



HER NOPREN

Summer Speaker Series for Students – WIC Overview



USDA WIC Overview Panelists

Moderator: Beth Racine, DrPH, RDN, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and HER NOPREN WIC Learning Collaborative Co-Chair

Panelists:

- **Elisabet, Eppes, MPH, Program Innovation Director, National WIC Association**
- **Caroline Dunn, PhD, RDN, Research Associate, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and HER NOPREN COVID-19 School Nutrition Implications Working Group Fellow**
- **Courtney Paolicelli, DrPH, RDN, Team Lead, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Office of Policy Support WIC Research and Evaluation Team**
- **Ruth Morgan, MPH, Social Science Research Analyst, USDA Food and Nutrition Service Office of Policy Support WIC Research and Evaluation Team**

What is WIC?

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

WIC serves about half of all infants born in the United States

[PROGRAMS](#) > [WIC](#)

Am I Eligible for WIC?

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

[How to Apply](#)

[Learn More About WIC](#)



WIC Legislative History

- **1972 - Child Nutrition Act Establishes WIC Pilot Program**
- **1974 - WIC Becomes Permanent**
 - **Nutrition Education Mandate**
 - **Programmatic Changes**
- **1978 - Income Eligibility Guidelines Set; Funding Formulas for States**
- **1992 - Foods for Breastfeeding Women Expanded**
- **1994 - Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994**
- **2009 Interim Rule Revised the WIC Food Packages**
- **2014 Final Rule Added More Options to WIC Food Packages**

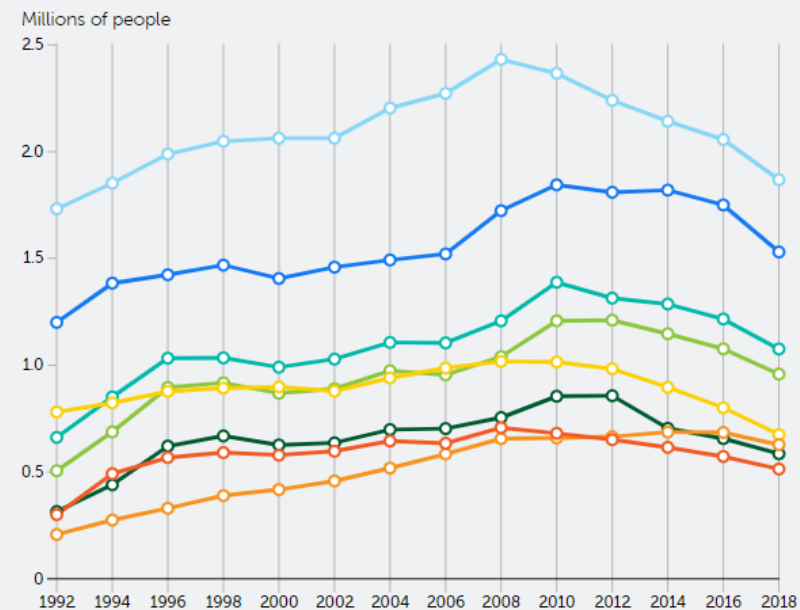
WIC Participation

WIC PARTICIPATION, 1992–2018

SHOW PARTICIPANTS
BY CATEGORY

SHOW PARTICIPANTS
BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Hover over the lines to see the number of participants for each year



Infants	1-year-old children	2-year-old children	3-year-old children	4-year-old children
All children	Pregnant women	Breastfeeding women	Postpartum women	All participants

