

Introducing WIC

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Overview

- Program Basics
- Evidence of Effectiveness
- Participation
- Funding

WIC Basics

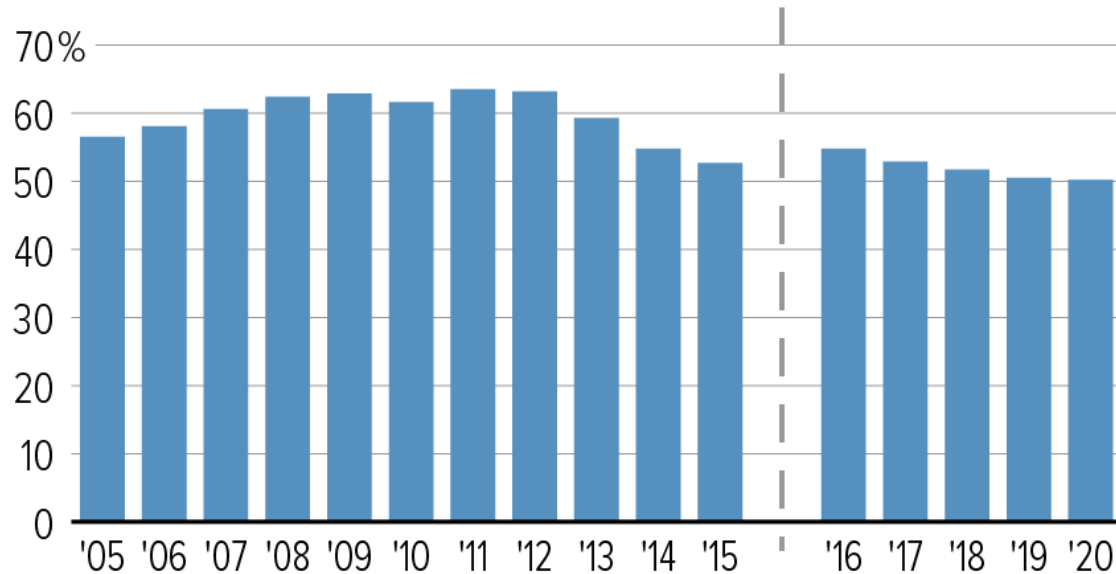
- Pregnant and postpartum people, infants, children under 5
- Receiving Medicaid, SNAP, TANF cash assistance or household income under 185% of poverty
- Science-based foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, referrals
- Specific type & quantity of foods plus cash-like benefit for fruit and vegetables
- Authorized under the Child Nutrition Act

WIC Contributes to Positive Developmental and Health Outcomes

- Healthier births
- More nutritious diets
- Stronger connections to preventive health care
- Improved cognitive development

