

Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality (ACIMM): **USDA** **Updates**

Caroline Dunn, PhD, RDN

Senior Analyst

Office of Policy Support

June 13 2023



USDA Food & Nutrition Service



“Our mission is to increase food security and reduce hunger by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition education in a way that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence.”

USDA Actions on Nutrition Security

WHAT IS NUTRITION SECURITY?

Consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable foods that promote optimal health and well-being.

HOW DOES NUTRITION SECURITY INTERSECT WITH HEALTH EQUITY?

Structural racism increases food insecurity and the risk of diet-related chronic diseases for historically underserved populations. Efforts to improve nutrition security also promote health equity.

WIC Helps Families Thrive

WIC has an established history of improving health and developmental outcomes for underserved children.



WIC Complements Optimal Child Health

WIC foods provide specific nutrients that promote positive health outcomes during critical times of growth and development.



USDA is Investing in the Future of the WIC Program to Maximize its Impact



USDA's WIC Modernization Goals

- Enroll more eligible families.
- Retain all eligible participants.
- Increase redemption of food benefits.
- Expand program access and equity among diverse populations.





Meeting Today's Families Where They Are

All Eligible Families Should Know About WIC



WIC Must be Easy to Access



WIC Must Provide Culturally Relevant Care





WIC Supports Maternal and Child Health



*Comparative Effectiveness Review
Number 253*

**Maternal and Child Outcomes Associated With the
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women,
Infants, and Children (WIC)**

WIC
Supports
Maternal
Health
Research



Thank You!



<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>

USDA Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