WIC Eligibility & Coverage

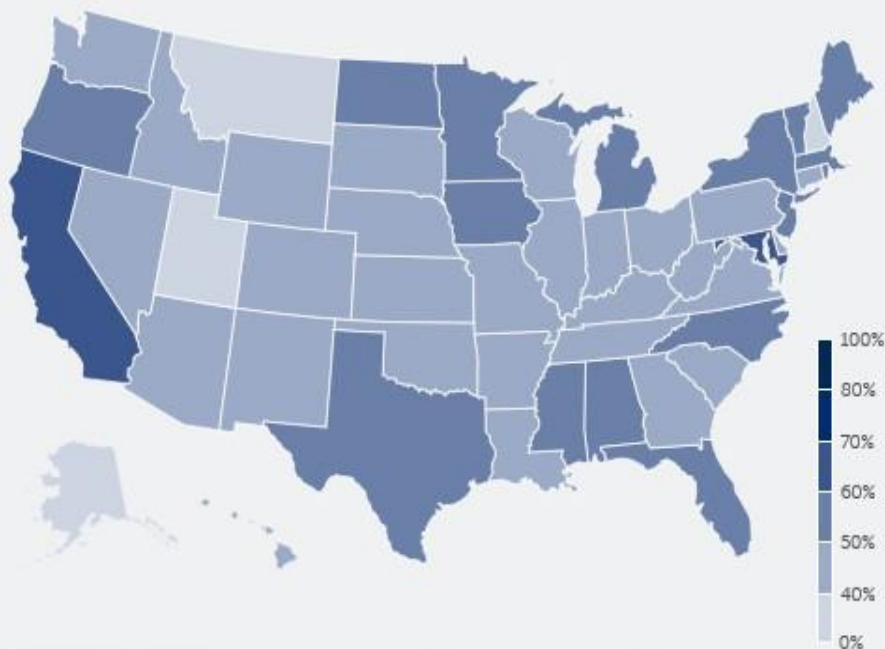
2017 WIC Coverage Rates by State, All categories

