



2017 MAINE WIC PARTICIPATION RATES

Data, Research, & Vital Statistics

2017 Maine WIC Participation Rates as Reported in the Maine Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

Participation During Pregnancy

31% participated in WIC during their pregnancy

Participation After Pregnancy

38% participated in WIC since their new baby was born

31%

Mom & Baby

4%

Only Baby

3%

Only Mom

No Participation

62% reported no WIC participation after pregnancy

47%

did not think they needed services that WIC offers

30%

of mothers did not think their new baby was eligible

11%

of mothers reported that they were not sure what WIC is

7%

of mothers were told their baby did not qualify

Comments on WIC

QUALITATIVE DATA ON RECEIVING WIC SERVICES & ELIGIBILITY FROM THE MAINE PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM

SUPPORT FOR ALL

2016 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

"I feel the WIC program should be offered to EVERY CHILD in the state of Maine. If the guardian declines to accept it that is fine but every child should automatically be enrolled after birth and not baised off of parents income."

WIC CREATES OPPORTUNITY

2017 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

Without [WIC] I would still be homeless and starving...I am going back to finish my last year of college and I wouldn't be here without the support I have received! I hope to help more women like me, please fight to keep them so voices like mine can succeed and be heard. Thank you for all you have done!"

WHAT IS MIDDLE CLASS?

2015 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

"I had a wonderful experience with my pregnancy. My doctors & nurses at *** Hospital were amazing. My only issue was that my husband and I just barely made too much money to receive any help (WIC, MaineCare, etc). Being middle class made it difficult."

BENEFIT FOR ALL

2015 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

"I feel that all babies should be eligible for WIC when they are born. I had a [serious complication] during my pregnancy which made me lose 30 lbs in 9 weeks resulting in I.V. fluids & anti-nausea medications up to delivery! Because of this I used my paid time off before my maternity leave so my short term disability is not covering bills! This is why I believe all babies should qualify for WIC & State of Maine health insurance. The government NEEDS to come up with maternity & paternity leave! It is hard to bond take care of & deal with postpartum depression with only 6 weeks! I feel If there was government mandated maternity leave more women would be willing to ask for help with postpartum depression!"

SUPPLIES FOR MOMS & BABIES IN NEED

2016 & 2017 PRAMS PARTICIPANTS

"WIC supplied me with a medical grade pump."

"WIC provided [a breast pump]" instead of medical insurance

"WIC gave me a breast pump" instead of health insurance

THE INVISIBLE GAP

2015 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

"I think it is terrible that my preemie baby can't get WIC services because we have put my partners gross income yet he is taxed as a single man and what he grosses and what he brings home are very different amounts. We're struggling to feed our child yet even though he has MaineCare he can't get WIC. These are programs we've both worked and paid taxes into yet when we need help for our child he was denied."

TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS

2015 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

"Trying to get WIC or MaineCare or Social Security has been very difficult. WIC + Maine Care, especially WIC uses factors to determine if a family is eligible, based on the # in household and income. We have a family of 4. My husband (I now stay home) makes \$4,300/month which makes us not qualified. I don't believe this is fair. We have twin preemies and WIC does not take this into account. Two babies at the same time cost more then if we already had an older child. Our babies are on special formula with higher calories..."

THE NEED FOR WIC

2017 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

"I feel WIC should be offered to more households or not just based on income. We did not qualify due to income but at the same time as a family we struggle to pay bills and buy food. We live pay check to pay check we just barely get by, but if we did qualify it would be more helpful. At least for the first year."

ELIGIBILITY FRUSTRATION

2015 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

"To comment on WIC, I was told by my caseworker I wouldn't be able to get WIC unless I get MaineCare - but recently got denied MaineCare as did my baby. Now I am reapplying with fingers crossed. The system is a failed one and I feel as if I get punished for working and trying my hardest, when I see others abuse the system. When others need help, truly need help, they are denied. Failed system."

WIC EXPANSION

2015 PRAMS PARTICIPANT

"Before my daughter was born, my husband and I were living low to middle income. We are both blue collar workers and both of us work very hard to survive. I didn't qualify for WIC while I was pregnant which upset me. I wasn't looking for hundreds of dollars, just enough for some fresh produce and milk. I worked up until I gave birth yet there are a lot of women who choose not to work and live off the state and they get everything handed to them on a silver platter. It's so hard to believe that a hard working pregnant woman can't get assistance due to a number she and her husband make in a year, which is not a lot, yet people who do not want to contribute to society, get everything. We are still living low income with our newborn daughter, but we would rather make our own money for her."