
IN THE UNITED STATES  
PARTICIPATE IN WIC

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN WIC IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS?

# 2,550

### WIC PARTICIPANTS

Pregnant women.....	177
Breastfeeding women.....	392
Postpartum women.....	62
Infants.....	606
Children.....	1,313

### BREASTFEEDING IN WIC

The U.S. Virgin Islands WIC breastfeeding initiation rates increased by **14 percent** between 2008 and 2022.



Among WIC infants who initiated breastfeeding in USVI in 2022, **61 percent** continued breastfeeding at 6 months.

### CHILDHOOD OBESITY IN WIC IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Childhood obesity rate, WIC toddlers, 2020..... **12%**



**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 **\$750,588** in fruit and vegetable benefits to **1,944** participants in USVI.

## THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS WIC PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

# \$17,701

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME

# 47%

RECEIVED MEDICAID

# \$76.92

AVERAGE MONTHLY FOOD COST IN FY 2023

## HOW WIC SUPPORTED THE USVI ECONOMY IN FY 2023

# \$2.4M

TO SPEND AT FOOD RETAILERS

# \$720,643

FORMULA REBATES RECEIVED

# \$1.9M

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](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)). Obesity outcomes from CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/obesity-among-WIC-enrolled-young-children>).