NATIONAL TOTAL

NUMBER ELIGIBLE
14,072,100

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
7,184,100

COVERAGE RATE
51.1%



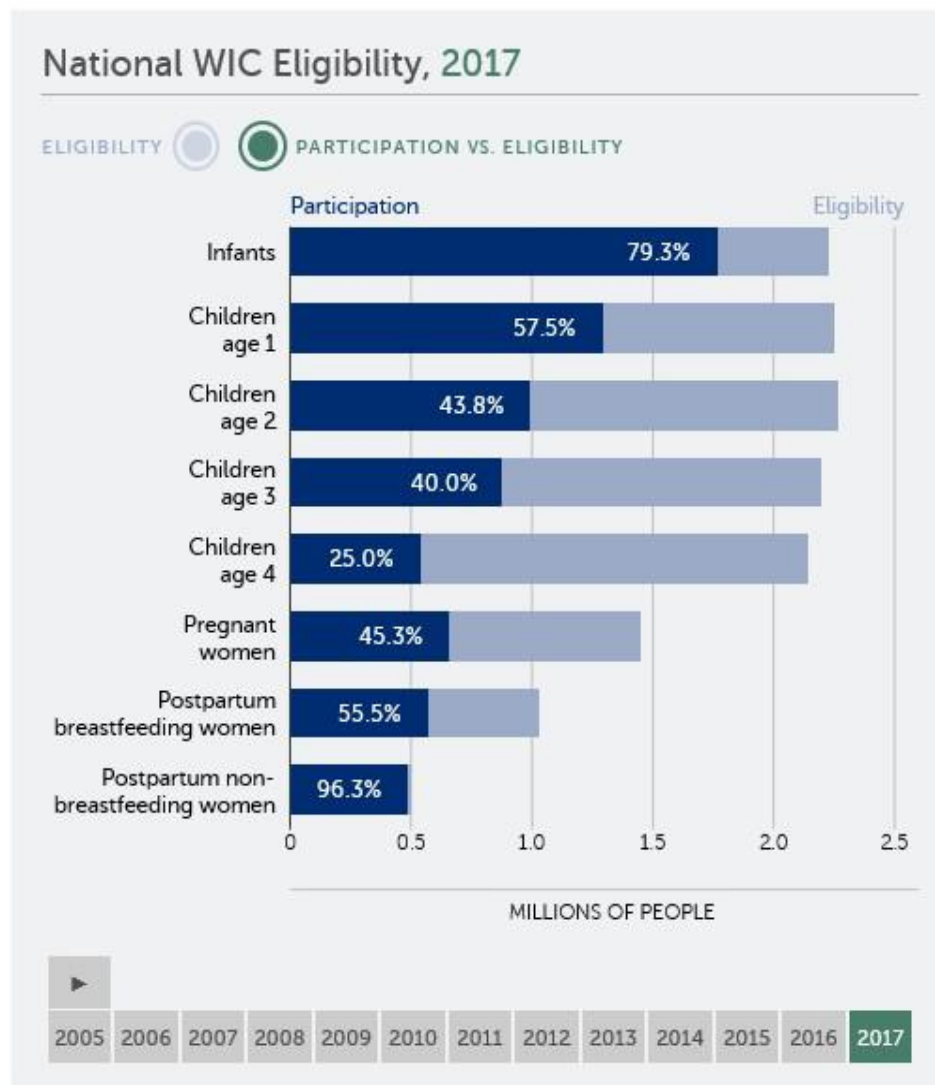
ALL

INFANTS

CHILDREN

WOMEN

WIC Eligibility & Coverage



WIC Eligible Foods

- **Breakfast cereal**
- **Infant cereal**
- **Infant fruits and vegetables**
- **Infant meats**
- **Infant formula**
- **Milk**
- **Cheese**
- **Tofu**
- **Soy-based beverage**
- **Legumes**
- **Peanut butter**
- **Fruits and vegetables**
- **Canned fish**
- **Juice**
- **Eggs**
- **Yogurt**
- **Whole wheat bread and other whole grains**



WIC Food Packages

SNAPSHOT of the WIC Food Packages ¹

Maximum Monthly Allowances of Supplemental Foods for Children and Women

Foods	Children	-----Women-----		
	Food Package IV 1 through 4 years	Food Package V: Pregnant and Partially (Mostly) Breastfeeding (up to 1 year postpartum)	Food Package VI: Postpartum (up to 6 months postpartum)	Food Package VII: Fully Breastfeeding (up to 1 year post-partum)
Juice, single strength	128 fl oz	144 fl oz	96 fl oz	144 fl oz
Milk ²	16 qt	22 qt	16 qt	24 qt
Breakfast cereal ³	36 oz	36 oz	36 oz	36 oz
Cheese	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 lb
Eggs	1 dozen	1 dozen	1 dozen	2 dozen
Fruits and vegetables	\$8.00 in cash value vouchers	\$11.00 in cash value vouchers	\$11.00 in cash value vouchers	\$11.00 in cash value vouchers
Whole wheat bread ⁴	2 lb	1 lb	N/A	1 lb
Fish (canned) ⁵	N/A	N/A	N/A	30 oz
Legumes, dry or canned and/or	1 lb (64 oz canned) Or	1 lb (64 ounce canned) And	1 lb (64 ounce canned) Or	1 lb (64 ounce canned) And
Peanut butter	18 oz	18 oz	18 oz	18 oz

WIC Participants

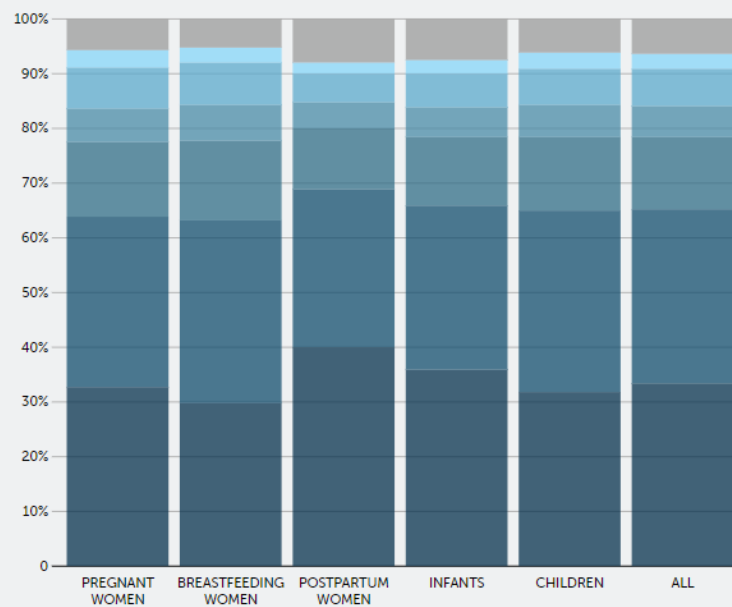
PARTICIPANT INCOME AS A PERCENTAGE OF FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES, 2018