WIC Coverage Declining Over Past Decade

Share of people eligible who participate



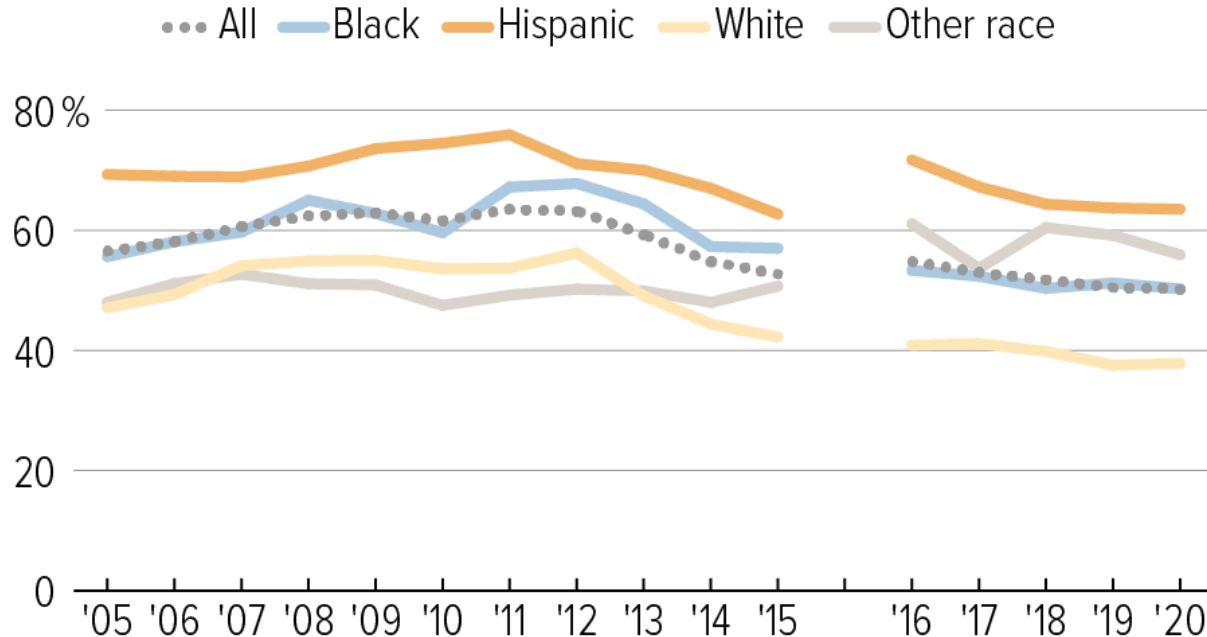
Note: Estimates for 2016-2020 differ from estimates for 2005-2015 because of changes to analytical methodology and are not directly comparable.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture reports on “National and State Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and Program Reach” for 2019 and 2020

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People of Color Likelier to Participate in WIC

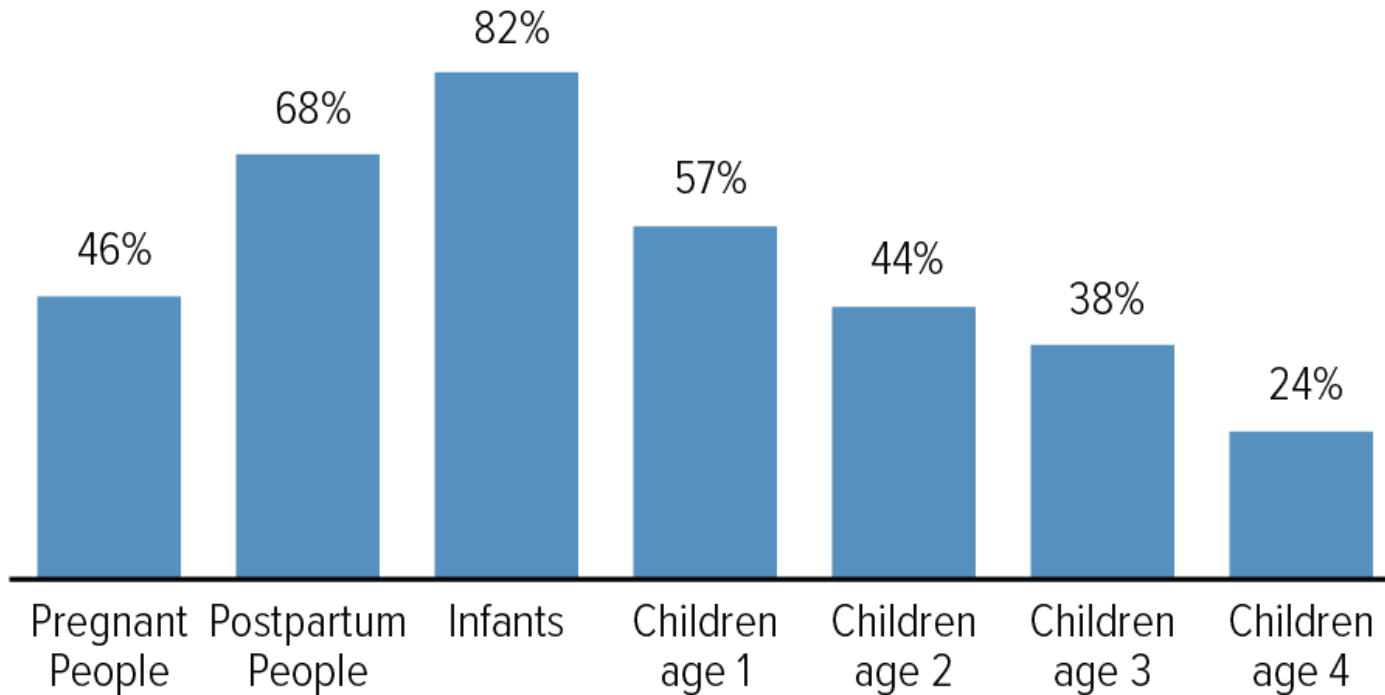
Share of eligible people participating in WIC



