

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

Datasets

Overview

Health Data NY

New York State Department of Health

Division of Nutrition

Bureau of Supplemental Food Programs

## **Overview**

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offers nutrition education, breastfeeding support, referrals and a variety of nutritious foods to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum women, infants and children up to age five to promote and support good health. In doing so, WIC improves the health of pregnant women, new mothers and their infants and children. Foods provided through WIC are a good source of nutrients often missing from the diets of women and young children. WIC participants have longer, healthier pregnancies and fewer premature births. The Program currently provides nutritious foods each month to approximately 122,000 low income pregnant, post-partum or breastfeeding women, as well as over 393,000 infants and children up to the age of five.

WIC food packages for participants are based on household size and the nutritional needs identified from individual assessment. Providing resources to purchase these nutritious foods helps decrease food insecurity for WIC participants.

WIC is administered at the Federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services. In New York State, the WIC program is administered by the New York State Department of Health. Services are delivered through 94 local agencies serving over 500,000 women, infants, and children annually. Vouchers for supplemental foods can be redeemed at over 4,000 authorized vendors across New York State.

## **Population Served**

The WIC target populations are low-income, nutritionally at risk:

- Pregnant women (through pregnancy and up to 6 weeks after birth or after pregnancy ends).
- Breastfeeding women (up to infant's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday)
- Non-breastfeeding postpartum women (up to 6 months after the birth of an infant or after pregnancy ends)
- Infants (up to 1<sup>st</sup> birthday).
- Children up to their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **Benefits:**

The following benefits are provided to WIC participants:

- Breastfeeding promotion and support
- Healthy lifestyle promotion and support
- Individualized food packages for supplemental nutritious foods
- Nutrition counseling focused on your needs and concerns
- Convenient hours, locations and services
- Referrals to other health and social services

## **Description of Data Sets:**

### **Women Infant and Children (WIC) Program Site Information Data Set**

This dataset contains local agencies participating in WIC and WIC Vendor Management agencies. Agencies can include community based organizations, local health departments and hospitals. WIC Vendor Management agencies are responsible for oversight of WIC vendors in their geographic area. The NYS WIC Program has contracts with five vendor management agencies.

#### **WIC clinic addresses:**

WIC addresses include the location of all WIC clinic sites. WIC clinic sites can operate full or part time. Temporary sites may change their locations on short notice. For the most up to date information, permanent WIC sites should be contacted.

#### **VMA addresses:**

Vendor management agencies physical location addresses are provided. These sites operate full time. The WIC Vendor Management Agencies (VMA) are responsible for managing the retail food delivery system which is a critical component of the WIC program. The WIC VMAs ensure that a minimum number and distribution of vendors (retail food stores and pharmacies) are authorized to ensure adequate and convenient participant access to prescribed WIC foods. WIC checks are redeemed at authorized NYS WIC Program vendors.

**Women Infant and Children (WIC) Program Eligibility Criteria Data set:** This data set includes eligibility criteria for participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). To qualify for the Program participants must: reside within the jurisdiction of the State and present proof of residency and proof of identity; meet a specified income criterion which is equal to or less than 185% of the federal poverty level or receive benefits from Food Stamps, Medicaid or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; , and have a nutritional risk as determined by a health professional. Eligible participants can receive WIC even if they are not a legal resident, not a US citizen and if they or other household members are working.

Eligible categories include: pregnant women, mothers of babies up to 6 months old, mothers breastfeeding babies up to 12 months old, infants and children up to their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. It does not cost any money to enroll in the program.

### **Women Infant and Children (WIC) Federal Income Guidelines: 2013-2014**

This data set includes income eligibility guidelines for participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The federal income guidelines are 185% of the U.S Poverty Income Guidelines. To be eligible on the basis of income, the household's gross income must fall at or below the income guidelines. Household size includes

anyone in the household that shares income and household expenses, regardless of whether or not they are related.