SHOW PARTICIPANTS
BY CATEGORY

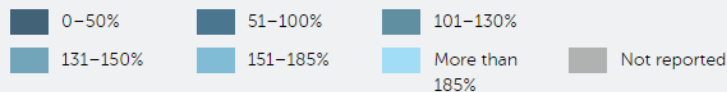
SHOW PARTICIPANTS
BY RACE/ETHNICITY

SHOW PARTICIPANTS
BY REGION

Hover over the bars to see participant income as a percentage of the Federal Poverty Guidelines



Percentage of the Federal Poverty Guidelines



WIC Plays a Critical Role in Improving Lifetime Health for Mothers and Children



Improves infant and child health outcomes



Improves nutrient intake and diet-related outcomes



Improves short-term cognitive development and longer-term reading and math outcomes



Improves access to healthcare

2009 Updates to the WIC Package Resulted in Additional Positive Changes to Health & Well-being



Increased fruits, vegetables,
whole grains, lower fat milk, and
cultural food items

Reversal and reduction of rapidly increasing
childhood obesity trends



Improved neighborhood food
environment



Increased rates of breastfeeding among
WIC participants



Improved purchases, diet quality, and intake



WIC is Cost-Effective



When considering how WIC's programs for prenatal care impact birth outcomes



A **\$1 WIC investment** is estimated to save about **\$2.50** in medical, educational, and worker productivity costs due to WIC's reduction in pre-term births and improved health and development

WIC Policy Research

GENERAL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**Longitudinal
evaluations of
WIC updates**