Note: Hispanic people may be of any race. Other race = people who did not report being Black, Hispanic, or white, or reported more than one race. Estimates for 2016-2020 differ from estimates for 2005-2015 because of changes to analytical methodology and are not directly comparable.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, “National and State Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and Program Reach in 2019,” February 2022 and U.S. Department of Agriculture, “National and State Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and Program Reach in 2020,” January 2023

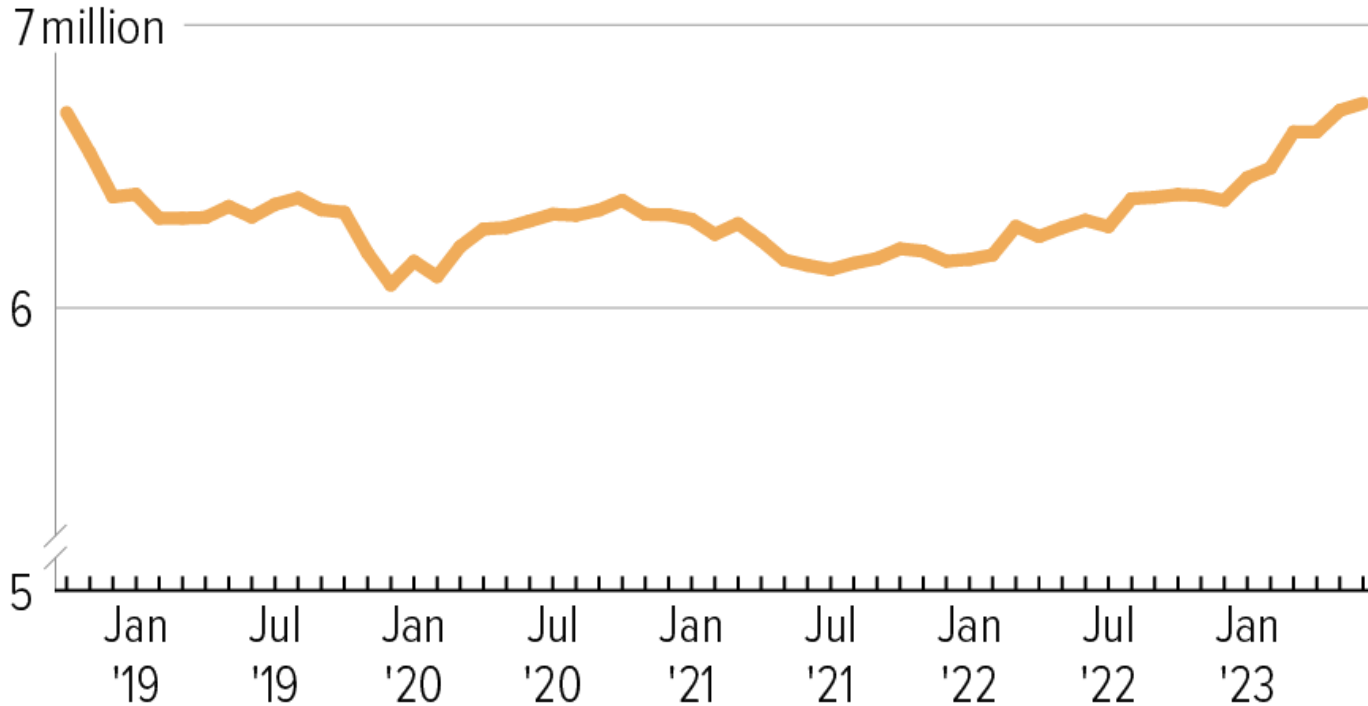
Eligible Pregnant People, Toddlers Less Likely to Participate in WIC