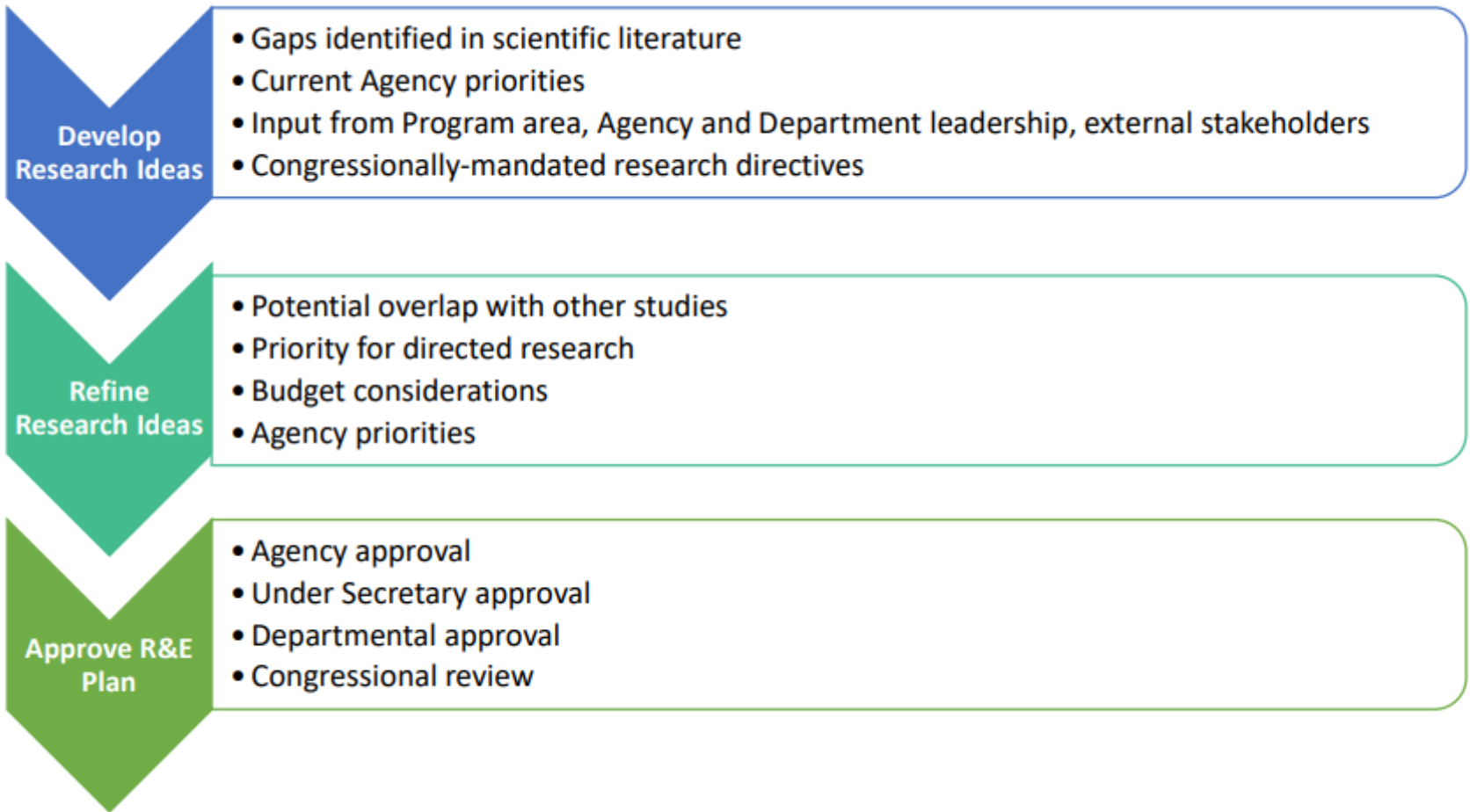


**Updated cost
effectiveness**



**Differences in
state policies**

FNS Research Planning Process



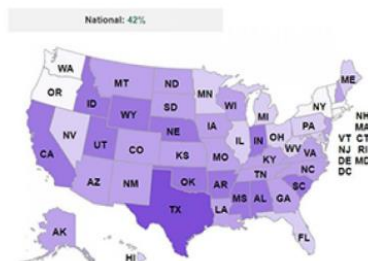
Research Reports by Type

- [Assessing/Improving Operations](#)
- [Food Security](#)
- [Nutrition Education](#)
- [Participation Rates](#)
- [Participation Characteristics](#)
- [Payment Accuracy and Program Integrity](#)
- [Reports to Congress](#)

Research Reports by Program

- [SNAP](#)
- [Child Nutrition](#)
- [Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion](#)
- [Food Distribution](#)
- [WIC](#)

Spotlights



Data Visualizations – SNAP Household Characteristics and Participation Rates

These interactive graphics describe the economic and demographic characteristics of households participating in SNAP by state and over time, as well as SNAP participation rates by state and by household characteristic.

Study & Evaluation Plans

SNAP Community Characteristics

Current Data Collections

Demos/Grant Projects

SNAP Quality Control Data

FNS WIC Research Focus Areas





By Topic +

By Audience +

By Data Type +

By Date +

By Language +

By Program -

☒ Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (87)

☐ Research & Analysis (2)

☐ Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) (1)

☐ Child and Adult Care Food Program (1)

☐ Child Nutrition Programs (1)

☐ Commodity Supplemental Food Program (1)

☐ Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (1)

☐ National School Lunch Program (1)

☐ School Breakfast Program (1)

Resource | Research, Analysis & Background | Assessing/Improving Operations

WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2018

WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2018 (PC 2018) summarizes the demographic characteristics of participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nationwide in April 2018. It includes information on participant income and nutrition risk characteristics, estimates breastfeeding initiation rates for WIC infants, and describes WIC members of migrant farm-worker families.

05/04/2020

Resource | Research | Participation Characteristics

National- and State-Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and WIC Program Reach in 2017

This report, the latest in a series of annual reports on WIC eligibility, presents 2017 national and state estimates of the number of people eligible for WIC benefits and the percents of the eligible population and the US population covered by the program, including estimates by participant category.

The report also provides estimates by region, state, U.S. territory, and race and ethnicity

12/12/2019

Resource | Research | Food Security

WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study 2: Third Year Report

The WIC Infant and Toddler Feeding Practices Study-2 (WIC ITFPS-2), also known as the "Feeding My Baby" Study, captures data on caregivers and their children over the first 6 years of the child's life after

COVID-19 Impacts on WIC

- Clinic closures, low staffing capacity at clinics that remain open (because of staff working from home or being called to respond to epidemic)
 - Transitioning WIC processes to accommodate teleworking
 - Technology infrastructure for remote WIC agency operations is not where it needs to be (one major concern is cybersecurity for things like document submission)
- Recession → increased need for WIC benefits
 - Grocery store stocking issues – multiple items impacted including infant formula, milk, bread, eggs, and beans.
 - Participants hesitant to go grocery shopping, some grocery stores are switching to 100% curbside



Legislative Response to COVID

- Four response packages passed into law:

- March 8: \$8.3 billion in CDC funding
- ▪ March 18: Families First Coronavirus Response Act – Included waiver authority to USDA and \$500 million in additional WIC funding
- March 27: CARES Act
- April 24: \$484 billion in business loans and hospital/testing support



- Unfolding process for a fifth package:

- ▪ May 15: House passes \$3 trillion HEROES Act, including \$1.1 billion for WIC and an increase in Cash Value Benefit (CVB) for all participant categories through September 30
- Senate legislation much more modest than House version

USDA Waiver Process

- In late March, USDA rolled out a process for state WIC agencies to obtain waivers for two purposes: physical presence & regulatory requirements that inhibit services due to COVID-19.



Clinic-Based Waivers

- Waiver of physical presence
- Delayed certification tests
- Remote benefit issuance
- Four month benefit issuance
- Extending child cert periods
- Monitoring/compliance

Shopping Waivers

- Food substitutions
- Vendor monitoring
- Minimum stocking requirements

Denied Waivers

- Other cert period extensions
- Cashier-signature
- CVB increase
- Rollover of benefits



USDA Waivers: Extensions

- Original waivers were only issued through May 31.
- USDA provided automatic extension for all approved waivers through June 30.
- On June 8, USDA outlined process for waiver extensions beyond June:
 - Additional state justifications
 - Month-to-month basis
 - Default toward reopening clinics/normalizing services
- Finally, on July 1, extended waivers through September 30



United States
Department of
Agriculture



NWA's COVID-19 Advocacy



Legislative Advocacy

- **Legislators engaged on waiver extensions:**
 - **Three letters, led by: Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC), Reps. Josh Harder (D-CA) and Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (R-PR); and Sens. Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)**
 - **Also worked with our nonprofit partners such as AAP**
- **Online ordering letter, led by Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI)**
- **CVB increase legislation, led by Reps. Kim Schrier (D-WA) and Ron Wright (R-TX)**



Next Steps: Federal Advocacy

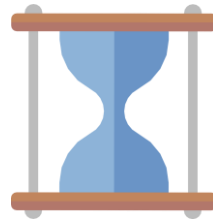
- We are now pushing for waiver extensions through September 2021
- We will be advocating for a fifth stimulus bill that reflects the House bill passed in May
- Long-term: Child Nutrition Reauthorization
 - How will we integrate the lessons learned during the pandemic into our future policy asks?
 - Answering this question will require strategic discussions with key stakeholders as well as research documenting how WIC changes have been received by participants and staff