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, “National and State Level Estimates of WIC Eligibility and Program Reach in 2020,” January 2023

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WIC Participation



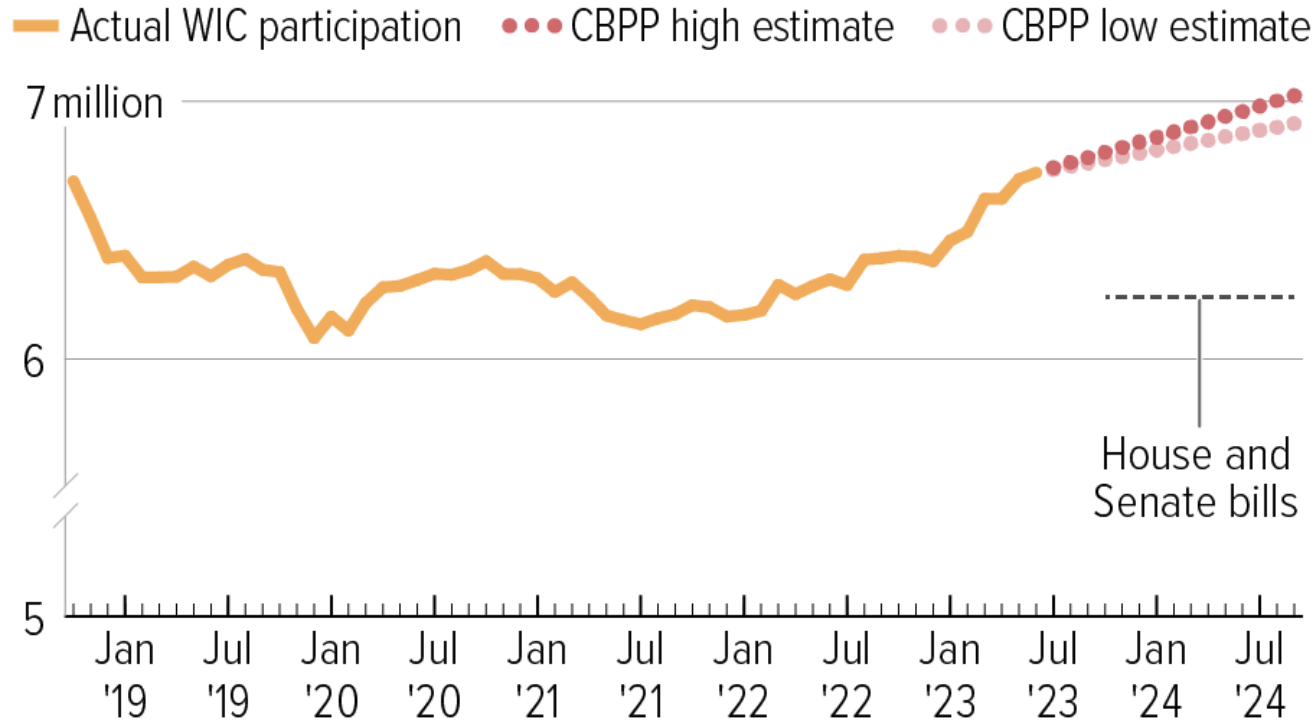
Source: USDA WIC administrative data as of September 2023

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WIC Funding

- Discretionary—set through the annual appropriations process
- Bipartisan commitment since 1997 to full funding
- WIC is extremely cost-effective
- Current threats
 - Shutdown
 - Continuing resolution
 - Pending appropriations bills are inadequate

WIC Participation Exceeds Estimate in House and Senate Bills



Note: WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. FY = fiscal year.

Source: Department of Agriculture WIC administrative data as of July 2023 and FY 2024 President's Budget

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