WIC COVID Evaluation Needs



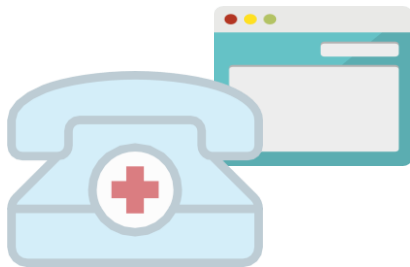
Modernizing & Streamlining
WIC Enrollment



Extending Eligibility



Examining Food Package
Flexibility & Online
Ordering



Evaluation of Remote
Service Delivery and TA



Evaluating Changes in
Breastfeeding

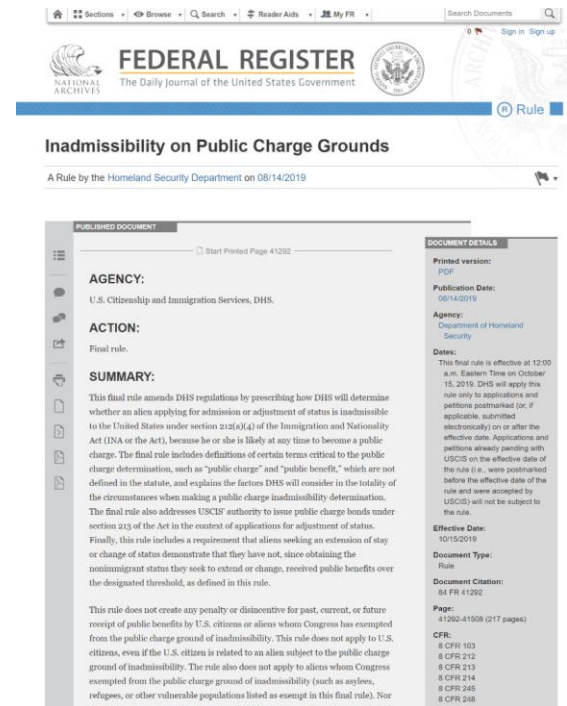


Scaling up Nationwide
Best Practices

Final Public Charge Rule



- Published August 14, 2019
- Effective October 15, 2019
- Supersedes the 1999 Interim Field Guidance on Deportability and Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds
- Includes definitions of public charge and public benefits
- Explains the factors DHS will consider in the totality of the circumstances when making a public charge inadmissibility determination
- Addresses USCIS' authority to issue public charge bonds
- Requires that individuals seeking an extension of stay or change of status demonstrate that they have not, since obtaining the nonimmigrant status they seek to extend, or change, received public benefits over the designated threshold, as defined in this rule





Declining WIC Participation

Evidence suggests the risk of deportation is negatively associated with participating in WIC

Mexican-origin families are the most sensitive when it comes to deportations and program use

A recent news report explained the unprecedented number of women and children are withdrawing from WIC since the proposed public charge rule last fall





National WIC Association

NWA is the non-profit education arm and advocacy voice of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC BASICS ▾ NEWS ▾ EVENTS ▾ ADVOCACY ▾ RESOURCES ▾ EDUCATION ▾

Public Charge and Immigration Resources

BREAKING: On January 27, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed for the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) [final public charge rule](#). The final rule will significantly expand the government's ability to deny immigrants SNAP, or housing assistance. **WIC is not included in the final public charge rule.**

While an official timeline has not been announced, public charge changes will soon go into effect. **PUBLIC CHARGE RESOURCES**

FAQs for participants and clinic staff

- [English](#) (updated January 29, 2020)
- [Talking points](#) on public charge (updated January 29, 2020)
- [You Have Rights: Protect Your Health](#) (July 2019)
- [60 Resources for Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Communities](#) (August 2019)

Escalation of ICE Presence

There has been an escalation of enforcement activity by the Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) received multiple reports of ICE presence outside WIC clinics, exacerbating an already significant problem.

- [ICE Enforcement: Resources for WIC Clinics](#)
- [When Immigration Officials Arrive at Your Workplace](#) (a resource from ILRC and SEIU-CWA)

Immigration Attorney Resources

Participants may have questions about immigration policy that go beyond the scope of WIC. You can find a lawyer in your area at:

- [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#)
- [Immigration America](#)

Research and Studies

- ["The Effect of Proposed Changes in Federal Public Charge Policy on Latino U.S. Citizens"](#)

Congress and the Administration have been contemplating changes to immigration policy, raising new questions from participants. NWA has assembled the resources below to assist WIC staff.

Please keep NWA informed!

NWA can be more effective in supporting clinics if we understand the concerns that participants have about immigration policy, please fill out [this survey](#) to document the incident and inform NWA's work.

NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION

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National WIC Association

PUBLIC CHARGE AND IMMIGRANT PARTICIPATION IN WIC: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

January 29, 2020

➤ Is WIC

NO. On January 27, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed for the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) [final public charge rule](#). The final rule will significantly expand the government's ability to deny immigrants SNAP, or housing assistance. **WIC is not included in the final public charge rule.**

➤ When can

When the final rule is implemented, the government will be able to deny immigrants SNAP, or housing assistance. **WIC is not included in the final public charge rule.**

DHS will implement the final rule on January 29, 2020. The rule will apply to immigrants who are applying for or receiving public benefits, including SNAP, or housing assistance.

BACKGROUND

1. What is

Public charge is a federal immigration law that has been in place since 1952. It is a law that allows the government to deny immigration to someone who is likely to become a public charge.

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2. When can

Public charge is a federal immigration law that has been in place since 1952. It is a law that allows the government to deny immigration to someone who is likely to become a public charge.

National WIC Association Talking Points on Public Charge January 29, 2020

On January 27, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed a nationwide injunction that allows for implementation of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) [final public charge rule](#). The final rule will significantly expand the government's ability to deny immigrants legal status if they have accessed certain public benefits – namely Medicaid, SNAP, or housing assistance. With the final rule issued, the National WIC Association (NWA) recommends the following talking points:

• WIC is not included in the final public charge rule.

The Supreme Court's decision on the final public charge rule is not a nationwide injunction until after the court has heard arguments from both sides.

The public charge rule allows the government to choose between feeding the past two years, making it more difficult to preserve their legal status.

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YOU HAVE RIGHTS: PROTECT YOUR HEALTH GOING TO THE DOCTOR

Doctors and nurses care about your health, not your immigration status. Everyone should seek care with confidence that their information is private and they are not putting themselves at risk. Immigration agents should avoid arrests and other enforcement actions in hospitals, health clinics, urgent care, or doctors' offices.



Health care workers should not ask for immigration status information. Hospital emergency rooms must help anyone that needs emergency services. The same applies to community health centers. Having insurance, money or immigration documents does not matter. If someone asks you about health insurance, you can say "I am not eligible for health insurance and do not want to apply."

It is safe and smart to see the doctor and to go to the emergency room if you need care. Your health care provider will honor your right to privacy. You will not be asked about your immigration status, unless you apply for insurance. Your immigration status should not be a barrier to receiving care.

You can still get health care without insurance.

This includes emergency room care, community health centers, migrant health centers, free clinics, and public hospitals. [You have options.](#)

Everyone has a right to an interpreter when seeking health care or applying for health insurance. You have a right to an interpreter at no cost when seeking care at a hospital or community health center. Hospitals and community health centers may use bilingual staff, telephone interpretation services, or qualified in-person interpreters to provide assistance to patients. You also have a right to an interpreter at no cost when you apply for Medicaid, CHIP, or an ACA plan.

Hospitals or doctors may ask for a photo ID to show that the person getting treatment is the same person listed on medical records or a prescription. Hospitals or doctors may not share this information with immigration agents. If you do not have a photo ID, you can say "I am in need of medical care but do not have a photo ID."

To find a health center: <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>

Careers Relevant to WIC





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Questions? Ideas?
Email –
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